Department of
Safety and Professional Services

Tony Evers, Governor
Dan Hereth, Secretary

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

June 23, 2026
DSPS Communications
608-220-1553

DSPS Distributes more than $38 Million to Wisconsin Fire Departments

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

Madison, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) sent payments totaling $38,181,592 to fire departments across the state as part of the Wisconsin 2% Fire Dues Program. The figure represents a nearly 6% increase over 2025 distribution.

"These funds are more than a financial investment. They are a commitment to the safety and well-being of every Wisconsinite," said DSPS Secretary Dan Hereth. "Every dollar distributed through the Fire Dues program is an investment in safer communities, better equipped firefighters, and stronger emergency response capabilities. DSPS is proud to play a role in these efforts."

The 2% Fire Dues program remains a significant source of funding for the state's professional, volunteer, and hybrid fire departments. They use the funds to buy and replace equipment, develop fire prevention programming, train crews, and more.

The Fire Dues Program requires insurers to pay the state 2% of premiums collected for insurance against loss from fire. 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 2026 distribution on the DSPS website.

"Public safety is a top priority for our department and the Evers administration, and these dollars for local fire departments are critical to protecting Wisconsin communities," Hereth said. "From volunteer departments to large urban agencies, the impact of the 2% Fire Dues program reaches every corner of the state."

In addition to the Fire Dues Program, DSPS regulates firefighter health and safety, and also manages Wisconsin's fire prevention program.

DSPS launched a youth firefighter training grant program in 2022 to help address recruitment and retention challenges in the fire service. The latest round of grant recipients was announced earlier this spring to four training programs across Wisconsin.

About DSPS

DSPS issues more than 240 unique licenses, administers dozens of boards and councils that regulate professions, enforces state building codes, runs the state fire prevention program, and maintains the award-winning 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. With five offices and 250 employees throughout Wisconsin, DSPS collaborates with constituents and stakeholders across a wide range of industries to promote safety and advance the economy.