City of Fond du Lac

PUBLIC SAFETY REFERENDUM

April 6, 2021

INTRODUCTIONS

WILLIAM LAMB
Chief of Police

JOE MOORE
City Manager

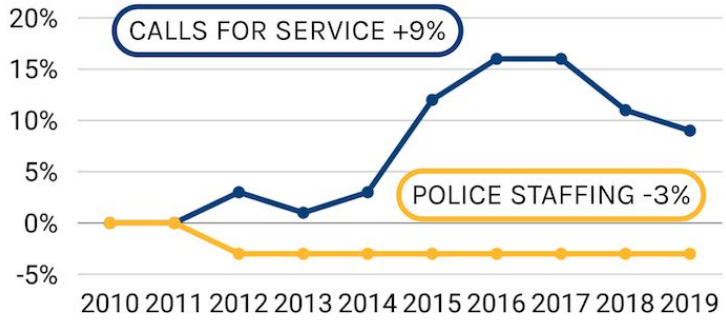
PETER O'LEARY
Fire Chief

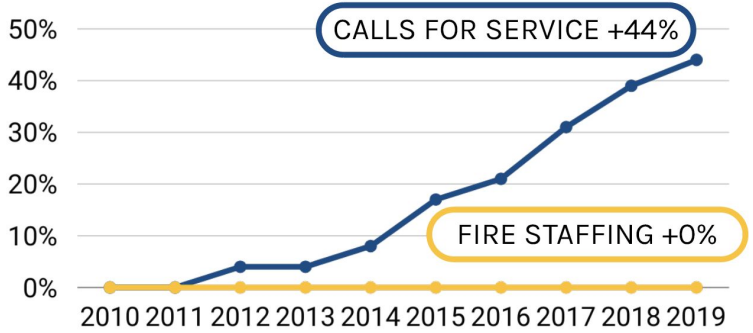
CRITICAL NEED FOR PUBLIC SAFETY RESOURCES

The City of Fond du Lac has identified a need to add additional public safety personnel to the Police Department and Fire/Rescue.

CURRENT PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING IS INSUFFICIENT TO MEET THE GROWING SERVICE DEMANDS AND NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY, and Fond du Lac must act now if is to maintain its first-class fire, paramedic and police services.

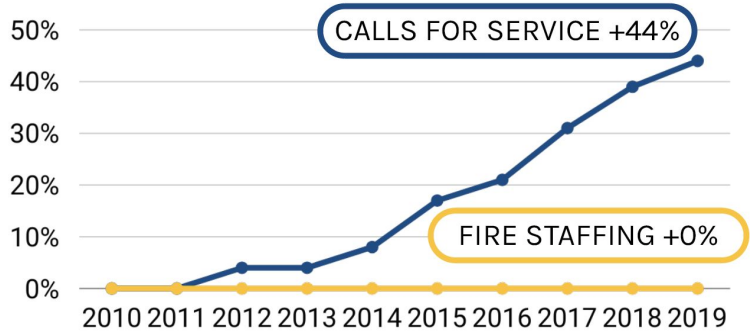
The challenge is that while the NEED CONTINUES TO **RISE**, current funding and staffing levels are stagnant or decreasing.

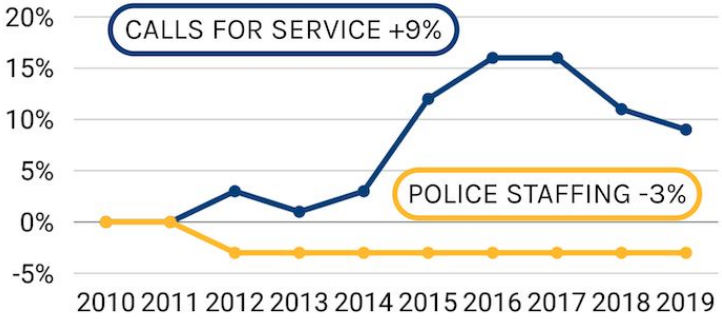




City of Fond du Lac

INCREASING CALLS FOR SERVICE





INCREASING CALLS FOR SERVICE ARE A PRIMARY DRIVER IN THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Between 2010 and 2019, the number of calls for service by Fond du Lac Fire/Rescue grew from 5,201 calls to 7,492 calls, a 44% **INCREASE IN JUST NINE YEARS.**

The Fond du Lac Police Department responded to **NEARLY** 5,000 **MORE CALLS IN 2019 THAN IT DID IN 2010.**

INCREASINGLY COMPLEX CALLS FOR SERVICE

Not only are the number of calls increasing, there has been a change in the types of crimes that the Police Department responds to.

