



## City Council Meeting Agenda

Monday, December 1, 2025 7:00 PM  
Cologne Community Center, 1211 Village Parkway

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### Vision Statement

*The City of Cologne is a vibrant small town that respects its heritage, embraces its future and offers a high quality of life for all who live, work and visit our community.*

Mayor: Matt Lein  
Councilmember: Sarah Bruss  
Councilmember: Jeri Bowers  
Councilmember: Selmer Olson  
Councilmember: Carol Szaroletta

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**NOTE: AGENDA ITEMS ARE APPROXIMATE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE ACCORDING TO LENGTH OF DISCUSSION. TO ENSURE THAT YOU ARE PRESENT FOR ITEMS OF INTEREST, PLEASE ARRIVE AT 7:00 PM.**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER & ROLL CALL
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ADOPT AGENDA
4. VISITOR'S PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS, CORRESPONDENCE

5. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

Items listed below are considered routine and non-controversial by the Council. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Councilmember, Staff or Citizen. If removed, the item will be discussed at the end of the regular agenda.

- a. November 17th, 2025 City Council Minutes
- b. Accounts Payable from November 18th, 2025
- c. December 2nd, 2025 Payroll Summary

**6. NEW COUNCIL BUSINESS**

- a. **PUBLIC HEARING: Truth in Taxation Hearing**
- b. **Resolution 25-30 Final Tax Levy Collectible in 2026**
- c. **Resolution 25-31 Approving 2026 Budget**
- d. **Resolution 25-32 Opting to Increase the benefit level for Firefighters who are Vested in the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan**

**7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- a. **Administrator Update**
- b. **Council / Mayor Reports**
  - i. **Mayor Lein – Annual Appointment Discussion**
- c. **October Sheriff report**

**8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**9. ADJOURN**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS/MEETINGS**

December 3rd	Wednesday	Planning Commission Meeting
December 15	Monday	City Council Meeting



## City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 17, 2025 7:00 PM  
Cologne Community Center, 1211 Village Parkway

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### Vision Statement

*The City of Cologne is a vibrant small town that respects its heritage, embraces its future and offers a high quality of life for all who live, work and visit our community.*

Mayor: Matt Lein  
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Councilmember: Carol Szaroletta

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### **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Mayor Lein called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Councilmembers Bowers, Bruss, Olson and Szaroletta were present. Also present was City Administrator Michelle Morrison.

### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **3. ADOPT AGENDA**

Motion by Councilmember Bruss to adopt the agenda, second by Councilmember Szaroletta. Motion carried unanimously.

### **4. VISITOR'S PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS, CORRESPONDENCE**

## **5. ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA**

Items listed below are considered routine and non-controversial by the Council. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Councilmember, Staff or Citizen. If removed, the item will be discussed at the end of the regular agenda.

- a. November 3rd, 2025 City Council Minutes**
- b. Accounts Payable from November 4th, 2025**
- c. November 18th, 2025 Payroll Summary**
- d. Res No 25-27 Accepting Donations**

After discussion, Councilmember Bruss made a motion to adopt the consent agenda, second by Councilmember Bowers. Motion carried unanimously.

## **6. NEW COUNCIL BUSINESS**

## **7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- a. Administrator Update**
- b. Council / Mayor Reports**

## **8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

## **9. ADJOURN**

Motion by Councilmember Szaroletta to adjourn at 7:02 PM, second by Councilmember Bruss. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

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Michelle Morrison

City Administrator/City Clerk

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Matt Lein

Mayor

## CITY OF COLOGNE

11/25/25 12:26 PM

Page 1

**\*Check Summary Register©**

Batch:

120125CR,111925MiniBiff,111925NCPERS,111925MHS,111725PerMar,111925MVEC,111925Pitney,111925Loffler,111925MetroNet,111925ANDYS,111925CircleK,112525ECM,112525QualFlow,112525CoreMain

	Name	Check Date	Check Amt	
<b>10100</b>	<b>Checking</b>			
3041e	MINI BIFF INC	11/19/2025	\$107.19	Village Park Extended Season
3042e	NCPERS Group Life Ins	11/19/2025	\$80.80	Employee Life Insurance - December
3043e	MELCHERT, HUBERT,SJODIN, P	11/19/2025	\$286.80	Ordinance Enforcement
3044e	PER MAR SECURITY SERVICES	11/19/2025	\$135.96	Monitoring
3045e	MN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPER	11/19/2025	\$140.70	2140 N Village Parkway
3046e	PITNEY BOWES	11/19/2025	\$189.24	Monthly Lease Fee - Q4
3047e	LOFFLER-131511	11/19/2025	\$71.95	Monthly Copier Lease Jan
3048e	METRONET	11/19/2025	\$178.07	Phones
3049e	ANDYS LAWN & SNOW	11/19/2025	\$95.00	Leaf Removal
3050e	CIRCLE K	11/19/2025	\$947.94	PW Fuel
3054e	ECM PUBLISHERS, INC.	11/25/2025	\$68.68	Truth in Taxation
3055e	QUALITY FLOW SYSTEMS, INC	11/25/2025	\$1,227.60	Benton Lift Station
3056e	CORE & MAIN	11/25/2025	\$1,491.50	Ally
29587	CARVER COUNTY LAND RECOR	12/1/2025	\$1,153.27	One time ditch assessment-CO Ditch6
29588	COLOGNE HOLLANDERS	12/1/2025	\$250.00	Damage Deposit Refund; Event 11.14.25
29589	SHAYLA HAYES	12/1/2025	\$100.00	Damage Deposit Refund; Event 11.22.25
29590	Joanne Hazard	12/1/2025	\$100.00	Damage Deposit Refund; Event 11.23.25
29591	CINDY JOHNSON	12/1/2025	\$100.00	Damage Deposit Refund; Event 11.22.25
29592	JR Diesel and Truck Repair	12/1/2025	\$4,582.21	DOT INSPECTIONS U-11
29593	MN DEPT OF HEALTH	12/1/2025	\$1,730.00	Quarterly Service Connection Fee Q4
29594	NORMA PEREZ	12/1/2025	\$300.00	Cleaning 11.16.25 Hollander Bingo
29595	OVERLINE & SON, INC.	12/1/2025	\$1,580.00	Vactor Services
29596	Megan Simmons	12/1/2025	\$25.70	Final Bill Overpayment Refund; 210 Playhouse
29597	Samantha Thompson	12/1/2025	\$150.59	Final Bill Overpayment Refund; 1056 Meadow
29598	WM MUELLER & SONS, INC.	12/1/2025	\$727.35	Topsoil; N watertower dirt work fix
<b>Total Checks</b>			<b>\$15,820.55</b>	

