



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



 414-471-8490

 www.wauwatosa.net/fire

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

I am happy to present the 2025 Wauwatosa Fire Department (WFD) Annual Report. In 2025, we responded to nearly 11,000 calls for service, which is roughly a 10% increase from 2024. Our mission as a department is to make Wauwatosa a safer place to work, live, and play by providing top-notch fire suppression, emergency medical services, and community risk reduction programs.

Like any other year, we were met with some unique challenges and opportunities. One of the main focuses of 2025 was the potential merger between the Wauwatosa and West Allis Fire Departments. What started as an informal conversation quickly progressed into a formal process that was supported by the fire chiefs and city staff from both departments. We recognized that both cities have fiscal challenges that were slowly eroding the level of service we provide. This merger will help solidify our ability to provide high-level fire and EMS services for years to come. There are still a few legal hoops to jump through, but it appears that the merger will become a reality in 2026.

Another major goal in 2025 was the ongoing transition of the management staff. In February, our operations chief, Assistant Chief Scott Erke, retired and was replaced by Assistant Chief Ryan Stanwood. As part of a scheduled rotation, Captain Kurt Trevisan was promoted to Battalion Chief, and Lieutenant Travis Padgett was promoted to the Deputy Chief of Training. All of this movement has resulted in a strong team with a fresh set of eyes to improve our mission focus.

By the time this report is published, I will have retired from the department after serving the city for 25 years, the last eight as Fire Chief. I am honored to have been part of this department and have been given the opportunity to lead the greatest group of firefighters and staff a chief could ever ask for. I take great comfort in knowing we have a strong team in place that is willing to step up and keep moving the department forward.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Fire Chief.

Respectfully,
Fire Chief Jim Case



Mission Statement

The Wauwatosa Fire Department is dedicated to providing the highest quality customer service. We will protect lives and property through fire protection, emergency medical services, rescue, education, and disaster management. We will treat our customers with compassion and respect and we will strive for excellence in everything we do.

Vision Statement

The Wauwatosa Fire Department is an all hazards public safety organization that exists to keep the community of Wauwatosa safe. We will maintain a high level of preparedness through intense training, strong leadership, and proven strategies applied by high quality personnel. We value a philosophy of lifelong learning and we will embrace best practices.

Core Values

Integrity * Respect * Honor * Courage * Commitment

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



Office Manager Amy Rummel

The Wauwatosa Fire Department's administrative support staff plays a critical role in the overall effectiveness and efficiency of department operations. The team consists of Office Manager Amy Rummel and Office Assistant/Community Outreach Specialist Cody Xiong, whose work ensures that both internal functions and community-facing efforts run smoothly.

Office Manager Amy Rummel oversees the daily operations of the front office and manages a wide range of essential administrative functions. Her responsibilities include maintaining personnel records, coordinating payroll, managing department finances, and assisting in the development and oversight of the annual budget. Amy also plays a key role in the department's recruitment and hiring processes, helping to ensure the organization continues to attract and retain qualified personnel. In addition, she provides ongoing administrative support to department leadership and staff, contributing to the department's overall organization and efficiency.



Office Assistant/Community Outreach Specialist Cody Xiong

Office Assistant and Community Outreach Specialist Cody Xiong supports daily administrative operations by directing inquiries, maintaining records, and coordinating schedules. In his outreach role, Cody leads and organizes public education programs, fire prevention initiatives, and community events that strengthen the department's connection with residents and businesses. His efforts help promote safety awareness and foster positive relationships throughout the community.

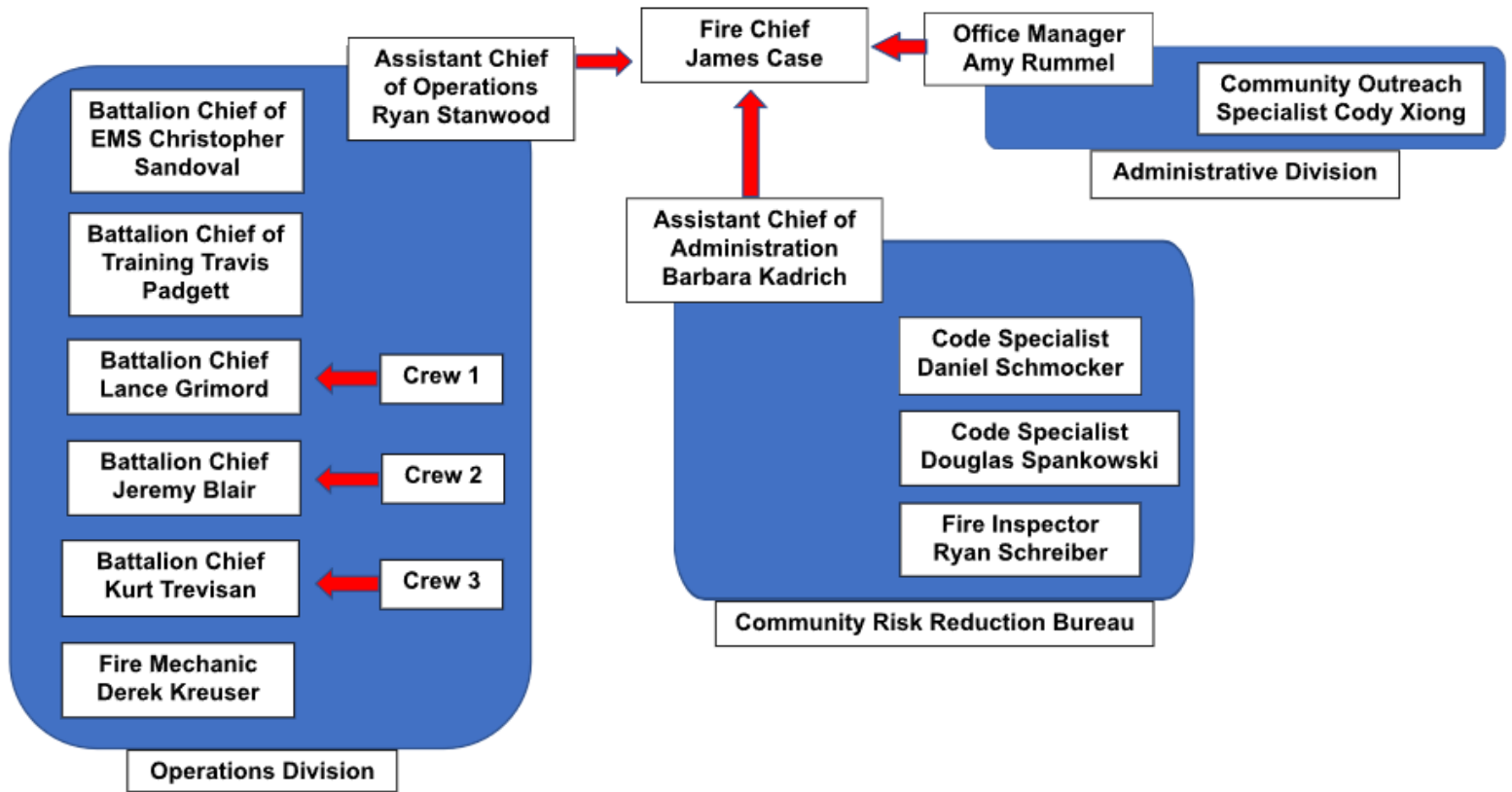
Together, Amy and Cody work behind the scenes to ensure firefighters and paramedics have the tools, information, and support they need to perform their duties effectively. Their contributions are essential to maintaining a well-organized, responsive, and community-focused fire department.



BUDGET

Fire Dept #220					
Expenditures					
	2024				2025 / 2024
2023	Adopted	2024		2025	% of
Actual	Budget	Revised	Name	Budget	Change
9,488,617	10,012,096	10,012,096	Wages	9,885,335	-1.3%
767,742	320,000	570,000	Overtime	320,000	0.0%
4,842,305	4,541,208	4,541,208	Benefits	4,593,619	1.2%
8,209	7,290	7,290	Other Compensation	7,350	0.8%
292,941	336,370	378,699	Operating Expenses	358,397	6.5%
4,064	8,000	8,000	Commodities	8,000	0.0%
447,766	251,610	529,084	Services	330,890	31.5%
184,922	221,003	221,003	Utilities	226,283	2.4%
27,607	30,435	30,435	Fixed Charges	42,918	41.0%
494,398	507,024	507,024	Internal Charges	500,096	-1.4%
40,197	22,500	29,220	Other Expenses	2,500	-88.9%
21,503	19,000	19,000	Capital Outlay	21,200	11.6%
16,620,271	16,276,535	16,853,059	TOTAL	16,296,588	0.1%
Revenues					
	2024				
2023	Adopted	2024		2025	% of
Actual	Budget	Revised	Name	Budget	Change
1,545,460	1,427,685	1,427,685	InterGov Charges	1,341,684	-6.02%
358,755	323,000	347,000	InterGov Revenue	375,000	16.10%
178,274	209,000	209,000	Licenses and Permits	210,000	0.48%
83,474	43,650	74,912	Miscellaneous	39,774	-8.88%
1,465,014	1,810,000	1,810,000	Public Charges	1,810,000	0.00%
3,630,977	3,813,335	3,868,597	TOTAL	3,776,458	-1.0%
Net Cost					
12,989,294	12,463,200	12,984,462	TOTAL	12,520,130	0.5%

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Fire				
Position Description	2024 FTE	2025 Base Positions	2025 FTE	2024-25 Change
Assistant Chief	2.00	2	2.00	-
Code Specialist	2.58	3	2.58	-
Deputy Chief	4.00	4	4.00	-
Fire Captain	7.00	7	7.00	-
Fire Chief	1.00	1	1.00	-
Fire Lieutenant	12.00	12	12.00	-
Fire Equipment Mechanic	1.00	1	1.00	-
Firefighter ¹	59.00	59	59.00	-
Management Analyst	1.00	1	1.00	-
Motor Pump Operator	15.00	15	15.00	-
Office Assistant	1.00	1	1.00	-
TOTAL	105.58	106.00	105.58	-

¹ 1.0 position unfunded



Assistant Chief Ryan Stanwood

OPERATIONS

The operations division, overseen by Assistant Chief Ryan Stanwood, is responsible for the department's frontline emergency response functions and is dedicated to excellence in service to the community. Key aspects of the Operations Division include Emergency Medical Services, Fire Suppression, Disaster Mitigation, Rescue Activities, Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs), Shared Services, Training, and Fleet Maintenance. Through rigorous training, strong collaboration, and a commitment to continuous improvement and innovation, the division maintains a high level of readiness to effectively respond to emergencies and protect the community in times of crisis.

