



Palmyra Public Safety Department
Police/Fire/Rescue
126 N. First Street
Palmyra, WI 53156

Director's Update – August 2026 Budget Status & Operations Report

2026 Budget Status (as of 8/27/2026)

- **Full-time Fire/EMS Wages:**
\$361,786 budgeted; \$232,314.63 actual (64.21% utilized)
- **Part-time Fire/EMS Wages:**
\$120,890 budgeted; \$92,260.99 actual (**76% utilized**)
- **Full-time Police Wages:**
\$169,329 budgeted; \$95,223.07 actual (44% utilized)*
- **Part-time Police Wages:**
\$46,350.00 budgeted; \$58,918.61 actual (**127% utilized**)*

Notes:

- Part-time police wages are higher than typical due to being down one full-time officer in the first half of the year, requiring increased part-time coverage.
 - Full-time police wages are trending significantly under budget (~25%), which is helping offset the increased part-time usage.
 - ***PSO (Police Officer, Firefighter/EMT) full-time wages, benefits, with family plan health \$131,759. Firefighter/EMT full-time wages, benefits, with family plan health \$104,215.**
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Operations Update

Year-To-Date (YTD) 2026 Calls for Service

- **Police:** 865 (556 YTD in 2025) — approximately a **65% increase in calls** for service (including traffic stops).
- **Fire/EMS:** 227

🚓 **The Police Division has** experienced a **65% increase** in call volume compared to this time last year, responding to **865** calls for service with the same number of officers. Despite Sgt. Lepak absorbing both Sergeant and administrative assistant duties due to extended medical leave, officers have increased proactive policing efforts, including traffic stops, business checks, and community engagement. Coverage has expanded from **5 days/10 hours per day** to **6 days/11 hours per day**. 🚒 🚑 Our PSOs have been essential in backfilling major fire incidents and supporting Fire/EMS operations when staffing is strained. The team is delivering significantly more service with the same staffing levels, demonstrating exceptional commitment, adaptability, and operational efficiency.

August 2026 Calls for Service

- **Police:** 110
- **Fire/EMS:** 34

August Critical Call Activity

Police Report

- 1 Traffic Accident reported.
- 1 Sexual Assault case currently under investigation.



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- 3 Ongoing drug-related investigations.
- 2 Warrant arrests
- 1 Stolen vehicle recovered

Fire/EMS Report

- 2 significant traffic accidents
- 2 Overdoses
- 1 Large Structure Fire at Standard Process Farm

August Response Times

- **Police Average Response Time:** 3 minutes,
- **Fire/EMS Average Response Time:** 3 minutes, 25 seconds

🕒 Rapid response times remain critical to life safety:

- Brain injury can begin within 4 minutes in cardiac or respiratory arrest.
- Fires can double in size every 60 seconds.
- Law enforcement response times are critical during high-risk incidents.

The Village of Palmyra is home to multiple schools and Standard Process, the community's largest employer. Maintaining a local police presence with an average response time of approximately 3 minutes provides significantly greater protection than reliance on mutual aid alone.



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August Training & Certifications

Fire & EMS

1. 1 member completed EMT class
2. 1 member completed Driver Operator (pumper)
3. 1 member completed Firefighter 2

Police

- Police Instructor Classes and Recert
- Investigation
- Range

Public Relations & Community Engagement

- Lions club meeting
- Village and Town board meetings
- Rockin' The Park

Upcoming Events

- **September 26th 12-4pm, Hot Dogs & Heroes Touch- A-Truck, Village Park!**



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PD Squad Replacement

President Gorseigner and Chairwoman Wallace:

I wanted to provide my recommendation regarding replacement of our 2020 police squad.

We currently have a 2020 squad truck with approximately 50,000 miles and a 2022 squad with approximately 40,000 miles. Both remain in decent overall condition.

Historically, previous Police Chiefs/Public Safety Directors maintained approximately a three-year squad replacement cycle, with at least one replacement occurring around the 2.5- to 3-year mark. Due to budget limitations, we previously discussed extending this closer to five years. The 2020 squad has now been stretched to approximately seven years, and I would not recommend extending a frontline police vehicle significantly beyond that due to reliability concerns.

Police squads also cannot be evaluated by mileage alone. They experience substantial idle time, repeated starting and stopping, electrical loads from emergency equipment and computers, and must remain dependable at all times.

With Board approval and direction, I would strongly consider pursuing a low-mileage vehicle that is approximately one year old and already assembled for law enforcement use. Opportunities like this can often save the Village at least one-third or more compared with purchasing and fully outfitting a new police vehicle. We have recently been pursuing potential leads from North Prairie and other departments for vehicles that may become available.

I have recently discussed our replacement needs with the Public Safety Committee Chair and Budget Committee Chair. Since this is a capital expense requiring full Board approval, I recommend placing this on an upcoming August Board agenda for discussion and possible approval.



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This may also be a consideration for the upcoming loan which includes the public safety building maintenance.

If an appropriate low-mileage, pre-assembled law enforcement vehicle cannot be located, I would recommend authorization to proceed with ordering a new replacement squad for 2027.

For future planning, I recommend continuing to monitor the 2022 squad and tentatively planning its replacement in 2028 or 2029 based on condition, mileage, engine hours, and maintenance costs.

This approach balances fiscal responsibility with our need to maintain reliable and dependable emergency vehicles.

Thank you for your consideration.