

Fire Department 2026 Proposed Executive Budget

Mission: To protect people and property within our city, remaining responsive to the needs of our citizens by providing rapid, professional, humanitarian services essential to the health, safety and well-being of the city. Prevent loss of life from fire, limit fire-related property damage, and improve the chances of survival from life threatening medical and traumatic injury emergencies.



Budget Summary



Description	2025 Adopted Budget	2026 Proposed Budget	Change	% Change
FTEs – O&M	1011.00	1045.00	34.00	3%
FTEs – Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
FTEs – Total	4.00	0.00	-4.00	-100%
Total Positions Authorized	940	966	26.00	3%
Salaries & Wages	\$85,895,174	\$95,251,712	\$9,356,538	11%
Fringe Benefits	\$42,947,588	\$47,625,857	\$4,678,269	11%
Operating	\$11,356,870	\$12,200,688	\$843,818	7%
Equipment	\$1,216,840	\$1,682,125	\$465,285	38%
Special Funds	\$8,242,500	\$8,648,250	\$405,750	5%
Total	\$149,658,972	\$165,408,632	\$15,749,660	11%

O&M Changes: Overall, the department's budget increased more than 15.7M, whereby salaries is the cost driver

Budget by Service



Description of Services Provided	Budget + *SPAs	Operating	FTEs	% FTEs
Fire Suppression & Emergency Medical Response	\$130,837,373	79%	895.00	86%
Administrative and Technical Support: human resources, business & finance, technical services (IT), and construction and maintenance	\$14,966,162	9%	60.00	6%
Emergency Medical Services and Training: EMS, training academy, Mobile Integrated Health, community relations, recruiting, and Basic Life Support partnerships	\$19,655,097	12%	90.00	9%
Total	\$165,458,632	100%	1045.00	100%

*SPA total, \$50,000, included for Collections Contract

Positions & Salaries



Description	2025 Adopted Budget	2026 Proposed Budget	Change	% Change
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Fringe Benefits	\$42,947,588	\$47,625,857	\$4,678,269	11%
Total	\$128,842,762	\$142,877,569	\$14,034,807	11%

Overall O&M Change: Over 165.4M, an increase of \$15.7M, is the department's cost-to-continue

Position & Salary Changes: Total position change, 26, as follows:

- FTEs increased for FF by 21 pursuant L215 contract implementation @ \$1.266k
- Adding 1 position to the Fire Investigation Unit, increasing daily staffing from 206 to 207
- FTEs increased for Fire Lieutenant by 3

Operating & Equipment Expenses



Description	2025 Adopted Budget	2026 Proposed Budget	Change	% Change
Operating Expenditures	\$11,356,870	\$12,200,688	\$843,818	7%
Equipment	\$1,216,840	\$1,682,125	\$465,285	38%
Total	\$12,573,710	\$13,882,813	\$1,309,103	10%

Changes:

- **Operating budget**, secondary cost driver for various items including energy, repair shop lease for the Fiebrantz location
- **Equipment budget** increased essentially for additional or replacement items to be purchased

Special Funds



Description	2025 Adopted Budget	2026 Proposed Budget	Change	% Change
Computer Replacement Program	\$435,000	\$425,000	-\$10,000	-2%
C&M Mechanic Software, Vehicle	\$7,500	\$0	-\$7,500	-100%
Radio & Peripheral Replacement	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$0	0%
BLS Subsidy Payments	\$7,400,000	\$7,823,250	\$423,250	6%
TOTAL	\$8,242,500	\$8,648,250	\$405,750	5%

Changes:

- Although expenditures for two out of three funds decreased, the aggregate total increased by 5% due to an increase in BLS Subsidy Payments Subsidy payments based on a 5% rate increase over 2025 and 3% run volume

Special Purpose Accounts



Account	2025 Adopted Budget	2026 Proposed Budget	Change Amount	% Change
Collections Contract	\$75,000	\$50,000	-\$25,000	-33%
Total	\$75,000	\$50,000	-\$25,000	-33%

Changes

- Budget decreased in line with actual annual expenditures of about \$40k [Source: SPA Analyst]

Revenues



Category	2025 Adopted Budget	2026 Proposed Budget	Change Amount	% Change
License and Permits	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0%
Charges for Services	\$8,406,000	\$9,453,000	\$1,047,000	12%
Total	\$8,411,000	\$9,458,000	\$1,047,000	12%

Changes

- **License & Permits**, no change
- **Charges for Services**, are primarily paramedic services: \$6,250,000 is anticipated from paramedic revenue. We also receive revenue for Hazmat services @ \$250,000 and for fire services to West Milwaukee at \$1,011,000. GEMT is estimated at \$1,800,000. Other smaller sources (insurance recovery, training, MIH and misc.) make up the remainder [Source: Revenue Analyst]

Capital



Category	2025 Adopted Budget	2026 Proposed Budget	Change Amount	% Change
Total	\$3,247,000	\$5,000,000	\$1,753,000	54%

Changes*:

- **Capital – Facility Improvements**, new borrowing for facility maintenance and district station repairs
- **Capital – Equipment**, Vehicles – 2 engines or 4 medical

*Source: Capital Analyst



MFD 2026 BUDGET



*For Supporting and Embodying the
Core Values of **Courage, Integrity, and Honor**
in Service to the City of Milwaukee*

THANK YOU!

