Eau Claire Fire & Rescue

2007 Report to the Police and Fire Commission

Submitted May 2008

EAU CLAIRE FIRE & RESCUE REPORT OF 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SUBMITTED TO POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION

May 2008

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CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
"Proudly Meeting the Needs of our Community"

FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT
Edward A. Kassing, Chief
Emergency Calls 911
Administration 715/839-5012
Inspections/Investigation 715/839-4825
After Hours 715/839-5013
E-mail ..... ecfire@eauclairewi.gov
City Website ..... www.eauclairewi.gov

March 3, 2008

TO: Police and Fire Commission Members
City Manager

2007 has undoubtedly been one of the most challenging years for the department in recent years as fiscal constraints with major operational and personnel changes have placed organizational challenges beyond our expectations. As the management team operates under a new fire chief and the loss of the assistant chief, we have all worked diligently to effectively address the current and future needs of the organization.

With the retirement of Chief Bruce Fuerbringer from our organization, each of the chief officers grew to share the responsibility of the team. As the new chief, I began utilizing our extraordinary work force to strategically plan for the future while considering the impacts both short- and long-term. The fiscal challenges have forced the organization to look beyond the normal boundaries, both in the actual footprint of our response districts and also operationally in how we deliver day-to-day services and the resources required to do so.

The financial reality of the loss of $300,000 from our 2007 budget left the department with the consequence of either losing four members by the end of the year or looking at alternative funding sources. We chose to look toward a growth model that would potentially offer emergency medical services to surrounding municipalities. Throughout 2007, presentations were made on the concept of regional emergency medical services to the City Council, along with the neighboring municipalities and the medical community. The department is looking at external partnerships, along with a creative financial incentive package that will offer the services to the municipalities without being cost prohibitive. Our ultimate goal is to deliver the service without a major impact on the current delivery model we currently employ.

With all that has changed throughout the year, one constant remains: the department's ongoing commitment to deliver the highest level of emergency services possible to the citizens we serve. We very much value the strong support we have received from our partners on the Police and Fire Commission and City Council, as well as that from the city manager and city department directors as we continue to strive to improve the quality of service for our citizens.

Sincerely,

Edward Kassing

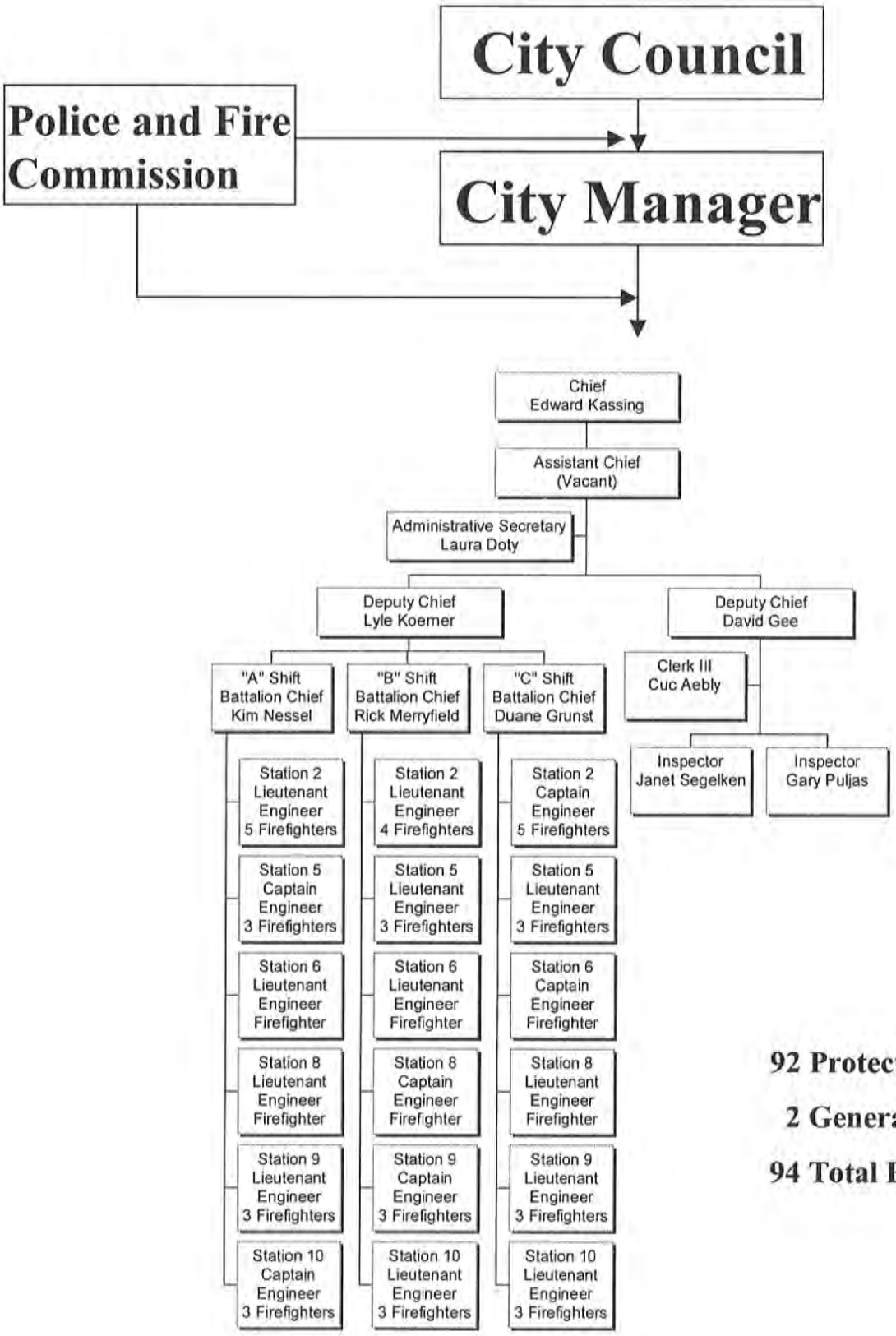
Edward A. Kassing
Fire Chief

216 S. Dewey St. Eau Claire, WI 54701-3702
SMOKE DETECTORS AND FIRE SPRINKLERS SAVE LIVES!

EAU CLAIRE FIRE AND RESCUE MISSION STATEMENT

OUR COMMITMENT IS TO PUBLIC SAFETY, ACHIEVED THROUGH DEVELOPING, PROMOTING, AND MAINTAINING A COMPREHENSIVE NETWORK OF FIRE PREVENTION, FIRE SUPPRESSION, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

THROUGH EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND COMMUNICATIONS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE QUALITY SERVICES.



92 Protective Employees

2 General Employees

94 Total Employees

Stations 5, 9 and 10 are staffed for Paramedic Response

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PREVENTION PERSONNEL

Ed Kassing ..... Fire Chief

(Vacant) ..... Assistant Chief

Lyle Koerner ..... Deputy Chief of Operations

David Gee ..... Deputy Chief of Prevention / EMS

Laura Doty ..... Administrative Secretary

Janet Segelken ..... Fire Inspector

Gary Puljas ..... Fire Inspector

Cuc Dong ..... Clerk III, Prevention

Kim Nessel ..... Battalion Chief, "A" Shift

Rick Merryfield ..... Battalion Chief, "B" Shift

Duane Grunst ..... Battalion Chief, "C" Shift

EAU CLAIRE FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 487
ELECTED POSITIONS

PRESIDENT:	Lance Hanson
VICE PRESIDENT:	Scott Munden
SECRETARY:	Jeff Dykes
TREASURER:	Bill Drath
GUIDE:	Dave Lombardo
SGT-AT-ARMS:	Joel Pettis
STEWARDS:	Shawn Abrahamson (A-Shift) Jamie Burkhardt (B-Shift) Bob Haller (C-Shift)
TRUSTEES:	Jon Schultz Steve Secker Bob Pratt
WORKING RELATIONS:	Lance Hanson Mark Olson Steve Vargo Joe Rondeau

Initiatives

INITIATIVES

The fire department's projects are by nature more long-term as community growth, fire loss trends, and outside forces such as budget constraints and homeland security issues strongly affect department operations. As a result, we have a continuous cycle of some initiatives drawing to a close, others continuing, and new directions being identified.

- Submittal of two federal grant applications under the FIRE Act. The department has applied for grant monies in the amount of approximately $150,000 to fund the replacement of the department's heart defibrillator equipment. The department also applied for a $55,000 grant for the replacement of our fire safety house for regional fire department use.

- Assisting local builders and contractors to comply with new State commercial building and fire codes while analyzing our inspection process.

- Continuing the establishment of a regional Technical Rescue Task Force Team sponsored by the Office of Justice Assistance and Wisconsin Emergency Management. The department is partnered with the cities of Superior and Rhinelander to provide technical and collapse rescue team response to the northern third of the state.

- Implement a regional emergency medical response program to serve surrounding municipalities. This initiative is based on the premise that EMS response for the majority of the county population can be improved through an inter-governmental cooperative effort in a fiscally responsible manner.

- Work toward the development of cooperative agreements with area ambulance providers to define a progressive and responsive area-wide emergency medical services system for operation.

- Work toward the establishment of cooperative agreements with area ambulance medical control physicians and hospitals to provide a consistent set of medical protocols and training format for all emergency medical providers.

- Advance the department use of distance education resources while identifying new training and response strategies to meet the organizational needs of a growing operation.

- Implement CompStat (comprehensive statistical analysis) procedures to allow for efficient business practices. As we analyze the impact of an increasing population and potential changing demographics, the department must project staffing and operational provisions that match or exceed the requirements.

Personnel Related Issues

PERSONNEL ACTIVITIES

New Hires:

Ben Gruber
Christina Henke
Anthony Hennings
Brian Mero

Promotions:

Ed Kassing to Chief
Tim McCaughey to Lieutenant
Mark Olson to Lieutenant
Brian Kranz to Engineer
Mike Laska to Engineer
Don Rydzik to Engineer

Retirements:

Bruce Fuerbringer

Step Increases:

Firefighter Tony Biasi to First Class Firefighter
Firefighter Stephen Friederichs to First Class Firefighter
Firefighter Bob Haller to First Class Firefighter
Firefighter Dave Strassman to First Class Firefighter
Firefighter Matt Gunderson to Third Class Firefighter
Firefighter Ryan Hebert to Third Class Firefighter
Firefighter Tom Wagner to Third Class Firefighter

SENIORITY RECORD

NAME		RANK	DOH
Munden	Scott	Lieutenant	04-26-78
Legge	Mark	Lieutenant	06-19-78
Merryfield	Rickey	Battalion Chief	12-18-78
Kassing	Edward	Chief	01-02-79
Lawler	Trenton	Lieutenant	03-12-79
Gee	David	Deputy Chief	05-19-80
Axness	Glen	Captain	03-29-82
Nessel	Kim	Battalion Chief	01-10-83
Koerner	Lyle	Deputy Chief	01-10-83
Hanson	Steven	Lieutenant	07-11-83
Burkart	Scott	Captain	02-06-84
Frank	Kevin	Engineer	02-06-84
Travis	Loren	Lieutenant	02-06-84
Snow	Joseph	Lieutenant	02-06-84
Klett	Wayne	Captain	04-02-84
Bechel	Terrance	Lieutenant	07-23-84
Mengele	William	Lieutenant	07-23-84
Segelken	Janet	Inspector	12-10-84
Pettis	Joel	Engineer	12-10-84
Lombardo	David	Firefighter	03-04-85
Grunst	Duane	Battalion Chief	03-04-85
Duncan	Dennis	Engineer	03-04-85
McCaughey	Timothy	Lieutenant	07-29-85
Mernitz	Mark	Lieutenant	12-09-85
Biegel	John	Engineer	12-09-85
Okas	David	Captain	12-09-85
Walby	Scott	Lieutenant	12-09-85
Klocek	Alan	Engineer	05-12-86
Olson	Mark	Lieutenant	05-12-86
Hanson	Lance	Engineer	06-13-88
Dong	Cuc	Fire Prev. Secretary	05-08-89
Hays	Benny	Engineer	05-07-90
Deziel	Timothy	Engineer	05-07-90
Buchholz	Bruce	Engineer	10-01-90
Xiong	Chao	Firefighter	05-13-91

NAME		RANK	DOH
Fasching	Peter	Engineer	09-03-91
Goodland	Robert	Engineer	04-06-92
Miller	Michael	Engineer	04-06-92
Kelly	Joe	Engineer	11-02-92
Pratt	Robert	Firefighter	11-02-92
Patrow	Jeffrey	Engineer	10-04-93
Bensen	Bryon	Captain	10-04-93
Stegge	Gregory	Captain	10-04-93
Laska	Michael	Engineer	06-05-95
Kranz	Brian	Engineer	06-05-95
Schultz	Jon	Engineer	06-05-95
Rydzik	Donald	Engineer	02-05-96
Rondeau	Joseph	Firefighter	02-05-96
Bertrang	Allyn	Firefighter	09-16-96
McClellan	Kevin	Firefighter	09-16-96
Dolen	Christopher	Firefighter	09-16-96
Abrahamson	Shawn	Firefighter	04-21-97
Bell	Christian	Firefighter	04-21-97
Vargo	Steven	Firefighter	04-21-97
Rebischke	Thomas	Firefighter	04-21-97
Mohr	Scott	Firefighter	10-20-97
Dorn	Andrew	Firefighter	04-20-98
Frank	Todd	Firefighter	04-20-98
Waterman	Denise	Firefighter	04-27-98
Jaggar	Matthew	Firefighter	08-24-98
Whitehouse	David	Firefighter	08-24-98
Burkhardt	Jamie	Firefighter	08-24-98
Fischer	Craig	Firefighter	08-24-98
Secker	Stephen	Firefighter	02-15-99
Leffelman	Frank	Firefighter	02-15-99
Doty	Laura	Admin. Secretary	06-28-99
Dykes	Jeffrey	Firefighter	11-01-99
Jensen	William	Firefighter	11-01-99
Hamler	Patrick	Firefighter	11-01-99
Pekol	David	Firefighter	05-08-00
Johnson	Gregory	Firefighter	05-08-00
Stary	Jeremy	Firefighter	05-08-00
Drath	William	Firefighter	04-09-01

NAME		RANK	DOH
Toonen	Brian	Firefighter	04-09-01
Brantner	Timothy	Firefighter	04-09-01
Phillips	Brian	Firefighter	04-09-01
Humphrey	Mark	Firefighter	10-22-01
Haller	Robert	Firefighter	08-19-02
Friederichs	Stephen	Firefighter	08-19-02
Strassman	David	Firefighter	08-19-02
Biasi	Tony	Firefighter	12-09-02
Gunderson	Matthew	Firefighter	11-29-04
Wagner	Thomas	Firefighter	11-29-04
Hebert	Ryan	Firefighter	11-29-04
Puljas	Gary	Inspector	01-27-06
Wallin	Thomas	Firefighter	01-30-06
Bergquist	Nils	Prob. Firefighter	08-07-06
Dahl	Jeffrey	Prob. Firefighter	08-07-06
Hennings	Anthony	Prob. Firefighter	01-08-07
Gruber	Benjamin	Prob. Firefighter	07-09-07
Henke	Christina	Prob. Firefighter	07-09-07
Mero	Brian	Prob. Firefighter	07-09-07

