



Rochelle Fire Department Staffing Discussion

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Presenters



Jeff Fiegenschuh
City Manager

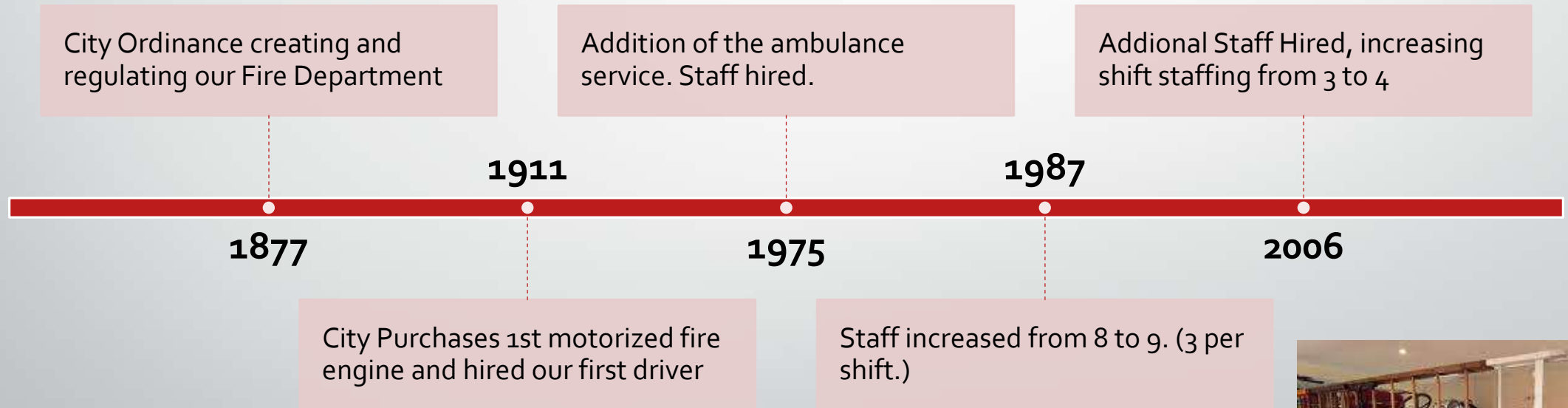


Dave Sawlsville
Fire Chief



Tyler Carls
Firefighter

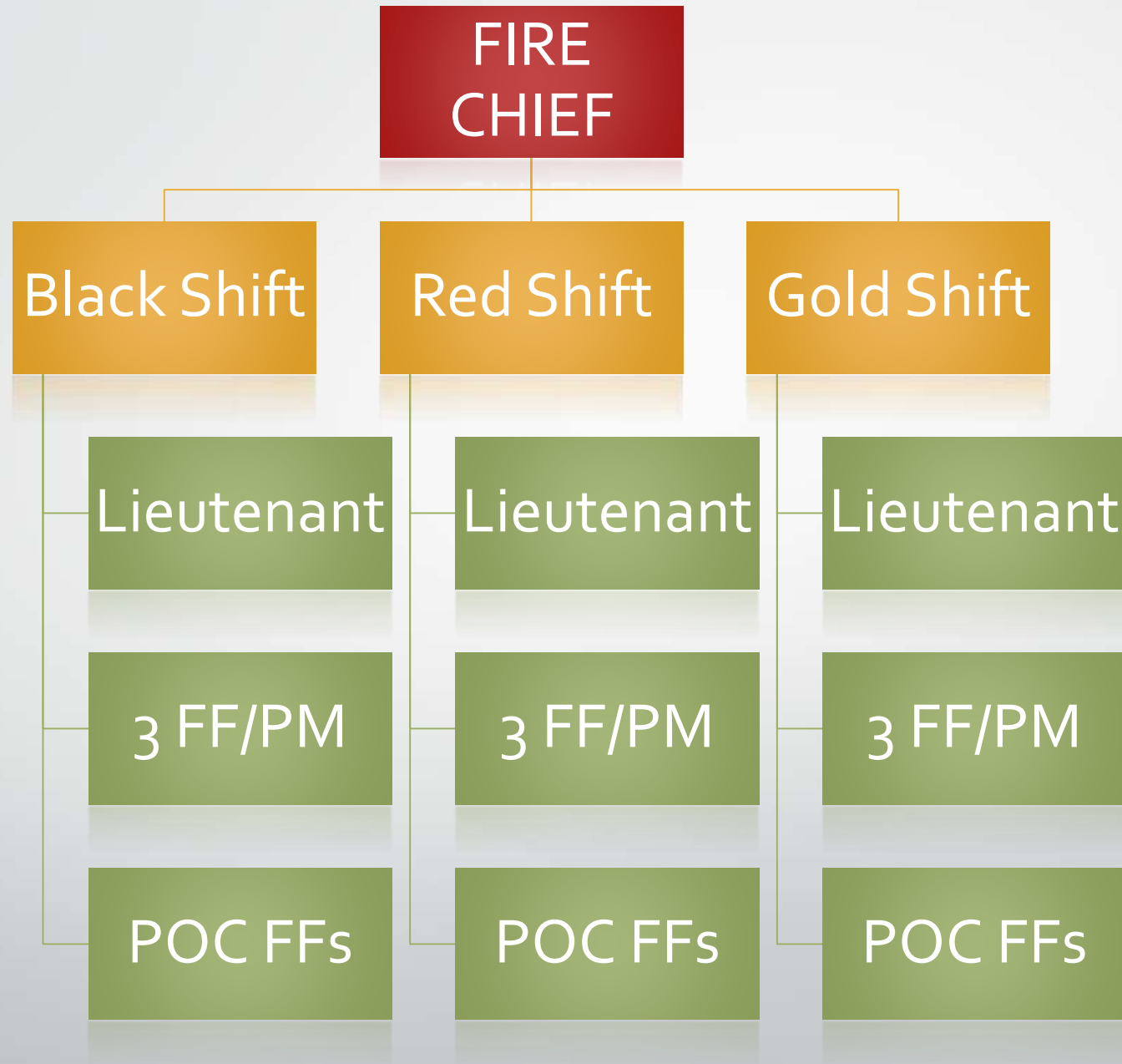
Staffing History of the Rochelle Fire Department



