
DEARBORN FIRE DEPARTMENT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2013

The Dearborn Fire Department strives to provide the highest possible level of life safety and property conservation to the Dearborn Community. Our primary motivation is the safety of our community and firefighters. The Dearborn Fire Department is comprised of two appointed officials, the Fire Chief and the Deputy Fire Chief. The fire department employs 121 professional firefighters (including the appointed officials) assigned to six divisions and has one Office Coordinator. The budget costs consist of 94% personnel and 6% operations. Over the past ten years, the Dearborn Fire Department has increased their call volume from approximately 4,000 alarms to over 11,000 while decreasing operational costs and maintaining the current staffing model.

Over the last decade, The Dearborn Fire Department has reduced both overtime spending and training expenses. The overtime and training budgets have been reduced by nearly two thirds. The Fire Department has been utilizing all avenues of free training hosted by current organizational memberships. All expenses are being controlled and all dollars available are being invested in core services. Over the past few months we have further reduced costs through hosting more training in house, altering apparatus response to save on fuel and wear and tear costs, and implemented a new call back procedure aimed at reducing costs for overtime personnel. A federal awarded grant for an in house teleconferencing system is being used jointly with other suburban fire departments for training evolutions. This process saves time and fuel costs by reducing equipment and personnel movement with on duty personnel.

The fire department has implemented a billing procedure for "Treatment-No-Transport" (TNT) calls for service. TNT calls for service are calls that the fire department respond to for reported medical emergencies but for whatever reason after a full evaluation by DFD paramedics the patient determines they would rather not be transported to the hospital. These TNT calls account for approximately 2000 calls per year. With recent changes in insurance reimbursement these costs can now be recuperated through health insurance companies. The fire department has implemented a program to bill for these services. The fire department has also continued to develop its Cost Recovery Program to help defray costs. These charges are for vehicle accidents, vehicle fires and fallen electrical wires due to storms. Ongoing litigation with DTE may determine the success of this program as DTE is currently challenging the requirement to reimburse fire departments for these types of responses.

Major purchases this fiscal year include the purchase of a 2013 Sutphen Quint which will combine the ladder company and engine company out of Station 3 into one quint company. This conversion eliminates the need to replace one vehicle and will save the City of Dearborn over \$700,000. The fire department also purchased two additional fire

engines from Sutphen by adding onto a contract with the City of Warren. The Dearborn Fire Department was able to secure a much discounted price on these quality fire engines by participating in this contract. This purchase will save the City of Dearborn an additional \$200,000 in costs when compared to our last fire engine purchases.

In FY 2013 the fire department has applied for a number of grants to further aid in our cost reduction to the general fund. The fire department has applied for the following grants:

- **Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)** aimed at replacing our aging exhaust evacuation systems in all four fire stations (\$114,000).
- **Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)** for compensation reimbursement for current staffing (\$1,000,000)
- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** for two new ambulances to replace aging vehicles (\$400,000).
- **Competitive Grant Assistance Program (CGAP)** for funding towards a possible consolidation of services with the Melvindale Fire Department.
- **FEMA Community Resilience Grant** for funding of certain Emergency Management Programs.

****Note:** Awaiting award response on all above listed grant applications.

In FY2013 the fire department also located an additional \$30,000 of unspent grant money from a 2004 AFG grant for fitness equipment. The funds have since been utilized to add some equipment and upgrades to our health and wellness program.

The Fire Marshal Division continues to make progress and improve upon services despite staffing reductions. Certain aspects of the Fire Marshal division such as inspections and plan review are sources of revenue for the Dearborn Fire Department. In FY 2013 the fire department has reduced our plan review time to an average of 2 weeks, this is way down from the previous year's six week turnaround time. The Marshal's Division will also continue to pursue grant opportunities to enhance the safety of Dearborn citizens. The Fire Marshal's Staff will continue to enforce fire safety codes and develop policies that enhance Fire Prevention in Dearborn

The EMS division continues to lead the region with the delivery of medical care including the implementation of the new "STEMI Project". This program transmits cardiac data through wireless Bluetooth Technology directly to the cell phones of hospital physicians, who can analyze the data and address the concerns accordingly. This in turn allows for the rapid deployment of hospital staff accordingly. The EMS division in cooperation with Oakwood Hospital is also currently pursuing a pre-hospital therapeutic hypothermia program which will be the first in the area. This will provide one more lifesaving service to the citizens of Dearborn at little out of pocket costs to the department.

The Fire Department provides Emergency Medical Service, Fire Suppression, and Fire Prevention Services to the City of Dearborn. The accomplishment of these core services would not be possible without support from our staffing, apparatus, and equipment. Our future goal is to research facility efficiency. The fire department will continue to seek other revenues and funds through grant opportunities and maximizing revenues generated through extrications, car fires, EMS and Fire Marshal Services. The

possibility of partnerships with businesses to enhance our mission statement will greatly be examined in the near future.

Divisions

- Fire suppression
- Emergency Medical Service
- Fire prevention
- Training
- Apparatus
- Emergency management

The Dearborn Fire Department's core services

- Emergency Medical Service (Advanced Life Support)
- Fire suppression – Property conservation
- Fire prevention – plan review, inspections, fire system test, and arson investigation

7942 Emergency Medical Service Incidents

Customer Profile

- Residents
- Business/Industry
- Commuters

Emergency Medical Services provided since 1955

3099 Fire Suppression Incidents

Customer Profile

- Residential/Business Occupants
- General Public, Schools, Churches, and Commuters
- 26 High Rise Buildings
- Major Railroad and Truck Transport
- Industrial Complexes
- Construction site developments

Fire Suppression services provided since 1907

Fire Prevention Services Customer Profile

- Residential/Business Occupants
- Construction/Installation Firms
- Preschool, Senior Citizens, General Public, and all City Departments

The Fire Department projects no significant staffing changes at this time due in part to the City of Dearborn Charter language. A supplemental budget is currently being prepared in the case that fire service consolidation with the City of Melvindale does take effect.