



## City of Rochester

---

400 Sixth Street  
Rochester, MI 48307  
P: (248) 651-9061  
F: (248) 651-2624  
[www.rochestermi.org](http://www.rochestermi.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: John Cieslik,  
Rochester Fire Chief  
248/651-4470**

### **ROCHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES NEW STAFFING MODEL**

The City of Rochester is proud to announce that on Wednesday, February 13 the Rochester Fire Department swore-in its first full- and part-time firefighters. This transition from paid volunteer to a hybrid staffing model comes after the department celebrating nearly 125 years of service.

In late 2017, the Rochester City Council commissioned a Fire Study Committee to evaluate fire operations and explore opportunities to both improve services and response times. The Study Committee analyzed response times using real-time traffic analytics. Two principal variables were identified: the time a firefighter spent driving to the station and the response time from the station to the resident. With no way to shorten the latter, the only option was to shorten the time to the station.

The fire study committee recommended a hybrid staffing model consisting of full-, part-time and volunteer fire fighters, staffing six per day, seven days a week. This new staffing model will result in the reduction of response times by half.

To help fund this transition, last year the City of Rochester received a \$2.4MIL grant from FEMA – the largest grant received by the City of Rochester to date.

“For 125 years, the volunteers of the Rochester Fire Department have demonstrated an unshakable resolve to protecting life and property. This transition honors their dedication and marks the beginning of an addendum, rather than a new chapter, in our first-responder story, stated Rochester Mayor Rob Ray. We will always need our volunteers, and these new sworn fire fighters exemplify our commitment to an institution so critical to our community, now and forever”.

From its founding in 1895, equipped with 800 feet of hose and two pull-carts, to the addition of Advance Life Saving (ALS) emergency medical response in 2009, the men and women volunteers of the City of Rochester Fire Department have bravely served our residents.

For more information, please contact Fire Chief John Cieslik at 248/651-4470.