The Fire Department is a service industry

- One way to look at this issue is that we are a business, and our business is growing.
- We must look at ways to meet the increasing consumer demand yet, we can't delay production or the delivery of the service.







The minimum daily staffing is 4 firefighters.



When full time staff is off shift, the 1st vacancy is filled with a part time firefighter.



Depending on the type of incident, on duty personnel will board which ever vehicle is appropriate for the response.
(Jump company concept)

If it is warranted by the incident, a full still alarm is requested for off duty personnel to report back for assistance.

Current Daily Staffing

Operational Challenges

- One company is in service and available to respond to calls at a time.
- Once the initial company is engaged, RFD must rely on off-duty staff to report back to the fire station or mutual aid.



Operational Challenges



Last year, RFD responded to 3028 calls for service, which is just over 8 calls per day, on average.

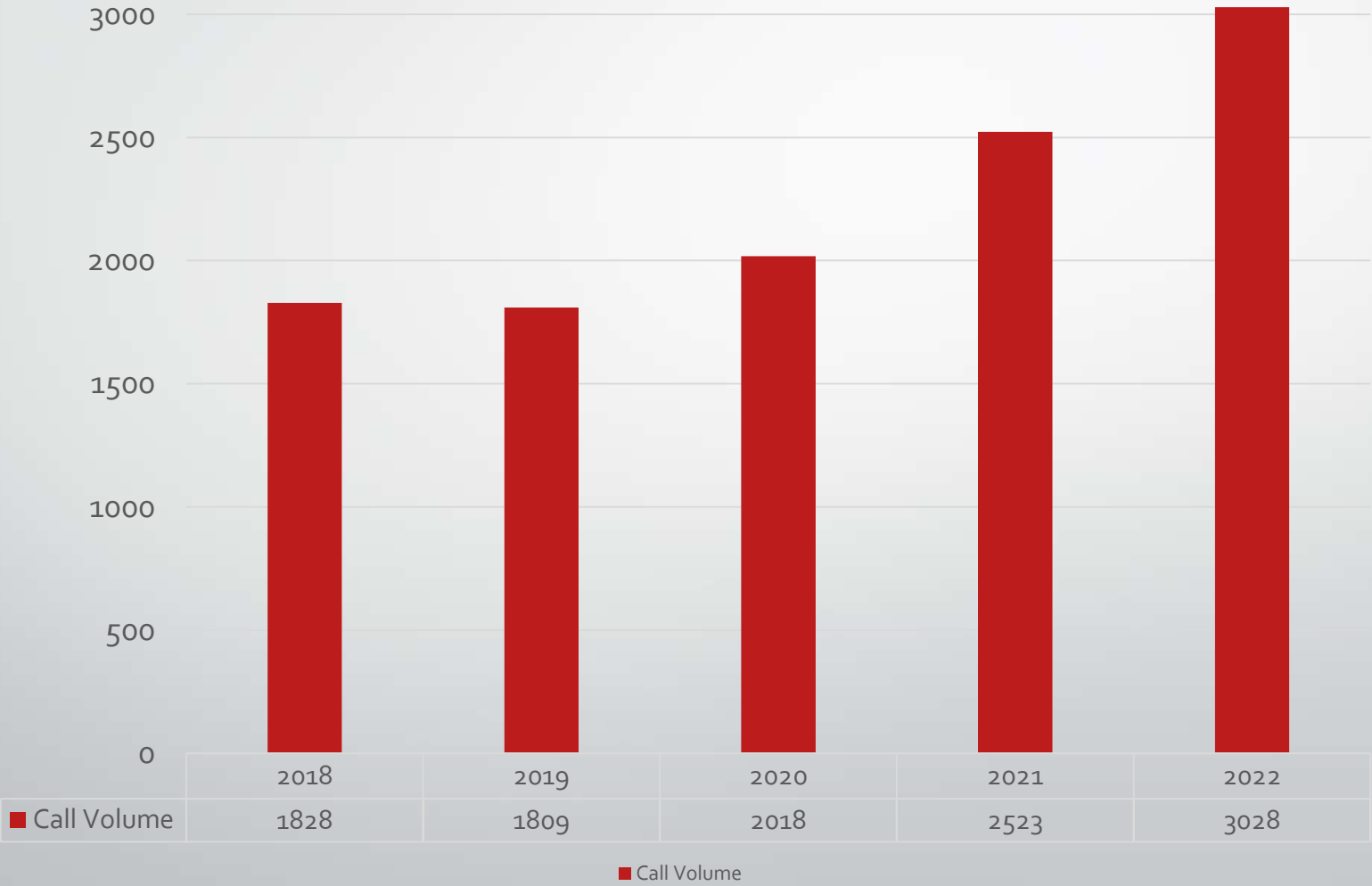


Average of 1.6 multiple calls per day. During these instances, off-duty personnel are recalled to cover the second call.