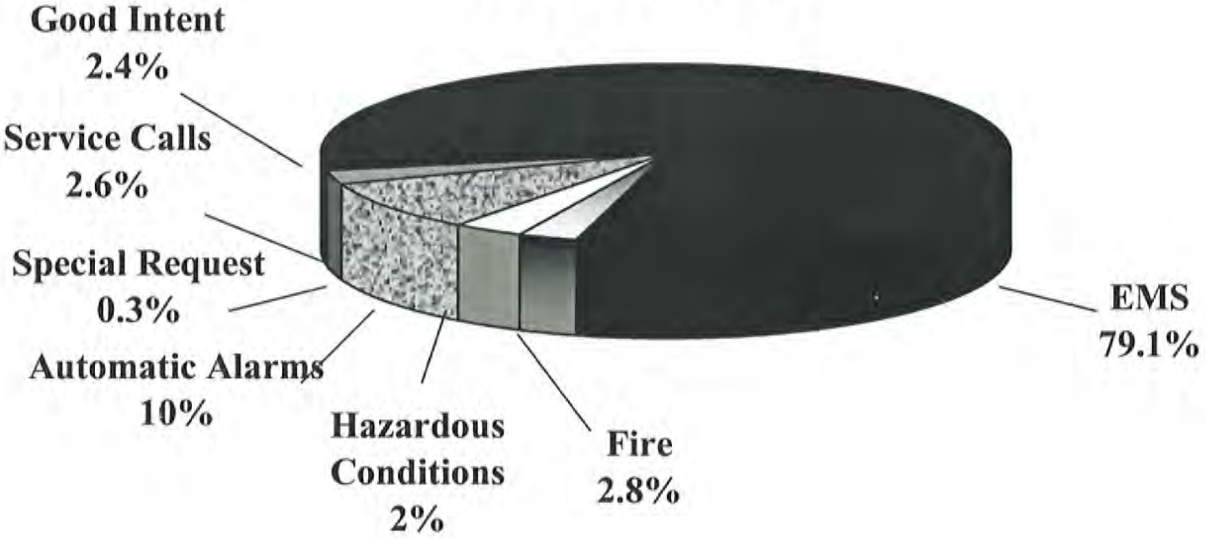
AVERAGE AGE – **42**

AVERAGE YEARS OF SERVICE - **15**

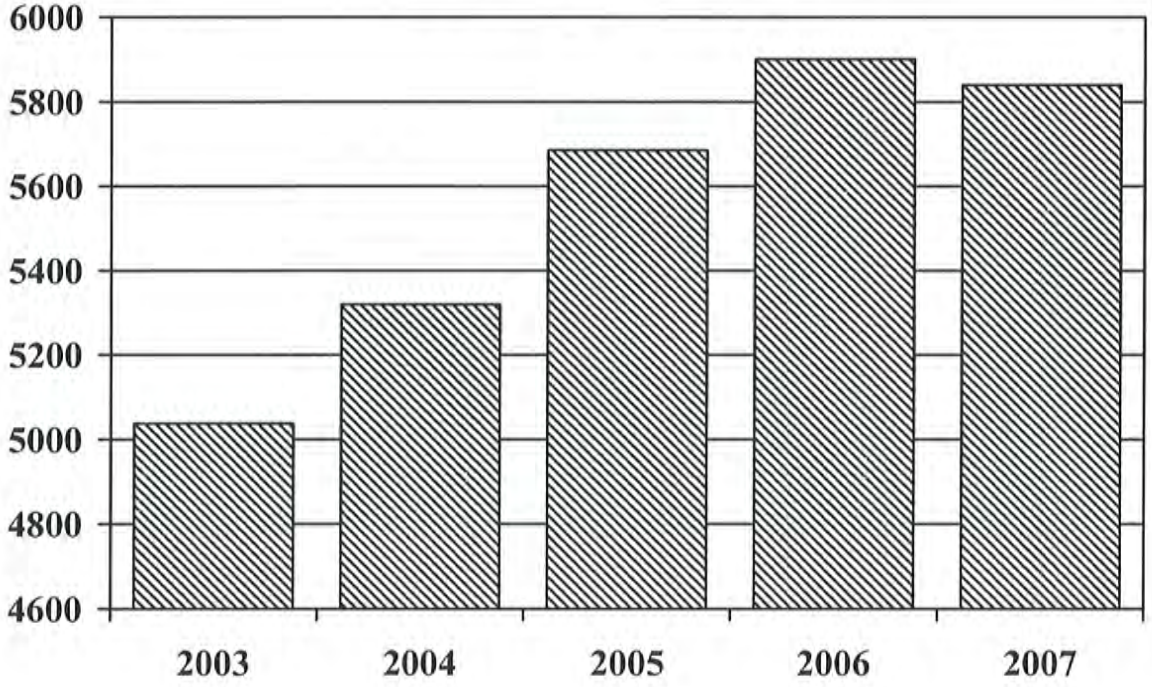
Response Statistics

Response Breakdown

5,840 Incidents



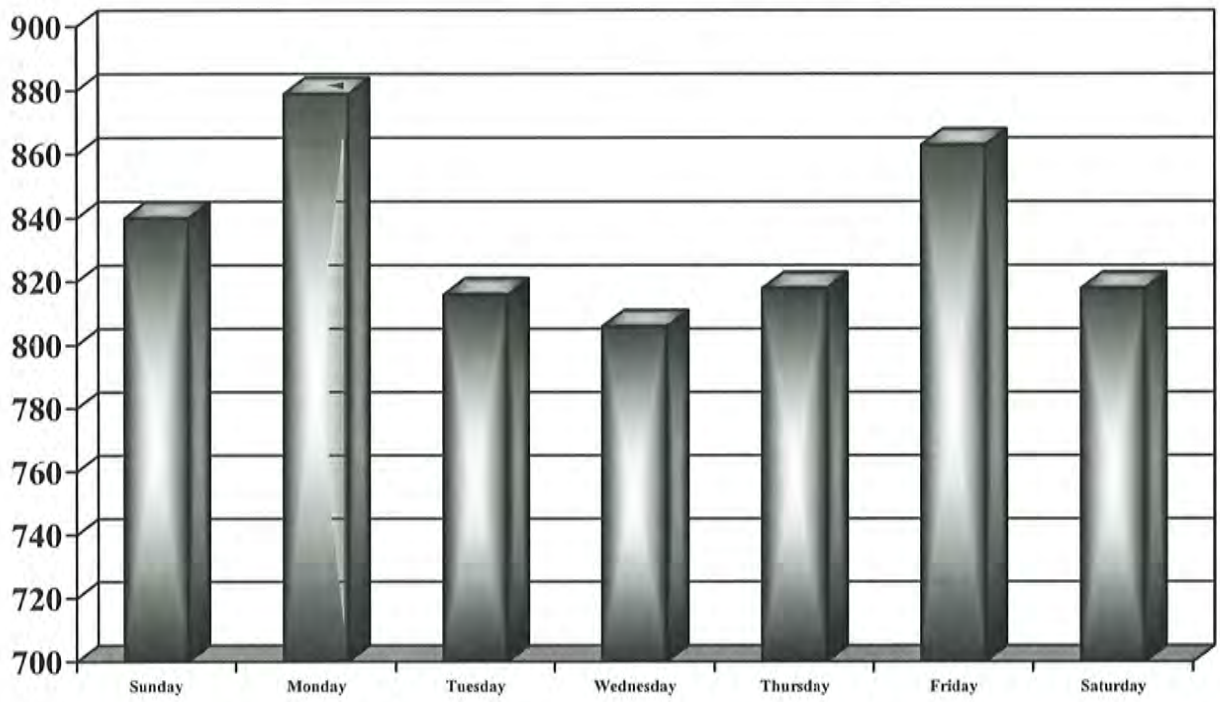
5-Year Total Responses



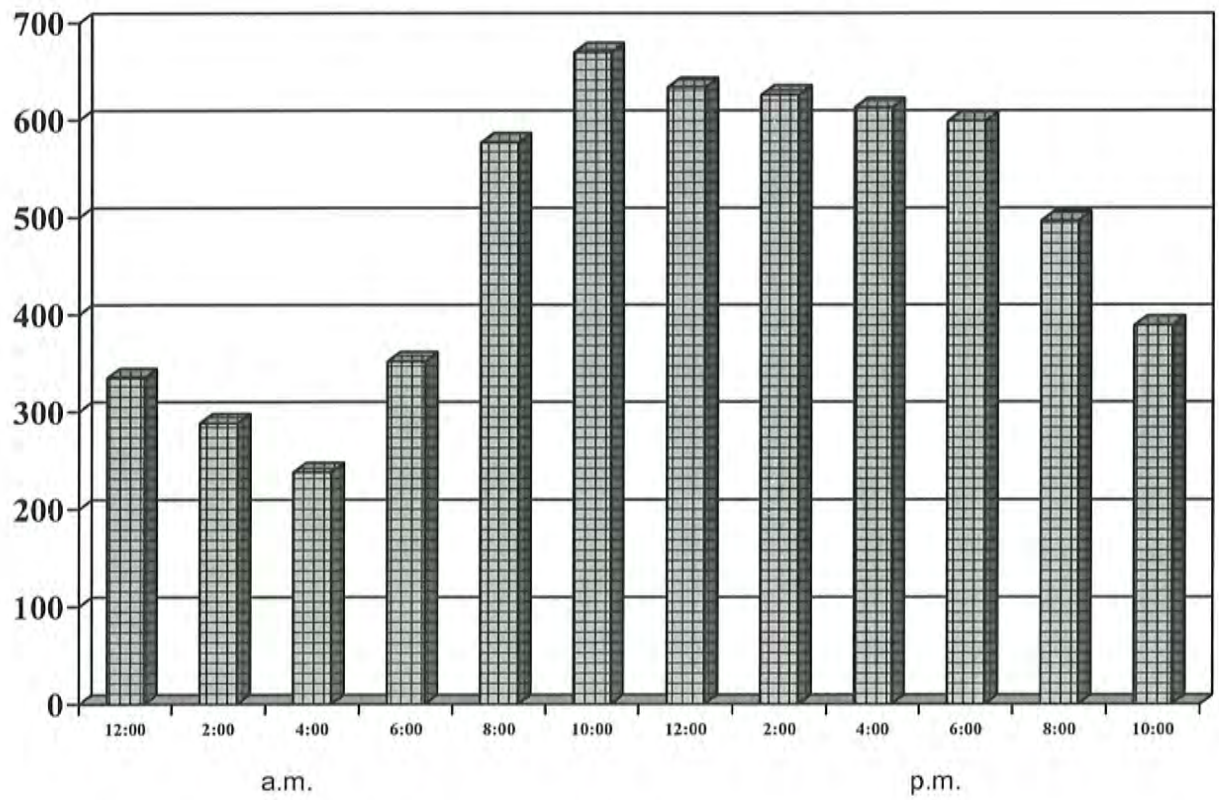
TOP 20 FIRES BY CAUSE AND DOLLAR LOSS

DATE	ADDRESS	CAUSE	DOLLAR LOSS
01-21-07	2930 Mondovi Rd.	Manufacturing Machine Malfunction	$400,000
12-12-07	717 Short St.	Cutting Torch Sparks Igniting Dust	$250,000
04-13-07	2930 Mondovi Rd.	Manufacturing Machine Malfunction	$201,000
07-14-07	1418 Florence Ave.	Undetermined	$200,000
07-08-07	423 Union St.	Arson	$180,000
08-18-07	1725 Lyndale Ave.	Possibly Electrical	$120,000
08-28-07	3217 Eldorado Blvd.	Undetermined	$100,100
04-07-07	205 S. Barstow St.	Possibly Electrical	$ 95,000
01-12-07	1561 E. Madison St.	Negligent Use of Smoking Materials	$ 85,000
10-29-07	1935 Truax Blvd.	Plasma Cutting Operation Igniting Dust	$ 76,000
07-28-07	810 E. Madison St.	Undetermined	$ 65,000
07-22-07	1903 Oxford Ave.	Electrical	$ 60,000
11-24-07	516 Vine St.	Combustibles on Stovetop	$ 60,000
07-09-07	503 Putnam St.	Possibly Electrical	$ 50,000
12-14-07	517 ½ Forest St.	Possibly Electrical	$ 50,000
04-29-07	3403 Riverview Dr.	Negligent Use of Smoking Materials	$ 45,000
04-10-07	4915 Kappus Dr.	Space Heater	$ 41,000
01-25-07	2606 Abbe Hill Dr.	Undetermined	$ 40,000
03-22-07	1110 5th Ave.	Improper Discard of Smoking Materials	$ 32,000
03-22-07	1622 ½ Mappa St.	Undetermined	$ 30,000
		TOTAL	**$2,180,100**

