EAU CLAIRE

FIRE & RESCUE

2006 REPORT

TO THE POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION

Submitted March 2007

EAU CLAIRE FIRE & RESCUE REPORT OF 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SUBMITTED TO POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION

March 2007

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CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
"A Project Impact Community"

FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT
Bruce A. Fuerbringer, Chief

Emergency Calls 911
Administration 715/839-5012
Inspections/Investigation 715/839-4825
After Hours 715/839-5013
E-mail .....ecfire@ci.eau-claire.wi.us
City Website .....www.ci.eau-claire.wi.us

March 6, 2007

TO: Police and Fire Commission Members
City Manager

2006 has been an incredibly challenging but remarkable year for Eau Claire Fire Rescue. We have been charged with operating at an extremely high level of service delivery for our citizens while planning for budget restrictions, but perhaps the principle challenge the department faced was the absence of Chief Bruce Fuerbringer from our organization.

Through this adversity, the department has pulled together using our extraordinary work force to set up for contingencies, strategically planning for the future while considering the impact—both short- and long-term. The fiscal challenges we face has 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 loss of leadership from Chief Fuerbringer has required each of the chief officers to step up and share the responsibility. We all found strength and a "can do" attitude from all of our members, who realized they can help the chief by pulling together.

The financial challenge of the loss of $300,000 from our 2007 budget translated to the loss of four members by the end of the year or the need to find alternative funding sources. We chose to look toward a growth model under which the department potentially would offer emergency medical services to surrounding municipalities. The development of the project is certainly in its infancy stage but may come to fruition possibly by late summer. The department is looking at external partnerships, along with a creative financial incentive package that will offer the service to the municipalities without being cost prohibitive. Our ultimate goal is to deliver the service without a major impact on the delivery model we currently employ.

Beyond the challenges as noted, the department continually strives to provide excellence in its day-to-day operations. No matter what issues we confront, we still respond with the highest level of emergency services possible to the citizens we serve. Your support over the past few months has been a constant source of assurance and is greatly appreciated.....thank you!

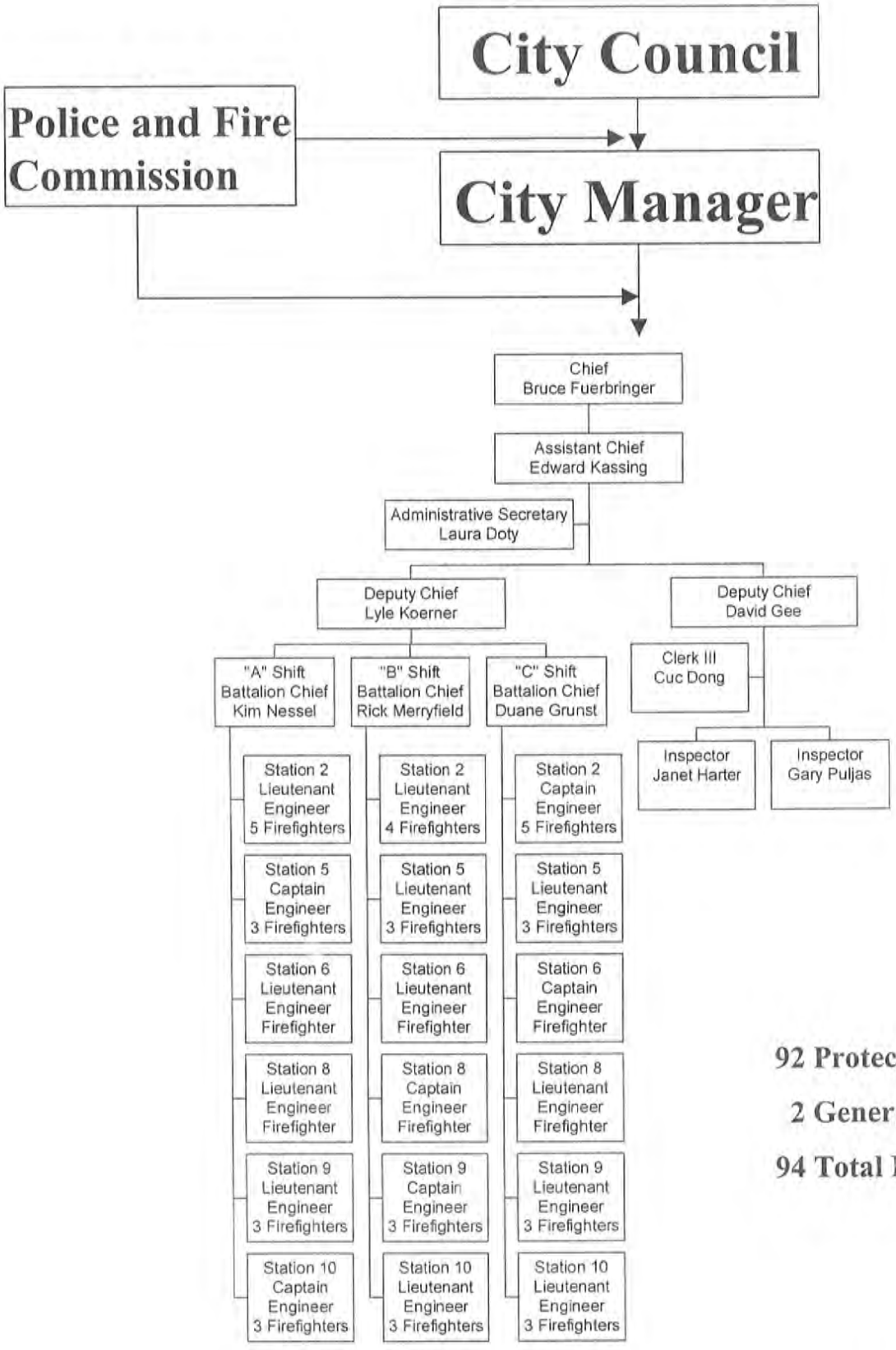
Sincerely,

Edward A. Kassing, M.S
Interim Fire Chief

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

Bruce Fuerbringer ..... Fire Chief

Ed Kassing ..... Assistant Chief

Lyle Koerner ..... Deputy Chief of Operations

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

Laura Doty ..... Administrative Secretary

Janet Harter ..... 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:	Joe Rondeau	(A-Shift)
	Jamie Burkhardt	(B-Shift)
	Shawn Abrahamson	(C-Shift)
TRUSTEES:	Jon Schultz	
	Bob Haller	
	Bob Pratt	
WORKING RELATIONS:	Lance Hanson	
	Steve Vargo	
	Joe Rondeau	
	Bill Drath	

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 ones being identified.

- Submittal of a federal grant application under the FIRE Act. The department was awarded grant monies in the amount of approximately $98,000 to fund the replacement of the department's vehicle extrication equipment.

- Assisting local builders and contractors to comply with new State commercial building and fire codes.

- Continuing cooperative efforts in the application and testing process for establishing a hiring eligibility list through the Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC). 2006's process was successful, building upon past year's experience, and we saw several additional departments participating in the process, including the LaCrosse and Marshfield Fire Departments.

- Progressing towards the concept of a metropolitan emergency medical response plan. This initiative is based on the premise that we can improve EMS response for the majority of the county population through an inter-governmental cooperative effort in a fiscally responsible manner.

- Assisted in developing a job description for, and the hiring of, a County medical director.

- Identifying new training and response strategies to meet the growing homeland security requirements, including the continued development of a collapse-rescue regional response team.

- Submittal of Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance (Homeland Security) grants. The department was awarded grant monies in the amount of approximately $208,000 to fund the development of the regional technical rescue task force teams. The department is partnered with the cities of Superior and Rhinelander to provide collapse rescue team response to the northern third of the state.

- Applying for and/or managing a number of state and federal grants associated with homeland security efforts.

Personnel Related Issues

PERSONNEL ACTIVITIES

New Hires:

Nils Bergquist
Jeremy Curtis
Jeff Dahl
Gary Puljas
Tom Wallin

Promotions:

Bryon Bensen to Captain
Jeff Patrow to Engineer

Separations:

Jeremy Curtis

Retirements:

Mike Baker
Tim Erickson
Tom Hanks
Bill Klee
Mark Loken

Step Increases:

Firefighter Mark Humphrey to First Class Firefighter
Firefighter Tony Biasi to Second Class Firefighter
Firefighter Stephen Friederichs to Second Class Firefighter
Firefighter Bob Haller to Second Class Firefighter
Firefighter Dave Strassman to Second Class Firefighter
Firefighter Matt Gunderson to Fourth Class Firefighter
Firefighter Ryan Hebert to Fourth Class Firefighter
Firefighter Tom Wagner to Fourth Class Firefighter

SENIORITY RECORD

NAME		RANK	DOH
Fuerbringer	Bruce	Chief	08-15-77
Munden	Scott	Lieutenant	04-26-78
Legge	Mark	Lieutenant	06-19-78
Merryfield	Rickey	Battalion Chief	12-18-78
Kassing	Edward	Assistant 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	Engineer	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	Engineer	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

NAME		RANK	DOH
Xiong	Chao	Firefighter	05-13-91
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	Firefighter	06-05-95
Kranz	Brian	Firefighter	06-05-95
Schultz	Jon	Engineer	06-05-95
Rydzik	Donald	Firefighter	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

NAME		RANK	DOH
Drath	William	Firefighter	04-09-01
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	Prob. Firefighter	01-30-06
Bergquist	Nils	Prob. Firefighter	08-07-06
Dahl	Jeffrey	Prob. Firefighter	08-07-06

