



2022 Annual Report



Camas-Washougal Fire Department

Mayors, Councils, and Citizens of Camas & Washougal:

Like every year in the life of a complex organization, 2022 had a few sentinel events: Early in the year, the Camas-Washougal Fire Chief of twelve years resigned his position. The spartan administrative staff stepped up with an interim Chief selected from among its existing staff. Staff worked harder, worked longer, but the lights stayed on, the department never lost sight of its mission, nor failed in its efforts to achieve it. Operationally, for the first time in its history, CWFD was able to field the necessary personnel to staff Station 42, the Grass Valley station, with both an Engine and an Ambulance simultaneously, rather than cross-staffing both apparatus with only one crew. This has been a need of the department for decades, the number one priority outlined in the Strategic Plan, and the recommendation of two independent service level studies. The fall eruption of the Nakia Creek Fire brought the risk of wildland-urban interface exposure very close to home. No houses were lost but suppression required a county-wide effort on the front end, and a full mobilization of Dept of Natural Resource personnel and apparatus to ultimately contain and suppress the fire. This event illustrated infrastructure work needed in terms of county-state-fed radio interoperability, communication, and evacuation determination and implementation. The year closed with a protracted snow and ice-storm that entangled the community. The roads for emergency vehicles were hazardous and sometimes impassable, as was most of the access to the sick or injured. However, through out is all, CWFD was able to adapt, improvise and find ways to complete our

mission.

The staff and volunteers of CWFD are dedicated professionals who take tremendous pride in the mission of the agency. This report is a summary of our efforts to improve public safety through emergency response, training, prevention, and public education.

Our Mission:

To provide the highest quality service to our community through the protection and preservation of life and property.

Our Values:

To serve our communities' needs through:

- Excellence
- Courtesy, equality and respect
- Professionalism
- Readiness, education and training
- Competency and accountability
- Integrity
- Dependability, trust and honesty
- Enthusiasm, optimism and recognition
- Pride



CWFD Steering Committee

In 2021, the Steering Committee continued to work on identifying and planning for the needs of the department. A strategic plan was developed and adopted to help move the department in the identified directions. The committee members are: Battalion Chief Ben Silva, Captain Brad Delano, FF/PM Cassie Knierim, Battalion Chief Kevin Villines, Captain Ben Porter, FF/PM Aaron Cliburn, Battalion Chief Mark Ervin, Captain Wade Faircloth, Captain Matt Baldwin, Battalion Chief Kevin West, Deputy Fire Marshall Kevin Bergstrom, and FF/PM Koa Paakaula. Below are strategic goals outlined in the adopted Strategic Plan and the objectives related to each goal.

Strategic Goals:

1. Hire necessary staffing to ensure 4-person minimum staffing at Station 42.

- Increase the safety of personnel working at Station 42
- Provide a higher level of service to the community
- Shortened response times leading to improved emergency outcomes

2. Hiring necessary staffing to ensure 3-person engine companies.

- Increase the safety of personnel working on all CWFD engines
- Provide the appropriate level of service to all citizens
- Fulfill minimum staffing standard by allowing engine rotation schedules
- Decreased paramedic fatigue by allowing engine rotation schedules
- Safer response to mental health emergencies

3. Fill Training Captain position and plan for a Division Chief of Operations.

- Develop and improve formal training internally
- Ensure consistency in training
- Improve command oversight and safety at emergency scenes

4. Create and appropriately fund an apparatus and facilities replacement plan.

- Have fully funded apparatus and capital replacement plans that allow for the future needs and growth of the department
- Ability to make large expenditures without going through excessive requisition or loan processes
- Ensure safety of personnel by utilization of the newest technology and equipment
- Ensure public receives a high level of service through the use of modern equipment

5. Establish a water rescue training program and team.

- Maintain and improve responder water safety through proper training and acquisition of program-specific equipment
- Obtain budget authority to train and equip a water rescue team

Operations Report

CWFD operations are all inclusive of our personnel, apparatus and fire stations used in day-to-day operations to respond to all hazard emergencies throughout Camas and Washougal, as well as, mutual aid to our neighboring fire departments. The following report details the number of calls that were responded to both in Camas and Washougal. This report breaks down the type of responses along with comparisons to prior years. Also provided are details on each of our stations, apparatus, personnel and other operational information.

The department received permission in late 2021 to add eight additional paramedic-firefighters, in addition to filling vacancies created by retirements or attrition, which resulted in 15 newly hired paramedic-firefighters for 2022. Half of the new employees were enrolled in a spring recruit academy that began on March 28, 2022. The fall academy was attended by six new hires and concluded in late December. In addition to those six, one person was hired on as a lateral firefighter-paramedic. A lateral is defined as those who have a minimum of 3 years experience working for a professional department and meet specific certification criteria. Laterals don't attend the fire academy, however they do complete a 4 week orientation prior to being placed on shift.

During the 2022 wildfire season, CWFD didn't send crews on wildland mobilization fires due to staffing shortages. CWFD prioritized serving the local community to ensure that full response capabilities were maintained at all times. The wildland urban interface became a reality with the nearby Nakia Creek Fire taking off in October.



The fire, fueled by east winds and steep terrain burned nearly 2000 acres of DNR managed lands. Evacuations of many Camas and Washougal residents led to the establishment of shelters coordinated by the Red Cross. CWFD units were utilized during the initial phase protecting structures and assisting those

who couldn't evacuate themselves. During the evacuations, fire stations were flooded with phone calls from residents concerned about evacuation boundaries and whether they were safe or not. Our leadership and crews managed the events as they unfolded, with the support of our mutual aid partners up until DNR took complete control of the incident.

Operations Report

CWFD's fleet of fire apparatus is aging. We currently have four fire engines that are in need of replacement with two of the four currently in reserve status. CWFD has been approved for the replacement of one which was ordered In December of 2021. NFPA guidelines suggest replacing fire engines every 10 years, but at 2019 study by ESCI suggested that with newer technology, fire engines could go as long as 13 years before being replaced or put in reserve status. Due to supply chain issues and high demand, current engine build time has been pushed out to about 40 months from contract acceptance to delivery and cost roughly \$860k depending on manufacturer. The fire department may be able to use fire impact fees for new fire engines, which comes from new construction in Camas and Washougal. Currently Station 41, CWDS's headquarters, has a first out engine that is a 2016 Pierce. Grass Valley Station 42 has a first out engine that is a 2009 BME(replacement engine ordered 12/21). Station 43 in Washougal has a first out engine that is a 2010 Sutphen that is in need of replacement. Once an engine is replaced, it is housed at one of our fire stations as a reserve unit to be used when first line engines are out of service for repairs or maintenance. Current reserve engines are a 2003 American LaFrance and a 2004 Sutphen. Both engines are getting close to the end of their lifespan. The department also has three brush rigs, one housed at each station for response to brush and wildland fires. B41 (2004 w/rebuilt engine 2017); B42 (1994 needs replacing); and B43 (2020/F-550).