Incidents by Day of Week

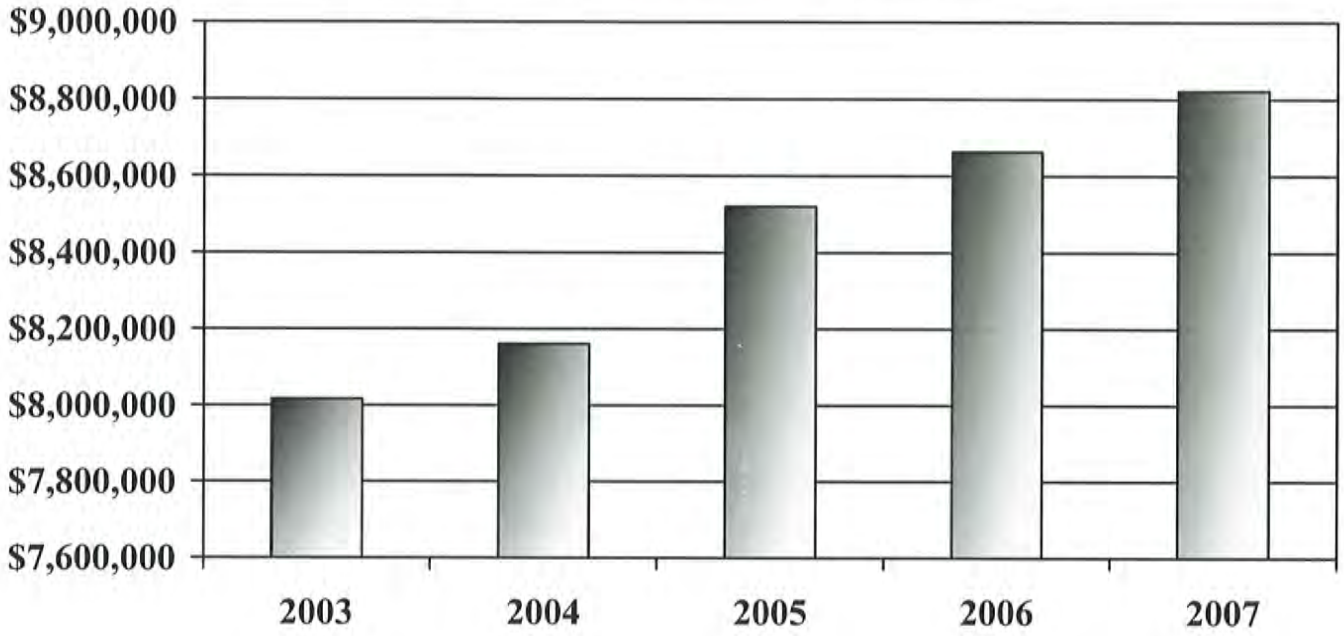


Incidents by Time of Day

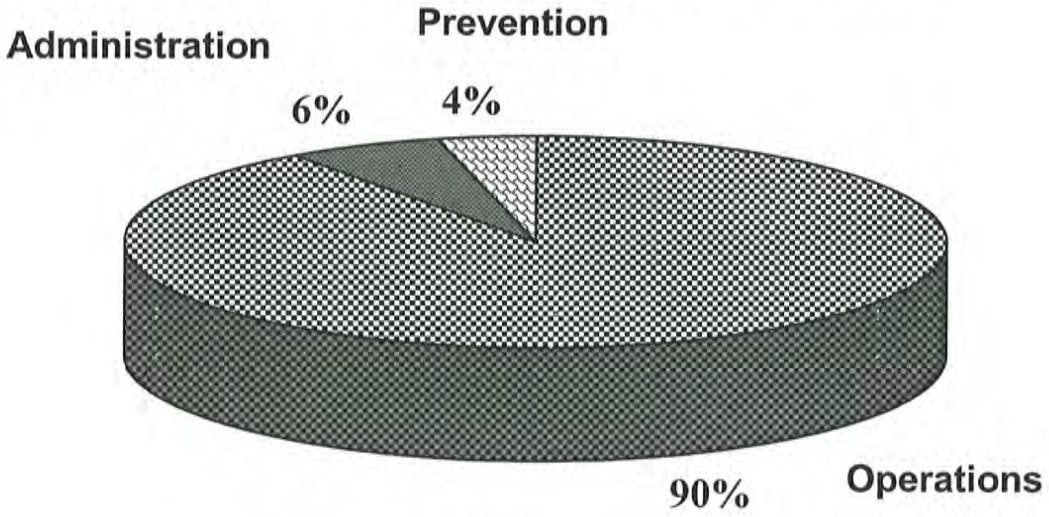


Budgetary Information

Five Year Budget Comparison



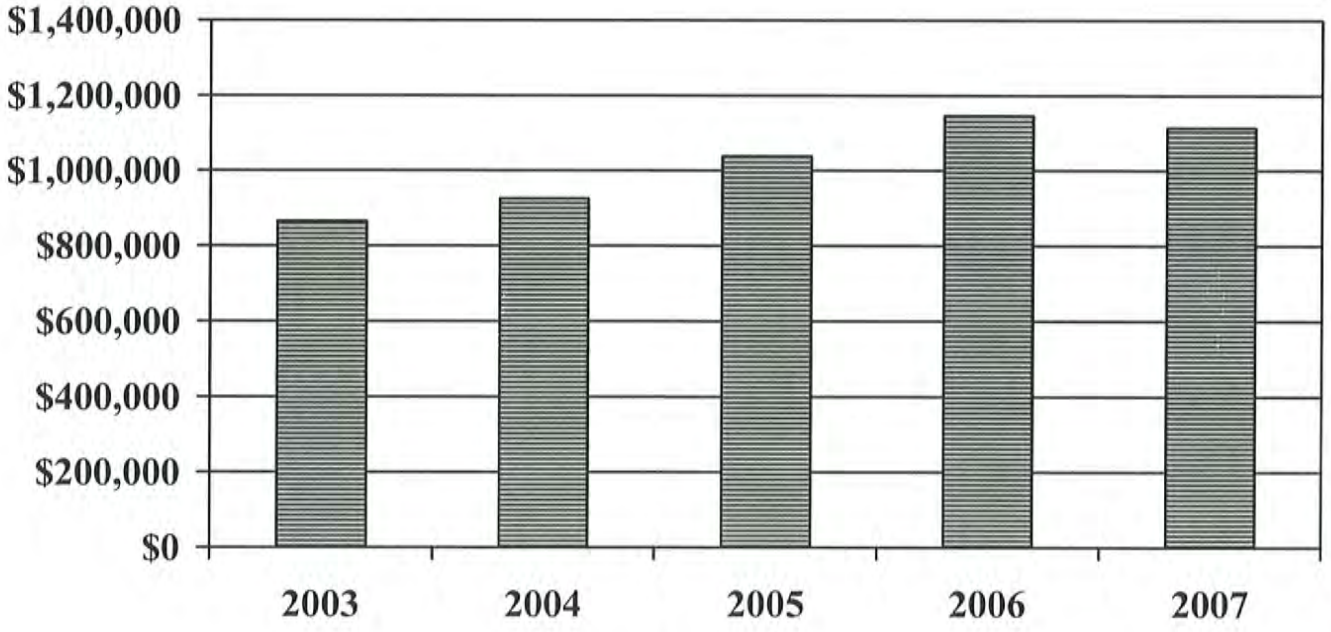
Operating Budget by Division



$8,821,800

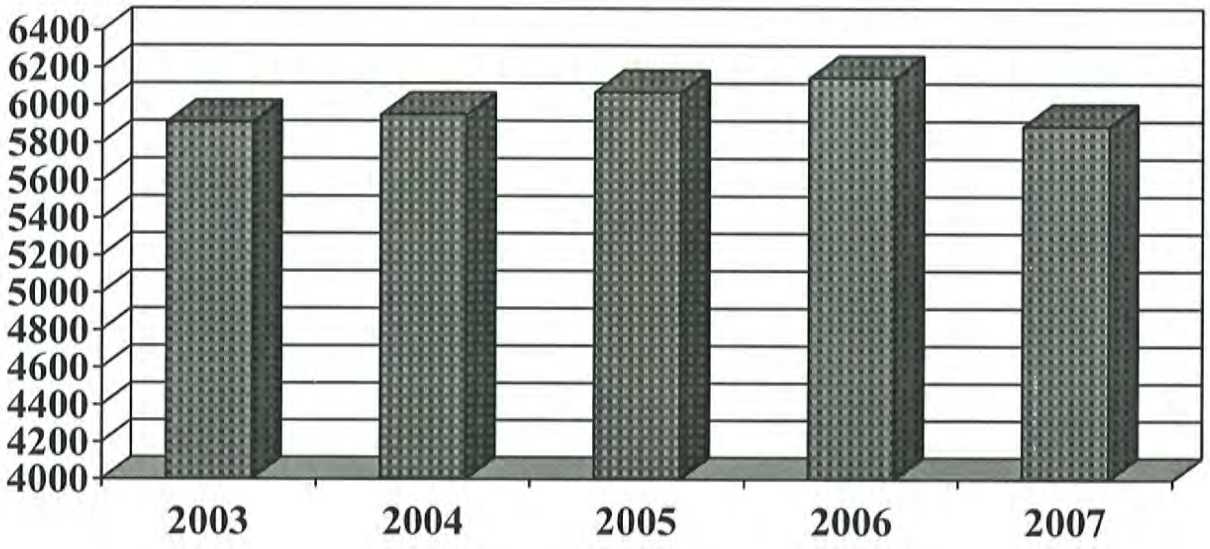
General Operating Budget

Net Ambulance Revenue

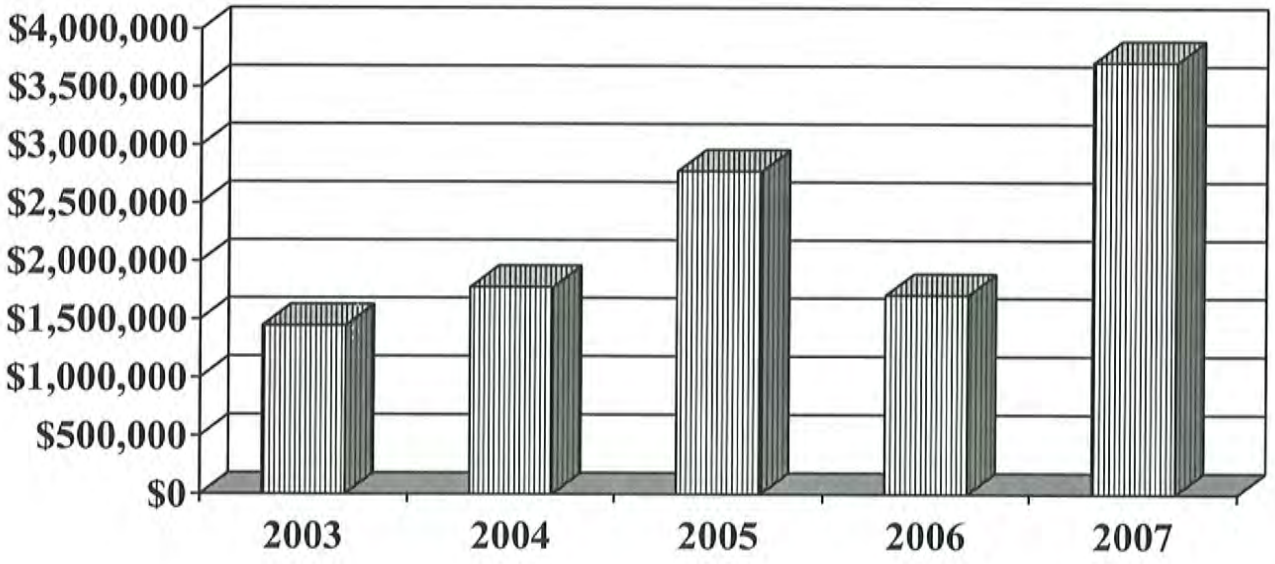


Supplementary Data

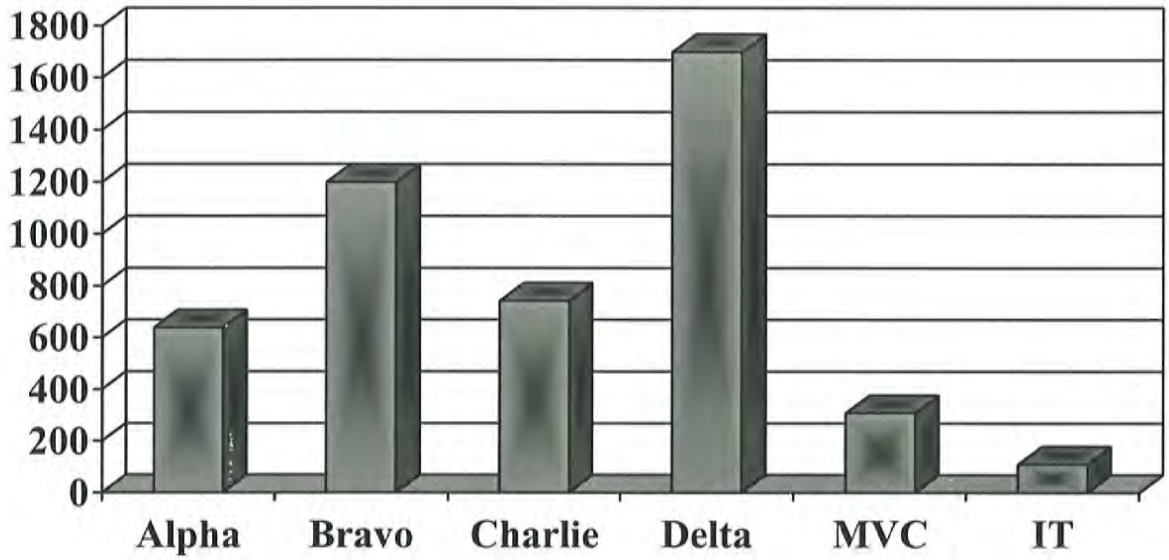
Building Inspections Performed



Dollar Loss from Fire



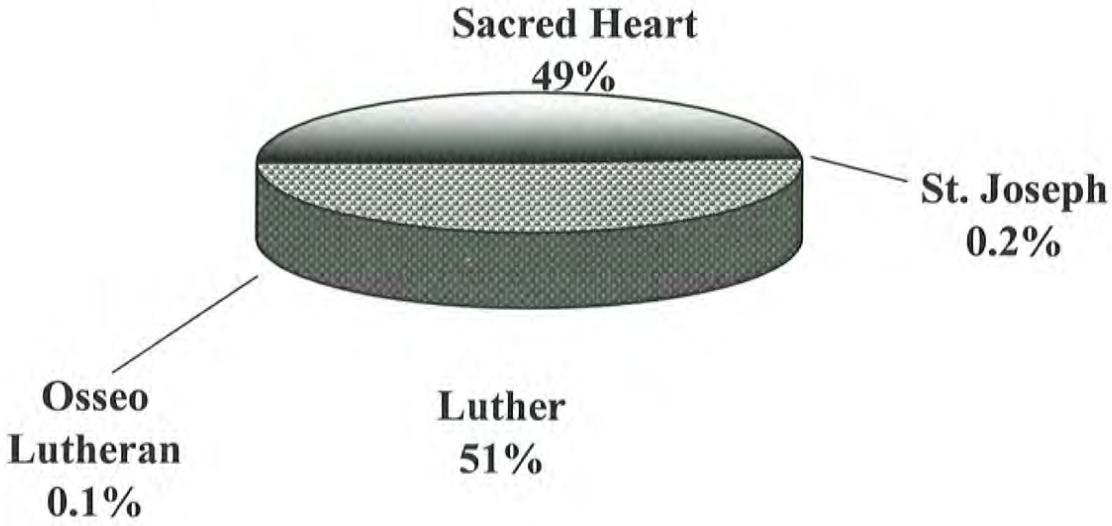
Incidents by Trauma Code Designation



Alpha.....Delta
(Least Serious.....Most Serious)