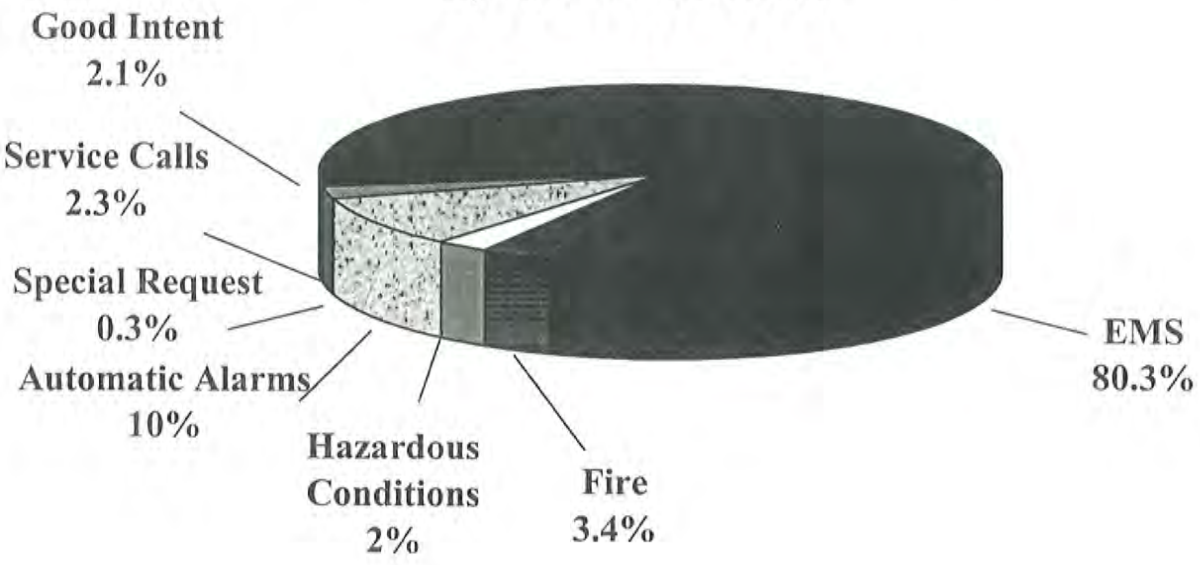
AVERAGE AGE – **42**

AVERAGE YEARS OF SERVICE - **15**

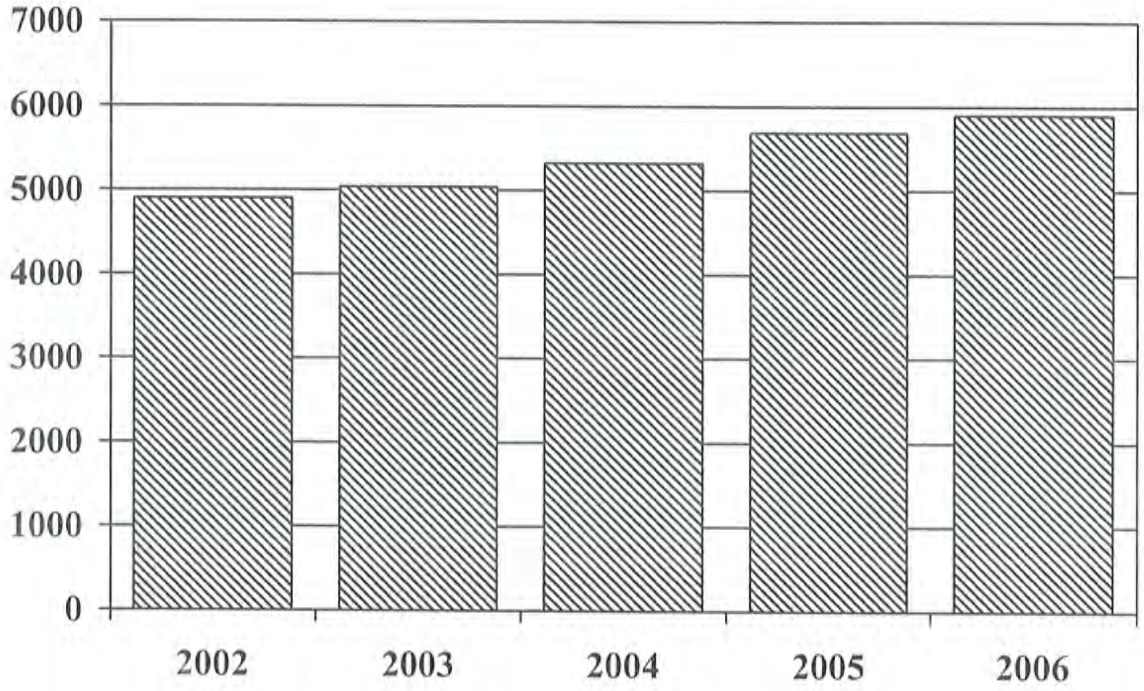
Response Statistics

Response Breakdown

5,901 Incidents



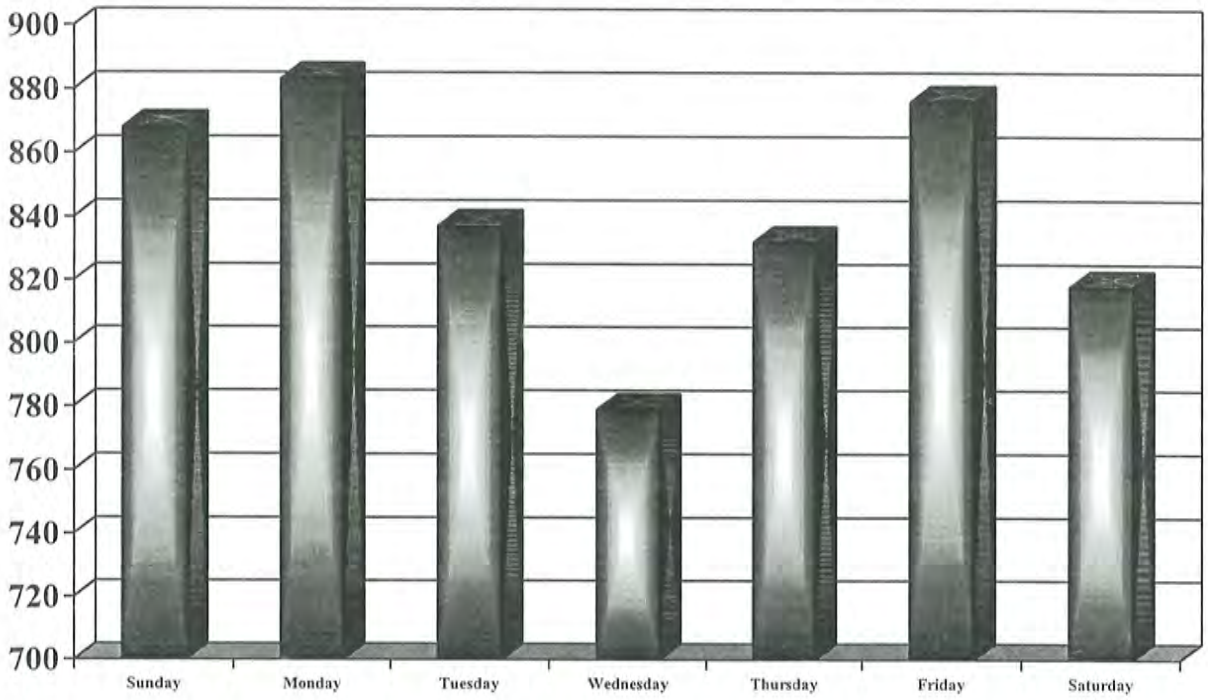
5-Year Total Responses



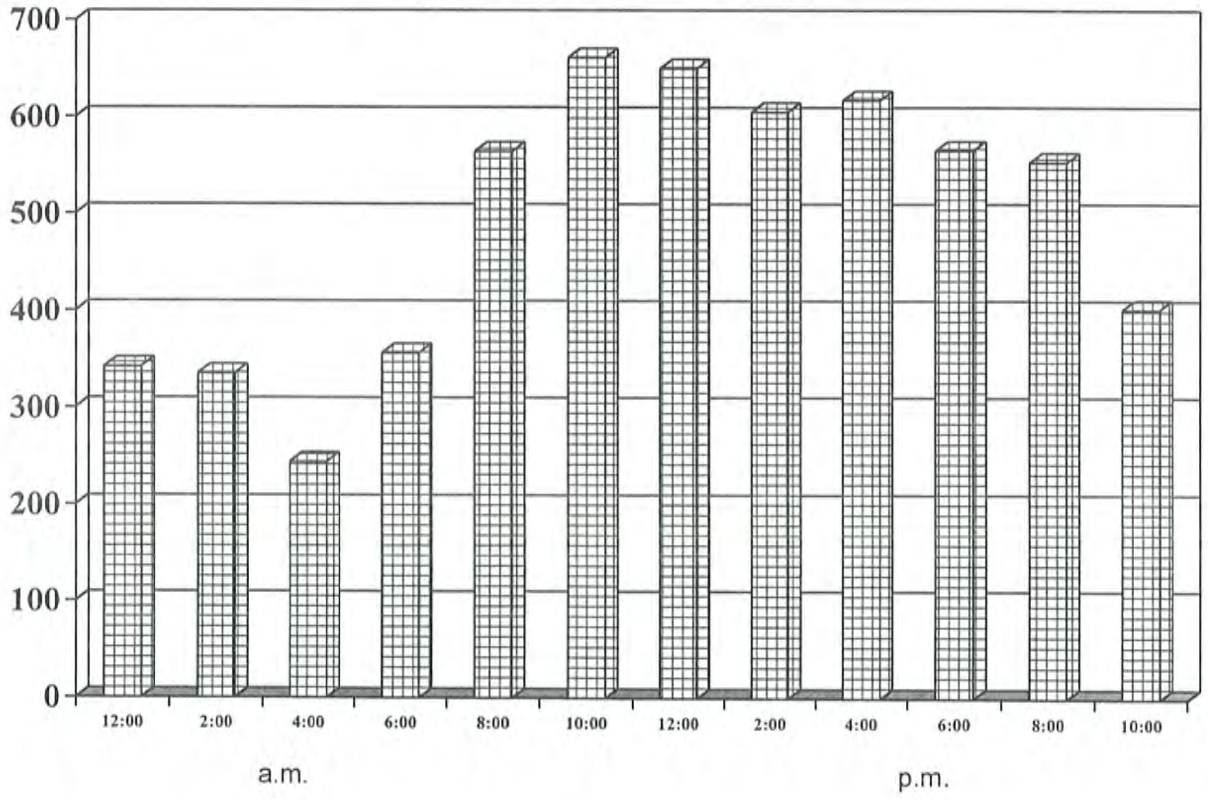
TOP 20 FIRES BY CAUSE AND DOLLAR LOSS

DATE	ADDRESS	CAUSE	DOLLAR LOSS
04-25-06	1720 Harding Ave.	Undetermined	$500,000
06-22-06	2911 Venus Ave.	Undetermined	$200,000
10-20-06	1816 9th St.	Undetermined	$102,000
06-20-06	408 Chippewa St.	Smoking Materials	$ 90,000
02-20-06	811 Garden St.	Possibly Electrical	$ 85,000
09-20-06	920 James St.	Smoking Materials w/Oxygen Use	$ 78,000
12-01-06	1113 Oxford Ave.	Undetermined	$ 60,000
11-09-06	Birch/N. Hastings	Vehicle	$ 55,000
09-04-06	1200 Forest St.	Manufacturing Machine Malfunction	$ 50,000
08-06-06	3636 Jeffers Rd.	Unattended Candle	$ 45,000
04-08-06	104 Gibson St.	Items Against Baseboard Heater	$ 35,000
10-02-06	617 Forest St.	Possibly Electrical	$ 25,000
12-02-06	3605 White Ave.	Vehicle	$ 25,000
04-16-06	2112 Cameron St.	Undetermined	$ 21,000
10-18-06	3236 Runway Ave.	Possibly Electrical	$ 20,500
11-04-06	2017 Piedmont Rd.	Unattended Outdoor Burning	$ 16,000
06-22-06	1021 Barland St.	Possibly Electrical	$ 15,000
07-14-06	820 Revere St.	Possibly Electrical	$ 11,000
09-07-06	111 7th Ave.	Vehicle	$ 10,800
04-05-06	2020 Prairie Ln.	Manufacturing Machine Malfunction	$ 10,000
		TOTAL	**$1,454,300**

