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

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

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2026 Budget Status (as of 10/29/2026)

- **Full-time Fire/EMS Wages:**
  $361,786 budgeted; $287846.75 actual (80% utilized)
- **Part-time Fire/EMS Wages:**
  $120,890 budgeted; $120,510 actual (**99% utilized**)*
- **Full-time Police Wages:**
  $169,329 budgeted; $98,175.48 actual (58% utilized)*
- **Part-time Police Wages:**
  $46,350.00 budgeted; $67,199.82 actual (**144% 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:** 1,126 (745 YTD in 2025) — approximately a **51*% increase in calls*** for service (including traffic stops).
- **Fire/EMS:** 306

🚓 The Police Division continues to deliver substantially more service with the same staffing levels. Officers have handled 1,126 calls for service year to date, including traffic stops, compared with 745 during the same period in 2025—a 51.1% increase, representing 381 additional calls. During October, officers handled 69 calls while continuing proactive patrol, traffic enforcement, business checks, investigations, and community engagement.

Police coverage has expanded from five days per week at 10 hours per day to six days per week at 11 hours per day, increasing officer availability and visibility. Sgt. Lepak has also continued handling administrative assistant responsibilities alongside his supervisory duties during an extended staff absence. On October 5, police and Fire/EMS responded after a Department of Public Works employee was struck by a vehicle near West Main and Fourth Streets. The employee was transported for medical evaluation, and the driver was cited. On October 13, personnel coordinated the response to chicken waste spilled along Highway 59 and Maple Street, working with Daybreak Foods regarding cleanup and notifying the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

🚓 🚒 The value of cross-trained Public Safety Officers was especially evident on October 8, when three PSOs provided the initial response to downed, arcing electrical wires and an associated exterior residential fire while Fire/EMS personnel were conducting fire prevention activities outside the village. Additional personnel and We Energies responded. No injuries were reported.

The department was also awarded a $2,000 grant for a ballistic shield to improve officer protection during high-risk responses. Throughout October, officers balanced increased call activity with proactive policing and support for Fire/EMS, demonstrating continued commitment, flexibility, and efficient use of available personnel.

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October 2026 Calls for Service

- **Police: 69**
- **Fire/EMS: 31**

August Critical Call Activity

Police Report

- 1 Disorderly Conduct.
- 1 Sexual Assault case currently under investigation.
- 1 Assault/Battery investigation
- 2 Ongoing drug-related investigations.
- 1 Warrant arrest
- 1 Motor Vehicle accident investigation

Fire/EMS Report

- 2 significant traffic accidents

October Response Times

- **Police Average Response Time:** 3 minutes, 02 seconds
- **Fire/EMS Average Response Time:** 3 minutes, 15 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.

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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.

October Training & Certifications

Fire & EMS

- 1 in Advanced EMT class
- 1 in Firefighter One class

Police

- Police Instructor Classes and Recert
- Investigation
- Range

Public Relations & Community Engagement

- Life Saving Award Ceremony
- Village and Town board meetings

Upcoming Events

- **Halloween Celebration on October 31st event kicks off at 2:00PM at the Public Safety building followed by parade and Trick or Treat.**