MVC = Motor Vehicle Collision
IT = Interfacility Transport

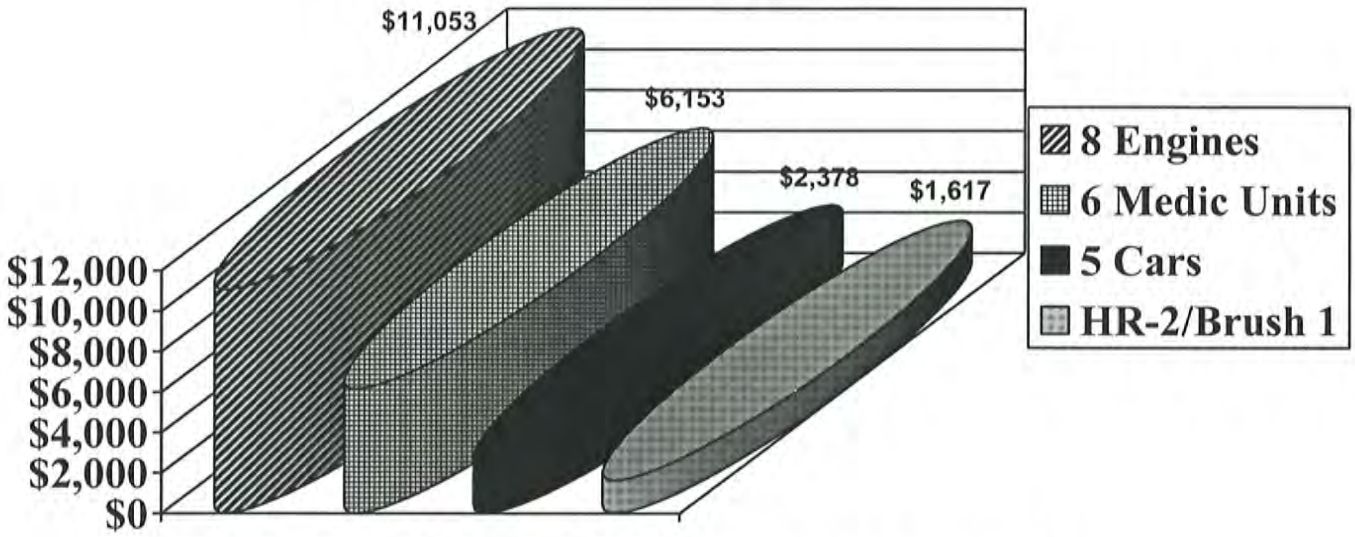
Patient Transport Locations



VEHICLE OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

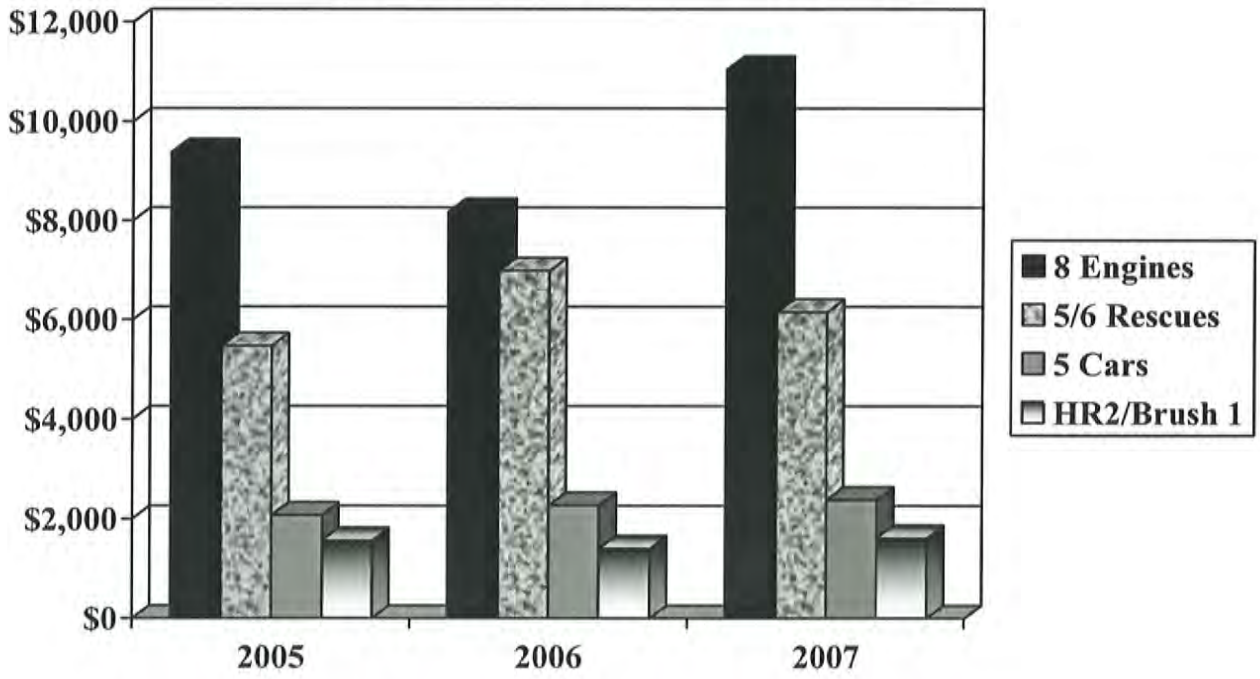
Vehicle		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	5-Year Total
E1	FDE10676	$2,353	$4,022	$4,956	$4,565	$1,207	**$17,103**
E2	FDE10199	$5,214	$4,101	$13,532	$8,650	$7,730	**$39,227**
E3	FDE10479	$2,948	$5,804	$3,659	$7,884	$5,147	**$25,442**
E5	FDE10387	$6,803	$6,275	$6,798	$9,535	$16,099	**$45,510**
E6	FDE10196	$5,721	$7,449	$14,411	$12,642	$14,157	**$54,380**
E8	FDE10186	$10,186	$8,886	$8,711	$7,047	$6,313	**$41,143**
E9	FDE10287	$5,837	$9,866	$13,433	$6,746	$9,382	**$45,264**
E10	FDE10293	$4,582	$3,724	$9,575	$8,393	$28,391	**$54,665**
	Total Cost:	**$43,644**	**$50,127**	**$75,075**	**$65,462**	**$88,426**	**$322,734**
M1	FDR30494	$7,705	$6,366	$2,566	$2,368	$1,032	**$20,037**
M3	FDR30197	$6,545	$4,338	$1,580	$2,118	$623	**$15,204**
M4	FDR30194	$7,746	$5,858	$9,481	$14,277	$4,172	**$41,534**
M5	FDR30107					$5,327	**$5,327**
M9	FDR30104	$1,239	$4,627	$6,559	$7,924	$12,375	**$32,724**
M10	FDR30204	$751	$4,291	$7,165	$8,245	$13,389	**$33,841**
	Total Cost:	**$23,986**	**$25,480**	**$27,351**	**$34,932**	**$36,918**	**$148,667**
C1	FDC40106	$996	$1,410	$1,793	$2,873	$2,518	**$9,590**
C2	FDC40206	$1,585	$2,036	$3,150	$2,486	$2,819	**$12,076**
C3	FDC40101	$1,524	$1,884	$1,641	$2,959	$1,981	**$9,989**
C9	FDC40201	$1,984	$2,173	$2,302	$2,473	$3,474	**$12,406**
CAT	FDC40104	$1,519	$848	$915	$567	$1,100	**$4,949**
	Total Cost:	**$7,608**	**$8,351**	**$9,801**	**$11,358**	**$11,892**	**$49,010**
HR2	FDH20106	$4,323	$2,674	$2,611	$2,025	$2,187	**$13,820**
Brush 1	FDC40102	$672	$854	$517	$782	$1,047	**$3,872**
C4	FDC40108					$25	**$25**
Misc.		$423	$488	$1,077	$657	$693	**$3,338**
	Total Cost:	**$5,418**	**$4,016**	**$4,205**	**$3,464**	**$3,952**	**$21,055**
Totals		**$80,656**	**$87,974**	**$116,432**	**$115,216**	**$141,188**	**$541,466**

Vehicle Maintenance for 2007
Average Cost by Vehicle Type



Total Cost for all Vehicles
$141,188

Vehicle Maintenance for 2005 - 2007
Average Cost by Vehicle Type



Accomplishment Highlights

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Response Statistics

In 2007, the department responded to 5,840 calls for service, a decrease of 1 percent from 2006.

TYPE	2006	2007
EMS/Rescue	4,741	4,622
Fire/Rescue	201	166
Malfunctioning Alarms	536	545
Hazardous Conditions	147	190
Service Calls	136	154
Good Intent Calls	125	143
Special Requests	15	20
Total Fire Loss	$1,709,903	$3,716,199
RUN TOTAL:	5,901	5,840

Incidents with loss exceeding $100,000 were:

- 2930 Mondovi Road – Manufacturing facility ($400,000)
- 717 Short Street – Manufacturing facility ($250,000)
- 2930 Mondovi Road – Manufacturing facility ($201,000)
- 1418 Florence Avenue – Single-family dwelling ($200,000)
- 423 Union Street – Single-family dwelling ($180,000)
- 1725 Lyndale Avenue – Single-family dwelling ($120,000)
- 3217 Eldorado Boulevard – Multi-family dwelling ($100,100)

Hirings, Promotions, and Separations

On January 8, Tony Hennings began his duties as a probationary firefighter. Joining the department in the same capacity on July 9 were Benjamin Gruber, Christina Henke, and Brian Mero. The following personnel were promoted to Engineer on February 1: Brian Kranz, Mike Laska, and Don Rydzik. Tim McCaughey and Mark Olson were promoted to the position of Lieutenant on that same date. Ed Kassing became the new Fire Chief on May 8, a vacancy that was created by the retirement of Bruce Fuerbringer on February 28.

Equipment Grants

The department was awarded a FIRE Act grant in the amount of approximately $37,000 for the replacement of water rescue equipment. This federal grant required a local match of approximately $7,300, funds that came from our CIP budget. This is the fifth time the department has been successful in obtaining a FIRE Act grant. Department personnel wrote the specifications for the equipment, which replaced aging water rescue equipment and augmented current capabilities. Some of the equipment purchased are: an inflatable boat with a jet motor, a ice rescue sled, swift water rescue suits, dry suits for underwater divers,

and additional communication devices used to assist the department's divers while underwater.

The department also applied for a Fire Prevention grant through the Department of Homeland Security for a Fire Safety House for the approximate amount of $60,000. The department continues to wait to see if we have been awarded this project.

New Fire Trucks

Through City Council action, the department was fortunate to receive permission to purchase four new fire trucks. Delivery of the trucks is expected in the spring of 2008. These new vehicles will replace two seasoned Pumpers and two Quints (ladders).

State Task Force 4 – Regional Technical Rescue Team

The department was awarded an Office of Justice Assistance (Homeland Security) grant in the amount of approximately $208,000 for procurement of equipment for the development of a technical rescue team. This federal grant required no local match, with all funding for the program coming from the grant. The department is partnered with the cities of Superior and Rhinelander to provide technical rescue team response to the northern third of the state.

Training for team members in the disciplines of Ropes Rescue, Trench Rescue, and Confined Space was completed at CVTC's Emergency Services Education Center. The last portion of the task force training, Collapse Rescue, was completed at Volk Field due to its complex nature. All but two team members spent two weeks at Volk Field for that portion. The first week of training involved personnel either building shoring or utilizing commercially made shores to stabilize collapsed buildings. The second week involved breaking and cutting concrete and steel. In the training, personnel used jackhammers, concrete saws, drills and cranes. The final day was a large scenario during which participants searched for victims in a debris pile.

There was impromptu training conducted for each shift involving high angle rescue. The training involved a simulated rescue at Banbury Place and below the "S" bridge on the Eau Claire River.

The department took delivery of additional equipment that was placed into service including a 2008 Ford F450 that will be utilized to tow equipment trailers. The vehicle and equipment were purchased with grant funds.

In 2008, personnel will return to Volk Field for validation training. Additional equipment will be received in the coming year to complete our equipment cache.

Regional EMS

Chief Kassing met with City staff to develop a proposal for a regional approach to delivering Emergency Medical Services (EMS). He then met with medical community partners to further build upon this proposal. The proposal was prepared for presentation to prospective neighboring entities. Discussion has been positive and is continuing with those entities and their First Responder agencies.

National Incident Management System (NIMS)
The department continues to work toward implementing the National Incident Management System (NIMS), which is a system of Incident Command being implemented nationally by the federal government. The purpose of NIMS is to create a common system for disaster and large-scale response, while encouraging common language for even the smallest mutual aid response. The department continues to update its personnel in training, and assist other city organizations to reach compliance. The department has all its personnel trained in the first three levels of NIMS.

Level "A" Haz Mat Team
In June, the department conducted a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) drill in conjunction with the United States postal inspectors and personnel from the postal annex located on Hogarth Street. The postal annex has a system installed that has the ability to detect if any mail is contaminated with Anthrax spores. The objective of the drill was twofold. The first was to test the ability of the fire department to decontaminate all of the on-site employees at the annex. The second was to assist the postal inspectors with their evidence collection procedure and the decontamination process.

When the Biological Detection System (BDS) alarms, the employees of the annex need to be decontaminated outside of the building in all weather situations. The department's recently purchased decon tent is then utilized. The decon tent and supporting hardware allow fire personnel to efficiently decontaminate the general public. The tent has built-in showers, heated water, separate compartments for privacy, and the ability to contain any contaminated water.

In September, there was a group training exercise held at station 9. The departments involved were Eau Claire Fire Rescue, Chippewa Falls Fire & Emergency Services, and the Menomonie Fire Department. The primary purpose of this exercise was to gather members of the West Central Regional Haz Mat team to introduce new members and review new and existing equipment. The subjects covered were a review of Chippewa Falls Fire & Emergency Services' Squad 1 and Haz Mat trailer, the deployment procedure and capabilities of Eau Claire's mass decontamination tent, and a review of our radiological detection capabilities

Safety Camp
On June 26 and 27, department personnel participated in Safety Camp at Carson Park. This day camp is for children entering the 3rd grade. Fire Inspectors Segelken and Puljas presented a program on summer fire safety, as well as the fire safety house to 90+ participants on the first day of the camp. Engine 9 brought the fire truck to the closing picnic and went over the truck for the kids.

UST/AST Inspections
Fire Inspector Segelken completed 71 site permit inspections – some sites contain multiple tanks to be inspected. There were 12 tank removals and 7 tank installs/upgrades during this period.

Juvenile Fire Setter Program
The Eau Claire Fire Department had seven referrals from Human Services for fire education intervention. There were also three requests for intervention by parents.

Preplan Project
For the first half of the inspection year, fire crews were given 210 preplans to review for accuracy and updates to the businesses. This is an ongoing project to ensure the department has the most up-to-date information on businesses, which is vital when responding to fires.

Fire Prevention Education in the Schools
Four-year-old kindergarten has been added to the groups of students who receive fire prevention presentations in the fall. This added another 22 sites and approximately 30 sessions, with an additional 550 children reached.

Fire Safety Training for Businesses and Elderly
Prevention personnel conducted fire extinguisher training and evacuation planning at numerous city businesses and elderly care facilities.

Property Inspections / Review / Investigations
The City of Eau Claire assesses fees for fire sprinkler plan reviews and inspections; kitchen hood inspections; adult family home and group home inspections; and tent inspections. Listed below are the reviews and inspections that were done in 2007:

- **Sprinkler Plans** – 28 plans were reviewed.
- **Adult Family Homes** – 38 facilities were inspected.
- **Tent Inspections** – 81 tents were inspected.
- **Complaint or Follow-up Inspections** – Fire inspectors reviewed the approximately 6,000 inspection reports completed by the fire crews to ensure that information is correct and violations are being corrected.
- **Fireworks** - The Fire Prevention Bureau inspected 26 sites that sell fireworks. These sites were both inside commercial buildings and in parking lots.
- **Fire Investigations** - The Fire Prevention Bureau conducted 58 fire investigations. In June, Inspector Segelken received the 2007 Team award from the Wisconsin chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators for her part in the investigation that led to the arrest and conviction of a subject for setting a restaurant fire in 2003.
- **Unsafe Living Conditions** - The Fire Prevention Bureau was involved in 12 situations involving unsafe living conditions. These situations are specific to the individual but on average require multiple visits and ongoing contact to resolve.

- **Altoona Fire Prevention** – Over 500 fire inspections were completed, and approximately 25 fire safety/prevention presentations were given for students, in addition to safety information being provided to occupants of residential facilities.

Specialty Captains' Updates

Submitted by:

W. Klett, Captain of Suppression
S. Burkart, Captain of Technical Rescue/Heavy
D. Okas, Captain of Emergency Medical Services
G. Stegge, Captain of Technical Rescue/Light
G. Axness, Captain of Maintenance
B. Bensen, Captain of Hazardous Materials

Suppression – 1st Quarter

Capt. Klett is a member of the truck purchasing committee, along with Lt. Scott Munden, Eng. Joel Pettis, and the City's Fleet Manager, Bob Boecher. The committee's goal for the replacement of two engines and two Quints (one 75-foot and the other 100-foot) is to find a very dependable, quality-built vehicle from a service-oriented manufacturer—vehicles that will run well and serve the community every time the alarm sounds. In addition, we looked at modern innovation in these vehicles—what is new, will it serve the community, and will it make us more effective and safer when performing our job.

During the last part of the first quarter, Capt. Klett scheduled ladder testing for July 8. Great Lakes Testing submitted a bid and was chosen. Ladder testing is a NFPA requirement, as is hose testing. Hose testing, which will be done in-house, is scheduled for the last week of May and the first week of June.

Since transferring to station 9, Capt. Klett worked on and repaired the station/back-up command center generator, as well as other station and equipment repairs.

Suppression – 2nd Quarter

Beginning in April, all department fire extinguishers were sent in for annual certification to North Star Fire Systems located in Banbury Place.

Also in April, Capt. Klett and Eng. Pettis attended FDIC (Fire Department Instructors Conference) in Indianapolis. This is a huge fire and rescue manufacturers exhibit at the RCA Dome. There, they examined and compared quality and durability of many different products, which were then submitted via specifications for purchase of two engines and two Quints. Hours of research and committee meetings were invested in this project, which will pay off with four dependable vehicles including special add-on equipment.

In May, hose testing was conducted in-house. NFPA 1962 requires that we test all of our fire hose. The Eau Claire County Chiefs Association owns and loans the hose tester to any Eau Claire County Fire Department free of charge.

In June, Captains Axness and Klett moved the SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) repair room from Station 2 to the basement of Station 8. The move will greatly increase efficiency when conducting the mandated flow tests, as the test requires a large amount of compressed air and the fill compressor is located at Station 8. Also, Capt. Axness is located at station 8, so he can remain in his normal response area when conducting SCBA repairs.