Incidents by Day of Week

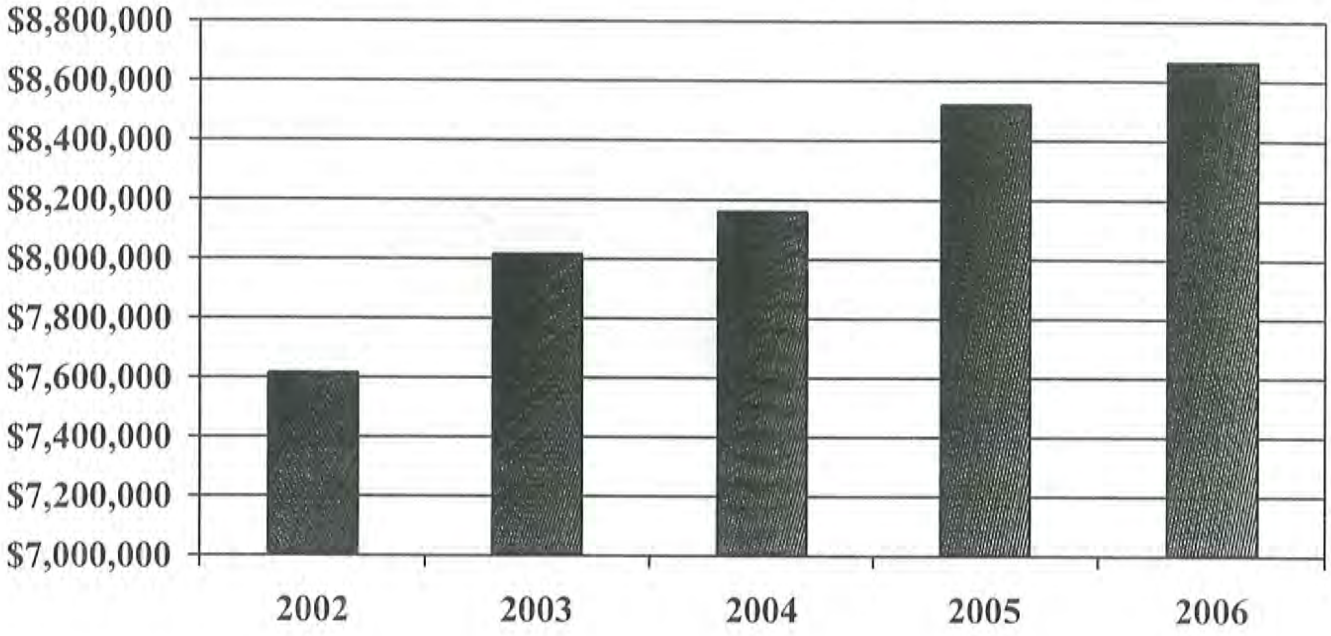


Incidents by Time of Day

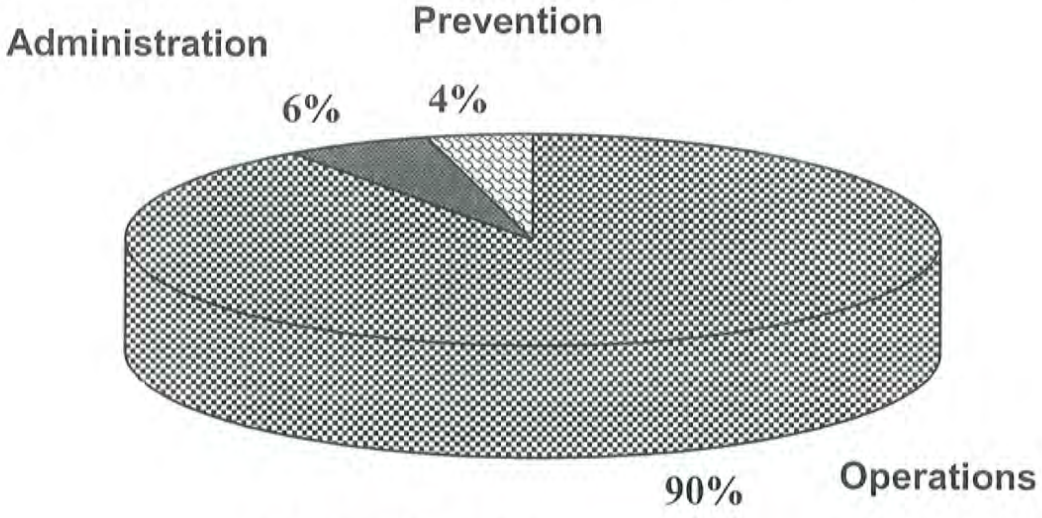


Budgetary Information

Five Year Budget Comparison



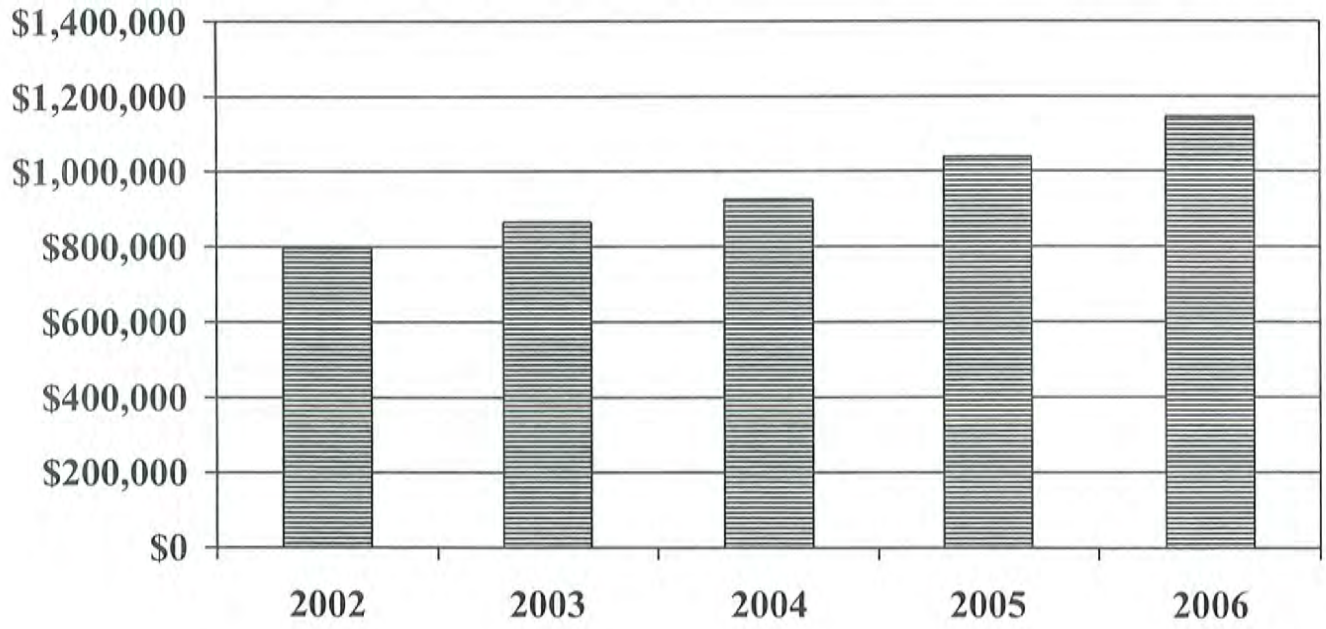
Operating Budget by Division



$8,662,700

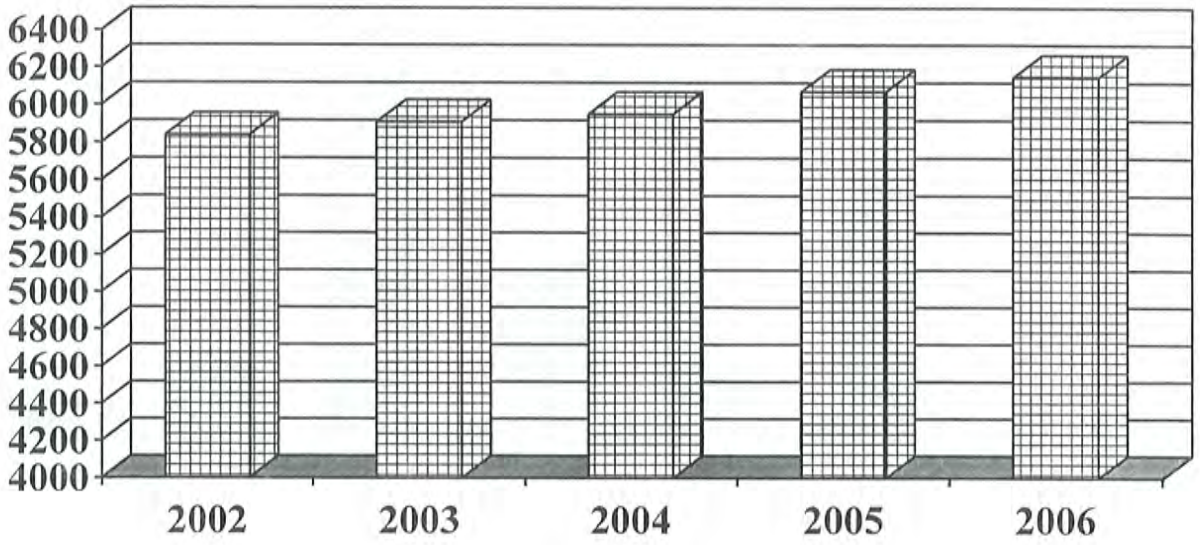
General Operating Budget

Net Ambulance Revenue

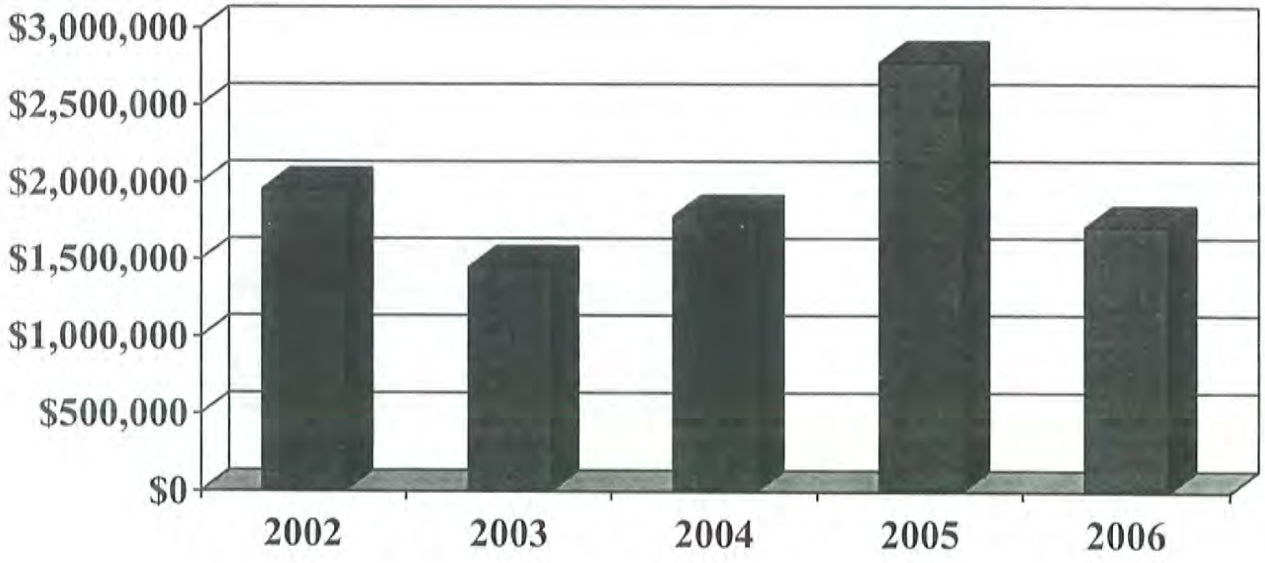


Supplementary Data

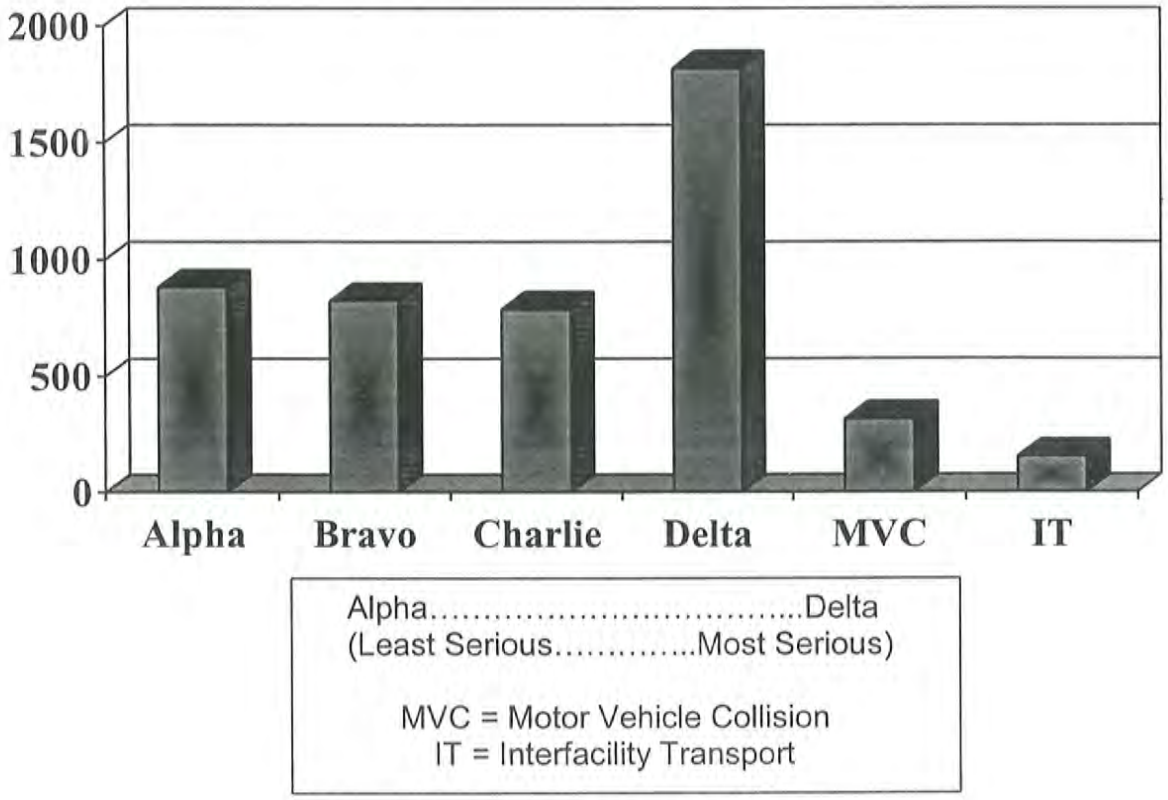
Building Inspections Performed



Dollar Loss from Fire



Incidents by Trauma Code Designation

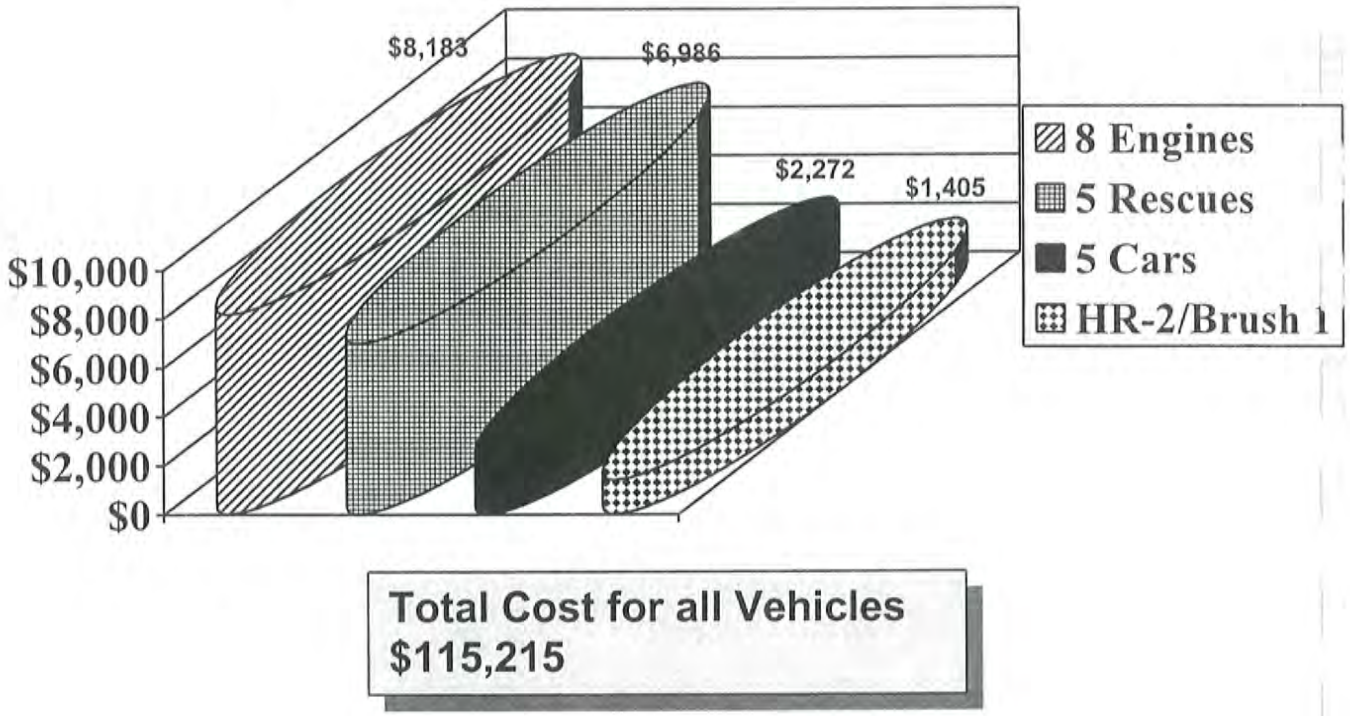


Patient Transport Locations

VEHICLE OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

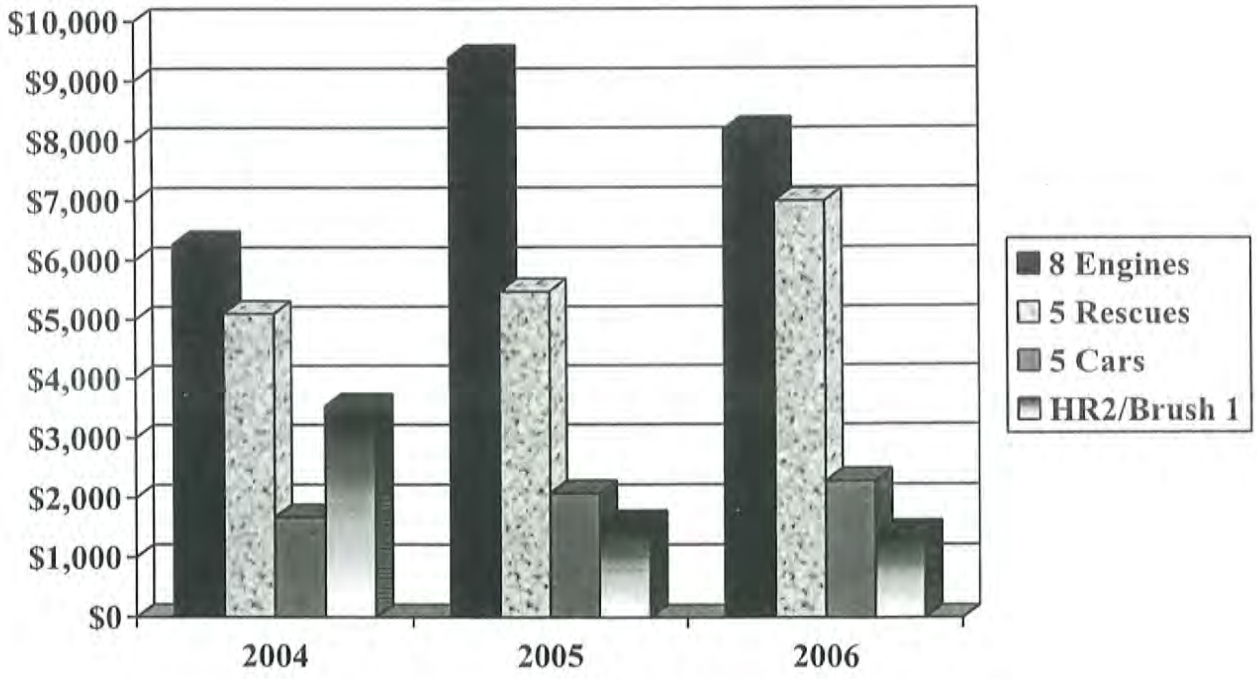
Vehicle		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	5-Year Total
E1	FDE10676	$2,671	$2,353	$4,022	$4,956	$4,565	**$18,567**
E2	FDE10199	$5,438	$5,214	$4,101	$13,532	$8,650	**$36,935**
E3	FDE10479	$2,847	$2,948	$5,804	$3,659	$7,884	**$23,142**
E5	FDE10387	$4,525	$6,803	$6,275	$6,798	$9,535	**$33,936**
E6	FDE10196	$20,638	$5,721	$7,449	$14,411	$12,642	**$60,861**
E8	FDE10186	$5,518	$10,186	$8,886	$8,711	$7,047	**$40,348**
E9	FDE10287	$4,279	$5,837	$9,866	$13,433	$6,746	**$40,161**
E10	FDE10293	$19,376	$4,582	$3,724	$9,575	$8,393	**$45,650**
	Total Cost:	**$65,292**	**$43,644**	**$50,127**	**$75,075**	**$65,462**	$299,600
R1	FDR30494	$5,793	$7,705	$6,366	$2,566	$2,368	**$24,798**
R3	FDR30197	$7,922	$6,545	$4,338	$1,580	$2,118	**$22,503**
R5	FDR30103	N/A	$1,239	$4,627	$6,559	$7,924	**$20,349**
R9	FDR30194	$6,584	$7,746	$5,858	$9,481	$14,277	**$43,946**
R10	FDR30204	N/A	$751	$4,291	$7,165	$8,245	**$20,452**
	Total Cost:	**$20,299**	**$23,986**	**$25,480**	**$27,351**	**$34,932**	$132,048
C1	FDC40196	$1,056	$996	$1,410	$1,793	$2,873	**$8,128**
C2	FDC40296	$1,695	$1,585	$2,036	$3,150	$2,486	**$10,952**
C3	FDC40101	$1,166	$1,524	$1,884	$1,641	$2,959	**$9,174**
C9	FDC40201	$1,420	$1,984	$2,173	$2,302	$2,473	**$10,352**
CAT	FDC40104	N/A	$1,519	$848	$915	$567	**$3,849**
	Total Cost:	**$5,337**	**$7,608**	**$8,351**	**$9,801**	**$11,358**	$42,455
HR2	FDH20196	$3,906	$4,323	$2,674	$2,611	$2,025	**$15,539**
Brush 1	FDC40102	$1,131	$672	$854	$517	$782	**$3,956**
SR1	FDH20199	$101	$167	$694	$0	$0	**$962**
Misc.		N/A	$423	$488	$1,077	$657	**$2,645**
	Total Cost:	**$5,138**	**$5,585**	**$4,710**	**$4,205**	**$3,464**	$23,102
Totals		**$96,066**	**$80,823**	**$88,668**	**$116,432**	**$115,216**	$497,205

Vehicle Maintenance for 2006
Average Yearly Cost by Vehicle Type



Total Cost for all Vehicles
$115,215

Vehicle Maintenance for 2004- 2006
Average Cost by Vehicle Type



Overtime Report

and

Review of Leave Use

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 9, 2007

TO: Mike Huggins, City Manager

FROM: Edward Kassing, Acting Fire Chief

RE: Overtime Report/Budget Review

Overtime has been a challenge over the past three years, as well as a difficult topic to understand and explain. The bottom line is we are a minimum-staffing service, as each fire engine and ambulance require a minimum number of personnel to operate. When our daily staffing numbers are reduced by vacation, sick, injury or other approved leave, we hire back on overtime to maintain our minimum staffing requirement. The only way to reduce this impact is to reduce the level of service by taking a fire engine or ambulance out of service. With our staffing and service levels being near the level we had back in the 1980s, reducing service levels further is a decision that needs to be made at the Council level.

There are other areas that contributed to the need for overtime, which I have listed below. It has been considered a budget-saving strategy to keep vacant positions open and replace them through overtime. At some point, this strategy loses its advantage, and monitoring for that point is a constant challenge.

