
Finance Director / Assistant City Administrator Report

Reporting Period: July 13, 2026 – August 10, 2026

RAGBRAI 2026 "Why Nevada?" Campaign

Nevada was a RAGBRAI lunch stop on July 22, with 20,000+ riders coming through town. The "Why Nevada?" campaign gave us a chance to put Nevada in front of that many people at once, and the day was a real success. Alongside NEDC Executive Director Jennifer Luengas-Otto, I met and talked with many people about all the great things happening in Nevada. One conversation stood out: a county economic development board representative from an Indiana county asked for my poster board slides and was also interested in how Nevada has been able to supplement its housing, recreation projects, and industrial base thus far.

Employee Retirement Benefit Review

Our 457(b) review has moved from early exploration to a working recommendation. Benchmarking our current vendor against competing proposals confirmed our costs are well above market, and that moving to Empower would cut employees' all-in plan costs by more than half at no additional cost to the City. Empower also adds value our current plan lacks: financial-wellness and budgeting technology, plus one-on-one retirement consulting delivered locally through Nevada fee-based fiduciary Tom Geist of Edward Jones. This remains a work in progress. Erin and I will meet with current participants to walk them through their personal savings, the new technology, and the local 1:1 consulting available to them. Pending approval, the provider's contract language would go to the City Attorney before any recommendation and resolution come before Council through the normal process, with the vendor change targeted for the December/January benefits enrollment window.

Iowa City/County Management Association Summer Conference

In July, I attended the Iowa City/County Management Association's Summer Conference, a well-worthwhile experience focused on how Iowa cities are managing the State's recent tax-reform legislation while continuing to offer competitive benefits to their employees. Sessions covered a broad range of topics relevant to our work, including a keynote on championing civility, the role of the City Development Board, optimizing benefits to boost employee recruitment and retention, career health, changes to urban renewal and urban revitalization, and a property-taxes

panel discussion. A recurring theme was finding creative, fiscally responsible ways to add value for city employees without increasing the employee benefit levy. One promising benefits idea from the conference is detailed in the section below.

Retirement Healthcare Funding (Section 115 Trust) Exploration

Erin and I have begun exploring a Section 115 Trust as a potential future benefit for City employees, an idea that came out of the conference's benefits discussion and a presentation by an official from the City of Maquoketa on how their city uses one. In short, the structure allows employees to convert sick, comp time, and possibly a low % of salary into a triple-tax-free account for medical expenses in retirement, offering meaningful value to employees at no additional cost to the City and without increasing the benefit levy. We have reached out to IPAIT, the Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust, to learn whether they could manage the trust's funds on the City's behalf. This is an early-stage inquiry, and we will report back as more information becomes available, but it could be another cost-effective benefit we can offer our team.

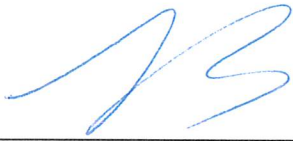
Downtown CDBG Façade Improvement Program

After the bid came in over the architect's estimate, the project's architecture firm has been working with the contractor to bring construction costs down. Because the State's CDBG grant is capped at \$650,000, the overage fell to the local share, raising the owners' combined cost to a level where some addresses were at risk of being dropped. We prepared a memo recommending the City cover half of the owners' increase, an additional draw on Local Option Sales Tax rather than property taxes, which keeps every building in play while staying within the amount already budgeted. The memo weighs both options and makes the economic case for the investment, supported by University of Wisconsin research on comparable façade programs, and it requires no new appropriation.

Property Tax Reform (SF 2472) Impact Review

Our review of the fiscal impact of SF 2472, the State's 2026 property tax reform law, has advanced from initial research into the statute to a working forecast of how the new revenue limits and homestead exemption will affect the City's general fund. Working from the Iowa State University Extension's latest understanding of the enacted law, I have been building a multi-year general fund model, partnering with the Story County Assessor to quantify the homestead exemption's effect on our taxable base. I have also coordinated with peers in the Metro Des Moines finance directors group navigating the same law. This remains a work in progress: a few key figures are still being verified, and I am continuing to refine the forecast. Pending that, I plan to walk the Budget Committee and, eventually, Council through the longer-term outlook as part of our normal budget process, with workshops beginning in September and additional dates to follow.

