

# Fire Department Staffing Notes

Council is mad at Sanders over Fire Department Staffing. Our Fire Departments are understaffed. Sanders tries to pass off the buck to the departments a bit, council pushes back on this, saying its his responsibility as the manager of those departments.

Sanders wants to use some "pre-certified" class to get more firefighters, council does not trust this.

Of course, its really council's responsibility to manage Sanders managing the departments, but of course that's not what Council wants to say.

## 8/9/21 Work Session

- [Meeting Video](#)
  - Fire update starts around 57 minute mark with Fire Chief
  - Council grills Sanders' management throughout
    - equipment is going unstaffed
    - "I think a lot of people would be startled to learn [that equipment is sitting unstaffed]" -Carl
- [Presentation Document](#)
- [Meeting Agenda](#)

## 8/25/21 Fire Staffing Meeting

- [Meeting Agenda](#)

## 10/18/21 Work Session

- [Work Session Video](#)
  - Fire Department info starts around 18 minute mark
  - Council grills Sanders
    - (Gatto, Carl, Linda, Josh, Connie, and even Bill to varying degrees)
    - One main point around 27 minute mark
      - They make some really good points about how there's a loop between overworking firefighters, early retirements, and workplace injuries.
  - "We are currently 19 vacancies under the authorized training." - Scott Sanders
    - A number for hiring was expected within a few days

- Council seems convinced they need 30 for training (to make up for retirements as well). Sanders calls this number arbitrary and rejects it.
- Council manages Sanders, if council wants 30 fire fighters in training Sanders /should/ be working to provide that, not rejecting.
- Linda says that in 2015 they knew their response times took longer than they desired, they decided then to pursue hiring aggressively but now we have fire equipment "out of service" (no staff to operate it) every single day.
  - "How can we possibly open Station 11... all that we're doing is pulling from other stations... someone else is going to be short"