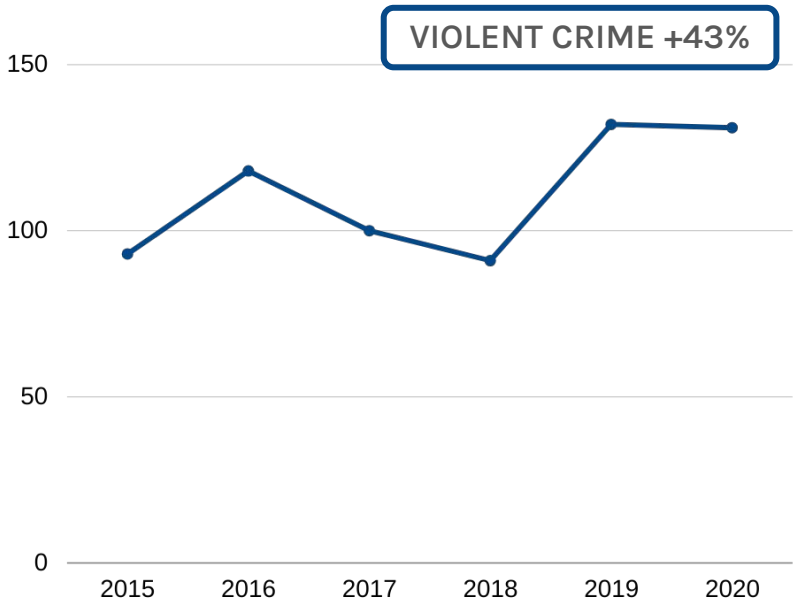
These more complex issues include gun violence, drug overdoses, mental illness and other issues.

NOTABLY, SINCE 2015, THERE HAS BEEN A

43% INCREASE IN VIOLENT CRIME.

Further breaking down these numbers, there has been an 83% increase in aggravated assaults in Fond du Lac in the last two years.

2015 - 2020 **CRIME STATS**



City of Fond du Lac

CRITICAL NEED FOR ADDITIONAL OFFICERS

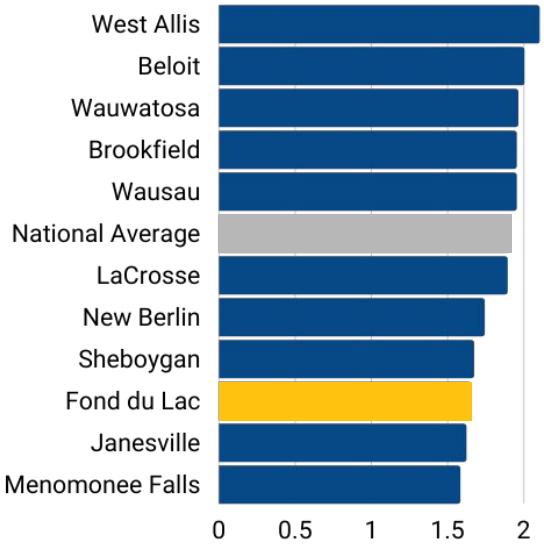
The Fond du Lac Police Department has **fallen behind** both the **national average** and **peer cities** in Wisconsin in budgeted sworn officer staffing levels.

As a result, the Department **does not have**

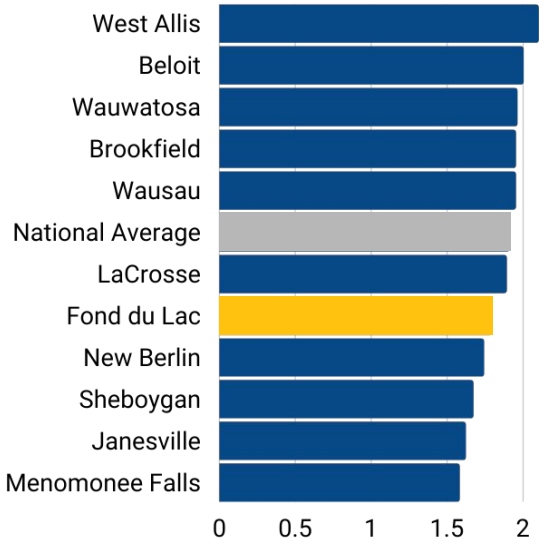
A LARGE ENOUGH FORCE TO SUFFICIENTLY PATROL THE CITY OF FOND DU LAC DURING ALL TIMES OF DAY AND NIGHT.

Increasing the number of officers by just six would enable the Fond du Lac Police Department to augment its shift staffing to meet peak demand.

OFFICERS PER THOUSAND POPULATION



WITH INCREASED STAFFING



City of Fond du Lac

CRITICAL NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FIRE RESCUE STAFF

When calls come in for four or five ambulances to respond to health crises at the same time, Fond du Lac Fire/Rescue firefighter/paramedics are **FORCED TO TAKE A FIRE ENGINE OUT OF SERVICE** IN ORDER TO FULLY STAFF THE AMBULANCES, decreasing the department's ability to fight fires.

THIS IS AN INCREASINGLY COMMON CHALLENGE;

SIMULTANEOUS CALLS FOR 4+ AMBULANCES

UP **2X** SINCE 2015

Increased staffing would **ENABLE FOND DU LAC FIRE/RESCUE** TO MEET CURRENT AND FUTURE CALL VOLUME AND RESPONSE TIME BENCHMARKS, particularly by adding sufficient staff to regularly support a fourth ambulance.