Working closely with Assistant Chief Stanwood are the three Battalion Chiefs, who manage their respective crews and oversee day-to-day activities. Their leadership ensures the efficient emergency response operations, proper staffing and readiness, and consistent adherence to departmental standards and procedures.

In 2025, the Wauwatosa Fire Department experienced another record year for call volume, responding to 10,538 incidents, an increase from 10,237 calls in 2024. This trend reflects what many fire departments across the country are experiencing as call volumes continue to rise. Contributing factors include an aging population, population growth, and an increased reliance on mutual aid, among others.



Our busiest fire apparatus was Truck 51, stationed in the Village, which responded to 2,366 calls. Station 53 on Watertown Plank Road has the busiest paramedic unit with 2,281 calls.



Lance Grimord
Crew 1



Jeremy Blair
Crew 2



Kurt Trevisan
Crew 3

Despite these increasing demands, our members continue to demonstrate exceptional professionalism and dedication. Their unwavering commitment to serving the community and maintaining the highest standards of excellence is evident every day in the work they perform.



2025 INCIDENT TOTALS

Fire Calls - structure, car, and trash fires

HazMat Calls - gas leaks, wires down, carbon monoxide, and infectious disease

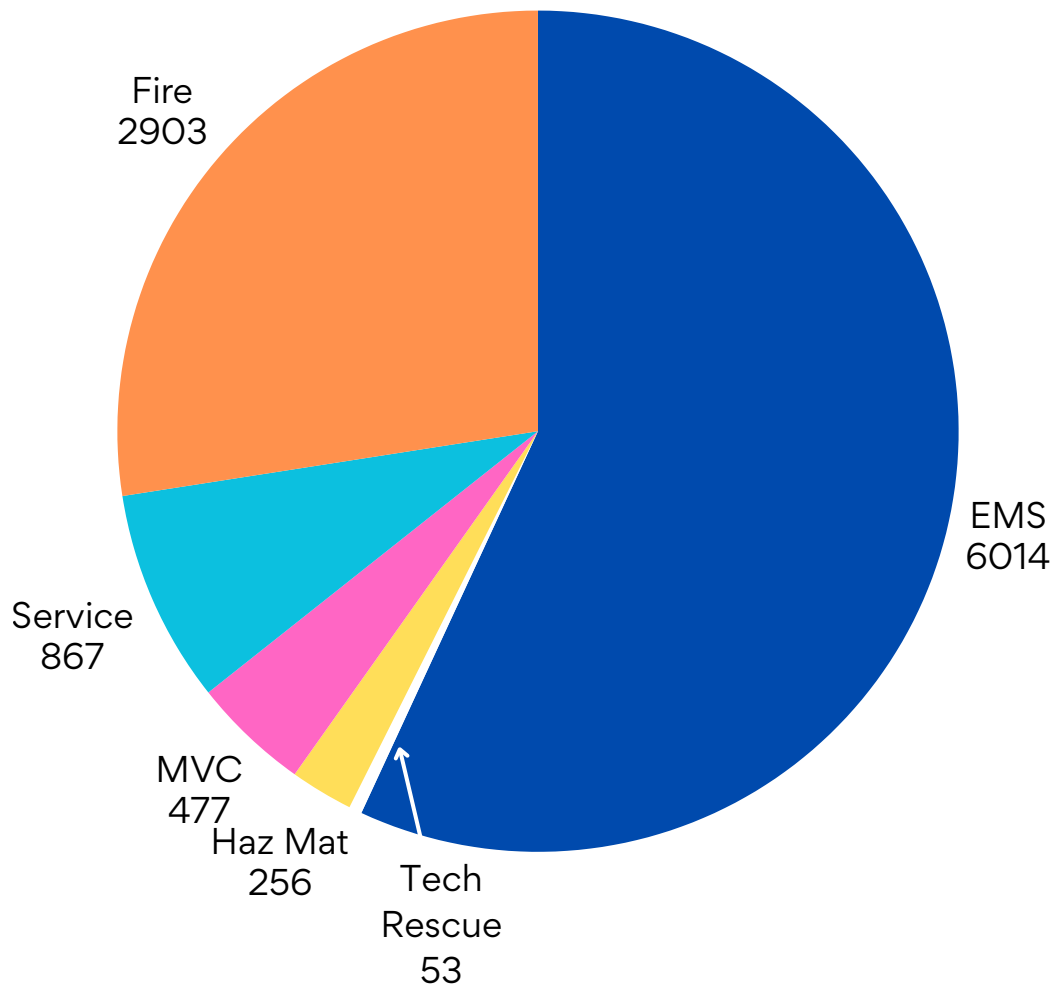
MVC - motor vehicle crashes

Service Calls - lift assists, mutual aid, and lockouts

EMS Calls - basic and advanced life support

Tech Rescue - requires specialized training and equipment

Total
10,538

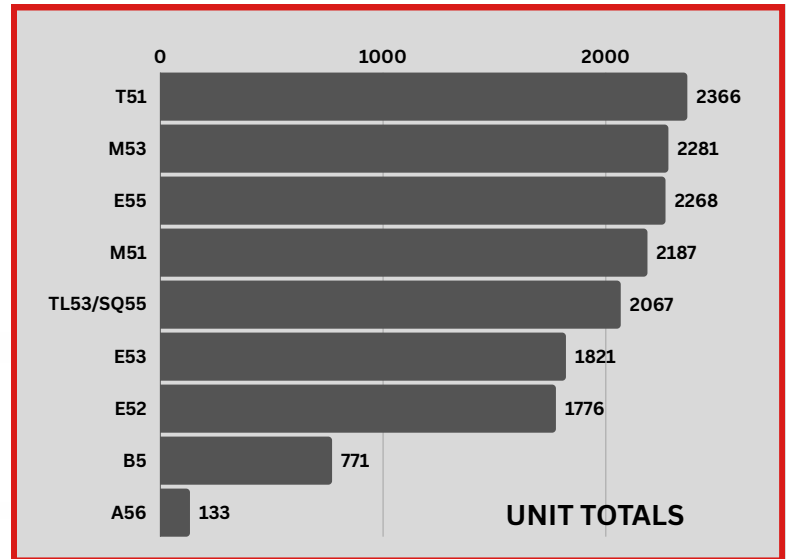
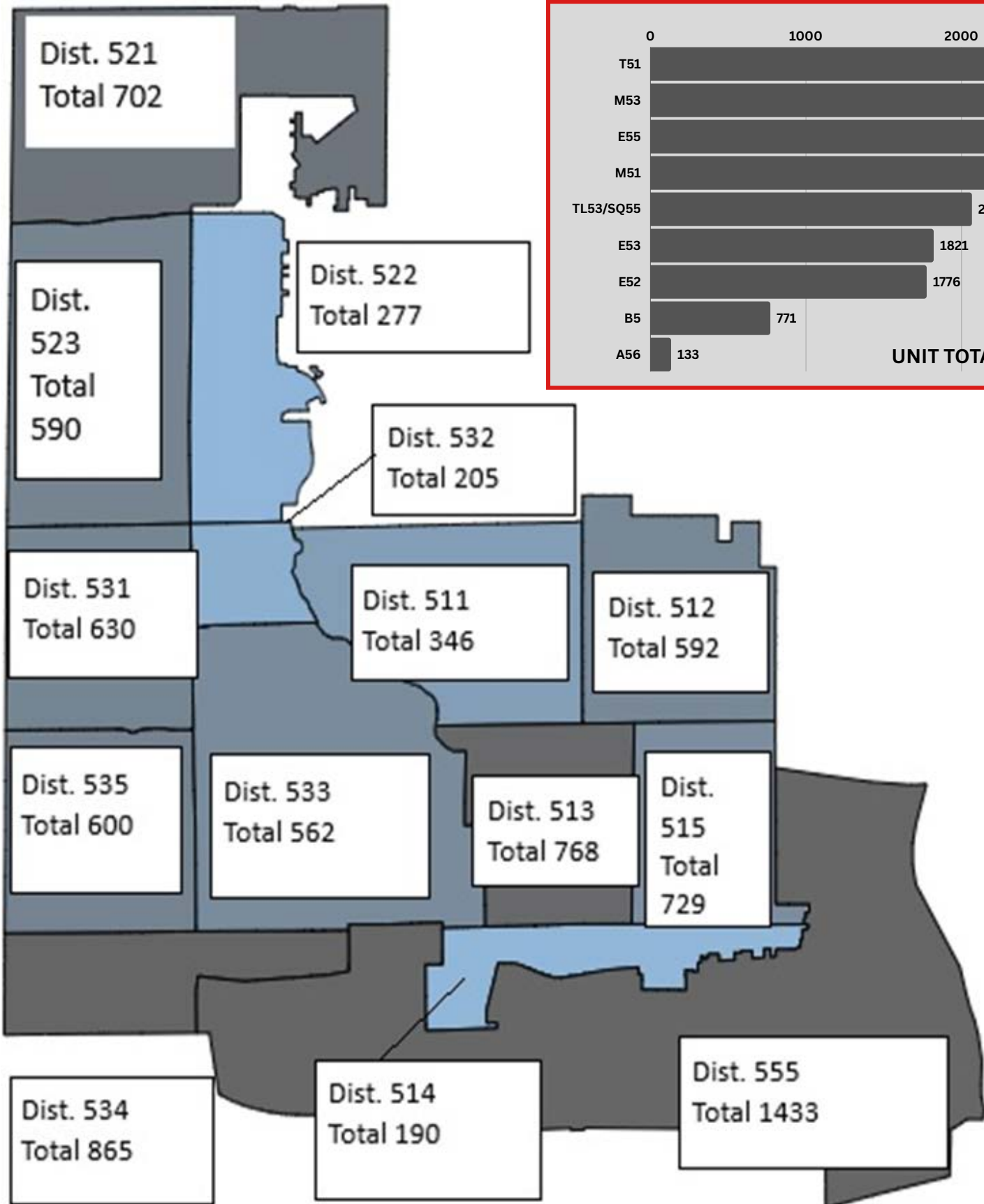


