

2025 Annual Report

# Wauwatosa Police & Fire Commission

# PFC Members

- Danielle Long, President
- Greg Leahy, Vice President
- Victor Plantinga, Secretary
- Phillip Morris
- Stan Stojkovic

# Mission

The Police and Fire Commission is required by state statute 62.13 to fulfill certain functions in Wauwatosa. The Commission consists of 5 unpaid, volunteer Wauwatosa residents, appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Common Council to five-year rotating terms.

# PFC Responsibilities under 62.13

1. The PFC shall appoint the chiefs of the police and fire departments who shall hold their offices during good behavior, subject to suspension or removal by the PFC for cause.
2. Establish qualifications for candidates for each department, including physical, educational, prior experience and testing.
3. Oversee the recruitment, testing and hiring process for the departments.

# PFC Responsibilities under 62.13

4. Interview candidates for each department.
5. Certify a list of candidates for hire by each department, maintained by the City Clerk.
6. Approve the Chiefs' appointments of subordinates.

# PFC Responsibilities under 62.13

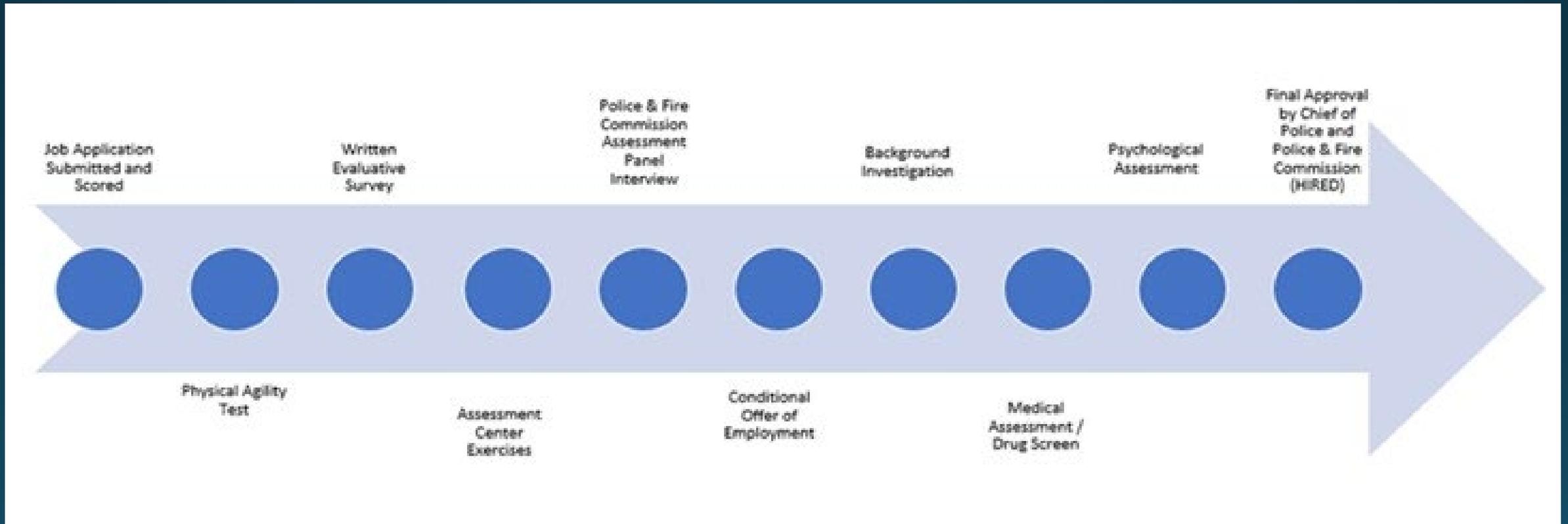
7. Conduct disciplinary hearings on charges that may result in suspension, demotion, or termination of an employee if the employee requests a hearing. The Commission is required to address specific standards for whether just cause exists to sustain disciplinary charges.