Our department also has 4 front line medic units used in our advanced life support transport service. One medic unit is housed at each station. A 4th unit is housed at Station 41 and is used as a 2nd out medic unit (cross staffed w/ engine 41 crew) when the other 3 units are already committed to other emergency calls. Our medic fleet is in good condition and has a regular replacement plan in place. M41 (2019 Northstar/F-350); M42 (2016 Northstar/F-350); M43 (2017 Northstar/F-350); and M44 (2013 Northstar/F-350). The annual repair and maintenance cost for fire apparatus was **\$86,147** in 2022. The annual repair and maintenance cost for medic units was **\$53,597**.



Operations Report

CWFD staffs three fire stations full time; two in Camas and one in Washougal. Each station is comprised of a large garage space for apparatus, sleeping quarters for line staff, a kitchen and day room, a shared office area and gym area. Captain offices (one at each station) are combined work stations and bedrooms. Crews use office space and day rooms to write reports, participate in required continuing education, and create and conduct training during shifts. Crews are required to use workout areas daily on shift, as physical fitness is a key component of a firefighter's career.

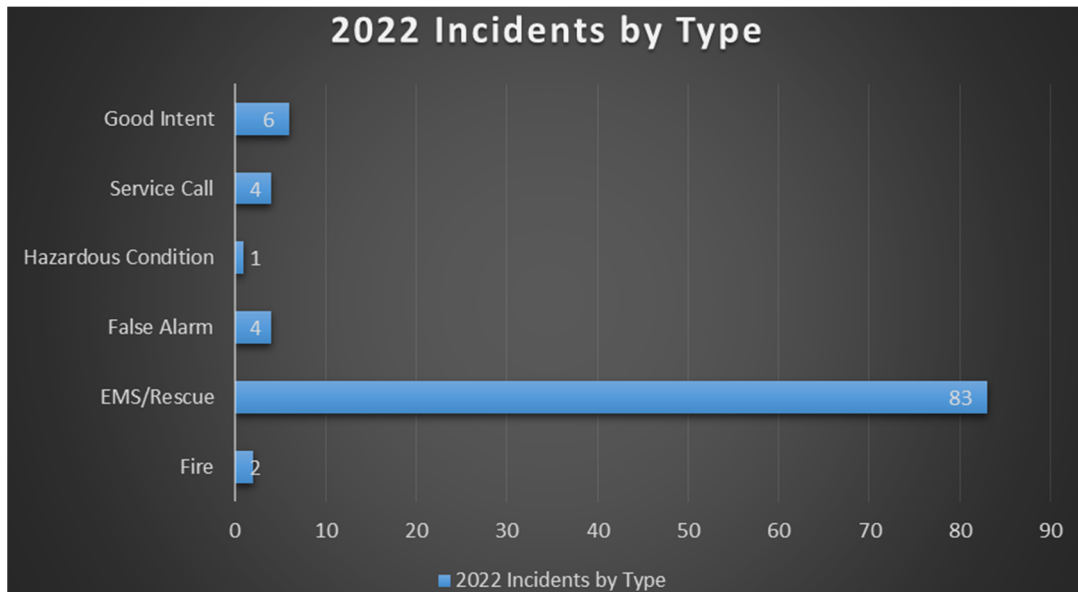
Station 41, considered 'headquarters' for the department, is located in downtown Camas in the same building as City Hall. The building was originally constructed in 1960, and despite several remodels, has been noted by several studies to be in need of replacement for lack of seismic sufficiency. Station 41 is staffed with a minimum of five personnel: four line staff and one Battalion Chief. The apparatus at station 41 are the BC rig, a brush rig, one engine and two ambulances. This lineup allows the department to deploy a maximum of four ambulances from three stations in emergencies.

Station 42, on the west side of Prune Hill, hosts the department's training facility and is the newest station. Built in 2001, the station is structurally sound and in overall good shape, but will require typical 20-year maintenance and repairs, such as flooring and paint. All of the department's administration is housed at Station 42, and limited space will require reconfiguration in the future for additional staff as the department grows. Station 42 houses four line staff at all times, one ambulance, one brush rig, two engines (one reserve) and a reserve BC rig.

Station 43 is located in Washougal. Appraisals of this station have concluded that it is in need of replacement soon. The building has suffered a spate of floods, largely due to an aging sewer system that is highly prone to backups, that have dramatically increased repair and maintenance costs. Station 43 also lacks sufficient sleeping spaces for new personnel that are on the job but still in training or volunteers that are required to attend shifts in the stations. A flood in late 2021 required significant repairs to the station that included new flooring and mold mitigation in several areas. Those repairs were eventually completed in 2022. Station 43 houses a brush rig, an ambulance, two engines (one reserve), and an antique engine that is used for parades and public events.

Total repair and maintenance costs for CWFD fire stations totaled **\$103,432 in 2022, a 54% increase over 2021.**

CWFD personnel responded to 5343 emergency calls in 2022 compared to 4998 calls in 2021; an increase of 6.9%. The chart below is a breakdown of incident responses by type of incident at dispatch. A majority of the call volume are EMS (emergency medical service) calls. This is typical throughout the county and accounted for 83% of CWFD's calls in 2022. Also, as represented by the chart, the call volume for the other categories has remained fairly static. One category in particular to look are 'good intent' calls. These are calls typically generated by citizens who are passing by something of concern or that see or smell something from their home, business, or vehicle. Frequently these calls are phoned in by cell phone users who have not or cannot investigate on their own. These are generally things like steam mistaken for smoke (i.e dryer vents), smoke from BBQ's or approved fire pits, various smells that are not a natural gas odor, or someone sleeping in their car. While we do respond to all 911 calls, often these are calls that could be avoided by citizens taking the time to check out the source before calling 911, as long as they feel safe doing so. This step would avoid taking a fire engine or ambulance out of service to follow up on many otherwise innocuous incidents.



