



AUSTIN FIRE

Public Safety Commission Meeting
FY23 Q3

Chief of Staff Rob Vires





Deferred Maintenance at Fire Stations 8, 23, & 25

Expected completion: March 2024

Coverage during renovation: Crews remain nearby.

- Engine 8 is on-site; Ladder 8 is at a nearby station.
- Engine 23 is within Station 23's territory
- Engine 25 is at a nearby station.

Improvements to these stations:

- Will seek to achieve LEED Silver Designations
- Individual bedrooms and gender neutral bathrooms
- Technological advancements include Advanced Alerting for multi-company fatigue reduction, Solar Power, EV Charging Stations, Noise Reduction Insulations and Environmentally Sensitive Landscapes.



Trailer housing the crew at Station 8



Station 25



Station 23



Deferred Maintenance at Fire Station 1

Expected completion: March 2024

Coverage during renovation:

- A downtown unit will remain in the station throughout the entirety of the work via a phased construction plan coordinated with the Contractor, COA Development Services Division, and the Fire Marshal's Office.

Improvements to this station:

- Will seek to achieve LEED Silver Designations
- Individual bedrooms and gender neutral bathrooms
- Technological advancements include Advanced Alerting for multi-company fatigue reduction, Solar Power, EV Charging Stations, Noise Reduction Insulations and Environmentally Sensitive Landscapes.

Additional information:

- AFD appreciates Capital Delivery new permitting initiatives which are paying immediate dividends. Collaboration with all stakeholders is going very well.
- Major construction projects directly across Trinity and 5th Street will be commencing in August 2023. This will be very congested area for the next 2 years.





New Fire Station 53 at Goodnight Ranch

Located in Council District 2 and will be a shared facility with ATCEMS Medic 42.

Expected completion: January 2024

- New Engine 53 will go into service mid-January 2024.

Improvements and features in the new station:

- 15,000+ sq ft with 4 pull-through bays, 15 dorms, day room, kitchen, and gym.
- LEED Silver Designations
- Individual bedrooms and gender neutral bathrooms
- Technological advancements include Advanced Alerting for multi-company fatigue reduction, Solar Power, EV Charging Stations, Noise Reduction Insulations and Environmentally Sensitive Landscapes.

Recent updates:

- Construction is well underway after breaking ground in February.
- Contactor JE Dunn is doing great work to move the project forward.
- All materials are arriving on schedule, at this time, as supply chain issues wane.



RENDERING: VIEW FROM INTERSECTION
JE DUNN

CITY OF AUSTIN
GOODNIGHT RANCH FIRE/EMS STATION
PGAL





Fire Station 51 Firefighter Injury

- On June 17, 2023, a firefighter sustained significant injuries while inspecting a vehicle. The Firefighter is now out of the hospital, at home, and showing signs of recovery.
- The investigation indicates that the FF was struck by a large fan and fell approximately 12ft to the floor below.
- Steps are being taken relocate the fans. This condition is unique to this one station.



Fan at Station 51



Auto Aid – Travis County & Williamson County

Auto Aid: Interlocal agreement to dispatch the closest unit to a 911 call regardless of department or jurisdiction.

Recent Auto Aid contract changes:

- Agencies currently not in Automatic Aid include Pflugerville (ESD 2), Manor (ESD 12), Round Rock, Sam Bass, and Jollyville.

Auto Aid Successes:

- Auto Aid occurs multiple times per day and greatly contributes to decreased response times for assistance to arrive for our citizens of Austin and Travis County.
- 7/20/23 Brush Alarm with ESD 6 and AFD
- 8/1/23 Vehicle Rescue with ESD 11, ESD 5, and AFD



Photo of Auto Aid in action with Round Rock, Cedar Park, and Austin Fire Departments on-scene together.



