



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STUDY COMMITTEE ON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN SHORTAGES



Senator Stephen Nass, Chair
Representative Jesse Kremer, Vice-Chair

WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL



Thank You

From



Iola Fire and Ambulance



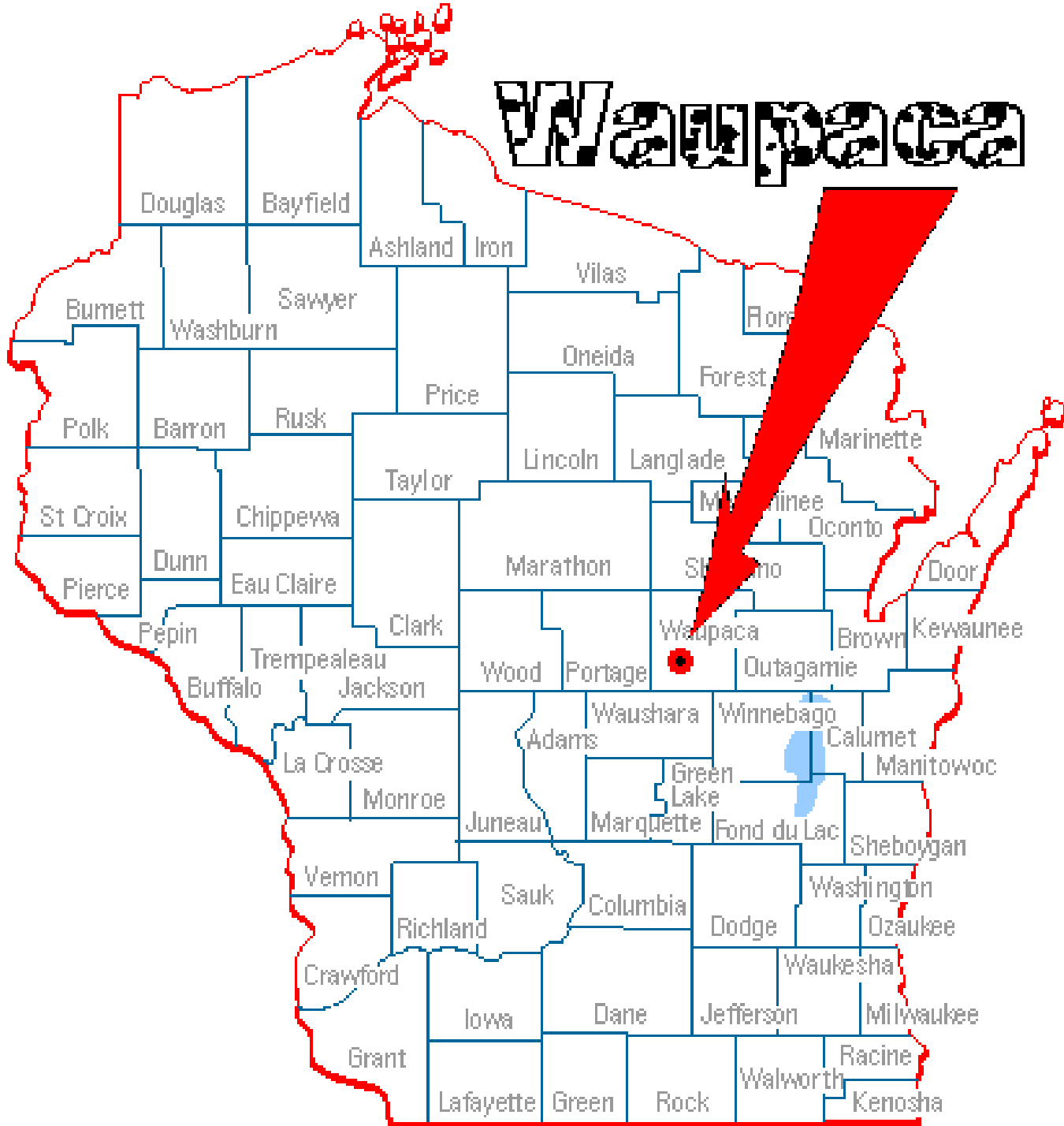


Jim Aanstad – Chief Iola Fire and Ambulance

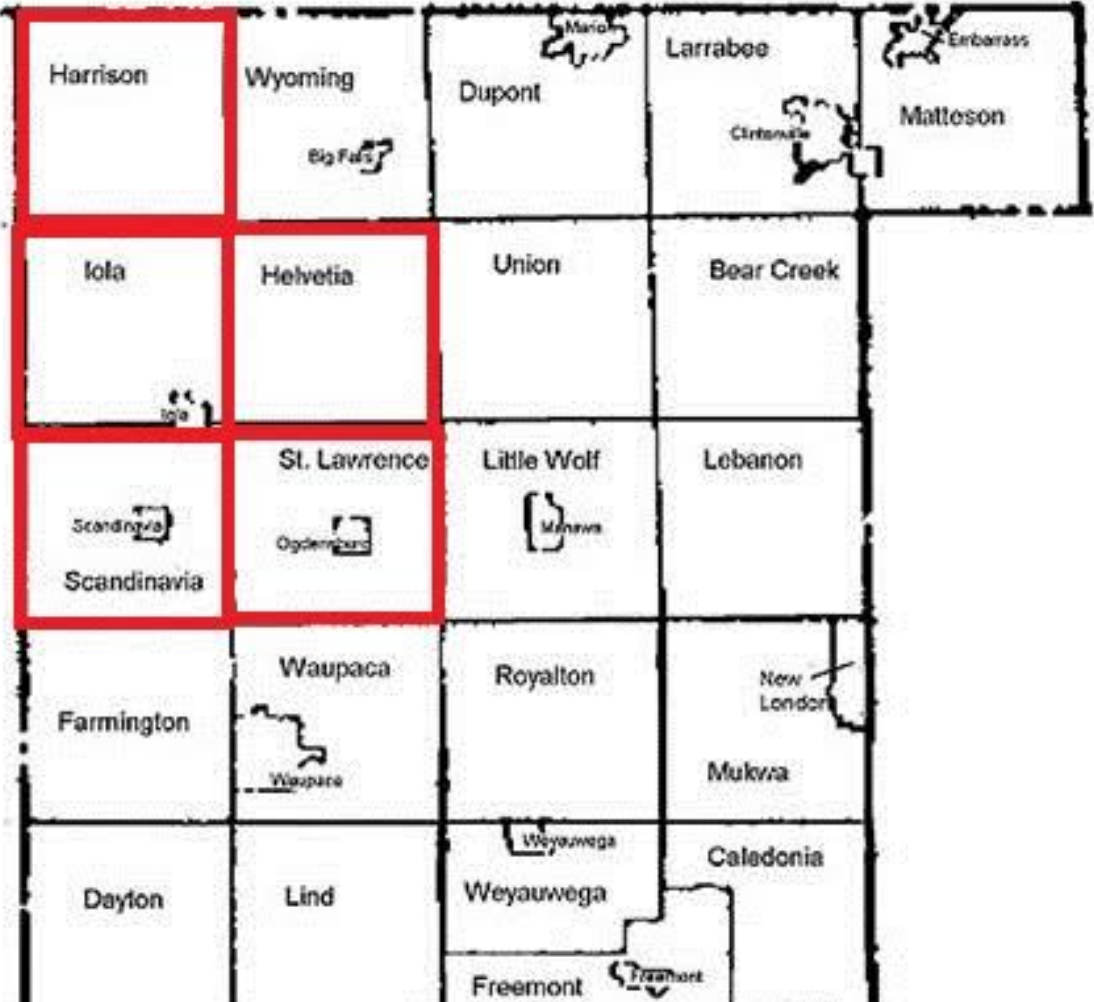


- 32 Years on the department
- 12 years as an EMT Basic
- 2015 Became Asst. Chief/Ambulance
- 2015 Went back to school and got my EMT Basic training from Midstate Technical College (Wisconsin Rapids)
- 2016 became Chief of the department
- Work full time for Pierce Manufacturing

Waupaca



T. of Harrison, T. of Iola , T. of Helvetia, T. of Scandinavia, T. of St. Lawrence, V. of Scandinavia and V. of Iola





Iola Fire and Ambulance



- We serve 7 Municipalities for EMS in Waupaca county
- Population base of 5500
- Serve an area of approximately 200 square miles
- Rural EMS



Iola Fire and Ambulance



- We are owned and operated by the 7 Municipalities
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Our Service is Licensed at an AEMT Level
- We currently have 28 EMT's 20 which are AEMT's
 - 16 of which take 95% of the call time
- 2 Ambulances
- Staffed with 1 crew of 2 at the AEMT level 24/7
- On Call schedule 12 hr. shifts or 6 hr. shifts. We keep things very flexible to accommodate our staff