*May the Dedicated Members of the
Milwaukee Fire Department Resolve to Carry These
Fine Traditions Forward for Another 150 Years.*

Presented by Aaron Lipski, Fire Chief – October 10, 2025

MFD 2026 BUDGET



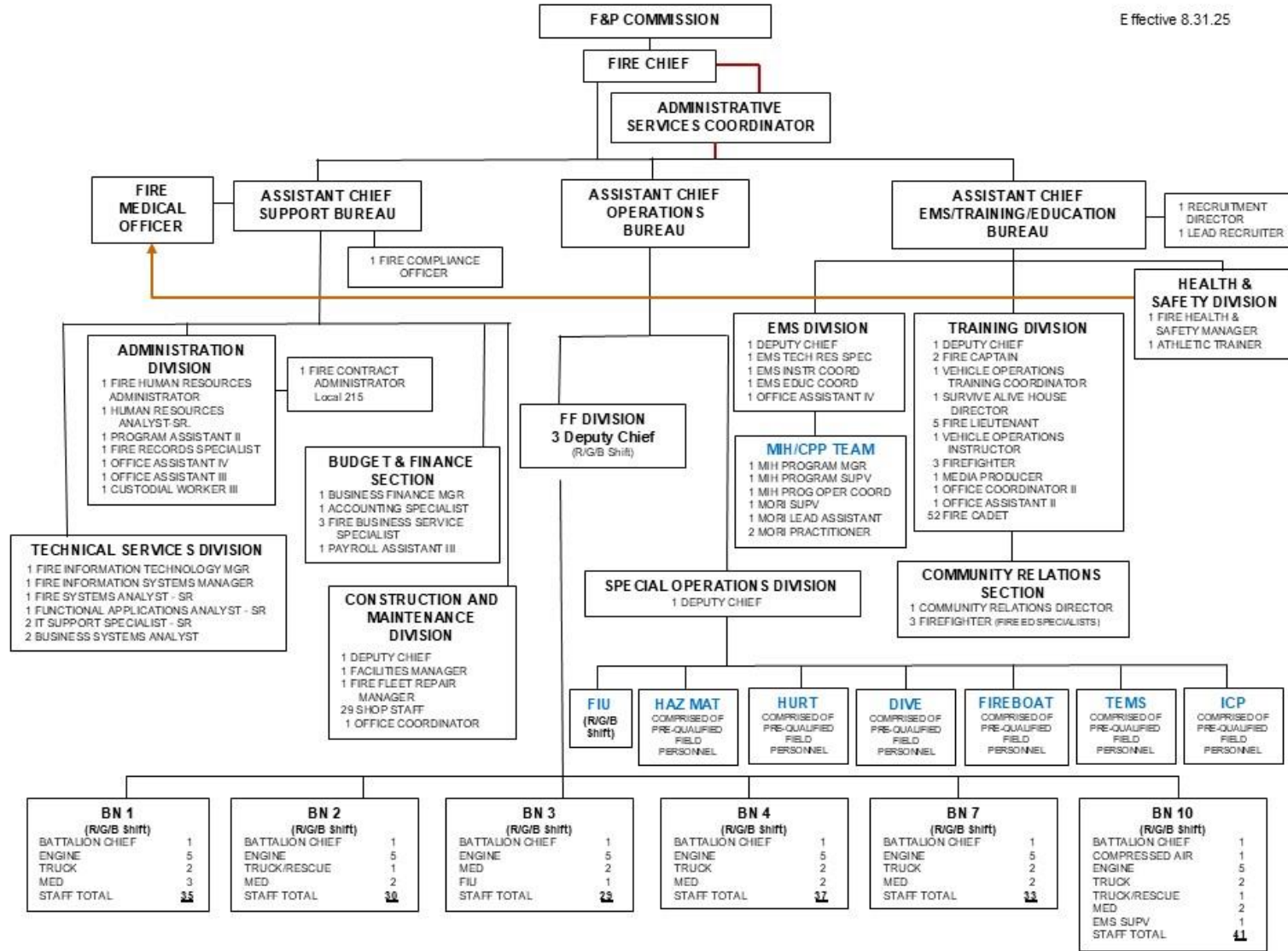
Mission Statement

The Milwaukee Fire Department is committed to protecting the people and property within our city. We will be responsive to the needs of our citizens by providing rapid, professional, humanitarian services essential to the health, safety, and well-being of the city.

We will achieve our mission through prevention, education, fire suppression, emergency medical, and other emergency services.

We will actively participate in our community, serve as role models, and strive to effectively and efficiently utilize all of the necessary resources at our command to provide a quality of service deemed excellent by our citizens with “Courage, Integrity, and Honor.”

Organization Chart



Demographics



Category	Female	Male	Total	%
Black	23	130	153	17%
White	58	543	601	67%
Hispanic	16	105	121	13%
Asian	1	15	16	2%
American Indian	1	6	7	1%
Total	99	799	898	
%	11%	89%		100%