Two CVTC students interned with the department. Brian Dorn was assigned to A shift, and Sarah Breid was assigned to B shift. Both began and completed their internships in May and June, respectively.

Suppression – 3rd Quarter

On July 9, Great Lakes Testing out of Green Bay performed the NFPA-mandated ladder testing at station 9. All of the department's ground ladders, along with the aerial ladders on Engine 6 and Engine 8, were tested. All ground ladders passed their test, as did the aerial ladder on Engine 6. Great Lakes Testing did not pass Engine 8 until the vehicle's manufacturer inspected and accepted the liability that the rusted torque box would not fail during fire ground operation. D.C. Lyle Koerner then issued a directive that the vehicle can be used for pumping and elevated master stream use only; no one is to climb the ladder.

In July, Chief Ed Kassing, Capt. Klett, Lt. Munden, Eng. Pettis, and Fleet Manager Boecher traveled to Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton to review the quality of their manufactured fire apparatuses. Pierce won the bid to manufacture two rear-mounted pumps, one 75-foot Quint, and one 100-foot Quint.

Capt. Klett performed Class A and Class B foam inventory, as well as turnout gear washing machine repairs at station 9. The foam inventory will be used to supply our new engines when they arrive in April and May of 2008.

Suppression – 4th Quarter

During the fourth quarter, all of the department's turnout gear was cleaned. Lt. Terry Bechel was in charge of the project at station 9. During December, Capt. Klett arranged for repair and yearly maintenance of the washing machine for the turnout gear by Minnesota Chemical and Ecolab. Ecolab is the manufacturer of the soap dispensing system, and Minnesota Chemical performs the maintenance and repair on the machine.

Capt. Klett continued to work with D.C. Koerner on pre-build specification issues as they arise for the department's four new Pierce fire engines, which should be delivered in April and May of next year.

During October, which is fire prevention month, personnel provided fire/safety prevention instruction to Eau Claire elementary students, grades kindergarten through third.

Personnel responded to many structure fires in December. We had 12 structure fires during our Keep the Wreath Green holiday fire prevention campaign.

Technical Rescue-Heavy – 1st Quarter

Training for the State-designated Task Force 4 (Collapse Rescue) Team continues with the completion of the Confined Space Rescue courses at both the Operations and Technician levels. The 40-hour classes were held February 5 - 9 and February 12 - 16 at Banbury Place. Twenty-five students from the Chippewa Falls, Menomonie, and the Eau Claire Fire Departments were the last of 60 team members to complete the Rope and Confined Space Rescue training required prior to taking the collapse rescue classes at Volk Field. The classes were conducted thru CVTC.

The last prerequisite is Trench Rescue training scheduled for the first week in April. The 17 students will cover both the Operations and Technician level classes during the weeklong training.

The next step in the Rescue Technician training required for all task force members is the 80-hour collapse rescue training held at Volk Field. The students will go through 40 hours of emergency building shoring and 40 hours of heavy breaching, breaking, and cutting of concrete and structural steel. This includes simulated rescues from a rubble pile set up to simulate a collapsed building. The department will send approximately six team members each month starting in March and continuing through December. The feedback from the students who have completed the Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) classes at Volk Field has been very positive.

Capt. Burkart has been working with D.C. Koerner to finalize the purchase of the water rescue and dive rescue gear awarded through the FIRE Act grant program. The equipment bids have been received and the equipment ordered.

Three additional firefighters will be added to the dive team upon completion of the required training. Firefighter/Medics Matt Gunderson, Bob Haller, and Tom Wagner will receive the additional dive training during the summer and wrap up with ice diver certification during the winter.

Technical Rescue-Heavy – 2nd Quarter

On April 2 – 6, members of the State task force completed a 40-hour Trench Rescue class at CVTC. The class covered 24 hours at the Operations level and 16 hours at the Technician level.

The water rescue and dive equipment purchased through the FIRE Act grant arrived and is being put into service. This includes four full-face dive masks with hard-line communications; two surface control units for the hard-line communications; and four dry suits with dry gloves, glove connectors and thermal liners. The new equipment is compatible with our existing dive gear and will speed up and enhance safety during underwater search operations. The full-face mask and communications equipment allows full duplex communications from diver to diver and between divers to surface support personnel. Training for personnel on the use of the new equipment was held on June 20, 21, and 25 in conjunction with training on the new ridged inflatable boat.

The department is continuing to send its State task force members to Volk Field for Collapse Rescue training. The 80-hour class is held monthly for two consecutive weeks. B.C. Duane Grunst, Capt. Burkart, and Lt. Mark Mernitz have been working on grants from OJA (Office of Justice Assistance) to finalize equipment needs. This includes a truck to pull the equipment trailers. The new truck will free up Heavy Rescue 2 or Brush 1 at an incident.

All line firefighters and officers attended a training session on the Paratech rescue struts and long shore system. The equipment is part of our task force tool cache. The training included methods to quickly shore an unstable wall or floor of a building using the aluminum struts. The equipment can be used in place of constructing a wooden shore system and can be erected in a lot less time.

Firefighters Haller and Wagner competed the open water dive class in Black River Falls on June 8, 9, and 10. They will join the dive team when they are checked off on our dive gear.

Technical Rescue-Heavy – 3rd Quarter

Officers and firefighters completed a simulated confined space rescue from the sewer lift station located at Old Wells Road and North Crossing. The confined space training is an annual requirement for the fire department. As the designated rescue service for the utilities and public works departments, the fire department is required by OSHA to practice rescues from a confined space at least once every 12 months. The training was conducted in six sessions covering all three fire shifts. The first session was overseen by Jeff Pippenger, Utilities Administrator, and Alice Hanson, Safety Director, and included several of the Utilities personnel. The training scenario involved removing a rescue mannequin from the dry side of the 35-foot deep lift station.

The department dive team members were involved with a review of basic dive skills held at the dive well of Fairfax Pool. The training was held on September 4, 5, and 6 after the pool was closed for the summer. The diving well makes for a safe and controlled setting for the new divers to become familiar with the specialized equipment and for the experienced divers to hone their skills. FFs Haller, Gunderson, and Wagner were added to the dive team after successfully demonstrating the basic skills.

Technical Rescue-Heavy – 4th Quarter

On October 23 and 30, Capt. Burkart provided a 6-hour training class on Trench Rescue for the Altoona Fire Department. The training included three hours of lecture followed up by a hands-on practical session during which the students set up a shoring system in a trench and reviewed the equipment on Heavy Rescue 2.

The dive team completed the annual ice dive on half Moon Lake on December 18, 19, and 20. The divers use the heaters and portable tent, along with the standard dive equipment during this drill. One of the divers encountered an equipment failure during the dive. The failure of the equipment left the diver without air while under the ice. The support staff reacted quickly and pulled him from the water without injury. The seriousness of this incident warrants an investigation and follow-up actions. The investigation is ongoing.

The last of the task force members completed their Collapse Rescue training at Volk Field during this quarter. All task force members from Chippewa Falls, Menomonie, and Eau Claire Fire Departments have now been trained in collapse rescue.

Emergency Medical Services – 1st Quarter

In January, the paramedics started a new computer-based training program entitled EMS Jane. This is an individually run program including a hands-on component that allows for practice in the Human Patient Simulator (HPS) lab at CVTC. Modules covered in this program thus far

include Customer Service, Scene Safety, EMS Lawsuits, Abdominal Trauma, and Football Injuries.

Soon the new Medtech ambulance will arrive at station 5. This new and efficient technological advancement will be welcome. The EMS committee has been actively involved in the process of procuring this new arrival and with studies involving new equipment and protocol changes. The Paramedic PALS refresher class has been completed, and the paramedics also continue to do rotations through the hospital operating rooms in order to maintain skills and knowledge related to intubations. The department continues to precept paramedic students from CVTC, which is a beneficial experience for both entities. Paramedics also participated in Audit and Review at Sacred Heart Hospital. This was conducted by Dr. Tom Peterson and allowed paramedics to review new protocols and run reports.

Emergency Medical Services – 2nd Quarter

In June, the new Medtec ambulance arrived. Under the direction of B.C. Rick Merryfield and a Pierce Manufacturing representative, it was inspected and subsequent minor changes made. All shifts were educated on the new equipment and electronics that are equipped on this ambulance, Medic 5. It was put into service at station 5.

Paramedics completed their OR rotations in May at Sacred Heart Hospital. All paramedic are required to complete four intubations per year. Those intubations not completed in the field are done so in the OR. The department continues to precept paramedic students from CVTC, which is a beneficial experience for both sides.

Lifequest Billing personnel provided the paramedics with training on documentation. Lifequest is the department's ambulance billing agency. The paramedics find it extremely beneficial to discuss better methods by which to document patient information in reports. Paramedics have been active in public relations and group talks about health care.

EMS Jane, the department's computer-based training program, continues to impress the paramedics with its user-friendly design and challenging topics.

Emergency Medical Services – 3rd Quarter

In September, a full-scale mass casualty airport exercise was conducted with several EMS units assigned from Eau Claire and neighboring communities. During this exercise patients were triaged, extricated, treated and transported to three local hospitals. In addition to triage, paramedics worked on communications with outside agencies.

Paramedics met with UWEC athletic trainers to review skills on managing injured athletes. This four-hour session included hands-on exercises and reviewed football, hockey, and other sports injuries.

Dr. Peterson facilitated paramedic Audit and Review at Sacred Heart Hospital, with stroke being one of the topics covered.

The State issued monies through its EMS funding assistance program to the City of Eau Claire for purchase of non-disposable EMS items. B.C. Merryfield and Capt. Okas are reviewing department needs in that area.

Emergency Medical Services – 4th Quarter

The department began a study in November, under the direction of B.C. Merryfield, to determine the next purchase of cardiac monitors for the ambulances and the engines. A top priority was to increase the quality of our care by initiating the ability to transmit 12-lead EKGs. This was a request by our medical director, Dr. Peterson, who is focusing on decreasing the time from door to cath lab—a national trend in EMS that is being adopted by our region.

Because this is a joint effort by area medical facilities and EMS providers, the cost of this analysis will be significantly reduced. Staff met with potential vendors in November and December. The department's EMS committee found this process to be very educational and worthwhile. The goal is to have the monitors in use by June 2008.

New EMS signature billing forms were introduced in December and will be implemented in January. Continuing education for paramedics in November included an Audit and Review that was presented by Lt. Rick Lorenzi of the Chicago Fire Department. The topic was "Intubation Made Easy".

Department paramedics precepted several paramedic students this quarter.

Technical Rescue – Light – 1st Quarter

The first quarter consisted of ice rescue review, researching, bidding, and ordering of new equipment.

Department members reviewed and practiced their water and ice rescue skills at Half Moon Lake. Personnel practiced thin ice rescues using the Sterns cold-water immersion suits. The suit allows members to work fully immersed in cold water for longer periods of time than a typical wet suit. The department maintains six cold-water immersions suits—one suit for each of the department's engines.

Research was conducted and equipment ordered to update and/or replace some of our specialized equipment. A lightweight, low profile inflatable boat was researched and sent out for bids this quarter. This boat will serve a multitude of functions including, but not limited to, shoreline rapid deployment, swift water rescue, and an operations platform for dive rescue. Research was conducted and equipment ordered to equip a swift water rescue team consisting of two lead rescuers and two back-up rescues. Additional equipment was ordered to better equip the department's first responding engine companies for a swift water emergency. New cartridges, projectiles, and line were purchased for the department's line gun.

Technical Rescue – Light – 2nd Quarter

Second quarter activities included vehicle extrication training, boat and river operations, and the delivery of a new inflatable rescue boat.

In May, the department conducted vehicle extrication training. Companies reviewed and conducted operational setups for each extrication tool. Additionally, companies reviewed the location of the extrication equipment on the department's new heavy rescue truck.

In June, the department received delivery of a new inflatable boat that was purchased with grant monies. Lt. Mark Legge conducted boat operations training on the river. The boat will serve the department as a rescue boat, dive platform, and swift water rescue platform.

Technical Rescue – Light – 3rd Quarter

Third quarter activities included the development of swift water rescue gear bags, swift water gear familiarization, and line gun video training.

In July, the department developed six standardized swift water rescue gear bags. Each bag contains the essential equipment needed to outfit one firefighter as a swift water rescuer. The following is the essential gear the swift water rescue bags will hold: a "one size fits all" swift water personal flotation device; a swift water dry suit, neoprene booties, neoprene gloves, helmet, swim fins, knife, strobe light, and whistle.

In September, department personnel were introduced to the new swift water gear bags. The gear bags were sent to all stations, so personnel could familiarize themselves with the gear and determine what size personal flotation device, dry suit and booties best fit them. A line gun training video also was sent out reviewing the operation of our cartridge fired line gun.

Technical Rescue – Light – 4th Quarter

The fourth quarter consisted of ice rescue training and the introduction of the RDC, Rapid Deployment Craft. All department personnel participated in the ice rescue training, which was conducted at Half Moon Lake over the course of three days. Personnel reviewed a wide variety of tools and equipment the department employs for ice rescue, as well as the signs, conditions, and dangers of various types of ice. Personnel reviewed the three methods of ice rescue: shore-based, open water, and solid ice and the pros and cons associated with each. After a thorough review, personnel conducted live rescue scenarios using the reviewed skills. Personnel participated in live one- and two-rescuer scenarios.

The training included the introduction of a new piece of equipment: the RDC, or Rapid Deployment Craft. The RDC is an inflatable craft with multiple rescue applications. The RDC can be used on open water, slush ice, and solid ice and can be carried by one or two rescuers to rescue a single or multiple victims. Personnel reviewed the multiple rescue applications available with the RDC and then proceeded to conduct live rescue scenarios using the RDC.

Maintenance – 1st Quarter

Capt. Axness, Capt. Klett, and B.C. Kim Nessel conducted the mandatory annual NFPA breathing apparatus facemask fit test on 87 firefighters. Fit testing ensures the quality of face-to-breathing mask fit. The test is conducted with a Posi-Check 3 machine and takes 15 minutes. The Posi-Check 3 machine checks for contaminants in the air and then makes a comparison to the level of contaminants in the mask as the firefighter performs 5 different 60-second activities. Factors that could affect the fit of a mask are weight loss or gain. A malfunction of the mask would surface during this test.

A technician from North Shore Compressor performed the annual Bauer Compressor maintenance. The Bauer Compressor fills our breathing apparatus bottles. The technician changes the oil and filter. Adjustments are made to ensure proper air pressure settings. Fire department personnel perform quarterly air quality tests to monitor the air being put out by the compressor.

The used facemasks that were in our inventory were cleaned with an ultrasonic cleaner, checked, and put back in service. Necessary repair parts were ordered and received.

New maps for the stations were ordered from the mapping department in Public Works. The maps are used for studying streets and as a reference for emergency response. While serving in a "light duty" capacity, Firefighter Wagner updated the truck map books. These books are kept on all apparatus and are used to reference streets.

Maintenance – 2nd Quarter

Capt. Axness attended two four-day sessions of State task force training at Volk Field. Training consisted of real life scenarios using a large variety of tools and tactics. It was a quality learning experience. Capt. Axness scheduled a refresher tour of the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport. Personnel discussed and viewed the areas and procedures for safe travel on airport property, as well as looking at the rescue vehicle, the hangar, and access layout. The SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) repair equipment was moved from station 2 to station 8. To make room for this, personnel moved the water heater to the side of the room, remodeled the cabinets, and built a workbench. A locking system was devised for the toolbox, and lock hasps were modified to fit and secure the cabinets. Repairs to breathing apparatus and bottles were completed. Some parts were ordered, and faulty parts were submitted for warranty consideration. The trailer for Boat 8 was upgraded with new tires, rims, and taillights. Reflective tape was installed on Boat 8 to improve its visibility at night. Engine 8 and Engine 1 were hose tested. A list of future needs was submitted for budget purposes.

