



2025



City of Sheboygan Fire Department

ANNUAL REPORT

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ABOUT US



Services Provided:

The City of Sheboygan Fire Department provides a multitude of services including, but not limited to:

- Fire suppression
- Rope rescue
- Excavation rescue
- Confined space rescue
- Water/ice rescue
- Auto and industrial extrication
- Emergency management
- Advanced Life Support (ALS) response
- Fire safety building inspections
- Smoke alarm installations
- Code enforcement
- Building plan review
- Fire safety training
- Medical transports
- Public service/assistance
- Hazardous material response
- Fire safety education
- Special event standby
- Fall prevention referrals

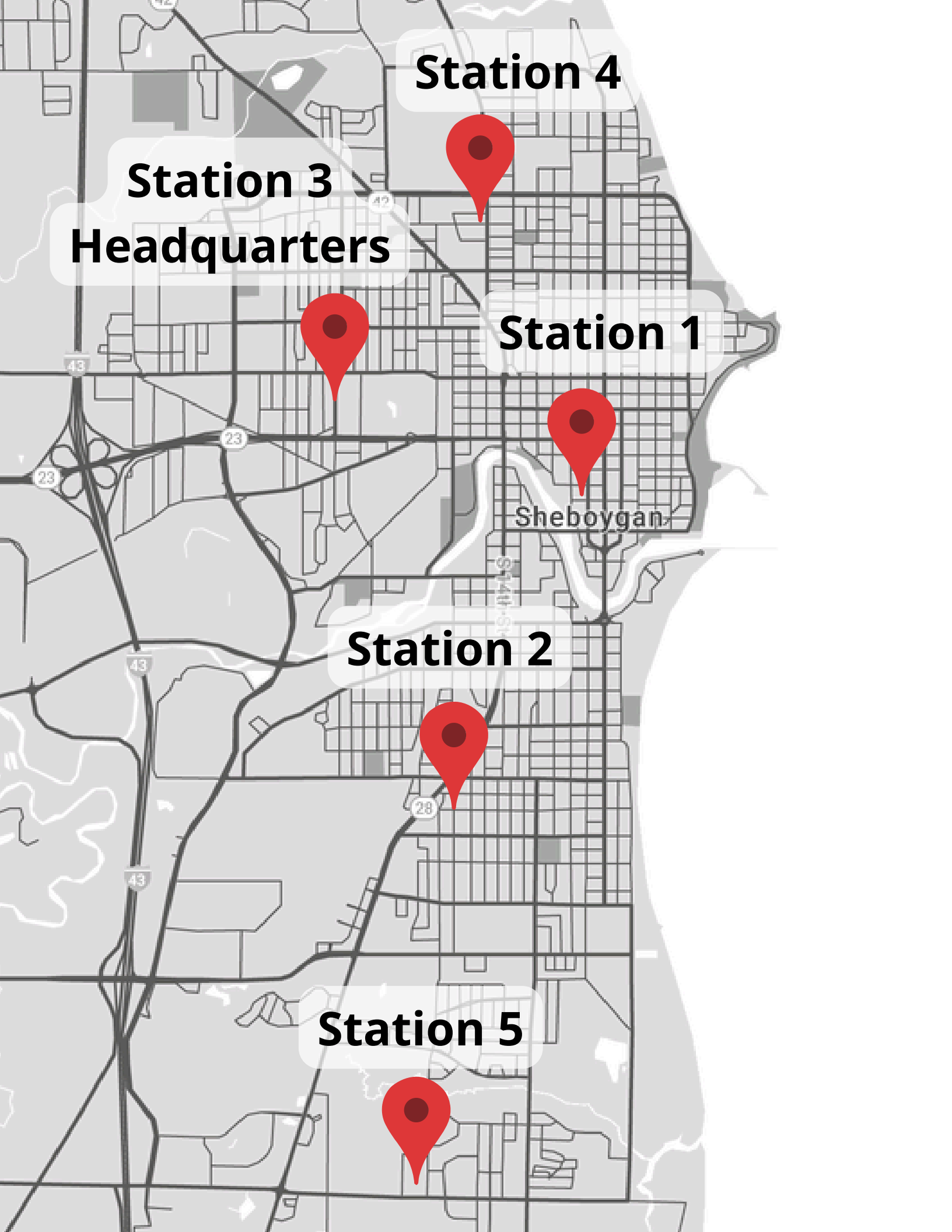
Five Fire Stations Staffed 24/7:

- 1 Ladder Truck
- 1 Rescue Pumper
- 3 Engines
- 4 Ambulances
- 1 Battalion Chief

