

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

October 21, 2025

Ald. Peter Burgelis
(414) 286-3768

MEDIA ADVISORY

Public Safety and Health Committee to discuss implications of aging MFD fleet

The Public Safety and Health Committee during its next meeting on **Thursday, October 23 at 9 a.m.** will hear a communication file from the Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD) regarding its aging apparatus and its impact on the community. The communication file, sponsored by committee **Vice Chair Alderman Peter Burgelis**, aims to publicly discuss the community health and safety implications of the aging fire engine and ladder truck fleet. The committee will gain detailed information on the fleet's age, reliability, trends in out-of-service vehicles, coverage implications, and the need for replacements.

Attendees of the meeting will include members of the Milwaukee Common Council's Public Safety and Health Committee, leadership from the Milwaukee Fire Department, and other city staff. **Media are invited to cover the meeting** in person in room 301-B at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St. The meeting will also be streamed live on the City Channel (channel 25 on Spectrum Cable and channel 99 on AT&T U-Verse in the City of Milwaukee) and via streaming video on the city website at city.milwaukee.gov/CityChannel.

Why it Matters

Fire engines and ladder trucks are essential components of emergency response. Their condition directly influences response times, firefighter safety, and the overall coverage of neighborhoods. This discussion will provide valuable insights that will inform the committee's short-term and long-term budget decisions, ensuring the safety and protection of residents.

Background

The aging apparatus of the Milwaukee Fire Department poses significant challenges to the city's emergency response capabilities. Addressing these issues is crucial to maintaining the city's safety and ensuring that residents receive timely and effective emergency services.

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MFD Communication File/ADD ONE

- Fire Chief Aaron Lipski has warned that many of the city’s frontline engines and ladder trucks are well beyond their recommended service life, with several exceeding 15 years and some reserve units over 20 years old.
- Three ladder trucks recently failed safety certification, prompting the chief to warn of a potential “doomsday scenario” in which parts of the city could temporarily lack ladder coverage.
- The Mayor’s proposed 2026 budget includes \$2 million for apparatus replacement, an amount that may only fund a single new engine, far short of the department’s estimated \$27 million need over the next two years to maintain safe and reliable response capacity.
- The Fire Department’s briefing will outline the public safety risks of deferred replacement and the potential fiscal implications of continued underinvestment.
- Alderman Burgelis has emphasized that “when a fire truck can’t roll, someone’s call for help goes unanswered,” urging stronger reinvestment to sustain essential emergency services citywide.

Additional materials

An attached document provides a station-by-station breakdown of fire engine and ladder truck age, location by address, and aldermanic district, offering a transparent view of which neighborhoods are most affected by aging apparatus.

Media availability

Alderman Burgelis and MFD representatives will be available for interviews before and after the agenda item, as time allows. Please contact the Aldermanic office in advance to coordinate an interview at (414) 286-3768 or Sherry.Prochaska@milwaukee.gov.

Frontline Engines						\$2M	
District	Address	Co .	Code	Year	Age 2025	Age 2026	
Bauman	784 N. Broadway, 53202	E01	340	2008	17	0	
Pratt	4141 W. Mill Road, 53209	E09	307	2008	17	18	
Spiker	6074 S. 13th Street, 53221	E14	343	2008	17	18	
Spiker	4653 S. 13th Street, 53221	E17	356	2008	17	18	
Burgelis	3529 S. 84th Street, 53228	E29	344	2008	17	18	
Coggs	2050 N. Palmer Street, 53212	E21	3011	2010	15	16	
Brower	2647 N. Bartlett Avenue, 53211	E27	3012	2010	15	16	
Taylor	8025 W. Bradley Road, 53223	E39	3010	2010	15	16	
Dimitrijevic	2526 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue, 53207	E11	3013	2011	14	15	
Coggs	3628 N. Holton Street, 53212	E18	3014	2011	14	15	
Moore	6205 W. Burleigh Street, 53210	E34	3015	2011	14	15	
Bauman	755 N. James Lovell Street, 53233	E02	3021	2014	11	12	
Burgelis	5600 W. Oklahoma Avenue, 53219	E10	3016	2014	11	12	
Spiker	2130 W. Oklahoma Avenue, 53215	E12	3017	2014	11	12	
Westmoreland	8814 W. Lisbon Avenue, 53222	E22	3023	2014	11	12	
Jackson	4927 W. Fiebrantz Avenue, 53216	E24	3022	2014	11	12	
Taylor	8463 N. Granville Road, 53224	E38	3018	2014	11	12	
Dimitrijevic	2400 S. 8th Street, 53215	E31	3019	2014	11	12	
Dimitrijevic	3174 S. Chase Avenue, 53207	E07	3025	2015	10	11	
Zamarripa*	4515 W. Burnham Street, 53214	E33	3024	2015	10	11	
Westmoreland	10320 W. Fond du Lac Avenue, 53224	E16	3026	2016	9	10	
Westmoreland	9511 W. Appleton Avenue, 53225	E04	3028	2017	8	9	
Chambers	5585 N. 69th Street, 53218	E08	3027	2017	8	9	
Moore	424 N. 30th Street, 53208	E28	3029	2020	5	6	
Pratt	4060 N. 27th Street, 53216	E36	3031	2020	5	6	
Jackson	5335 N. Teutonia Avenue, 53209	E37	3034	2024	1	2	
Zamarripa	1140 S. 26th Street, 53204	E26	3036 E-ON	2024	1	2	
Stamper	1551 N. 30th Street, 53208	E32	3033	2024	1	2	
Coggs	2903 N. Teutonia Avenue, 53206	E30	3037 E-ON	2024	1	2	
Jackson	2901 N. 30th Street, 53210	E13	3035 E-ON	2024	1	2	
Perez	1400 S. 9th Street, 53204	E23	3023	2024	1	2	
Average Age- Engines					10.0	10.4	

Frontline Ladder Trucks						\$2M	
District	Address	Co.	Code	Year	Age 2025	Age 2026	
Spiker	6074 S. 13th Street, 53221	T08	428	2004	21	22	
Westmoreland	9511 W. Appleton Avenue, 53225	T03	2011	2011	14	15	
Coggs	2903 N. Teutonia Avenue, 53206	T12	2012	2012	13	14	
Taylor	8025 W. Bradley Road, 53223	T07	2013	2013	12	13	
Brower	2647 N. Bartlett Avenue, 53211	T05	2014	2014	11	12	
Bauman	755 N. James Lovell Street, 53233	T02	2015	2021	4	5	
Stamper	1551 N. 30th Street, 53208	T09	2016	2021	4	5	
Spiker	2130 W. Oklahoma Avenue, 53215	T01	2017	2022	3	4	
Average Age- Trucks					10.3	11.3	