Submitted by,

Kevin West

Battalion Chief

Camas-Washougal Fire Department

Training Report

2022 brought a busy year of training for the Camas Washougal Fire Department. Just like most knowledge and skills-based activities in the world, firefighting skills are perishable if they aren't exercised regularly. This requires our members to consistently be engaging in refresher training throughout the year to maintain their proficiency. To keep up with the requirements set by the state and the need to maintain skills proficiency, crews work each quarter to complete a prescribed list of training assigned by the CWFD Fire Training Captain.

In addition to our crews working to meet their annual training requirements, there have been several graduates from the Southwest Regional Fire Academy this year who are now working on shift. The fire academy builds a foundation of knowledge for new members, who, once assigned to a shift, work with their crews to complete a comprehensive field training process. The process includes additional and ongoing firefighter skills training, paramedic field training, and fire engine driver operator training.

The Camas Washougal Fire Department is the home of the Southwest Washington Regional Fire Academy. In 2022 the Camas Washougal Fire Department hosted a spring and fall fire academy. These were the 5th and 6th regional academies hosted by CWFD over the past three years and in 2022 the academies successfully graduated fifteen CWFD entry level firefighters. The Southwest Washington Regional Fire Academy is a partnership between Portland Community College and many other regional fire departments including, Longview Fire Department, Clark Cowlitz Fire and Rescue, Cowlitz County Fire District 5, and Cowlitz 2 Fire and Rescue.

The training grounds and training tower located at Station 42 in the Grass Valley have played host to countless hours and training activities over the past year. Common training activities that take place at our facility include; simulated structure fire evolutions in the tower, vehicle extrication training, search and rescue evolutions, vehicle fire training, forcible entry training, fire extinguisher training, raising ground ladders, and fire engine driver and pump operator training. Two large enhancements were made to the training facility this year. Utilizing a partnership with Portland Community College, the addition of a propane powered car fire prop was made available for our crews and Portland Community College students to use.



Due to age and wear and tear, the vertical ventilation prop and surrounding roof of the training tower was deemed unsafe for use due to structural deterioration towards the end of 2021. With the help of department staff, at the start of the year the department was able to rebuild the failing portion of the roof in time for the start of the spring fire academy.



Although the training grounds and training tower at Station 42 is a great resource to learn and maintain skills, not all training can take place at the location. In 2022 our crews were also out training in the community on numerous occasions. Here are some snapshots from some offsite training that took place:

Rope rescue training at the potholes, Round Lake Park



Swift water rescue awareness and operations training, Washougal River



Fire hose deployment and pump operator training, Port of Camas Washougal Marina

Fire Marshal's Office Report

ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY POST-PANDEMIC—2022

In 2022, the restrictions that resulted from the Covid-19 pandemic began to ease throughout Clark County and we began a return to “normalcy”. After a two-year hiatus, we opened our doors in September to one of the most highly attended Open House events had by the department.

Close to 2,000 people came to view live firefighting, car extrication, and residential fire sprinkler demonstrations. There were dozens of health, safety and emergency preparedness exhibits by local agencies and businesses.



Lt. Jason Anderson from the Portland Fire Bureau demonstrated how an arson dog can sniff out the presence of flammable liquids at a fire scene.

For the kids there was face painting, arts and crafts, sparky the dog and a small house with a simulated fire that kids “extinguished” with a garden hose.

This free, family-friendly event with something for all ages was a great success and it was a pleasure for our office to take part in it, and to be back out and working with the community again.



EDUCATION - ENFORCEMENT - ENGINEERING

The 3 E's of Fire Prevention – 2022 in Review

The primary goal of the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) is to save lives and property by reducing the occurrence of fires within our jurisdiction through the three E's of Fire Prevention: **Education, Enforcement and Engineering.**

Education

Fire and life safety education is an essential component of the Camas-Washougal Fire Department's mission to safeguard the lives and property of the citizens in our jurisdiction. It has always been a privilege to connect with our citizens in meaningful ways including many classroom visits, station tours, and community events.

Some of the Public and Educational Events that the FMO participated in 2022 in addition to the Open House were:

- Family Promise Program (family support through local churches)
- Fourth of July and New Year's Eve (patrolling to enforce firework ordinances)
- Harvest Festival (Washougal)
- Fire Prevention Week
- Christmas Parade with Santa (Washougal)
- Hometown Holidays (Camas)

The FMO not only participates in these scheduled events, but we also have the opportunity to connect with and educate the public every day. Many citizens stop in or call with questions regarding permits, code violations, outdoor burning, life safety issues, hazard conditions, code development and legislation, residential fire sprinklers, fireworks, tall grass hazards, fire department access, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, and carbon monoxide detectors, to name a few.

We enjoyed engaging with the community and will continue to place a high priority on connecting with the citizens we serve as we share the important message of fire safety and injury prevention as we move into 2023.

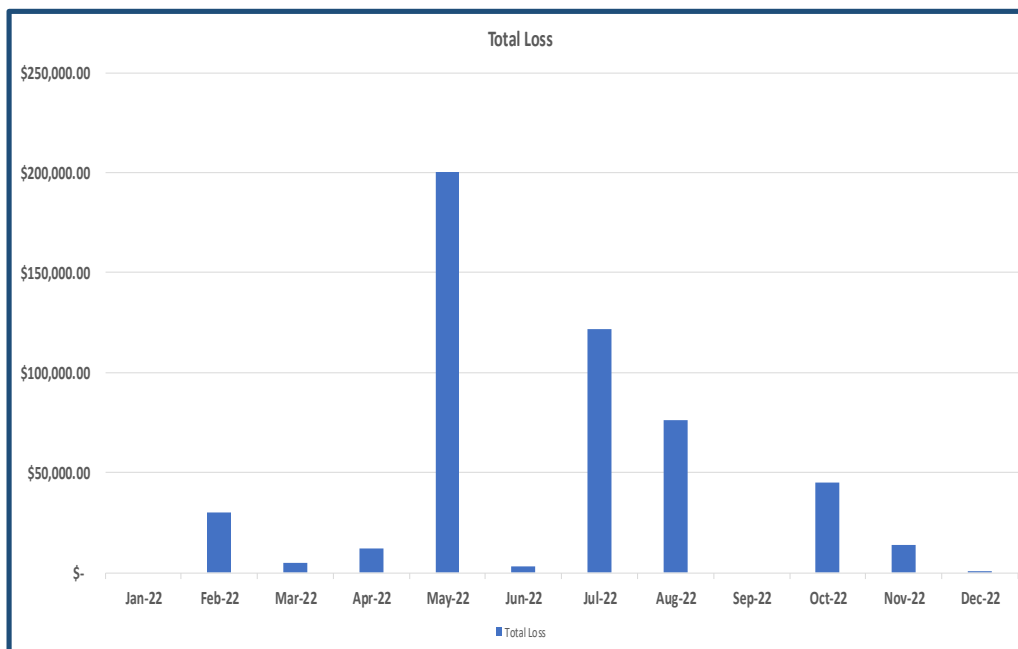
ENFORCEMENT

The FMO enforces the fire code through plans review, routine fire and life safety inspections, hazardous materials inspections, and fire investigations as follows:

- Fire and Life Safety Inspections: The FMO conducts annual and bi-annual fire and life safety inspections at local businesses with no charge to the occupants. Serious fire code violations are required to be corrected on the spot, but in most other cases building owners are allowed thirty days to make corrections. Rather than assessing penalties and fines for violations, our philosophy is to focus on fire prevention through the education of our local building owners/businesses.
- Hazardous Material Inspections: Camas and Washougal have diverse industries; some of which have processes that are considered hazardous by definition. We issue permits and conduct inspections for the maintenance, storage, use or handling of hazardous materials, and for the installation and use of equipment used in connection with such activities. These businesses must meet strict standards and it is the responsibility of the FMO to enforce these standards.
- Fire Investigations: One of the primary functions of the FMO is the investigation of the origin and cause of the fires within our jurisdictions. In conjunction with this task, we also provide assistance to fire victims by helping them connect with other emergency agencies such as the Red Cross, and we help facilitate the rehabilitation process with insurance companies and building security companies.

Total Fire Loss by Month in Camas and Washougal - 2022

Month	Count of Fires With Loss	Total Loss
Jan-22	0	\$ -
Feb-22	2	\$ 30,025.00
Mar-22	3	\$ 5,100.00
Apr-22	5	\$ 12,000.00
May-22	7	\$ 200,400.00
Jun-22	3	\$ 3,100.00
Jul-22	4	\$ 121,950.00
Aug-22	2	\$ 76,000.00
Sep-22	0	
Oct-22	2	\$ 45,025.00
Nov-22	3	\$ 14,000.00
Dec-22	3	\$ 250.00
Total		\$ 507,850.00



Significant Fires in Camas and Washougal in 2022

Date	Street	City	Fire Type	Cause	Property Loss	*Avg. Response Time MM:SS
04/12/22	211 SE 252nd	Camas	Residential	Light Bulb / Combustibles	\$11K	06:52
05/31/22	4554 Rolling Meadows	Washougal	Residential	Electrical	\$200K	12:55
07/14/22	260 10th St.	Washougal	Residential	Electrical	\$110K	08:14
08/01/22	5509 NW Parker	Camas	Industrial	Mechanical	\$75K	12:58
11/26/22	1903 N Shepherd Rd.	Washougal	Residential	Undetermined	\$11K	12:18

*Note: Response time represents the average of CWFD apparatus and does not include mutual aid.

Incident by Incident Type With Detail				
** Date Range 01/01 to 05/31/22 and 06/01 to 12/31/22				
Incident (Fire) Type	Incident Count	Avg. Resp. Time MM:SS 01/01 to 05/31/22	Avg. Resp. Time MM:SS 06/01 to 12/31/22	Total Loss \$
Fire Other	17	11:08	07:53	\$ 47,000
Building Fire	16	08:30	09:10	\$ 238,600
Building Fire Residential	5	09:07		\$ 211,000
Cooking Fire (Contained)	6	08:04	06:11	\$ 625
Chimney or Flue	1		02:24	\$ -
Incinerator Overload or Malfunction	1		04:37	\$ 6,200
Fire in Mobile Home Residence	1			\$ -
Vehicle Fire	10	04:28	05:41	\$ 3,600
Water Vehicle Fire	1		06:17	\$ -
Camper or Recreational	1			\$ -
Off Road Vehicle	1			\$ -
Natural Vegetation Fire	13		08:40	\$ -
Outside Rubbish Fire, Other	22	07:01	06:55	\$ 425
Special Outside Fire, Other	9	05:52	07:14	\$ 400
Outside Equipment Fire	1		06:35	\$ -
Outside Storage Fire	1			\$ -
Total Incident Count:	106			\$ 507,850

*NOTE 1: The Incident Count used in average response times does not include the following: Not Completed Incidents, Mutual Aid Given, Cancelled in Route, Standby, Invalid Dates/Times

**NOTE 2: The Avg. Response Time is divided by date to ensure better accuracy as there was a software change on 06/01/22.

ENGINEERING

The FMO works with the Planning, Engineering, and Building Departments in both Camas and Washougal along with architects, builders, and civil engineers to provide fire and life safety code comments on new developments and building permits as follows:

- We attend the Planning Department's pre-application bi-monthly meetings with developers/applicants to ensure that potential new projects allow for plenty of available water to fight fires and that all new developments include fire apparatus access roads. (We average about 75 meetings per year, and as we were coming out of pandemic, the number of pre-application meetings in 2022 was 51.)
- We conduct plans reviews (and issue permits) to ensure requirements for IFC compliance are identified for all new construction, building alterations/change in use, and for the installation, or alteration of fire and life safety systems.
- Following plans reviews we conduct inspections during and at the completion of each project. We conduct final inspections to confirm that public safety components are installed and working as designed.

CAMAS COMMERCIAL PROJECT REVIEWS OF NOTE

- **CJ Dens** is a 152-lot subdivision accessed off Leadbetter Rd. on the north side of Lacamas Lake. This development required blasting in order to install utilities and create buildable lots. All blasting requires a permit with the FMO, commanding a significant amount of administration process, public awareness and interaction, and site inspections. To date there have been approximately 116 blasts.
- **Wafertech, Analog Devices, and nLight**, part of Camas' high tech community, continue to make investments in their facilities to increase safety, production and efficiencies. Multiple permits for these three facilities were issued by our office in 2022 and all are in various phases of completion.
- **Agape Christian Academy** continues to expand, creating accommodations for approximately 400 students and teachers occupying three campuses. The latest tenant improvement project at the former Lacamas Baptist Church (4727 NE Everett Dr.) created the addition of four new classrooms.
- **IQ Credit Union** in downtown Camas downsized its occupied space to a first floor bank lobby with a few associated office spaces. The rest of the buildings' first and second floors were separated from IQ to create multiple spaces for lease. State Farm Insurance now occupies one of the newly created spaces.
- **Oak Tree Station** is an indoor food-court concept with room for approximately 20 outdoor food carts. It will be located at Lake Rd. and Friberg-Strunk St., and Phase 2 will bring additional spaces for lease targeted to create activities of interest for the community.
- **Airbrook RV Resort** located just southwest of Fire Station 42 on NW Parker St. will be a high-end destination RV Park for short-term overnight rental spaces.