57% EMS Calls



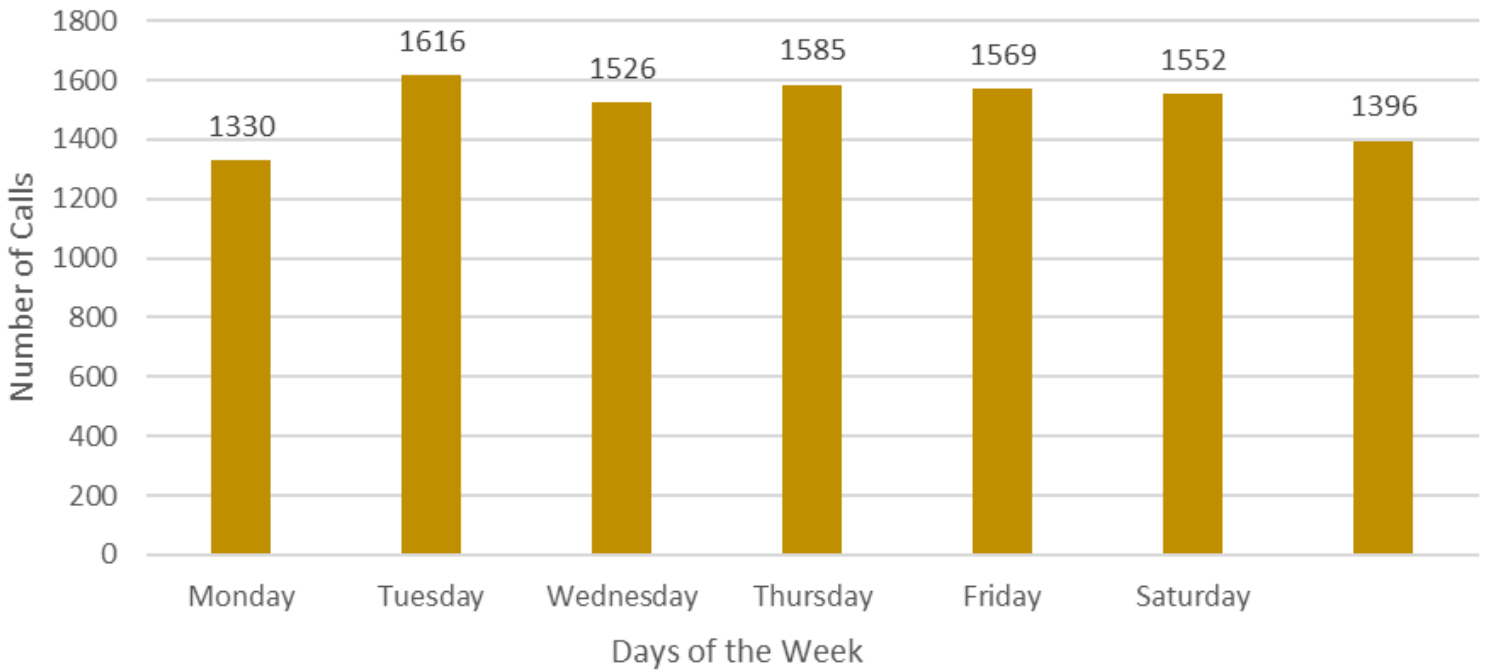
27.5% Fire Calls

DISTRICT INCIDENT MAP 2025 UNIT TOTALS



2025 CALL STATISTICS

2025 Calls by Day of the Week



**Busiest
Hour was
1:00 pm**

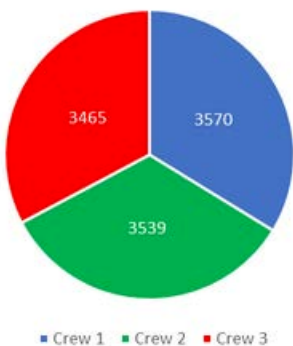
Response Totals Per Station

Station	Calls
Station 51	5327
Station 52	1889
Station 53	6312
Station 55	2303

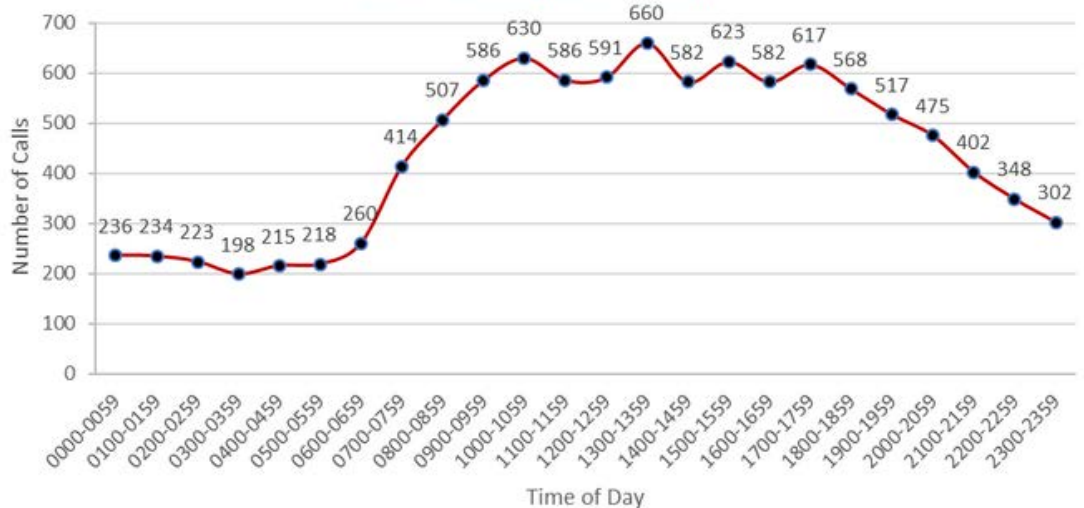
**Tuesday
Busiest
Day**



Calls by Crew



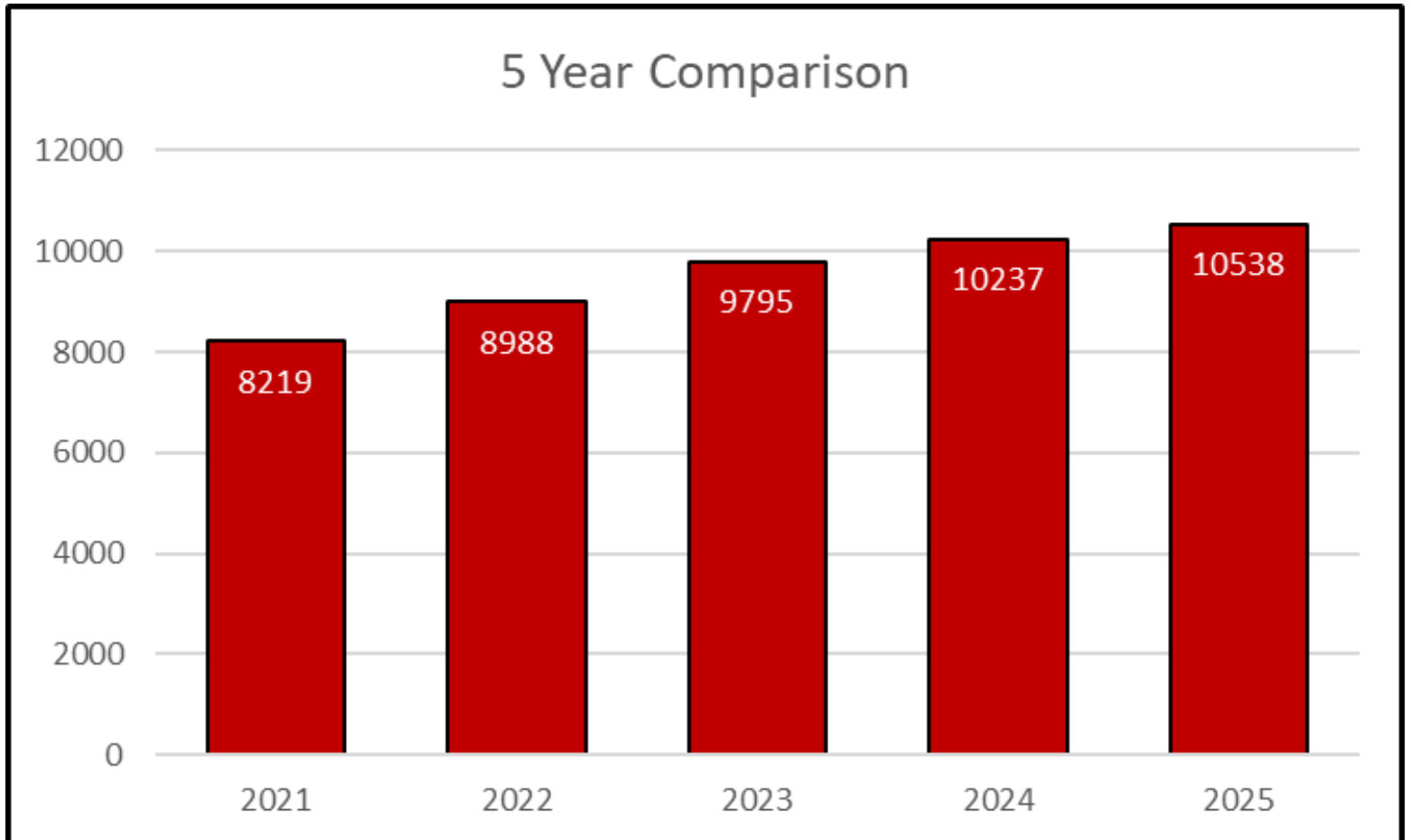
2025 Calls by Time of Day



2025 CALL STATISTICS



28.2 % Increase Over 5 Years



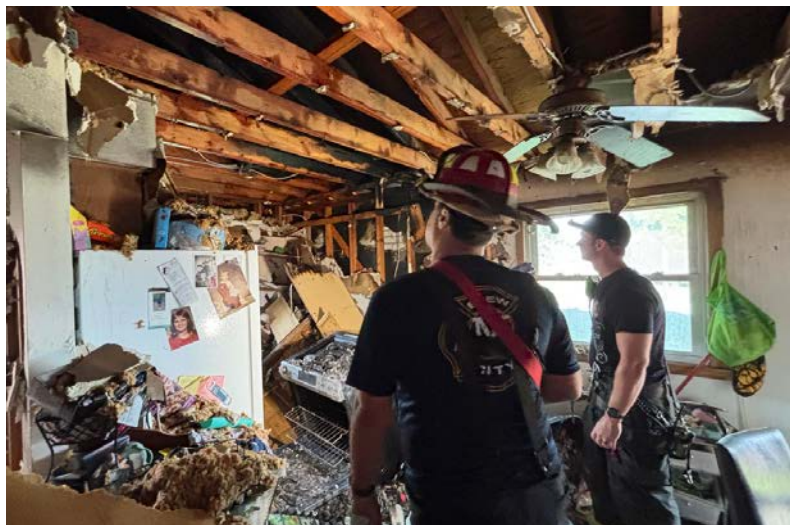
CREW 1 SIGNIFICANT CALLS



August 7, 2025 - Structure Fire
10905 West Potter Road - Incident #25-006282

Upon arrival, crews encountered a secured structure and forced entry to gain access. A primary search revealed smoke conditions on the first floor and an active fire in the kitchen area. No occupants were present at the time of the incident.