Clerk Treasurer

Date

FILTER: ((([Act Year]='2025' and [period] in (11))) and (Source in ('120125CR','111925MiniBiff','111925NCPERS','111925MHS','111725PerMar','111925MVEC','111925Pitney','111925Loffler','111925MetroNet','111925ANDYS','111925CircleK','112525ECM','112525QualFlow','112525CoreMain')))

## CITY OF COLOGNE

11/25/25 12:27 PM

Page 1

**\*Check Detail Register©**

Batch:

120125CR,111925MiniBiff,111925NCPERS,111925MHS,111725PerMar,111925MVEC,111925Pitney,111925Loffler,111925MetroNet,111925ANDYS,111925CircleK,112525ECM,112525QualFlow,112525CoreMain

Check #	Check Date	Vendor Name	Amount	Invoice	Comment
<b>10100 Checking</b>					
<b>3041 e</b>	11/19/25	<b>MINI BIFF INC</b>			
E 101-45200-310		Other Professional Serv	\$107.19	7420	Village Park Extended Season
		Total	\$107.19		
<b>3042 e</b>	11/19/25	<b>NCPERS Group Life Ins</b>			
E 101-41400-130		Employer Paid Ins (GENE	\$32.80	39700012202	Employee Life Insurance - December
E 601-49400-130		Employer Paid Ins (GENE	\$16.00	39700012202	Employee Life Insurance - December
E 602-49450-130		Employer Paid Ins (GENE	\$16.00	39700012202	Employee Life Insurance - December
E 101-43100-130		Employer Paid Ins (GENE	\$16.00	39700012202	Employee Life Insurance - December
		Total	\$80.80		
<b>3043 e</b>	11/19/25	<b>MELCHERT, HUBERT,SJODIN, PLLP</b>			
E 101-41600-304		Legal Fees	\$34.80	182609	Ordinance Enforcement
E 101-41600-304		Legal Fees	\$252.00	182610	Village at Cologne 18th Addition
		Total	\$286.80		
<b>3044 e</b>	11/19/25	<b>PER MAR SECURITY SERVICES</b>			
E 101-45100-312		Contractual Services	\$135.96	3720064	Monitoring
		Total	\$135.96		
<b>3045 e</b>	11/19/25	<b>MN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE</b>			
E 602-49470-381		Electric Utilities	\$72.22		2140 N Village Parkway
E 101-43160-381		Electric Utilities	\$68.48		2043 Village Parkway Light
		Total	\$140.70		
<b>3046 e</b>	11/19/25	<b>PITNEY BOWES</b>			
E 101-41400-312		Contractual Services	\$189.24	3107484945	Monthly Lease Fee - Q4
		Total	\$189.24		
<b>3047 e</b>	11/19/25	<b>LOFFLER-131511</b>			
E 101-41400-404		Repairs/Maint Machinery/	\$71.95		Monthly Copier Lease Jan
		Total	\$71.95		
<b>3048 e</b>	11/19/25	<b>METRONET</b>			
E 101-43100-320		Communications (GENER	\$178.07		Phones
		Total	\$178.07		
<b>3049 e</b>	11/19/25	<b>ANDYS LAWN &amp; SNOW</b>			
E 101-41400-312		Contractual Services	\$95.00	46121	Leaf Removal
		Total	\$95.00		
<b>3050 e</b>	11/19/25	<b>CIRCLE K</b>			
E 101-43100-212		Motor Fuels	\$615.01		PW Fuel
E 101-42230-212		Motor Fuels	\$332.93		CFD Fuel
		Total	\$947.94		
<b>3054 e</b>	11/25/25	<b>ECM PUBLISHERS, INC.</b>			
E 101-41400-350		Print/Publications (GENE	\$68.68	1074738	Truth in Taxation
		Total	\$68.68		

## CITY OF COLOGNE

11/25/25 12:27 PM

Page 2

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Batch:

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Check #	Check Date	Vendor Name	Amount	Invoice	Comment
<b>3055 e</b>	11/25/25	<b>QUALITY FLOW SYSTEMS, INC</b>			
E 602-49450-401		Repairs/Maint Buildings	\$453.60	50029	Manually wired to enable operation
E 602-49450-404		Repairs/Maint Machinery/	\$774.00	50061	Benton Lift Station
		Total	\$1,227.60		
<b>3056 e</b>	11/25/25	<b>CORE &amp; MAIN</b>			
E 601-49400-210		Operating Supplies (GEN	\$505.00	834347	Ally
E 601-49400-210		Operating Supplies (GEN	\$950.00	834347	Sensus Command Link
E 601-49400-210		Operating Supplies (GEN	\$36.50	834347	Freight Charge
		Total	\$1,491.50		
<b>29587</b>	12/01/25	<b>CARVER COUNTY LAND RECORDS</b>			
E 101-41940-430		Miscellaneous (GENERAL	\$1,153.27		One time ditch assessment-CO Ditch6
		Total	\$1,153.27		
<b>29588</b>	12/01/25	<b>COLOGNE HOLLANDERS</b>			
G 101-22000		Deposits	\$250.00		Damage Deposit Refund; Event 11.14.25
		Total	\$250.00		
<b>29589</b>	12/01/25	<b>SHAYLA HAYES</b>			
G 101-22000		Deposits	\$100.00		Damage Deposit Refund; Event 11.22.25
		Total	\$100.00		
<b>29590</b>	12/01/25	<b>Joanne Hazard</b>			
G 101-22000		Deposits	\$100.00		Damage Deposit Refund; Event 11.23.25
		Total	\$100.00		
<b>29591</b>	12/01/25	<b>CINDY JOHNSON</b>			
G 101-22000		Deposits	\$100.00		Damage Deposit Refund; Event 11.22.25
		Total	\$100.00		
<b>29592</b>	12/01/25	<b>JR Diesel and Truck Repair</b>			
E 101-42230-404		Repairs/Maint Machinery/	\$930.88	204	DOT INSPECTIONS E-12
E 101-42230-404		Repairs/Maint Machinery/	\$100.00	205	DOT INSPECTIONS T-12
E 101-42230-404		Repairs/Maint Machinery/	\$1,095.95	206	DOT INSPECTIONS E-11
E 101-42230-404		Repairs/Maint Machinery/	\$924.30	207	DOT INSPECTIONS T-11
E 101-42230-404		Repairs/Maint Machinery/	\$814.04	208	DOT INSPECTIONS R-11
E 101-42230-404		Repairs/Maint Machinery/	\$100.00	209	DOT INSPECTIONS U-13
E 101-42230-404		Repairs/Maint Machinery/	\$617.04	210	DOT INSPECTIONS U-11
		Total	\$4,582.21		
<b>29593</b>	12/01/25	<b>MN DEPT OF HEALTH</b>			
E 601-49440-433		Dues and Subscriptions	\$1,730.00		Quarterly Service Connection Fee Q4
		Total	\$1,730.00		
<b>29594</b>	12/01/25	<b>NORMA PEREZ</b>			
E 101-45100-300		Professional Srvs (GENE	\$300.00		Cleaning 11.16.25 Hollander Bingo
		Total	\$300.00		
<b>29595</b>	12/01/25	<b>OVERLINE &amp; SON, INC.</b>			
E 602-49450-312		Contractual Services	\$1,580.00	1461	Vactor Services