Maintenance – 3rd Quarter

Engine 8 was ladder tested and failed due to severe corrosion in the torque box and frame area. The ladder is unfit for firefighter use and will be used only for waterway purposes. The ladder needs to be inspected more closely by a ladder engineer to determine if firefighters can use the ladder.

An airport emergency exercise was conducted at the Eau Claire County Airport. Department personnel served in key roles for this training exercise. Station 8 was used as a staging area, and Engine 8 was involved in the first response for the exercise. Airport signage and colored light information for airport grounds were copied, laminated, and distributed to all apparatus for the truck books to be used as reference for travel on airport grounds.

The breathing apparatus compressor air was sampled and sent in for testing. The department received a certificate stating that it passed.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus masks were prepared for the three new recruits. The recruits were fit tested to ensure the proper function and fit of their SCBA mask. Repairs for our SCBA were up this quarter, probably due to the increase in structure fires over this period.

Heavy Rescue 2 had an air leak on the Cascade system, and a fitting was ordered. The RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) packs needed some modification to prevent a hose from kinking during storage. Second stage regulator belt clips were installed to help prevent damage and contamination.

Personnel completed the NIMS (National Incident Management System) 800 class online; this required multiple hours for each firefighter.

A boat was stored, shown to several parties, and sold from station 8. Eng. Al Klocek demonstrated Engine 8 pumping operations and also aerial operations on the apparatus apron at station 8 to a new recruit and a ride-along person.

Hinges for an overhead door were purchased and installed. Reflector tape was applied to non-reflective cones, increasing the visibility of the cones. Hardware was purchased and a repair was made to a cord reel from Engine 8.

Maintenance – 4th Quarter

The Bauer Compressor air quality test was conducted and sent in. The certificate for the previous month was received, showing a positive result. Seven repairs to the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus were made. The necessary parts were ordered and inventory restocked.

Station repairs included the replacement of a light ballast and the Plymovent electric motor, as well as the removal of a stressed tree from station property. Station 8's computer cable was upgraded and a control box was moved to the basement. Station 8 and its grounds were readied for winter. Annual service checks were completed on the Genesis extrication equipment. The station radio batteries were replaced. Three new mattresses were delivered for station 8. During fire safety month in October, three school groups toured the station. Station 8 experienced two power outages during this quarter. The total time involved was just over two hours, during which the station operated on electrical power provided by the emergency generator.

Hazardous Materials – 1st Quarter

Training:
Capt. Bensen completed a Weapons of Mass Destruction training course at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, AL. The United States Department of Homeland Security operates the CDP. The topics covered were mitigation of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons of mass destruction. The training and travel were funded by the CDP.

Outreach Program:
Members from the Level A haz mat team continue to meet with other fire departments in its response area. The purpose of the program is to provide information to local agencies about the capabilities of the West Central Regional Haz Mat team.

Updates and Additions:
Approximately half the department members were offered a physical exam, administered by Health Partners of Eau Claire. This is in compliance with safety codes set by the State.
Capt. Bensen, Capt. Burkart, Capt. Okas, Lt. Mark Olson, and B.C. Nessel attended the 15th Annual WAHMR (Wisconsin Association of Hazardous Materials Responders) conference in Wisconsin Dells. The subjects covered included: Advanced Metering, Ethylene Oxide Emergencies, In Suit Emergencies, and an update from the 54th Civil Support Team (Military) stationed in Madison.

There also is an ongoing process to re-evaluate the equipment carried on the haz mat trailer that is kept at Station 2. With the current weight limit on the existing trailer, the inventory carried is in flux. When new equipment is put in service, a decision has to be made about what items to put in reserve.

Hazardous Materials – 2nd Quarter

Training:
In April, the new mass decontamination tent from the TVI Corporation was put into service. The old inflatable tent and propane water heater were moved to Station 10 and put into reserve status. The new mass decon tent has the capabilities to be used in all weather situations and provide ample hot water for mass decon. The tent can be configured for ambulatory patients or patients on long boards. All personnel were trained on its set-up and use.

In June, a combined haz mat training scenario was completed. The United States Postal Service annex, located off Hogarth, has a Biological Detection System (BDS) that screens all the mail for any dangerous biological contaminants. Level A haz mat team members from both our department and Chippewa Falls, along with a team of postal inspectors, trained in the decontamination of all the postal employees and the collection of samples.

Outreach Program:
Members from the Level A haz mat team continue to meet with other fire departments in its response area. The purpose of the program is to provide information to local agencies about the capabilities of the West Central Regional Haz Mat team.

Updates and Additions:
In May, Lt. Olson went to the International Haz Mat Conference in Baltimore. This type of conference enables us to keep current with new types of equipment, procedures, and trends.

Hazardous Materials – 3rd Quarter

Training:
In July, Lt. Bill Mengele presented training on the use of advance metering for hazardous materials response. This included a PowerPoint presentation and a practical "hands-on" period. The meters covered were the AreaRae, the MSA PID, and the MSA Orion. These meters enable department personnel to monitor oxygen levels and lower explosive limits of most compounds mixed in with the atmosphere including hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds. These meters are capable of measuring in parts per million.

In September, there was a group training exercise held at station 9. The departments involved were Eau Claire Fire Rescue, Chippewa Falls Fire & Emergency Services, and the Menomonie Fire Department. The primary purpose of this exercise was to gather members of the West Central Regional Haz Mat team to introduce new members and review new and existing equipment. The subjects covered were a review of Chippewa Falls Fire & Emergency Services' Squad 1 and Haz Mat trailer, the deployment procedure and capabilities of Eau Claire's mass decontamination tent, and a review of our radiological detection capabilities given by Lt. Olson.

Updates and Additions:
There is an active ongoing process to review the equipment that we carry that is intended for initial hazardous materials response. Since it is impractical to carry all the equipment we have available for every conceivable situation, it is important to decide what is the best configuration for Heavy Rescue 2 and the Haz Mat trailer. This process involves deciding what new equipment to add to the vehicles and what should be put on "stand-by" status. B.C. Nessel has been working on the specifications for a larger trailer for the team.

Hazardous Materials – 4th Quarter

Training:
In October, Lt. Olson presented training on the use of our radiological meters. We currently have background radiation readings from various points in the city. With the use of the meters, we would be able to determine if there is a radiological source that is elevating the amount of radiation in certain areas. We also have available personal dosimeters that will alarm when the radiation levels reaches a predetermined level.

In December, Capt. Bensen was in contact with a training company called General Physics. This company is a general contractor for the Department of Homeland Security that provides

advanced training and technical support in subjects relating to Weapons of Mass Destruction. This is a no cost item for the City. The training is scheduled for January 2008.

Updates and Additions:
During the month of December, technical assistance and advice was given to the Ladysmith Fire Department. During a renovation project in a downtown building, a container with DiNitroPhenol was discovered. The product was researched and the information forwarded to the Ladysmith's fire chief.

There were no major purchases or equipment upgrades during the last quarter of 2008.

We also run a maintenance and calibration program for all of the metering devices. This program ensures the meters will operate at the desired specifications during emergency operations. This ongoing process occurs all year long. The extra effort from the personnel at Station 2 is greatly appreciated.

Budget Proposal Documentation

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Eau Claire Fire and Rescue is responsible for rendering fire prevention, fire suppression, special rescue and emergency medical services for the City of Eau Claire. The department also manages the Hazardous Materials Response (Haz Mat) program to provide response in a 14-county area of West-Central Wisconsin. The department administrative offices are located at 216 South Dewey Street.

Eau Claire Fire and Rescue consists of 3 divisions:

- Fire Administration
- Fire Operations
- Fire Inspections

Programs & Services

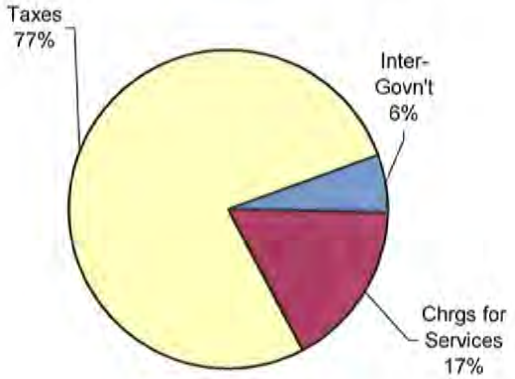
(24 Hours per day, 365 days per year)

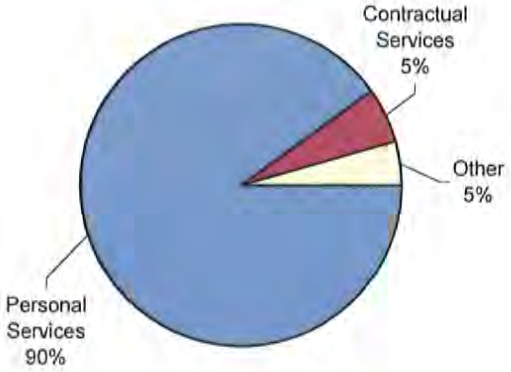
- Fire Response
- Paramedic Level Ambulance
- Supported by EMT Engines
- Special Operations
  - Hazardous Materials Response
  - Water Dive-Rescue Team
  - Confined Space Rescue
  - High Angle Rescue
- Fire Prevention
- Public Education
- Fire Investigations
- Fire Safety/Hazard Inspections
- County Mutual Aid Agreements
- County and State Hazardous Materials Contracts

Union Street Fire

Overview of Revenues and Expenditures

	2006 Actual	2007 Adopted Budget	2008 Proposed Budget	% Change
Revenues				
Intragovernmental Service	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ 12,000	20%
Intergovernmental:				
State Aid-Fire Ins. Tax	134,643	130,000	120,000	-8%
State Aid-Under. Tanks	11,216	10,000	10,000	0%
State Aid-Mun. Services	355,082	330,000	357,500	8%
State Aid-Ambulance Services	100,400	0	0	
Altoona-Fire Inspector	53,973	34,800	43,200	24%
Ambulance Fee	0	0	20,000	100%
Charges for Services:				
Fees	15,565	15,000	17,000	13%
Ambulance Fees	1,292,591	1,150,000	1,550,000	35%
Haz-Mat B Response	34,000	34,000	34,000	0%
Gen. Purpose (tax) Rev.	7,244,950	7,108,000	7,309,900	3%
Total Revenues	$ 9,242,420	$ 8,821,800	$ 9,473,600	7%
Expenditures				
Personal Services	$ 8,366,592	$ 8,182,200	$ 8,529,500	4%
Contractual Services	528,942	517,600	517,700	0%
Utilities	71,344	73,800	80,200	9%
Fixed Charges	116,905	(171,900)	128,100	-175%
Materials & Supplies	168,637	220,100	218,100	-1%
Implementation Reserve	-	-	-	
Total Expenditures	$ 9,252,420	$ 8,821,800	$ 9,473,600	7%





Budget Overview

REVENUES

INTERGOVERNMENTAL

State Aid for Municipal Services reimburses the City for public safety services for state facilities in Eau Claire. The reimbursement is based on the ratio of state property in Eau Claire as compared to other cities. Funding for Eau Claire is projected to increase about 8% in 2008.

Altoona will pay for ½ of a fire inspector position under a shared services contract and area communities will contribute $20,000 towards the overhead of the regional EMS program.

CHARGES FOR SERVICES

In 2008, the Fire Department plans to provide regional emergency medical services. The department anticipates receiving $150,000 from area medical facilities and generating $250,000 in additional ambulance revenues for the regional responses.

EXPENDITURES

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

Contractual Services includes equipment rental of $162,300, ambulance billing services of $110,000, repairs to equipment of $81,600, payment for prior-year services of $70,300 and other miscellaneous expense.

UTILITIES

As with other departments, the line item for electricity is being increased in 2008 to properly reflect the rise in costs of electricity. For the Fire Department, this means an $11,700 increase in 2008.

MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

Included in the supplies category is diesel fuel, which is proposed to increase by $11,600 in 2008. Also included are equipment purchases of $10,000 for items such as EMS equipment and radios upgrades.

Union Street Fire

Expenditures by Division

Administration

	2006 Actual	2007 Budget	2007 6 Month Actual	2007 Projection	2008 Budget
Personal Services	$ 338,672	$ 296,900	$ 117,822	$ 296,900	$ 300,600
Contractual Services	122,904	137,300	63,718	127,300	119,700
Utilities	71,345	73,800	39,267	73,800	80,200
Fixed Charges	3,200	3,200	1,600	3,200	3,200
Materials & Supplies	21,520	25,300	12,774	25,300	25,300
Total Expenditures	$ 557,641	$ 536,500	$ 235,181	$ 526,500	$ 529,000

Operations

	2006 Actual	2007 Budget	2007 6 Month Actual	2007 Projection	2008 Budget
Personal Services	$ 7,706,441	$ 7,557,500	$ 3,579,369	$ 7,557,500	$ 7,881,000
Contractual Services	401,896	376,300	215,779	386,300	393,900
Fixed Charges	108,105	119,300	58,699	119,300	119,300
Materials & Supplies	142,244	186,900	66,489	186,900	186,700
Implementation Reserve	-	(300,000)	-	(300,000)	-
Total Expenditures	$ 8,358,686	$ 7,940,000	$ 3,920,336	$ 7,950,000	$ 8,580,900

Inspection

	2006 Actual	2007 Budget	2007 6 Month Actual	2007 Projection	2008 Budget
Personal Services	$ 321,479	$ 327,800	$ 155,444	$ 327,800	$ 347,900
Contractual Services	4,142	4,000	2,356	4,000	4,100
Fixed Charges	5,600	5,600	2,800	5,600	5,600
Materials & Supplies	4,873	7,900	3,514	7,900	6,100
Total Expenditures	$ 336,094	$ 345,300	$ 164,114	$ 345,300	$ 363,700

Staffing

Administration

	2006	2007	2008
Fire Chief	1.00	1.00	1.00
Assistant Fire Chief	1.00	1.00	1.00
Fire Secretary	1.00	1.00	1.00
Total FTE Positions	3.00	3.00	3.00

Operations

	2006	2007	2008
Deputy Chief	1.00	1.00	1.00
Battalion Chief	3.00	3.00	3.00
Fire Captain	6.00	6.00	6.00
Fire Lieutenant	12.00	12.00	12.00
Fire Equipment Operator	18.00	18.00	18.00
Firefighter	47.00	47.00	47.00
Total FTE Positions	87.00	87.00	87.00

Inspection

	2006	2007	2008
Deputy Chief	1.00	1.00	1.00
Fire Inspector	2.00	-	-
Fire Inspector I	-	1.00	1.00
Fire Inspector II	-	1.00	1.00
Clerk III	1.00	1.00	1.00
Total FTE Positions	4.00	4.00	4.00

Authorized personnel are reported as the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions at the beginning of the budget year.