- **Camas Meadows Hole 9** is a new residential subdivision and commercial space project located west of the Camas Meadows Golf Course Club House accessed off Camas Meadows Dr.

WASHOUGAL COMMERCIAL PROJECT REVIEWS OF NOTE

- **Ninebark Apartments** – This project is changing the Washougal waterfront with the addition of nine new three-story apartment buildings and a private club house. Some special consideration had to be made through the fire code to include solar photovoltaic power systems and energy recapturing systems throughout the development.
- **United Precision Corporation** – The Industrial Park at the Port of Camas-Washougal saw the construction of a 40,000 manufacturing facility built to accommodate a 60,000 square foot addition in the near future.
- **Northside Development** - A large tract of residential development is underway on Woodburn Hill that will contain a number of homes new to our community. The FMO helped oversee the distribution of fire hydrants and water supply in this community and every home built will have its home fire sprinkler system inspected by our office.
- **Stainless Cable & Railing** – 2022 saw the completion of a three-building campus in the Port of Camas-Washougal that will house a unique local business that will fabricate deck and porch railings for shipment around the world.
- **Building 20 - Port of Camas-Washougal** - Our office oversaw the construction of this 50,000 square foot industrial warehouse space that will be divided among a number of different tenants.

FIRE PERMITS, INSPECTIONS, AND FEES

One of the goals of the FMO is to conduct on-site permit inspections in a timely manner. Nearly 95% of the time permit inspections are completed on the same day they are requested and as close as possible to the hour requested. This level of performance is extremely rare in our industry.

Permits and Inspections - 2022

- Permits Issued: **354** (178 of those for residential fire sprinklers)
- Inspections Performed: **1,491** (construction , permit, fire and life safety)
- Fire Permit Fees: **\$71,966**

Fire Impact Fees

New growth and development in our cities create additional demand for public fire safety facilities. Fire impact fees are collected to help recover a portion of the costs incurred for these new facilities.

- Fire Impact Fees Collected Camas 2022: \$ 114,909
- Fire Impact Fees Collected Washougal 2022: \$ 52,079

Looking Ahead

When I first started my position for the City of Washougal as their first Fire Marshal, two-construction projects were starting to take shape; 1) development of the waterfront (River Place) and; 2) construction of several buildings in the downtown core. For a variety of reasons, these projects were placed on hold and now as I inch closer to retirement these two projects have come full circle and we have seen an influx of new buildings in both the downtown and along the river. Ninebark Apartments located adjacent to the waterfront is scheduled for occupancy this spring, and four to five seven-story buildings are scheduled for construction this fall. In the downtown core, a six-story building is scheduled to begin construction this summer. With more mid-rise buildings in the planning stage for Washougal as well as for the City of Camas, the landscape of the two cities is rapidly changing. These taller structures have more complex building and fire code requirements.

Our office looks forward to these and the many other challenges that lie ahead in 2023 as we continue to strive to provide excellent service to the customers we serve, adhering to our motto of “Working Toward a Safer Community”.

Ron Schumacher

Fire Marshal

Camas-Washougal Fire Department

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2022 Employee Milestones

Anniversaries

Steve Pozsgai	Firefighter Paramedic	25 years of service
Paul Bennett	Captain	25 years of service
Michael Brown	Captain	25 years of service
Gary Horst	Firefighter Paramedic	25 years of service
Dane Hammond	Captain	10 years of service
Brad Delano	Captain	10 years of service
Katie Linton	Captain	10 years of service
Matthew Baldwin	Captain	10 years of service

Hired

Bailey Duncan	Firefighter/Paramedic
Alexander Hallquist	Firefighter/Paramedic
Austin Arruda	Firefighter/Paramedic
Davin Kortt	Firefighter/Paramedic
Tarin Miller	Firefighter/Paramedic
Emily Dickson	Firefighter/Paramedic
Nate Barmore	Firefighter/Paramedic
Betsy Mills	Firefighter/Paramedic
Kaylene Williams	Firefighter/Paramedic
Phoenix Ceja	Firefighter/Paramedic
Dylan Strom	Firefighter/Paramedic
Caleb Lowe	Firefighter/Paramedic
Aaron Piel	Firefighter/Paramedic
Atherium Bommarito	Firefighter/Paramedic

Emergency Medical Services Report

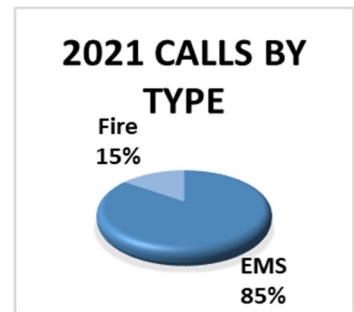
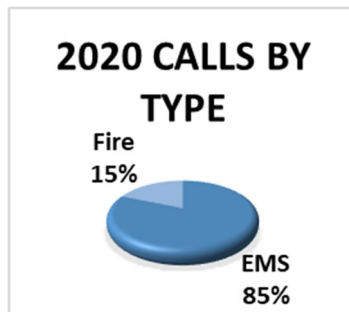
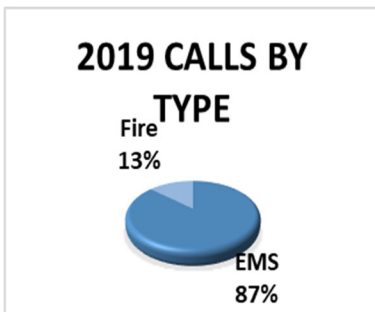
To say that 2022 was a challenging year is an understatement of epic proportion. The COVID-19 pandemic changed the landscape of the world as we had known it; and in its wake remained an uncertainty as to the world we would encounter moving forward. It forced us to adapt. It forced us to make real time decisions with incomplete and inconsistent information. It challenged our sense of security in understanding the risks to our providers and to the community. It challenged the line between personal freedom, autonomy and the ability to work in our chosen profession. However, the one thing the pandemic did not alter was our commitment to preserve life and care for the medical needs of our community. We adapted. We evolved. We accommodated. We retooled again and again without losing focus, and there is no better testament to the quality and commitment of the EMS providers in this department.