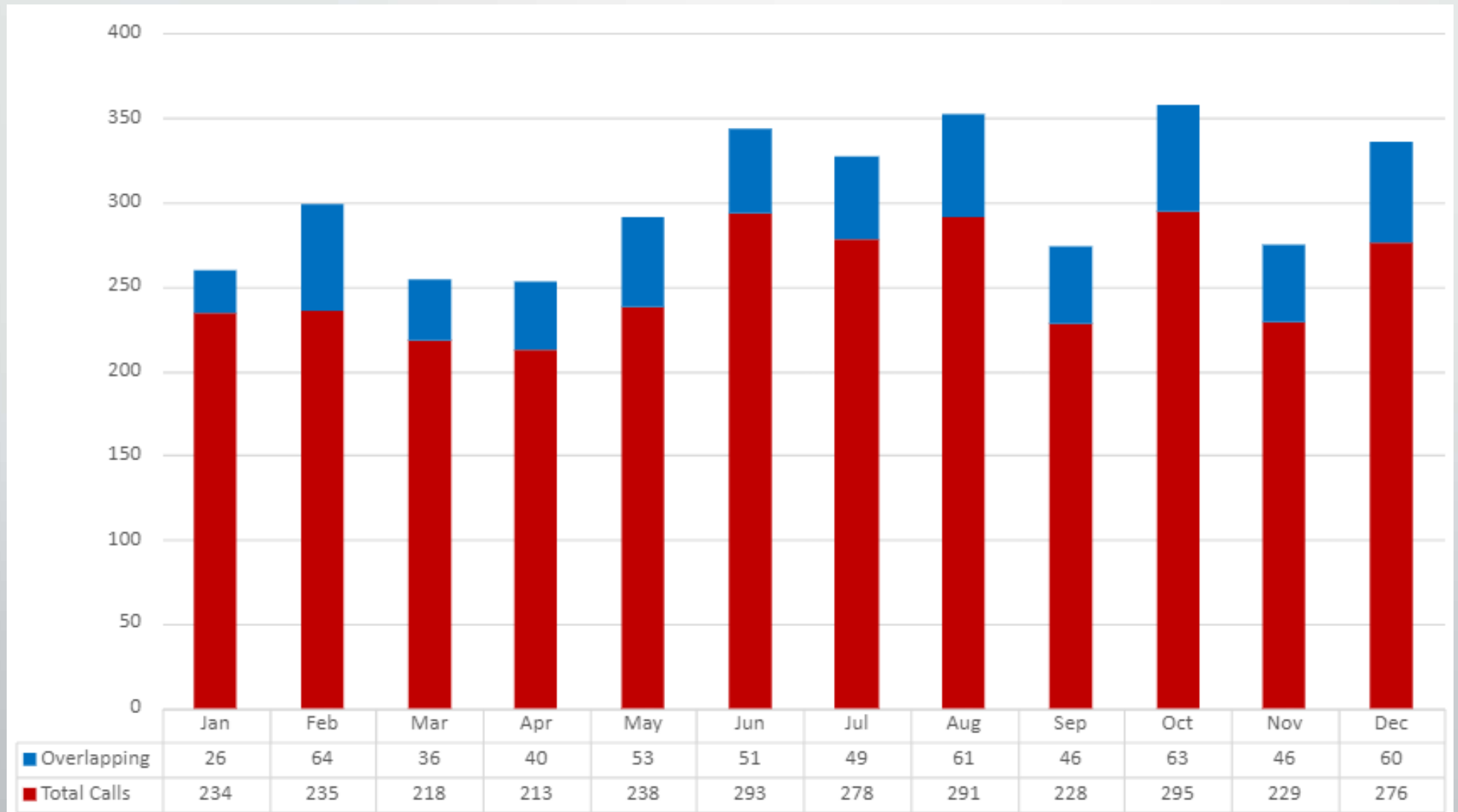


The problem: Delays in providing an emergency service when needed most.

Call Volume 2018-2022



2022 Calls for Service by Month



Overlapping Calls

- Industry standards recommend additional