Fire Administration Highlights

Fire Chief Ed Kassing

Activities

The Administration Division has numerous responsibilities, including

- Annual budget preparation / justification

  Administer capital improvement and operating budget on a daily basis

- Long and short range planning to ensure continued high quality and efficient emergency service delivery
  - Coordinate planning for training requirements
  - Expand services and/or improve existing services
  - Evaluate and plan for strategic placement of future fire stations as need dictates
  - Evaluate how changing standards and laws impact service delivery and adapt as necessary
  - Administer special grant projects

- Fleet management
  - Long range replacement and refurbishment needs
  - Routine maintenance scheduling
  - Emergency repairs
  - Upgrading apparatus to meet current safety standards

Battalion Chief's Command Vehicle

- Facilities management
  - Routine maintenance of facilities
  - Repairs to extend service life of facilities
  - Improve safety and living conditions for firefighters

- Personnel management
  - Coordinate and assist in development of department guidelines
  - Work with Human Resources Department to facilitate negotiations with firefighters' bargaining unit
  - Recommend step increases and promotions to Police and Fire Commission
  - Enforce department policies and contractual requirements

- National/State/Local legislative initiatives
  - Initiate and professionally participate in initiatives that promote fire prevention and suppression efforts in the best interest of the citizens
  - Initiate and professionally participate in initiatives that promote the development of good welfare of the fire service

- Maintain compliance with national and state standards and codes
  - The State Department of Commerce regulates employee health and safety standards that the department must monitor and comply with
  - Nationally recognized fire service standards require monitoring, and recommended improvements must be planned and budgeted
  - Work with Department Safety Committee to ensure safe and compliant working conditions, including firefighter personal protective equipment

- Maintain positive working relationships and mutual aid agreements with surrounding departments
  - Active participation in the Eau Claire County Fire Chiefs' Association
  - Promote educational opportunities for all departments through this association
  - Review and update mutual aid agreements in the best interest of the citizens
  - Promote inter-departmental training opportunities

- Internal information management
  - Work with Information Services division to ensure optimal performance of the department's personal computers and network
  - Recommend software improvements specific to fire service needs and in general to enhance electronic data management

Facilities

The Administration Division is located on the second floor of Station #2 located at 216 S. Dewey Street. The Fire Prevention Division is located on the first floor.

Fire Station #2 with Administrative Offices – 216 South Dewey

Equipment

Office-related equipment, such as a copy machine, is maintained by the Administration Division to meet departmental needs. Files critical to operational needs and archived files are also maintained in this area.

Equipment Replacement

A long-range plan has been developed for the anticipated replacement of all department equipment, and is facilitated through the budget process and in cooperation with the Information Services Division for computer needs.

Fire Rescue – Engine #2

CIP Highlights

Through the CIP budget, the Fire Department hopes to continue to facilitate repairs and improvements to City fire stations in response to the aging of some facilities and increased service demands from others.

Budget challenges are requiring that the Fire Department's approach to capital equipment needs be continually re-evaluated. The department traditionally relied upon adequate funding in the CIP budget to purchase apparatus and other major equipment needs. With limited funding available, the department has had to try to extend the service life of the apparatus and will be looking for creative solutions to meet future needs. In early 2006, an RFP was prepared for the replacement of four fire apparatus. The funding will come from a bonding program, which is a new approach to the financial support required to purchase vehicles for the department.

Fire Operations Highlights

Equipment Grants

Water Rescue

The department was awarded a FIRE Act grant in the amount of approximately $37,000 for the replacement of water rescue equipment. This federal grant required a local match of approximately $7,300, which came from the CIP budget. This is the fifth time the department has been successful in obtaining a FIRE Act grant. Department personnel wrote the specifications for the equipment, and the department has begun receiving the equipment.

The equipment will both replace aging water rescue equipment and augment current capabilities. Some of the equipment purchased was an inflatable boat with a jet motor, an ice rescue sled, swift water rescue suits, dry suits for underwater divers, and additional communication devices used to assist the department's divers while underwater.

State Task Force 4 – Regional Technical Rescue Team

The department was awarded an Office of Justice Assistance (Homeland Security) grant in the amount of approximately $208,000 for procurement of equipment for the development of a technical rescue team. This federal grant required no local match, with all funding for the program coming from the grant. The department is partnered with the cities of Superior and Rhinelander to provide technical rescue team response to the northern third of the state. Training in the disciplines of Ropes Rescue, Trench Rescue, and Confined

Confined Space Training

space have been completed at CVTC's Emergency Services Education Center. The last portion of the task force training is Collapse Rescue, which will be completed at Volk Field due to its complex nature. Each team member will travel to Volk Field for two weeks for training. The department will continue to send approximately six team members each month through December 2007.

The department is continuing to secure equipment through the Office of Justice Assistance and Homeland Security for the team. A new heavy rescue truck arrived in 2006. The majority of the equipment received is for building collapse response. Future equipment purchases include a tow vehicle that will serve as a first response vehicle with seating for five task force members and also personal protection equipment.

Equipment Replacement Schedule

The department continues to utilize and manage the equipment replacement schedule that was developed during the budget process. This long-range planning tool reflects the expected life span of equipment, along with the anticipated replacement date and cost. In March 2006, the department took receipt of a replacement ambulance and as stated above, will be ordering two new replacement pumpers, one 75' quint pumper and one 100' quint pumper. The four replacement pumpers will be delivered in late 2007 or early 2008.

Regional Technical Rescue Team Development

The department is continuing to secure equipment through the Office of Justice Assistance and Homeland Security to establish a regional collapse rescue team for this part of the state. The State has finally provided qualified training criteria for the various disciplines involved with a special rescue team. The training programs began with the initial offerings through Chippewa Valley Technical College in June 2006. The training program will be an ongoing process that should continue into the winter. The management development of the State-authorized Special Rescue teams will begin in earnest with our partner cities of Superior and Rhinelander to provide response coverage to the northern third of the state.

Heavy Rescue Truck

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

The department continues to work toward implementing the National Incident Management system (NIMS), which is a system of Incident Command being implemented nationally by the federal government. The purpose of NIMS is to create a common system for disaster and large-scale response, while encouraging common language for even the smallest mutual aid response. The Department continues to update its personnel in training, and assist other city organizations to reach compliance. The department has all its personnel trained in the first three levels of NIMS.

Homeland Security Initiatives

In 2005, the Eau Claire Fire Department was designated as a "Heavy Team" for the State of Wisconsin for technical rescue purposes. Grant monies for equipment and training have been designated for the department to enhance the department's ability to respond to special rescues in the city and in the western portion of the state related to homeland security issues. The Eau Claire Fire Department, along with Chippewa Falls Fire & Emergency Services, also is the State's regional hazardous materials response team for Western Wisconsin.

The following training in the area of homeland security response occurred in the first six months of 2007:

- Metering training for department personnel and members of the West Central Wisconsin Regional Response Team (WCWRRT).

- Personnel evaluated the new decontamination tent purchased and put in service for haz mat incidents.

- One member attended a Weapons of Mass Destruction training course at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, AL. The topics covered were mitigation of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons of mass destruction. The Department of Homeland Security funded the training and travel expenses.

- The department sent five personnel to the Wisconsin Association of Hazardous Material Responders (WAHMR) conference in Wisconsin Dells. The students were able to attend numerous training sessions covering a wide range of hazardous material topics.

- One employee attended a Leading Community Risk Reduction course at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, in January.

- In June, there was a Level A haz mat team drill relating to performing decontamination of plant personnel at the Postal Distribution Center (PDC) at 3510 Hogarth Street. The drill involved primarily postal plant personnel and postal inspectors with the department's oversight and involvement.

- Members from the Level A haz mat team continue to meet with other fire departments in its response area to provide outreach and information on what services the team provides.

- Heavy Rescue Task Force – Ropes Rescue, Trench Rescue, and Confined Space training at Chippewa Valley Technical College for team members. Also, there is ongoing training at Volk Field in Camp Douglas in the Collapse Rescue discipline.

Ready

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

Regional EMS

In early July 2007, Chief Kassing made a Regional Emergency Medical Services presentation to the City Council at a work session. Included in the presentation was an overview of a "Metro-style EMS" approach that may be considered for deployment in communities surrounding the city. The presentation laid out possible implications for both the municipalities served and the response to the citizens of Eau Claire. Further discussions with prospective municipalities and partners will be forthcoming.

EMS Council and Medical Control

The Eau Claire County EMS Council continues to develop under its new organizational structure. Dr. Kirk Dahl is the County's medical director and as such oversees the medical dispatch system used by the 911 communications center, the County's First Responder agencies, and the AED defibrillator program used by the sheriff's department.

The EMS Council was developed to provide recommendations to improve emergency medical response in Eau Claire County. The council has evolved over the years since its inception in the early 1980s, and the current structure is rich in membership that truly believes in the communities' EMS needs.

A state Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (RTAC) was organized over the past few years to coordinate a regional approach to EMS planning. This is in comparison to the EMS Council, which focuses on the needs of Eau Claire County. Members of the County EMS Council will be working closely with the RTAC in the near future, with more emphasis placed on statewide versus local EMS planning.

Rescue #5 and Rescue #10, Front-line Ambulances

Activities

2006 Incidents

5,901 Total Incidents

- 4,741 Medical Responses (80%)
- 201 Fire/Rescue Responses (3.5%)
- 536 Automatic Alarm Responses (10%)
- 147 Hazardous Condition Responses (2%)
- 136 Service Call Responses (2%)
- 125 Good Intent Responses (2%)
- 15 Special Request Responses (0.5%)

Hazardous Materials Chemical Assessment Vehicle

Incidents with loss of $50,000 or greater:

- 1720 Harding Avenue – Restaurant ($500,000)
- 2911 Venus Avenue – 1 Family Dwelling ($200,000)
- 1816 9th Street – 1 Family Dwelling ($102,000)
- 408 Chippewa Street – 2 Family Apartment ($90,000)
- 811 Garden Street – 2 Family Apartment ($85,000)
- 920 James Street – 1 Family Dwelling ($78,000)
- 1113 Oxford Avenue – 1 Family Dwelling ($60,000)
- 2500 Birch Street – Truck Fire ($55,000)
- 1200 Forest Street – Manufacturing Facility ($50,000)

Total Fire Loss for the year: $1,709,903

Engine #2

4-Gas Detection Meter

Responding Unit	Responses	Average Response Time
Engine 2	1,097	3.58 Minutes
Engine 5	1,178	3.51 Minutes
Engine 6	770	4.42 Minutes
Engine 8	426	4.52 Minutes
Engine 9	790	4.58 Minutes
Engine 10	689	4.05 Minutes
Medic 5	2,075	4.14 Minutes
Medic 9	1,255	5.12 Minutes
Medic 10	1,481	4.19 Minutes
	Average:	4.25 Minutes

Bellinger Street Fire

Facilities

Station 2 - 216 South Dewey Street
- 4 Personnel per day
- Fire Engine
- Heavy Rescue Unit
- Hazardous Materials Chemical Assessment Vehicle
- Hazardous Materials Equipment Trailer
- Water Rescue Boat
- Battalion Chief Command Car
- Administrative Offices

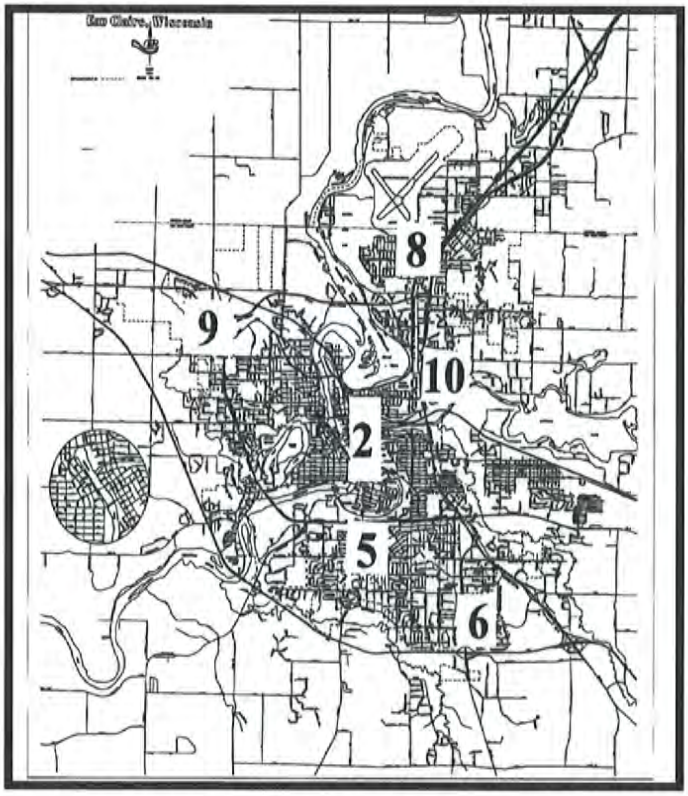
Station 5 - 2500 Patton Street
- 5 Personnel per day
- Fire Engine
- Paramedic Ambulance
- Water Rescue Boat

Station 6 - 3020 Golf Road
- 3 Personnel per day
- Fire Engine

Station 8 - 3510 Starr Avenue
- 3 Personnel per day
- Fire Engine
- Water Rescue Boat

Station 9 - 3611 Campus Road
- 5 Personnel per day
- Fire Engine
- Paramedic Ambulance
- Water Rescue Boat

Station 10 - 559 North Hastings Way
- 5 Personnel per day
- Fire Engine
- Paramedic Ambulance
- Water Rescue Boat



Average of 27 Firefighters on duty daily
Total of 41,730 square feet of Fire Stations
(Cleaning and light maintenance of Stations are performed by assigned personnel)

Emergency Medical Services

- 80 percent of Fire Department calls for service
- 36 Certified Paramedics
  56 Certified Emergency Medical Technicians
- 3 Paramedic ambulances in service (3 reserve ambulances on standby)
  - Purchase and inventory a large volume of medical supplies and drugs
  - Over 70 saves from full Cardiac Arrest in the past 10 years
  - Cardiac defibrillators on all fire department engines and ambulances
  - Ongoing commitment to quality
  - Work with Medical Control Physician for program quality assurance
    - Foster good relations with local hospital officials
    - Work with Eau Claire County Emergency Medical Services Council for program planning
    - Maintain quality relationships with other regional emergency medical service providers
- Public safety awareness activities:
- Blood pressure screening
- Health fairs
- Job shadowing programs
- Special events coverage
- Community awareness programs
  - Preceptor Ride-Along Training
- Constant commitment to training

Personnel at Accident Scene

Equipment

Vehicles

8 – Engines/Quints (6 Front-Line, 2 Reserve)
6 – Ambulances (3 Front-Line, 3 Reserve)
1 – Heavy Rescue Unit
1 – Hazardous Materials Assessment Vehicle
1 – Hazardous Materials Equipment Trailer
1 – Brush Fire Unit
1 – Special Rescue Vehicle
5 – Water Rescue Boats
1 – Inspection Van
3 – Command Vehicles
1 – Mass Casualty Medical Trailer
2 – Technical Rescue Trailers

Rescue #3, Reserve Ambulance

Major Equipment

- Breathing Apparatus ($4,000 per unit)
- Portable Radio ($1,000 per unit)
- Ventilation Saw ($1,700 per unit)
- Hose ($600 per 100' of 5")
- Nozzles ($900 per unit)
- Ladders ($1,000 per unit)
- Jaws of Life ($8,000 per set)
- Ambulance Cot ($3,600 per unit)
- Defibrillator ($21,800 per unit)
- Hazardous Materials Suit ($800 per unit)
- Hazardous Materials Meters ($1,000 to $50,000 per unit)

Personal Equipment

- Firefighting Coat & Pants
- Helmet
- Boots
- Gloves
- Fireproof Hood
- Safety Equipment

Equipment Replacement

(Annual additional costs per firefighter include the required items of medical exams, training, and uniform costs)

Fire Inspection Highlights

The Fire Inspection Division is comprised of four full-time staff members, three sworn officers and one clerical. One of the sworn positions is a shared position with the Altoona Fire Department. The Fire Inspection Division's main responsibility is overseeing the inspection of commercial properties within the City of Eau Claire. The division is responsible for compliance with follow-up inspections and codes. The Fire Inspection Division is also in charge of code enforcement, fire investigations, public education, and underground storage tank (UST)/aboveground storage tank (AST) inspections. Personnel serve as informational contacts for other departments and citizens who have questions regarding National Fire Protection Association and Wisconsin Administrative codes.

