

2021 PUBLIC SAFETY REFERENDUM

VOTE TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021

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

Voters will be asked whether or not to support an increase in the City's annual tax levy, beginning in 2022, to cover the cost for six additional firefighter/paramedics, six additional police officers, and the equipment those staff members require.

WHY DO WE NEED A REFERENDUM NOW?



Current public safety funding is insufficient to meet the growing service demands and needs

of the community. Fond du Lac must act now if it is to maintain its first-class fire, paramedic and police services.



The challenge is that while the need and program costs continue to rise, **current funding sources are stagnant or decreasing.**



Because of state-imposed levy limits, Fond du Lac must **ask approval from taxpayers through a referendum to increase the tax levy** to fund these services.

IF A MAJORITY VOTE "YES"

If the referendum is approved by a majority of voters, the City of Fond du Lac will be able to add critically necessary additional staff.

+6 
FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDICS

+6 
POLICE OFFICERS


AND THE
EQUIPMENT NEEDS
FOR EACH

MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION AND LEARN MORE:

VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSIONS

Monday, March 8 | 3 p.m.

Tuesday, March 23 | 6 p.m.

Visit fdl.wi.gov/referendum to join via Zoom

VOTE

VOTE APRIL 6

IN-PERSON ABSENTEE VOTING:

Weekdays between **March 23 - April 2**

Daily hours are **8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**,
except on **Friday, April 2** from
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail:
April 1, 5:00 p.m.



<https://www.fdl.wi.gov/referendum/>

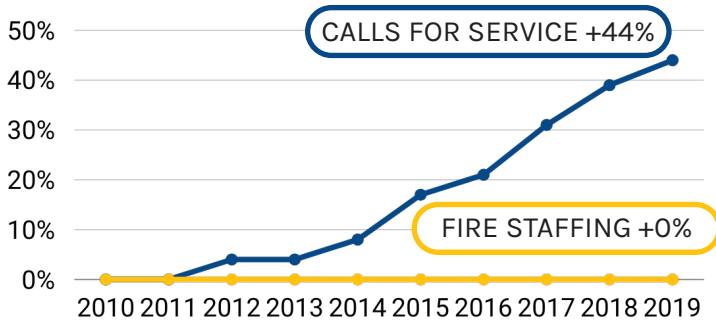


referendum@fdl.wi.gov



CRITICAL NEED FOR FIRE/RESCUE STAFF

Fond du Lac Fire/Rescue provides emergency medical services (EMS), fire suppression and fire prevention services. Calls for service continue to increase.



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.

With increased calls for ambulance service, firefighting ability has been compromised. The Department is **forced to take an engine out of service** whenever more than four ambulances receive simultaneous calls - something that happens twice as often today as 2015.



SIMULTANEOUS CALLS FOR 4+ AMBULANCES UP 2X SINCE 2015

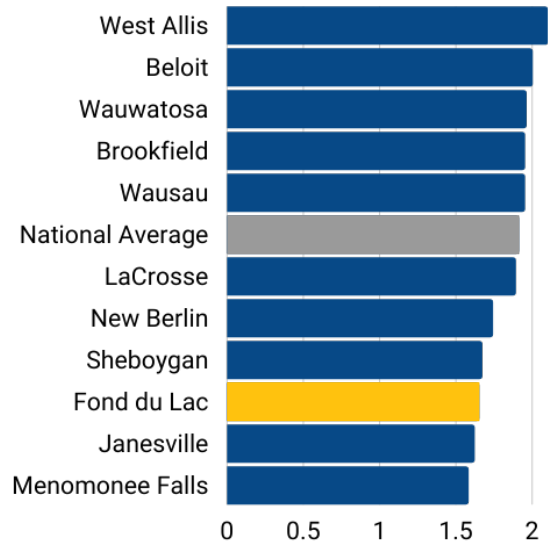
The City must take action to bring staffing levels up and ensure there are adequate staff to sufficiently respond to calls for service.



CRITICAL NEED FOR POLICE OFFICERS

The Fond du Lac Police Department has fallen behind both the national average and peer cities in Wisconsin in terms of staffing. In fact, the Department does not have funding to support a large enough force to patrol the City of Fond du Lac, and has not added additional officers in more than a decade.

OFFICERS PER THOUSAND POPULATION



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

Those calls were also more complex - with officers facing issues including gun violence, drug overdoses, and mental illness among others. Notably, **since 2018, there has been a 44% increase in violent crime.**