staffing when the percentage of overlapping calls becomes 15- 20%
- 2021
 - 736 Overlapping Calls
 - 29.17%
- 2022
 - 595 Overlapping Calls
 - 19.65%

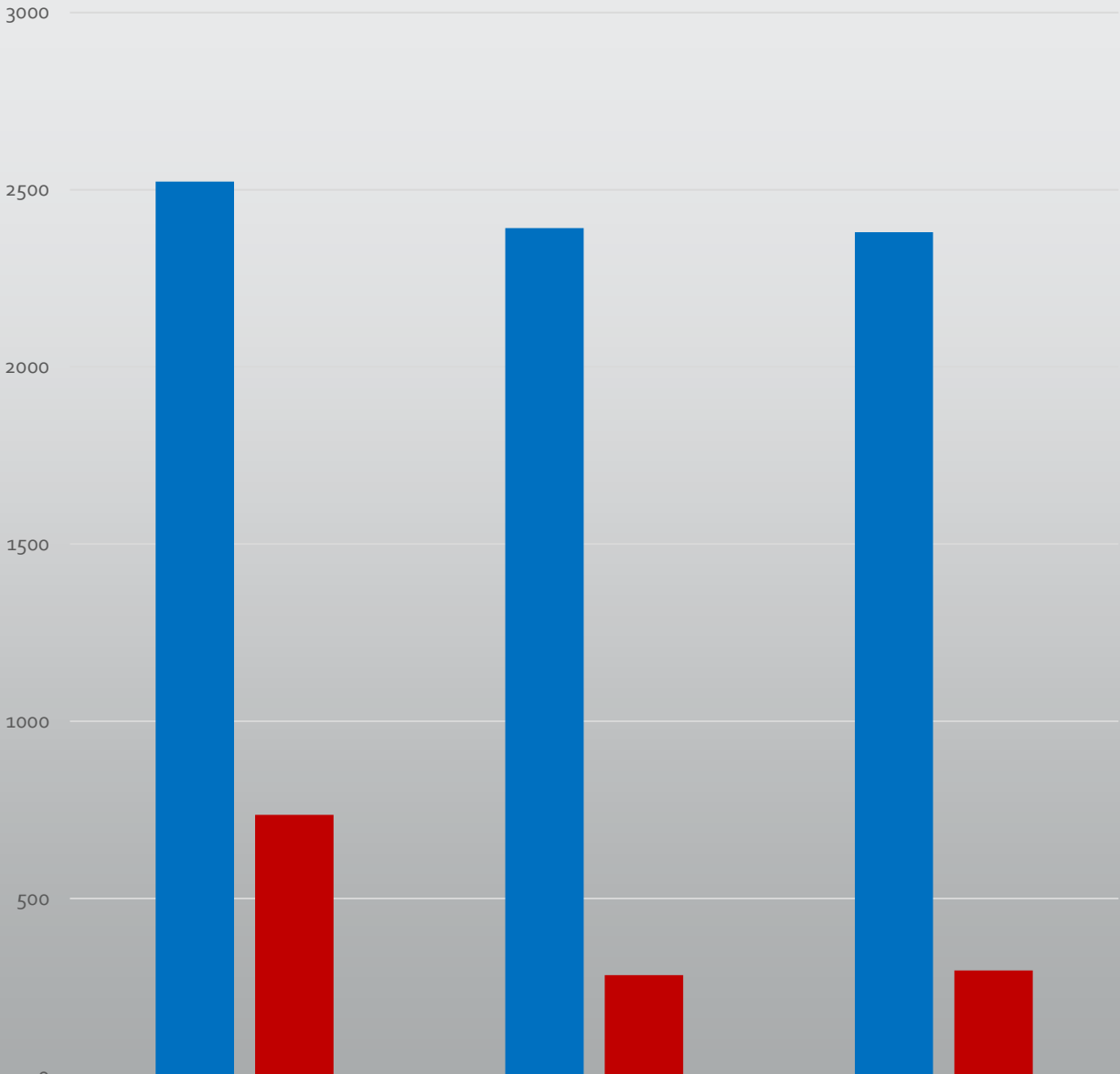
Overlapping Calls Year to Date 2021, 2022, 2023