During the search, six dogs were located inside the residence and safely removed by firefighters. All animals survived and appeared unharmed.



September 10, 2025 - Airplane Hangar Fire
9305 West Appleton Avenue - Incident #25-007476

Crews responded to a fully involved airplane hangar fire that spread to a nearby hangar. Battalion 5 (B5) managed operations for the second building, while Engine 52 (E52) worked to put out the fire in the neighboring hangar and stop it from spreading further.

Engine 52 successfully contained the fire in the second hangar and then checked the building for any remaining hot spots to ensure the fire was completely out.



CREW 2 SIGNIFICANT CALLS



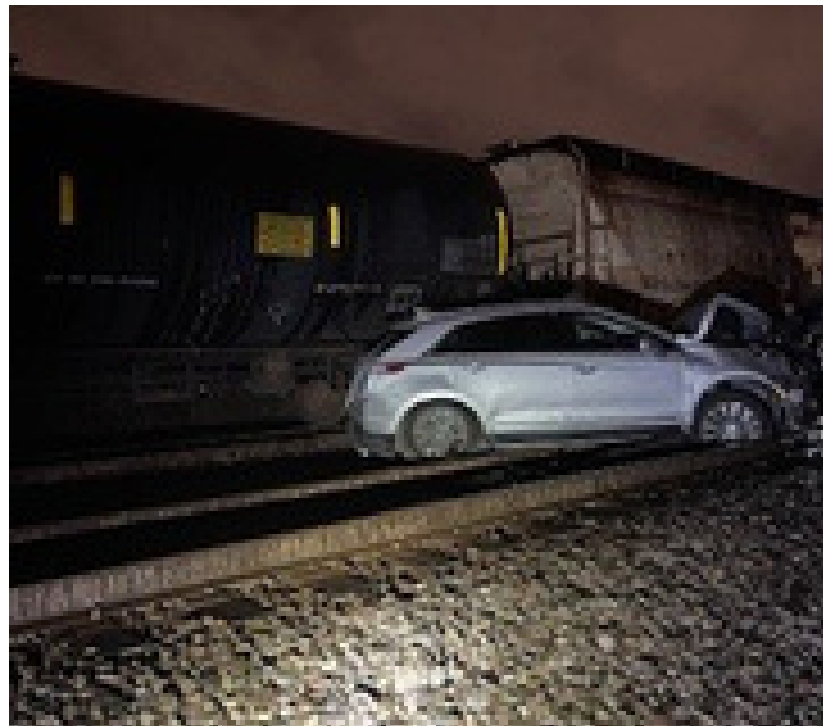
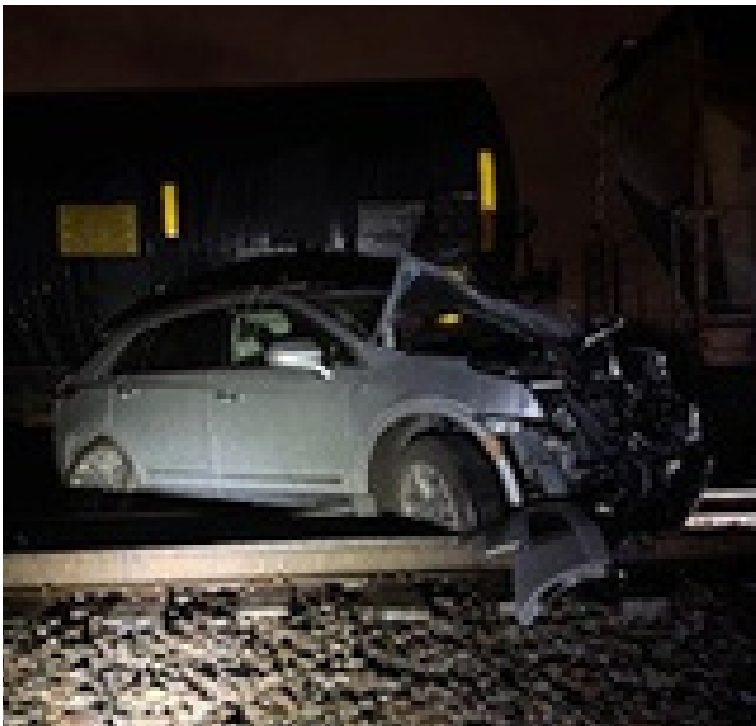
October 17, 2025 - Structure Fire
2536 N. 69th Street - Incident #25-008582

Fire crews arrived to find light smoke coming from a side door of a two-story home. The caller reported a fire in the basement, where crews encountered heavy smoke and significant fire conditions upon entry. The fire was quickly extinguished, and no injuries were reported. The home was occupied at the time. Investigation indicated the fire may have started when an electric stovetop in the basement was accidentally turned on with items left on it.



October 22, 2025 - Vehicle vs. Train
1800 Swan Blvd - Incident #25-008696

At approximately 1:10 a.m., crews responded to a vehicle versus train incident behind Hoyt Park. Access to the tracks was gained from the park parking lot. The driver reported traveling on the tracks before exiting the vehicle after seeing an approaching train, leaving the car in its path. The train was unable to stop in time and struck the unoccupied vehicle. No injuries were reported, and the scene was turned over to the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office.



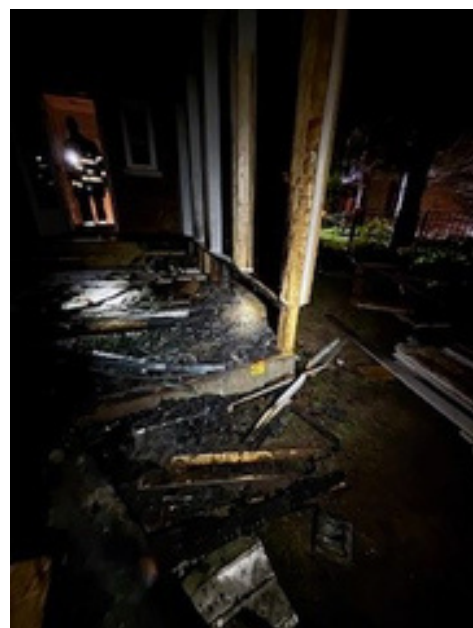
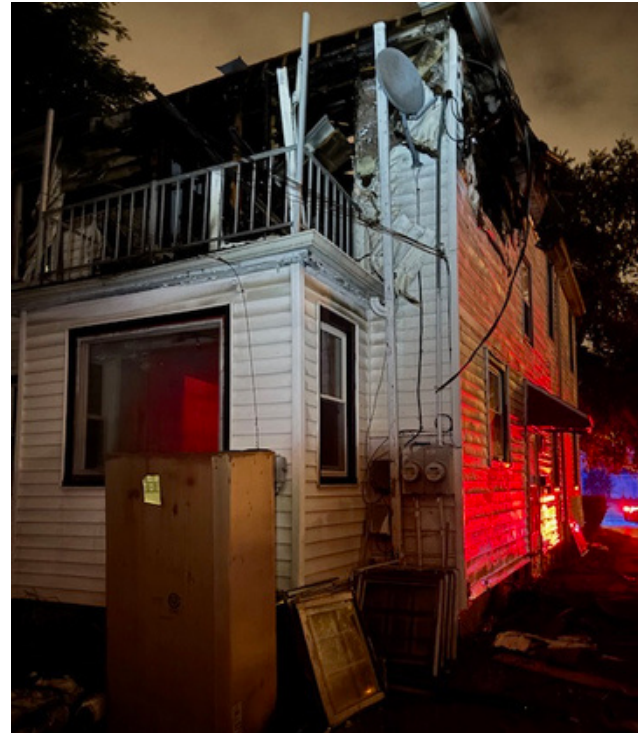
CREW 3 SIGNIFICANT CALLS

August 30, 2025 - Structure Fire
6000 W. Lloyd Street - Incident #25-007162

Units were dispatched to a residential structure fire. Upon arrival, crews found fire coming from a second-floor bedroom. The residence was vacant at the time, as it was under renovation.

Battalion 5 (B5) established command as Engine 55 (E55) extinguished the second-floor fire and Truck 51 (T51) confirmed the building was unoccupied. Additional crews supported water supply, ventilation, search, and firefighter safety operations.

The fire was quickly brought under control, with no injuries reported to civilians or firefighters. An investigation determined the fire was electrical in nature.

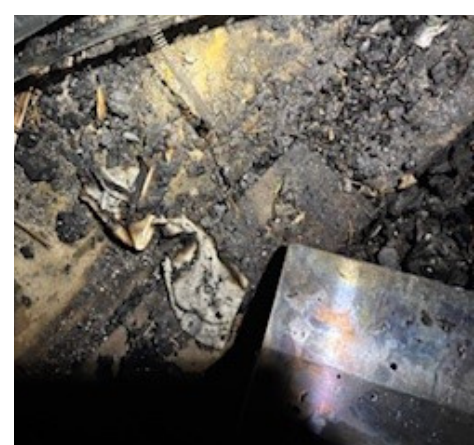
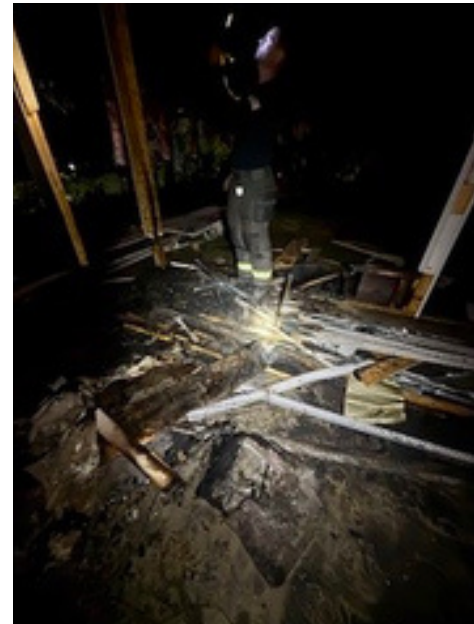


September 6, 2025 - Structure Fire
664 N. 74th Street - Incident #25-007340

Units responded to a residential fire and arrived to find flames coming from a rear enclosed porch under construction on a two-story occupied home. The fire involved the porch and stored building materials. Crews quickly extinguished the fire and confirmed it had not spread into the main home.