Overdose Response

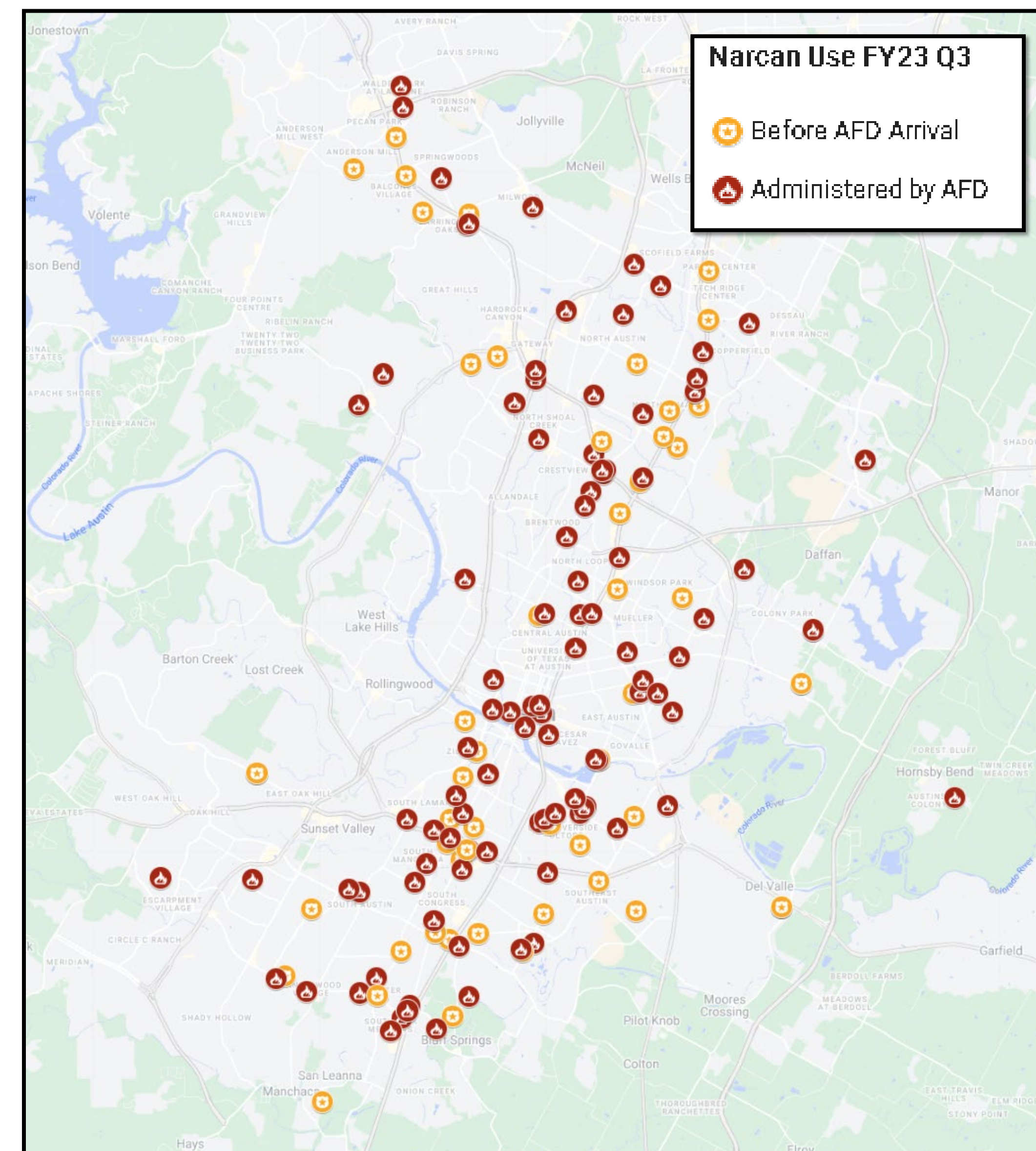
In December 2021, all AFD personnel received hands on training for Naloxone administration and each unit received a stock of the medication.

