



VOTE

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024

The City of Port Washington has identified a need to add additional, full-time personnel to its Fire Department. The referendum will ask voters whether or not to support a \$1,175,000 annual increase in the property tax levy to cover the cost of hiring six additional full-time fire/EMS positions, and retaining the three positions temporarily funded through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grants.



WHY IS THE CITY HOLDING A REFERENDUM?



INCREASING CALL VOLUME

High call volume, coupled with insufficient staffing, has impacted the Department's ability to react when multiple calls for EMS service occur at once.

GROWING & AGING POPULATION

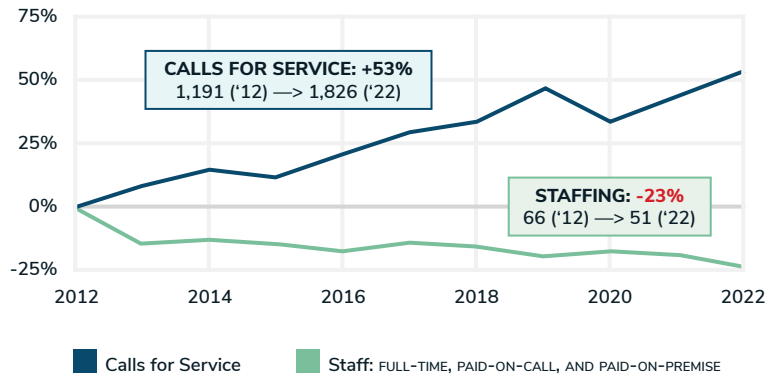
The City of Port Washington has seen steady population growth over the past four decades, increasing more than 4,200 from 1980 to 2022. Additionally, changing demographics are driving an increased need for services. From 2010–2020, the **60–74 age group**, which represents more than 60% of our EMS services calls, increased by **85%** — a trend that is projected to continue.

FUNDING

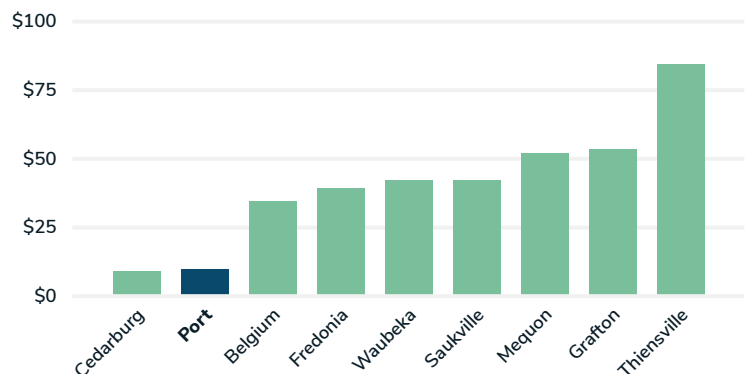
Our current funding levels and staffing are insufficient to meet the current and growing needs of the community. To-date, the Department has filled some gaps through ARPA funds, but this is only a temporary solution. Currently, while the Department is the second busiest in Ozaukee County, it spends the second least per capita for fire/EMS services.

CALLS FOR SERVICE vs. STAFFING

In the last decade, the number of calls for fire and EMS service increased 53%, while total staffing decreased 23%.



FIRE/EMS COST PER CAPITA



IF A MAJORITY
VOTE:



If the referendum is approved by a majority of voters, the City of Port Washington will be able to fund six additional full-time fire/EMS positions and retain the three positions temporarily funded through ARPA grants.

The new staffing levels would help ensure that Port Washington residents receive the fire/EMS service response they need.



+6
full-time fire/
EMS positions



+3
positions currently
funded through
ARPA grants

PROPERTY TAX IMPACT		
\$1.175 MILLION TOTAL INCREASE		
ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE	ESTIMATED TAX INCREASE	
	Per Year	Per Week
\$100,000	\$91	\$1.75
\$200,000	\$182	\$3.50

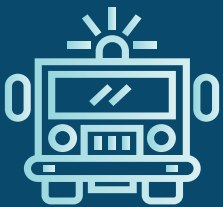
Taxpayers will see an estimated property tax increase of \$91 annually, or \$1.75 a week, per \$100,000 of assessed value, starting with bills issued in December 2024. For a home with a median value of \$235,000 that equals \$213.85 annually and \$4.11 per week.

IF A MAJORITY
VOTE:



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 fire/EMS services. A rejection of the referendum would result in increased emergency response times, significant gaps in coverage and limited ability for personnel to attend to residents in an emergency.

CRITICAL NEED FOR FULL-TIME STAFF



The Port Washington Fire Department is staffed by just five full-time staff members, which includes three positions temporarily funded through ARPA grants. The current staffing structure doesn't adequately support emergency service operations, as full-time staff must wait for paid-on call staff to arrive before responding to calls. Adding more full-time staff would improve emergency response times, allowing Department personnel to arrive on the scene of emergencies without having to wait for paid-on-call staff to assist them.




VOTE
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024

IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING AT CITY HALL

- March 19–22 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- March 25–28 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- March 29 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ABSENTEE BALLOT

Deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail:
Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 5 p.m.

ELECTION DAY

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

