



## **Agenda**

**City Council Work Session Meeting**  
Oelwein City Hall, 20 Second Avenue SW, Oelwein, Iowa  
5:30 PM

March 09, 2026  
Oelwein, Iowa

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**Mayor:** Brett DeVore

**Mayor Pro Tem:** Matt Weber

**Council Members:** Tony Cannon, Anthony Ricchio, Lynda Payne, Jason Gearhart, Renee Cantrell

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### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Discussions**

1. Discussion with the Oelwein Volunteer Firefighters team on the Firefighter Convention.

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### **Adjournment**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for Council meetings should notify the City Clerk's Office at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 319-283-5440

February 28, 2026

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the Oelwein City Council,

As you may be aware, the Oelwein Fire Department has been selected to host the 2027 and 2028 Iowa Firefighters Association Annual Conventions. We are honored to bring this distinguished event to Oelwein and are excited for the opportunity to showcase our community, our public safety agencies, and the surrounding area.

This weeklong event is expected to draw participants from across the State of Iowa, with the possibility of attendance from neighboring states as well. The convention will provide a meaningful economic impact to our community, as attendees will patronize local businesses, dine at local restaurants, and utilize various services throughout their stay. Participants will be accommodated in a temporary campground organized and managed by the Oelwein Fire Department.

On Saturday of the convention week, the state competitions will be held in the downtown district. This event is anticipated to generate significant foot traffic, offering additional opportunities for local retailers and restaurants. We also plan to invite area organizations and food vendors to participate. The contests will take place for the majority of the day, further contributing to community engagement and economic activity.

Throughout the week, additional events will include golf and bowling tournaments, both of which traditionally attract strong participation from convention attendees. In addition, Co-Ed, Women's, and Old Timers Waterball competitions will be held during the convention.

Members of the Oelwein Fire Department are diligently working on the planning and organization of this event. We look forward to collaborating with the City Council, the City of Oelwein, and the many volunteers who will contribute to making this convention a success.

Thank you for your continued support and for allowing us to host this important event in our community.

I have included a few items of reference for your review.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Derifield  
Convention Committee Chair

Denny Haar  
Convention Committee Co-Chair

Matt Baerg  
Treasurer

Kate Derifield  
Secretary

Sean Emery  
Board Member

Zach Shannon  
Board Member

Jason Hoveland  
Board Member

Tim Palmer  
Board Member

Paul Millhouse  
Board Member

Council and Mayor,

The following pages will show where critical areas would be. These areas will include registration, camping, contest areas. The committee is excited to work with the council to bring the 2027 and 2028 IFA Convention to Oelwein and make it a great success. During tonight's work session, a few requests will be made. These items will need to be discussed now as we are in the planning stage and will dictate how we will continue. The following pages will give an overview of the previous mentioned areas.

The following requests are being made tonight.

- Use of the Veterans Park Sports Complex parking lot and concession stand. A 40 x 60ft tent will also need to be erected by the concession stand. This is for the use of registration and camper staging as well as providing a location to fill campers with onboard water.
- Closure of the Bike Trail from 10<sup>th</sup> St Se to the Sports complex. This will only need to be closed from the Friday before the event until the Monday of the event. (09-03-2027 to 09-13-2027 and 09-01-2028 to 09-11-2028). This ensures the safety and security of the event goes and the citizens of Oelwein. Further explanation is provided on a following page.
- Changing the traffic flow on 10<sup>th</sup> St Se/Old Road. From the Campground entrance to 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Se would be ONE WAY ONLY traveling to the West. From the Campground entrance to East Line Road/Outer Rd would be 2-WAY traffic. This is needed as the point of entry to the campground is at a blind spot of the roadway and is a safety stand point. Public Safety Chief Logan was contacted and helped devise this plan. Citizens and Businesses along 10<sup>th</sup> St Se would be given permission to utilize this road still as a 2-way road to their residence/business. (This is due to the fact of them turning off before the blind spot of the roadway.)

Again, these are the only preliminary requests with other requests made as the event planning continues. Safety will always remain a top priority in planning this event.

Thanks for the time allowed to us tonight. We appreciate the chance to work with the Mayor, City Council, and Employees of the City of Oelwein.