FY23 Q3

Total calls where Narcan was given: **158**

Number of times AFD administered or assisted: **101**

Patient improvement cases: **113**

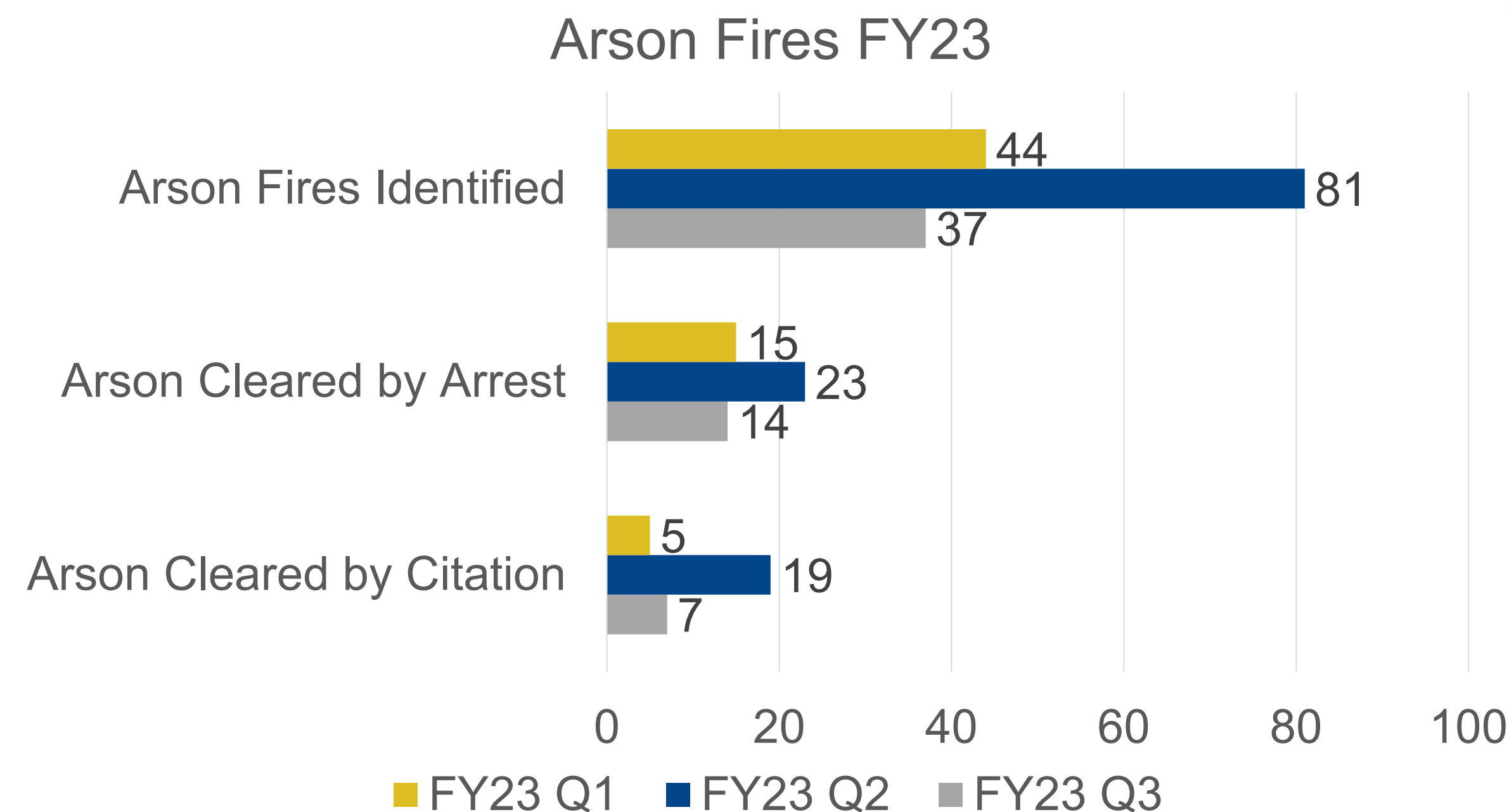




Investigations

- Percent of Arson Fires Cleared:
 - **FY 23 Q1: 54%**
 - **FY 23 Q2: 52%**
 - **FY 23 Q3: 48%**

National Clearance Rate: 22%



Cleared Incident Example:

- On May 29, 2023, a Fire Specialist was stabbed while trying to keep a suspect from being hit by passing traffic on IH 35 after the suspect had been igniting multiple trash/grass fires.
- Austin Fire Investigators responded in conjunction with APD.
- This case was cleared by arrest for Assault on a Public Servant and a citation for Violation of City Ordinance.