Board of Police & Fire Commissioners

- Larry Samet, President
- Claudia Krepsky, Secretary
- Corrado Cirillo
- Kristin Blanchard Stearns
- Ann Steenwyk





Station 4



Station 3

Headquarters



Station 1



Station 2



Station 5



Personnel

Administration

- Eric Montellano, Fire Chief
- Jeffrey Salzman, Assistant Fire Chief - Operations
- Michael Lubbert, Assistant Fire Chief - Administration
- Nicholas Noster, Division Chief of Prevention & Inspection
- Karley Sonnenburg, Administrative Coordinator/Supervisor
- Melinda Garrigan, Administrative Assistant

Shift Commanders

Battalion Chiefs serve as the highest ranking shift members. They are responsible for daily operations, ensuring crews and incidents run safely and efficiently. They provide on-scene command during large scale incidents and make strategic decisions while managing personnel, training and administrative duties for their shift.

- Pat Nicolaus, Battalion Chief A-Shift
- Chase Longmiller, Battalion Chief B-Shift
- Jamon Ingelse, Battalion Chief C-Shift

Line Staff

Our department consists of 69 shift firefighter/paramedics who provide emergency services across the city. They are assigned to one of three shifts. Every fire station is led by either a captain or a lieutenant.

Additional Personnel & Specialized Support

In 2025, our department expanded its capacity through the introduction of two technical college interns and one youth apprentice from a local high school. These initiatives have enriched our operations by providing valuable assistance while fostering workforce development in our community.

We are also fortunate to benefit from the dedication of two additional members who, although not officially employed by the City of Sheboygan, contribute significant time, expertise, and commitment to our work throughout the year. In every way that matters, they are part of our department.

- Dr. Erin McGlynn, Medical Director
- Julie Mavity Maddalena, Chaplain



INCIDENTS



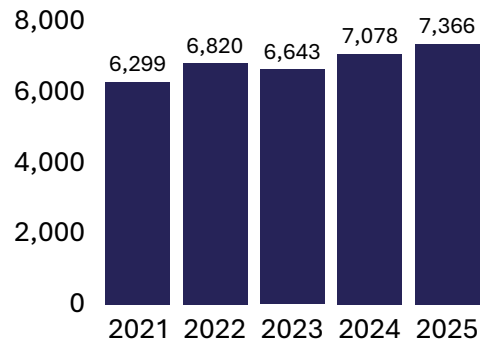
2025 Call Volume Review

Total incident responses continued to rise in 2025, reaching a **record high of 7,366 calls** for service. This reflects a steady upward trend over the past decade, increasing from 5,034 incidents—an increase of more than 45 percent. The department anticipates a continued gradual increase in call volume in the coming year.

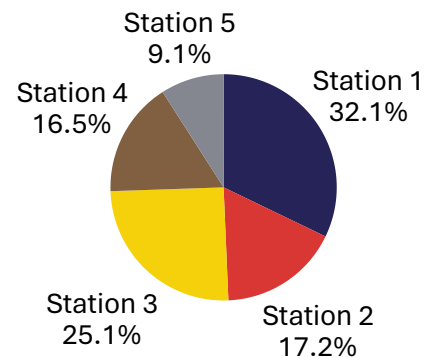
This rising demand is distributed across our five stations. While Station 5 may appear to have a lighter call load at first glance, it is the only station without a frontline ambulance. As the city expands, it is likely the Station 5 med unit will need to be staffed regularly.

As call volume continues to trend upward and station workloads evolve, the department remains focused on monitoring future needs to ensure it can continue providing the high standard of service the community expects.