- 01/01/2021-04/18/2021
 - Total Calls=676
 - Overlapping calls=151
 - 22.34%
- 01/01/2022-04/18/2022
 - Total Calls=814
 - Overlapping 151
 - 18.55%

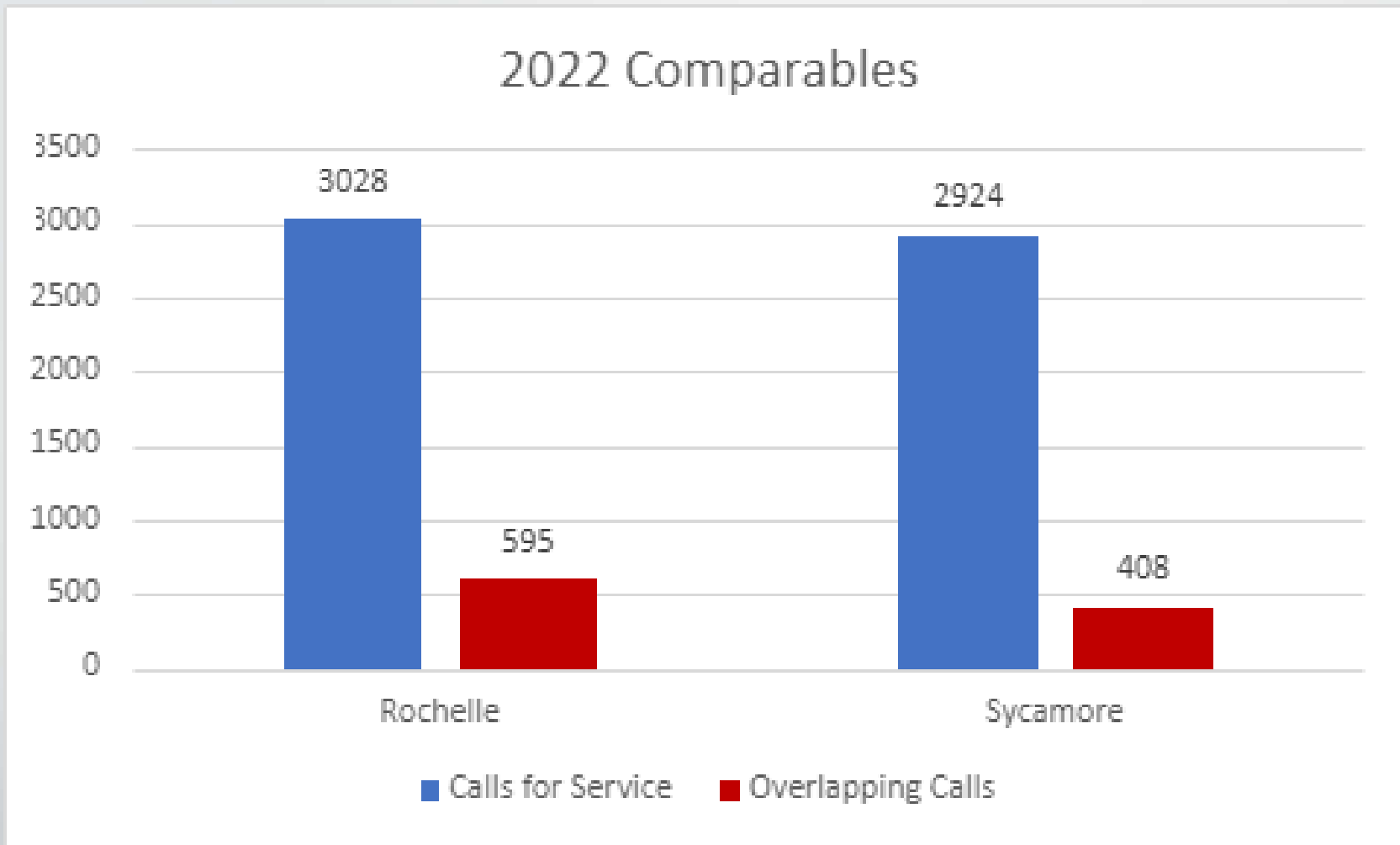
- 01/01/2023-04/18/2023
 - Total Calls=861
 - Overlapping=286
 - 33.22%