## CITY OF COLOGNE

11/25/25 12:27 PM

Page 3

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Check #	Check Date	Vendor Name	Amount	Invoice	Comment
Total			\$1,580.00		
<b>29596</b>	12/01/25	<b>Megan Simmons</b>			
R 601-00000-99999		UNALLOCATED UTILITY	\$25.70		Final Bill Overpayment Refund; 210 Playhouse St W
Total			\$25.70		
<b>29597</b>	12/01/25	<b>Samantha Thompson</b>			
R 601-00000-99999		UNALLOCATED UTILITY	\$150.59		Final Bill Overpayment Refund; 1056 Meadow Street
Total			\$150.59		
<b>29598</b>	12/01/25	<b>WM MUELLER &amp; SONS, INC.</b>			
E 601-49400-312		Contractual Services	\$727.35	319819	Topsoil; N watertower dirt work fix
Total			\$727.35		
<b>10100</b>			\$15,820.55		

## Fund Summary

**10100 Checking**

101 GENERAL FUND	\$8,783.59
601 WATER FUND	\$4,141.14
602 SEWER FUND	\$2,895.82
	\$15,820.55

Clerk Treasurer

Date



City of Cologne Payroll 2-Dec-25			
Employee	\$	11,584.51	December 02, 2025 Payroll
IRS	\$	4,151.84	December 02, 2025 Payroll
MN Department of Revenue	\$	683.29	December 02, 2025 Payroll
PERA	\$	2,308.59	December 02, 2025 Payroll
<b>Total</b>	\$	18,728.23	

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## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Mayor Lein and Councilmembers  
**FROM:** Michelle Morrison, City Administrator  
**SUBJECT:** TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING  
**DATE:** 11/18/2025

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The Council and I met at our October 20<sup>th</sup> Budget Workshop to discuss the preliminary budget and debt service levy components that made up the preliminary levy adopted in September of \$2,199,506 – a 9.81% increase.

As we discussed when developing last year's budget – 2026 will be year two of a 5-year balloon payment on the outstanding debt from construction of the Community Center and Village Parkway. The balloon payment equates to a 34% increase in the debt payment or roughly a \$183,000 annual increase in the payment. In 2026, as in 2025, I am not proposing to levy for the full amount of the debt service, rather we will use reserve funds to cover the shortfall.

In working towards the final levy, we removed \$100,000 in engineering from the operating budget that was earmarked for Village Parkway this reduces the operating levy increase to \$42,643. The total increase in dollars toward the debt service levy is \$76,500. The change from preliminary to final levy is a net dollar increase of \$119,143 equating to a 5.9% increase from 2025.

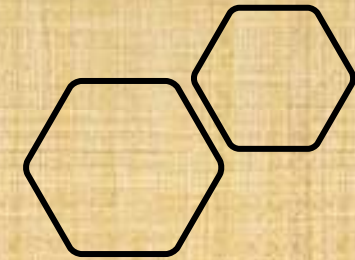
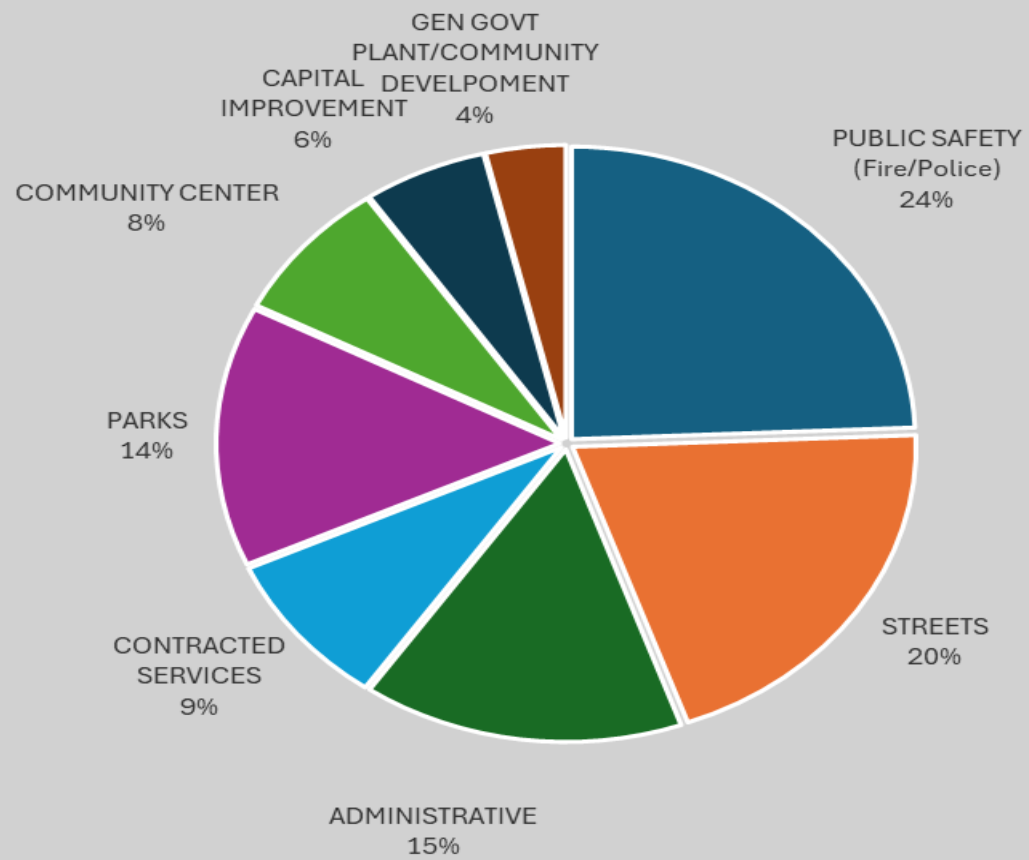
The annual tax impact on a \$400,00 home is \$142.