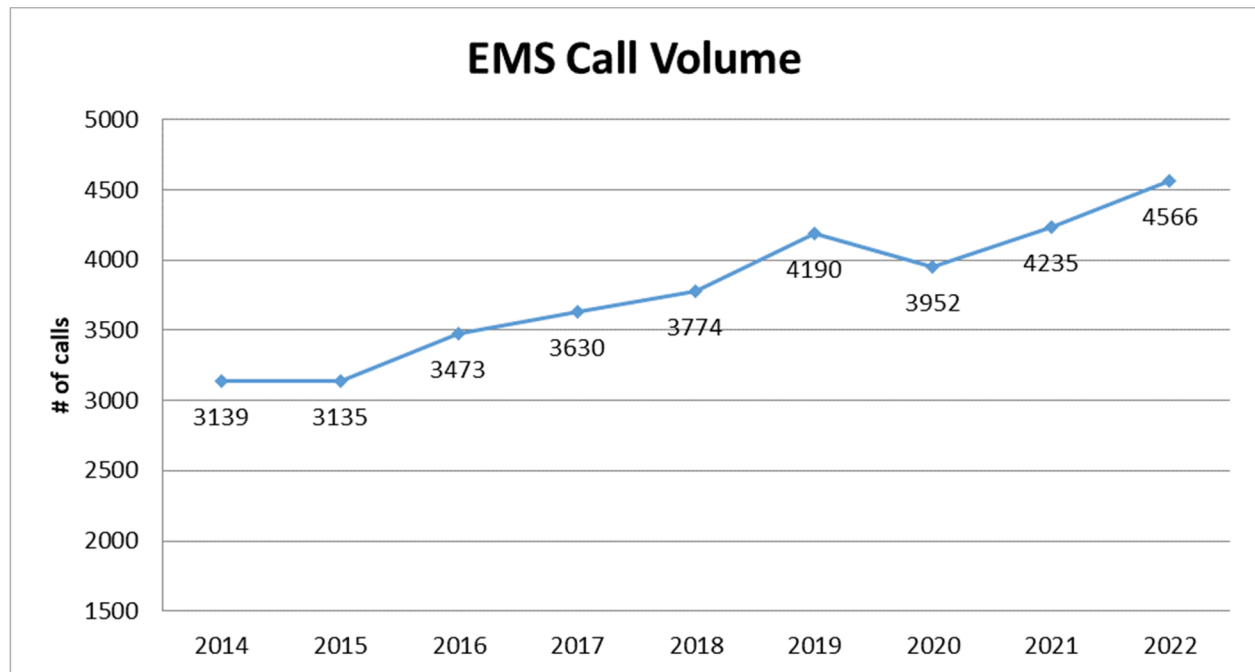
2022 Total Call Composition:

Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA) receives, processes, and dispatches all 911 calls originating in Clark County. For CWFD, these requests for services fall into one of two categories as characterized by their nature: EMS calls or Fire calls. EMS calls are medical in nature. Fire calls are an amalgam of all other non-EMS calls. Examples of intuitive fire calls are structure fires, wildland fires, fire alarms, smoke in an area of unknown origin requiring investigation, hazardous conditions (ex. downed power lines) etc. Less intuitive are motor vehicle accidents (MVAs). MVAs are split between Fire and EMS call types depending on whether there was an EMS component or whether the services required could be handled by the responding engines alone. MVAs without injury are tabulated as Fire calls, MVAs with injury are tabulated as EMS calls.

The majority of requests for service of the CWFD are EMS in nature. This is not exclusive to CWFD; rather, it mirrors fire department statistics nationally. In 2022, 85%* of our requests for service were categorized as EMS in nature, 15%* were categorized as fire. This ratio is relatively stable year to year, deviating by +/- 2 percent over the last 4 years.

**In this report, Fire Calls vs. EMS Calls are tabulated after the resolution of the call. Calls that may have initially been dispatched as Fire calls (non-EMS calls) that upon arrival yielded an EMS necessity are reclassified as EMS calls. This is in contrast to the statistics provided in the Operations Report, which are tabulated based on call type at dispatch, a required National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) reportable data point.*

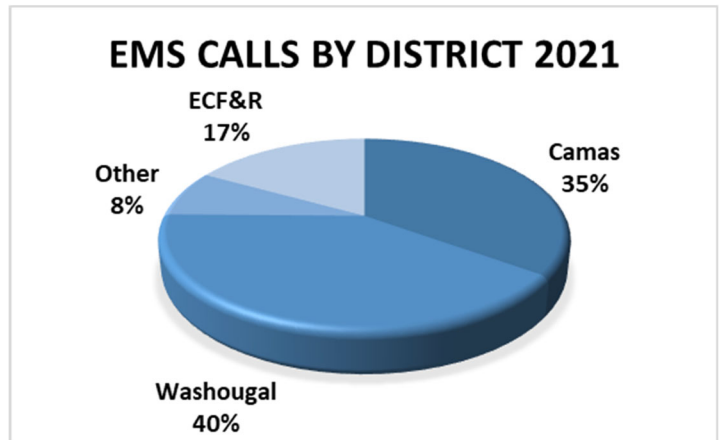
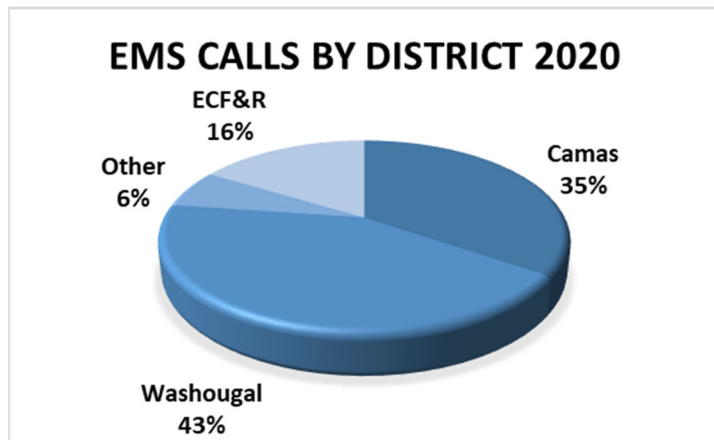
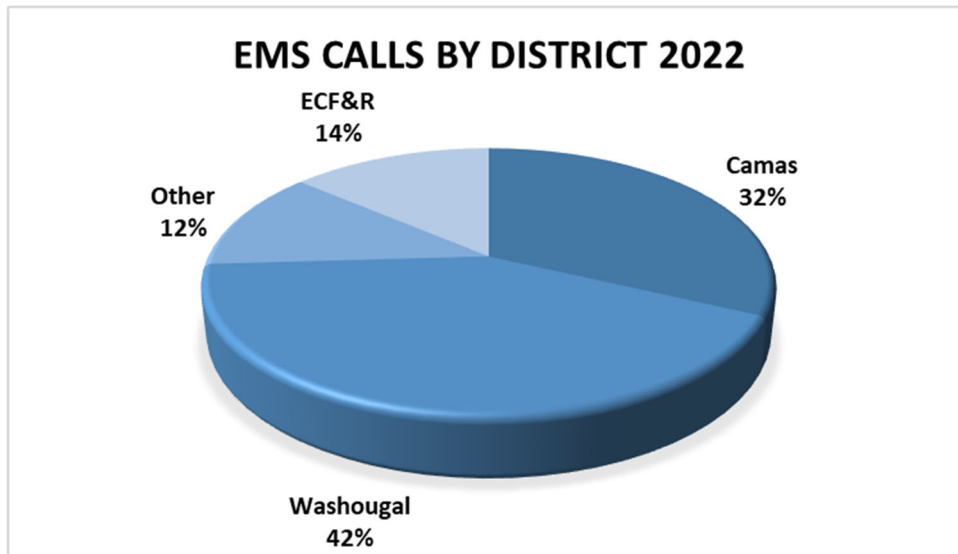


