
PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

As a national leader for continuing education and advanced public safety training, Fox Valley Technical College meets the unique training needs of public and private agencies in law enforcement, fire fighting, emergency medical service, aircraft rescue and more.

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John Sorenson, Dean of Public Safety

2025 marked a milestone year as we celebrated 10 years at the Public Safety Training Center. For a decade, the Public Safety Division has prepared the next generation of professionals who serve our communities with skill, integrity, and leadership.

Since opening in 2015, demand for high-quality education and advanced training in Criminal Justice, Forensic Science, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Fire Protection has remained strong and continues to grow. In response to workforce needs, in 2024 we increased our annual academy offerings from three to four, reflecting both regional demand and the continued trust law enforcement agencies place in our programs.

Our partnerships remain a cornerstone of our success. We continue to collaborate with industry leaders such as Pierce Manufacturing, whose fire apparatus provides students with invaluable hands-on learning opportunities using industry-leading equipment. This partnership strengthens workforce readiness, enhances applied learning, and supports innovation within the fire service.

The Fire Protection program continues to show strong enrollment and engagement. Through live-fire training, technical rescue scenarios, and hands-on apparatus operations, students build the skills and confidence required in today's complex emergency environments. Our faculty, many of whom actively serve in the field, bring real-world experience directly into the classroom and training grounds.

Emergency Medical Service programs continue to see strong growth in both program interest and partnerships across the region. Our EMS faculty, staff, and adjunct instructors are dedicated to preparing paramedics and emergency medical technicians to meet the increasing demands of emergency response and today's evolving healthcare systems.

The Public Safety Training Center remains focused on graduating professionals who are workforce-ready on day one. I am proud of our faculty, staff, and adjunct instructors who create a learning environment grounded in professionalism, applied experience, and student success.

As you review our first Annual Report, I invite you to consider how the Public Safety Division can support you or your organization, whether through formal education pathways, customized professional development, or scenario-based training solutions. Looking ahead to 2026 and beyond, we will continue to anticipate workforce trends, strengthen partnerships, and expand innovative training opportunities. Our goal is not only to respond to change, but to lead through it. Thank you for your continued partnership in advancing public safety and strengthening the communities we serve.

Our Mission Is To:

Provide relevant technical education and training to support student goals, a skilled workforce, and the economic vitality of our communities.

Our Vision Is To Be:

A catalyst in engaging partners to bring innovative educational solutions to individuals, employers, and communities – transforming challenges into opportunities.

Core Values:

Our core values represent the desired educational environment and guide the development of institutional policies and practices.



About the Public Safety Training Center

Located adjacent to Appleton International Airport in Appleton, Wisconsin, Fox Valley Technical College's Public Safety Training Center (PSTC) combines classroom training with hands-on practice in a real-world setting. The PSTC is used to train police tactics, investigation, fire fighting, technical rescue, law enforcement pursuits, air disasters, and much more. No other fully integrated training facility exists in the Midwest and only a handful of other facilities meet even a portion of the combined training needs that our facility offers.

Situated on 80 acres since 2015, our 96,000 square foot facility offers the latest technology to educate, train, and prepare students for a career in public service. We also offer specialized training classes and other resources for law enforcement professionals, EMS, fire fighting, and corporate security. Personal protection and safety courses are available for members of the community.



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Associate Degrees

Asset Protection: this program provides students with a curriculum in asset protection technology, risk management, security law, physical and cyber security, private investigations, and an introduction to the criminal justice system. Students will also learn how to conduct security surveys and address security concerns affecting businesses, manufacturers, and residential buildings.



Criminal Justice: students receive an overview of the role of the criminal justice system in our society and will become familiar with law enforcement, corrections, criminal procedures, juvenile law and constitutional law. They will gain skills in communication, crime prevention, report writing and forensic science applications. Since 2016, 644 students have graduated with this associate degree.