INSUFFICIENT STAFFING NEGATIVELY IMPACTS TEAMS

The need for additional staff to sufficiently respond to calls for service negatively impacts the level of service that Fond du Lac Fire/Rescue and Police.

The Departments have had to rely on overtime to meet safe staffing minimums, calling in staff during their off days to ensure teams are always available to cover calls and patrols.

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS FORCED TO RELY ON

794 **OVERTIME SHIFTS**

IN 2019, OR THE EQUIVALENT OF

66 **PER MONTH**

City of Fond du Lac

WHY REFERENDUM?

✗ INTERNAL FUNDING SOURCES

Funding with existing resources would mean reducing other City Departmental budgets. This would both be insufficient to meet public safety needs and significantly impact other City services.

✗ EXTERNAL FUNDING SOURCES

The City also determined that there are no feasible additional revenue sources available to the City to fund public safety.

✓ **REFERENDUM**

The only available option is to increase the City's tax levy - which requires approval by voters through a referendum process.

IF THE REFERENDUM IS APPROVED

+6

FIREFIGHTER/ PARAMEDICS

+6

POLICE OFFICERS

AND THE

EQUIPMENT

NEEDS FOR EACH

WHAT WILL REFERENDUM FUNDS SUPPORT?

	6 FIREFIGHTER/ PARAMEDICS	6 POLICE OFFICERS	TOTAL
SALARIES	$321,510	$336,618	$658,130
BENEFITS	$188,964	$173,472	$362,436
UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENT, TESTING	$30,750	$86,274	$117,024
SUBTOTAL	$541,224	$596,364	$1,137,588
VEHICLES	Replacement Fund	$165,697	$165,697
TOTAL	$541,224	$762,061	$1,303,287
TAX EFFECT	$17.85 per $100,00 assessed value	$25.15 per $100,000 assessed value	$43 per $100,000 assessed value

IF THE REFERENDUM IS APPROVED

PROPERTY TAX IMPACT

$1,303,287 TOTAL INCREASE STARTING WITH DEC. 2021 BILLS

ASSESED PROPERTY VALUE	ESTIMATED TAX INCREASE	
	PER YEAR	PER WEEK
$100,000	$43.00	$0.83
$125,000	$53.75	$1.03

IF THE REFERENDUM FAILS

DELAYED
RESPONSE TIMES

INABILITY TO
RESPOND TO CALLS

CUTS TO SERVICE

INABILITY TO
SUFFICIENTLY PATROL

VOTE TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021

THE PUBLIC SAFETY REFERENDUM QUESTION WILL APPEAR ON SPRING GENERAL ELECTION BALLOTS ON

APRIL 6, 2021

NOTE THAT ALL POLLING PLACES WILL

OPEN AT **7:00 AM** AND CLOSE AT **8:00 PM**

Wisconsin voters are required to show an acceptable photo ID in order to vote. Additional voting information, including polling places and information about requesting an absentee ballot, can be found on the City's website: www.fdl.wi.gov/administration/city-clerk/elections/

City of Fond du Lac

ABSENTEE VOTING

(IN PERSON AT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE): WEEKDAYS BETWEEN

MARCH 23 - APRIL 2

MONDAY–FRIDAY 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
FRIDAY, APRIL 2 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

DEADLINE TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL:

APRIL 1, 5:00 P.M.

QUESTIONS?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT

WWW.FDL.WI.GOV/REFERENDUM

FEDERAL COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDING

The City of Fond du Lac will receive aid from the federal government as part of the American Rescue Plan.

Eligible uses of the funds will be required to follow federal guidelines, which are not yet published. The City will analyze the limits of eligible uses, which may include:

REPLACING REVENUE LOST, DELAYED OR DECREASED

AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC.

It is likely that **public safety funding will not be an eligible use** of the funding.

DO WE HAVE TO ADD NEW STAFF?

THE CITY OF FOND DU LAC'S NEED FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS IS

NOT SIMPLY AN ISSUE OF BEING SHORT OF STAFF.

There is not sufficient budget to hire a Police force large enough to

SUFFICIENTLY PATROL THE CITY OF FOND DU LAC

during all times of day and night.

There is not sufficient budget to hire a Fire/Rescue staff large enough to

SUFFICIENTLY STAFF THE NECESSARY NUMBER OF AMBULANCES AND FIRE RIGS

at all times.

City of Fond du Lac

STAFFING LEVELS AT POLICE DEPARTMENT

THE FOND DU LAC POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS HIRED

SIX NEW OFFICERS

IN THE LAST EIGHT MONTHS.

These six recent hires join three other officers who joined the force in late 2019 and completed the Department's intensive 17-week field training program in 2020. **In total, nine new officers have been hired and have completed / are completing their training since the end of 2019.**

The Fond du Lac Police Department looks forward to continuing hiring activities with several additional candidates who are now participating in the initial screening and testing process.

EMAIL

Email **referendum@fdl.wi.gov** with additional questions

ADDENDUM