Sincerely,



LUCAS BATTANI, FINANCE DIRECTOR/ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR
CITY OF NEVADA, IOWA



NEVADA PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

1209 6th Street – P.O. Box 530 Nevada, Iowa 50201 Tele: 515-382-4593



Chris Brandes
Public Safety Director
Chief of Police

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Chris Brandes, Public Safety Director/Chief of Police
Date: Thursday, August 6, 2026
Ref: Report for City Council Meeting for Monday, August 10, 2026

Staffing

No change to staffing.

Activity

RAGBRAI took place on July 22nd. This event was covered by staffing without requiring any extra hours of work.

NPSD supported the Story County Fairgrounds with overnight security and security during the concerts.

NPSD conducted a GTSB traffic project on July 31st at the intersection of S14 and West N Avenue. From 7:00AM to 10:00AM, 16 traffic stops were conducted resulting in 14 citations.

The police department has either responded to or self-initiated 604 calls for service in the month of July. ***THIS IS 28 CALLS FOR SERVICE LESS THAN 2025.***

Highest number of calls listed below:

Traffic Stops: 217

General Info: 59

Animal Call: 41

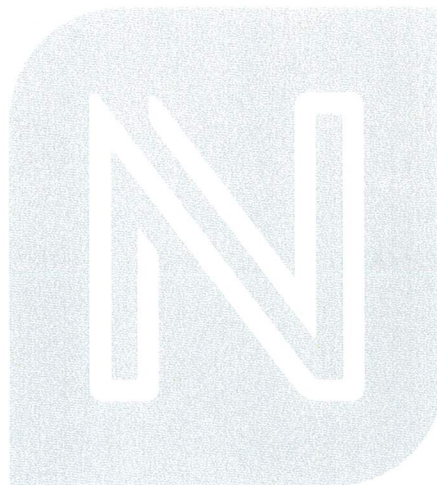
Medical Assists: 35

Suspicious Person: 27

Follow Up: 24

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Brandes
Public Safety Director
Chief of Police





NEVADA PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

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Chris Brandes
Public Safety Director
Chief of Police

TO: Chris Brandes, Public Safety Director

FROM: Ray Reynolds, Director of Fire and EMS

DATE: August 3, 2026

REF: Activity report for Trustees, City Council and Honorable Mayor.

Calls to date in 2026:	444
Calls to date same time last year (2025):	519

Fires calls for July 2026:	5
EMS total calls for July 2026:	40
Rescue/extrication for July 2026:	0
Fall / Lift assistance for July 2026	7
Fall with Injury July 2026:	6
Weather related spotting July 2026:	2
Good intent calls for July 2026:	1
Community events for July 2026:	4