AFD Wildfire Division

Progress on Wildfire Mitigation in the past 6 months:

- Mechanical Fuel Treatment: 2 projects, 2 acres
- Prescribed fires: 6 projects, 392 acres
- Home assessments provided: 13
- Presentations: 15
- Training hours received: 585
- Training hours conducted: 8,493

Total local CWPPs completed and implemented: 23





Office of the Fire Marshal: Special Events

Special Events in FY23 Q3 – April to June 2023

- 11 permits and Firewatches for Circuses and Festivals – this includes things like
 - Kite Fest
 - Urban Fest
 - Eeyore's birthday
 - Juneteenth
- 31 Pyro and Special Effect permits including 3 major fireworks displays
- CMT Music Awards with live Concerts on Congress over 3 nights
- 16 Concerts at places like Moody Amphitheater and GIA Amphitheater (@ COTA)
- Night Inspections teams continue enforcement of Fire Code
- MotoGP 2023 with 40k estimated attendance
- 10 Austin FC Soccer games @ Q2 with up to 20K attendance per match
- 104 Tradeshows and Conventions reviewed and/or permitted
 - 41 done for local Hotels
 - 63 for Austin Convention Center and Palmer Events Center

As we move into the fall festival season we will focus on:

- Fall Festivals like Austin Film Fest, Viva La Vida, and Pecan Fest
- Sporting Events including UT Football and Austin FC Soccer
- West Campus Fraternity/Sorority Events including parties and fall rush
- Upcoming Major Events include ACL and F1
- Continuing Night Inspections for Downtown





The Compliance Engine

The Compliance Engine (TCE) database tracks compliance and non-compliance for all fire protection systems in commercial properties across the City of Austin.