Fire Protection Technician: students learn the principles of fire behavior, management, prevention and protection systems, as well as other emergency services. Training includes knowledge of building construction and the use of water in fire protection. Hazardous materials, rope, confined space and trench rescue, as well as EMT-Basic certification training, is also covered. Through realistic classroom simulation and hands-on experience, students master the knowledge and techniques to save lives and property. Since 2016, 226 students have graduated with this associate degree.



Forensic Science: this is a fascinating field where law enforcement meets scientific investigation. Students receive an introduction to crime scene management, medicolegal death investigation and criminal law. They will learn how to identify, document, collect, preserve, and analyze physical evidence while gaining experience with biological evidence such as DNA, as well as fingerprints and footwear impressions, trace evidence, tool marks and more. Since 2016, 219 students have graduated with this associate degree.

Articulation Agreements

FVTC partners with four-year colleges to create a specific pathway for PSTC students wishing to pursue their bachelor's degree. Upon completion of an associate degree or a technical diploma, a transfer process is in place with the following institutions:

FVTC PSTC Associate Degree	UW-Green Bay Bachelor of Arts Degree
Asset Protection	Criminal Justice
Criminal Justice	
Forensic Science	
FVTC PSTC Associate Degree	UW-Oshkosh Bachelor of Applied Studies
Fire Protection Technician	Fire & Emergency Response Management
Criminal Justice	
FVTC PSTC Associate Degree	UW-Stout Bachelor of Science Degree
Law Enforcement Academy (technical diploma)	Criminal Justice Rehabilitation
Criminal Justice	
FVTC PSTC Associate Degree	Northern Michigan University Bachelor of Science Degree
Asset Protection	Loss Prevention Management
Criminal Justice	Criminal Justice

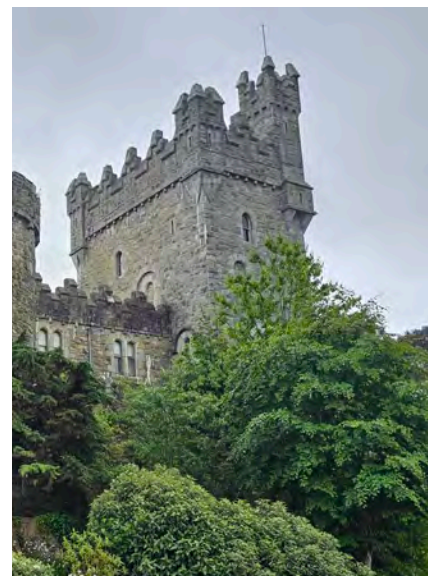
Grants

- \$350,000 Wisconsin Tech College Core Industry is a two-year grant to increase Criminal Justice enrollment through recruitment and outreach efforts.
- \$109,375 from the State of Wisconsin to expand the reach of EMS programs.
- \$45,000 Assistance to Firefighters grant to purchase extraction equipment in the Fire program.
- \$15,500 for the High School Fire Academy.
- \$1,500 National Fire Academy. Training grant to train 14 fire instructors in Live Fire Instructor.

Study Abroad

In 2025, 14 Criminal Justice and Forensic Science students participated in a 10-day study abroad program in Ireland, engaging in comparative study of the Irish and U.S. justice systems. The experience included visits to the Dublin Criminal Courts, Kilmainham Gaol, the Museum of Free Derry, and Atlantic Technological University, along with engagement with representatives from An Garda Síochána.

Through lectures on Irish history, civil rights, and justice system development, students critically examined differences in policing, corrections, and legal traditions. The program was led by two Criminal Justice faculty members and strengthened students' global awareness, cross-cultural communication, and professional readiness in criminal justice and forensic science fields.



Students and faculty are preparing for a visit to London in 2026. This will be the the program's second visit to London.



Technical Diplomas

A technical diploma is a career-focused credential, emphasizing hands-on training, practical skills, and direct workforce readiness. PSTC offers three technical diplomas in the field of public safety.

Emergency Medical Technician

Students receive hands-on training to develop the skills required to provide life-saving services to their communities. In 2025, 145 students received this technical diploma.

Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic

Students will learn how to evaluate the nature and extent of various illnesses and injuries, and administer prescribed medical treatment at the site and during transport. In 2025, 19 students received this technical diploma.

Criminal Justice - Law Enforcement Academy

Students with a minimum of 40 accredited college-level credits who seek to meet Wisconsin certification requirements as a law enforcement officer. Students will learn skills related to the profession of law enforcement. In 2025, 106 recruits received this technical diploma



Certificates

A certificate is a career-focused academic credential that verifies a student has completed specialized training in a specific field. PSTC offers two certificates in the field of public safety.

Evidence Technician

This certificate teaches the skills to carefully collect and preserve physical crime scene evidence.

Private Investigation Specialist

Students learn how to locate witnesses, search public records, conduct background investigations and investigate insurance claims.

Fire Fighter Certifications

Fire fighters are required to demonstrate competency in the Job Performance Requirements (JPRs) necessary for state certification. Throughout 2025, hundreds of students and fire service professionals were evaluated by State Certified Fire Instructors to ensure they met the required performance standards.

2025 Fire Fighter Certifications

- 445 Written Practical Exams
- 356 State certifications received
- 683 students certified

Class	# of Students
D/O Aerial	48
D/O Pumper	93
Emergency Services Instructor 1	12
Emergency Services Instructor 2	4
Firefighter 1	157
Firefighter 2	90
Fire Inspector 1	73
Fire Investigation	14
Fire Officer 1	18
Hazmat Ops	97
Hazmat Technician	77
Total	683

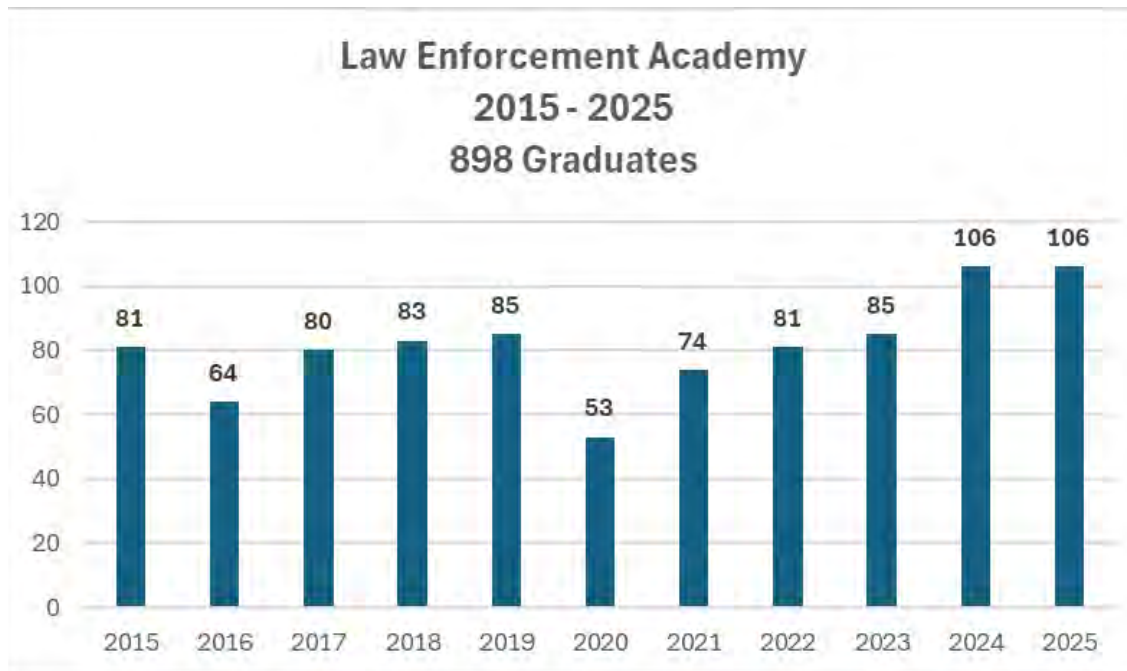


Academies

Law Enforcement Recruit Academy

The Law Enforcement Technical Diploma is a full-time (720 hour) program designed for students with a minimum of 40 accredited college-level credits who seek to meet Wisconsin certification requirements as a law enforcement officer. Training includes vehicle contacts, emergency vehicle operation, physical fitness, defensive tactics and firearms training. Students have opportunities to practice skills with hands-on training and scenario-based field simulations. This program meets criteria set by the Wisconsin Department of Justice's (DOJ) Training and Standards Bureau.