Battalion 5 (B5) established command as Engine 55 (E55) led fire suppression efforts, with additional crews supporting water supply, search, ventilation, and safety operations. All occupants were accounted for, and no injuries were reported.

The fire was limited to the porch area. Investigation determined the cause to be electrical in nature, with contributing factors including construction conditions and materials stored on the porch.



AUGUST FLOODS



In early August 2025, the Wauwatosa Fire Department responded to historic rainfall that produced several inches of rain in a short period, overwhelming stormwater systems and the Menomonee River. The resulting flooding caused widespread impacts across the community, affecting more than 500 homes and businesses, including significant damage to at least 27 homes in one neighborhood. Flooded streets, basement water issues, and hazardous travel conditions were reported throughout the city, with low-lying areas especially impacted.



Between August 9 and August 11, the department handled 195 calls for service, including 134 during the peak operational period, 123 of which were weather-related. Fire personnel assisted or rescued approximately 69 individuals, along with numerous pets, from flood conditions.

The incident required a large-scale, coordinated response with fire, police, and public works agencies. Despite the severity of the event, there were no reported deaths or injuries to civilians or responders, and no damage to department apparatus. The flooding highlighted the challenges of managing high-intensity rainfall in urban environments and the importance of ongoing infrastructure improvements and community preparedness.



CONSOLIDATION



In 2025, the Wauwatosa Fire Department began exploring a potential merger with the West Allis Fire Department. This process represents a significant step in evaluating the future of fire and emergency medical services and how best to meet the evolving needs of both communities.



As with any major organizational change, the concept of a merger presented challenges and required thoughtful consideration from the members of the Wauwatosa Fire Department. Our personnel takes great pride in the traditions, professionalism, and service that define this department, and it is natural that discussions about structural change are approached carefully. Despite these challenges, our members responded in the way they always have—by meeting the moment with professionalism, dedication, and a commitment to serving the community.

Throughout the year, department leadership, city officials, and partner agencies worked to evaluate how combining resources, personnel, and operational capabilities could improve the level of service provided to the communities we protect. The guiding principle throughout these discussions has been clear: any changes must enhance public safety and strengthen the service we provide.

Early analysis suggests that a combined organization has the potential to improve efficiency, enhance training and specialty capabilities, and ensure long-term sustainability for fire and emergency medical services. Most importantly, it offers the opportunity to further strengthen our ability to respond to emergencies and meet the evolving needs of our community.

While the work is still ongoing, the Wauwatosa Fire Department is approaching this process with optimism. Our focus remains on identifying ways to improve the level of service we provide today and building a stronger, more resilient organization for the future. As the process continues, additional information will be shared as milestones are reached and plans are further developed.



TRAINING



WFD remains committed to a simple but vital philosophy: train like our lives depend on it—because they do. In 2025, the training division continued to evolve through realistic simulations, regional collaboration, and a strong commitment to professional excellence.



Key components of the 2025 training program included:

- **Company Level Training** – Daily training focused on core skills such as hose line deployment, ladder operations, and EMS scenarios. This consistent repetition ensures all members maintain a high level of proficiency.
- **Vacant Building Training** – Crews trained in vacant structures, providing realistic environments that cannot be replicated in a training tower.
- **Mid-Rise Operations Training** – Led by Lieutenant Quinlevan at the vacant International Bluemound Academy, firefighters trained on standpipe operations, hose line management, and search tactics for mid-rise buildings.
- **Commercial Vertical Ventilation Training** – In partnership with the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center (MRMC), members trained on a commercial structure slated for demolition. The focus was on vertical ventilation, which is the process of cutting holes in a roof to release heat and smoke. This is one of the most dangerous and technical tasks on the fireground. Personnel practice allows them to feel the resistance of real construction and master the coordination between roof teams and interior attack crews.
- **Fall In-Service: Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) Training** – Conducted with the Milwaukee Fire Department, this training focused on RIT operations. RIT is the team that goes into the building for firefighter rescue operations, including:
 - **Mayday Procedures** - Refining the psychological and technical response to a trapped firefighter.
 - **Advanced Extrication** - Removing a downed member from tight spaces, through floor collapse, and via high-angle rope systems.
 - **Search Under Duress** - Navigating environments with zero-visibility.

ISO Training Compliance – WFD successfully met and exceeded Insurance Services Office (ISO) training hour requirements. These hours directly impact the community's insurance ratings and reflect our department's ability to respond effectively to any emergency.



Battalion Chief Travis Padgett

SHARED SERVICES

In 2025, we continued to operate under our Shared Services Agreement, which remains a critical component of providing the highest level of service to our community. This partnership ensures that when someone calls 911, the closest and most appropriate apparatus and personnel are dispatched, allowing for faster and more effective emergency response.

Our training grounds also served as a regional training hub throughout the year. We hosted the Milwaukee Fire Department's Lieutenant and Captain School, which ran concurrently. Three Wauwatosa Fire Department members participated in the Lieutenant program, while several staff officers took part in the Captain program, which focused on command and control of emergency scenes and leadership during complex incidents.



In the fall, we also hosted the countywide in-service training at our facility. Over a four-week period, nearly every firefighter in the county rotated through the training grounds to participate in Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) training, which focuses on rescuing downed, trapped, or injured firefighters. These evolutions were conducted under live fire conditions, providing highly realistic training designed to prepare firefighters for the most critical situations they may face on the fireground.

JOINT FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY (JFTA)



20-425 - 23 hired, 21 graduated 5 WFD



21-925 - 17 hired - 14 graduated 3 WFD

Modern firefighting is a team effort that extends beyond city limits. In 2025, the Wauwatosa Fire Department hosted and participated in two Joint Fire Training Academies, bringing together neighboring departments to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination.

The Joint Fire Training Academy (JFTA), held at the Fire Training Center (FTC), is a collaborative program that brings together recruits and instructors from several area departments. Participating agencies have included Wauwatosa, West Allis, North Shore, St. Francis, Greenfield, Milwaukee County Airport, Oak Creek, and Cudahy.



These academies focus on standardizing communications, fireground tactics, and on-scene operations, ensuring firefighters from different departments can work seamlessly together during emergencies. By training alongside our Shared Services and regional partners, we build familiarity and trust between crews, strengthen relationships between departments, and eliminate the challenges that can arise when agencies respond together for the first time at a multi-alarm fire or large-scale incident. This collaboration ultimately strengthens our regional response capabilities and improves service to the communities we protect.



TACTICAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (TEMS)



The Wauwatosa Fire Department's Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) team provides specialized medical support during high-risk law enforcement operations. TEMS personnel are highly trained firefighters and paramedics who work alongside police agencies to deliver immediate medical care in potentially dangerous environments, including high-risk warrants and critical incident responses.

In 2025, the Wauwatosa TEMS team was among the busiest in the state, completing 34 operations and maintaining a 100% response rate. These included 30 warrant operations and 4 team call-outs, supporting both the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office and the Wauwatosa Police Department. The team consistently staffed two medics on nearly all responses and operated without relying on on-duty personnel, demonstrating strong commitment and readiness.



The primary role of TEMS is to provide rapid, life-saving medical care to officers, civilians, and responders in situations where traditional EMS access may be delayed due to safety concerns. By embedding within law enforcement operations, TEMS personnel are able to initiate care immediately, improving outcomes in time-critical incidents.



In addition to operational response, the TEMS program continued to grow in 2025 with the addition of two new members and enhancements to equipment and communications systems. The team also supported ongoing collaboration with partner agencies, including work on a dedicated TEMS vehicle

The TEMS team plays a critical role in enhancing responder safety, strengthening interagency coordination, and ensuring that advanced medical care is available in the most challenging environments.

EMS



Battalion Chief Christopher Sandoval

The Wauwatosa Fire Department (WFD) Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is committed to delivering the highest standard of pre-hospital medical care with prompt, professional response to every call for service. WFD providers deliver a full spectrum of care, from basic life support to advanced cardiac resuscitation and critical interventions. Regardless of the level of care needed, paramedics and EMTs serve residents and visitors with exceptional skill and respect, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



Emergency calls are dispatched through the Wauwatosa Police Communications Center, which utilizes Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) protocols to send the closest and most appropriate resources while providing critical pre-arrival instructions to callers.



WFD EMS operates out of four stations within the City of Wauwatosa. Two Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances are staffed at all times by two paramedics. In addition to transport units, all fire apparatus are equipped to respond to medical emergencies independently or assist ALS and BLS units during high-acuity incidents.



WFD EMS works in partnership with the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) EMS Division, following county-wide standards of care that support seamless, coordinated service across jurisdictions. This collaboration also ensures consistent training, continuing education, and certification for all EMS personnel. WFD paramedics and EMTs operate under the medical direction of the Medical College of Wisconsin, with oversight from the Milwaukee County OEM EMS Division.



PARAMEDIC SCHOOL

The department successfully sent two firefighters to paramedic school at Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), Firefighter Arthur Arena and Firefighter Nickolas Pridgeon. This is the second consecutive year the department has sponsored active-duty firefighters to attend paramedic training.



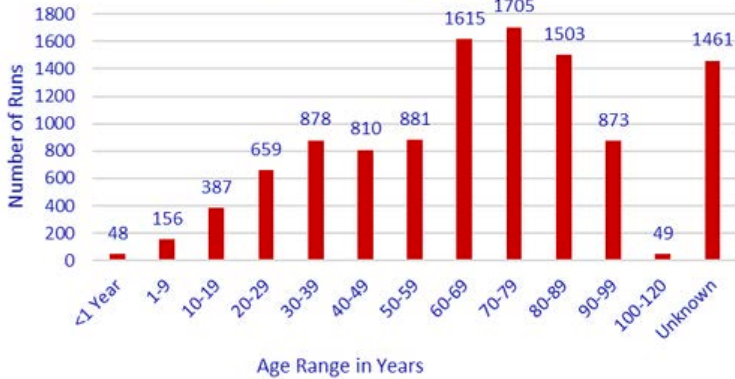
Paramedic schools offer extensive training in advanced emergency medical care, which includes classroom instruction, hands-on skills labs, and clinical rotations in hospitals and ambulance services. The curriculum covers topics such as advanced anatomy and physiology, advanced life support, trauma care, patient assessments, pharmacology, and electrocardiogram interpretation. The training program requires over 1,200 hours, or approximately eight months, to complete.