Comparable Agencies

2021: Rochelle, Dixon and Sycamore



Calls for Service	2523	2392	2380
Overlapping Calls	736	283	297



- Rochelle Fire Dept-12 operations personnel
- Sycamore Fire Department-27 operations personnel

Calls per Firefighter

Rochelle Fire Department

Year	Calls	Calls Per FF
2020	2018	168.16
2021	2523	210.25
2022	3028	252.33

2021 Calls Per Firefighter From Comp Agencies

Department	Calls	Calls Per FF	Ops Staff
Dixon	2392	159.46	15
Sycamore	2380	88.14	27

Department	Population	Call Volume	EMS	Min Staff	Max Staff
Centralia	12,356	2003	Y	4	5
Jacksonville	18,859	3000	Y	7	9
Sycamore	17,726	2380	Y	6	8
Princeton	7,603	1800	Y	4	4
Ottawa	18,792	4175	Y	7	9
Rochelle	9,160	2200 *	Y	4	4
Herrin	12,827	438	N	3	5
Effingham	12,563	587	N	4	5
Kewanee	12,547	2750	Y	5	6
North Aurora	18,057	2500	Y	12	12
Sterling	14,782	1402	N	5	6
Dixon Rural	16,000	667	Y	2	3
Rock Falls	8,952	980	N	3	4
Dixon City	15,433	2392	Y	4	5

*Note this 2021 information was obtained from the Dixon Fire Department staffing report from Dec 2022.

*Rochelle's call numbers do not include the contracted Ogle-Lee FPD calls.



Our Call Volume: The Why

- Transient Population
- Two Interstate Highways
- 135 sq. mile area
- Ogle-Lee Contract
- Aging Population
- Level of Service
- Cost to Taxpayers
- Increase in Senior-Living Facilities
- Distance to nearest paramedic ambulance

Comparisons

Department	Staffing	Per Shift	Notes
Dixon City Fire Department	1 Chief, 1 Deputy Chief, 18 Sworn	1 Captain, 1 LT, 4 Firefighters	Combined Fire/EMS
Dixon Rural Fire Department	1 Chief, 9 Sworn	1 Assistant Chief or Captain, 2 FF	Combined Fire/EMS
Sterling Fire Department	1 Chief, 1 Deputy Chief, 18 Sworn	1 Captain, 1 LT, 4 Firefighters	Fire Response/Medical Assist
Rock Falls Fire Department	1 Chief, 1 Deputy Chief, 12 Sworn	1 Captain, 3 Firefighters	Combined Fire/EMS
Peru Fire Department	1 Chief, 4 Sworn	1 Firefighter Engineer	Private ambulance contract
LaSalle Fire Department	1 Chief, 3 Sworn	1 Firefighter Engineer	Private ambulance contract
Rochelle Fire Department	1 Chief, 12 Sworn	1 LT, 3 Firefighters	Combined Fire/EMS
Proposed: Rochelle	1 Chief, 18 Sworn	1 LT, 5 Firefighters	Combined Fire/EMS



What are the most pressing issues?

- Lack of adequate daily staffing to meet more than two simultaneous requests for emergency service
- Properly staff fire companies for fire responses

NFPA 1710

Occupancy Type: Single-Family Dwelling Deployment:

Minimum of 16 members or 17 if aerial device is used

The initial full alarm assignment to a structure fire in a typical 2000 Sqft, two-story, single-family dwelling without a basement and with no exposures must provide for a minimum of 16 members (17 if an aerial device is used).

NFPA 1710

Occupancy Type: Garden-Style
Apartment Deployment:

Minimum of 27 members or 28 if
aerial device is used

The initial full alarm assignment
to a structure fire in a typical
1200 sqft apartment within a
three story, garden-style
apartment building must provide
for a minimum of 27 members
(28 if an aerial device is used).



NFPA 1710

- NFPA 1710 recommends that each company be staffed with four firefighters, including a company officer, and that the company officer must remain as part of the company; they can't stay outside the building as command.

22 necessary tasks to be completed at a structure fire

Stop at hydrant, wrap hose	Advance back up line to cover stairs
Position Engine 1	Conduct primary search
Conduct a size up	Ground ladders placed
Position attack line	Horizontal ventilation 1st floor
Establish 2 in/2 out	Horizontal ventilation 2nd floor
Supply attack engine	Control utilities
Establish RIT	Conduct a secondary search
Force Entry	Check for fire extension (walls)
Advance attack line	Check for fire extension (ceiling)
Advance back up line front door	Mechanical Ventilation

Case Study-Fire Response

- Structure Fire 05/22/2022 1210hrs
- Dispatched at 1210hrs. Engine 3 arrived at 1215hrs. Only 2 personnel reported back for the full still. F21 responded and arrived at 1224hrs. Engine 3 operated for 9 minutes with no assistance from companies responding to the full still or box alarm.
- Engine 3 responded with 4 FFs.