The following drove the department's 2006 experience that necessitated overtime:

1) **Open Positions**
2) **Sick Leave**
3) **Injury Leave**
4) **Family Leave**
5) **Light Duty Leave**

Summary

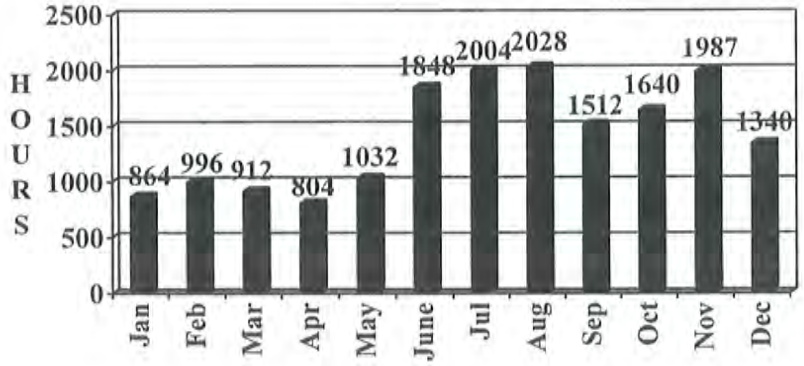
For the last several years, the fire department overtime line item has not met the overtime needs for the variety of reasons mentioned in this report. Holding vacant positions open in itself drives the OT line significantly, while saving in the salary and benefits lines. This alone can be deceiving when taking the overtime dollar amount at face value. In 2006, four positions were held open at some point or another throughout the year, and we enter 2007 holding four positions open again. Until all of the factors mentioned have been addressed, the overtime line will continue to fluctuate over the budgeted amount of dollars.

VACATION LEAVE

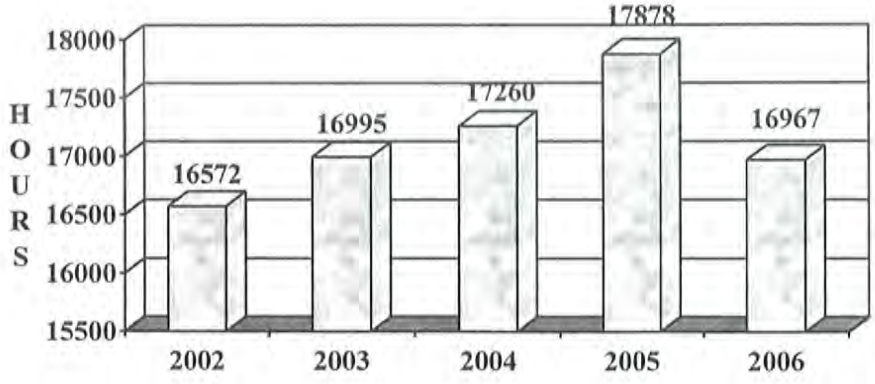
Experience: Vacation leave is a constant from year-to-year. As the department matures, employees accrue more vacation time per contract. Vacation is accrued and taken via the employee's anniversary date and not on a calendar year.

Impact: The graphs below demonstrate this and the fact that summer and fall continue to be the most popular vacation periods. We may see some reduction in vacation leave use as older employees retire and are replaced by new employees who do not have much in the line of vacation benefits. I do not believe it will make a major dent in the overall trend depicted. As vacation is accrued by the anniversary date and not calendar year, the lower use in 2006 may result in a marked increase in vacation use in 2007.

Vacation Leave Use for 2006



Vacation Leave Use

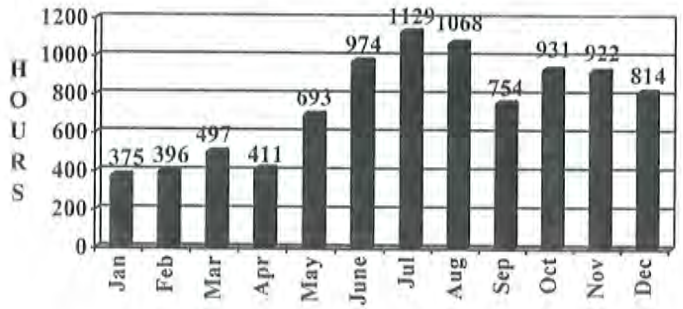


COMP. TIME LEAVE

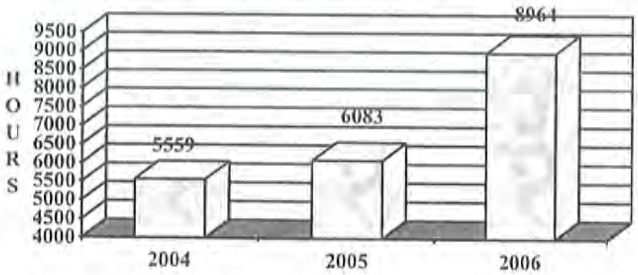
Experience: Since the legality of our comp time policy was questioned based on the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) in 2003, the use of comp time as a viable leave has increased dramatically. We were able to reduce the impact by mutual agreement with Local 487, but the policy is still much more lenient than it was prior to 2003. Until the issue is resolved, we can expect to see this level of comp time use. We hope to bring the comp time policy to a challenge in the first quarter of 2007.

Impact: The use of comp time mirrors that of overtime and as such places an additional burden on the overtime line. While there is a *chance* that we will not need to fill a vacancy created by comp time, the reality is that we often do. There is a small savings in that when employees do not work a full 27-day work cycle they do not receive FLSA overtime for that work cycle; however, the expenses associated with overtime are still greater overall. If the challenge to the comp time use is successful, we will see a marked decrease in 2007, with a large financial payout of unused comp time in the first quarter of 2008. If the challenge is successful, the comp time use may become manageable.

Comp. Time Leave Use for 2006



Comp. Time Leave Use

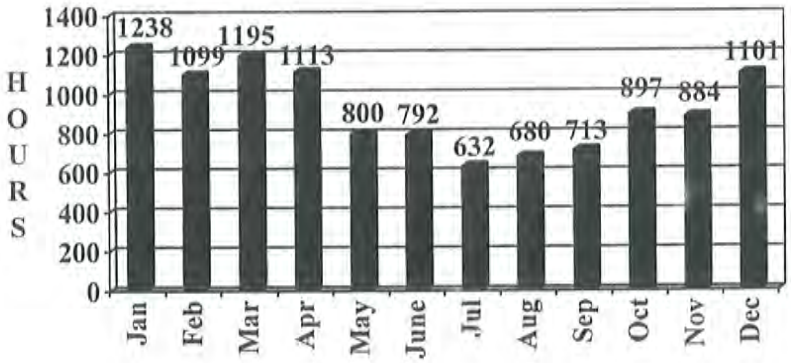


SICK LEAVE

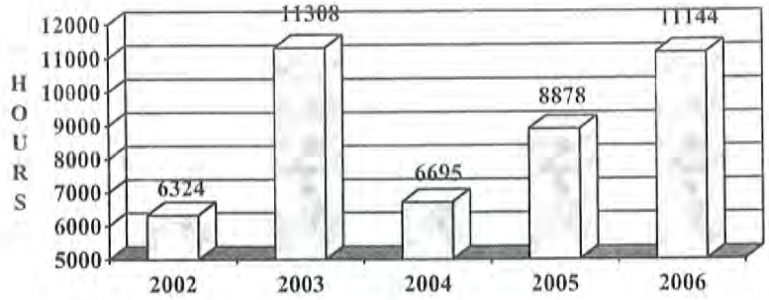
Experience: The 2006 experience appears to mirror that of 2003. We have had a number of long-term injuries for which some employees have had to utilize sick leave, so the actual illness-related portion may actually be less that what the graph implies. In such instances, employees have generally utilized "light duty" when available to help reduce the use of sick leave. These individuals are still absent from the field, which kicks in the need for overtime to maintain our minimum staffing level.

Impact: As sick leave is for the most part an unplanned occurrence that is dealt with the day of illness, it is a for the most part a reactionary necessity to hire overtime. Obviously, the healthier we can maintain the work force, the less impact this leave will have overall.