2025 Law Enforcement Academy
 - 4 Academies - 45 Agencies - 106 Recruits



Due to demand, academies grew from three to four, starting in 2024.

Academies

2025 Law Enforcement Academies

- 4 Academies - 45 Agencies - 106 Recruits



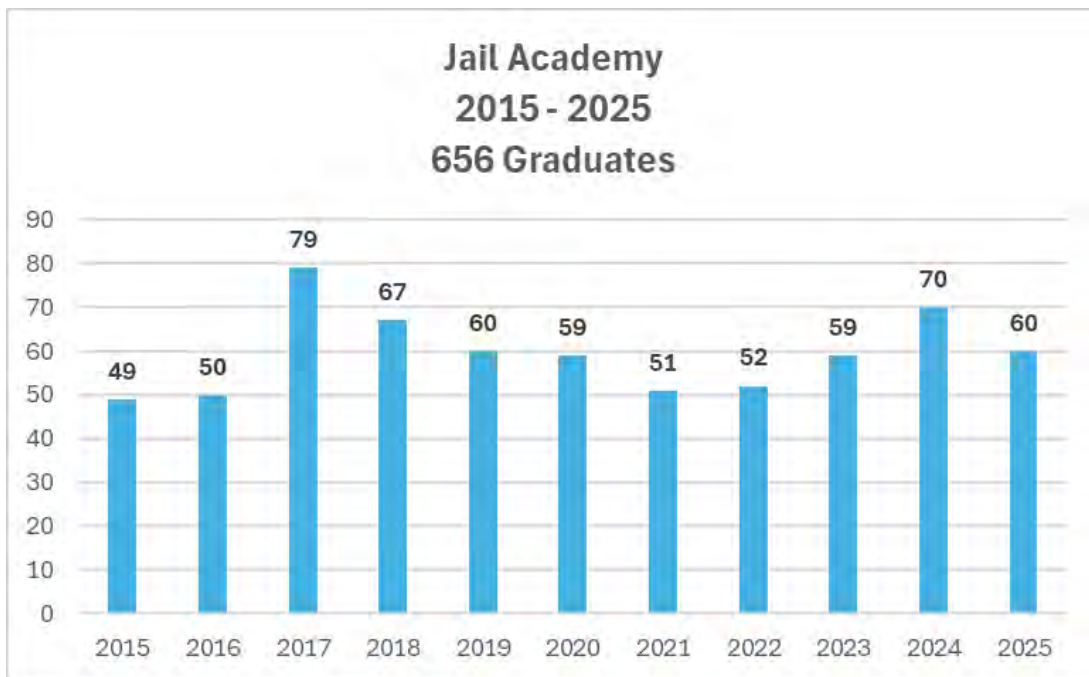
Academies

Jail Recruit Academy

The Wisconsin Jail Recruit Academy is a 200-hour program that meets criteria set by the Wisconsin Department of Justice's (DOJ) Training and Standards Bureau to certify correctional officers for work in county jails. Since 2015, 656 recruits have graduated.

2025 Jail Recruit Academy

- 3 Academies - 14 Agencies - 60 Recruits



Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting

ARFF Training

Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) training is a specialized category of fire fighting involving airport ground emergencies. Since 2020, the ATW ARFF Training Center is the nation's premier center for training, situated on 25 acres and adjacent to the Appleton International Airport (ATW).

The world-class training field includes a one-of-a-kind Boeing 777 Specialized Aircraft Fire Trainer (B777 SAFT) and Cessna Skyhawk training prop. The 777 is set on a spill-fire area of 96 individually-controlled fire zones, which is the largest in the training industry. The props are designed for realistic emergency aircraft fire and rescue response with multiple scenarios to teach respondents the proper approach and attack techniques.