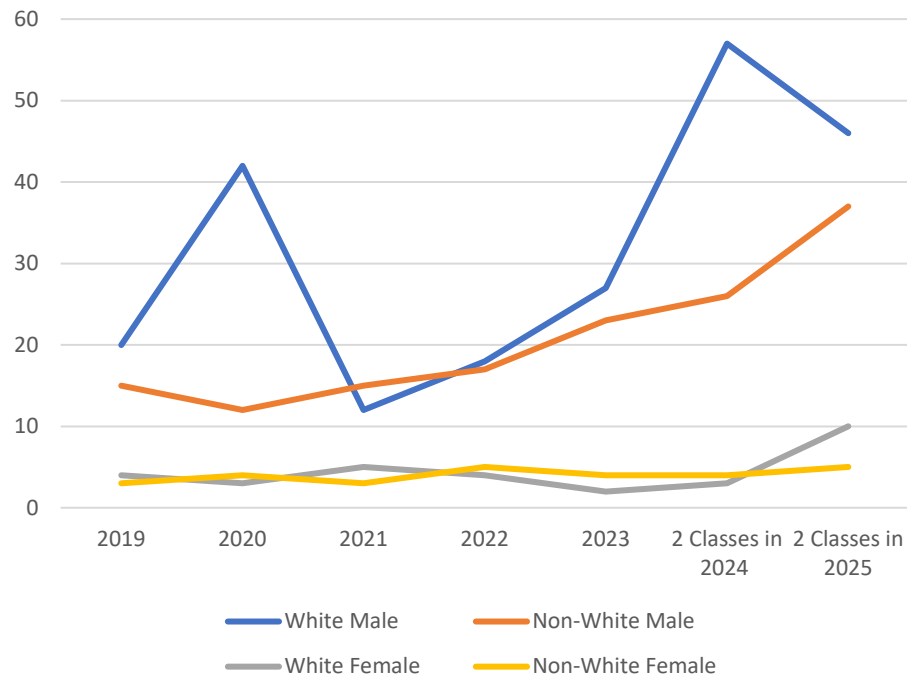


2026 MFD BUDGET PRESENTATION

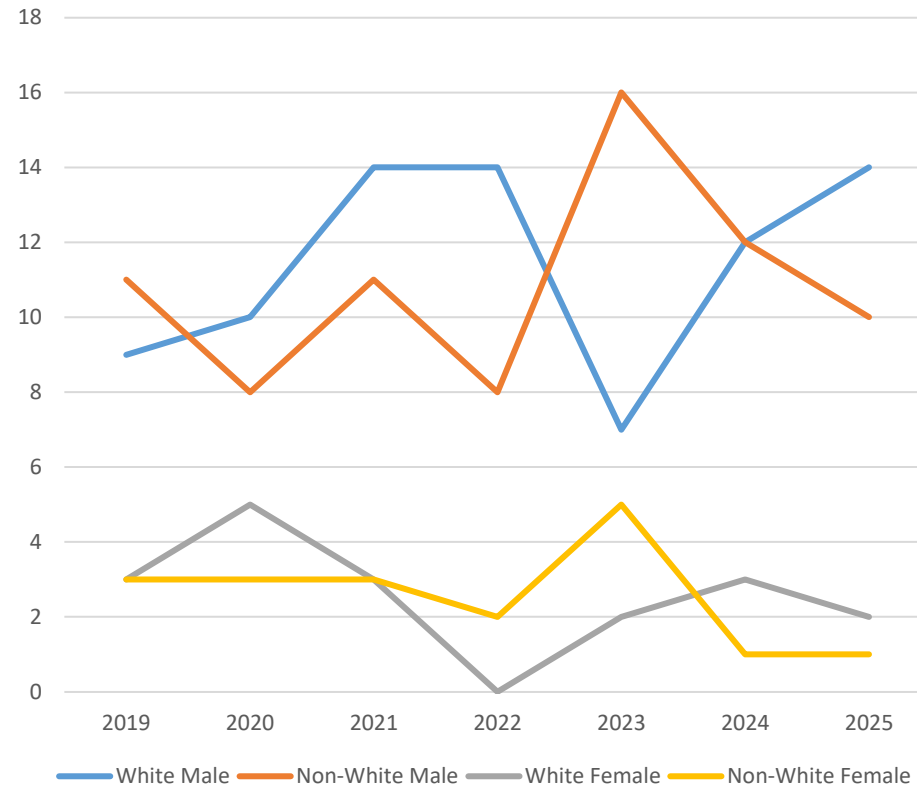
...**WHO WE ARE**

FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT and FIRE CADET STATS...

Recruit Class Demographics



Cadet Class Demographics



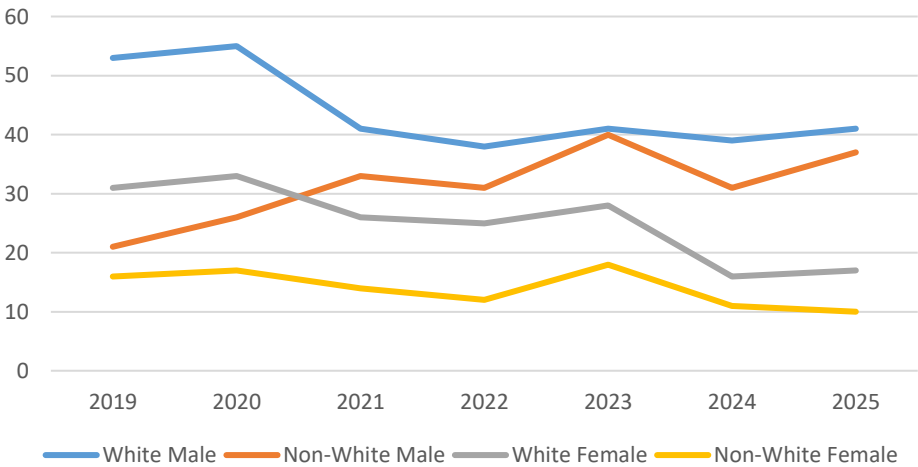
SURVIVE ALIVE HOUSE – The MFD teaches every 2nd and 5th Grader from every MPS School
COMMUNITY RELATIONS/PUB ED assignments encompass the entire City...**WE GO EVERYWHERE!**