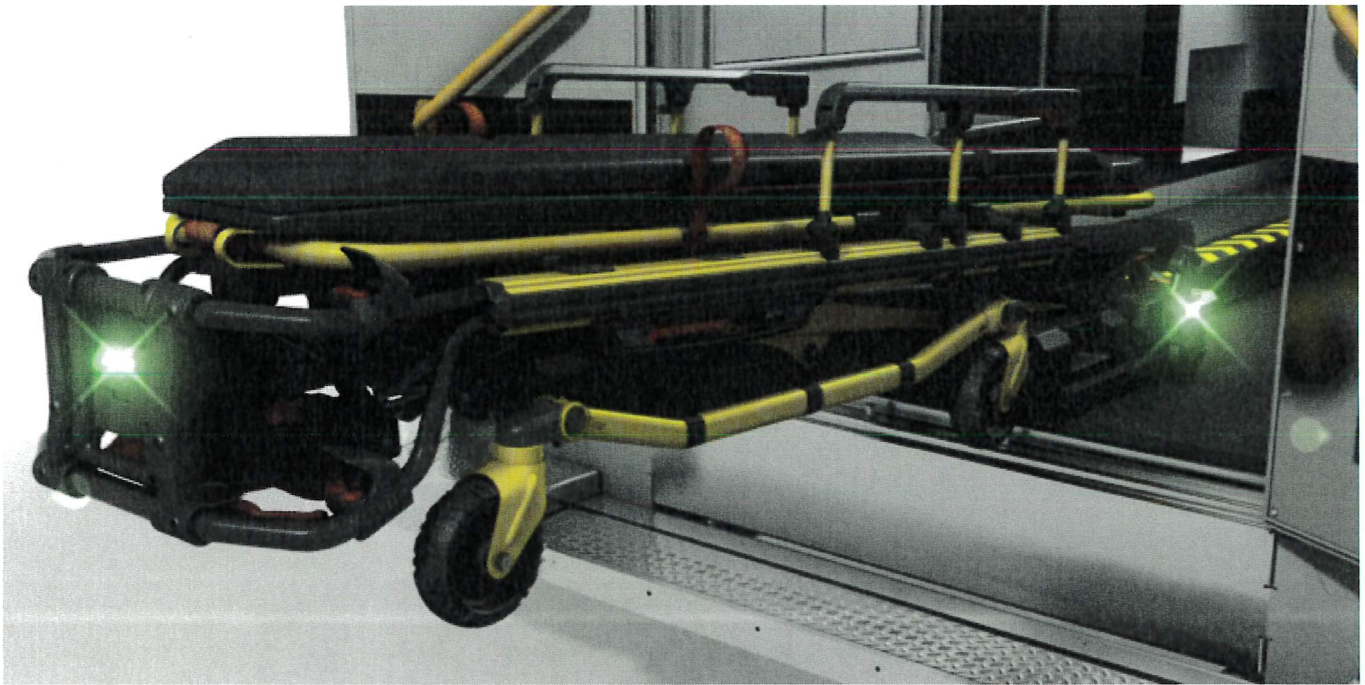
Membership: Current roster number of members: 42

The department has received applications from the following persons who are set to begin our application processes Aug. 5.

James Wilhite- non-residents lives in Ankeny and has EMT
Eston Cole- Lives in Nevada Township and moved to the area
Daniel Ingerson- Grew up in Nevada and moved back to the town
Mackenzie Arends- Lives in Nevada and is attempting to be an EMT and join the National Guard

Prairie Meadows Grant

The Nevada Firefighters Inc applied for and was awarded \$21,000 from Prairie Meadows to assist in purchasing a Stryker power load cot system for the ambulance. The power load cot system is a battery operated cot with a designed automatic raising and lowering platform affixed to the ambulance. This really is the gold standard for moving patients in and out of the ambulance. The system reduces the risk of dropping patients during transporting in and out of the ambulance and also saves medic's backs from back injuries associated with lifting patients on the cot. A new Stryker power load system costs around \$47,000-\$55,000. However, the department researched Arrow Manufacturing in Rock Rapids, Iowa. They have a refurbished unit for \$25,000 that they have reserved for our department. Bondurant FD has purchased 3 refurbished power unit systems from Arrow Manufacturing and have had no issues. The department will take the ambulance to Rock Rapids in September and it will be at their facility getting the needed hardware installed.



ISO Review August 18, 2026

ISO is coming to town on August 18th to assess the fire department and community fire protection classification. This review is completed every 5 years. The in-depth assessment will likely take all day and 15 random fire hydrants both in the public and at private businesses will be tested for flow rates. The department will undergo significant records requests to show the fire department is being held to industry standards. The City of Nevada is currently rated an ISO Class 3. That is rare for a volunteer department and the only way to improve our rating is with part-time or full time staffing.

ISO ratings play a significant role in how fire departments evaluate their operational readiness and how communities are assessed for fire protection capability. While the score itself is just one metric, it reflects performance across critical areas like staffing, training, water supply, and communications.

ISO stands for Insurance Services Office (ISO), which is an independent, for-profit organization. The ISO scores fire departments on how they are doing against its organization's standards to determine property insurance costs. After analyzing the data it collects, the ISO assigns a Public Protection Classification (PPC) on a scale from 1 to 10. The lower number of the ISO fire protection class (with Class 1 being the best), the "better" the department – at least in the eyes of the ISO. The city should develop a future plan to achieve ISO 2.