The ATW ARFF Training Center is accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). Accreditation guarantees the certification programs were reviewed by fire service professionals to meet national and international standards.



ARFF Apparatus

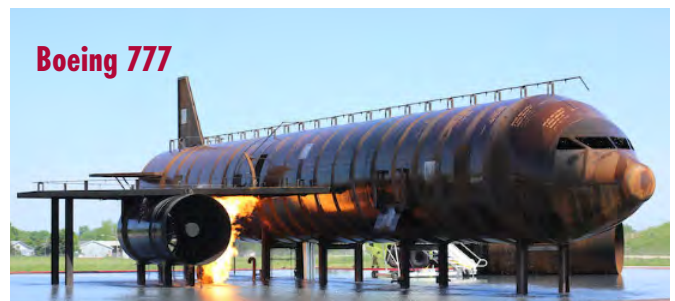
- 2019 Oshkosh Global Striker
- High Reach Extendable Turret
- High-volume, low-attack bumper turret
- 3000 gallons of water

ARFF Building & Control Room (8,975 sq. ft.)

- 2 training rooms
- App Bay for 2 ARFF Apparatus



The Cessna Skyhawk Specialized Aircraft Fire Trainer



Boeing 777

Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting

ARFF Training

Training options range from certifications and annual refreshers to custom-designed courses. Training may include:

- Airport Firefighter
- Driver Operator
- Aircraft Entry & Rescue
- ARFF Apparatus Emergency Vehicle Operations
- High Reach Extendable Turret Training
- Municipal Response to Aircraft Incidents



2025 ARFF Training

- 35 groups
- 168 students trained
- 11 states and 4 countries

Seminars and Training

Seminars are instructor-led training, supporting operational readiness and professional development for law enforcement. We partner with law agencies, and non-law agencies, as a shared training resource for public safety and allied organizations.

2025 Law Enforcement Seminars

- 36 classes conducted
- 425 officers trained



Seminars and Training

2025 Fire Fighting

Our facility is considered one of the Midwest's best fire fighting training facilities, where recent graduates and experienced fire fighters can polish their skills.

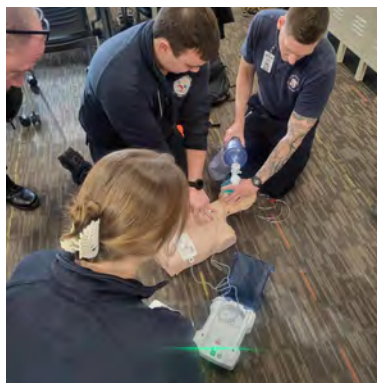
- Fire Certification (16 options)
- State Practical Exams (8 offerings)
- Specialized Fire training (3 courses)
- Fire Professional Development
- Offers testing services through the National Testing Network (NTN)



CPR

In addition to certification programs, the division provides a variety of seminars and training opportunities that support continuing education for emergency responders and community members. CPR training is included in several programs and is also offered independently to professionals seeking certification or recertification. Courses follow the standards established by the American Heart Association.

During 2025, a total of 215 courses were offered, resulting in more than 2,100 students, professionals, and community members receiving certification. These training opportunities play an important role in strengthening emergency preparedness and lifesaving skills throughout the region.



Facility Rentals

The Public Safety Training Center is a national leader in providing state-of-the-art training facilities for law enforcement, EMS, and Fire professionals. Our facility is located on 80 acres and provides teams with the tools and resources they need most.

