



AUSTIN FIRE

Public Safety Commission Meeting
FY24 Q2

Assistant Chief Jeffrey Kennedy



New Fire Station 53 Now Open!

- Located in Goodnight Ranch neighborhood, in District 2.
- Shared facility with ATCEMS Medic 42
- New Engine 53 went into service January 28 and operated out of Station 24 until the new station opened.
- New Station 53 **opened on February 16** with an Engine and Brush Truck.





New Fire Station 54 at Canyon Creek

Located in Council District 10 and will be a shared facility with ATCEMS.

Expected completion: Winter 2024

Recent updates:

- Broke ground on January 30, 2024.
- Abatement work and demolition completed mid-January 2024.
- Foundation is poured and steel is going up.





Fire Station Deferred Maintenance and Projects

Station 22 – Expected completion: Late May 2024.

- Engine 22 and Ladder 22 are at Station 35.

Station 1 – Expected Completion: Summer 2024.

- Engine 1 and Ladder 1 are at at 314 W 11th Street.
- Engine 13 is at Station 6 at 1705 S. Congress Ave.

Stations 8, 23, 25 – Expected completion: Fall 2024.

- Engine 8 is on-site; Ladder 8 is at Station 30.
- Engine 23 is in a trailer at 8700 Cameron Road.
- Engine 25 is at Station 44.

Improvements to these stations:

- Complete renovation with upgrades to utilities, technology, and living spaces
- Will seek to achieve LEED Silver Designations
- Individual bedrooms and gender-neutral bathrooms
- Technological advancements include Advanced Alerting for multi-company fatigue reduction, EV Charging Stations, and Noise Reduction Insulations



Automatic Aid

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

Automatic Aid Successes:

- Auto Aid occurs multiple times per day and greatly contributes to decreased response times Austin and Travis County.
- Several incidents with Westlake in the past 6 months have been benefitted response times to both departments along the border.

Automatic Aid Challenges:

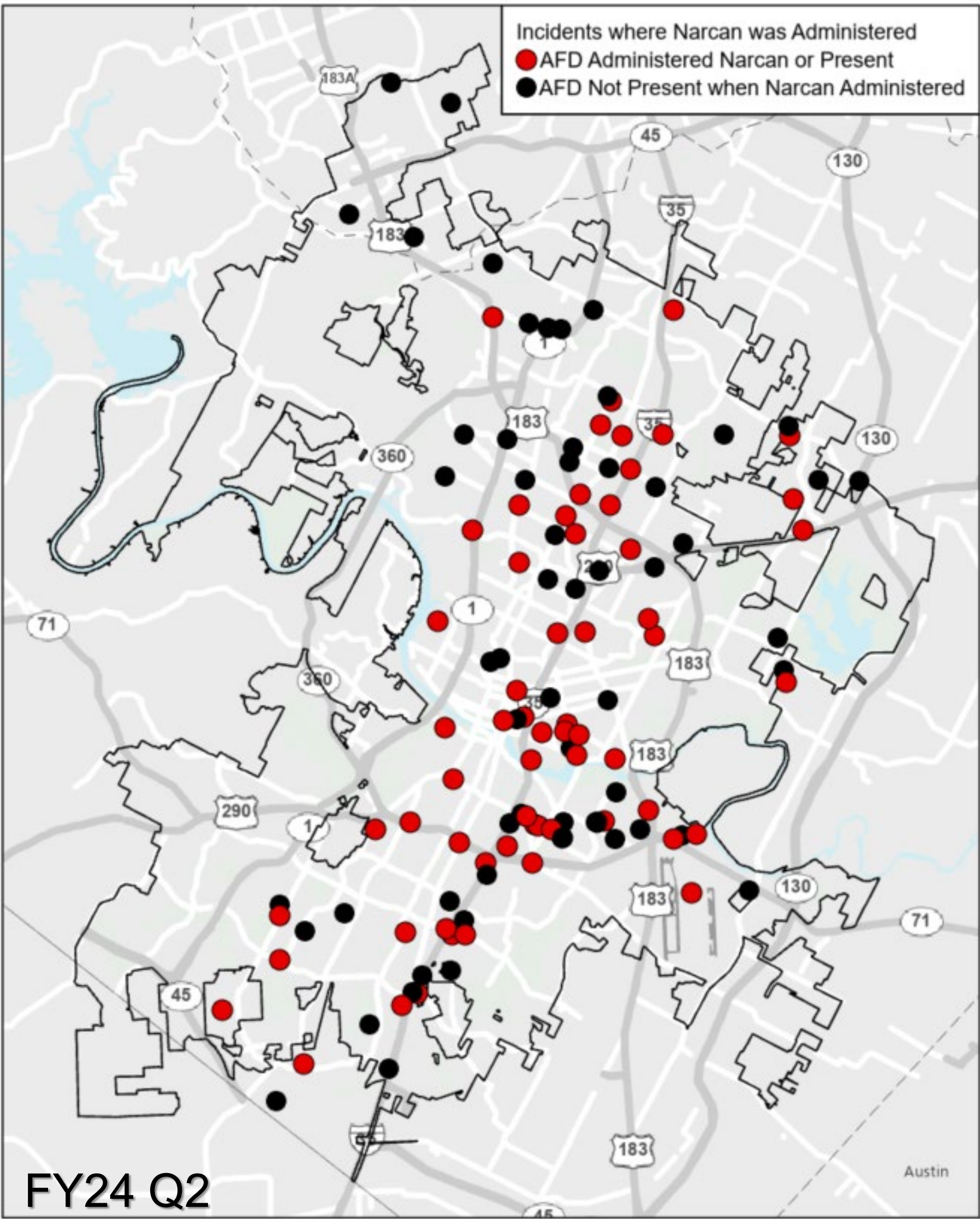
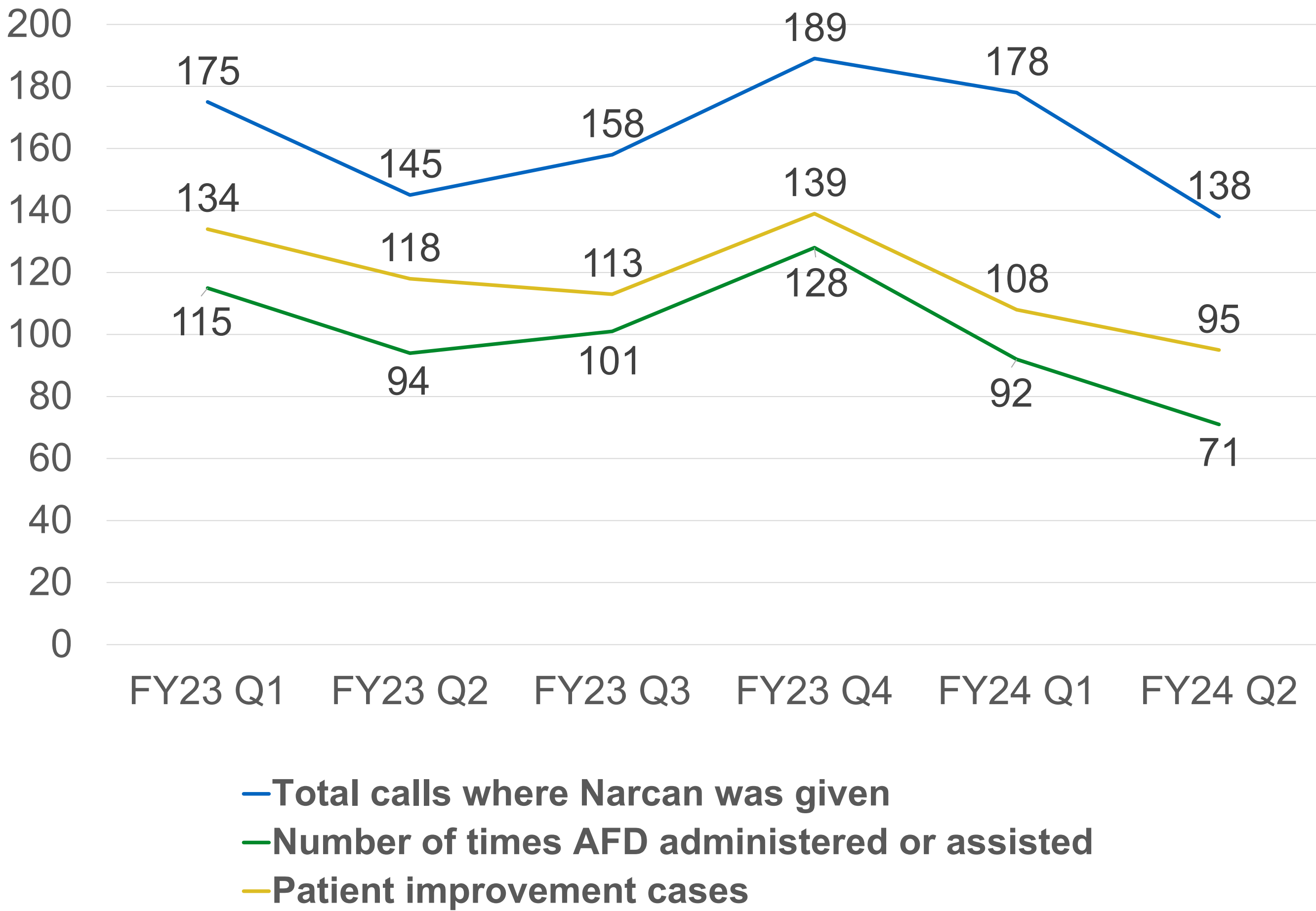
- No current Auto Aid with Round Rock.
- Priority 1 medical-only Auto Aid with ESD 2 (Pflugerville) and ESD 12 (Manor).
- CAD to CAD connections cannot expand until we migrate to the cloud-based version of Tellus, with an aim for FY26.
- De-annexation House Bill 3053 could cause new challenges with needing to cover areas that have left City of Austin Full Purpose.