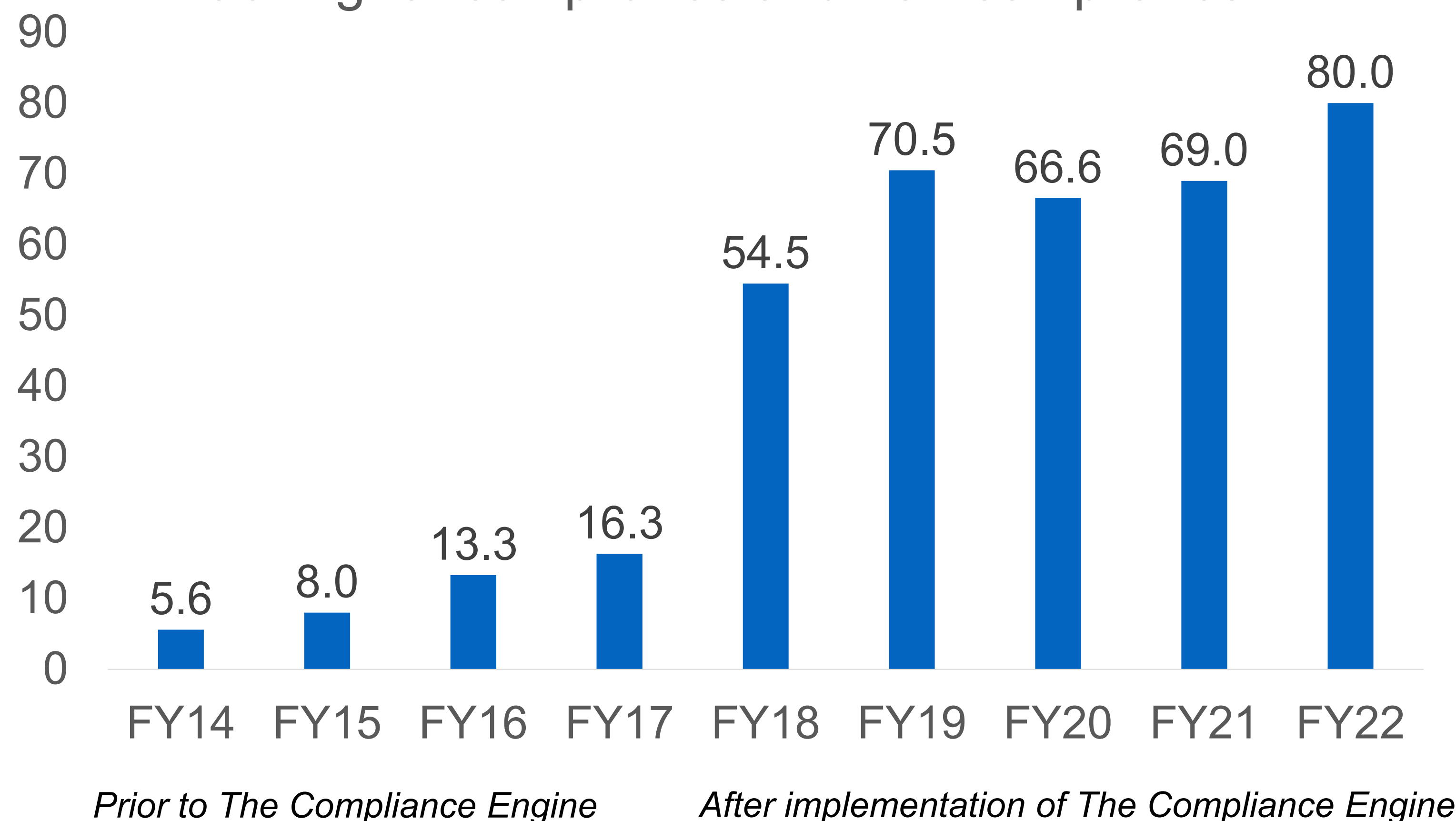
This allows the Austin Fire Department to track annual fire systems reports, deficiencies and repair reports and receive immediate notification of system impairments.

FY23 Q1: 80%

FY23 Q2: 81%

FY23 Q3: 81%

Percentage of City of Austin fire system tracking for compliance and non-compliance





Community Outreach

The Austin Fire Department has a vision that residents be fire safe in their homes by providing free smoke alarms and fire safety educational training through Outreach Programs:

- **Free Smoke Alarms** - offers/installs free smoke alarms to homeowners that live within the Austin Fire Department's Jurisdiction. Number of Smoke Alarms installed:
 - FY 23 Q1: 110
 - FY 23 Q2: 243
 - FY 23 Q3: 204
- **Fire Safety Training** – provide vital “hands-on” fire extinguisher training and home fire safety awareness demonstrations
 - FY 23 Q1: 8
 - FY 23 Q2: 13
 - FY 23 Q3: 20
- **Red Angels Program** – in collaboration with Austin Community College's nursing program, we provide “in-home” basis health wellness checks (blood pressure, glucose, temperature, heart rate) and conduct home hazard safety assessments
 - FY 23 Q1: 8
 - FY 23 Q2: 13
 - FY 23 Q3: 20