MATC's paramedic program is nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. Upon successfully finishing the program, graduates are eligible to take the National Registry Paramedic Certification Examination and apply for state licensure. Both firefighters have completed their exams and are now licensed paramedics in Wisconsin.

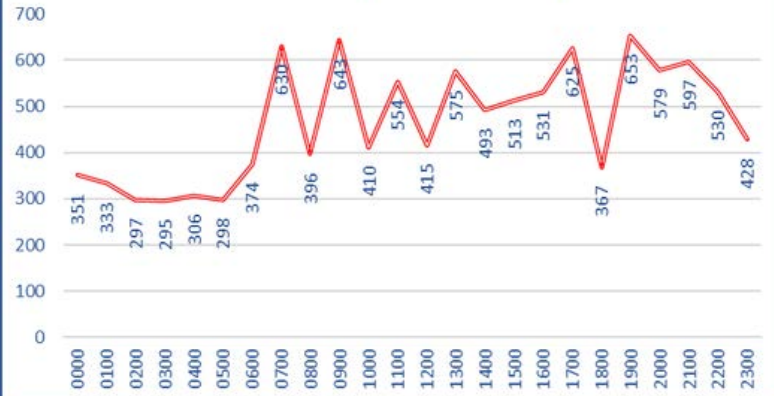


EMS CALL STATISTICS

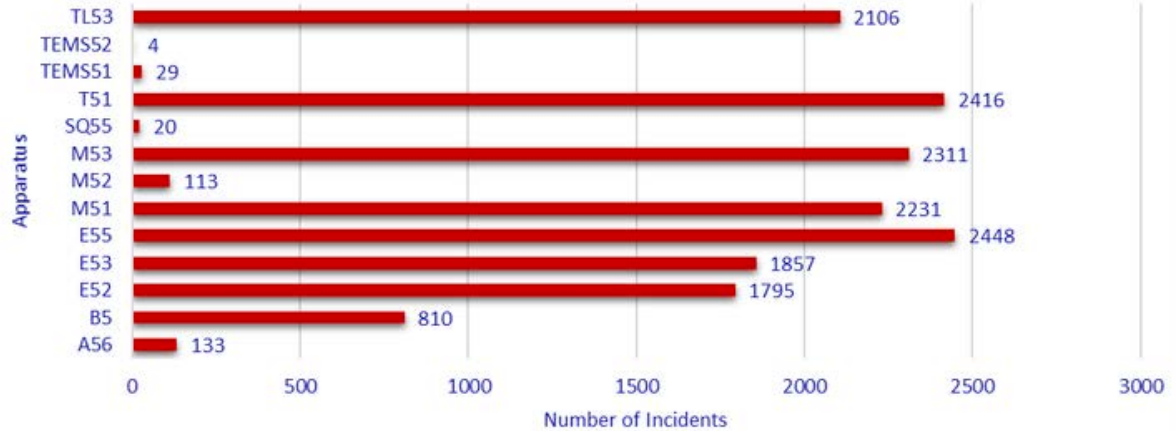
EMS Calls by Age



EMS Calls by Hour of the Day



Incidents by Apparatus

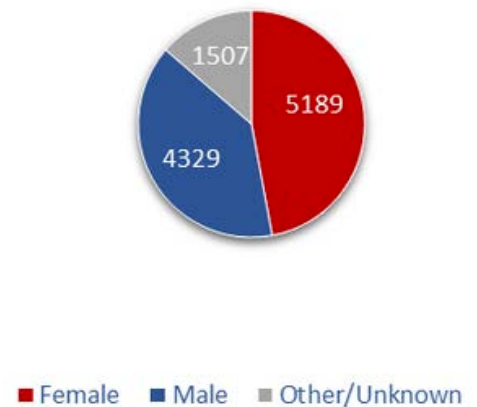


Incidents by Complaint

Abdominal Pain/Problems	292	Headache	75
Allergic Reaction/Stings	114	Heart Problems/AICD	157
Altered Mental Status	234	Heat/Cold Exposure	24
Animal Bite	10	Hemorrhage/Laceration	163
Assault	69	Invalid Assist/Life-Assist	348
Automated Crash Notification	75	Medical Alarm	88
Back Pain(Non-Traumatic)	112	Nausea/Vomiting	91
Breathing Problem	1134	Overdose/Poisoning/Ingestion	182
Burns/Explosion	11	Pain	311
Carbon Monoxide/Hazmat/Inhalation/CBRN	3	Pregnancy/Childbirth/Miscarriage	46
Cardiac Arrest/Death	177	Psychiatric Problem/Abnormal Behavior/Suicide Attempt	84
Chest Pain (Non-Traumatic)	674	Sick Person	1733
Choking	32	Stab/Gunshot Wound/Penetrating Trauma	28
Convulsions/Seizure	391	Stroke/CAV	267
Diabetic Problem	141	Traffic/transportation Incident	434
Dizziness	123	Transfer/Interfacility/Palliative Care	11
Drowning/Diving/SCUBA Accident	1	Traumatic Injury	227
Electrocution/Lighting	2	Unconscious/Fainting/Near-Fainting	568
Eye Problem/Injury	11	Unknown Problem/Person Down	611
Falls	1737	Wellness/Lethargic	209
Fire	3	Well Person Check	14



Incidents by Gender



FIRST RESPONDER OF THE YEAR 13TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



In 2025, the Wisconsin State Assembly 13th Assembly District recognized members of the Wauwatosa Police Department as its First Responder of the Year. This honor highlights the individual's exceptional dedication, professionalism, and commitment to serving the Wauwatosa community. Selected for their outstanding performance in both emergency response and daily service, the recipients exemplify the core values of law enforcement. This recognition reflects not only the individual's contributions but also the high standards and unwavering commitment to excellence demonstrated by the entire department.



DISPATCH ACE ACCREDITED FOR EMD

The City of Wauwatosa Communications Center achieved a significant milestone in 2025 by earning Accredited Center of Excellence (ACE) status for Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) through the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch. This prestigious designation, recognized as the gold standard in emergency dispatch, reflects the Center's commitment to excellence in call handling, adherence to internationally recognized protocols, and ongoing quality assurance. As one of only a few centers in Wisconsin and among a select number worldwide to receive this accreditation, Wauwatosa demonstrates its dedication to providing the highest level of service to the community. This achievement ensures that callers receive timely, accurate, and potentially life-saving instructions prior to the arrival of emergency responders, ultimately enhancing patient outcomes and strengthening the City's overall emergency response system.

FLEET MAINTENANCE



Fire Mechanic Derek Kreuser

The department's most significant maintenance initiative this year was the complete engine overhaul of the tower, ensuring continued reliability and operational readiness for critical response operations. The department also enhanced its internal service capabilities through the certification of our mechanic to perform maintenance and repairs on self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), improving turnaround times and reducing reliance on external vendors.

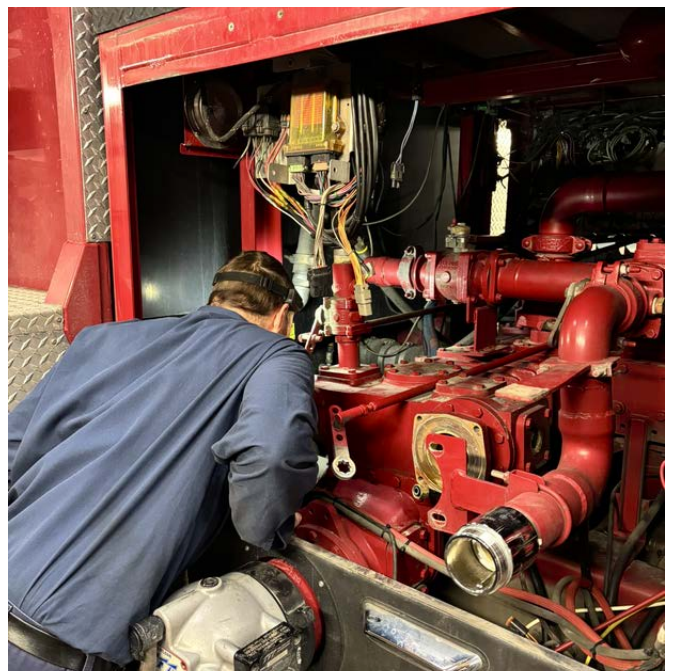
In 2025, the Wauwatosa Fire Department entered into an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the City of Milwaukee Fire Department to provide fleet maintenance services. This partnership offers a cost-effective alternative to third-party vendors, with significantly reduced hourly rates and the flexibility to utilize multiple service providers.

The agreement builds on a strong working relationship, as Milwaukee Fire Department mechanics previously provided reliable support during a vacancy in Wauwatosa's fleet maintenance position. This collaboration enhances operational readiness while reducing maintenance costs and improving service efficiency.



Although no major apparatus were added to the fleet, the department placed three new Mavericks into service to replace the inspectors' aging Ford Explorers. A new vehicle was also assigned to a member of the chief staff to support administrative and operational functions. The TEMS unit received targeted updates to improve functionality and readiness. Within the maintenance facility, the apparatus bay lighting was upgraded to create a safer and more efficient work environment.

Throughout the year, the department continued its comprehensive program of preventative maintenance, inspections, and repairs to ensure all vehicles and equipment remain in optimal condition and ready to support emergency response operations.



NEW APPARATUS



While no new engines or trucks were placed into service this year, the department made meaningful improvements by replacing the Fire Inspection and Community Outreach vehicles. The aging mid-2010s Ford Explorers—many of which had inconsistent or outdated branding—were retired after years of service. Their mismatched appearance made it difficult to maintain a unified and professional presence during inspections, school visits, and community events.

To modernize the fleet, the department acquired new Ford Maverick pickup trucks, each fully wrapped in updated departmental graphics. These vehicles provide a clean, consistent look that strengthens public recognition and reflects the professionalism of our personnel. In addition to improved appearance, the Mavericks offer better fuel efficiency, lower maintenance needs, and practical utility for transporting equipment and outreach materials.