Sick Leave Use for 2006



Sick Leave Use

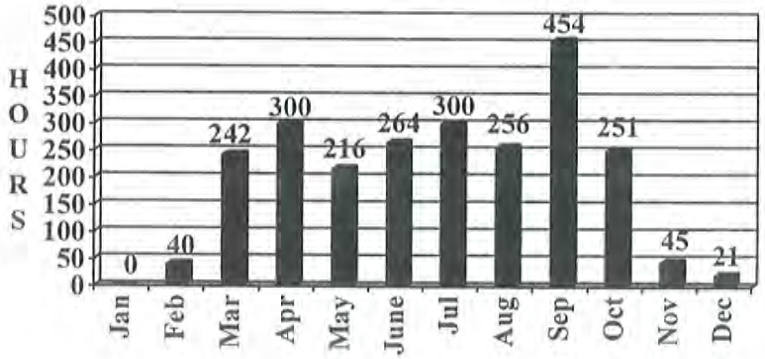


INJURY LEAVE

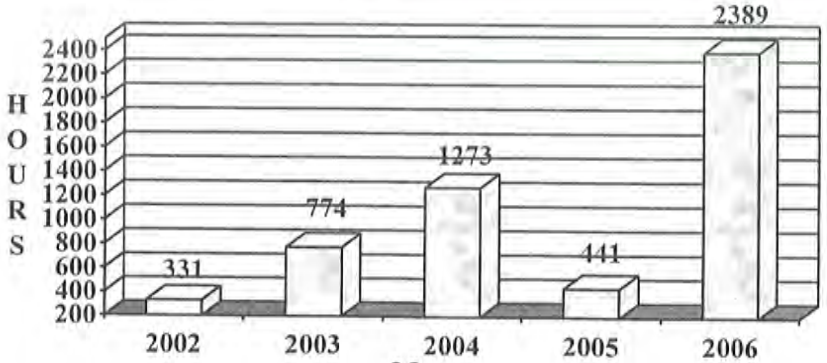
Experience: Injury leave reflects on-the-job injuries that are not categorized under "light duty." They are actual time lost days due to work-related injury. We have had several on-the-job injuries, one from a vehicle accident that occurred in September of 2006 and for which the employee will be off from shift duties possibly until May of 2007. The department's members experienced at least eight surgeries in 2006. Strains and sprains continue to be the largest category of injuries in the fire service overall, with back strain from lifting being a common injury. With the tight corners and unfriendly environments in which firefighters find themselves, it is not surprising. The fire department continues to emphasize firefighter health and safety in its procedures and philosophy.

Impact: The reduction in this category was a positive impact on the overtime budget line. Obviously, every work-related injury is costly in some way or another, and our goal is to reduce them even further!

Injury Leave Use for 2006



Injury Leave Use

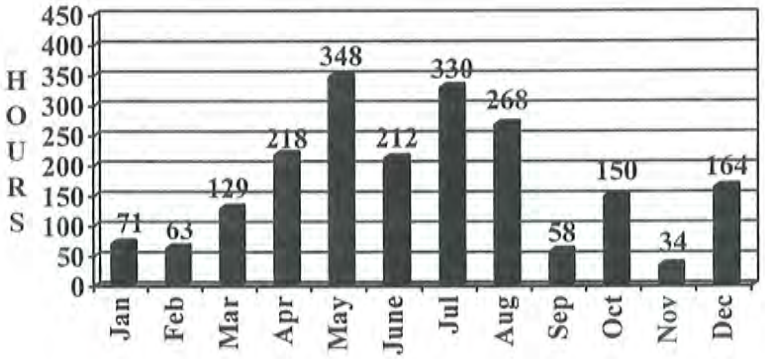


FAMILY/PATERNITY LEAVE

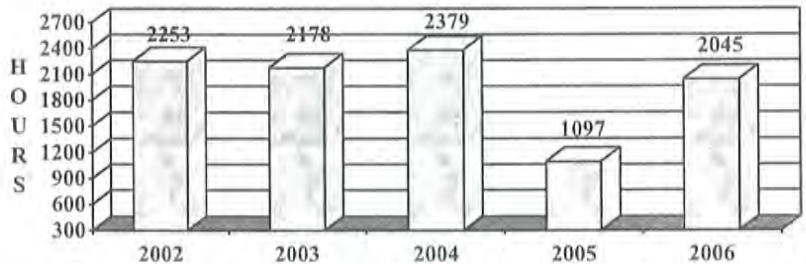
Experience: This leave demonstrated a significant increase from 2005.

Impact: As families mature, we will see a reduction in this leave. However, since we will always have a segment of employees with growing families, this federally mandated leave will continue to impact our overtime lines.

Family/Paternity Leave Use for 2006



Family/Paternity Leave Use

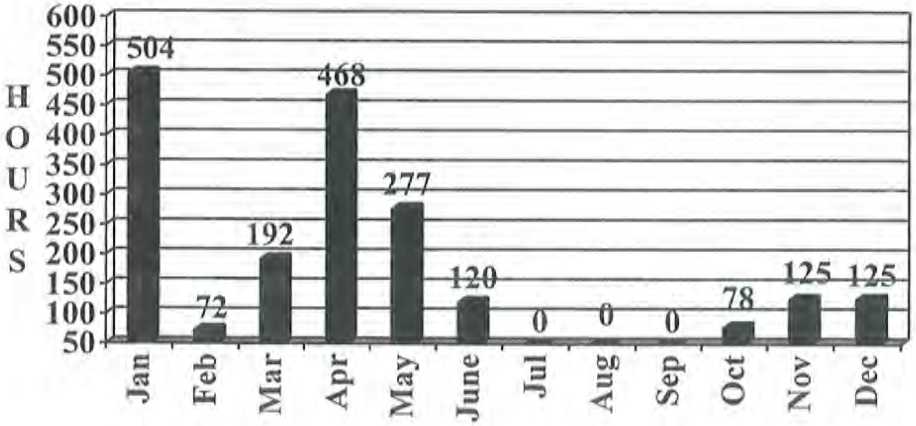


LIGHT DUTY

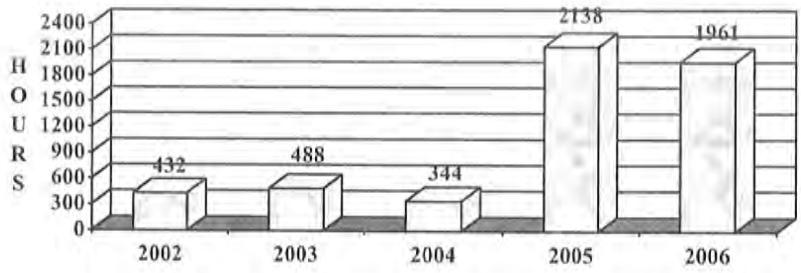
Experience: A higher than average experience of non-work related personal injuries and medical conditions requiring surgery had an impact in 2006. To conserve sick leave, the department offers its employees 'Light Duty' when it is approved by the employee's physician and available in the work place. Generally, we find this arrangement a "win-win" for both the employee and the department, as it gives us an extra body to take care of a number of tasks that receive less attention due to the loss of positions that has occurred in previous years.

Impact: Light duty, though generally a 'win-win' situation, still has an impact on the overtime line, as it does not help address the minimum staffing requirements.

Light Duty Use for 2006



Light Duty Use

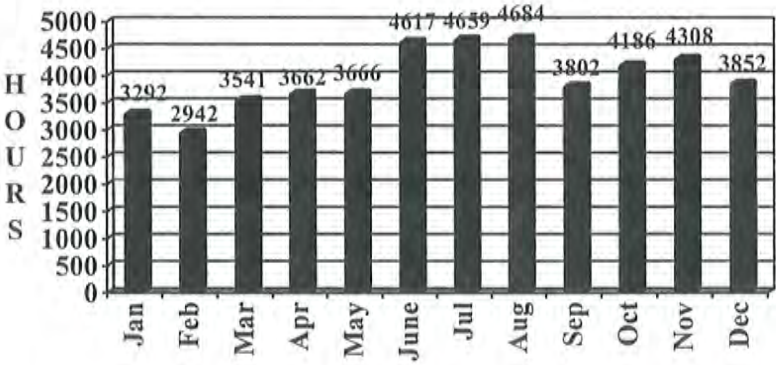


COMBINED LEAVE USE

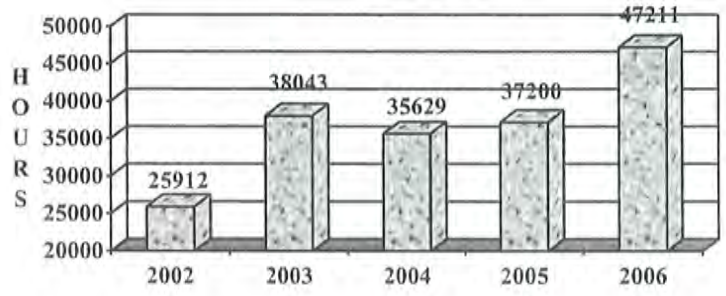
Experience: Combined Leave use for 2006 saw an approximately 25% increase over the previous two years. The factors mentioned in the previous breakout analysis of each leave use accounts for the general and sustained increase of leave use from 2002 to the present.

Impact: The combined impact of all the leave categories, along with the holding of positions open, has driven the overtime markedly up for 2006.

Combined Leave Use for 2006



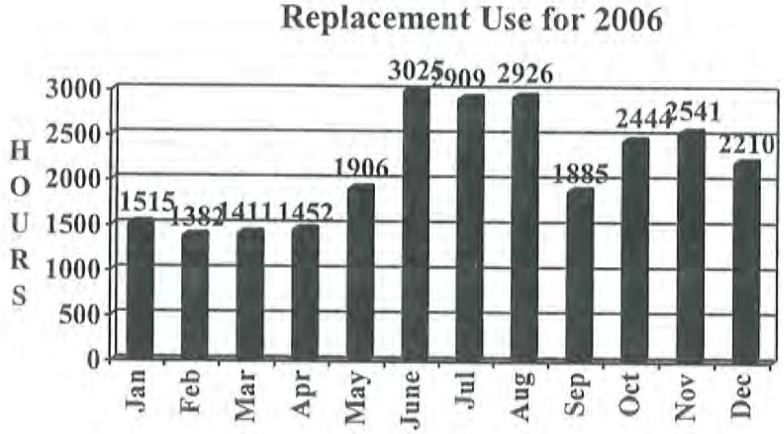
Combined Leave Use

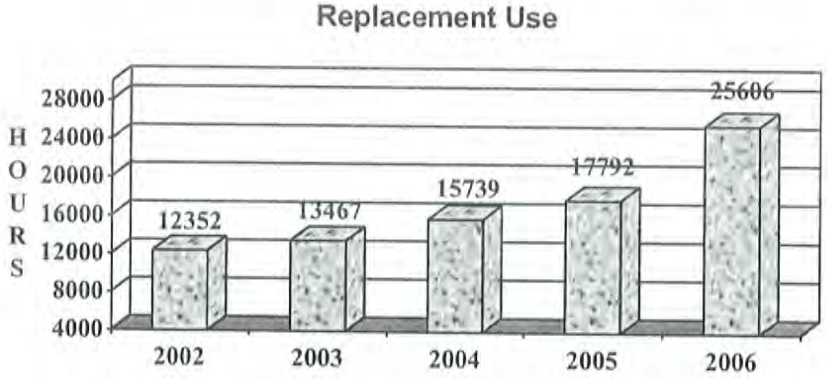


REPLACEMENT OVERTIME USE

Experience: "Replacement" is the term used when we hire through overtime to maintain minimum staffing levels. Other uses of overtime could be emergency call-in when a major incident requires additional staffing, either on the scene or to staff reserve apparatus. Minimal overtime is utilized for training or meetings when necessary.

Impact: As can be observed in the charts, replacement overtime is most heavily used during the second half of the year that encompasses the summer, fall hunting, and the holidays. Most overtime costs are related to replacement needs.





Accomplishment Highlights

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Response Statistics

During 2006, the department responded to 5,901 calls for service, an increase of 4 percent over 2005. This is a greater than average increase over that experienced in previous years. Also, fire loss showed a marked decrease—38 percent—from 2005.

TYPE	2005	2006
EMS/Rescue	4,559	4,741
Fire/Rescue	204	201
Malfunctioning Alarms	466	536
Hazardous Conditions	179	147
Service Calls	124	136
Good Intent Calls	131	125
Special Requests	22	15
Total Fire Loss	$2,775,846	$1,709,903
RUN TOTAL:	5,685	5,901

Incidents with a loss of $50,000 or greater were:

- 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)

Hirings, Promotions, and Separations

On January 27, Gary Puljas joined the department as a fire inspector. This is a shared position with the City of Altoona. The department hired four firefighters this year—Jeremy Curtis and Tom Wallin on January 30 and Nils Bergquist and Jeff Dahl on August 7. Five employees with a combined 132 years of service retired. They were Captain Mike Baker (30), Lieutenant Tom Hanks (19), Lieutenant Mark Loken (28), Engineer Tim Erickson (25), and Engineer Bill Klee (30). Probationary Firefighter Curtis resigned on July 17. Bryon Bensen was promoted to the position of captain in July, and Jeff Patrow became an engineer in October.

FIRE Act Grants

The department was awarded a FIRE Act grant in the amount of approximately $98,000 for the replacement of our vehicle extrication equipment. This federal grant required a local match of approximately $29,000, which came from our planned CIP budget. The department

worked through a lengthy extrication gear evaluation program to assess the needs of the department now and in the future with the various vendors.

