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NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Wausau Fire Department Division Chief Charged with Misconduct in
Public Office, Theft**

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) today announced that Jared J. Thompson – the division chief in charge of the Wausau Fire Department’s emergency medical program – has been charged with three felony counts of misconduct in public office and two counts of misdemeanor theft for allegedly stealing fentanyl and hydromorphone – controlled substances used to treat pain – from the Wausau Fire Department’s supply. Thompson was arrested and charged on Thursday.

According to the criminal complaint, Thompson was solely responsible for ordering fentanyl and other controlled substances. The criminal complaint alleges that, between Jan. 1, 2025 through June 16, 2025, approximately 486 vials of hydromorphone and approximately 612 vials of fentanyl purchased by the Wausau Fire Department were either unaccounted for and/or diverted. For comparison, in 2023, the department purchased approximately 11 vials of hydromorphone and approximately 92 vials of fentanyl.

The conduct described in the criminal complaint is alleged to have occurred between January 2024 and June 2025.

DCI initiated its investigation following concerns raised by the Wausau Fire Department.

These charges are merely accusations. As in any criminal case, the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

This investigation was led by DCI with assistance from the Mountain Bay Metro Police Department and the Marathon County Sheriff's Office.

The Wausau Fire Department is cooperating with this investigation. The Marathon County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case.