2026 MFD BUDGET PRESENTATION

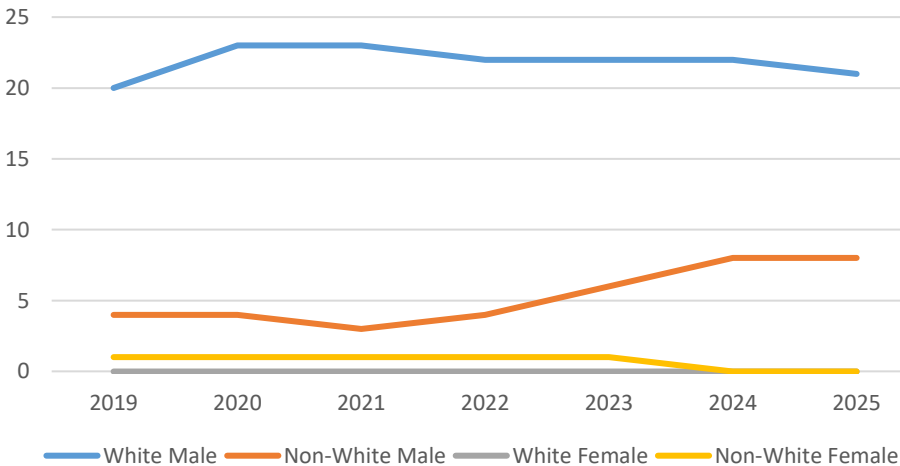
...WHO WE ARE



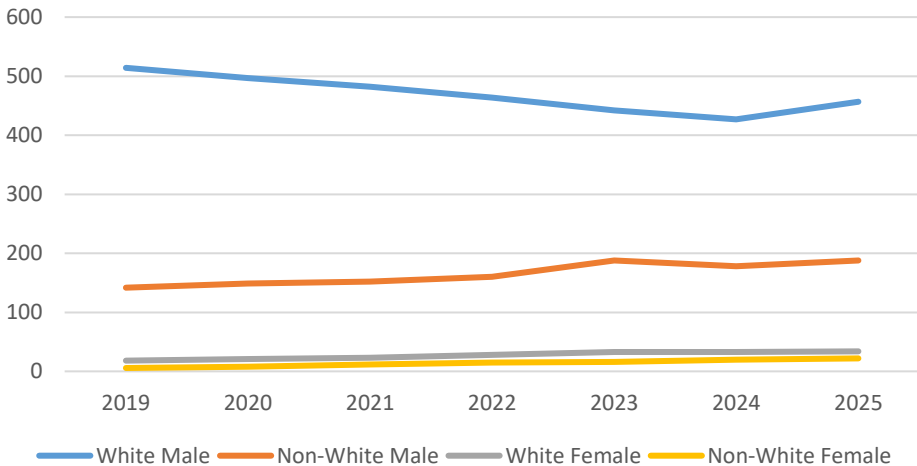
Civilian Demographics



Command Staff



L215 Demographics



2026 MFD BUDGET PRESENTATION

...SERVICE DELIVERY / IMPACTS FROM CUTS / COST OF RECOVERY % OF ANY COLLECTED FEES

Service Delivery continues to improve:

- While ZERO heavy apparatus or paramedic units are proposed to be added, a crucial function in our Fire Investigation Unit will be bolstered with the addition of one (1) additional Fire Investigator per shift, enhancing investigator safety and expanding capacity.

Impacts From Cuts do remain:

- Engine/Station Numbers **3** (1st/Virginia), **5** (13th/Reservoir), **6** (Franklin/Brady), **E20 ONLY** (James Lovell/Wells), & **25** (84th/O'Connor)
- Ladder Truck Numbers **6** (KK/Otjen), **10** (Holton/Nash), **15** (Teutonia/Custer), **16** (64th/Fairview), **17** (56th/Oklahoma)

Recovery/Collections of Fees

- In 2024, a gross of ~\$467,000 (~80% from TRIP & 20% from agency collection efforts) was collected, with ~\$35,000 paid to vendor (~7.5%). This is in addition to ~\$4.9M in soft billing, prior to being sent to collections.

2026 MFD BUDGET PRESENTATION

...ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Current & Ongoing Efforts

- Continued replacement of less efficient lighting and other utilities to more efficient options throughout catalogue of 40+ MFD facilities
- MFD Heavy Apparatus with Idle Reduction Technology with Certified Clean Idle
- Acquisition of Battery-Powered or Hybrid vehicle for MFD Usage (Light Vehicles)
- Lithium-ION Battery & Electric Vehicle Task Force Collaborating for Mission Success:
 - Li-ION Battery Powered Vehicles
 - Electric Storage Systems in Buildings
 - Poor or No Known Safety/Suppression Standards or Techniques
 - Building Codes NOT Up-to-Speed Despite Dramatic Growth in Usage



2026 MFD BUDGET PRESENTATION

...MFD's COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

☐ SMOKE ALARM INTERVENTIONS JAN 1 – SEPT 30, 2025:

☐ Visits to Residences	=	16,762
☐ Smoke Alarms found Present	=	13,008
☐ Smoke Alarms Operating	=	11,994
☐ Smoke Alarms installed by the MFD	=	10,385

☐ FIRE PREVENTION/EDUCATION – Using neighborhood companies at neighborhood events, while remaining in-service to respond to neighborhood emergencies to spread safety at 818 events this year.

☐ CIVILIAN CLASSES *STOP THE BLEED AND HANDS-ONLY CPR* reached 2,200 members of the community thus far in 2025.

☐ WaterSAFE MKE – Ring Buoys being placed along MKE waterways to prevent drowning tragedies, 18 installed to-date; the first one was installed in April 2024. We expect 10 more to be placed in October.

The MFD continues to actively engage the City's diverse communities to strengthen relationships, while expanding the department's reach with safety and prevention messaging.