With additional savings from the vehicle extrication equipment grant, the department also was able to obtain a small fire prevention grant (with no local match) for the replacement of Freddie the Fire Truck. Freddie is a small, remotely operated device used in fire prevention activities for small children. Freddie can move around, talk and listen to the children, squirt water, flash lights and siren, and give personalized messages to the given audience. The previous Freddie was nearly 15 years old and assisted in hundreds of public education presentations. Freddie is an incredible tool in giving fire safety talks to children.

In December, 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 our planned CIP budget. This is the fifth time the department has been successful in obtaining a FIRE Act grant. Department personnel will be working in early 2007 to write the specifications for the equipment and place for bids for procurement. The equipment will both replace aging water rescue equipment and augment additional capabilities.

Equipment Replacement Schedule

The department continues to utilize the equipment replacement schedule that was developed. This long-range planning tool reflects the expected life span of equipment, along with the anticipated replacement date and cost. The department received two replacement command vehicles in June as part of its normal rotation of vehicles. In July, the department submitted a procurement order for a replacement ambulance. This year the department received the heavy rescue vehicle that was purchased with Office of Justice Assistance grant monies, with a contribution from the Regional Hazardous Materials Response equipment fund. No local dollars were used for this vehicle.

National Incident Management System (NIMS).

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) includes a system of Incident Command that is 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 City of Eau Claire has been working to comply with the five areas of compliance in association with NIMS:

1. Completion of the NIMS Awareness Course: "National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction" IS 700.

   All department directors, division heads, and executive assistants should complete this introductory course. The recommendation for the City is to have all departments keep record of their personnel who have completed this training. All fire department personnel have completed this basic requirement. The fire department is also having its personnel complete the Incident Command System (ICS) 100 and 200 level courses.

2. Formally recognize the NIMS and adopting the NIMS principles and policies.

   The City of Eau Claire has adopted, by resolution, the NIMS within the City of Eau Claire.

3. Establish a NIMS baseline by determining which NIMS requirements you already meet.

   Each department within the City of Eau Claire's organization has different levels of NIMS-related concepts and protocols already being utilized in daily operations. Each department must conduct its own evaluation of policies and protocols in relationship to NIMS.

4. Establish a timeframe and develop a strategy for full NIMS implementation.

   The City must develop its operations to become NIMS compliant. By the fall of 2007, we as a City must complete the training for all City departments.

5. Institutionalize the use of the Incident Command System (ICS).

   The City of Eau Claire must continue to utilize and demonstrate its use of the ICS management system in its operations.

Regional EMS

Chief Fuerbringer participated in an Eau Claire County Board-appointed committee to evaluate the current EMS system that serves the city and county. The committee consisted of representatives from local government, EMS agencies, first responders, hospitals, and town associations. Included in the discussions was Chief Fuerbringer's 2005 proposal to regionalize EMS service delivery by having Eau Claire Fire provide 911 emergency medical services to the area of Eau Claire county currently served by a private ambulance service. While service to the entire response area could see significant improvement, the 85 percent of the county's population that either live in the city or within 3 – 4 miles of the city limits would experience the greatest improvement in EMS service. The committee met on a regular basis for several months but ultimately could not agree on what might be best for the county residents. One of the committee's recommendations was to request the County to hire a consultant to review the current systems that serve the county and identify alternatives and potential impact.

EMS Quality Assurance / Continuing Education / Medical Direction

The shift battalion chief continues to complete quality assurance of incident reports for responses. The EMS battalion chief completes more detailed analysis of targeted incidents and then reviews the information with either the medical director or the EMS personnel involved.

EMT refresher training through CVTC occurred in January. Paramedic refresher training is an ongoing process during the year. Paramedics complete online computer-based training,

which is then supplemented with hands-on training through CVTC and Audit and Review classes with our medical director. All personnel have been training to the new American Heart Association standards on CPR and Advanced Cardiac Life Support.

Dr. Tom Peterson is the current medical director for the department. He is in the process of rewriting all of ECFD's protocols. Dr. Peterson attends monthly Policy and Practice committee meetings attended by Local 487 members and administration. Dr. Peterson is actively involved in the online and hands-on training for the paramedics.

Communications Interoperability Project

The first phase of the completed communication upgrade project in the county was a survey and study of communications currently in place in Eau Claire County and 14 other counties in West Central Wisconsin, with the recommendation of a technical specification for the program. The second phase involved the hiring of a consultant to develop a planning document to analyze each county's existing infrastructure and its unique requirements, along with assisting in developing a request for proposal (RFP) that will follow the State's specifications for that county. The third phase allowed each county to apply for federal grants to carry out the phase two infrastructure replacement/development required to meet the State plan.

Eau Claire County worked to complete the third phase with the reprogramming of mobile and portable radios, the upgrade of the Eau Claire City/County Communication Center equipment, linking area communications centers, the installation of an area Mutual Aid Radio Channel (M.A.R.C.) repeater for large scale area events, and a Eau Claire County repeated tactical channel for large-scale county events. Training and operational guidelines were developed for the effective utilization of the new assets.

Bio-Terrorism Preparedness Committee

Jim Ryder from the City-County Health Department and Chief Fuerbringer were invited to present the County preparedness plan at a conference sponsored by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, in November. Eau Claire was one of ten "model communities" chosen to present how public health and emergency services have cooperated to help better prepare communities for emergency response.

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS)

Several years ago the state of Illinois established a system of mutual aid response and communications that melded the resources of all emergency responders for large-scale events. The program, called MABAS (mutual aid box alarm system), established a clear command and control, radio communications matrix, and consistent response criteria for communities to operate seamlessly in events that go beyond the capabilities of one given community.

In February, the State of Wisconsin enacted a law that adopted the MABAS program for implementation in Wisconsin. This effort will be a multi-year initiative to improve the response capabilities of emergency first responders throughout the state and essentially the country as required. Eau Claire County emergency response personnel are currently studying the possibility of implementing the MABAS system in our jurisdiction.

Level "A" Haz Mat Team

On December 7, team members participated in a tabletop exercise at the Department of Natural Resources building in Eau Claire. The scenario was someone sabotaging the municipal water system in the city of New Richmond. Many people were affected with various degrees of illness, including some fatalities. Key response personnel included local government officials, Public Health, Wisconsin Emergency Management, and Regional Haz Mat represented by Battalion Chief Kim Nessel. Wisconsin Emergency Management conducted similar scenarios throughout the state, and this is the second one in which the West Central Level A team participated.

The role of State regional response teams at a situation involving contaminated drinking water is actually quite limited. In 2005, the State Lab of Hygiene issued water sampling kits throughout the state. They were given to local treatment plants, health departments, and regional DNR offices. In most cases, water sampling would be completed by municipal water system, public health, or DNR employees. However, in cases where contamination of sampling personnel is a concern regional team personnel may be called for sampling.

In the State of Wisconsin, the regional haz mat teams have some of the best chemical detection equipment available. However, waterborne contamination is very challenging in most cases, and local public health, as well as the State Lab of Hygiene, plays a key role in lab analysis of the contaminated water. Future tabletops are being planned for municipalities within our team's response area.

We recently took delivery of a large decontamination tent that will greatly enhance our capabilities for mass decontamination. This purchase includes a water heater capable of providing a virtually endless supply of warm water for decontamination of contaminated victims and responders. The most likely scenario involving the use of this system would be for postal employees who work at the United States Postal Distribution Center on Hogarth Street. Last year the postal service installed a Bio-Detection System (BDS) at that location to alert both the public and its employees to the presence of a biological agent within the mail system.

State Task Force 4 – Regional Collapse 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 collapse 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 collapse rescue team response to the northern third of the state.

In 2006, membership in Task Force 4 was finalized. The team is comprised of members from the following area fire departments: Eau Claire (38), Chippewa Falls (10), Menomonie (10), and Township (2). In addition, our partner cities of Rhinelander and Superior have 35 and 25 members, respectively.

The State contracted with qualified trainers to provide the training. An actual contract to provide regional technical rescue services will be negotiated with the State in the summer of

2007. Training for the year began with Ropes Rescue at both the Operations and Technician levels. After Ropes Rescue, training in Trench Rescue and Confined Space was conducted. All instruction occurred at CVTC's Emergency Services Education Center. The last portion on the task force training is Collapse Rescue. Due to its complex nature, it will be completed at Volk Field starting in March 2007. Members will travel to Volk Field for two weeks of training.

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.

Safety Town

On June 14 and 21, department personnel participated in Safety Town. This program is geared to teaching children from ages 4 years to 6 years about being safe while playing. Topics that we 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 these programs, and each child received a bicycle safety helmet and a t-shirt at the graduation ceremony.

Safety Camp

On July 11 and 12, department personnel participated in Safety Camp at Carson Park. This day camp is for children entering the 3rd grade. Fire Inspectors Harter and Puljas presented a program on summer fire safety, and the fire safety house had 90+ participants on the first day of the camp. Engine 9's crew brought the fire truck to the closing picnic and showed it to the children.

Career Valley Expo

The Eau Claire Fire Prevention Bureau was once again able to participate with the CVTC Fire Science program in this event. Inspector Harter worked with Marcy Bruflat of CVTC to show young adults what a career in the fire service is all about. The event ran from 9:00 am until 3:00 p.m., and approximately 3,000 high school students from throughout the Chippewa Valley participated.

UST/AST Inspections

Fire Inspector Harter completed 73 site permit inspections – some sites contain multiple tanks to be inspected. There were 17 tank removals and 9 tank installs/upgrades during this period. The tank program was audited by the Department of Commerce—ERS Division on September 18. The audit report indicated the department met performance expectations.

Juvenile Fire Setter Program

The Eau Claire Fire Department had five referrals from Human Services for fire education intervention. There also were three requests for intervention by a parent or an agency outside the City of Eau Claire.

School Fire Prevention Programs

On September 18, the department starts its annual fire prevention presentations at both the public and private elementary schools within the city. The programs consist of six different age-appropriate presentations. This year's theme was "Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat". The third grade poster contest winners were Jack Voller from Putnam Heights Elementary and Jaidyn Zehner from Manz Elementary. They each received a 26-inch mountain bike with helmet.

Fire Prevention Week at Sam's Club

This event is sponsored by the Eau Claire County Chiefs Association, in conjunction with area fire departments, the DNR, and CVTC's fire/medic program. Smokey Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog were on-hand to relay fire safety information. There also was a variety of fire apparatus, wildland equipment, and the fire safety house. Approximately 500 people participated in the event.

Keep the Wreath Green Campaign

The 2006 holiday season (Thanksgiving Day through New Year's Day) ended with four structure fires being recorded for this annual awareness program. This is a decrease of two from last year's count. Each of the six fire stations has a 3-foot wreath lit with green bulbs. For every structure fire, a red bulb replaces a green bulb.

Property Inspections / Review / Investigations

In 2004, the City of Eau Claire enacted 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 2006.

- **Sprinkler Plans** – 29 plans were reviewed.
- **Adult Family Homes** – 53 facilities were inspected.
- **Tent Inspections** – 70 tents were inspected.
- **Training at Businesses** – Over 4,000 employees of local businesses were trained in fire extinguisher use.
- **Complaint or Follow-up Inspections** - Of the 6,000 inspections completed by the fire crews for the year, 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 the Altoona Fire Department.
- **Fireworks** - The Fire Prevention Bureau inspected 20 sites that sell fireworks. These sites were both inside commercial buildings and in parking lots.

- **Fire Investigations** - The Fire Prevention Bureau 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** - The Fire Prevention Bureau was 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.

SPECIALTY CAPTAINS' UPDATES

Submitted by:

M. Baker, Captain of Suppression (Retired June)
W. Klett, Captain of Maintenance, Suppression
G. Axness, Captain of Training, Maintenance
S. Burkart, Captain of Technical Rescue/Heavy
D. Okas, Captain of Emergency Medical Services
G. Stegge, Captain of Technical Rescue/Light
B. Bensen, Captain of Hazardous Materials

Suppression – 1st Quarter

Repair of all wildland fire extinguishers was completed during the first quarter. This project included the installation of new shoulder harnesses and waist straps, as well as the replacement of internal pump parts. All the extinguishers were placed back in service and readied for the brush fire season.

Annual safety inspection of station 2 was completed in January. New exit lights were placed in the bunkroom as a result of this inspection. Annual housecleaning projects were completed this quarter. Crews made minor station repairs. Crews repaired several pieces of suppression equipment and returned them to service.

In February, a project to turn the old hose tower at station 2 into a storage and maintenance area was begun, under the direction of B.C Kim Nessel. When completed, the area will serve as a storage area for haz-mat equipment and also as a work area.

Station 2 crews assisted with recruit training. Monthly inspections were completed. Company officers and acting officers worked with D.C. Lyle Koerner on the fire simulator.

Each month during the quarter several special duties were assigned and completed, such as taking inventory of all vehicles and boats, checking over and running power equipment, and checking vehicle tires for proper wear and tread depth.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the Eau Claire Fire Department and to the City of Eau Claire for giving me the opportunity to work in a job that is so remarkably rewarding. For thirty years, it has been my privilege to help this department grow into the well-respected and highly progressive organization that it is today. I will truly miss all the personnel, the excitement, and action of the job. As I submit my last captain's quarterly report, I have mixed emotions. I am looking forward to retirement but also struggle with the thought of walking out of station 2 for the last time as an Eau Claire firefighter. I have no regrets; it has been an incredible career. Thank you.

Suppression – 3rd Quarter

State Task Force 4 training continued with classes in Confined Space and Trench Rescue. Both classes were 24 hours in length and taken at ESEC (Emergency Services Training Center), with hands-on applications done at the burn tower.