Overdose Response

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





Investigations

- Percent of Arson Fires Cleared:
 - FY 24 Q1: 38%
 - FY 24 Q2: 46%

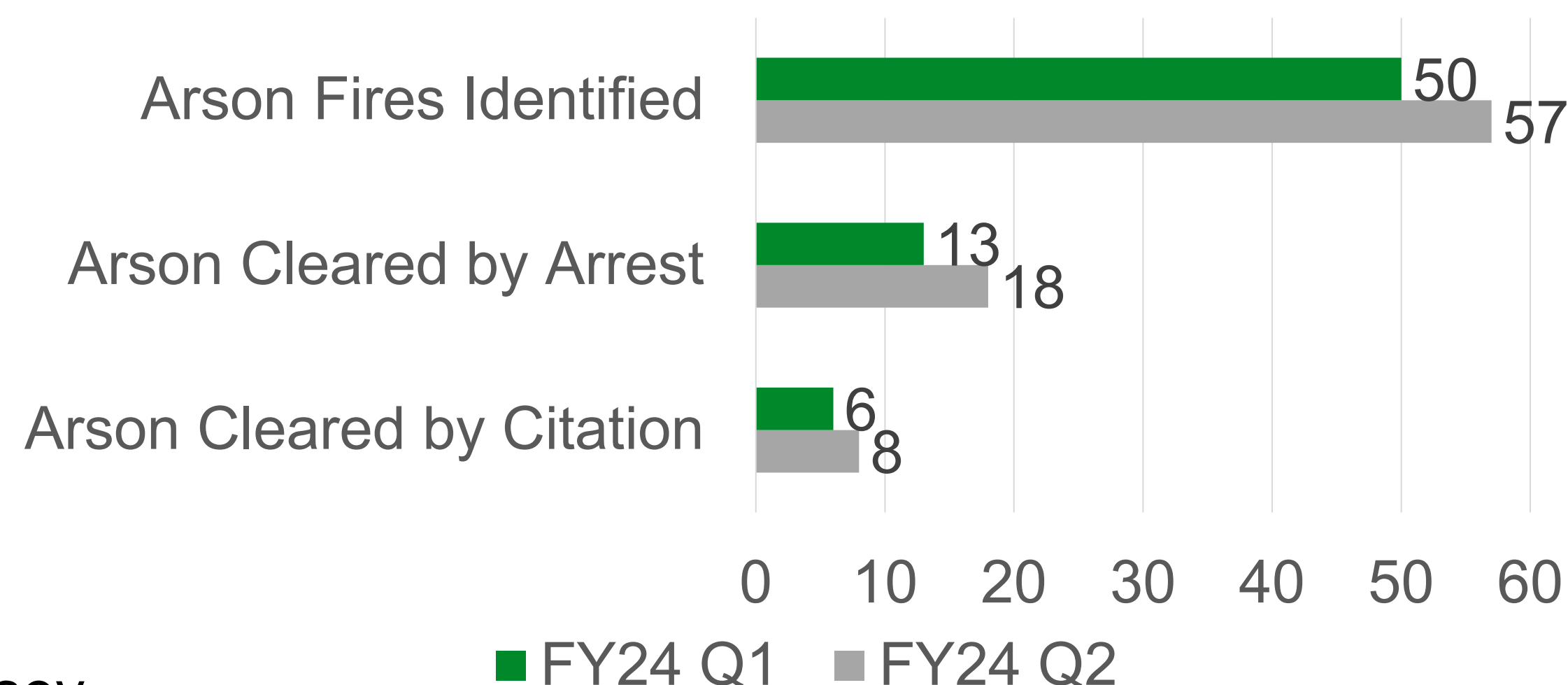
National Clearance Rate: 22%

Recent Cleared Arson Case:

Investigators with AFD charged 75-year-old Dorsey Bryan Hardeman in connection with multiple fires in Austin in recent months. Hardeman was taken into custody by Austin Police on April 24 and is currently in custody at Travis County Jail.

- Dec 25:** 500 Pampa Dr, a property Hardeman was attempting to purchase, resulting one count of 2nd Degree Felony Arson charge.
- Feb 17 and 20:** 4811 S. Congress Ave, believed to be an effort to clear two mobile homes hindering the sale of the property, resulting in 2 counts of 1st Degree Felony Arson charges.
- Feb 25:** 400 Nueces St (previous arrest)

Arson Fires FY24

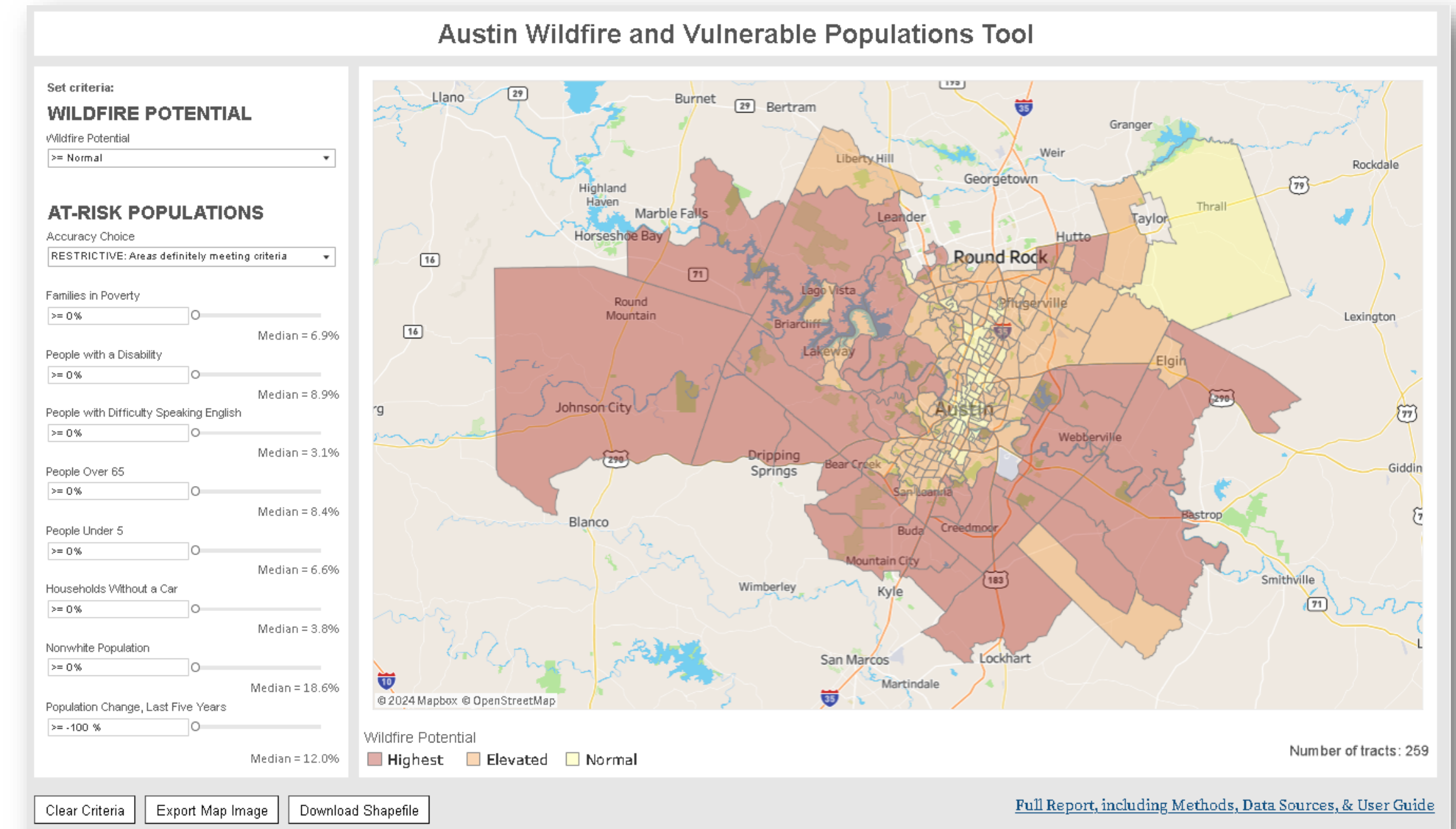




Wildfire Division

Progress on Efforts to Connect with Additional Communities:

- Assignment of a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist to Outreach and Education, with a particular emphasis on assisting underserved communities and populations at risk from wildfires.
- Actively engaged in updating the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, with a robust component focused on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and a clear roadmap for engaging and protecting vulnerable populations.
- Collaborating with UT graduate students on research initiatives evaluating equity of wildfire programs.
- Established partnerships with community groups to distribute Wildfire Preparedness literature specifically tailored to vulnerable populations.
- Outreach materials have been translated into multiple languages.
- Working with individual community members in communities that do not have an organizing structure like an HOA.
- The annual Wildfire symposium will be located at the Rosewood-Zaragosa Neighborhood Community Center in historic east Austin and will focus on engaging vulnerable populations.
- Began to identify Communities at most risk and develop community risk assessments reports.



AFD Wildfire Division also spearheaded the development of the Austin Wildfire and Vulnerable Populations tool, which is now the national standard used to gauge vulnerability to wildfire.

This tool can identify neighborhoods where overlapping wildfire threats and socioeconomic vulnerabilities may make people disproportionately susceptible to wildfire.



Office of the Fire Marshal: Special Events

Special Events in FY24 Q2 – January to March 2024:

- New Years Eve: Several events around town and Aerial Fireworks
- ATX Open: Several day tennis tournament at Westwood County Club
- 4 games for Austin FC at Q2 stadium, including Firewatch and Pryo stand by
- West Campus: Firewatch and Night Inspections for Frat/Sorority parties and West Fest
- Spring Festivals, Parades & Carnivals
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Urban Fest, and St Patrick's Day
 - Besame Mucho at Circuit of the Americas
 - One day music fest with 55k attendance (first year event)
- 2024 SXSW – 10 days
 - Permitted over 120 events, with 6 outdoor Concerts
 - Over 800 hours work by Fire Marshal's office for Command Post, Night Inspection teams, and PACE teams
 - Multiple events shut-down due to Code violations.
- NASCAR at Circuit of the Americas – 3 day event
 - Multiple Standby Apparatus
 - 30 AFD personnel on scene for Firewatch and Pyro stand-by
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 - Multiple Standby Apparatus
 - 30 AFD personnel on scene for Firewatch and Pyro stand-by