Scenario Village (River City)

- Commercial & Residential Structures
- Forced Entry/Tactical House
- Streets & Intersections

Emergency Driving Range

- Off-road Driving Area
- Pursuit Track
- Skid Pad
- Skills Pad



Outdoor Firing Range

- (2) 50-yard Tactical Ranges
- 100-yard Firing Range
- 300-yard Firing Range



Vehicle Rentals

- City Bus
- School Bus
- Police Squads



Indoor Classrooms and Training Areas

- (2) Defense and Arrest Tactics Rooms
- Fitness Center
- (2) Indoor Firing Ranges
- Forensics Lab
- EMS Lab & Ambulance Bay
- Jail Training Area
- Weapons Cleaning Lab
- Fire Training Area & Apparatus Bay



Fire Training

- 5-Story Class A Burn Building
- Air Rescue & Fire Fighting Training
- Burn Pods
- Drafting Pond
- Gas Meter Prop
- Flashover Prop
- HazMat, Vehicle Extrication & Car Fire Props
- High-Angle/Technical Rescue
- Ladder Training Tower
- Trench & Confined Space Rescue
- Sprinkler Lab



Partnerships



We could not provide first-rate education and training without the help and support of our many local, national and global partners, such as: Challenge USA, Fox Valley Humane Association, Gulfstream (Student Leadership Program), Old Glory Honor Flight, and Outagamie County Emergency Management.

Whether it's through donations of time, equipment or money, developing relevant job training curriculum, or working together to achieve common goals, collaborations with nonprofit organizations, businesses, associations and policy makers strengthen our community.

2025 Industry Partners

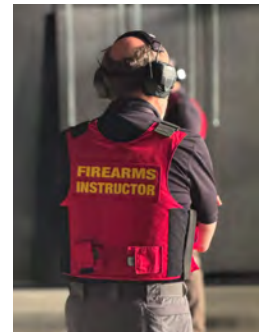
- 10 different partner entities
- 130 total rental days

Community

Education and skills training for non-sworn participants and community partners is available. We host a variety of civilian classes: personal protection and safety techniques, self-protection concepts and concealed weapon situations.

2025 Personal Protection Classes

- 37 classes conducted
- 331 students trained



High School Visitors

In 2025, the Admissions team provided tours for over 300 students from 11 area high schools. Through K-12 Partnerships career discovery events and external career fairs, over 900 students from eight high schools and seven middle schools were reached. Students enjoy a tour of the facility, including some hands-on demonstrations.

Middle School Visitors

Over 170 8th graders from four middle schools enjoyed career exploration. Students received a tour of the facility along with a Forensic activity.



Public Safety Job Fair

The PSTC hosted a job fair in 2025. 179 attendees visited with 31 employers.

Community

Visiting High Schools

Our faculty visited area high schools during 2025 to discuss early college credit opportunities and careers in public service. Information is shared with students and how they can get a head start on their college education through the Start College Now program or the Dual Credit program.

FVTC partners with K-12 districts and four-year colleges to ensure students have seamless pathways into technical college education and beyond. The key objective is to help students smoothly transition between educational systems and eventually into the workforce.

Dual Credit

Dual Credit courses are FVTC courses taught at area high schools by a certified high school teacher. High school teachers are mentored by FVTC faculty to duplicate competencies, curriculum, and assessment. The credits and grades students earn will apply to both high school and college graduation at no cost to the school district or family.

Start College Now

This program allows qualified high school juniors and seniors to take FVTC courses, either on campus or online, while still enrolled in high school.

Academies

An academy is a structured opportunity that allows high school students to earn a postsecondary credential or start on a pathway (certificate, technical diploma, or associate degree) while still in high school. Academies consist of Dual Credit, Start College Now, contracted courses, or a combination of these options to provide students with career-aligned coursework and an accelerated transition to college and the workforce.

In 2025, nine students from seven high schools enrolled in Firefighting Principles. They got a jumpstart on their volunteer and professional firefighting career:

- Earned 4 college credits in 1 semester
- Obtained State of Wisconsin Firefighter 1 certification
- Equipment and books provided at no cost
- High School Juniors and Seniors (qualified Seniors receive priority enrollment)

Seven students received state certification.



Community

CSI Camp - ages 14-18

16 students worked as a team, while learning from experienced criminal investigators, how to manage a crime scene, and how to search, identify, document, collect, and preserve evidence. This experience included impression evidence, use of an alternate light source, trace evidence, DNA and biologicals, crime scene scenarios, courtroom testimony and a murder mystery case.