Two new recruits were hired in July, and Engine 2's crew (Capt. Wayne Klett, Eng. Mark Olson, and FF SteveVargo) assisted with the training

Also during July we received the new Heavy Rescue unit (HR2) from Marion Body. This vehicle was purchased with grant monies from the Department of Homeland Security and is the response vehicle for the Task Force 4 team. The vehicle also is being used for our everyday fire and rescue needs. It carries all department underwater rescue equipment, vehicle extrication equipment, haz-mat equipment, rehab supplies, and medical equipment. It also has a 6-bottle

cascade system, which can be used for line supply air and quick fill for our SCBA and SCBA apparatus.

Capt. Klett, with great assistance from Capt. Glen Axness, Lt. Mark Mernitz, Eng. Olson, FF Vargo, FF Craig Fischer, FF Nils Bergquist, and FF Steve Secker, mounted and placed all the equipment on the truck. This project took most of the month of August and part of September. This work was mostly done in between normal and emergency activities.

Repairs were made to several SCBA-mounting backpacks. Capt. Axness and I also repaired two heads-up display face-mounting brackets.

Suppression – 4th Quarter

October is Fire Prevention month, so personnel gave fire safety presentations to elementary school children, grades K-5. The department's annual holiday fire safety awareness program, Keep the Wreath Green, resulted in four red bulbs being added to the large wreaths that are hung outside each fire station. Capt. Klett continued to work on positioning equipment on the new Heavy Rescue 2 vehicle, as well as maintenance and repair of the department's SCBA equipment. In addition, Capt. Klett worked with first year firefighter Bergquist on the continued development of his skills.

Training – 1st Quarter

- SCBA fit testing procedures were reviewed, and the tests were then performed on all personnel.
- The MSA SCBA was upgraded with the Nightfighter Heads-Up display.
- SCBA parts were ordered and repairs made. Warranty parts were returned.
- North Shore Compressor performed annual maintenance on the Bauer compressor.
- The Bauer compressor was demonstrated for the new recruits.
- Spring cleaning was done at all the fire stations.
- Upgraded maps were ordered for all stations.

Training – 2nd Quarter

- Hose testing was completed.
- Personnel toured the Presto manufacturing facility.
- Two propellers were rebuilt for Boat 8.

- New Genesis extrication equipment was placed on Engine 8.
- T.A.C. Stick was placed on Engine 8.
- SCBA parts were ordered and repairs made.
- Sent in flow test machine for calibrating and upgrading.
- Personnel completed three months of inspection routes.
- Personnel completed the air quality test for the Bauer compressor.
- Spring yard work, including tree trimming, was completed.
- R.I.T. (Rapid Intervention Training) was completed.
- Personnel completed Task Force Ropes Rescue class.
- SCBA flow test class was conducted by MSA.

Technical Rescue – Heavy – 1st Quarter

Capt. Scott Burkart assisted with finalizing the purchase of equipment for collapse and trench rescue. The equipment has been assembled and labeled for placement on the new heavy rescue truck and/or trailers. The second trailer purchased for the technical rescue equipment has arrived and will be set up for all the trench and structural collapse response. The first trailer will be designated for confined space.

All of the department divers completed the annual ice dive at Braun's Bay in March.
A review of the current dive equipment was completed, as well as a schedule devised for future replacement. This information was forwarded to D.C. Koerner for inclusion in a grant proposal. The communication rope was returned to the factory for repair or replacement.

The Rope Rescue (Operation level) training for the regional task force team has been finalized and will begin in May. For all personnel who signed up for the rope operation and technician levels of courses, the operation level classes will be held in May, June, and July. The classes are coordinated through CVTC and include the 4-hour awareness level and a 36-hour operations level class.

Technical Rescue – Heavy – 2nd Quarter

The captain of heavy rescue was involved with the preparation of equipment for placement on the new HR2 and on the technical rescue trailers. This included setting up and assembling gear into bags, cutting webbing, labeling and marking items, and building shelves in the trailers.

The two communication/dive ropes were sent into the factory and replaced under warranty. The internal wires were not within the specification and started to work through the outer sheath of the rope.

About 35 of our department members, along with firefighters from Chippewa Falls and Menomonie Fire Departments, will be part of the State's regional task force team. Training for team members has begun at Chippewa Valley Technical College with 40-hour courses in Rope Rescue at both the Awareness and Operations levels. This class is the prerequisite for all other technical rescue classes.

Technical Rescue-Heavy – 3rd Quarter

Capt. Burkart was involved with the training of two new firefighter recruits from August 8-25.

The task force training is continuing. Ropes Rescue continued with several classes at both the Operations and Technician levels. The Operations level class consists of a 40-hour class, and the Technician level is an additional 24 hours. The department sent approximately 25 firefighters to the Confined Space Awareness and Operations levels training at CVTC and about 32 firefighters to the Trench Rescue Awareness and Operations levels classes. Each of the Confined Space and the Trench Rescue Operations level classes are 24 hours and the Technician level an additional 16 hours.

The Office of Justice Assistance restructured the make-up of the 15 task force teams within the state. They combined and eliminated many of the teams to get to a total of 4 teams with a maximum rooster of 450 throughout the state. Each task force will have about 112 members total. Eau Claire's task force will be combined with the Superior and Rhinelander areas and named Task Force 4. The other task force teams will be Milwaukee, Madison, and the Fox Valley.

The new heavy rescue vehicle was put into service after the equipment was switched over from the old HR2. Some of the additional task force rescue equipment also was put into service on HR2.

Technical Rescue-Heavy – 4th Quarter

Training for members of the State Task Force 4 continues at the Technician level. The majority of the team completed the 24-hour Ropes Technician course held at CVTC's training ground. During the first week of November, a 40-hour Trench Rescue Operation and Technician class was held for task force team members. A 40-hour Confined Space Rescue Operations and Technician class was held November 11 - 17. Additional Confined Space classes will be in February 2007, and Trench Rescue training will occur during the summer of 2007. To complete the training, each task force member will then take an 80-hour Building Collapse course at Volk Field next year.

Paratech, the manufacturer of the pneumatic struts and long shores the department has, will conduct a training class on the use of the equipment in March of 2007. The shoring system can be used for collapsed building shoring and also for trench rescue.

The dive team members completed annual basic skills review at the YMCA pool in December. They checked off on basic SCUBA diving skills and practiced search patterns with a blacked-out mask.

FF Al Bertrang stepped down from the dive team after many years as a diver. A replacement to fill the vacancy will start with the open water dive training in the spring of next year.

Emergency Medical Services – 1st Quarter

The following is an overview of the EMS activity in the first quarter of 2006.

- The department hired Dr. Tom Peterson as its medical director. Dr. Peterson officially started on April 1, 2006.
- EMT and Paramedic refresher training has been updated to include new CVTC Blackboard computer training, which allows for self-instruction. This new program will supplement classroom and hands-on training to offer a more comprehensive program.
- Much of the paramedic hands-on instruction will now be held at the HPS lab at CVTC.
- Paramedics will have quarterly audits and reviews with Dr. Peterson.
- The Policy and Practice committee has proposed changes to the engine and ambulance EMS bags. These proposed changes are still being considered.
- The department's involvement in providing regional EMS response is being explored by a committee.
- Paramedic student Todd Frank is due to graduate in June of this year.
- New ambulance specifications will go out to vendors in May of this year.
- Two new MRL monitors have been purchased from CVTC to be placed on Rescue 1 and Rescue 3.
- Internal quality insurance reports continue to be reviewed by B.C. Merryfield and B.C. Duane Grunst.
- CVTC paramedic students continue to be precepted by department paramedics.
- Several EMS-related presentations were given to local schoolchildren.

- B.C. Merryfield and D.C. Dave Gee continue to attend monthly RTAC (Regional Trauma Advisory Committee) meetings.

Emergency Medical Services – 2nd Quarter

The following is an overview of the EMS activity in the second quarter of 2006.

- Dr. Peterson conducted skills training at the CVTC Human Patient Simulator (HPS) lab during the months of April and May.
- The first phase of paramedic refresher blackboard training has been completed. Blackboard is a computer program designed for self-instructed training. This program will supplement classroom instruction, with hands-on training at the HPS lab.
- The City of Eau Claire's involvement in Regional EMS is being considered in committee.
- Firefighter Frank graduated from CVTC's Paramedic program.
- New ambulance specifications went out to the manufacturers and are due to return soon.
- B.C. Grunst and B.C. Merryfield continue to review internal quality assurance reports.
- Department paramedics continue to precept CVTC paramedic students.
- Personnel made several EMS-related presentations to local school children.
- Extrication equipment has been purchased and placed on Engine 6 and Engine 8. The new Heavy Rescue unit will be outfitted with new extrication equipment when it arrives.
- Crews were involved in the Prom programs at Memorial and North High Schools.

Emergency Medical Services – 3rd Quarter

The following is an overview of the EMS activities in the third quarter of 2006.

- Dr. Peterson facilitated audit and review that included introduction of a new medication called Fentanyl. Also, Tri-Anim representative Jennifer Kornecki introduced a new Intraosseous Vascular device called a Bone Injection Gun.
- The second phase of paramedic refresher blackboard training began. This program will supplement classroom, with hands-on training at the Human Patient Simulator Lab.
- A new ambulance was ordered from MedTec Corporation. Anticipated delivery is late 2006.

- Cardinal Health, the manufacturer of Alaris infusion pumps, contacted us about a medical device recall. The recall includes a warning label about key bounce.

- Dr. Peterson is working on a new format for adult patient protocols for paramedics.

- CVTC fire/medic students continue to be precepted by Eau Claire Fire and Rescue paramedics.

- Several EMS-related presentations were given to local schoolchildren.

- B.C. Merryfield and B.C. Grunst continue to review internal quality assurance reports.

Emergency Medical Services – 4th Quarter

The following is an overview of the EMS activities for the fourth quarter:

- A new ambulance was ordered from MedTec Corporation, with an anticipated delivery date of February 2007.

- Paramedics concluded their Blackboard training in December. Starting in January of next year, a new paramedic-based computerized training program called EMS Jane will be instituted. This program is self-instructed, as was the Blackboard program. EMS Jane contains a hands-on component, which will be at the Human Patient Simulator Lab at CVTC.

- The City of Eau Claire's possible involvement in regional EMS is being considered in committee.

- Dr. Peterson is working on a new format and protocol updates for paramedics.

- CVTC fire/medic students continue to be precepted by department paramedics.

- B.C. Merryfield and B.C. Grunst continue to review internal quality assurance reports.

- Dr. Peterson facilitated a fourth quarter audit and review that included protocol updates for adult care.

- The EMS committee is active on a number of issues including new equipment studies, protocol changes, new EMS bags for engines, and paramedic refresher changes.

Technical Rescue – Light – 1st Quarter

The first quarter consisted of Station 9 B shift being assigned a CVTC fire/medic intern and fulfilling probationary firefighter and intern requirements, fire simulation training, new recruit review, EMT refresher, and RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) training.

In cooperation with CVTC, the Eau Claire Fire Department participates in a fire/medic intern program where future firefighter/medics enrolled in CVTC's fire/medic program work alongside department personnel to gain valuable on-the-job experience. The intern is required to meet specific goals and work requirements during his/her internship. This requires the full participation of station 9's crew, in that a majority of our time is spent training and teaching the intern a variety of skills. This quarter's intern successfully completed his internship in March.

Station 9 also had the privilege of having one of the department's newest firefighters assigned to it for the first quarter. Similar to the CVTC intern program, probationary firefighters must complete a rigorous 18-month probationary period. Within that period, probationary firefighters must learn and demonstrate competency in all aspects of the job. When hired, they are provided with a handbook outlining their probationary requirements. Requirements range from completing a simple pre-plan of an existing building to advance ladder operation using one of Eau Claire's two ladder trucks. After much hard work and additional training, Firefighter Tom Wagner completed all of his probationary requirements.

Station 9's crew also participated in fire simulation training. This training is part of a larger incident command training program in which firefighters hone their skills in managing a variety of complex incidents.

Station 9's crew successfully completed their Emergency Medical Technician re-certification training in the first quarter. This year's training was conducted through CVTC and consisted of classroom and online Blackboard training.

Personnel at station 9 also began the 24-hour (RIT) Rapid Intervention Team training course. This course teaches firefighters self-rescue techniques and methods of rescuing firefighters and civilians who are unable to rescue themselves.

Technical Rescue – Light – 2nd Quarter

Technical rescue training this quarter consisted of ice rescue review, boat operations, and task force rope operations.

In April, department members reviewed SOGs related to ice rescue operations. Individual companies reviewed and practiced with their water and ice rescue equipment. Companies practiced dry-land rescues using their engine's water rescue horse collar. Companies practiced their proficiency in throwing the Mars 3-in-1 bag. The Mars 3-in-1 bag is a water rescue tool that allows firefighters to throw rope 30 to 50 feet, recoil in 30 seconds, and throw the rope again using the other end.

In June and July, the first of many specialized task force training classes began. Last year the Eau Claire Fire Department was selected by the State of Wisconsin to become a regional task force team. Task force teams will respond to natural disasters, terrorist events, and WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) events in northwestern Wisconsin. The first class in the series of classes was a 40-hour Rope Rescue—Operations level class. Approximately 60 percent of the department participated in the 40-hour class. The class covered a wide variety of skills from simple knot tying to advanced 3- and 5- to-1 pulley systems used in high angle and confined space operations.

Also in June and July, the department received training in boat operations. Lt. Mark Legge reviewed boat inventories, motor maintenance, trailering and high/low river operations with crews. Under the direction of Lt. Legge, firefighters had the opportunity to use department boats in actual river operations. Firefighters were instructed on how to cross current, follow river channels, and spot areas of danger on the river.

Technical Rescue – Light – 3rd Quarter

Third quarter activities consisted of task force rope operation training, swift water rescue training, and ResQmax line deployment training.