The Compliance Engine

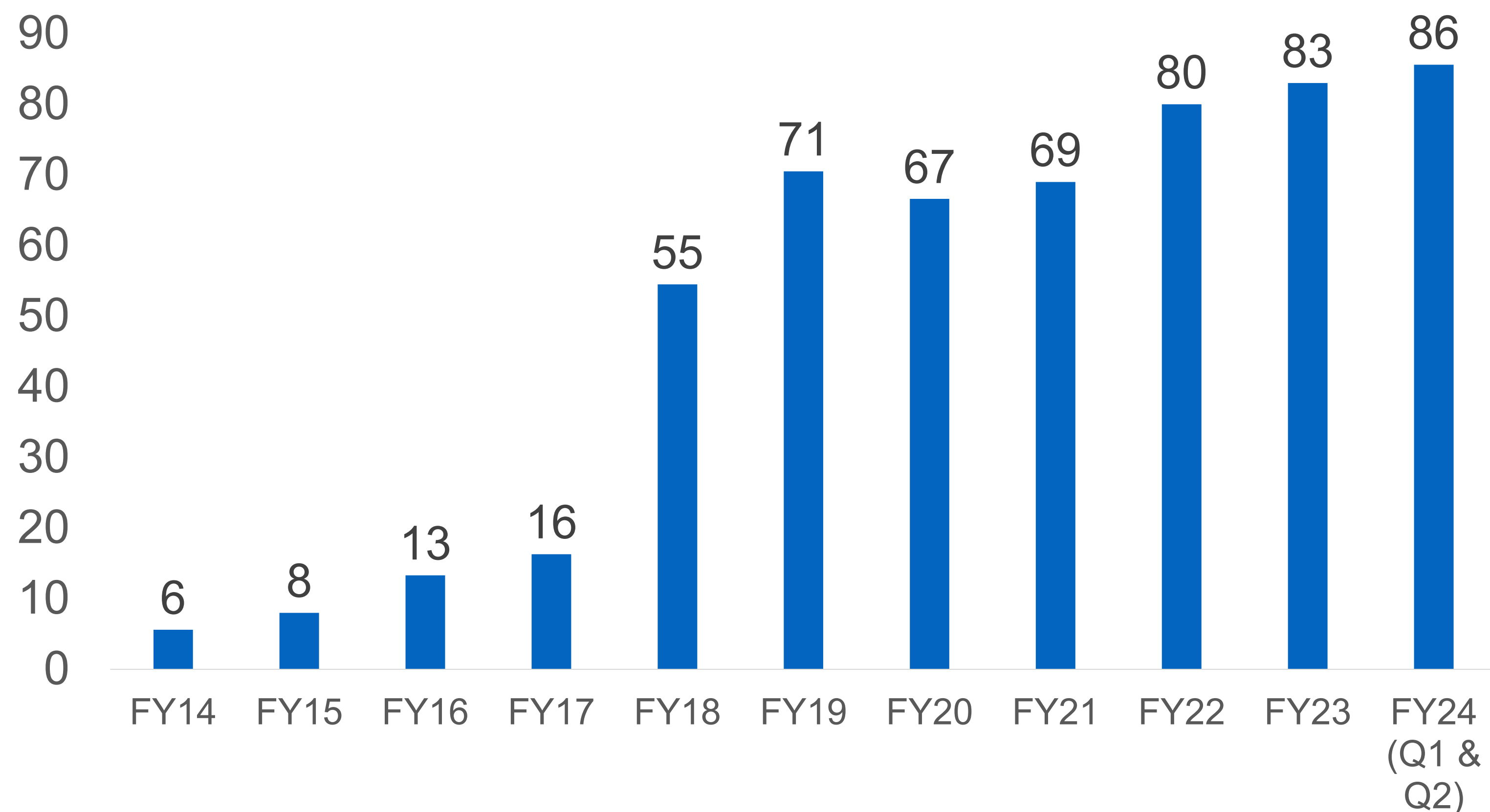
The Compliance Engine (TCE) database tracks compliance and non-compliance for all fire protection systems in commercial properties across the City of Austin.

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

FY24 Q1: 84%

FY24 Q2: 86%

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



Prior to The Compliance Engine

After implementation of The Compliance Engine



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** – The Austin Fire Department offers/installs free smoke alarms to homeowners that live within AFD's Jurisdiction. Number of Smoke Alarms installed:
 - FY 24 Q1: 115
 - FY 24 Q2: 488
- **Fire Safety Training** – The Austin Fire Department provides vital “hands-on” fire extinguisher training and home fire safety awareness demonstrations.
 - FY 24 Q1: 205
 - FY 24 Q2: 170
- **Red Angels Program** – The Austin Fire Department works 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 24 Q1: No events this quarter
 - FY 24 Q2: 65