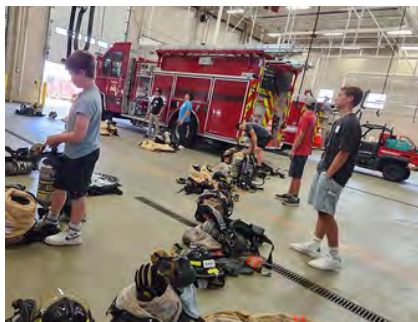
Basic Fire Camp - ages 13-18

10 students learned the basics of what it takes to be a fire fighter. They got hands on experiences by performing tasks and training exercises alongside local firefighters.



Advanced Fire Camp - ages 15-18

Eight students enrolled in the Advanced Fire Camp and performed more hands-on fire fighting skills. Examples included use of breathing apparatus and turnout gear, search and rescue techniques, hose line movement, fire streams, extrication (using the Jaws of Life), simulated fire response and more.



Social Media

Through official PSTC accounts on Instagram and Facebook, information is shared that reflects the quality, professionalism, and real-world relevance of our programs. These platforms serve as an extension of the classroom and training grounds; connecting students, faculty, alumni, public safety agencies, employers, and community partners.

3,682 followers on Facebook and 379 followers on Instagram. ARFF has 891 followers on Facebook.



Leadership and Faculty

- John Sorensen, Dean
- Cory McKone, Associate Dean
- Tom Nelson, Operations Manager - Fire & EMS
- Jon Kuffel, Manager - Law Enforcement Operations & Range Master
- Brian Bending, Instructor - Fire Protection
- Edgar Gonzalez, Instructor - Criminal Justice
- Tim Hufschmid, Director - Law Enforcement and Jail Academies
- Les James, Instructor - Emergency Medical Service
- Carrie Koepp, Department Chair - Criminal Justice
- Ray Lee, Instructor - Criminal Justice
- Joe LeFevre, Department Chair - Forensic Science
- Rachel Mueller, Instructor - Paramedic, Emergency Medical Service
- Ben Sokol, Instructor - Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting
- Robert Wilkins, Instructor - Fire Protection
- Aaron Zemlock, Department Chair - Asset Protection

Adjuncts

Law Enforcement, Jail Academy, Criminal Justice, Forensic Science, Asset Protection: 123
Fire, EMS, ARFF: 172

Meet the Team



Leadership: Tom Nelson, Cory McKone, John Sorenson, Jon Kuffel



Admissions & Advising: Mackenzie Ferg, Sylvia Dwyer



ARFF: Ben Sokol, Mandy Jones

Meet the Team



Criminal Justice: Cory McKone, Tim Hufschmid, Carrie Koepp, Dana Hartjes, Jon Kuffel, Edgar Gonzalez, Aaron Zemlock, Joe LeFevre, Ray Lee



Division Support: Sara Edwards, Catherine Carlson



EMS: Tom Nelson, Carol Albers, Rachel Mueller, Les James, Robert Wilkins, Cathy Wedel

Meet the Team



Facilities: James Jones, Ashley Wolff, Danny Holtz



Fire Protection: Rob Rosenau, Kelly White, Robert Wilkins, Brian Bending (Tom Nelson, not in photo)



Front Desk: DeAnn Kohlbeck, Terri Nilson

Advisory Committees

Occupational Program Advisory Committees are a requirement of the Wisconsin Technical College System and play an important role in supporting program quality and workforce alignment. These committees provide valuable advice and counsel to program managers and faculty regarding the associate degree and technical diploma programs offered by Fox Valley Technical College.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our Advisory Committee members for their time, expertise, and ongoing partnership in helping ensure our programs remain responsive to industry and community needs.

