

PRESS RELEASE—Contact DSPS Newsroom at dspnewsroom@wisconsin.gov

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DSPS Distributes more than \$32 Million to Wisconsin Fire Departments

\$4 million increase over last year's 2% Fire Dues payments

Madison, WI – The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) recently sent payments totaling \$32,171,000 to fire departments across the state as part of the Wisconsin 2% Fire Dues Program. The figure represents a nearly \$4 million increase over the total distribution in 2023.

“Safety is a primary mission and focus for our department, and this program makes a tremendous impact on the safety of Wisconsin communities and families,” said DSPS Secretary Dan Hereth. “These funds help pay for vital local fire department programs.”

The 2% Fire Dues Program is a significant source of funding for the state’s professional, volunteer, and hybrid fire departments, which use the money to buy and replace equipment, operate fire prevention programming, train crews, and more.

The program requires insurers to pay 2% of premiums collected for insurance against loss from fires. The Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance collects the dues, and DSPS distributes the dues to cities, towns, and villages across the state according to a prescribed formula. You can see a [detailed accounting of the 2024 distribution](#) on the DSPS website.

“Wisconsin’s fire departments provide vital, life-saving services to our communities” said Sec. Hereth. “That’s why financial support is essential and why Gov. Tony Evers and our department will continue to advocate for proper funding for Wisconsin’s local fire departments.”

In addition to protective gear, fire departments in Wisconsin have used Fire Dues funding on things like fire engines, ladder trucks, and fire suppression equipment.

“Fire departments are invaluable community safety partners, so this funding really benefits all Wisconsin communities by making sure their local departments can improve fire safety education and be better-equipped when called upon,” said DSPS Field Services Director Bradley Johnson.

In addition to the Fire Dues program, DSPS regulates firefighter health and safety, and also manages Wisconsin’s [fire prevention program](#). DSPS also launched a youth firefighter training grant program in 2022 to help address recruitment and retention challenges in the fire service. Grants were awarded to local fire departments in [2022](#), [2023](#) and [2024](#).

About DSPS: DSPS issues more than 240 unique licenses, administers dozens of boards and councils that regulate professions, enforces state building codes, and maintains the Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which is a key tool in the multi-faceted public health campaign to stem excessive opioid prescribing. A fee-based agency, DSPS is self-

sustaining and receives no general fund tax dollars for its day-to-day operations. DSPS collaborates with constituents and stakeholders across a wide range of industries to promote safety and strengthen the state's licensed workforce, building a safer and more productive Wisconsin.

