



*Milwaukee Professional*

**FIRE FIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION** *Local 215*

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Milwaukee Fire Department Budget cuts since 2001:

**Under the leadership of Mayor John Norquist:**

- 2001 - Elimination of the Car 2 driver/aide - 1 position
- 2002 - Elimination of 3 Relief Battalion Chief - 3 positions
  - Elimination of the Fire Fighter and Lieutenant assigned to the Audio/Visual section - 2 positions. (Police still maintains these full time equivalents.
  - Reduction in rank (Motor Vehicle Operations Instructor from Battalion Chief position to Captain)
- 2003 - Elimination of the drivers on 8 paramedic units – 24 positions.
  - Elimination of the Car 1 and Car 3 drivers/aides - 6 positions
- 2004 - Elimination of 1 Fire Fighter from 14 - 5 person Single Engine Companies - 42 positions

Total reductions in staffing under JOHN NORQUIST:

**78 FIRE FIGHTER POSITIONS**

**UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF TOM BARRETT  
ELECTED IN 2004**

- 2005 - Elimination of 1 Fire Fighter from 4 - 5 person Single engine companies - 12 positions
- 2006 - Elimination of 1 Fire Fighter from 5 Ladder Companies 15 positions
  - Disbanded and decommissioned Squad 2 - 6 positions
- 2007 - Disbanded Battalion 6 - 3 positions.
- 2008 - Elimination of 1 Fire Fighter from 2 Ladder Companies 6 positions
- 2009 - Disbanded and decommissioned Fire Engine 20 located on 7th and Wells, Headquarters - 15 positions
  - Elimination of 1 Fire Fighter from 1 Ladder company - 3 positions
- 2010 - Disbanded and Decommissioned Ladder Company 10 located at Holton and Nash - 15 positions
  - Brownouts begin. A brownout is an apparatus that is there on paper but is unavailable for calls of emergency. 2 companies are "browned out daily."
  - Elimination of Admin. Fire Lieutenant 1 position
  - Elimination of 1 Fire Fighter from 8 Ladder companies 24 positions
  
  - Elimination of 3 Fire Education Specialist - 3 positions
  - Elimination of the Information Technology Specialist 1 position
- 2011 - Elimination of the Public Information Manager - 1 position
  - Continuation of 2 Engine Company brownouts daily

- 2012 - Continuation of 3 Engine Company brownouts daily
- 2013 - Disbanded and decommissioned Engine 3 located at 1st and Virginia. 18 positions
- Disbanded and decommissioned Ambulance 1  
6 positions
  - Continuation of 3 Engine Company brownouts daily
- 2014 - Disbanded and Decommissioned Engine 5 located at 13th and Reservoir - 15 positions
- Disbanded and Decommissioned Engine 11 located at KK street in Bayview. 15 positions
  - Disbanded and Decommissioned Engine 35 located at 64th and Fairview. - 15 positions
  - Disbanded and Decommissioned Ladder 14 located at 20th and Oklahoma - 15 positions
- 2015 - Continuation of 2 brown outs daily of 1 Engine Company and 1 Truck Company
- 2016 - Continuation of 2 daily brownouts
- 2017 - Engine 37 located at Teutonia and Custer, one of the daily brownouts, decommissioned - 15 positions.

**Under MAYOR TOM BARRETT, YOUR MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN REDUCED BY 211 FIRE FIGHTER POSITIONS and have DECOMMISSIONED 7 FRONT LINE PIECES OF APPARATUS.**

**2018 - Proposed Decommissioning of 5 front line apparatus totaling 75 positions.**

**\*\*\*Furthermore, it has been identified that there is a \$28 million dollar budget gap going into 2018. This is why the mayor and the budget office increased property taxes by 3.7% which offsets the gap by almost 10 million dollars leaving an \$18 million dollar budget gap. The proposed budget for 2018 calls for a \$10 million dollar cut to the Milwaukee Fire Department leaving an \$8 million dollar gap. \$10 million dollars more cut from the Milwaukee Fire Department after the previous 17 years of cuts.\*\*\***

**IF THE 2018 BUDGET CUTS ARE APPROVED, YOUR MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE LOST THE EQUIVALENT OF THE MADISON FIRE DEPARTMENT FRONT LINE PERSONNEL WHICH TOTALS 345. ALL TOLD, MILWAUKEE FIRE WILL HAVE LOST 365 FRONT LINE FIRE FIGHTERS IF APPROVED.**

**To complete the sentence of Mayor Barrett that “this wasn’t the budget he HOPED to introduce but then there is REALITY.” I will finish the sentence, “I HOPE these additional budget cuts don’t negatively effect response times in citizens greatest time of need, but then there is REALITY!!”**