Asset Management Advisory Committee

Bay Investigation and Litigation Services, Inc.	Deb Bursik
Oshkosh Defense, LLC	Steve Chambers
Green Bay Packers	Justin Crabb
One Source Technologies	Sarah Fauske
Safeguards Consulting	Don McInnes
Loss Mitigation Solutions, LLC	Bill Niemuth
Lappen Security Products	Brian Schweitzer
Goodwill Industries	Tim Seaver
Appleton Private Detective Agency, LLC	Jay Steinke

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee

Waupaca Police Department	Captain Paul Benzschawel
Outagamie County Sheriff’s Office	Commander Jeff Dietzen
UW-Oshkosh Police Department	Detective Sergeant Chance Duenkel
Village of Fox Crossing Police	Dept. Lieutenant Scott Farrell
Neenah Police Department	Lieutenant Jason Goetz
Kaukauna Police Department	Chief Jamie Graff
Appleton Police Department	Lieutenant William Krieg
Chilton Police Department	Chief Jason Kvalheim
Grand Chute Police Department	Captain David Maas
Wautoma Police Department	Chief Paul Mott
Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office	Lieutenant Darin Rice
Oshkosh Police Department	Captain Matt Harris
Oshkosh Police Department	Deputy Chief Brian Schuldes
Waupaca County Sheriff’s Office	Sheriff Timothy Wilz
Waushara County Sheriff’s Office	Sheriff Wally Zuehlke

Advisory Committees

Emergency Medical Services

Appleton Fire Department	Chief Jeremy Hansen
BayCare Clinic	Dr. Kerry Ahrens, Dr. Bob Zemple
Clintonville Area Ambulance	Director Clifford Peterson
Fond du Lac Fire Rescue	Assistant Chief Andrew Aird
Gold Cross Ambulance Service	Executive Director Nick Romenesko
Grand Chute Fire Department	Chief Steve Denzien
Grand Chute Fire Department	Assistant Chief Matthew Kasriel
Green Bay Metro Fire Department	Assistant Chief Ryan Gibbons
City of Kaukauna Fire Department	Assistant Chief Craig Schneider
City of Oshkosh Fire Department	Division Chief Aaron Droessler
ThedaCare, Inc	James Dean
Waushara County EMS	Chief Keith Melvin
Public Member at Large	Steven Spence
FVTC Paramedic Program Graduate	Amber Evers, Jake Ketter, Derek Scruggs

Fire Protection Technician

Kaukauna Fire Department	Chief Jake Carrel
Grand Chute Fire Department	Chief Steve Denzien
Wisconsin Emergency Management	Steve Fenske
Fond Du Lac Fire Rescue	Chief Erick Gerritson
Appleton Fire Department	Chief Jeremy Hansen
Green Bay Metro Fire Department	Chief Matthew Knott
Clintonville Fire Department	Chief Shane Krueger
Greenville Fire Department	Josh Lambie
City of Sheboygan Fire Department	Chief Eric Montellano
Fox Crossing Fire Department	Chief Todd Sweeney
Neenah Menasha Fire Rescue	Chief Travis Teesc

Forensic Science Advisory Committee

Green Bay Police Department	Shelly Czarneski
Grand Chute Police Department	Kali Draeger
Appleton Police Department	Falynne Gerisch
Canadian National Railway	Holly Maas
Menasha Police Department	Cyndel Sawall
Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office	Jessica Trzebiatowski

Check us out on social media!

**Follow the PSTC on
Social Media**

@fvtpublicsafetytrainingcenter

Instagram

Facebook

Scan me!

FVTPUBLICSAFETYTRAININGCENTER

FVTPUBLICSAFETYTRAININGCENTER

The graphic features a red background with a repeating pattern of dog faces. At the top, the text 'Follow the PSTC on Social Media' is written in large, bold, white letters. Below this, the handle '@fvtpublicsafetytrainingcenter' is displayed in white text inside a black rounded rectangle. Two smartphone screens are shown side-by-side, each displaying a QR code and the text 'FVTPUBLICSAFETYTRAININGCENTER' at the bottom. A central graphic with two arrows pointing to the QR codes and the text 'Scan me!' is positioned between the two phones.