### RECOMMENDATION:

After answering any questions at the truth in taxation hearing, I would look for the Council to act on Resolution 25-30 Adopting Final Tax Levy Collectible in 2026 and Resolution 25-31 Adopting 2026 Budget for All General, Enterprise and Capital Investment Activities.

# General Fund Expense Highlights

EXPENSE	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	2026 Proposed	
PUBLIC SAFETY (Fire/Police)	407,089	499,134	489,797	470,634	443,033	
STREETS	403,885	2,513,814	497,358	352,212	347,991	
ADMINISTRATIVE	304,045	341,437	234,938	247,141	271,256	
CONTRACTED SERVICES	267,940	287,434	118,900	206,300	161,800	Legal/City Planner/Engineering/Metro West Inspections
PARKS	196,854	390,629	231,339	242,557	255,188	Remove old equipment VFW and add T-ball and Handicap Access
COMMUNITY CENTER	115,989	133,869	140,335	130,715	149,968	
GEN GOVT PLANT/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	134,012	38,212	43,335	62,300	64,800	Replace Siding at City Shed /Glad Days/Newsletter
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	-	-	-	100,000	100,000	



# Proposed Final Levy:

City of Cologne, Minnesota				
Levy and Tax Impact Worksheet				
	2025 Levy	2026 \$ Increase	2026 % Increase	2026 Final Levy
General Fund Levy	\$ 1,066,057	\$ 42,643	4.0%	1,108,700
Debt Service Levy	\$ 936,897	\$ 76,500	8.2%	1,013,397
Total Levy	\$ 2,002,954	\$ 119,143	5.9%	\$ 2,122,097
Levy Increase	5.9%			

Residential Market Value	Tax Impact
\$350,000	\$122
\$400,000	\$142
\$450,000	\$162
\$500,000	\$182
\$550,000	\$205
\$600,000	\$228
\$650,000	\$250
\$700,000	\$273
Commercial Market Value	
\$500,000	\$337
\$1,000,000	\$701



**CITY OF COLOGNE  
RESOLUTION NO. 25-30  
ADOPTING FINAL  
TAX LEVY COLLECTIBLE IN 2026**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Cologne has prepared its 2026 Tax Levy; and

**WHEREAS**, the following final tax levy, net of Local Government Aid, will be certified to the County Auditor by December 24, 2025;

General Fund Tax Levy	\$1,108,700
2013A Crossover Refunding	\$308,329
2018A Equipment Certificates	\$88,930
2020A Street Reconstruction	\$330,850
2021A Hwy 284 Project	\$87,700
2023A Street Reconstruction	\$197,588
<b>Total Tax Levy Collectible in 2026</b>	<b>\$2,122,097</b>

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Cologne, Minnesota, to authorize a final 2026 Tax Levy collectible net of Local Government Aid of \$2,122,097.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cologne, Minnesota, this 1st day of December, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Lein, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Morrison  
City Administrator/City Clerk

M/ \_\_\_\_\_ Szaroletta \_\_\_\_\_  
Lein \_\_\_\_\_  
S/ \_\_\_\_\_ Bowers \_\_\_\_\_

Bruss \_\_\_\_\_  
Olson \_\_\_\_\_



**CITY OF COLOGNE  
RESOLUTION NO. 25-31**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2026 BUDGET FOR ALL GENERAL, ENTERPRISE, AND  
CAPITAL INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES**

**WHEREAS**, the 2026 Budget for all City funds has been prepared in the manner prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB); and

**WHEREAS**, the 2026 Summary Budget for all City Funds has been presented and reviewed are hereby adopted as follows:

General Fund	\$1,843,285
Water Fund	\$ 605,855
Sewer Fund	\$ 398,333
Storm Water Fund	\$ 20,000
Debt Service	\$1,526,806

**WHEREAS**, additional budget detail is available at Cologne City Hall; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Cologne hereby adopts the 2026 Budgets for all City funds including General, Enterprise, and Capital Investments.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cologne this 1st day of December, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Lein, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Morrison, City Clerk

M/ \_\_\_\_\_

Lein \_\_\_\_\_

Bruss \_\_\_\_\_

Szaroletta \_\_\_\_\_

S/ \_\_\_\_\_

Bowers \_\_\_\_\_

Olson \_\_\_\_\_

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## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Mayor Lein and Councilmembers  
**FROM:** Michelle Morrison, City Administrator  
**SUBJECT:** INCREASING BENEFIT LEVEL FOR FIREFIGHTERS VESTED IN  
THE STATEWIDE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER PLAN  
**DATE:** 11/25/2025

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Fire Chief Vos has met with both Mayor Lein and I on multiple occasions in the past few months to discuss an increase in the Benefit Level for Firefighters enrolled in PERA. The Relief Association joined PERA in 2023 and at that time the benefit level went from \$1,750 per year of service to \$2,500 per year of service.

