



CITY OF
**EAU
CLAIRE**

PUBLIC SAFETY REFERENDUM

VOTE
TUESDAY,
NOV. 8,
2022

The City of Eau Claire has identified a need to add additional public safety personnel to its Fire Department, Police Department and 911 dispatch operations.

Voters will be asked whether or not to support an increase in the City's annual tax levy, beginning in 2023, to cover the cost for six firefighter/paramedics, six police officers, two civilian community service officers and one civilian law enforcement associate to support the 911 dispatch center.

Current funding and staffing levels are insufficient to meet the growing need for public safety services.

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

The Police and Fire/ EMS departments have used creative means to maintain service without adding staffing. The options available will compromise service to the community.

IF A MAJORITY VOTE **“YES”**

If the referendum is approved by a majority of voters, the City of Eau Claire will be able to add critically necessary additional staff to support public safety services. This will increase staffing levels to ensure there are sufficient staff to respond to calls for service from Eau Claire residents while preserving the wellbeing, safety and mental health of police, firefighters, EMS and 911 dispatch operators.

PROPERTY TAX IMPACT

\$1,448,132 TOTAL INCREASE STARTING WITH DECEMBER 2022 BILLS

ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE	ESTIMATED TAX INCREASE PER YEAR
\$100,000	\$22.55
\$200,000	\$45.10

Taxpayers will see an estimated property tax increase of \$45.10 annually on a home valued at \$200,000, starting with bills issued in December 2022.

IF A MAJORITY VOTE **“NO”**

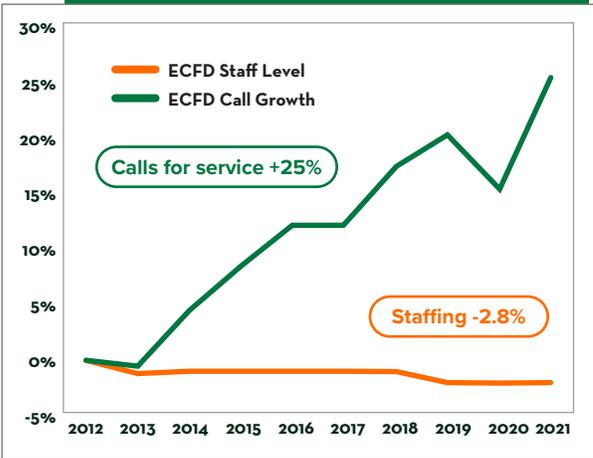
If the referendum is rejected by a majority of voters, the City will be faced with difficult decisions about how to address the growing need for public safety services. A rejection of the referendum would have a negative impact on emergency service capacity.



PUBLIC SAFETY REFERENDUM

CRITICAL NEED FOR FIRE RESCUE STAFF

In 2021, the department responded to 9,796 calls for service - **the highest number in its history.**



Over the past decade, Eau Claire Fire & Rescue's staffing levels have decreased - even though the population has grown by almost 5% and calls for service have increased by 25%.

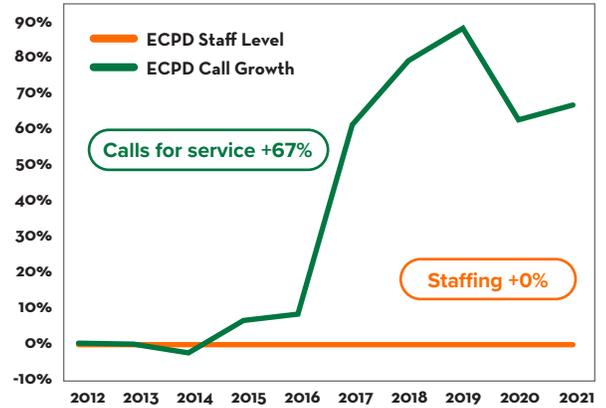
Average response times for emergency calls have increased, as well.

- In 2022, emergency response times have averaged to 5 minutes and 14 seconds - **a nearly 12% increase since 2013.**

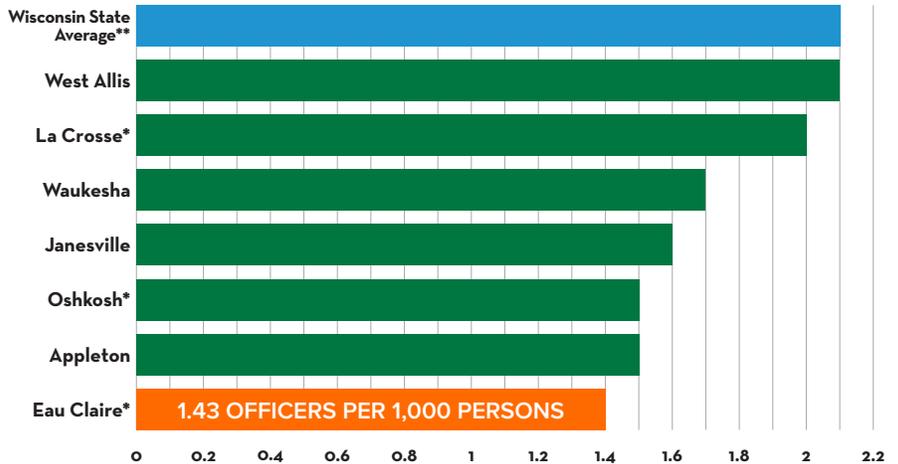
In 2021, there were 151 instances of overlapping calls. High call volume, coupled with insufficient staffing, has impacted the Department's ability to react when multiple calls for service occur at once. Additional staffing would enable Eau Claire Fire & Rescue to meet current and future call volume and response time benchmarks.

CRITICAL NEED FOR POLICE STAFF

The Eau Claire Police Department responded to nearly 20,000 more calls in 2021 than it did in 2012, a **67% increase in calls for service in just 10 years**, while staffing levels have remained stagnant.



Compared to peer cities, **Eau Claire has the fewest sworn officers per 1,000 people and falls well below the state average.**



*For purposes of this chart, the population excludes the state university student body. If included, Eau Claire's average would have been even lower.
**Denotes 2020 average

IN 2021 ECPD PAID OFFICERS FOR
3,740 HOURS OF OVERTIME
A **450% INCREASE** FROM 2018

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