Incidents by Year



2025 Breakdown by Station



150

Motor Vehicle Accidents



33

Carbon Monoxide Incidents



18

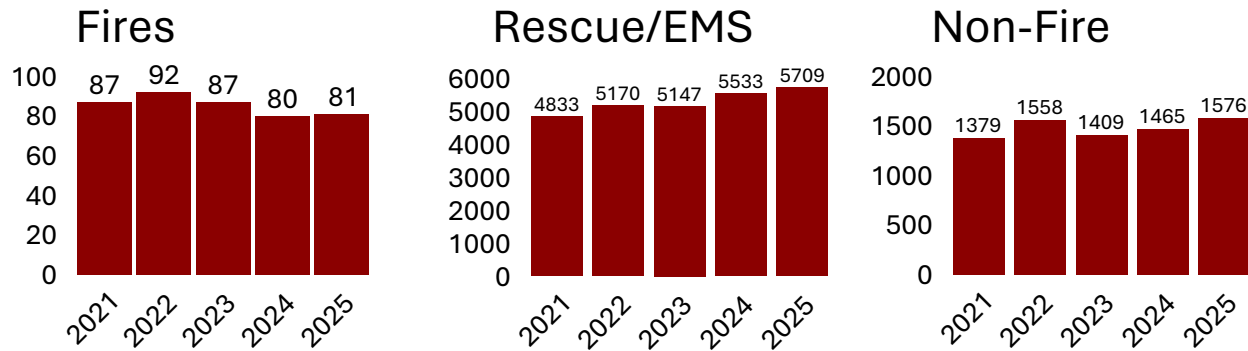
Chemical Hazard



4

Water Rescue

Response Statistics



INCIDENT COUNT PER STATION	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
STATION 1	1,809	2,003	2,032	2,161	2,321
STATION 2	1,239	1,229	1,169	1,209	1,240
STATION 3	1,459	1,677	1,652	1,824	1,815
STATION 4	1,163	1,171	1,086	1,000	1,190
STATION 5	594	609	556	640	654
MUTUAL AID GIVEN	N/A	131	85	76	76
MUTUAL AID RECEIVED	N/A	54	56	22	10
Overlapping Calls (Percent)	N/A	64%	63%	70%	83%
Overlapping Calls (Count)	N/A	4,380	4,215	4,938	6,093

FIRE LOSS	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	54	61	60	67	69
PRE-INCIDENT VALUE	\$95,389,290	\$163,942,270	\$59,645,278	\$71,492,085	\$153,787,725
PROPERTY LOSS	\$538,550	\$887,790	\$745,460	\$322,395	\$689,925
CONTENT LOSS	\$546,617	\$1,115,910	\$205,730	\$87,070	\$536,950
TOTAL LOSS	\$1,085,167	\$2,003,700	\$951,190	\$409,465	\$1,226,875
AVERAGE LOSS	\$20,095.69	\$32,848	\$15,853	\$6,111	\$17,781
PROPERTY SAVED	\$94,304,123	\$161,938,570	\$58,694,088	\$71,082,620	\$152,560,850

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS



Paramedic Graduates

As statewide recruitment challenges persist, the department has strengthened its approach by providing paramedic certification to new hires during an extended probationary period. This strategy helps attract candidates with strong local ties while integrating them into operations early in their employment.

In 2025, fire medic students Justin Vorpagel, Julie Roller, and James Annelin completed paramedic school and earned their NREMT Paramedic licenses, marking another successful year for the program. Meanwhile, Antonia Kotansky started the program in and is scheduled to graduate in 2026.

3
Paramedic
Graduates

1
New Student

Union Contract Signed

We are pleased to report that a new labor agreement with Local 483 was successfully reached in 2025. The previous contract concluded at the end of 2023, and throughout the negotiation process the City worked closely with von Briesen & Roper, S.C. for legal guidance. The new contract is effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028. The Common Council formally passed and adopted the resolution on September 15, 2025. We appreciate the collaboration and commitment from all parties involved in reaching this agreement.

Task Force 1 Deployment



The Wisconsin Task Force 1 Swiftwater Team was deployed in July to assist in the aftermath of the severe flash floods in Texas. Two members of the City of Sheboygan Fire Department, Firefighter/Paramedics Michael Demcak and Steven Olig, joined the 16-person team conducting search operations along the Guadalupe River.

Our department began participating in Wisconsin Task Force 1 in June 2022. Task Force 1 is a specialized team designed to respond to both natural and man-made disasters across the nation. All associated training costs are reimbursed by the State of Wisconsin.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



Medical Director's Update



Erin McGlynn, MD, MPH
EMS Medical Director, Emergency Department
Aurora Medical Center Sheboygan County

Quality Improvement

As EMS call volumes have increased, the SFD continues to focus on medical and EMS training. The SFD Continuous Quality Improvement Committee (CQI) met regularly throughout 2025. The CQI Committee, comprised of SFD paramedics, aims to review, evaluate and improve patient care to ensure the highest quality medical care is provided to citizens of Sheboygan. This year, discussions from the CQI Committee led to development of future training topics and process improvements, including updates to equipment and medications to better serve our patients.

Prehospital Blood Program

In 2025, SFD and the Aurora Regional EMS Office began working toward the development of a prehospital blood program. Planning for this program began with a feasibility assessment for EMS delivered blood transfusion for patients with severe bleeding. After careful consideration of the logistics of blood storage, exchange and transfusion in the EMS setting, the program is set to begin in 2026.