## REGISTRATION



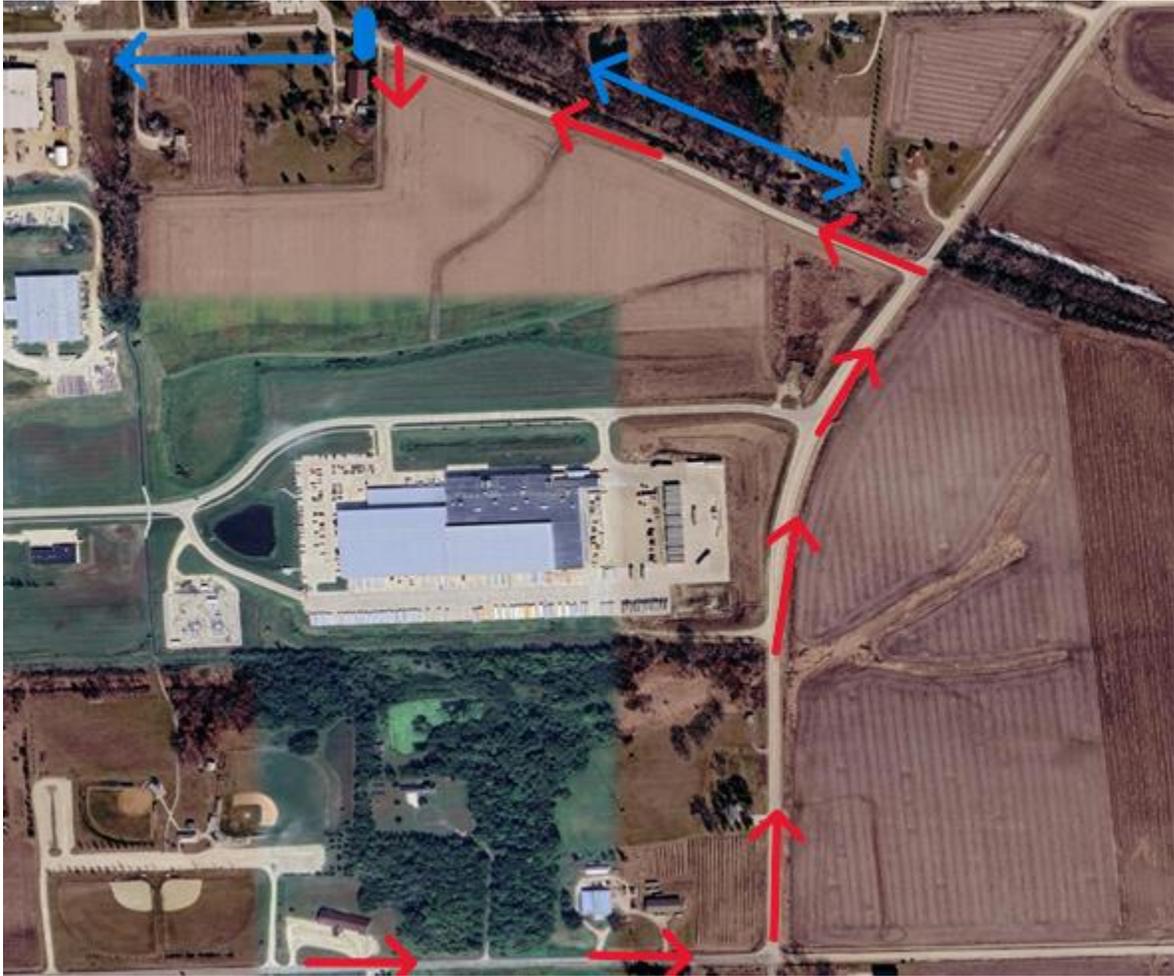
Campers will enter in from the west entrance and proceed through the parking lot as shown. They will exit the east entrance when finished. The concession stand will be used as well as erecting a tent. Inside the tent will be an area multiple people can sign in or register. Also, campers can fill their on-board water tanks. This will be used from Wednesday until Saturday.

## CAMPGROUND



The Campground will be constructed on OCAD's property between Old Road and 14<sup>th</sup> Street Se. This area will be where participants will camp, attend entertainment and eat 2 catered meals. A power grid system will be designed and installed on this site. Alliant will run the power to the property line and a secondary company will be needed to install the power grid. After the 2028 convention, this will all be removed and returned to OCAD in the original condition. With the bike trail running through the middle of the property, this is why it would need closed to maintain safety and security of the event. The bike trail will have 1 designated crossing point (shown by blue box icon) to access the far west piece of property. The remaining bike trail will be closed off to keep golf carts and vehicles off. It is requested that the bike trail be closed from 10<sup>th</sup> Street to the sports complex. The entire border of the campground will be fenced off. The entrance will be staffed keeping anyone not registered for the event out. This is a security factor. The entrance is marked with a star. Committee members will also do random roaming patrols of the border to ensure compliance

## Traffic Flow



The red arrows show how campers will come from the complex. This keeps campers from utilizing 14<sup>th</sup> St Se. This avoids and disruption to East Penn's operations. The blue arrows are the requested traffic flow change for the week of convention. Signage will be requested at a later date. The blue block is the point of traffic flow change.