2026 MFD BUDGET PRESENTATION

...MFD's COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MORI

JAN 1 – SEPT 30, 2025

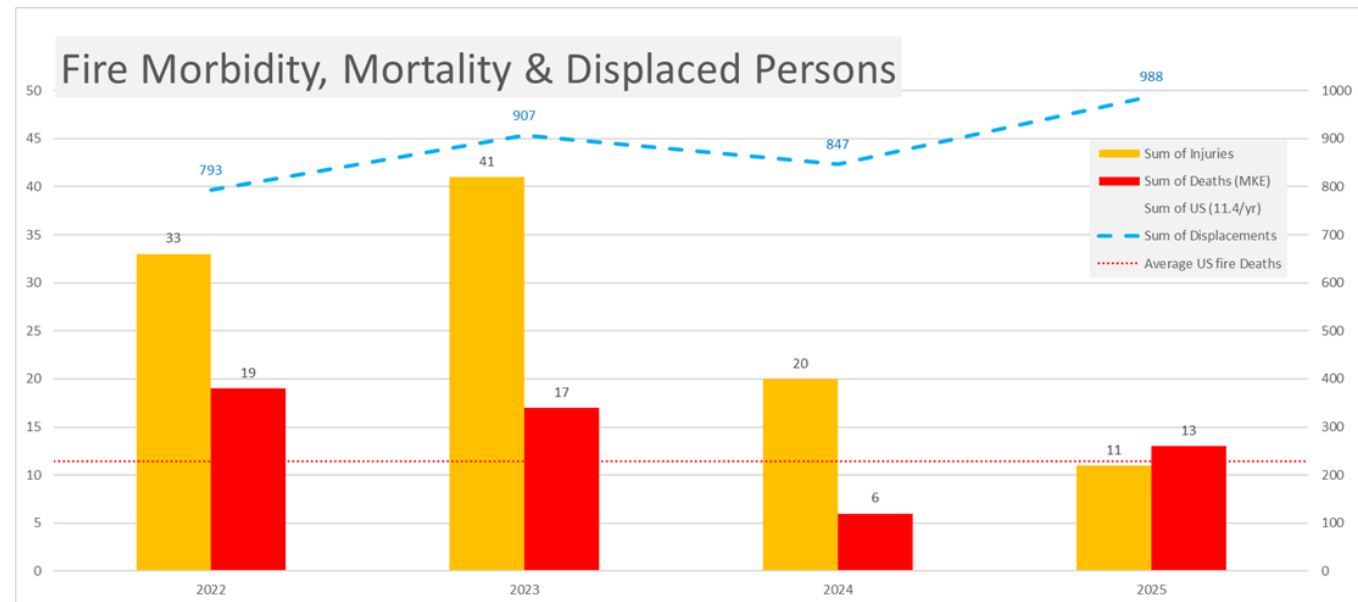
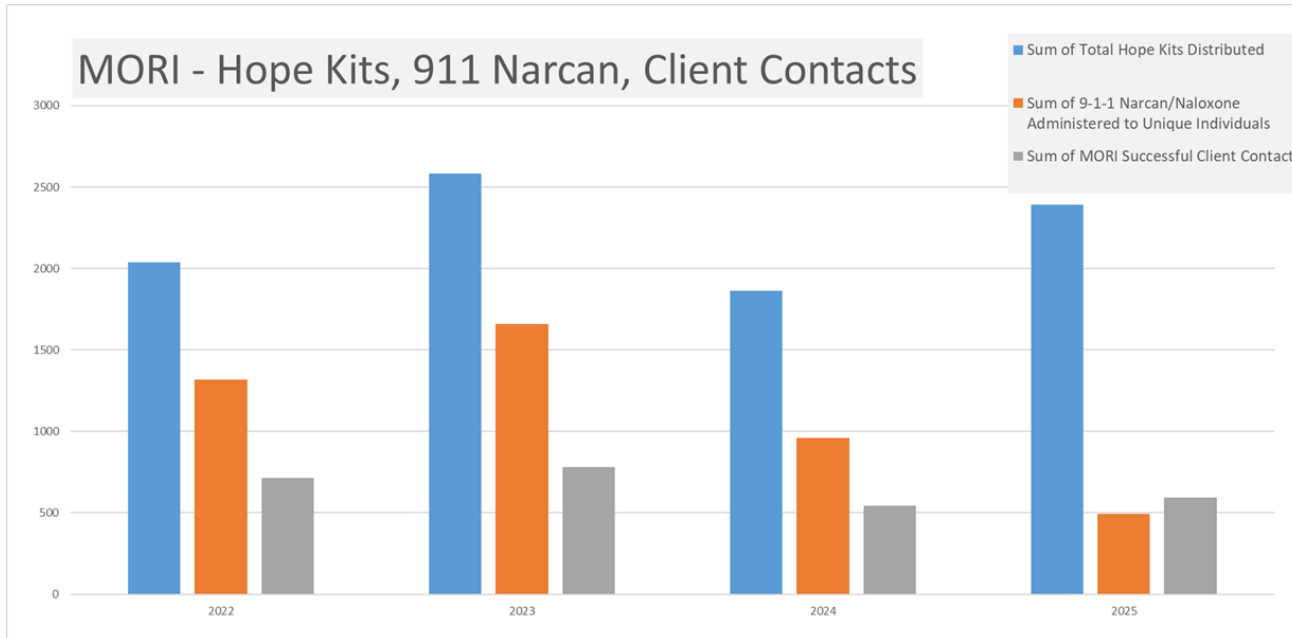
- ❑ Narcan Hope Kits - Carried on every rig and stocked at every firehouse; distributed 2,165
- ❑ Tabled at 62 events attended by over 6,000 people (Narcan available at all events)
- ❑ Completed 1,017 client and friend/family contacts from the 3,415 total contact attempts
- ❑ 135 MORI clients directly enrolled in treatment programs
- ❑ 783 Community Paramedic (CP) attempts with 274 completed CP visits
- ❑ Collaboration with many city and county agencies
 - ❑ *OD-PHAST (Overdose-Public Health and Safety Team)*
 - ❑ *MAT Behind The Walls*
 - ❑ *OEM – PATH Project (Pre-Post incarceration Access to Treatment and Healing)*
 - ❑ *Milwaukee County Falls Prevention Coalition*
 - ❑ *Milwaukee Community Collective*

2026 MFD BUDGET PRESENTATION

...KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Maintain ongoing performance metrics, including:

- Reduce Morbidity & Mortality from Non-fatal overdose.
- Reduce mortality and housing loss from fire.



