



NEWS

from the City of Lakeville, Minnesota

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Lakeville Receives \$5.56M Grant to Hire 15 New Full-Time Firefighters

Lakeville, MN, October 8, 2024—The City of Lakeville has announced that the Lakeville Fire Department (LFD) has been awarded a \$5.56 million grant by Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER), a program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The grant will provide funding to hire 15 additional full-time firefighters, bringing the total number in the department to 21. The money will fully cover the salaries and benefits of the new firefighters. The hiring process is expected to begin later in October of 2024. The SAFER grant was established to provide direct funding to help increase the number of trained firefighters available in communities.

Mayor Luke Hellier remarked, “This grant is a significant win for Lakeville. As our community continues to grow, so do our public safety needs. Securing these funds allows us to increase our fire department’s capacity more rapidly than anticipated, which is vital for maintaining the safety and well-being of our residents. We are grateful for this support and excited to welcome new firefighters to our team.”

“Our City has grown by 27% in residents over the past decade, along with the addition of numerous businesses. Our needs have evolved, and we’ve been proactive in addressing them. Expanding our full-time fire staff will allow us to enhance response times and broaden our services to better serve our community,” Fire Chief Mike Meyer commented.

The results of a comprehensive study conducted in 2020, and finalized in 2022, showed that to meet the needs of our growing community, LFD should plan to increase its full-time firefighting staffing levels. The initial plan was to slowly add more firefighters by 2028. Thanks to this generous grant, LFD can hire these full-time firefighters now, which will significantly improve the department's emergency response times and services provided to our community.

This is the first time Lakeville has been awarded a SAFER grant.

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About Lakeville: Situated in the southern suburbs of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area, the City of Lakeville is the largest city in Dakota County with an estimated 2024 population of 75,217.