### CONTEST AREA



This area would be used on the Saturday of Convention for State Contest. This is a general area. Finalized plans would be presented to the council in the future. There are several contests that will be held during the day. IFA representatives will visit Oelwein a few months in advance to access the roadway conditions. By holding this event downtown, it will shut traffic down however, will be a great increase of foot traffic to the businesses and restaurants as event goers will patronize them. Also, it should be noted that in previous experience, the citizens of town will also come and spectate drawing more patrons into these businesses. It should also be noted that Non-profit groups and a few food trucks may set up near this event. This is still a work in progress however.

## Schedule

Below is a schedule from a previous town. Ours will look close to this however some details will be changed.

**2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS  
146TH ANNUAL IOWA FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION  
SEPTEMBER 4TH-8TH, 2024  
IOWA FALLS, IOWA**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 29TH, 2024**

8:00 AM CAMPERS CAN ENTER THE CONVENTION CAMPGROUND (BEFORE THEN CAMPGROUND IS CLOSED)  
\*\*CAMPERS PLEASE ENTER THRU THE SOUTH GATE\*\* (SEE CAMPGROUND MAP)  
\*\* ONLY THOSE PRE-REGISTERED ARE ELIGIBLE FOR EARLY CAMPING\*\*  
CAMPING BEFORE WEDNESDAY IS \$20.00 PER NIGHT PER CAMPER

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH 2024**

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM 146TH ANNUAL IOWA FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION STARTS, REGISTRATION OPENS  
\*\*CAMPERS PLEASE ENTER THRU THE SOUTH GATE\*\* (SEE CAMPGROUND MAP)

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH 2024**

7:00 AM - 4:00 PM 4-PERSON BEST SHOT GOLF TOURNAMENT- "HIGHLAND GOLF COURSE" (SEE CITY MAP)  
10:00AM - 6:00PM REGISTRATION OPEN  
10:00 AM BAGS TOURNAMENT (SPONSORED BY ALDEN FIRE DEPT) -"IOWA FALLS EVENT TENT"  
11:00 AM CO-ED WATER FIGHTS -"IOWA FALLS FIRE STATION"  
6:00 PM CAMPGROUND GOLF CART PARADE -STARTS AT "REGISTRATION TENT"

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH 2024**

7:00 AM - 4:00 PM 4-PERSON BEST SHOT GOLF TOURNAMENT- "HIGHLAND GOLF COURSE" (SEE CITY MAP)  
10AM - 6:00PM REGISTRATION OPEN  
11:00 AM WOMENS & OLD TIMERS WATER FIGHTS- "IOWA FALLS FIRE STATION"  
3:30 PM - 8:00 PM MEAL - FOOD TRUCKS "IOWA FALLS EVENT TENT"  
5:00 PM FIRE TRUCK SHOW AND SHINE -"BEHIND THE IOWA FALLS EVENT TENT"  
PLEASE LINE UP BY 4:45 PM OPENING CEREMONY AND JUDGING WILL BEGIN AT 5 PM  
AWARDS WILL BE HANDED OUT AT 6:30 PM  
8:00 PM -12 AM SUSHI ROLL -"IOWA FALLS EVENT TENT"

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH 2024**

6:30 AM CONTEST JUDGES/TIMERS MEETING- "ESTES PARK" (SEE CITY MAP)  
7:00 AM - 12:00 PM REGISTRATION OPEN  
7:45 AM PRE-DRILL ACTIVITIES -"ESTES PARK"  
INVOCATION: IFA CHAPLIN  
WELCOME: IFA CHIEF -SCOTT EISENTRAGER  
ADDRESS: IFA PRESIDENT ROGER CARR  
8:00 AM IFA DRILLS BEGIN -"ESTES PARK"  
5:00PM - 7:00PM MEAL -"IOWA FALLS EVENT TENT"  
7:00PM - 9:00 PM MICRO WRESTLING -"IOWA FALLS EVENT TENT"  
9:00 PM - 12:00 AM AFTERSHOCK -"IOWA FALLS EVENT TENT"  
9:00 PM AWARD PRESENTATION -"IOWA FALLS EVENT TENT"

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH 2024**

9:00 AM IOWA FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING -"IOWA FALLS FIRE STATION"  
3:00 PM 146TH ANNUAL IOWA FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION OFFICIALLY CLOSES  
\*\*ALL GATES WILL BE OPEN FOR EXITING\*\*

## Past Event Pictures

Below are some pictures from previous IFA Conventions.



**The following requests are being made tonight for the duration of these dates.**

**09-03-2027 to 09-13-2027 and 09-01-2028 to 09-11-2028.**

- *Use of the Veterans Park Sports Complex parking lot and concession stand.* An approximate 40 x 60ft tent will also need to be erected by the concession stand. This is for the use of registration and camper staging as well as providing a location to fill campers with onboard water.
- *Closure of the Bike Trail from 10<sup>th</sup> St Se to the Sports complex.* This will only need to be closed from the Friday before the event until the Monday after of the event. This ensures the safety and security of the event goers and the citizens of Oelwein. Further explanation is provided on a following page.
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