2026 MFD BUDGET PRESENTATION

...2026 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Provide Daily Field-staffing of 207 for:

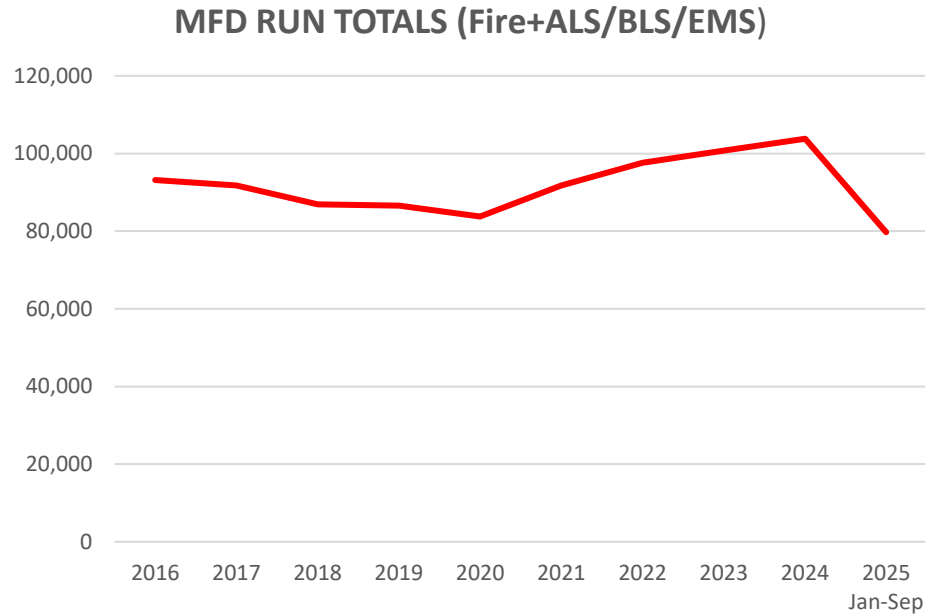
- 1 – Deputy Chief
- 6 – Battalion Chiefs
- **2** – Fire Investigation Unit Officer (*REPRESENTS +1*)
- 1 – EMS Supervisor
- 1 – Compressed Air Technician
- 31 – Engine Companies
+ E55 (Wauwatosa FD)
- 10 – Truck Companies (includes 2 Rescue Companies)
- 14 – ALS MED Units

Provide Capital Expenditures for:

- ☐ Heavy Apparatus
- ☐ Facilities

2026 MFD BUDGET PRESENTATION

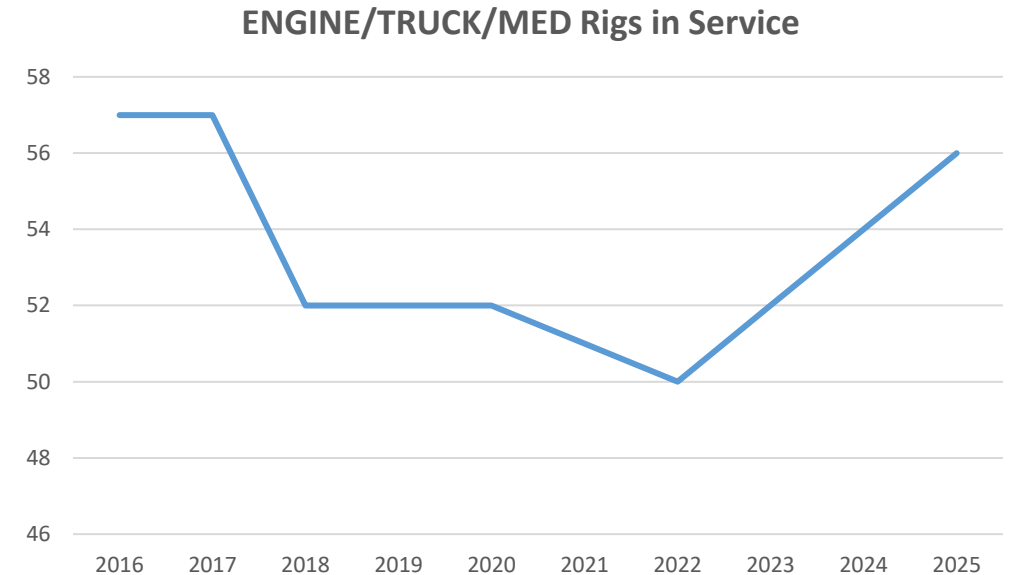
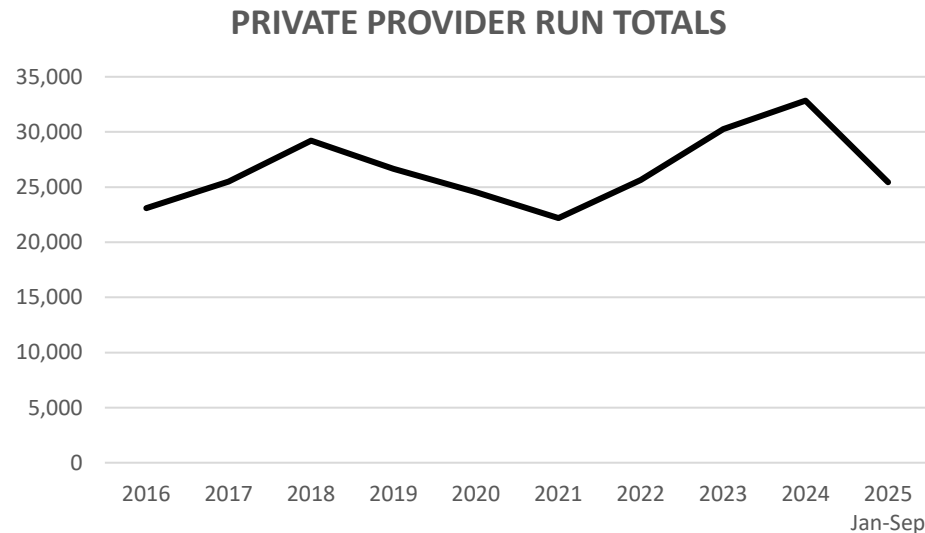
...**ANNUAL RUN TOTALS and RIGS IN SERVICE**