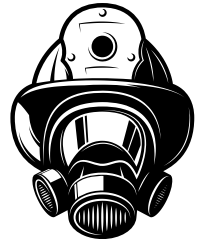


Even without adding new frontline apparatus, this year's support-vehicle refresh demonstrates the department's continued commitment to operational readiness, community engagement, and a cohesive public image.



NEW EQUIPMENT

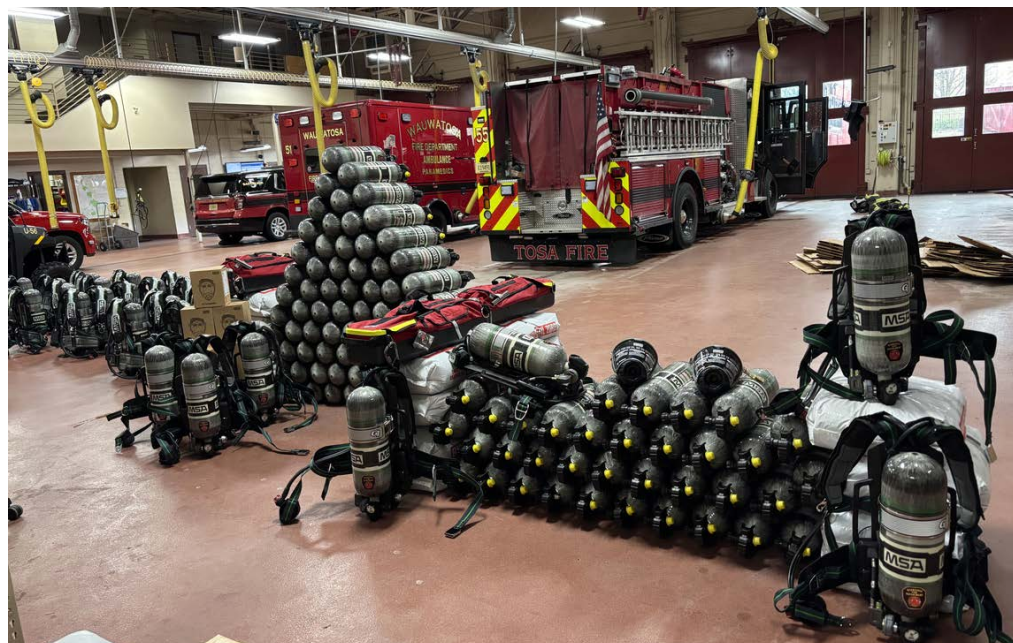
SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA)



In 2025, the Wauwatosa Fire Department was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to replace our aging and failing Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment. This grant funded the replacement of critical respiratory protection components, including SCBA harnesses, face pieces, air bottles, and fit-testing equipment.



The grant also allowed the department to replace our aging air compressor, which is used to refill SCBA cylinders and is essential for maintaining operational readiness.



In total, the grant provided over \$290,000 in funding, allowing the department to significantly upgrade firefighter safety equipment without impacting the department's operating budget. This investment ensures our personnel have reliable, modern respiratory protection while operating in hazardous environments.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION



Assistant Chief Barbara Kadrach



The Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Bureau remained highly active throughout 2025, continuing its mission of preventing emergencies before they occur through education, inspections, and strong community partnerships. By working directly with residents, businesses, and regional partners, the Bureau plays a vital role in enhancing public safety and strengthening community preparedness.

During the year, the Bureau experienced an important personnel transition. Part-time Fire Inspector Tom Moder retired after years of dedicated service to the department and the Wauwatosa community. We thank Tom for his professionalism and significant contributions to fire prevention efforts. Following his retirement, the department welcomed Ryan Schreiber as our new part-time Fire Inspector. Ryan brings extensive experience from the private sector in fire alarm systems, along with a background as a firefighter, strengthening the Bureau's ability to support businesses and property owners in maintaining effective fire protection systems.

The CRR Bureau also continued to provide community outreach and safety education programs, including Hands-Only CPR training, virtual fire extinguisher training, and other safety presentations for residents, schools, businesses, and community organizations. These programs equip community members with practical skills that can help save lives and prevent emergencies.

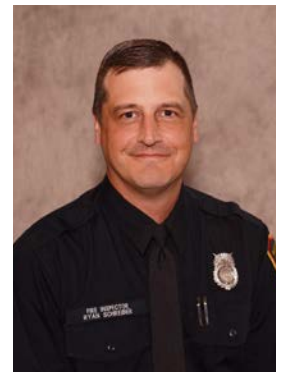
Through proactive education, strong partnerships, and dedicated personnel, the Community Risk Reduction Bureau remains committed to making Wauwatosa a safer community for all.



**Code Specialist
Daniel Schmocker**



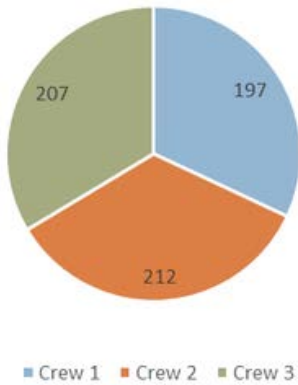
**Code Specialist
Doug Spankowski**



**Ryan Schreiber
Fire Inspector**

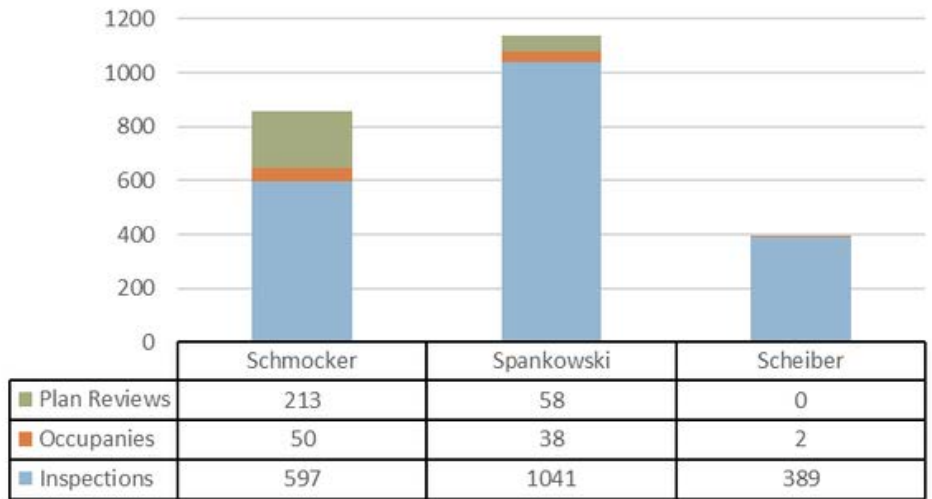
CRR STATISTICS

Apartment Inspections

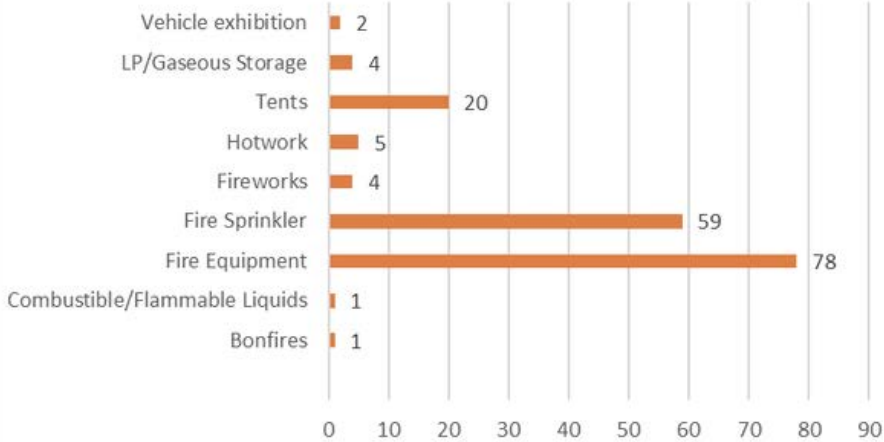


17 Fire Investigations

Totals by Inspector



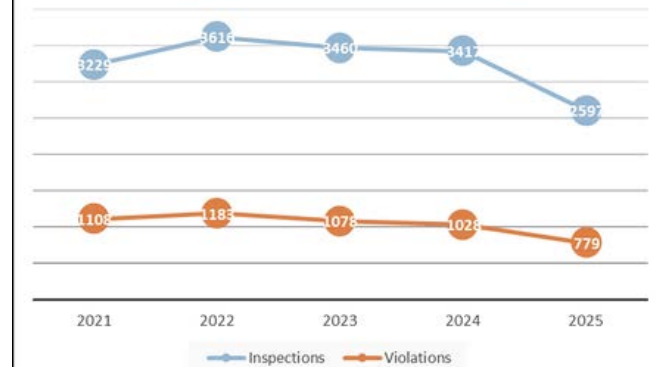
2025 Permits Totals



174 Total Permits

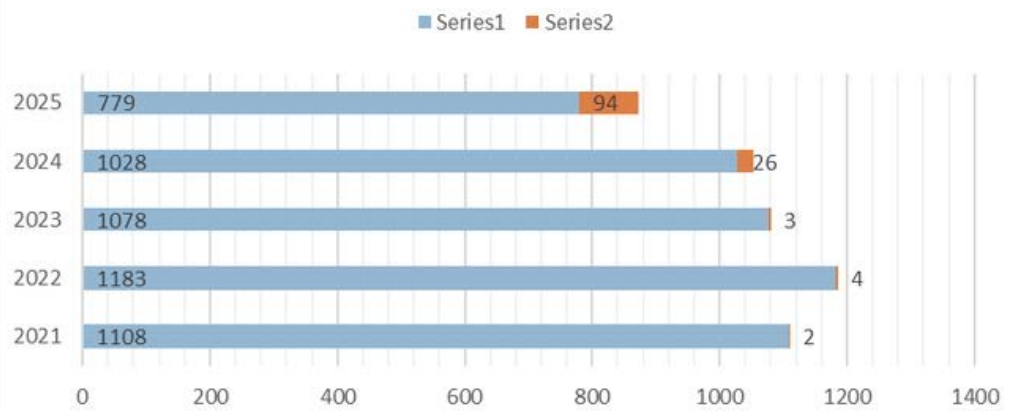
71 Pre-Plans Completed

5 Year Inspections & Violations



*5 Year Average
Violation
Abatement
Rate - 96.9%**

5 Year Total
Violations & Unabated Violations



**The 2025 abatement rate is subject to change as correction to violations are ongoing.*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