2022 EMS Total Call Volume:

2022 saw a 7.2% increase in EMS call volume over that of 2021. Though we have seen some years of relative plateau (2014-2015), and one pandemic effected year where we had a momentary drop in call volume, call volumes has been steadily increasing. Over the span of 10 years we have experienced a 33% increase in EMS call volume.

2022 Calls by District:

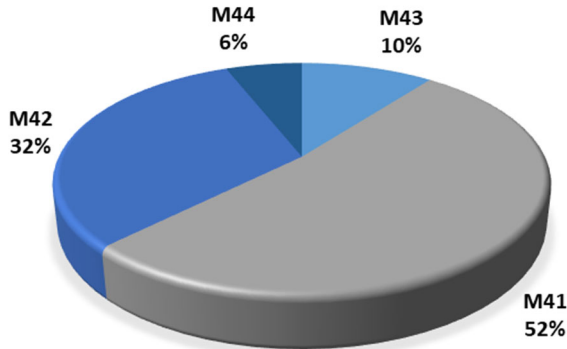
CWFD provides ambulance transport primarily for the cities of Camas and Washougal and the fire district of East County Fire and Rescue. EMS services may be also provided to the City of Vancouver, EMS District 2, NCEMS and Skamania County through mutual/automatic aid agreements. 88% of EMS calls originated within the boundaries of Camas, Washougal and ECFR, while 12% of calls were mutual aid calls outside of this service area.



2022 Calls by City (Camas, Washougal):

The City of Camas is primarily served by the two stations found within its city limits: Station 41 and Station 42. Station 41 houses M41 which maintains constant, dedicated ambulance staffing; and M44 which is cross-staffed with the two personnel of E41. Station 42 houses M42 and E42. Historically M42 has been cross-staffed with E42. However, beginning Oct. 1, 2022, St. 42 has maintained constant, dedicated ambulance staffing as well as maintaining constant, dedicated 2 person engine staffing of E42.

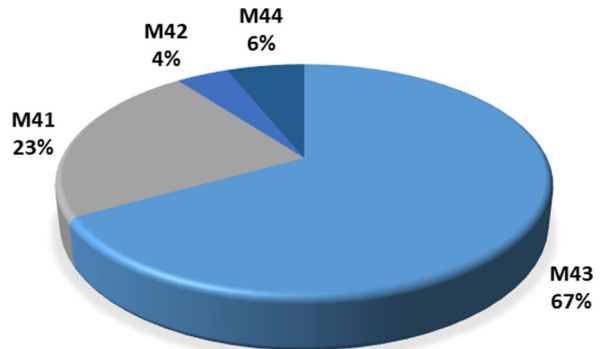
CAMAS CALLS BY MEDIC UNIT



For EMS calls that originated in the City of Camas, 90% of the ambulance response was from an ambulance stationed within the City of Camas. The other 10% were during times of high call volume and concurrence where it was necessary to respond to a City of Camas call from St. 43 in Washougal.

The City of Washougal is primarily served by Station 43 which resides in the Washougal City limits. Station 43 houses M43, which maintains constant, dedicated ambulance staffing. For EMS calls that originated in the City of Washougal, 67% were responded to by an ambulance stationed within the City of Washougal. 96% of the calls originating in the City of Washougal were served by ambulances from either downtown Washougal or downtown Camas. The remaining 4% were during times of high call volume and concurrence where it was necessary to respond to a City of Washougal call from St. 42.

WASHOUGAL CALLS BY MEDIC UNIT



2022 Call Resolution:

In terms of call outcome, 67% of our EMS patients resulted in ambulance transport to a hospital. 29% were patient refusals. Patient refusals are patients who may have a bona-fide injury or illness, but refuse the option of being transported to the hospital by ambulance. Some of these patients refuse transport against the advice of the responding medical providers, others are low enough acuity that after initial assessment and treatment, an alternative form of transportation is found to be more appropriate. 1% were non-emergency scheduled transports either to a hospital, clinic or hospice facility. The remaining 3% (other) were calls where the patient was not transported, nor could they sign a refusal of transport form. These may include patients already in custody of law enforcement, patients that were transported by another agency, or patients declared dead in the field.

2022 EMS System Improvements:

FUNDING: GROUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT SERVICES (GEMT):

In 2016 the WA State Health Care Authority began implementing a state program to partially remunerate public transport services for certain GEMT qualified medical transport fees. The remuneration is intended to help 'bridge the gap' between the cost of patient transport for publicly owned or operated qualified GEMT transport agencies and the allowable amount historically received from Washington Apple Health (Medicaid). The program is only available to public ambulance providers because the state recognizes that Medicaid's reimbursement rates are below the cost of providing public ambulance transport.

CWFD enrolled in the program at its inception, met the eligibility requirements, and in 2018 began receiving supplementary payments dating back to July 1 of 2016. Future funding of the program is not guaranteed; however, CWFD is committed to participating in the program as long as it remains viable, and it has secured funding through at least SFY 2024.

