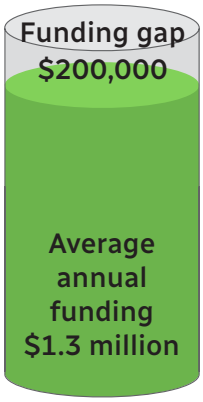


Fire

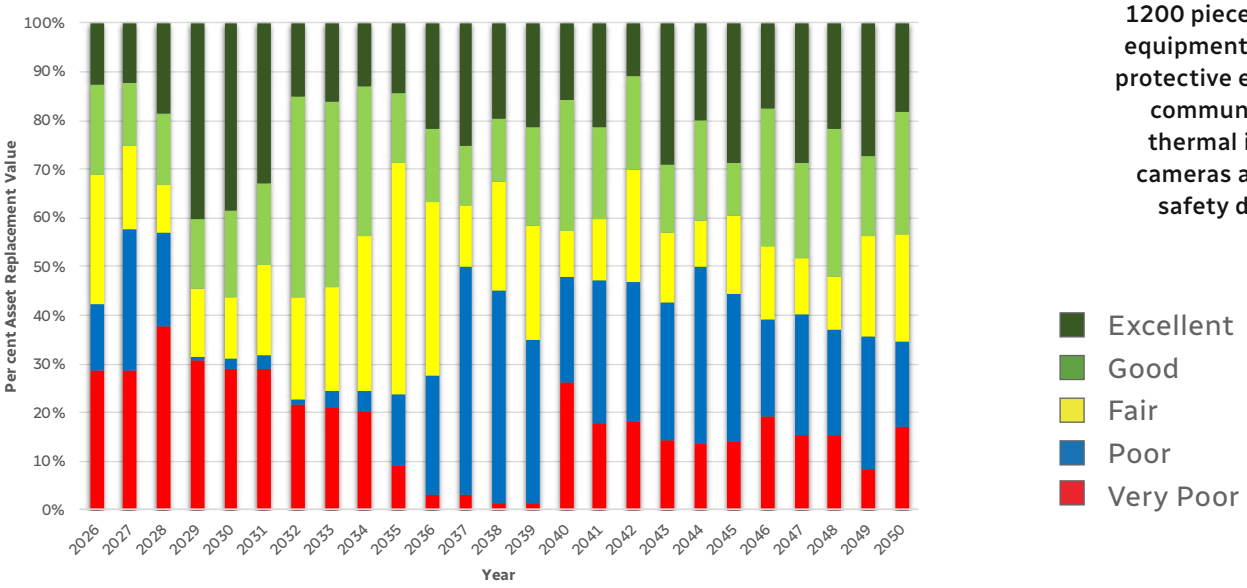
Total asset replacement value	**$16.9 million**
Current condition	**FAIR**
Projected condition in 25 years	**GOOD**
Annual funding needed to meet target performance	**$1.5 million**
Annual average funding	**$1.3 million**
Annual funding gap	**$200,000**
Funding source	**Tax base**
Data maturity level	**Medium**



Annual funding needed $1.5 million

Assets include 1200 pieces of small equipment, personal protective equipment, communication, thermal imaging cameras and other safety devices.

Projected annual performance of fire assets



A FEATURED STORY

Strengthening fire prevention and emergency response

Fire protection is built on two components: prevention and response. While prevention efforts aim to reduce the likelihood and impact of emergencies, response capacity ensures that when incidents occur, they are managed quickly, safely and effectively.

Recent and projected growth within the municipality, including increased residential density, expanded infrastructure, and higher traffic volumes, continues to place additional demand on fire services. These changes require both proactive prevention strategies and enhanced response capabilities. With a new rescue truck, increased staffing and a consistent approach to public education and prevention, Waterloo's Fire Services is equipped to fight today's fires while preparing for tomorrow's demands.

CURRENT STRATEGY

The city's fire assets include the vehicles and equipment needed by our fire crews to respond to emergencies, as well as all the personal protective gear required to keep them safe. Fire assets are funded by the tax base. Fire stations are captured under the facilities asset group.

Fire equipment such as voice radio user gear, defibrillators, extrication equipment (e.g. jaws-of-life) or personal protective equipment is replaced when it reaches the end of its useful life in accordance with industry standards along with professional management by Fire staff. The estimated service life ranges between 7 and 15 years, depending on the type of equipment.

Fire vehicles are replaced when they reach the end of their useful life, based on professional management by fire staff. The estimated service life ranges between 7 and 13 years depending on the type of vehicle.



Assets include 26 vehicles large fire apparatus and support vehicles.

ASSET PERFORMANCE

Fire asset performance is evaluated using historical knowledge, age, and observed conditions. The quality and availability of our asset data (data maturity) are continuously evolving. The current data maturity level for fire assets is assessed to be medium. The city is continuously working to improve asset data quality.

Approximately 57% of Fire assets are currently considered in fair or better performance categories. Over the 25-year timeline, with the current level of funding, we anticipate the percentage of our fire assets with a fair or better performance profile to increase to 65%.

Based on the best available fire asset data, deterioration rates and 2024-2026 capital budget and 2027-2033 capital forecast, we estimate that the fire asset class does not have an infrastructure funding gap.

57%

Fire assets with a fair or better performance

LEVELS OF SERVICE

The following tables show the levels of service established by the city for fire assets. These metrics include the technical and community level of service required as part of the Ontario Regulation 588/17. Service metrics are reported for the prior year ending on December 31.



COMMUNITY LEVELS OF SERVICE

The following table outlines the qualitative descriptions that determine the community levels of service for fire assets.

SERVICE ATTRIBUTE	QUALITATIVE DESCRIPTION	2025
Reliability	Description of how the municipality provides fire services with minimal impact to the community.	Through a comprehensive preventive maintenance program and the positions of four dual-role of firefighter-mechanics (one per platoon per 24 hr. shift) fleet and equipment are regularly maintained.
Cost Efficiency	Description of how the municipality delivers effective fire services.	Fire Services uses pumper/rescue combination and ladder fire trucks that enhance emergency response capacities and preventive maintenance programs.

TECHNICAL LEVELS OF SERVICE

The following table outlines the quantitative metrics that determine the technical level of service for fire assets.

SERVICE ATTRIBUTE	QUANTITATIVE METRICS	2024	2025
Safety	Fire assets that are in fair or better condition (percent)	57%	55%
Reliability	Amount of time when suppression equipment is available and operating properly (percent)	Estimated to be 90%	Estimated to be 80%

The information presented here is based on the best available asset inventory and condition data as of March 2026, as well as funding details from the 2024-2026 approved capital budget and the 2027-2033 capital forecast.

In 2025, a higher-than-usual number of vehicles were out of service due to the aging fleet and pending delivery of new pumper trucks.

The forecasting model allows staff to project the condition of City assets over a 25-year timeframe and therefore all funding is based on a 25-year average.