To request smoke alarms call the
Free Smoke Alarm Hotline:
(512) 974-0299

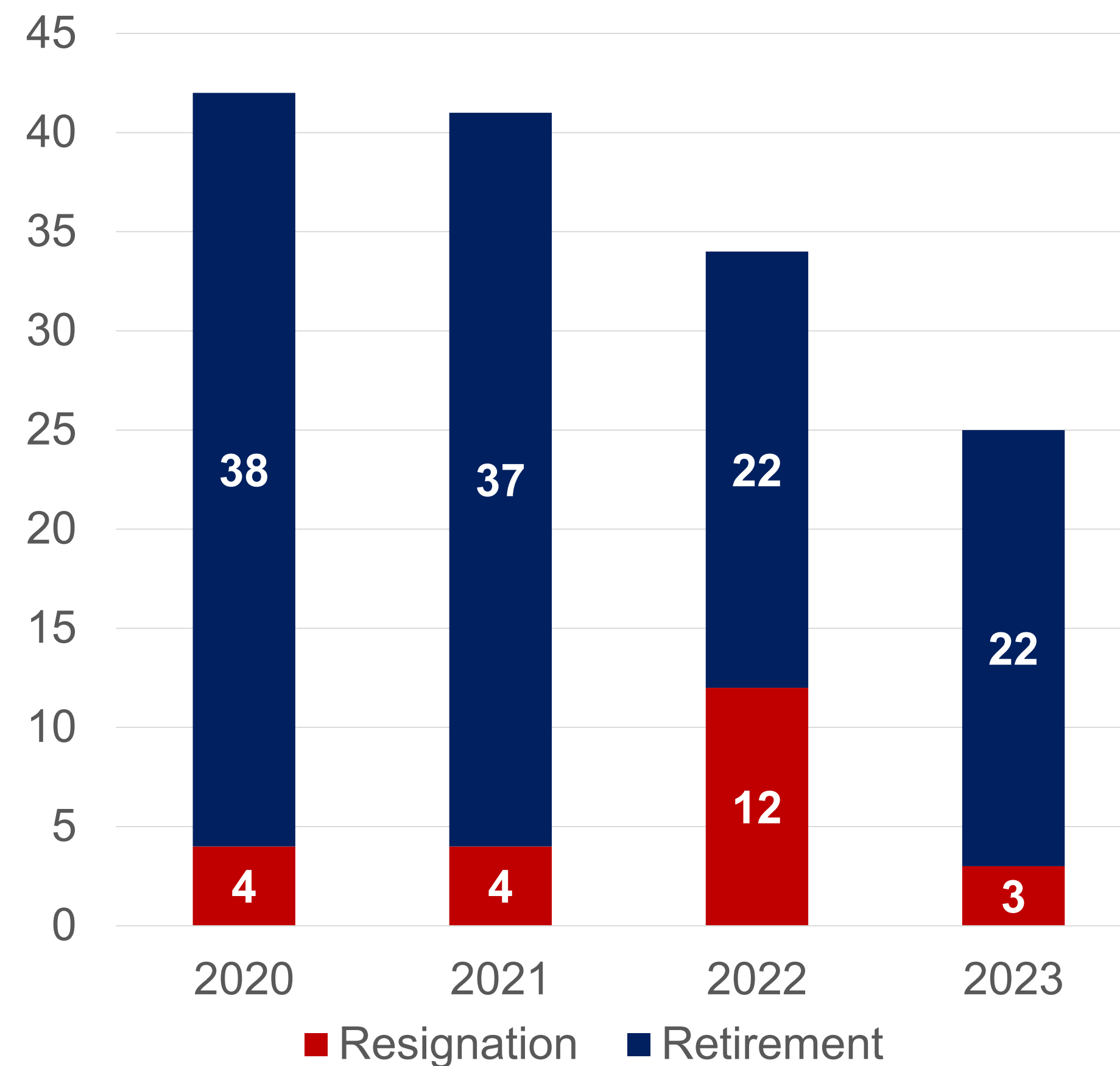


AFD Sworn Separations

- Since 2020, AFD has had **114** sworn retirements and **24** sworn resignations
- Average Years of Service:
 - Retirements: **28.5** Years
 - Resignations: **5.4** Years
- AFD experiences roughly **3.5** separations per month
- Current sworn vacancies: **56**



AFD Sworn Separations
through July 7, 2023





AFD Civilian Vacancies

Current Civilian vacancies: **28**

Divisions with Civilian Vacancies Include:

- Administrative Services
- Research & Data Analytics (Business Intelligence Consultant)
- Inspections (Engineers, Plans Examiners, and Admin Specialists)
- Operations (Program Coordinators and Forestry Technicians)
- Hazardous Materials (IT Application Developer and Engineers)

Additional Efforts to Fill these Vacancies:

- Attending Events: COA Job Fair
- Promote AFD and enhancing job postings: Paid for Engineering Job Board
- Created in Internal Hiring Process: Qualified Prevention Admins applied for Plans Examiner postings
- Enhance Candidate experience: Interacting and keeping candidates updated throughout the process, promoting City Benefits, etc.
- Reclassified long vacant titles to positions of immediate department need





Cadet Hiring Process

- AFD received 1,467 completed applications from March 15-29, 2023.
- We reverted back to Civil Service on July 1st.
- A Civil Service Written Exam was given on August 1st. 642 applicants attended. The list from this entrance test will be good for one year.
- We anticipate doing another hiring process in 2024.

2023 Qualified Applicants	Female	Male	Non-Binary	Prefer to Self-Describe; Rather Not Say; or Blank	Grand Total
<i>White</i>	55	508	1	1	565
<i>Black or African American</i>	11	111			122
<i>Hispanic or Latino</i>	52	423	1	3	479
<i>Asian</i>	2	29			31
<i>Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</i>		4			4
<i>American Indian/Alaska Native</i>		9			9
<i>Two or more races</i>	9	70		2	81
<i>Choose Not To Disclose or Blank</i>	7	47		25	79
Grand Total	136	1201	2	31	1370



Recruiting

Q3 Updates:

- AFD has worked closely with our media consulting vendor (DLM) to send out notifications and advertisements to all current and eligible individuals that submitted a Candidate Interest Card.
- AFD partnered with Fox7 Local Extension (FLX) to find new potential candidates through a highly targeted (female, minority and military) platform utilizing streaming TV ads.
- Recruiters continued to attend job/career fairs at colleges and other organizations throughout Central and South Texas.

Pass the Torch

Participants (ages 18-35) engage in real fire service activities under the guidance of experienced firefighters to get a glimpse into the cadet academy and a first-hand feel for a career in the fire service.

- **Q3 Update:** 38 Participants started in March 2023, and of those 38 participants, 25 graduated on July 22nd. **All 38 participants are in our current hiring process.**

Fire Explorers Post 370

The Explorers (ages 14-20) meet once a month and learn about careers in the fire service directly from members in the Austin Fire Department.

- **Q3 Update:** Currently planning for 2023/2024.





AFD Awarded FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant

- The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) runs from July 20, 2023 – July 19, 2025.
- The grant provides \$210,000 for the replacement of station fitness equipment, and Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) testing for 100 members in the department, including:
 - Treadmills: \$5,000 each (\$75,000 total)
 - Stair mills: \$6,000 each (\$42,000 total)
 - Rowers: \$1,200 each (\$12,000 total)
 - Barbells and bumper plates: \$21,000 total
 - PFAS blood tests for 100 members: \$600 each (\$60,000 total)
- The purchase of special training exercise equipment for AFD will extend budget funds, reduce maintenance costs, and improve access to fitness equipment.
- PFAS testing assists in the identification and reduction of cancer risk. PFAS, a suspected carcinogen, is a likely contributor to the increased rates of cancer and death from cancer among firefighters across the U.S.: 9 percent and 14 percent respectively, per the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Blood testing can be used to guide any additional PFAS risk-reduction efforts AFD may want to take, especially in the areas of site mitigation and cancer screening.



Labor Contract Negotiations

- **September 13:** Target date for the arbitration panel to provide an “award” covering pay issues.
- Negotiations between AFA and COA are ongoing.
- If mutual agreement to contract terms is achieved, then union membership and City Council must vote to accept or reject it.
- Contract adoption prior to September 13 will halt the arbitration award process.





AFD strives to recruit and retain a diverse workforce.

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining the Austin Fire Department, please visit:

[JoinAFD.com](https://www.joinafd.com)