

CITY OF LAKEVILLE

Full-Time Fire Department



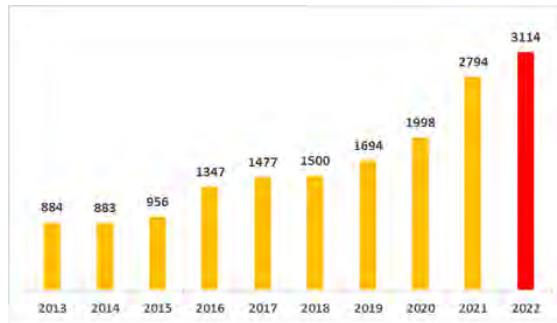
IN 2024, the City of Lakeville will transition to a hybrid fire department of full-time and paid-on-call staff members. The City of Lakeville has grown and we're staffing to support those needs. Today, community members, who are paid-on-call firefighters, respond to all emergency calls such as car accidents, fires and medical assistance within all 38 square miles of the City, providing these services to residents and more than 1,400 businesses. The City of Lakeville will be adding 18 full-time firefighters that provide 24/7 response that will complement the paid-on-call firefighters.



The City has applied for a federal grant to help offset 100% of staffing costs for the first three years with no matching funds required. After the three years, property taxes would then fund these positions. The grant award announcement is anticipated in fall 2023. If we do not receive the grant this year, the City still intends to move forward with six full-time members in 2024. Property taxes would fund these positions and the City would continue to apply for grant funding.

Steady, Fast Growth

The City has been one of the fastest growing communities in the state for many years, representing growth of nearly 30 percent since 2000. Lakeville's population is 72,812—the largest city in Dakota County and the ninth largest city in Minnesota. Calls have doubled since 2019, especially medical emergencies. What worked in the past simply cannot meet the needs of a larger community and beyond.



Recruitment & Retention


Hiring and recruiting paid-on-call firefighters is challenging with most people having full-time employment and family needs. A hybrid model addresses this challenge and ensures that we are always staffed properly for any public safety issues.

Response Time

Fast response times matter in cases of mortality and property damage. The survivability of a sudden cardiac arrest decreases 10% a minute. The cost of fire damage increases each minute it burns. Full-time firefighters, on duty 24/7, will be on the scene much faster to help save lives and limit property loss.



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