Training and Resources

In collaboration with Sheboygan County Health & Human Services, SFD crews were able to provide free intranasal naloxone kits and substance use disorder treatment resources to patients in the community.

Other areas of training in 2025 included safe medication administration, assessment and treatment of behavioral health emergencies, airway and trauma treatment.



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU



Community Education

Fire safety begins with a strong public education program. Crews spent September and October visiting kindergarten through 4th grade classrooms to teach annual fire safety skills. In addition to this school-based programming, crews and staff participated in a wide range of community events throughout the year, including National Night Out, Touch-a-Truck, multiple fall festivals, and job fairs. We also supported broader outreach initiatives like the Lakeshore Housing Coalition’s Point-in-Time Count for veterans, Special Olympics basketball, and family-focused events with partners including Head Start, the YMCA, and United Way.

Having a presence at these events allows community members to connect with firefighter/paramedics in everyday settings, ask questions, and learn more about safety and services. By engaging with residents beyond emergency response, we continue to build the trust and relationships that contribute to a safer, more informed community.



99
Public Events
& Station Tours



11
Citizens Academy
Graduates

EVENT TYPE	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAMS (STUDENTS)	3,148	3,122	3,118	3,090	2,974
PUBLIC EVENTS	56	76	105	112	81
STATION TOURS	9	16	16	42	18



Citizens Fire Academy

The 2025 Citizens Fire Academy marked the fifth year of providing community members with an introduction to fire and emergency medical services at the City of Sheboygan Fire Department. Over the seven-week program, 11 participants including high school students, prospective public safety professionals, and engaged community members, took part in classroom and hands-on exercises across EMS, technical rescue, and search and rescue operations.

Program Overview:

- Learn about department history and discover what it feels like to wear all that gear
- Tour ambulances, practice using an AED, watch a patient care demonstration
- Try out various EMS tools on training mannequins (No blood!)
- Use the Jaws of Life on a real car
- Learn about technical rescues
- Experience fire scene operations including search and rescue, hydrants, hose and ladder use
- Learn about the Fire Prevention Bureau, investigations and home fire safety
- Get to know our crew members and ask candid questions regarding the fire service.



Join Us Next Year!

The Citizens Fire Academy is scheduled to continue this fall, operating from September through October on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Participation open to those 16 years of age and older.

The 2025 Citizens Fire Academy graduates in their turnout gear.



Fire Inspections

WORKLOAD	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
INSPECTIONS	2,267	2,742	2,556	2,358	2,450
INSTALLED SMOKE ALARMS	82	94	79	96	44
INVESTIGATIONS	84	89	78	75	67

All crews conduct annual fire safety inspections for commercial buildings, public gathering spaces, mixed-use properties, and residential buildings with three or more units. In 2025, 2,450 inspections were completed to help ensure these spaces remain safe and code-compliant.

What Inspections Look For

Crews check essential life-safety features, including:

- Clear and accessible exits
- Safe electrical systems
- Working fire extinguishers
- Properly maintained alarm and sprinkler systems

If violations are found, owners are given time to make corrections, and follow-up inspections occur only as needed.

Why Inspections Matter

- They reduce fire risks and keep occupants safe.
- Accurate contact information is confirmed so reports reach the right person and after-hours emergencies can be handled quickly.
- Building details—such as exits, stair locations, gas shutoffs, and alarm systems—are updated in our records management system, giving firefighters accurate information before they arrive on scene.



Update Your Property Contacts

(920) 459-3327

Fire.Department@SheboyganWi.Gov

If you're a new business owner or recently took over a property, please call or e-mail us to update your contact information. This ensures you receive inspection reports promptly and allows crews to reach the right person quickly during an after-hours emergency.

TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS



Sprinkler Systems

We were fortunate to have Wisconsin State Coordinator Steve Howard of the National Fire Sprinkler Association provide in-depth instruction on the components and operation of fire sprinkler systems. The sprinkler valve trailer allowed firefighters to see and interact directly with system components in a controlled, realistic environment. This training has greatly enhanced our department's understanding of sprinkler technology and strengthened our ability to respond effectively to incidents involving these systems.

Dementia Care

Our team participated in Dementia Care and EMS Response training led by the Sheboygan County Dementia Care Task Force. This essential program helps first responders better understand how to support individuals living with dementia during emergency calls. Through recognizing common symptoms and applying calm, compassionate de-escalation techniques, our department is working to reduce trauma, improve communication, and ensure safer, more supportive outcomes during crisis situations.