Activities

Public Education

The number one priority is to educate citizens about fire. During 2006, the Eau Claire Fire Department delivered over 6,500 hours of public education. Fire safety education is targeted for the young and elderly of the community; the two groups most statistically susceptible to fire. In addition to these targeted groups, the department provides fire safety education programs such as:

- CBRF training
- Senior safety
- Open houses
- Media releases
- Babysitting classes
- Holiday season fire safety
- Fire safety house
- Carbon Monoxide awareness
- Evacuation planning for businesses
- Fire station tours
- Supervised fire drills
- Exhibits

Fire Prevention Weekend at Sam's Club

Safety Town

This program is geared to teaching children from ages 4 to 6 about being safe while playing. Topics covered were: stop, drop and roll; calling 911; crawling low under smoke; matches/lighters are tools not toys; and getting out to a safe meeting place and staying out. There were 50 participants in the program in 2006. Each child received a bicycle safety helmet and a t-shirt at the graduation ceremony.

Safety Town Participants

Safety Camp

Fire department personnel participated in Safety Camp at Carson Park. This day camp is for children entering the 3rd grade. Fire inspectors Segelken and Puljas presented a program on summer fire safety to 100 participants on the first day of the camp. The crew from Engine 9 brought the fire truck to the closing picnic and showed it to the children.

Fire Prevention Month Programs

In the fall, department personnel conducted the annual fire prevention presentations at both the public and private elementary schools within the city. The programs consist of six different age-appropriate presentations. The theme for 2006 was "Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat". The third grade poster contest winners were from Putnam Heights Elementary and Manz Elementary. They each received a 26-inch mountain bike with helmet.

3rd Grade Poster Contest Winner

In October, the Eau Claire County Chiefs Association again sponsored fire prevention activities for Eau Claire and surrounding communities. The department's fire safety house and fire apparatus were on display. The DNR brought its heavy firefighting equipment, as well as Smokey Bear. Representatives from area departments including Township, Fall Creek, Fairchild, Altoona, and Mondovi also participated. Approximately 500 children and families attended the festivities.

Keep the Wreath Green

This annual initiative begins each Thanksgiving and runs through New Year's Day. Each fire station displays a large wreath filled with green light bulbs. For each structure fire that occurs in

the city during this period of time, a green bulb is removed and replaced with a red light bulb. The goal is to maintain a heightened awareness of the dangers of fire and encourage fire-safe practices throughout the holiday season.

In 2006, there were four structure fires during the holiday season, a decrease of two from last year.

Tours/Public Events

In 2006, the department received over 175 requests for services. These requests vary from giving tours of our facilities to staffing health fairs at local businesses. Tours varied from groups of 4 to over 50.

Fire Safety Education for Businesses

In 2006, the Fire Prevention Bureau trained over 4,000 employees of area businesses in fire safety procedures including evacuation drills and fire extinguisher use. The training focused on the individual business's evacuation policy, as well as the hands-on use of a fire extinguisher.

Juvenile Fire Setters Program

Since the inception of the Juvenile Fire Setter program in 1996, the Eau Claire Fire Department has handled approximately ten child cases per year. These children come to the Fire Prevention office as referrals from Juvenile Intake or their parents. In 2006, the department received five referrals from Juvenile Intake, and there were three requests from parents or an agency outside the City of Eau Claire. Because the program is an educational program, it is based on the individual child's knowledge of fire. Some juveniles require additional meetings or referrals to outside agencies.

Fire Inspections

Fire inspections in the City of Eau Claire are performed to ensure compliance with Eau Claire city ordinances, state fire prevention codes, and the state commercial building code. In 2006, the Eau Claire Fire Department conducted more than 6,000 company fire inspections to identify and eliminate or reduce hazards that may contribute to a loss of life or property. Code enforcement is a proactive and cost effective approach to community fire protection. Through the State of Wisconsin's 2% dues program, the City of Eau Claire received $121,248 in 2007 for inspections conducted in 2006.

Preplanning Businesses

Eau Claire firefighters continue to pre-plan commercial facilities during semi-annual inspections. The facilities on which pre-plans are conducted are those identified as high hazard or high occupancy. On a monthly basis, fire department staff visit businesses and multi-family occupancies to conduct a walk-through fire inspection of the properties. These inspections attempt to identify elements such as the location of sprinklers, power and gas shutoff locations, smoke and heat detection, alarm capabilities, the locations of hazardous materials, other potential hazards, and code violations. Specific information relating to the property is then recorded on a form, and a map depicting the fire concerns for the property is created. The completed pre-plans

are copied and carried on the department's emergency responding units. Firefighters continue to update the information gathered on their scheduled inspections in an attempt to keep the records accurate.

Property Inspections / Review / Investigations

The City of Eau Claire has fees for fire sprinkler plan reviews and inspections, kitchen hood inspections, adult family home and group home inspections, and tent inspections. Listed below are the reviews and inspections that were performed in 2006.

- **Sprinkler Plans** – 29 plans reviewed
- **Kitchen Hood Systems** – 9 hoods inspected
- **Adult Family Homes** – 53 facilities inspected in conjunction with the licensing of the homes through the State of Wisconsin that are done to ensure the home meets the minimum life safety standards
- **Tent Inspections** – 70 tents inspected
- **Complaint or Follow-up Inspections** – Of the 6,000 inspections completed by the fire crews, the Fire Prevention Bureau dealt with approximately 700 complaints or follow-up inspections. Included in this number are phone calls fielded on code questions regarding fire and building construction. Inspector Puljas completed 738 inspections in Altoona. Inspector Puljas' position is a shared position with Altoona Fire Department.
- **Fireworks** – 20 fireworks vendor sites inspected
- **Fire Investigations** – Prevention personnel conducted 40 fire investigations. Two major criminal fires from 2003 and 2005 were resolved, with the suspects being found guilty of arson to a building and endangering lives.
- **Unsafe Living Conditions** – Prevention personnel were involved in approximately 25 situations involving unsafe living conditions. These situations are specific to the individual, but on average require multiple visits and ongoing contact to resolve.

Tank Inspections

The UST/AST inspection program serves to enforce the groundwater protection requirements of Comm 10. This is accomplished through the review of plans prior to the installation of an underground or aboveground storage tank system. Existing underground and aboveground storage tank systems are inspected annually for compliance with groundwater protection rules. In 2006, Fire Inspector Harter completed 73 site permit inspections with some sites containing multiple tanks to inspect. There were 17 tank removals and 9 tank installs/upgrades during the year. The State contract provides annual revenue to the City in the $10,000 to $15,000 range.

In September, the department's underground/aboveground storage tank program was audited by the State of Wisconsin. The department passed the audit.

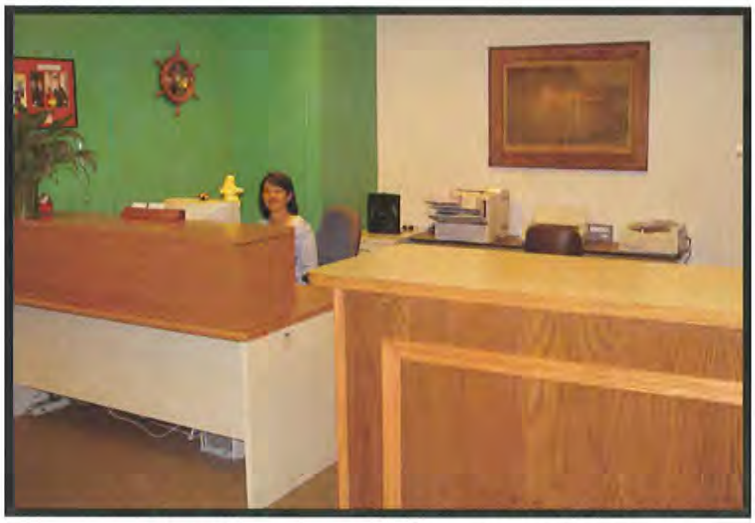
Fire Investigations

There were 40 fire investigations completed by Prevention Division personnel during 2006. On-scene fire investigations are done anytime the cause and origin cannot be determined, when there is personal injury or death involved, if a juvenile is suspected of starting the fire, or when arson or other suspicious circumstances exist. Follow-up investigations are done at the request of the fire crews or police department.

Fire Inspectors Gary Puljas & Janet Segelken

Facilities

The Fire Inspection Division is located on the first floor of fire station # 2. The location serves as the initial contact point for the department. Citizens are able to make contact with fire prevention personnel and can be directed to the proper area or other city department.



Reception area of the Fire Inspection Division

Equipment

The Inspection Division utilizes department operation vehicles for the majority of public education events. The division also uses the fire safety house at visits to City of Eau Claire schools and special events throughout the city.

Freddie the Fire Truck is a mechanical robot that helps deliver fire safety messages to young children. Using monies from a FIRE Act grant, a new Freddie was purchased in 2005. It will serve the community for many years to come.

Smokey Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog

In addition to Freddie, the division also uses "Sparky the Fire Dog" to deliver fire safety education.

The division is assigned a fire prevention vehicle. Car 3 is an 8-passenger van used for delivering personnel to large emergency situations, for travel to educational sessions, and to assist in the overall delivery of fire prevention services within the City of Eau Claire.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE

WRR Fire – Haz Mat Team Responded and Mitigated

Programs & Services

- Contracted with the State of Wisconsin to deliver regionalized Level "A" Hazardous Material Response.
- City of Eau Claire tax dollars were <u>not</u> used to develop or operate the team. The State of Wisconsin supplies funding.
- The team provides Hazardous Materials Response to 14 counties in West-Central Wisconsin.
- Joint Hazardous Materials team operations between Eau Claire Fire Rescue and the Chippewa Falls Fire Department.
- Contracted with the Rice Lake Fire Department and Menomonie Fire Department for their departments to serve as designated CATs (Chemical Assessment Team) as adjuncts of the regional hazardous materials team.

Overview of Revenues & Expenditures

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE BUDGET SUMMARY

	2006 Actual	2007 Budget	2007 6-Month Actual	2007 Projection	2008 Budget
Operating Budget					
Revenues and Other Financing Sources:					
Intergovernmental	$ 180,069	$ 180,100	$ -	$ 209,600	$ 180,100
Charges for Services	1,276	3,000	1,682	3,000	3,000
Miscellaneous	8,310	1,000	3,890	1,000	1,000
Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources	189,655	184,100	5,572	213,600	184,100
Expenditures and Other Financing Uses:					
Personal Services	56,181	43,400	33,066	43,400	49,800
Contractual Services	4,420	23,300	17,145	28,100	23,400
Utilities	1,034	1,000	464	1,000	1,000
Fixed Charges	10,000	10,000	5,000	10,000	12,000
Materials & Supplies	13,958	63,900	23,260	95,800	62,400
Contributions & Other Payments	90,466	76,000	16,500	76,000	77,500
Capital Outlay	28,097	25,000	-	17,800	-
Other Financing Uses	2,805	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	206,961	242,600	95,435	272,100	226,100
Excess (Deficiency) of Funding Sources Over Uses	$ (17,306)	$ (58,500)	$ (89,863)	$ (58,500)	$ (42,000)
Working Capital/Available Fund Balance					
Beginning Balance	$ 223,963	$ 171,363		$ 206,657	$ 148,157
Changes in Available Balances:					
From operations	(17,306)	(58,500)		(58,500)	(42,000)
Ending Balance	$ 206,657	$ 112,863		$ 148,157	$ 106,157

Budget Overview

REVENUE

The current state contract for Regional Hazardous Materials Response expired in June 30, 2007 and was renewed in substantially the same form to extend the contract through June 30, 2009.

EXPENDITURES

PERSONAL SERVICES

The Hazardous Materials Response team is made up of 28 members from the Eau Claire Fire Department and 12 members from the Chippewa Falls Fire Department.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

Most expenditures in the year were for maintenance of existing equipment with the exception of the purchase of a decontamination tent for large numbers of victims. This tent was purchased using a combination of Haz Mat Level "A" funds and grant monies.

The decontamination tent can be arranged in three separate decontamination lines and contains pre-piped showers. This purchase greatly increases the number of victims that can be decontaminated in the shortest period of time.

This purchase includes a large water heater to warm decontamination water while operating in very cold temperatures. Until this system was available, personnel had a very difficult time providing warm water to more than 10 people, and there was only adequate tent capacity to decontaminate 15-25 people per hour, depending on their degree of contamination.

There are many situations where the tent would be employed, but the greatest chance of using it is at the United States Postal Distribution Center on Hogarth Avenue.

New Decontamination Tent

In June 2007, the department conducted a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) drill in conjunction with the United States Postal Inspectors and personnel from the postal annex located on Hogarth Street. The postal annex has a system installed that has the ability to detect if any mail is contaminated with Anthrax spores. The objective of the drill was twofold. The first was to test the ability of the fire department to decontaminate all of the on-site employees at the

annex. The second was to assist the postal inspectors with their evidence collection procedure and the decontamination process.

When the Biological Detection System (BDS) alarms, the employees of the annex need to be decontaminated outside of the building in all weather situations. The department's recently purchased decontamination tent is then utilized. The decontamination tent and supporting hardware allow fire personnel to efficiently decontaminate the general public.

Staffing

40 Personnel are assigned to the Team

- 28 Members from Eau Claire Fire
- 12 Members from Chippewa Fire

Revenue Detail

Hazardous Materials Response

Revenue Classification	2006 Actual	2007 Budget	2007 6-Month Actual	2007 Projection	2008 Budget
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES					
Federal aid	-	-	-	29,500	-
State aid	$ 180,069	$ 180,100	$ -	$ 180,100	$ 180,100
EC County- Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total intergovernmental revenues	180,069	180,100	-	209,600	180,100
CHARGES FOR SERVICES					
Hazardous response charges	1,276	3,000	1,682	3,000	3,000
MISCELLANEOUS					
Interest income	8,310	1,000	3,890	1,000	1,000
Total revenues	$ 189,655	$ 184,100	$ 5,572	$ 213,600	$ 184,100

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES

The City of Eau Claire and the City of Chippewa Falls have accepted a three-year grant from the State of Wisconsin to provide emergency response for hazardous material spills over a 14-county area in northwestern Wisconsin. This grant provided for training, supplies and equipment.

CHARGES FOR SERVICES

The cost of labor, equipment and materials used in response to a hazardous spill is billed back to the responsible company or individual. This account reflects reimbursements collected for those costs.

Equipment

Response Team Equipment

Eau Claire

Heavy Rescue Unit

Hazardous Materials Assessment Vehicle

Hazardous Material Equipment Trailer

Command Vehicle

Special Rescue Utility Gator

Collapse Rescue Trailer

Chippewa Falls

Hazardous Materials Vehicle

Hazardous Material Equipment Trailer

Special Rescue Utility Gator

APD-2000 Chemical Detection Monitor

Equipment Purchased with WMD Grant Funds

- Area RAE meters
- Sampling Equipment – Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) provided the funds for the State Lab of Hygiene to issue each team specialized vacuum sampling containers and sampling supplies
- Satellite communications system
- Decontamination Tent

PassPort Gas Detection Monitor

Within the hazardous materials response system, there is a degree of redundancy in response equipment, so in the event the Regional Response Team is activated on a response, the cities of Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls are not left unprotected. Both fire departments serve as their respective county's designated haz mat team. Therefore, the teams are equipped to handle two haz mat incidents at the same time, in addition to having the option to activate additional regional teams should the need arise.

The world of hazardous materials response is rapidly changing. Advancements in metering technology and the threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) releases have driven most of these changes. The teams are committed to meeting these challenges and will strive to remain one of the best-trained and equipped response teams in the State of Wisconsin.

Chemical Assessment Team (C.A.T.) Response Vehicle