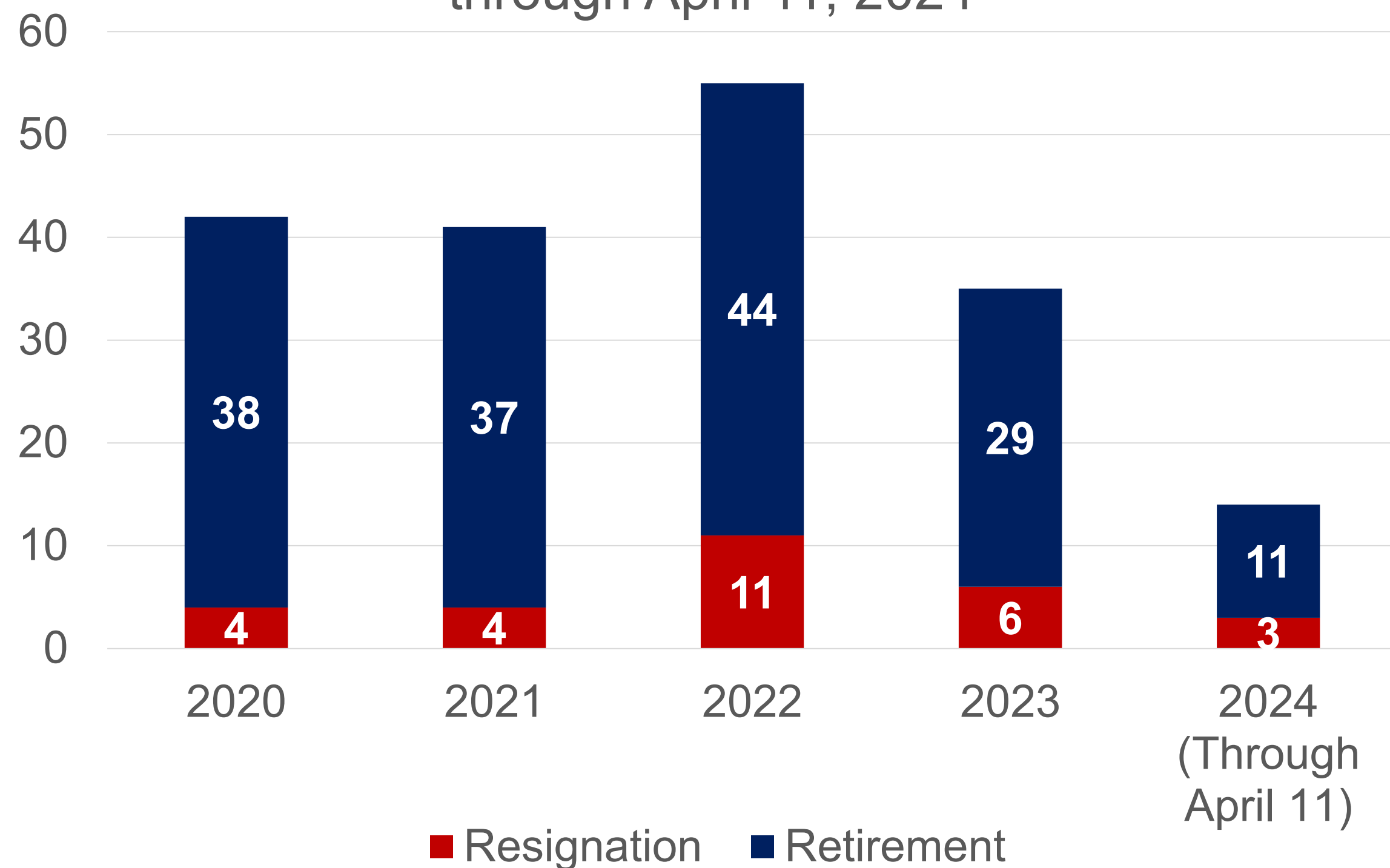


**To request smoke alarms call the
Free Smoke Alarm Hotline:
(512) 974-0299**



AFD Sworn Separations & Civilian Vacancies

AFD Sworn Separations
through April 11, 2024



- Sworn vacancies as of April 11, 2024: **59**
- Average Years of Service:
 - Retirements: **28.86** Years
 - Resignations: **5.19** Years

Civilian vacancies as of April 11, 2024: **16**

Divisions with Civilian Vacancies Include:

- Finance
- Prevention
- Education Services
- Office of the Fire Chief
- Engineering
- Operations Support
- Wildfire