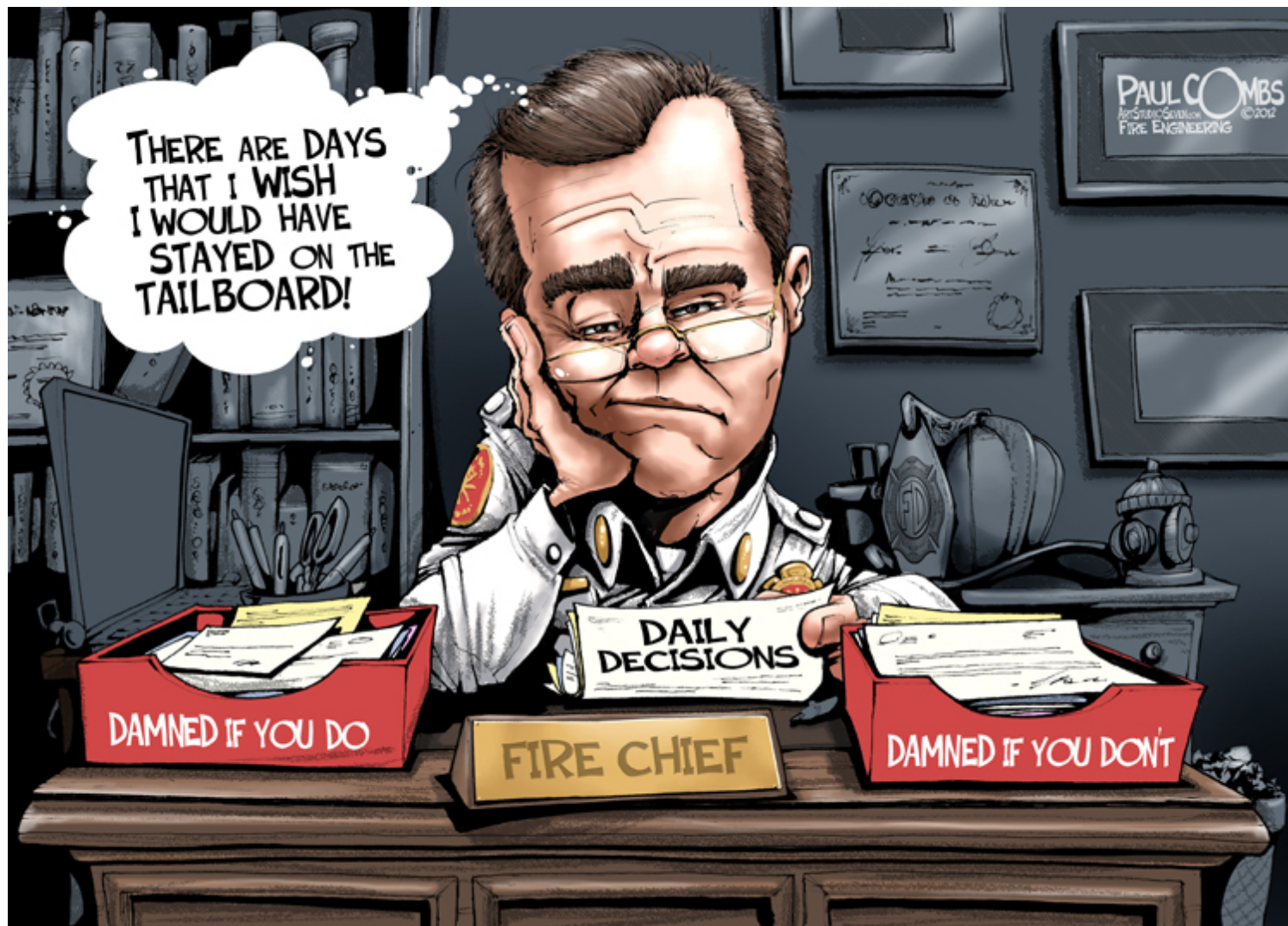


Iola Fire and Ambulance



- Run volume continues to increase
 - 2014 357 runs
 - 2015 403 runs

Training



Technical Colleges we use

Fox Valley Technical College (Appleton)

Northcentral Technical College (Wausau)



Midstate Technical College (Wisconsin Rapids)

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (Green Bay)



My Personal
Experience with the
EMT Basic

National Registry Testing Scores

- 2014 – 53% first time pass rate
- 2015 – 63% First time pass rate
- 2015 – 67% national first time pass rate
- 2015 – 79% third time pass rate
- 2015 – 78% national third time pass rate

National Registry Testing

(Potential Strategies or Solutions)

- Consider replacing the National Registry Test
 - Wisconsin should develop its own test
- Alternative testing methods
 - Paper testing
 - Verbal testing
- Alter the curriculum to the EMT Basic class to meet the test
 - Teach the students how to take the test
 - But still teach the critical skills they will need in the field

Potential Strategies and Solutions to EMS Staffing in the Rural communities

- Give property or income tax breaks for someone who volunteers for a volunteer Fire or EMS dept.
- Business tax incentive for allowing employees to leave during working hours
- Make volunteers WRS (Wisconsin Retirement system) eligible
- College loan forgiveness for someone who volunteers for a volunteer Fire or EMS department.

Potential Strategies and Solutions to EMS Staffing in the Rural communities

- State funding for EMS basic training and refresher classes
- Increased flexibility
 - More local control for EMS staffing decisions so that the level of service can adjust to staffing availability, currently if you are at a certain level of EMS, you can't adjust to a different level to prevent staff shortages.

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