

CITY OF JEFFERSON PUBLIC SAFETY REFERENDUM



We're going outside.

VOTE TUESDAY APRIL 4, 2023

The City of Jefferson has identified a need to add additional full-time personnel to its Fire and EMS Department.

Voters will be asked whether they approve an increase to the City's annual property tax levy to fund the cost for six full-time EMS fire-trained personnel and provide a competitive wage for volunteer Fire Department staff.

WHY DO WE NEED A REFERENDUM NOW?



The Department's current volunteer-reliant staffing model is insufficient to meet the community's current and future service demands. In order to meet these needs and provide the level of service residents

have come to expect, the City must hire **six full-time emergency medical service (EMS) fire-trained personnel and also increase wages for volunteer staff** to help aid in staff recruitment and retention.



The City lacks funding to hire additional staff or to increase pay for paid-on-premise volunteers to aid in recruitment. Because of state-imposed levy limits, the **City must ask for approval from**

taxpayers through a referendum to increase the tax levy to fund additional staffing and wage increases.



The Department has done all it can to meet the growing needs of the community by **working smarter, creating efficiencies and making the most of our current budget.**

While the Department regularly pursues external grant opportunities, these are unable to provide the consistent support necessary and therefore not a viable long-term funding option.

IF A MAJORITY VOTE "YES"

+6  **ADDITIONAL FIRE-TRAINED EMS STAFF**

If the referendum is approved by a majority of voters on April 4, the City of Jefferson will be able to add six full-time EMS fire-trained staff, **ensuring there is adequate staff to respond to calls for both fire and EMS service.** In addition, it will provide competitive wages for volunteer Fire Department staff, as well as full-time and paid-on-premise EMS staff.

PROPERTY TAX IMPACT \$500,000 TOTAL INCREASE

ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE	ESTIMATED TAX INCREASE BASED ON 2022 DATA	
	PER YEAR	PER WEEK
\$100,000*	\$75.72	\$1.45
\$200,000*	\$151.44	\$2.91

Taxpayers will see a property tax increase of an estimated \$75.72 annually, or about \$1.45 per week, per \$100,000 in assessed value on a home.

**Figures based on 2021-2022 valuations. Figures may change based on 2022-2023 valuations.*

IF A MAJORITY VOTE "NO"

If a majority of voters vote "no," the ability for the Jefferson Fire and EMS Department to respond to emergencies will continue to decrease. A rejection of the referendum would not be the equivalent of maintaining the status quo of emergency services.

Without additional support, it is likely that existing staff members and volunteers may seek employment elsewhere, and Jefferson residents may face lower-quality emergency services as a result.

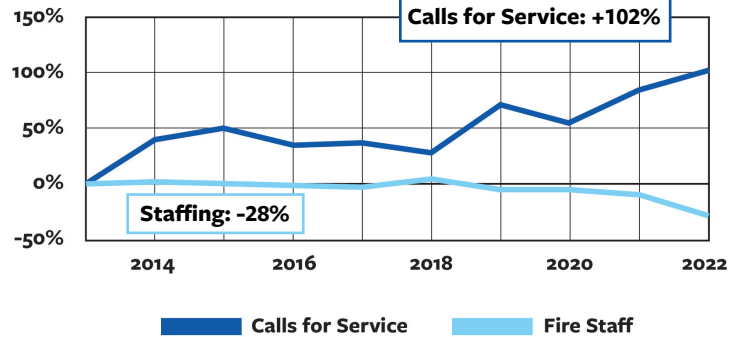
CRITICAL NEED FOR FIRE STAFF

The Jefferson Fire Department currently relies entirely on volunteer staff. Over the past 10 years, **calls for service increased by 102% while the number of volunteers has decreased by 28%.**

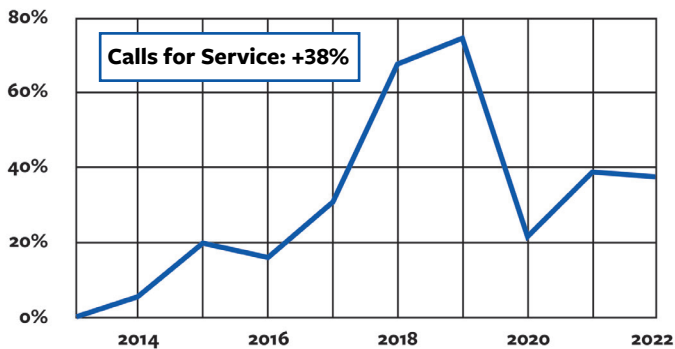
In addition, only 12% of Fire Department volunteers are located in the City of Jefferson and able to respond to emergencies during the workday.

The Jefferson Fire and EMS Department needs additional full-time EMS personnel with fire cross-training experience who can regularly respond to both fire and EMS calls in a timely way, in addition to volunteers. These additional resources would enable Jefferson's Fire and EMS Department to better meet current and future emergency service needs.

FIRE CALLS VS. STAFF SINCE 2013



EMS CALLS FOR SERVICE SINCE 2013



CRITICAL NEED FOR EMS STAFF

The Jefferson EMS Department is staffed by both full-time and paid-on-premise staff. In 2022, **EMS services were requested 1,347 times, a 38% increase since 2013.**

The Department continues to lose staff to full-time salaried jobs or jobs with more competitive wages at nearby hospitals, clinics and even other fire and EMS departments in the region.

An approved referendum would enable the Department to provide a competitive wage for six additional full-time EMS personnel with fire cross-training, and attract and retain high quality paid-on-premise EMTs.

VOTE APRIL 4

IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING:

Tuesday, March 21 - Friday, March 31, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

ABSENTEE BALLOT:

Deadline to request by mail: March 30, 5:00 p.m.

ELECTION DAY:

Polling places are open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. Wisconsin voters are required to show an acceptable photo ID in order to vote.

For more information, please visit <https://jeffersonwis.com/residents/referendum/>