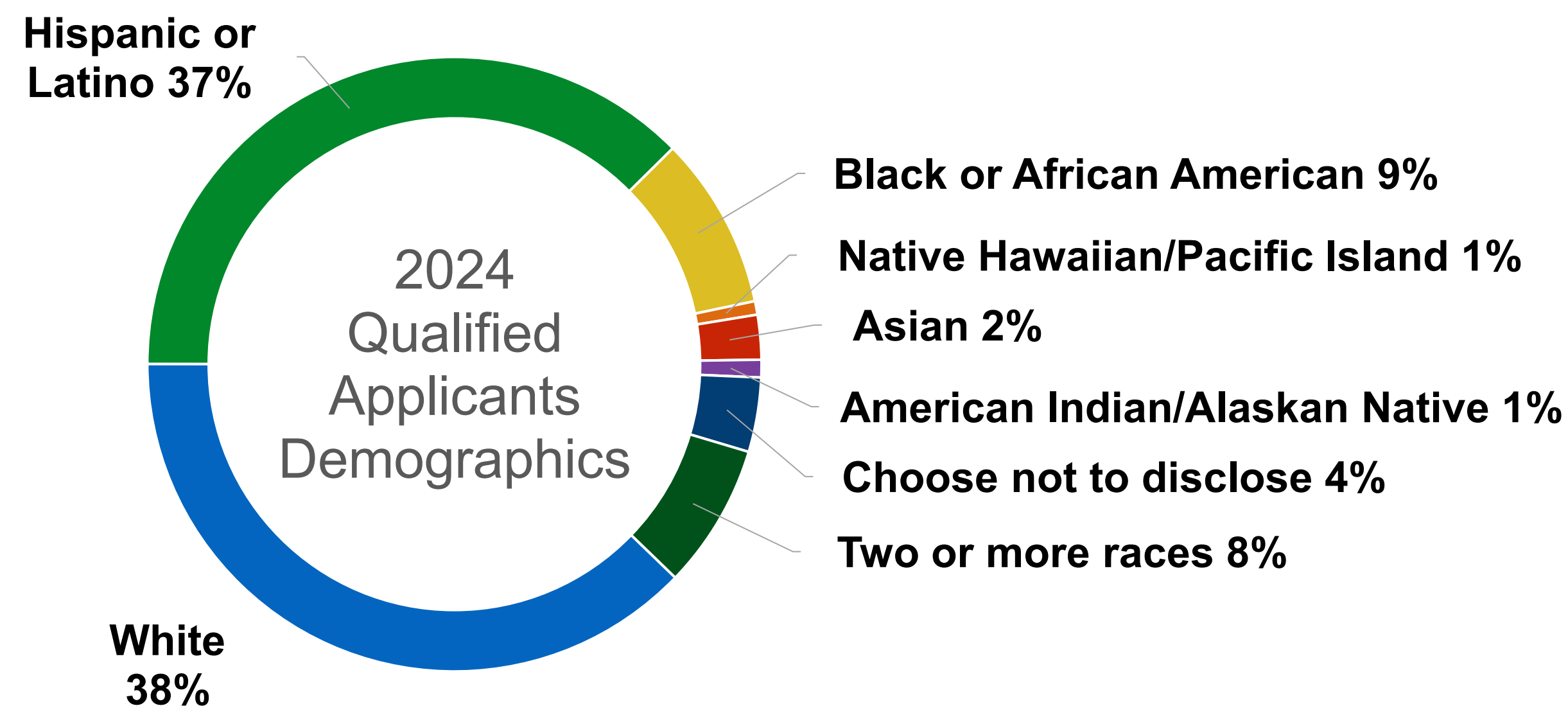
Cadet Hiring Process

2023 Hiring Process Applicant Update:

- AFD received applications from March 15-29, 2023. We reverted to Civil Service on July 1, 2023.
- Cadet Class 137 began January 29th with 39 cadets. There are currently 34. Graduation will be August 9th.
- Cadet Class 138 began April 22nd with 23 cadets (all those remaining on hiring list). There are currently 22. Graduation will be November 1st.

2024 Hiring Process Applicant Update:

- AFD received applications from March 27 – April 17, 2024. We received 1,398 applications.
- Written Exam and Structured Oral Process interview will be held May 28th and 29th.





Recruiting

Q2 Updates:

- Our application period was opened from March 27 to April 17.
- Our marketing team will continue sending out a series of emails that help explain each step of the Hiring Process. These will go out to anyone who has filled out a Candidate Interest Card from our website: JoinAFD.com.
- Our online ad campaign was viewed by 1.3 million people along the I-35 corridor including Dallas, San Antonio, and Houston.
- Our Smart TV/mobile/tablet ads presented 414,620 impressions in 112,191 unique households in the Austin area.
- Recruiters continued to attend job/career fairs at colleges and other organizations throughout Central and South Texas.

For more, visit JoinAFD.com.





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.

Q2 Update:

- Three teams of four went to the DFW Fire Games in Rowlett, Texas in April to compete.
 - 2nd place in the EMS Event
 - 3rd place in the Room Search Event
 - 1st place in final event: Hose Off Competition (with 19 teams competing!)
- There are 12 active Explorers, plus others that attend meetings as schedules allow.
- There will be a couple more meetings in May to close out the year.
- A new session will start in the Fall.

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.

Q2 Update:

- Currently in its 10th class since 2014.
- All 35 participants submitted an application in the 2024 AFD Hiring Process.
- There are 5 sessions left.
- Graduation is scheduled for Saturday, July 13th at the Permitting and Development Center.
- Of the 18 AFD instructors, 6 of them are Explorers graduates.





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