The City receives an Actuarial Valuation for the plan annually to assess the financial health of the plan. The Valuation looks at the assets, and accrued liability for all firefighters in the plan and determines the *funded ratio*. The most recent valuation indicates that the plan has a funded ratio of 108%.

The State provides cities with State Aid annually, that is deposited directly into the plan and is intended to help cover the growth in the liability each year as the years of service increase. The most recent state aid plus the supplemental state aid was \$36,691. In addition to State Aid, there are earnings annually on the assets in the fund which in the last valuation were \$71,274. These two amounts total an annual increase in the assets of \$107,965. ( $36,691 + 71,274$ ). The annual increase in the liability if we move to \$2,750 is \$90,750. ( $33 \text{ firefighters} \times \$2,750$ ).

Firefighters are eligible to receive their pension in a lump sum payment once they have 20 years of service and are at least 50 years old. There are currently 7 firefighters that are eligible to receive the payout. The combined years of service should they take the payout in 2026 is 235 years. While I do not anticipate all 7 taking the payout in 2026, if they did, the payout would be \$646,250 and the projected assets of the fund would drop from \$1,187,907 to \$541,657. This decrease in assets decreases the ability for earnings on the funds and could result in the funded ratio dropping to 95%.

PERA also provides data on all city Volunteer Fire Departments Benefit Levels and Funded Ratios. Only 7% of cities are under 100% funded. Over 50% of the



cities in PERA are over 131% funded. I believe the Council should have some discussion on establishing what a target funded ratio should be. While our current 108% funded ratio may sound sufficient, it is on the low side of what other cities are able to maintain to keep their fund at a healthy level.

% Funded	# of Cities	
Under 100%	19	7%
101% - 130%	90	32%
131% - 175%	116	42%
176% - 200%	16	6%
Over 200%	37	13%

Of the 279 Cities with PERA plans for their volunteer Fire Departments, the benefit levels range from \$500 - \$13,800 per year of service. The average is \$2,477. Below is a chart with some nearby cities and some other cities that are similar in population to compare benefit levels.

FIRE DEPARTMENT	BENEFIT LEVEL	FUNDING RATIO	POPULATION
City of Plato Volunteer Fire Department	\$2,300	92%	329
City of Mayer Volunteer Fire Department	\$3,200	93%	2,534
City of Lester Prairie Volunteer Fire Department	\$1,700	95%	1,895
City of Norwood Young America Volunteer Fire Department	\$3,200	95%	3,852
City of Carver Volunteer Fire Department	\$5,200	96%	5,935
City of Gaylord Volunteer Fire Department	\$2,200	100%	2,346
City of New Germany Volunteer Fire Department	\$3,500	104%	581
City of Cologne Volunteer Fire Department	\$2,500	108%	2,097
City of Winsted Volunteer Fire Department	\$2,500	108%	2,217
City of Arlington Volunteer Fire Department	\$2,500	112%	2,298

The Council should focus on two things when adjusting the Benefit Level for its volunteer firefighters.

- Is the benefit fair and competitive with similar sized cities and,
- Is the cost to provide the benefit reasonable and sustainable given the city's budget

The actuarial valuation indicated that an increase to \$2,700 would not require an additional contribution from the city and would result in a decrease in our funded ratio to 101.79%. I believe going to \$2,750 would maintain the funded ratio around the 100% level. Again, when firefighters start drawing their benefit payout, the funded ratio will likely be impacted.

#### Cost Impact of Increase in Benefit Level

Benefit Level	2025			
	\$2,500 (Current)	\$2,600	\$2,700	\$3,500
1. Determination of Surplus / (Deficit)				
a. Projected Assets	\$ 1,187,907	\$ 1,187,907	\$ 1,187,907	\$ 1,187,907
b. Accrued Liability	1,098,839	1,132,950	1,167,061	1,439,949
2. Surplus / (Deficit) [1a-1b]	\$ 89,068	\$ 54,957	\$ 20,846	\$ (252,042)
3. Funded Ratio [1a/1b]	108.11%	104.85%	101.79%	82.50%
4. Financial Requirement Charges				
a. Increase/(Decrease) in liability	\$ 72,931	\$ 75,489	\$ 78,047	\$ 98,509
b. Administrative Fees	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
c. One-Tenth of Deficit / (Surplus)^	0	0	0	25,204
d. Net Financial Requirement Charge [4a+4b+4c, not less than zero]	\$ 75,331	\$ 77,889	\$ 80,447	\$ 126,113
5. Financial Requirement Credits				
a. Fire State Aid Current Year x 1.035	\$ (31,982)	\$ (31,982)	\$ (31,982)	\$ (31,982)
b. Supplemental State Aid Current Year	(4,709)	(4,709)	(4,709)	(4,709)
c. 6% interest on Projected Present Assets	(71,274)	(71,274)	(71,274)	(71,274)
d. Net Financial Requirement Credit [5a+5b+5c]	\$ (107,965)	\$ (107,965)	\$ (107,965)	\$ (107,965)
6. Required Contribution [4d+5d, not less than zero]	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 18,148

## RECOMMENDATION:

I believe a move to the \$2,750 per year of service provides a 10% increase over the existing benefit and is also 11% over the average benefit level in the state. The change will lower our funded ratio but appears to be at a level that is sustainable with the State Aid Contributions and investment earnings on the assets in the plan.

If the council agrees, I would look for a motion to adopt Resolution 25-32 Opting to Increase the Benefit Level for Firefighters Who Are Vested In The Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan



## **RESOLUTION 25-32**

### **A RESOLUTION OPTING TO INCREASE THE BENEFIT LEVEL FOR FIREFIGHTERS WHO ARE VESTED IN THE STATEWIDE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER PLAN**

- WHEREAS: The City previously authorized the Cologne Fire Department to join the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan administered by the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA); and
- WHEREAS: The City has obtained a cost analysis of increasing the benefit level for firefighters who are vested in the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan from PERA dated July 15, 2025; and
- WHEREAS: The City understands that Minnesota statutes do not have provisions for a decrease in benefit levels; and
- WHEREAS: The City highly values the contributions of City Fire Department members to the safety and well being of our community and wishes to safeguard their pension investments in a prudent manner; and
- WHEREAS: The existing service pension level for the City Fire Department is currently at the \$2,500 pension level per year of service pursuant to current relief association bylaws.