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT:

CWFD expanded its cardiac arrest resuscitation capabilities. Early in the year, CWFD took possession of four LUCAS devices. LUCAS devices provide optimal and consistent mechanical CPR compressions during cardiac arrest resuscitation, allowing attending providers to more efficiently and effectively address additional resuscitative interventions.

DEPARTMENT GROWTH:

In the fall of 2021, CWFD hired the last of eight additional personnel to fully staff St. 42 and gain staffing parity with St. 41 and St. 43. After the completion of their training, on Oct 1st, 2022, CWFD was able to eliminate the cross-staffing of M42 with E42 by staffing the station with four personnel.

Filling vacancies caused by attrition is a constant challenge in terms of the duration of the hiring, onboarding and training process. In a proactive maneuver to shorten the time of vacancy for projected departures and retirements, CWFD over-hired for six personnel. The goal is to get a jump start on, or potentially complete, the new personnel onboarding and training process prior to their respective vacancies. This process reduces the toll of remaining staff having to cover those vacancies in order to maintain CWFD's service level. The temporary increase in line personnel normalizes over time as personnel leave the system.

Two additional chronic stressors to our daily staffing were recognized early in 2022. One was the absence of shifts worked by USERRA personnel fulfilling their obligation to the Armed Services. The other was the near constant absence of personnel due to long term leave from illness or injury. In the fall of 2022, four additional personnel were brought on. Two to cover the USERRA leave and two to cover

The historically consistent absence of a minimum of two personnel on long term leave. Though their training was not complete in 2022, the addition of these four personnel will contribute to mitigating the extraordinary levels of mandatory overtime that these staffing stressors contributed to.

SOFTWARE UPGRADES:

In June of 2022, ESO replaced FireRMS, CWFD's antiquated and technologically obsolete Electronic Patient Care Reporting system (EPCR). This cloud based system greatly enhances the quality of our patient care reports, populating our medical records with data recorded from our cardiac monitors including biometrics and ECG tracings. The patient records are electronically submitted to destination hospitals for inclusion in the patients medical record, and is available for in-hospital physicians to review and assist in their assessment and treatment of patients. ESO brings us up to compliance in NFIRS and WEMSIS reporting (an indicator of a high performing system) while providing a powerful tool for internal data collection and Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement (QA/QI). ESO also provides a direct link to the Medical Program Director (MPD) for chart review.

CWFD's goal, as it shall forever be, is to continue to provide the best possible EMS service to the citizens of Camas, Washougal and ECF&R through recruiting quality talent and retaining the dedicated group of EMS personnel that we currently have.

Submitted by

Cliff Free

Division Chief of EMS; Interim Fire Chief

Ambulance Revenue			
	Billed	Collected	Percentage
2018	\$2,378,513	\$1,113,626	47%
2019	\$3,846,787	\$1,970,748	51%
2020	\$3,650,210	\$1,881,294	52%
2021	\$3,289,768	\$1,507,438	46%
2022	\$3,647,228	\$1,762,303	48%

Ambulance Billing

Ambulance billing is handled in-house at the city's finance department by Ameer Rasmussen. Nationally, ambulance revenues have varied drastically over the years due to changes in federal Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. When call volume and transports go up, the reasonable inference is that revenues should go up as well, albeit on a distinctly delayed timeline. Between insurance processing times, lawsuit settlements and adjudications, payment plans, etc., there is a lag between when a transport occurs and when the bill is ultimately paid, settled or written off. In 2020, calls overall decreased about 1%, transports decreased nearly 12%, and yet collections rose to 52%. This is indicative of the delay between the time a bill is issued and when a bill is ultimately settled. In 2021, calls began to rise again in accordance with pre-pandemic levels and transports increased by 7%, but the collection rate declined to the lowest level in several years.

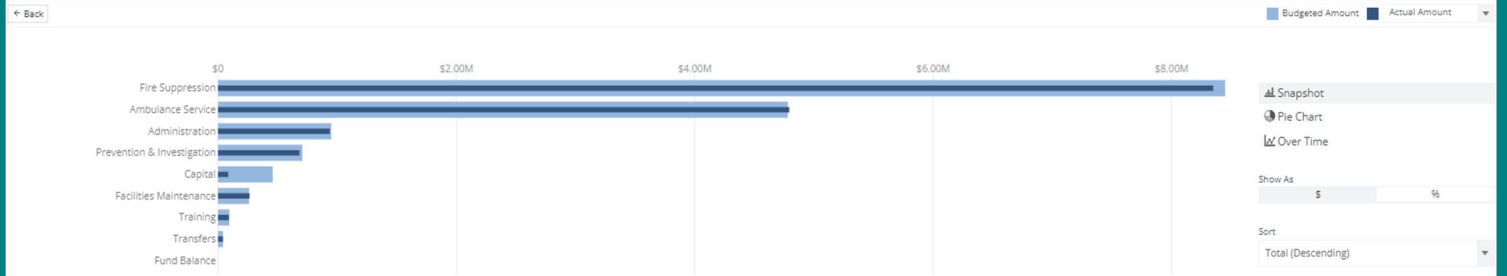
Ambulance billing becomes more complex every year, and we appreciate the continued work by staff in the finance department to keep up with the latest changes. The department continues to annually evaluate transport expenses and billing rates, and assess programs designed to fill in the financial gaps to help increase collection rates.

2022 Budget Summary

\$14.02 Million Fire/EMS 2022

Where's it Going? How's it funded?

Fire/EMS broken down by Program



Ledger Details

Program	Budgeted Amount	%	Actual Amount	%
Fire Suppression	\$8,449,940	60.27%	\$8,349,451	98.81%
Ambulance Service	\$4,780,996	34.10%	\$4,792,778	100.25%
Administration	\$948,783	6.77%	\$938,158	98.88%
Prevention & Investigation	\$707,308	5.04%	\$683,221	96.59%
Capital	\$458,650	3.27%	\$85,277	18.59%
Facilities Maintenance	\$260,133	1.86%	\$264,812	101.80%
Total	Budgeted Amount \$14,020,864		Actual Amount \$15,245,179	

\$14.02 Million Fire/EMS 2022

Where's it Going? How's it funded?

Fire/EMS broken down by Program

Within Fire/EMS and Public Safety

Back

- Fire Suppression
- Ambulance Service
- Administration
- Prevention & Investigation
- Capital
- Other Show

