

Function:
Public Safety

Department:
Fire

Activity:
Fire Operations

GENERAL INFORMATION

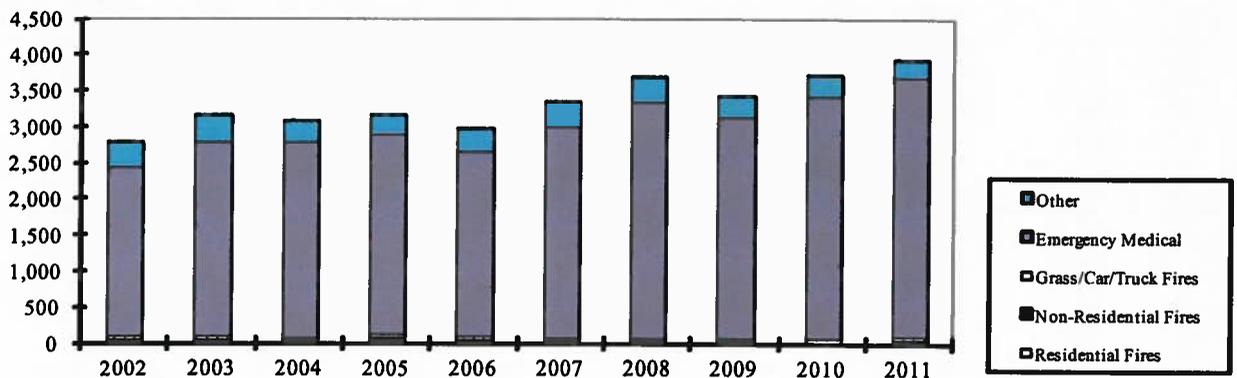
The Fire Department is staffed with full time personnel and provides fire protection for the City of Muscatine as well as fire protection for adjacent areas through mutual aid agreements. The primary functions of the Department include fire suppression, fire prevention through public education and code enforcement, training of firefighters in the areas of advanced fire suppression and prevention techniques, and emergency medical assistance.

Following an independent analysis of the community's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system, the city began full EMS delivery on July 1, 2000. As a result of that action, the City has successfully implemented a comprehensive EMS response capability and at the same time continues to respond to a wide variety of fire and emergency requests.

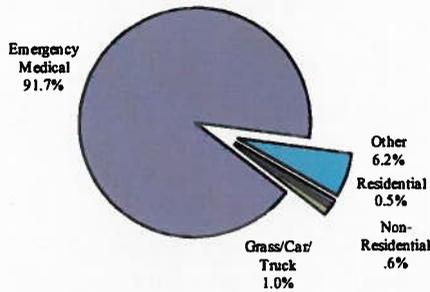
The Fire Department continues to participate in a number of "28E" agreements that promote cooperative response activities with surrounding communities and counties. Fire suppression, rescue, and hazardous material responses are examples of these collaborative activities.

The ambulance service is accounted for in a separate ambulance operations budget included in the enterprise funds section of this budget. Following are charts showing fire department responses over the last ten years.

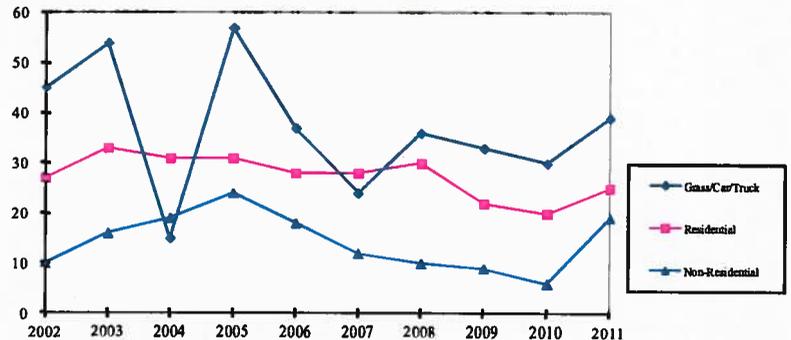
Fire Department Response History



2011 Fire Responses by Type



History of Fire Calls by Type



CURRENT TRENDS AND ISSUES

The revised estimate for 2011/2012 is over the budgeted amount in total by \$150,300 primarily due to increased overtime (\$50,000) and increased repair and maintenance services (\$92,900) costs. The increase in overtime was due to military leave for one employee, light duty and maternity leave for another, medical leave for others, and the training period for new hires. The increased overtime will be funded with an increased transfer from the Ambulance fund. The repair and maintenance services increase is for major repairs needed on the Aerial Ladder truck including replacement of the waterway.

The 2012/2013 Fire department budget is \$172,200 (5.3%) higher than the 2011/2012 budget. Of this increase, \$149,500 is for increased personal services costs. The personal services increase includes \$65,200 for wage and benefit costs for one new firefighter position; a \$37,000 increase in overtime; a \$38,500 increase in City pension contributions to the Fire Retirement System; and a wage increase of 2.5%. The required City pension contribution rate will increase from the current 24.76% to 26.12% for 2012/2013. The budget also includes increases in various commodity and contractual services line items as well as an increased allocation for capital outlay.

