

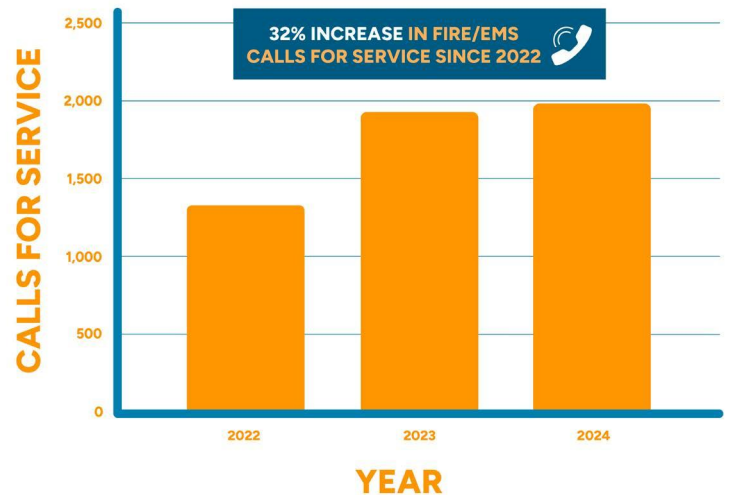
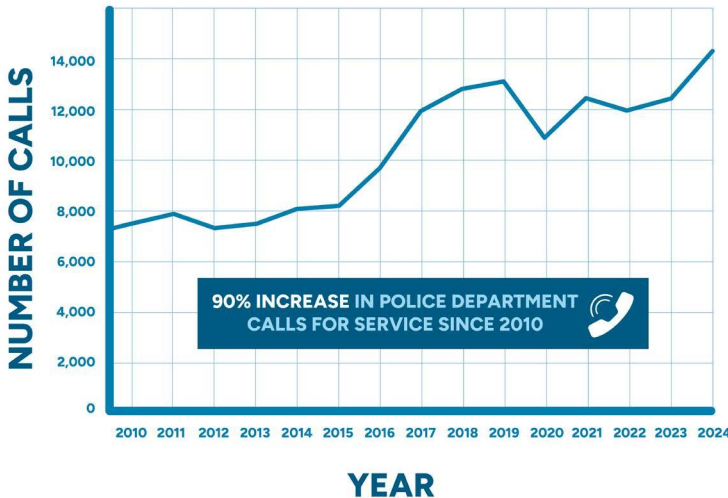


Public Safety REFERENDUM

Vote Tuesday, April 1, 2025

The City of Whitewater has identified the need to add full-time personnel to its Police and Fire departments, as current public safety funding levels and staffing models are insufficient to meet the growing demands and needs of the community. The Whitewater Police Department has seen a 90% increase

in calls for service since 2010, while staffing has remained flat. Since 2022, there has been a 32% increase in calls of service to the Whitewater Fire Department, while paid-on-call staffing continues to decrease, requiring an increase in full-time Fire/EMS personnel to meet the growing needs.



Voters will be asked on April 1, 2025 whether or not to support an increase in the City’s annual tax levy, beginning with bills issued in December 2025.

Why Referendum?



The City needs additional funding to meet the public safety needs of the community as both the volume

and complexity of calls for service continue to increase.



While the need for our public safety resources continues to rise, current funding sources are stagnant or

decreasing, and our existing staffing levels inhibit our ability to adequately respond to calls for service.



Because of state-imposed levy limits, Whitewater must ask for approval from taxpayers through a referendum to increase the tax levy to

fund these services.

If a majority vote “YES”

If Whitewater residents approve the referendum, the property tax levy in 2025 would increase by approximately \$1,305,782 going forward to cover the cost of five additional police officers, a dispatcher, two cross-trained firefighters/EMTs, and their necessary equipment.

If the referendum passes, a homeowner in the City of Whitewater who lives in Jefferson County will see an annual property tax increase of approximately \$92.00 annually or \$1.77 weekly per \$100,000 of assessed property value, and in Walworth County, will see an increase of \$118.00 annually, or \$2.27 weekly per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

Property Tax Impact \$1,305,782 Total Increase		
Assessed Property Value	Estimated Annual Property Tax Increase	
	Jefferson County	Walworth County
\$100,000	\$92	\$118
\$250,000	\$230	\$295

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 not** be the equivalent of maintaining the status quo of police and fire/EMS services.

A “no” vote means the City will not be able to hire additional officers or firefighters/EMTs, impacting its ability to provide the level of service the citizens of Whitewater deserve.

Investing in additional staff supports proactive policing—preventing crime, improving efficiency, and building trust by addressing issues before they escalate, as well as ensuring emergency response personnel are available to respond to calls in a timely manner.

Vote April 1

Voting information can be found on the City’s website at whitewater-wi.gov/615/Police-and-Fire-EMS-Referendum or myvote.wi.gov

In-person Early Voting:

At the City Clerk’s Office
Monday through Friday;
March 18 – March 28
from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

By Absentee Ballot:

Deadline to submit application
for mailed absentee ballot:
March 28 by 5:00 p.m.

On Election Day:

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