JAN-SEPT 2025 Response Totals

MFD = 79,713

Privates = 25,436



2025 MFD BUDGET PRESENTATION

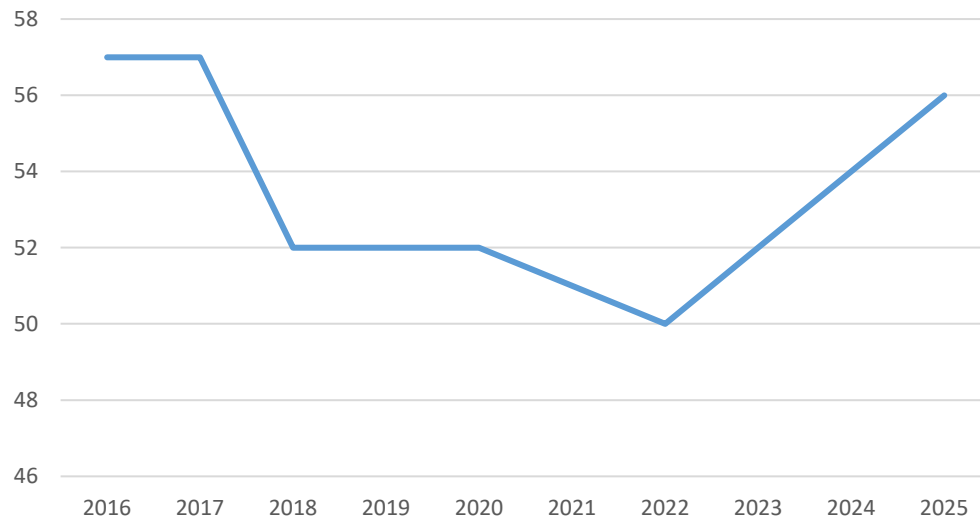
... **RESPONSE TIME DATA CORROLATES TO THE COMPLEMENT OF APPARATUS**

... **2025 DATA REFLECTS JAN-SEP**

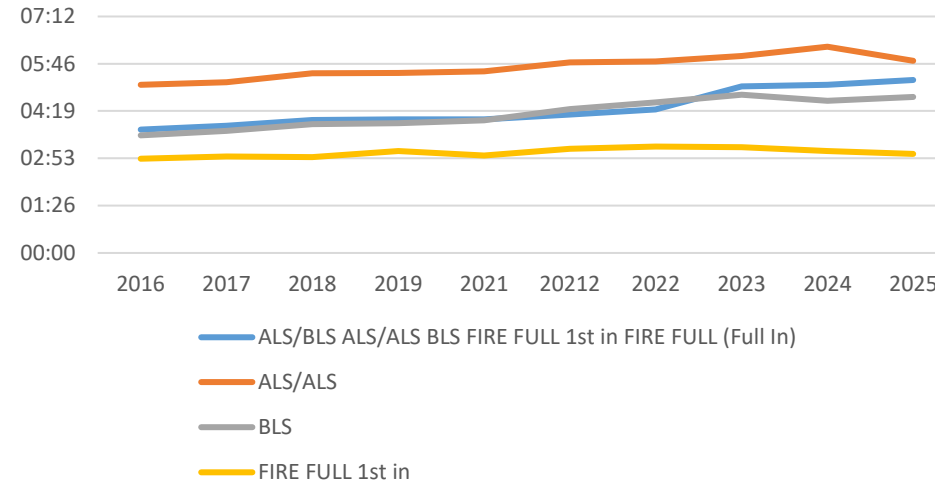


NFPA 1710 Data

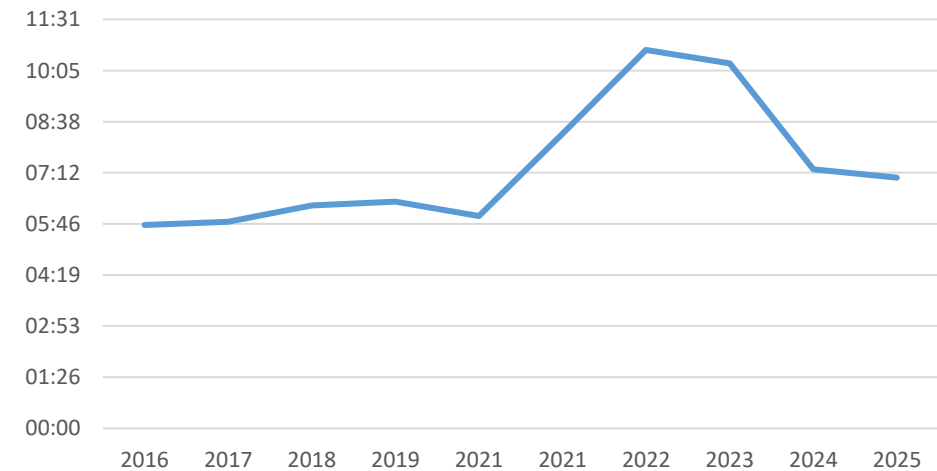
ENGINE/TRUCK/MED Rigs in Service



ALS/BLS/FIRE FULL (First-In)



FIRE FULL (Full In)





CITY ACTION APP FEASIBILITY

The majority of the MFD's responsibilities to public service would not be applicable to an app since it is 9-1-1 based.