### **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLOGNE, MINNESOTA:**

- 1) The City hereby approves an increase in the benefit level for firefighters who have completed at least 5 years of good time service credit as a member of the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan administered by PERA at the \$2,750 pension level per year of service, effective January 1, 2026; and
- 2) The City Clerk and Mayor are hereby authorized to execute all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this resolution.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was proposed by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_ and was duly seconded by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_ and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor:

And the following voted against the same:

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Cologne, on December 1st, 2025

BY:

ATTEST:

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Matt Lein  
Mayor

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Michelle Morrison  
City Clerk



# Memo

**To:** Mayor Lein and Council Members

**From:** Michelle Morrison – City Administrator

**Date:** November 25, 2025

**Re:** Administrator Update

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It was a short week and a half with the holidays but in addition to items presented in the packet please see the following notes of interest:

- Working on getting letters of support for our Local Road Improvement Grant (LRIP) for Village Parkway from elected officials that represent Cologne and business leaders.
- Hard to believe, but I have started getting preliminary request items pulled together for the 2025 Financial Audit-the auditors were going to be in our office today, but the potential for snow has had them reschedule for early December.
- City took delivery the new Kabota this week.
- Attended a webinar put out by our auditors at Abdo regarding the new payroll tax rules as a result of the OBBA act.
- With the reopening of the government we have submitted for our first reimbursement of \$318,265 paid in conjunction with the North Water Tower Rehab project that is being covered by EPA grant funds.

- Submitted reimbursement from Carver County for the Recycling Grant Funds of \$5,000 that we get annually to operate the Recycling Center behind Public Works. Also submitted for the \$10,000 grant funds to operate the Brush Pile here as well.

<b>City of Cologne Appointments</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Official Depositories</b>	Old National, Security Bank, Citizens State Bank-NYA, 4M Fund
<b>Official Newspaper</b>	Waconia Patriot
<b>Acting Mayor</b>	Sarah Bruss
<b>Watershed Representative</b>	Carol Szaroletta
<b>Parks &amp; Streets</b>	Matt Lein & Selmer Olson
<b>Emergency Management Dir</b>	falls under Fire Chief eff 1/1/2025
<b>Planning Commission Liaison</b>	Carol Szaroletta
<b>Weed Inspector</b>	Brian Vos
<b>Health Clinic</b>	Lakeview Clinic
<b>Auditor</b>	Abdo
<b>Building Inspector</b>	Metro West Inspections
<b>City Attorney</b>	Melchert, Hubert, & Sjodin
<b>City Planner</b>	Collaborative Planning
<b>City Engineer</b>	Bolton & Menk
<b>Fire Chief &amp; Emergency Management Director</b>	Chad Vos
<b>1st Assistant Chief</b>	Brian Loscheider
<b>2nd Assistant Chief</b>	Randy Clay
<b>Personnel Committee</b>	Sarah Bruss & Jeri Bowers
<b>Chairperson of Planning Commission</b>	Bernie Shambour
<b>Vice Chairperson of Planning Commission</b>	Carol Szaroletta
<b>Approve Planning Commission Members (new in 2024)</b>	Bernie Shambour, Jayson Read, Kristy Naegely and Shannon Frakie
<b>Cologne Fire Department Relief Association/Trustee</b>	Michelle Morrison/Matt Lein
<b>Glad Days Committee Member</b>	Matt Lein





**City of Cologne**  
**October 2025**



**Carver County Sheriff's Office**  
**Monthly Calls for Service**  
**From: 10/01/2025 To: 10/31/2025**

## **Cologne City**

### **Patrol**

#### **A Offense**

Assault	1
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<b>Total A Offense:</b>	<b>1</b>
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#### **B Offense**

Traffic - Alcohol Rel	1
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Liquor Viol	1
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<b>Total B Offense:</b>	<b>2</b>
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#### **Non Criminal**

Misc Non-criminal	5
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Alarm	2
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Domestic	1
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Animal	1
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Medical Calls Received	5
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Assist Other Agency	2
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Fire Calls Reveived	2
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Mental Health	1
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Suspicious Activity	1
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Disturbance (Info Only)	2
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<b>Total Non Criminal:</b>	<b>22</b>
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#### **Traffic**

Traffic - Misc	5
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Traffic Stop	23
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Pd Accident	1
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<b>Total Traffic:</b>	<b>29</b>
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**Total Patrol: 54**

### **Administrative**

#### **Administrative**

GunPermit-Acquire	1
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GunPermit-CarryRenew	2
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GunPermit- Carry Late Ren	2
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<b>Total Administrative:</b>	<b>5</b>
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**Total Administrative: 5**

**Total Cologne City: 59**



**Carver County Sheriff's Office**  
**Arrest Summary**  
**For: Cologne City**  
**From: 10/01/2025 To: 10/31/2025**

**Cologne City**

13B - Simple Assault  
90D - Driving Under the Influence  
90G - Liquor Law Violations  
Totals for Cologne City