Structure Fire Case Study

- On 09/18/2022. Dispatched for a structure fire in a 3-story occupied apartment building. A box alarm was requested bringing in off duty Rochelle FFs and Ogle-Lee Stations.
- 3 Firefighters Responded on E3. E3 arrived 2 minutes after dispatch.

Structure Fire Case Study

- Upon arrival, bystanders indicated that the 2nd floor apartment was possibly occupied.
- E3 was only staffed with 3 FFs (Under the NFPA 1710 standard) 1 FF remained as the engineer and 2 FFs entered the structure to perform a search of the apartment and extinguish the fire
- The entry crew completed their tasks and withdrew from the building after approximately 10 minutes.
- At this point, the fire chief was the only responder at the scene, and he was completing water supply.

Structure Fire Case Study

- With the initial fire out, 2 Firefighters, performed primary searches of adjoining apartments while waiting for additional crews before returning to the fire apartment.
- Approximately 15 minutes into the incident, off duty and POC firefighters began to arrive.
- Notation*
 - During the first 15 minutes of this call multiple requests for an ambulance at separate calls were dispatched and delayed. All available units were needed at the fire scene.

Case Study-EMS

- In December 2022, we were dispatched for an EMS call at 0007hrs .
 - (F21 was already on a critical respiratory distress call that was dispatched at 0004hrs.)
- This 2nd call was toned as a full still.
 - 1 noncertified member responded to the call back.
- F20 responded to the scene to begin rendering aid for the second call with 1 paramedic and 1 noncertified member.
- F20 had to wait approximately 20 minutes for F21's crew to clear their call to legally transport the patient to the hospital from the second call.

Case Study - EMS

April 12th 2023

- 7 Calls between 10:15-13:30
- 6 ambulance calls and 1 fire call
- 1 Transport to a Trauma Center in Rockford
- 1 Ambulance remained to cover the city
 - Handled Multiple calls for service

April 15th 2023

- 15 Calls between 1500-0700
- 13 ambulance calls and 2 Fire Calls
- No call backs during this time
- 4 staff members handled all calls during this time period

Winter Storm December 2022

6 Member Shift Staffing

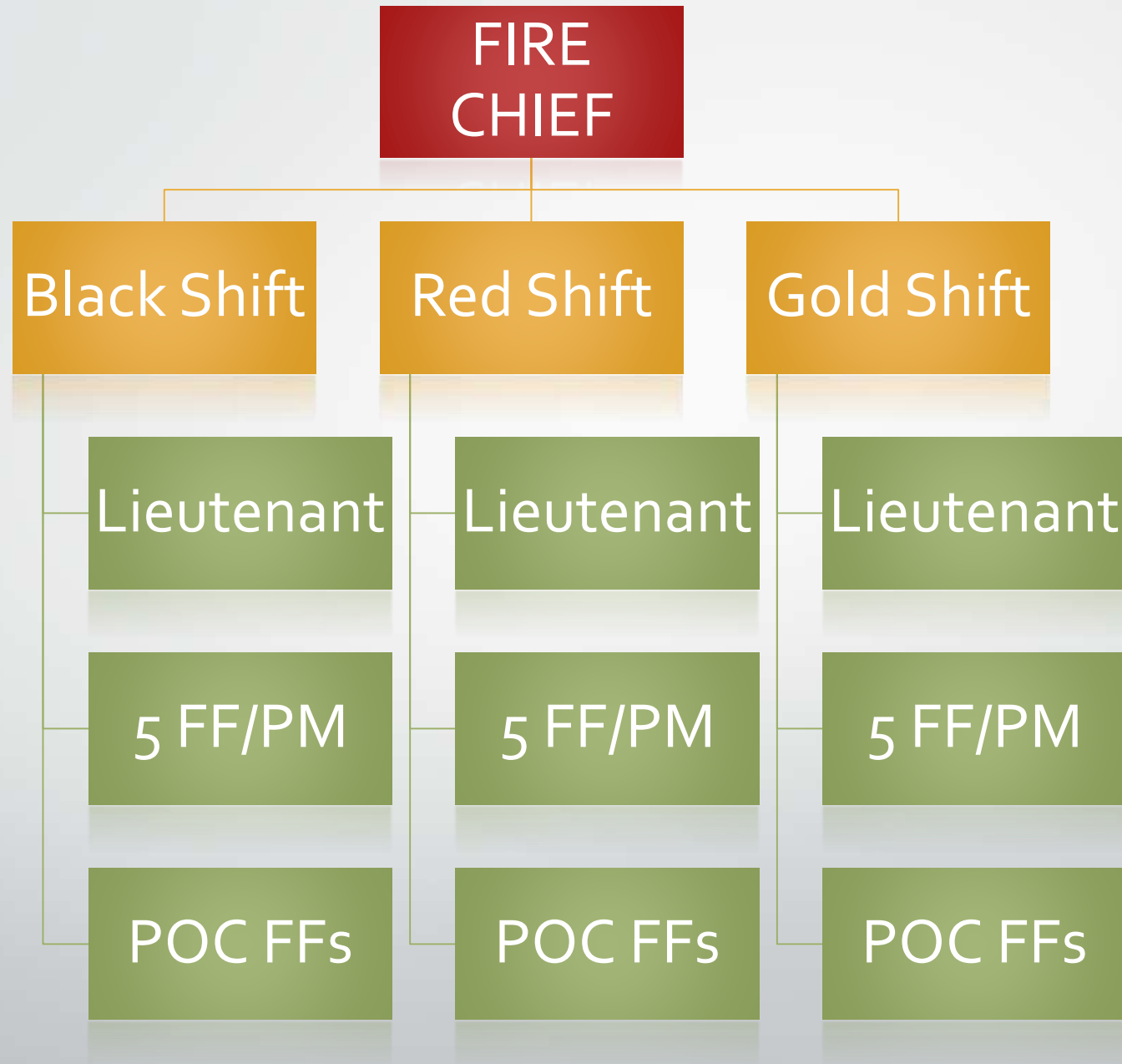
- 12/22/2022
- In anticipation of the predicted winter storm, Chief Sawlsville increased the crew staffing from 4 to 6.
- The measure was taken due to the probability of increased calls for service as well as delayed response by off-duty personnel needed to respond to overlapping calls.