Part of the testing includes recording dump times and fill times of our rural water tenders. Pictured below is a timed drill in which using no engine water, crews must set up and flow out of a master stream hose line in 5 minutes. The water used must come from the tender's porta-tank. Our crews on three occasions completed this drill in just over 1 minute. Our goal is not to go backwards in ISO rating even if we can not achieve an ISO 2 rating without staffing the fire department.



Ambulance Billing

We are currently working with the city to complete any CMS paperwork that will allow us to bill our ambulance transports when they happen. At this point any calls where we have transported have been at no cost to patients. Obviously, that is not sustainable as a business model long term. It is not possible for our department to get into ambulance transporting without dedicated staffing. Fire departments who do transport take advantage of GEMT supplemental Medicare funding to cover the actual costs associated with running a 911 ambulance transport service. The billing for transports is only allowed once approved by Medicare. After receiving a Medicare number, we will be approved for billing private insurances like BC/BS. It is a considerable undertaking to be an approved transport ambulance. The fire department has always provided medical care at no charge. However, some of the advanced treatments require the use of expensive expendables like medications, IV fluids, IO needles and disposable equipment. It is estimated the city spends up to \$400 in equipment and supplies for every cardiac arrest worked. In fact, a case of gloves costs almost \$400 and they are worn on every medical call. It makes sense the city can not keep providing medical care for free.

Nevada Streets Report

- ❖ Patching
- ❖ City locates
- ❖ Assisting other Dept
- ❖ Regular maintenance of vehicles
- ❖ Intake repair on Osage
- ❖ Bids for drive into the new dump
- ❖ Working on plans for I and I in town
- ❖ Graded and put gravel on 200th ST



August 10th / 2026

Water Pollution Control Council Report

- Regular operation, monitoring & maintenance of the wastewater treatment plant, lift stations, and remote flow basin.
- Consulted DNR in relation to bypass pumping during I&I events.
 - There is no official Standard Operating Procedure from the DNR.
 - A permit Amendment will have to be made if we look to create a bypass pumping plan.
 - The equipment to do so is being looked into while we continue to work on the Inflow and Infiltration problems effecting the sanitary sewer.
- The DNR has placed the city on a Chloride Monitoring Schedule, we will be required to test and log chloride levels discharging from the facility.
- An industrial user was conducting a chemical trial, the trial inadvertently caused a surge in phosphorous loading rates.
 - The industry has been notified of the impact, and will be monitoring more closely.
- Lucas Battani has assisted in generating a spreadsheet to enhance efficiency in relation to the DNR Reporting and Surcharge Billing.
- The Nevada Rotary Club toured the New Wastewater Treatment Facility 7/29
 - If anyone or any organization is interested at a closer look at the Treatment Facility they can reach out by contacting the office number to schedule a visit.
- Ongoing Punch List Work & Warranty Work is being logged & completed at Phase 2 & 3.
- 15th & H Lift Station drywell plumbing inspection was conducted by Midwest Pump Works, everything checked out in well-functioning order.
 - Generator was inspected separately, looking into future needs of system.



August 4, 2026

To: Mayor, City Council, and Park and Recreation Board

From: Rhonda Maier, Director of Parks and Recreation

Re: Monthly Information Report

- Completed Work/Accomplishments
 - RFP's for aquatic center improvements.
 - Quotes for cemetery tractor lease.
 - Successful RAGBRAI.
 - Completed registration for fall recreational programming.
 - Tennis court crack repairs.
 - Removal of Harrington Park fencing.
 - Purchase of Harley Rake
 - Purchase of UTV with Plow

- Items Currently Working On/Gathering Information
 - Paula's Pedals – local initiative to promote cycling, bike safety, and trail development.
 - Harrington Park Capital Campaign.
 - Internet dish installation with owned equipment for pump house and possible controller purchase.
 - Adopt a flower bed/community beautification program.
 - Continued work with DNR on stocking of community ponds.
 - Removal of ball field mix and turf restoration at Harrington Park.
 - Hattery Park Playground equipment installation September 21 and 22.
 - Cemetery tractor lease bids.
 - SRF Project Extension.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at 515-382-4352 or by email at nevadarecreation@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support of Nevada Parks and Recreation.