Total Charges

Total Arrestees

Total Incidents

1

1

1

2

1

1

3

3

1

6

5

3



**Carver County Sheriff's Office**  
**Traffic Citation Summary**  
**From: 10/01/2025 To: 10/31/2025**

**Cologne City**

No MN DL In Possession:	1
No MV Insurance:	1
Total Cologne City:	2



**Carver County Sheriff's Office**  
**Verbal Warnings**  
**From: 10/01/2025 to 10/31/2025**

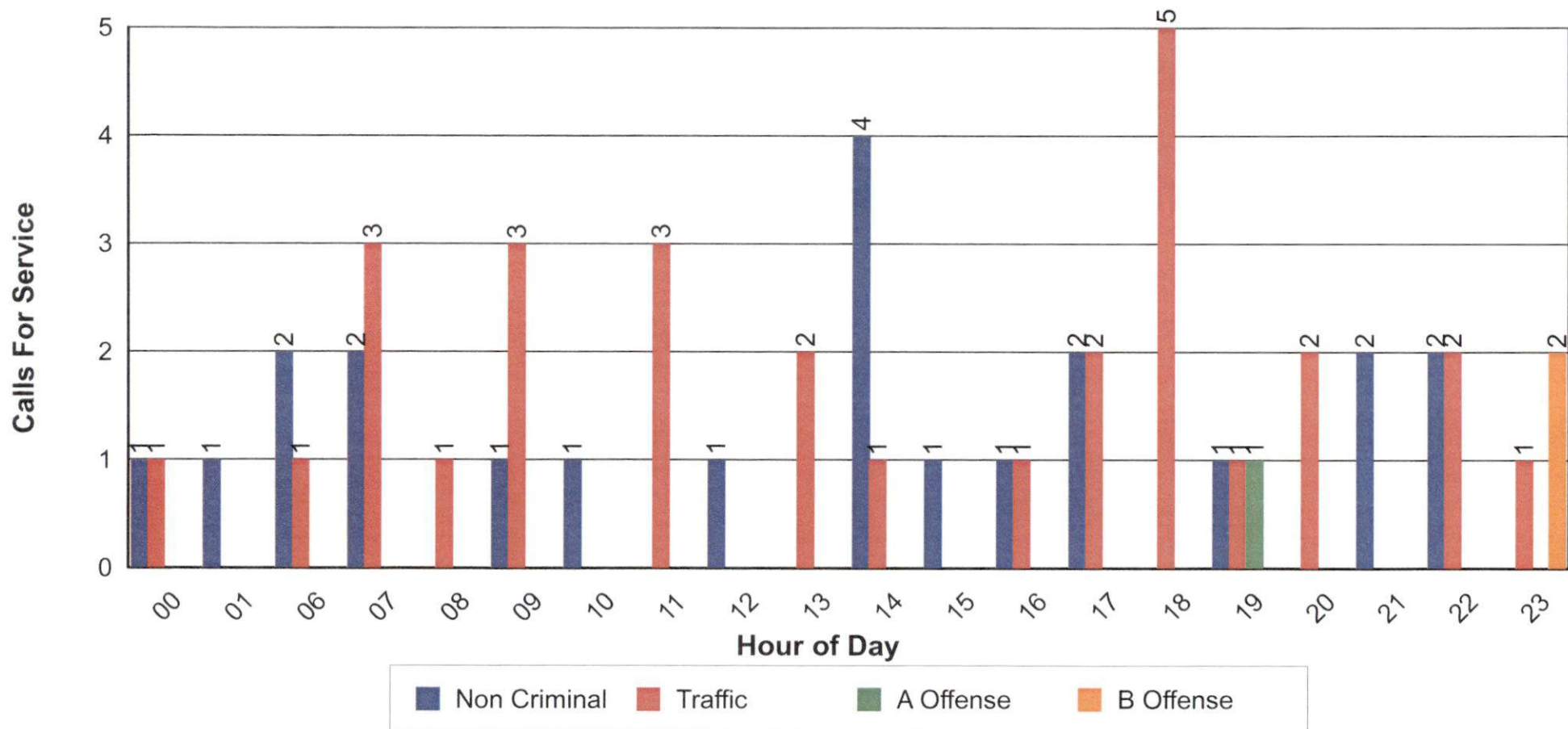
**Cologne City**

Traffic Stop:	21
Grand Total Verbal Warnings:	21



**Carver County Sheriff's Office**  
**Hour of Day Analysis of Calls for Service**  
**Patrol Activity**  
**From: 10/01/2025 To: 10/31/2025**

## Cologne City



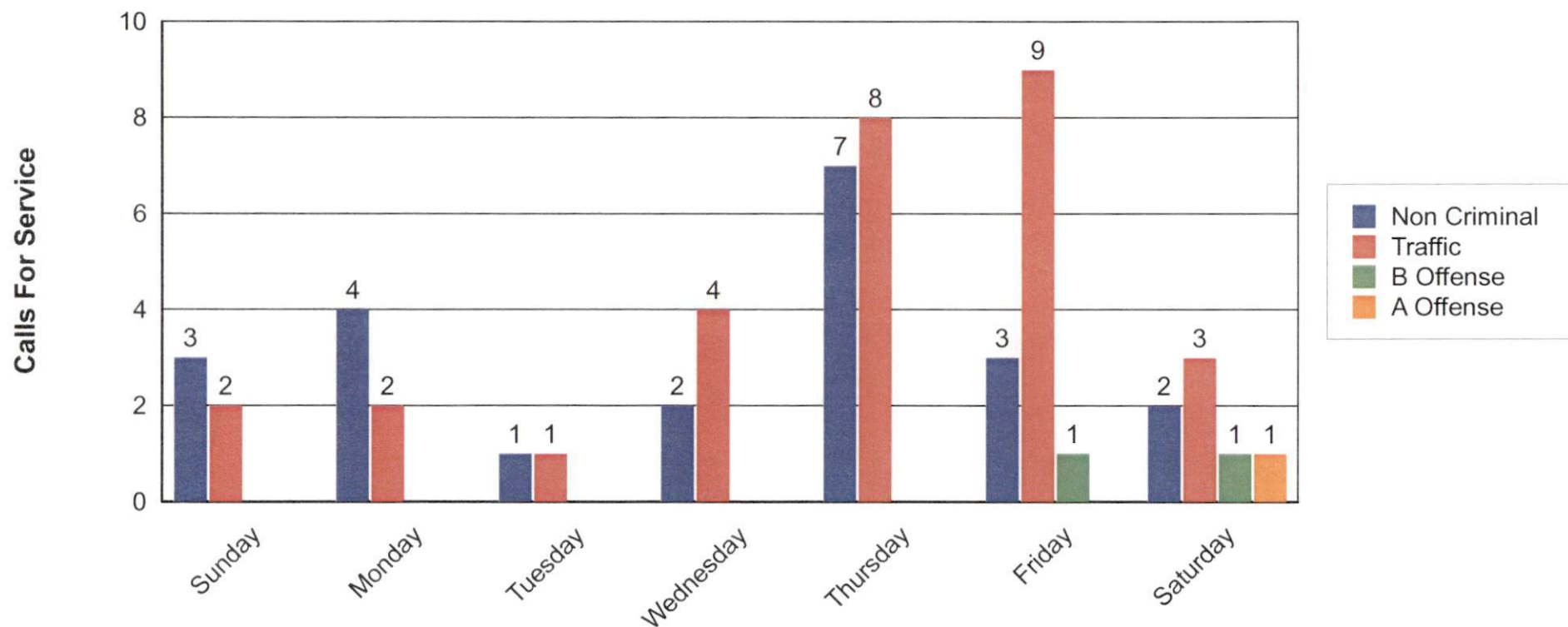
**Total Cologne City: 54**





**Carver County Sheriff's Office**  
**Day of Week Analysis of Calls for Service**  
**Patrol Activity**  
**From: 10/01/2025 To: 10/31/2025**