6-Member Staffing

- The crew responded to 17 calls for service during the 24-hour shift:
 - 3 Fire (1 Structure Fire, 1 Smoke Investigation, and 1 Activated Fire Alarm)
 - 14 EMS.
- Off-duty personnel were requested for the structure fire. No off-duty personnel were requested for the 2 instances of overlapping EMS calls.
- Crew was operated as follows:
 - 1 Lieutenant / 5 FF
 - EMS Response:
 - 1 st Request – 1-F-21 (3 FF)
 - 2 nd Request – 1-F-20 (2 FF) and T10 (Lt)
 - Fire Response:
 - Engine 3 (Lt, 3 FF) Ladder 1 (2 FF)

Proposed Plan

- Add six staff to increase our daily staffing (including Lts.)(minimum of 5)
- Department would staff two ambulances to promptly respond to the increasing call volume and the high instances of overlapping calls
- Ensures NFPA 1710 is met by helping to increase the number of firefighter that would arrive on scene for a structure fire.
- 6 certified firefighters would arrive on scene. This would allow for an incident commander, an engineer, 2 firefighters to engage in operations, and 2 firefighters meeting OSHA's 2 out rule.
- To meet NFPA 1710, RFD would then need 10 additional firefighters to respond, which would be filled by our Full Still and Box alarm MABAS cards.



Total Costs

Beginning firefighter salary & benefits	\$96,000 (3% COLA)
Tuition (academy, paramedic)	\$5,700
Total Cost Per Firefighter	\$101,000
TOTAL ANNUAL (6 add'tl firefighters)	\$670,000/year (includes compounded COLAs)

Funding 2023

Savings

- \$200,000 GF position openings (three staff openings, non-Public Safety)
- \$60,000+/- callback reductions
- New staff 10% reductions in pay (1st year*) \$15,500
- \$150,000 City Hall renovations cancelled due to early retirements (no need for changes)

Revenue

- 3% annual increases ambulance billing rates (we are still in the lower middle of area rates)
- Fees for training facility usage
- Apply for SAFER Grants**
- Consider Impact fees
- Ambulance Fund Interest Income \$15,100/yr.

*could be two years

** not included in funding calculation

Funding 2026

Savings

- Additional nonpublic safety openings (\$200,000)
- Additional POCs reducing overtime (\$50,000)

Revenues

- Implement Transfer program
- Implement POC on call program
- SAFER Grants (possible)
- Increase non-home rule sales tax last .25% (\$250,000)
- Consider impact fees

Teamwork

- Securing staffing needs
- Ensuring long-term viability of the department and organization
- Enhancing patient care



Questions?

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