



La Crosse Fire Department

Fire Chief Jeff Schott

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February 18th, 2026

Honorable Police & Fire Commission:

Please accept this month's attached report from the La Crosse Fire Department. As committed to in our department's Mission Statement, we continue to promote safety, reduce risks, and respond to calls for fire suppression, emergency medical services, and all-hazards rescue. We continue to strive to earn our community's trust through preparedness, professionalism, and dedicated to service.

Please find the following enclosed:

Personnel Updates

Department Highlights

Training Updates

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Schott

Fire Chief Jeff Schott



La Crosse Fire Department

Personnel Changes:

Current department staffing status as of January 31st:

Department Staffing Summary		
	Approved	Current
Sworn	98	93
Civilian	2	2
	100	95

Notable Incidents:

January 1st, LCFD responded to a structure fire at 729 6th Street South at 6:52 pm. Upon arrival, crews encountered heavy fire and smoke conditions on the first and second floors of the building. Bystanders advised initial arriving crews that an unknown number of occupants may have been inside. Firefighters quickly worked to contain the fire while simultaneously conducting a thorough search of the structure for any trapped or injured occupants. The main body of the fire was brought under control, and crews remained on scene for more than three hours to identify and extinguish hidden fires within the building's structural spaces. A total of 19 fire service personnel responded to the incident. There were no civilian or firefighter injuries reported.

January 3rd, LCFD responded to a structure fire at 1415 5th Avenue South at 4:47 pm. Upon arrival, firefighters encountered rapidly advancing fire within the walls and ceilings of two of the building's eight apartments. Crews searched the structure, evacuated remaining tenants, and initiated an aggressive interior attack. Extensive efforts were required to locate and extinguish deep-seated pockets of fire within the heavily modified building, which was originally constructed as a single-family home. A total of 21 fire service personnel responded and remained on scene for more than three hours to complete extinguishment and investigate the cause of the fire. No injuries to residents or firefighters were reported.

January 13th, LCFD responded to a structure fire at 4329 Cliffside Drive at 8:29 pm. On arrival, firefighters found heavy fire engulfing the side of the home near a fireplace bump out. Crews rapidly extinguished the fire with hand lines and entered the home to check for fire extension and to confirm all residents had safely evacuated. The fire was under control within 10 minutes of arrival with extensive overhaul needed on both stories of the home's exterior and second floor interior. Fire investigators determined the cause of the fire originated in the wood burning fireplace and extended into the house's structural components and exterior siding. No injuries to residents or firefighters were reported.

January 14th, LCFD responded to a garage fire at W5290 County Road B at 1:49 am. When crews arrived on scene, the garage was fully involved with flames. Dispatchers also advised responding firefighters of a propane tank located behind the garage. Due to the intense heat from the fire, the tank safely released pressure on its own, a built-in safety feature designed to prevent an explosion. Firefighters were able to quickly bring the main body of the fire under control within minutes of arrival. However, it took approximately 45 minutes to fully stabilize the scene. Crews remained on site for nearly four hours to ensure the fire was completely extinguished, check for any hidden hot spots, and confirm the fire had not spread beyond the garage. Access to water was a challenge due to limited nearby fire hydrants. The La Crosse Fire Department is grateful for the assistance of the Holmen Area Fire Department, which provided an additional water tender and helped establish a portable water tank system to continuously shuttle water to the scene.



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Division of Training and Professional Standards Summary

EMS Refresher