Electric Vehicle

This year, our personnel completed Electric Vehicle (EV) Safe Foundations I for Responders, strengthening our ability to manage EV-related emergencies. The training focused on EV and infrastructure safety, responder access, lithium-ion fire containment, and EV-specific extrication. These skills enhance crew safety, improve response efficiency, and help protect our community as EV use continues to rise.

Tower Training

Instructors from SBA Communications spent three days in Sheboygan training our crews in communication tower access, climbing, fall protection, and rescue. The goal was to help bridge the gap between the technicians who work on towers daily and our responders, strengthening safety and preparedness for both groups.



CAPITAL PROJECTS



As part of the City of Sheboygan's Capital Improvements Projects (CIP), the Fire Department took receipt of the following items scheduled for replacement:



AMBULANCE

\$336,000

AEV ARV Ford F-550 ambulance and equipment ordered July of 2021 and received in April 2025 after extensive manufacturing and supply chain delays as experienced by Fire/EMS departments nationwide.

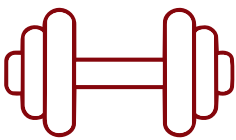
This ambulance order was the first order as part of a long-term, fleet replacement program to address aging vehicles in need of costly repairs and equipment updates.



AMBULANCE

\$443,549

Pomast Demers Ford F-450 ambulance and equipment were ordered January 2025 and received in May 2025.



FITNESS EQUIPMENT

\$20,000

Vision Fitness functional trainers and adjustable benches were ordered for each fire station. The department's physical fitness equipment is heavily used by fire personnel each day as part of our mandatory fitness program.



TURNOUT GEAR

\$44,321

Due to the nature of fire emergency services, it is crucial to replace gear regularly. This is an annual replacement purchasing request. Turnout coats, pants, boots, gloves and hoods were purchased including variations for more female sizing.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

PROJECT UPDATE

Overview

The City of Sheboygan plans to rebuild Fire Station 3 Headquarters, Fire Station 2 and construct a new Public Safety Training Complex next to the Police Department. These projects ensure modern, safe and efficient facilities for fire, EMS and police for decades to come.

Why the Community Needs This Investment

- Stations built in 1971 and 1979 no longer meet safety, or operational standards.
- Station 3 Headquarters and Station 2 are not ADA-compliant.
- Neither station supports modern co-ed living, creating privacy and staffing challenges.
- A 2019 study identified nearly \$1 million in repairs at Station 3 alone —not including modernization.
- Current layouts lack safe decontamination zones, and cancer-risk-reduction features.
- Apparatus bays are over capacity resulting in outdoor storage of vehicles.
- The city has no modern training facility to support coordinated emergency response.



Conceptual Design of Public Safety Complex as presented in Sheboygan Public Safety Departments: Study Progress Update on August 18, 2025, at City of Sheboygan Common Council.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

What the Project Includes

Rebuild of Fire Station 3 Headquarters (N. 23 St)

- Fully accessible, ADA-compliant
- On-site training room integrated with Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Private bunkrooms and facilities for co-ed staffing
- Modern decontamination layout to reduce cancer risk
- Right-sized apparatus bays for current and future equipment

Rebuild of Fire Station 2

- Updated living and working spaces
- Modern mechanical, electrical, and safety systems
- Functional design that supports today's emergency services

Public Safety Training Complex (next to the Police Department)

- Police evidence storage
- Police firing range
- "Dirty classroom" for critiquing after live fire training
- Multi-level fire training tower
- Shared space for joint public safety training



Five Bugles Design[™]

Wendel / Five Bugles Design was selected in 2024 as the project architect with over 140 years of combined public safety experience.

Key Milestones

2019

- Engineering study identifies major repair needs

2021–2023

- Facility needs analysis; new construction recommended

Early 2024

- City purchases N. 23rd Street site

2024

- Architect selected; demolition completed

August 2025

- Conceptual Design approved

End of 2025

- Schematic Design
 - Big picture items
 - Confirming size, massing, general systems

➔ What's Next?

Before any construction begins, the architecture firm, Five Bugles Design, and City leadership will continue to seek approval by Common Council at the next check points:

- Design Development (Spring 2026)
- Construction Documents (Summer/Fall 2026)
- Bid (Winter 2026)
- Construction (Spring 2027)

In memory of retired Board of Police & Fire
Commissioner **Robert “Bob” F. Lettre, Sr.**



Contact Us

Station 3 - Headquarters
1326 N 25 Street, Sheboygan, WI 53081
(920) 459-3327 | **For Emergencies, Dial 911**