# PFC Meetings

- The PFC meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month with the exception of July, August and December unless a special meeting (often interviews).
- Meetings are held at 4:30 pm at City Hall. Meetings are available via zoom however they are not recorded.
- Officer positions are voted on in May. Secretary is appointed by the Chair.

# Police Hiring Process Timeline

The time from application opening date to hire date is 17-18 weeks, or about four and a half months.



# Police Officer Interviews and Hiring 2025

**Number of Police Officer Candidate Interview Events: 5 down 2 from 2024)**

- January 27
- May 6
- September 3
- October 2
- December 9

# Police Officer Hiring 2025

**Number of Police Officer Candidates Interviewed: 10  
(down from 21 in 2024)**

- Jan: 2 candidates
- May: 4 candidates
- Sept: 1 candidate
- Oct: 1 candidate
- Dec: 2 candidates

# Police Officer Hiring 2025

**Number of Candidates Put on Eligibility List/Given conditional offer: 10 (100%)**

# Police Officer Hiring Statistics 2025

**Number of Candidates Hired: 5 (out of 10)**

- Jan: 1 candidate
- May: 2 candidates
- Sept: 0 candidates
- Oct: 1 candidate hired in Jan, 2026 – Relocated from OOS)
- Dec: 1 candidate pending hire due to relocation

# Police Officer Hiring Statistics

Number of Candidates Retained (as of 2/11/2026): 3 plus 1 pending. This is down from 5 in 2024 and 13 in 2023.

Jan: 1

May: 1

Oct: 1

December: 1 pending

# Firefighter Hiring and Interview Information 2025

Joint process with North Shore, West Allis and St. Francis fire departments

## Spring Hiring Process:

- Fall 2024 applications opened. 81 applicants
  - 49 invited to interview joint process – January, 2025
  - PFC interviewed 12 2/4/25
    - 3 interns
- 5 firefighters hired and completed JFTA
- 1 FF left after 2 months to take another position out of state.

# Firefighter Hiring Process

- Fall Hiring Process
  - Joint Fire Panel Interviews – June, 2025
  - 72 applicants
  - 50 invited to interview
- PFC Interviews – June, 2025
  - 11 interviews (5 interns)
  - 3 hired for JFTA and presently on shift
    - All interns

# Firefighter Interns 2025

- April Intern Process
- 46 applied (up 12 from 2024)
- PFC interviewed 21 applicants in April
- 10 offered internships
  - 3 applicants were not yet 18.
  - 6 interns hired as firefighters

# Firefighter Interns 2025

## July Intern Process

- 60 applicants
- 21 interviewed
- 11 offered internships

# Promotions

# Police Department Promotions

## PFC approves promotional process

- Ofr Michael Leeman was promoted to the rank of Sergeant effective Jan 12th.
- Lt. Katie Gierach was promoted to the rank of Captain effective Feb 24th.
- Sgt. Abby Pavlik was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant effective Feb 24th
- Patrol Specialist Brian Wade was promoted to Detective effective March 7th.

# Police Department Promotions

- Ofr. Alejandro Patnode –Fonseca was promoted to the rank of Sergeant effective April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Officer George Opelt was promoted to the rank of Sergeant effective July 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Patrol Specialist Daniel Mitchell was promoted to the rank Detective effective Oct 5<sup>th</sup>
- Officer Dexter Schleis was appointed to the rank of Community Support Specialist effective Oct 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Sergeant Jacob Grosnick was promoted to the rank of Lieutenants effective Dec 14<sup>th</sup>.

# Fire Department Promotions 2025

## Lieutenant

- 10 applied
- 7 passed the process
- FF Brandon Schauz promoted 9/5/2025

# Fire Department Promotions 2025

## Deputy Chief

- 18 applied (internal/external)
- Lt. Travis Padgett promoted 3/23/2025

# Fire Department Promotions

## Assistant Chief

- 3 applicants
- Captain Ryan Stanwood promoted on 1/6/2025

# Fire Department Promotions

## Interim Chief

The PFC approved AC Barbara Kadrich for the position of Interim Chief on 11/19/2025.

Chief Jim Case retired on 1/16/2026

Questions?