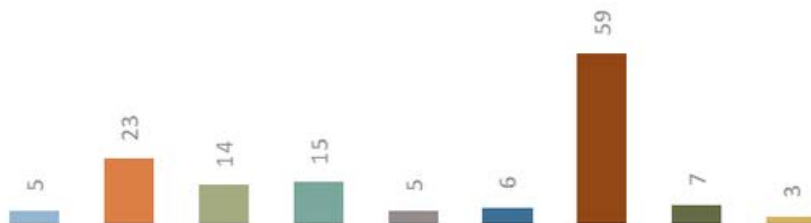


The Community Risk Reduction Bureau continued to strengthen community safety and engagement throughout 2025, delivering a wide range of outreach, training, and prevention services. Staff provided consistent public education through presentations, tours, school programs, and community events, while also supporting residents with safety installations and hands-on training opportunities. These efforts reflect the bureau's commitment to proactive risk reduction, community partnership, and building a well-informed public that is better prepared to prevent and respond to emergencies.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- Fire Safety Presentations
- School Presentations
- Smoke Detector Installations
- Fire Extinguisher Training (People)
- Fire Drill Observed
- Station Tours
- Miscellaneous PR Event
- Key Safe Installations
- CPR Classes (Hands Only)



OPEN HOUSE



One of the highlights of the year was the department's Fire Prevention Week Open House in October, which welcomed well over 1,000 community members for an up-close look at the Wauwatosa Fire Department and the breadth of our emergency response capabilities. Visitors had the opportunity to learn about fire safety, meet firefighters, and explore the equipment and resources used to protect our community.

The event featured displays of fire apparatus, rescue tools, and specialized equipment, including the department's boat, ATV, ambulance, inspector vehicles, and armored personnel carrier. Community members also had the opportunity to meet members of our TEMS unit, learn about specialized gear and technology, and participate in hands-on activities such as trying on turnout gear and watching a ladder climb demonstration.



Family-friendly giveaways and a visit from Sparky the Fire Dog added to the excitement and made the event especially memorable for younger attendees. The open house not only provided important fire safety education, but also strengthened the connection between the department and the community we proudly serve. The continued growth and strong turnout of this event reflects the community's engagement and support for fire prevention efforts.



We look forward to welcoming everyone again at our Open House on October 10, 2026.

PEER SUPPORT



Mama Rosa, a 24-foot troll sculpture by artist Thomas Dambo, is located in Firefly Grove Park.

The Wauwatosa Fire Department recognizes the critical importance of mental and emotional well-being alongside physical health in the fire service. Firefighters are regularly exposed to high-stress and potentially traumatic events, which can have a cumulative impact over time.

To support its members, WFD maintains a Peer Support Program staffed by trained and certified personnel who provide confidential assistance to firefighters and their families. The program includes access to a support hotline and a network of vetted mental health professionals experienced in working with first responders.

WFD remains committed to promoting responder safety, mental health awareness, and overall well-being through proactive support and resources.

In 2025, the City welcomed Leo, a 7-month-old golden retriever donated by Partners with Paws, as its new facility dog. Leo supports the Police, Fire, and Health Departments, providing comfort and connection to staff and the community. While still in training, Leo works alongside his primary handler from the Police Department and a team of secondary handlers across departments, continuing the positive impact of the facility dog program.



Jordan



Leo

In March 2025, the City of Wauwatosa lost our beloved Facility Dog, Jordan, following a brief battle with cancer. Jordan brought comfort, connection, and joy to our members and community, and her impact will not be forgotten. A memorial bench has been installed outside City Hall in her honor and to recognize the meaningful role she played within the City.



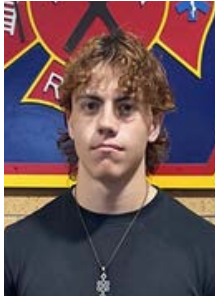
Alexander Saulnier



Amelia Damien



Bradley Conger



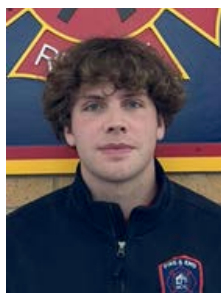
Caleb Eide



Carlos Rodriguez



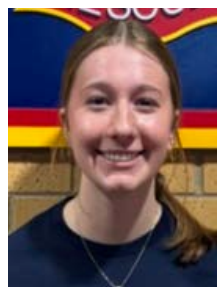
Connor Penneau



Daniel Hauboldt



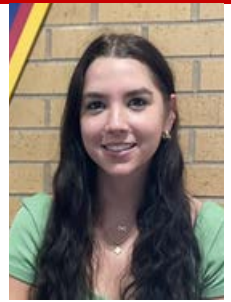
Ian Morse-Caruso



Madisyn Healy



Kellan Short



Sarah Frohmader



Samuel Cassidy



Presley Allen



Noah Van Haag



Michael Renard



Michael Pridgeon

INTERN PROGRAM

The Wauwatosa Fire Department (WFD) Intern Program provides aspiring fire service professionals with hands-on experience and exposure to the daily operations of a progressive, full-service fire department. This training-based program is designed to prepare individuals for future careers in fire suppression, emergency medical services, and community risk reduction.



Interns work alongside career personnel and participate in training, station duties, and community outreach activities, gaining practical experience in emergency response, fire prevention, and equipment operations. The program emphasizes mentorship, professional development, and teamwork, helping interns build the skills needed for success in the fire service.

In 2025, WFD welcomed 17 interns into the program, with 6 advancing to full-time firefighter positions. This pipeline continues to be a critical component of the department's recruitment strategy, developing highly trained, job-ready candidates who are familiar with WFD operations, expectations, and culture.

WELCOME

PROMOTIONS

Throughout 2025, multiple members of the department advanced into new leadership roles and operational positions. These promotions reflect years of hard work, professional development, and a strong commitment to the department's mission.



AC Erke passing on his badge to AC Stanwood

Congrats



BC Travis Padgett and Family



Lt Schauz taking his oath

Captain Ryan Stanwood promoted to Assistant Chief - January 6, 2025
Lieutenant Travis Padgett promoted to Battalion Chief - March 21, 2025
Firefighter Brandon Schauz promoted to Lieutenant - September 5, 2025

NEW HIRES

In 2025, the department welcomed nine new personnel, including eight firefighters and one fire inspector. These additions support our ongoing commitment to maintaining safe staffing levels, improving emergency response capability, and meeting the growing needs of the community. Each new firefighter completed the joint fire training academy before beginning shift operations, contributing immediately to daily response, training, and station duties.

The addition of a new Fire Inspector expanded the Community Risk Reduction Bureau's ability to manage inspections, code enforcement, and public education efforts.

Together, these new employees bring valuable skills, fresh perspectives, and a strong dedication to public service, reinforcing the department's mission and operational readiness for the year ahead.



September 3, 2025, New Hires



April 23, 2025, New Hires



Firefighter Hunter Abitz - April 23, 2025
Firefighter Adam Bartelme - April 23, 2025
Firefighter Coda Fernhout - April 23, 2025
Firefighter Anthony Kleinmeyer - April 23, 2025
Firefighter Lucas Kelley - April 23, 2025
Fire Inspector Ryan Schreiber - May 7, 2025
Firefighter Madisyn Healy - September 3, 2025
Firefighter Calvin Horstmeier - September 3, 2025
Firefighter Benjamin Randow - September 3, 2025



Fire Inspector
Ryan Schreiber

RETIREMENTS

Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Rocha retired on January 8, 2025, after 25 years of service. Mike was dedicated to his commitment to the paramedic program and the citizens of Wauwatosa made him a valued member of the department.



Kadrich, Rocha, Grimord, Case



John Anderson

Firefighter John Anderson retired on January 23, 2025, after 26 years of service. He was a highly respected firefighter known for his work on the Hazmat Team and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in 2023 for his bravery.



Thomas Moder

Fire Inspector Thomas Moder retired on January 10, 2025, after 8 years of service with Wauwatosa, following a full career with the Milwaukee Fire Department. Tom brought extensive experience and was an important part of the Community Risk Reduction Bureau.

Firefighter Daniel Shepherd retired on July 2, 2025, after 24 years of service to the City of Wauwatosa. As a proud U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Danny remained deeply committed to supporting fellow veterans. Throughout his career, he was actively engaged in community events, leaving a meaningful impact on the department and the community.



Stanwood, Shepherd, Case, Kadrich

Assistant Chief Scott Erke retired on February 28, 2025, after 26 years of service to the City of Wauwatosa and nearly four decades in the fire service. Throughout his career, he has played a key role in advancing operations, training, and firefighter safety for the department. He was a founding member of the JFTA and helped expand regional collaboration through Shared Services.



Jim Case & Scott Erke

Thank You For Your Service



AWARDS

COMMENDATION AWARD

For their courage, quick thinking, and dedication to preserving life, Lt. Patnode, FF Pridgeon, FF Tejada, and FF Rehrauer were awarded a Commendation for their actions during severe flooding on August 10, 2025. Responding to a life-threatening situation involving a woman trapped on top of her vehicle in rising flood waters, the crew developed and executed a plan under dangerous conditions to safely reach and rescue the victim. Their swift, coordinated efforts prevented a tragedy and exemplified the highest traditions of the fire service.



FF Thomas



Capt Kuehl



FF Rehrauer



Lt Patnode

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



FF Wendt

For their extraordinary bravery and selfless dedication to duty, Captain Ryan Becker, Captain Scott Kuehl, HEO Ryan Karas, HEO David Rucinski, Firefighter Brady Wendt, Firefighter Zachary Thomas, Firefighter Nash Neisen, and Firefighter Christopher Riemer were awarded the Distinguished Service Award for their actions during a multi-alarm apartment fire. Operating under life-threatening conditions, they performed multiple window rescues and lifesaving interventions, ultimately helping save approximately 16 individuals from imminent harm. Their decisive actions and unwavering commitment to the preservation of life reflect the highest traditions of the fire service.



FF Riemer



MERITORIOUS CONDUCT MEDAL

Battalion Chief Kurt Trevisan was awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal for his exceptional leadership and dedication to duty during a multi-alarm structure fire on May 11, 2025. Operating under dangerous conditions with multiple trapped occupants, he quickly assessed the incident and coordinated rescue operations that saved numerous lives. His decisive actions, composure under pressure, and commitment to public safety reflect the highest standards of the fire service.



BC Trevisan