In 2011 the City updated its Fire Regulations ordinance. The new ordinance provides for various permits and fees for open burning, fireworks, fire inspections, false alarms, plan reviews, site assessment fees, standby fees, and report fees. The City also updated requirements for confined space permits or rescues. For 2012/2013 revenues from these permits and fees is estimated at \$49,700.

The 2012/2013 budget continues to include transfers from the Ambulance Fund to the Fire department budget to fund an allocation of the fire positions used in providing ambulance services. For the 2010/2011 year the ambulance fund transferred \$697,800 toward the wage and benefit costs included in the Fire department budget or approximately 23.4% of the total cost. This transfer has been increased to \$786,300 in the Revised Estimate for 2011/2012. This includes the \$50,000 increase related to the increase in fire overtime for the year. The transfer for 2012/2013 has been budgeted at \$839,000 which is 25.5% of wage and benefit costs.

GOAL STATEMENT

To provide a combination of services directed toward the prevention of, preparation for, and response to occurrences of every magnitude that represent threats to the health, welfare or prosperity of the citizens, visitors, and properties in and around the City of Muscatine.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	Actual 2008	Actual 2009	Actual 2010	Actual 2011	Estimated 2012
Calls for Services	3,650	3,414	3,711	3,916	4,100
Fire Training Hours	3,472	3,450	2,200	3,037	3,000
Fire Education Presentation Hours	680	548	609	375	400
Number of Residents Attending Public Education Programs	N/A	N/A	2,162	1,358	2,100
Fire Inspections - Total	504	317	128	343	400
Inspections - Initial	N/A	N/A	N/A	228	250
Re-inspections	N/A	N/A	N/A	103	135
Second Re-inspections	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	15
Plan Reviews (Sprinkler, Site Plan, Building)	N/A	N/A	19	3	20
Permits Issued	N/A	N/A	100	618	575
Outdoor Fireplace Permits	N/A	N/A	N/A	550	500
Open Burning Permit	N/A	N/A	N/A	62	68
Commercial Burn Permits	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	2
Other Permits (i.e. candlelight services)	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	5

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The department has been very busy working with the architect and general contractor on the construction of the new South End Fire Station. The station is currently under construction and the estimated completion date is in May 2012. A ribbon cutting and open house is planned for the summer of 2012.

The Fire Department held its 4th annual open house on Sunday, October 2, 2011, providing many learning opportunities for the public. This year the department partnered with the Muscatine Police Department in holding the first annual Public Safety Building Open House. There were activities for children, displays, and a number of demonstrations of fire department responses to different kinds of emergencies. Approximately 400 people attended this event and there were many positive comments. Muscatine area students were randomly picked from a drawing and received a fire engine ride to school.

The department entered into a new agreement with Keokuk County to provide Hazardous Materials (Haz Mat) services. Currently, the department provides services to Muscatine, Louisa, Henry, Washington, and Keokuk counties. These agreements generate \$9,000 in revenue to help offset equipment purchases and mandatory training related to Haz Mat.

The Insurance Service Office (ISO) was in Muscatine in June 2011. They evaluated the Fire Department, Muscatine Power and Water (for water supply services), and MUSCOM (for dispatching services) to determine a rating that is used as a basis for property insurance rates. Prior to the visit, Muscatine was assigned a score of 4. After the on-site assessment in June, ISO changed our score to a 3. This ranking is based on a 10 scale with 1 being the best and 10 being the worst in regards to fire fighting capabilities. Although the score improved to a 3, there are positive signs that show the rating could be raised to a 2. Areas of improvement that would enhance the score include increasing staffing and adding/improving station locations. Both Muscatine Power and Water and MUSCOM scored near the top of the ratings, so the improvements needed to improve the score would need to come from the fire department aspects of the grading. The improvement in the rating should decrease insurance premiums for businesses and may decrease residential premiums.

The department hosted the second annual Extrication Day. Area fire departments are invited to attend so they can improve their skills in auto extrication. Ten vehicles were brought in from local junk yards and were used to practice different extrication techniques. This allowed Muscatine Fire department personnel to increase their skills by demonstrating the use of power and hydraulic tools in the art of patient extrication. It also allowed Muscatine Fire department members to help teach surrounding volunteer fire departments the techniques of extrication. This helps to assure the quick rescue of our citizens if they are involved in an accident that occurs outside the city limits. This year 25 people attended from four area fire departments in addition to the City's fire personnel. This training also allowed first responders the opportunity to work on their skills in patient care for accident victims.

The Muscatine Fire Department held a joint "house burn" training session with Fruitland Volunteer Fire department on September 25, 2011. This is the first joint "house burn" that the departments have worked together on in several years. Due to the location of the house, 6208 41st Street South, the physical location was ideal. The residence had been posted against occupation and at the time of the fire was a city-owned property. This area of the city is in the automatic mutual aid area, so if this had been an actual fire the Fruitland Fire would have responded with Muscatine. Topics covered in this training centered mostly on exposure protection, containment of fire, and how to successfully keep fire loss to the building of origin. Although there were a number of exposures that were extremely close, the crews worked together and no damage was done to any structure other than the one scheduled to burn.