## Cologne City

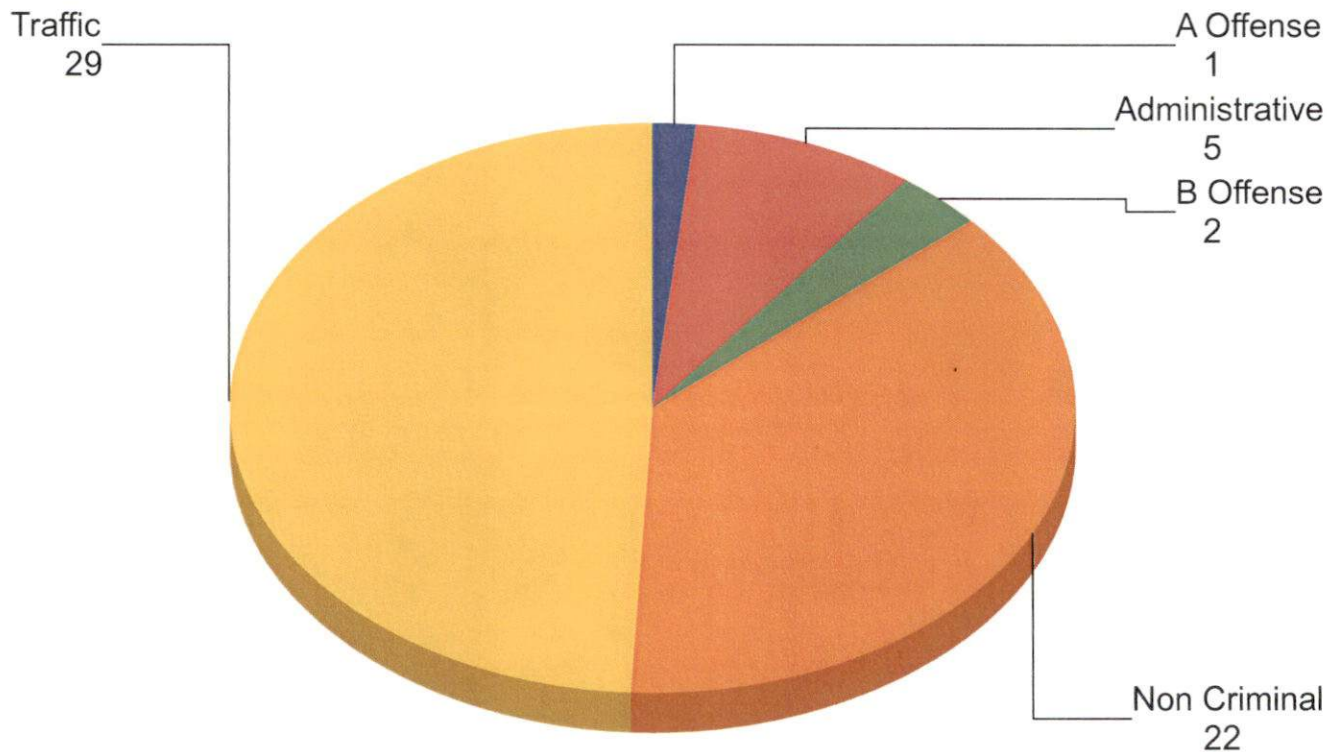


**Total Cologne City: 54**



**Carver County Sheriff's Office**  
**Monthly Calls for Service**  
**From: 10/01/2025 To: 10/31/2025**

## Cologne City



Total A Offense:	1
Total B Offense:	2
Total Non Criminal:	22
Total Traffic:	29
Total Administrative:	5

**Total Cologne City: 59**





**Carver County Sheriff's Office**  
**CSO Calls For Service**  
**From: 10/01/2025 To: 10/31/2025**  
**Cologne City**

<u>Incident Nr</u>	<u>Status Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>End Time</u>	<u>Minutes Spent</u>	<u>Running Total Minutes</u>
<b>202500029711</b>						
<b>745CS</b>						
202500029711	DISP	Pd Accident	10/09/2025 8:37:23AM	10/09/2025 8:42:39AM	5.27	5.27
202500029711	Enroute	Pd Accident	10/09/2025 8:42:39AM	10/09/2025 8:49:06AM	6.45	11.72
202500029711	Scene	Pd Accident	10/09/2025 8:49:06AM	10/09/2025 9:16:11AM	27.08	38.80
202500029711	Available	Pd Accident	10/09/2025 9:16:11AM	10/09/2025 9:16:11AM	0.00	38.80
<b>202500030422</b>						
<b>745CS</b>						
202500030422	Traffic	Traffic - Misc	10/16/2025 2:41:41PM	10/16/2025 2:44:12PM	2.52	41.32
202500030422	Available	Traffic - Misc	10/16/2025 2:44:12PM	10/16/2025 2:44:12PM	0.00	41.32
<b>202500031430</b>						
<b>747CS</b>						
202500031430	DISP	Misc Non-criminal	10/27/2025 12:11:11PM	10/27/2025 12:11:15PM	0.07	41.38
202500031430	Scene	Misc Non-criminal	10/27/2025 12:11:15PM	10/27/2025 12:44:23PM	33.13	74.52
202500031430	Available	Misc Non-criminal	10/27/2025 12:44:23PM	10/27/2025 12:44:23PM	0.00	74.52

**Total Minutes: 74.52**