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Fire Department Staffing Study Underway in Waupun

City seeks public input on importance of emergency management services in the community

WAUPUN, WI. July 27, 2023 – The City of Waupun Common Council initiated a study to examine staffing models for fire and emergency response service in the community. The Waupun Fire Department currently operates with two full-time and twenty-eight paid-on-call firefighters, and a contracted ambulance service. An Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) program was added in 2022 to support increasing call volumes and is staffed with volunteers.

A public information page on the City's website has been established where residents can find more information. The page cites increasing call volumes, declining volunteerism, an aging workforce, ambulance service failures and substantial cost associated with adding an additional contracted ambulance as reasons the council has elected to undertake this study. According to Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director, BJ DeMaa, "our volunteers do an excellent job of supporting the needs of this community. However, volunteerism is declining and as demands for service increase, we recognize that our current service-delivery model is being stressed and will face challenges ahead. City leaders need to plan for the future to ensure sustainability of these essential services."

According to the public information page, Public Administration Associates (PAA) is helping with the study because of specific expertise they have in fire and emergency response management. City leaders are seeking public input via a community survey. A link to the survey can be found on the public information page of the city's website or by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HC9T6PY>. The survey will remain open until August 23, 2023.

ABOUT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ASSOCIATES

Public Administration Associates (PAA) is a consulting firm based in Whitewater, WI that specializes in local government recruitment and management studies. Over its 25-year history, PAA has worked with over 175 Wisconsin municipalities on a wide-variety of consulting projects, including over 30 studies of fire and EMS service consolidation and staffing assessments.