A total of 1,085 first, third, and fifth graders were taught fire safety in their classrooms by a visiting firefighter. First graders were taught the importance of *Stop, Drop and Roll* and *Firefighters are Their Friends*. Third graders learned about the importance of not playing with matches and lighters with *Learn Not to Burn* and fifth graders learned how to get out safely with *Plan to Get Out Alive* in addition to learning about the importance of smoke detectors.

A total of 289 preschoolers visited the fire station and another 305 preschoolers and kindergarteners were visited in their classroom by a firefighter. Those that came to the fire station got a tour of the station and a look at the fire trucks and ambulances. They were treated to a special educational show from Freddie the Fire Truck. Freddie entertains while teaching about hot things in the house, what to do if your clothes catch on fire, and he provides a finale showing the students how he puts out fires.

Four students from the Muscatine High School came to spend an afternoon with the department as Job Shadows. Power point presentations were given to show what is needed to become a firefighter/paramedic. The afternoon also included some hands-on training with fire gear and tours of the station and apparatus.

Our goal is to continue improving the department's public education program and reach as many children and adults in the community as possible, and teach them the value of safety.

In 2011, the Fire Department added a cash register system to accommodate new fees for services. The receipt/cash register system is used for all monies coming into the fire department including fire permitting fees, fines, inspection fees, and ambulance payments. This system is directly connected into the City's financial software system. By adding this system, the Fire Department has eliminated the multiple-part handwritten receipts and eliminated the need for scanning paperwork. The Fire department is making deposits daily and has current account totals available to staff. This cash register system implementation has streamlined the financial transactions within the Fire department and Finance department, which has been a "Lean" initiative.

OBJECTIVES TO BE ACCOMPLISHED IN 2012/2013

- * To complete construction of the new South End Fire Station.
- * To continue to seek all available grant opportunities at the local, state, and federal level.
- * To review internal operations of the department for "Lean" initiatives. **(Management Agenda High Priority)**
- * To create an evacuation plan for the City of Muscatine for potential flooding events, levee topping, or a levee breach.
- * To implement a Chaplain program into the Fire Department operations.

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	Actual 2009/2010	Actual 2010/2011	Budget 2011/2012	Revised Estimate 2011/2012	Budget 2012/2013	Percent Change
Expenditure Summary						
Personal Services	\$ 2,843,366	\$ 2,979,234	\$ 3,139,900	\$ 3,175,300	\$ 3,289,400	4.76%
Commodities	49,200	63,474	66,900	81,200	71,300	6.58%
Contractual Services	79,649	86,635	60,700	161,300	64,600	6.43%
Capital Outlay	218,962	18,996	8,100	8,100	22,500	177.78%
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,191,177	\$ 3,148,339	\$ 3,275,600	\$ 3,425,900	\$ 3,447,800	5.26%
Funding Sources						
Grants (Excludes Capital Project Grants)	\$ 164,597	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Fire Protection Contracts and Hazmat Agreements	23,314	22,860	22,900	24,700	24,700	7.86%
Confined Space Fees	-	4,500	15,000	36,000	40,500	170.00%
Ambulance Staff Funding Transfer	647,600	697,819	750,900	786,300	839,000	11.73%
Fire Inspection Fees & Permits	-	-	10,000	9,500	8,500	-15.00%
Other Fees	-	-	-	6,500	2,700	
Utility Franchise Fees	-	113,840	112,500	112,500	112,500	0.00%
General Revenues	2,355,666	2,309,320	2,364,300	2,450,400	2,419,900	2.35%
Total Funding Sources	\$ 3,191,177	\$ 3,148,339	\$ 3,275,600	\$ 3,425,900	\$ 3,447,800	5.26%

Personnel Schedule						
	Actual 2009/2010	Actual 2010/2011	Budget 2011/2012	Revised Estimate 2011/2012	Budget 2012/2013	Budget Amount 2012/2013
Full Time Positions:						
Chief	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
Assistant Chief	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	
Captain	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	
Lieutenant	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	
Mechanic	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	
Firefighter	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	25.00	
Total Full Time	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	37.00	
Part Time Position:						
Office Coordinator	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	
Total	36.50	36.50	36.50	36.50	37.50	\$ 2,014,600
Employee Benefits						1,274,800
Total Personal Services						\$ 3,289,400

Capital Outlay			
Item	Quantity	Replacement	Amount
Turn-Out Gear	4 sets	Yes	\$ 7,000
Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Bottles	8	Yes	5,600
Gas Monitors	2	Yes	3,900
Drager Tubes for Haz Mat Kits	1 set	Yes	1,500
5" Fire Hose (5 - 100' section)	5	Yes	4,500
			\$ 22,500