The **City's Action App** could potentially be used for alternative ways to request smoke alarm installations as well as provide an alternate interface with the already public-facing website of MFD emergency activity such as *the Open Data Portal* and *MFD Dispatched Calls for Service* pages.

Challenges to the City Action App being useful for the MFD's service to the community:

- **High Workload:** Daily emergency calls may overload the system; MFD programs use separate systems for reporting, data entry, and reconciliation.
- **Legal and Privacy Standards:** HIPAA-protected and personally identifiable information limits what can be shared on public platforms.
- **Technical Requirements:** Secure solutions (encrypted APIs, middleware) and standardized workflows are required for integration.
- **Resource Investment:** Dedicated IT support, staff training, and legal/privacy safeguards are essential to ensure compliance and accuracy.

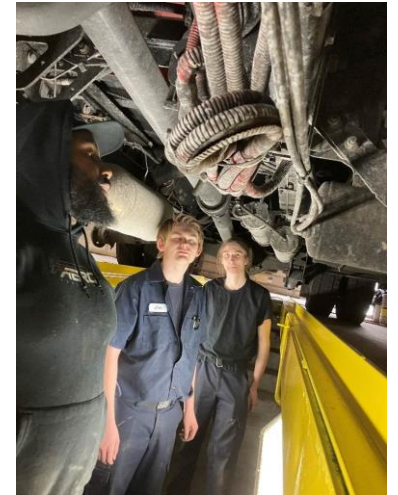


MFD YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

The Milwaukee Fire Department provides opportunities to youth seeking a career in the fire service as a Fire Cadet. We participate in the Mayor's Earn and Learn Initiative, and additionally, collaborate with DPW on a Youth Fleet Apprentice Program.

FIRE CADETS serve as apprentices for approximately two years in preparation to become firefighters. They become certified as EMTs and Firefighter I, taking courses toward an Associate Degree in Fire Science, and receive paramedic training, if qualified. **We have up to 52 employed at a time.**

YOUTH FLEET APPRENTICES receive mentorship and training to complete automotive and diesel vehicle maintenance in line with *Wisconsin Youth Apprenticeship* competencies. This is a two-year program. Requirements include being a high school junior or senior and at least 16 years old, along with a mechanical aptitude and the capacity to learn and understand mechanical systems and follow safety and security regulations and requirements. ***We currently have two employed, with expansion to four positions expected for the 2025-2026 school year.***



The **JUNIOR FIRE INSTITUTE (JFI)** is a year-round program which has been active for 20+ years, meeting on a monthly basis, learning skills, leadership, and volunteerism. Attendance is typically 40-50 students. A summer camp is offered at no cost to students also.

CampHERO is an annual Girl Scout First Responder Summer Camp, featuring female instructors from the MFD & MPD, creating a pathway to the JFI and Fire Cadet Program.

CPR & BABYSITTER CERTIFICATION is taught creating yet another pathway to MFD service.

EARN & LEARN INTERNSHIPS are the Mayor's initiative to mentor high school youth, providing them an 8-week summer opportunity to learn about city government, and to encourage a path to city service employment. **The MFD partnered with DPW and an external partner Reliant Fire Apparatus to provide such opportunities to four people this past summer which included a tour of Pierce Mfg. in Appleton, WI.**



Office of the Mayor
CITY OF MILWAUKEE



Proclamation

Hereas: The City of Milwaukee joins the community in recognizing the 150th anniversary of The Milwaukee Fire Department during the year 2025; and,

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Fire Department has proudly served the residents of Milwaukee since its establishment on January 1st, 1875, providing exemplary service in protecting lives, property and our city's future; and,

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Fire Department is the largest fire department in the state of Wisconsin, comprised of 31 emergency operating stations, 57 companies of engines, ladder trucks, and paramedic units providing advanced life support, seven field Chiefs and one of only two Tier 1 HazMat Teams, covering the 96.8 square miles of the city, in service to the residents and visitors to our city, along with a host of irreplaceable support staff; and,

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Fire Department, currently under the leadership of Chief Aaron Lipski, has continually demonstrated "Courage, Integrity, and Honor" in the face of peril, embodying the highest ideals of service and community commitment; and,

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Fire Department has evolved and grown, adapting to the changing needs of our city while maintaining the core mission of safeguarding our citizens from fire and other emergencies; and,

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Fire Department's legacy is not only reflected in the bravery of its firefighters but also in the profound relationships it has fostered with the community, building a stronger, safer city for all; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Milwaukee honors the unwavering commitment and service of all current and past members of the Milwaukee Fire Department, along with their families, who have supported their work through the years; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CAVALIER JOHNSON, Mayor of the City of Milwaukee, do hereby proclaim the year 2025, to be the

150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

throughout the City of Milwaukee.



CAVALIER JOHNSON
Mayor



PROUDLY SERVING THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE FOR OVER 150 YEARS!

2025 Amendment Update



#	Description	Sponsor
241271	ALL DEPARTMENTS - Insert a footnote instructing all departments to study the feasibility of having all the department's resources and reporting available on the City Action app. Status update: Department is preparing a separate communication file to Council regarding AI and City Action app	Coggs
241272	ALL DEPARTMENTS - Insert a footnote instructing all departments to examine possible opportunities for internships or apprenticeships that could be developed in each department Status update: Refer to Slide 25	Coggs