The department continued to develop its regional task force team by sending more personnel to the 40-hour Ropes Rescue-Operations class, which was the end of this level of training. In the fourth quarter, the department will begin training task force members to the Ropes Rescue-Technician level.

In July, the department sent Captain Greg Stegge to a 4-day swift water rescue school in Hudson, Wisconsin. This training consisted of classroom theory and live operation on the St Croix and Green Rivers. Classroom theory covered the topics of protective equipment, water hydrology, dynamics of moving water, body characteristics in moving water, and risk/benefit analysis. The live water exercises cover the topics of self-rescue, hazard identification, shore-based rescue techniques, boat-based rescue techniques, rope tactics, and low head dams.

In August, the department trained with the newly purchased ResQmax line deployment system. The ResQmax is a new generation line thrower designed to safety deploy a line across an inaccessible expansive and/or unreachable vertical heights. The ResQmax uses non-pyrotechnic air thrust technology to deliver a 3000 psi projectile in a rocket-like fashion up to 400 feet.

Technical Rescue – Light – 4th Quarter

The fourth quarter consisted of Ropes Technician training for the State Task Force 4 members, National Incident Management System (NIMS) 100/200 training, fire prevention activities, and intern development.

In October and November, the department continued development of its regional task force team by sending personnel to a 24-hour Ropes Technician class. The Technician class introduced

advanced rope operations in a progressing vertical environment. Personnel developed and practiced the following skills:

* Patient packaging
* Lowering systems
* Little rigging
* High line systems
* Mechanical advantage system
* Knot passing
* Pickoffs
* Advanced problem solving

At the company level, station 9 personnel completed the National Incident Management System (NIMS) 100 and 200 course. The course is designed to help departmental personnel effectively manage public information at an incident, regardless of the size and complexity of the situation or the number of entities involved.

October was fire prevention month. Station 9 personnel conducted a variety of fire safety presentations for grades kindergarten through fifth within the Eau Claire school district, as well as fire drills for the schools.

Station 9 was assigned a Chippewa Valley Technical College fire/medic intern, Grae Reinhardt, who worked and lived alongside personnel for three months.

Maintenance – 1st Quarter

Aside from regular training, inspection routes, and a continued increase in run volume, half of our personnel had State-mandated EMT refresher training. In March, we began RIT (Rapid Intervention Training), which basically is quick recovery training, so when problems occur they can quickly be corrected. It definitely will help with firefighter safety.

On January 5, all officers and engineers participated in fire simulator training. This was hands-on training for the first-on-scene fire officer/acting officer. It provided objective thinking tools, so we are able to make the best possible decision upon arrival at an emergency.

On January 9, 10 and 11, Capt. Axness and Capt. Klett performed the mandated SCBA fit tests for all personnel. At the same time, driver's license checks were completed on everyone.

On February 7, Captains Axness and Klett, along with B.C. Nessel, replaced the 59 ICM (Integrated Control Module) with the updated ICM TX Nightfighter Heads-up display system on the department's SCBAs. The ICM TX unit was purchased with FIRE Act grant monies the department received in 2004. The new ICM TX was being developed and had a later than expected released by MSA's quality control department, which is why it was not available at the time we took delivery of the new SCBA. We also added a second quick-fill coupler to the units.

Also during February, Eng. John Biegel and Capt. Klett assisted Capt. Dave Okas with training the new firefighter recruits. We showed them department aerial operations and how Engine 6 operates. We also assisted with a live burn at the CVTC burn tower.

On March 4, FF Vargo and Capt. Klett attended the WAHMR (Wisconsin Association of Hazardous Material Responders) conference in Wisconsin Dells. It was a daylong conference with many classes, including railroad emergence, underground pipeline responses, post office responses for an Anthrax release, and analysis of FEMA's response to Hurricane Katrina.

Maintenance – 2nd Quarter

During the month of April we placed new extrication equipment, Genesis brand, on Engine 6. This equipment was purchased through a FIRE Act grant. Engine 8 received the same equipment.

During May we tested hose from Engine 6 and Engine 5 at station 5. All department extinguishers were tested at North Star.

Also during May training started for the State-designated Task Force team. The first classes were at a competency level and everyone started with the high angle rescue. Personnel completed confined space training during June.

On May 25, Capt. Klett delivered Engine 9 to the Pierce Manufacturing plant for repairs to the cab mounts. On June 16, Captains Axness and Klett had the Pos-Check training class from MSA. We also sent in our Pos-Check machine for calibration and updates to match our new SCBA.

Maintenance – 3rd Quarter

- A safety meeting took place at Station 8 on July 19.
- Confined Space training occurred on July 12,13, and 14.
- Trench Rescue training occurred on August 16, 17, and 18.
- Parts were ordered for SCBA repair.
- Coursework was completed for a National Incident Management System class.
- A Bauer Compressor air quality test was completed.
- High pressure O-rings were ordered for the Bauer Compressor.
- The Engine 8 ladder was tested.
- The Engine 8 aerial and ground ladder tips were painted fluorescent orange.
- Three months of inspection cards were completed.

- The fire safety house was readied for six weeks of presentations
    - painted exterior doors
    - pressure washed exterior siding and both decks
    - stained and sealed both decks
    - cleaned carpet
    - painted trim
    - fabricated adapter for new smoke machine
    - stripped varnish, refinished, and applied grip tape to ladder on deck system
- Capt. Axness assisted Capt. Klett with mounting equipment and organizing the new HR2.
- The jump seat window assembly on Engine 8 was repaired.
- Personnel attended defibrillator and combi-tube refresher.
- Personnel trimmed shrubs at the stations.
- Personnel conducted fire prevention activities.

Maintenance – 4th Quarter

- Scheduled annual maintenance for Bauer compressor.
- The heating system was repaired, and new thermostats were installed on apparatus floor.
- Researched, ordered, and received a new snow blower.
- Ordered parts for the MSA SCBA.
- Sent in a warranty repair for SCBA pack frame.
- Fall yard clean-up.
- Completed fire safety programs and fire drills.
- Three tours visited Station 8.
- Ordered and received box frame.
- Repaired three electrical outlets and two fluorescent lights.
- Completed three months of inspection routes.

Hazardous Materials – 3rd Quarter

The third quarter for the haz mat team was one of transition. Capt. Bryon Bensen was assigned to the specialty of Hazardous Materials in July and also became one of the supervisors for the West Central Wisconsin Level A Hazardous Materials team.

A Level A Haz Mat supervisors meeting was held on August 14. The main items discussed were:

A. Replacing the Miran Saphire Meter with a gas-sampling meter from Smith's Detection.
B. Addition of four Area Rae meters.
C. Additional trailer for the team.
D. Discussion on more interdepartmental training, with plans for a joint exercise in April with the Chippewa Falls Fire Department.

In September, Eng. Olson met with the haz mat team for the Menomonie Fire Department. He supplied them with current information on meter operations and maintenance.

The Information Services Division installed the new Cameo haz mat research program on all of the fire department's computers.

The CAT (Chemical Assessment Team) vehicle was outfitted with a wireless PC card and a printer. This enables the team to do research via the Internet and print the appropriate information while en route to a scene.

A new line gun was tested and put into operation. This will be used for deploying lines across waterways to help contain any haz mat spills.

Eng. Olson also set up a new meter maintenance program at Station 2. This will help make certain that all meters and communication equipment are in the proper state of readiness.

A new program for maintenance of the Area Rae meters was put in place. This program will automatically schedule the meters for replacement of sensors and keep the meters' software up-to-date, ensuring a higher state of online readiness.

Hazardous Materials – 4th Quarter

TRAINING

CAT (Chemical Assessment Team) vehicle training and review. During the month of November, a review of the equipment, meters, and procedures for the CAT vehicle was completed. Some of the subjects covered were the use of the laptop and printer, wireless Internet access, use of the inverter while enroute, the CAMEO and RIDS research programs, and the use of all the on-board meters. This included the 40 GL Radiameter, which would dovetail into December's training.

Radiological. During the month of December, a review of our radiological procedures and training on the Thermo Brand EPD-MK2 personal dosimeter were completed. The main topics covered were terminology commonly used during radiological events and the correct operating procedure for the dosimeter.

HAZ MAT OUTREACH PROGRAM

Capt. Burkart and Lt. Olson visited multiple area fire departments to give presentations about the capabilities of the Level A Haz Mat team.

UPDATES AND ADDITIONS

A new stand-alone decon tent and water heater were received in December. The operating procedure is currently being reviewed, and training will be scheduled for the first quarter of 2007. When this is completed, it will be put into service.

In November, B.C. Nessel and Capt. Bensen traveled to Madison to attend a State Haz Mat team coordinators meeting. Items discussed were a training program on the unknown sampling procedure and the new curriculum for the Haz Mat Technicians class.

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

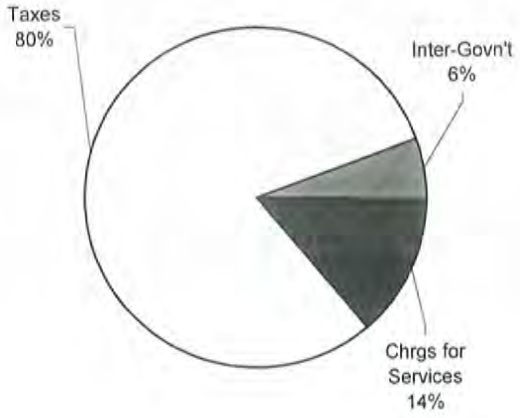
Programs & Services

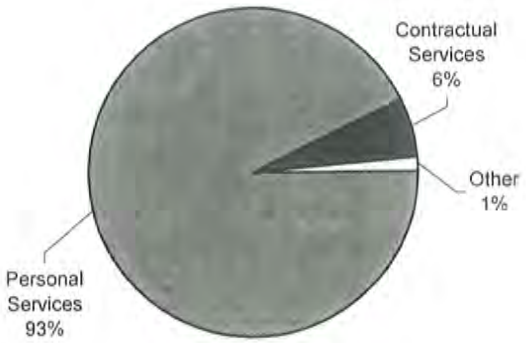
(24 Hours per day, 365 days per year)

- 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

Overview of Revenues and Expenditures

	2005 Actual	2006 Adopted Budget	2007 Proposed Budget	% Change
Revenues				
Intragovernmental Service	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	0%
Intergovernmental:				
State Aid-Fire Ins. Tax	130,596	120,000	130,000	8%
State Aid-Under. Tanks	11,768	10,000	10,000	0%
State Aid-Mun. Services	351,924	330,000	330,000	0%
State Aid-Ambulance Services	94,700	0	0	n/a
Altoona-Fire Inspector	0	0	34,800	n/a
Charges for Services:				
Fees	17,259	29,500	15,000	-49%
Ambulance Fees	1,155,182	1,000,000	1,150,000	15%
Haz-Mat B Response	34,000	34,000	34,000	0%
Gen. Purpose (tax) Rev.	6,624,864	7,129,200	7,108,000	0%
Total Revenues	$ 8,430,293	$ 8,662,700	$ 8,821,800	2%
Expenditures				
Personal Services	$ 7,572,634	$ 7,739,200	$ 8,182,200	6%
Contractual Services	489,327	517,100	517,600	0%
Utilities	60,238	73,400	73,800	1%
Fixed Charges	125,893	128,100	128,100	0%
Materials & Supplies	182,201	204,900	220,100	7%
Implementation Reserve	0	0	(300,000)	n/a
Total Expenditures	$ 8,430,293	$ 8,662,700	$ 8,821,800	2%





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 remain the same for 2007.

CHARGES FOR SERVICES
Ambulance fees are projected to increase 15% from $1,000,000 to $1,150,000 in 2007.

EXPENDITURES

PERSONNEL SERVICES
Personal Services are projected to increase 6% in 2007, mainly due to the addition of specialty pay to the labor settlement.

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES
Contractual Services includes equipment rental of $162,300, ambulance billing services of $94,200, repairs to equipment of $79,300, payment for prior-year services of $77,000 and other miscellaneous expense.

MATERIALS & SUPPLIES
Materials and supplies are projected to increase 7% in 2007 mainly due to increases in diesel fuel costs.

IMPLEMENTATION RESERVE
To balance the 2007 budget, the Fire Department has proposed finding new revenues or implementing other operational charges to generate savings of $300,000. The implementation reserve illustrates that the Fire Department base budget will be reduced in 2007 if new revenues are not developed.

Fire Department response to house fire

Expenditures by Division

Administration

	2005 Actual	2006 Budget	2006 6 Month Actual	2006 Projection	2007 Budget
Personal Services	$ 283,076	$ 287,400	$ 134,819	$ 286,000	$ 296,900
Contractual Services	111,384	140,600	69,543	144,700	137,300
Utilities	60,238	73,400	41,040	73,400	73,800
Fixed Charges	3,200	3,200	1,600	3,200	3,200
Materials & Supplies	21,504	24,100	8,994	24,100	25,300
Total Expenditures	$ 479,402	$ 528,700	$ 255,996	$ 531,400	$ 536,500

Operations

	2005 Actual	2006 Budget	2006 6 Month Actual	2006 Projection	2007 Budget
Personal Services	$ 7,047,999	$ 7,122,900	$ 3,441,680	$ 7,088,300	$ 7,557,500
Contractual Services	375,671	371,600	184,816	372,700	376,300
Fixed Charges	117,093	119,300	57,676	119,300	119,300
Materials & Supplies	157,720	170,900	59,959	184,700	186,900
Implementation Reserve	-	-	-	-	(300,000)
Total Expenditures	$ 7,698,483	$ 7,784,700	$ 3,744,131	$ 7,765,000	$ 7,940,000

Inspection

	2005 Actual	2006 Budget	2006 6 Month Actual	2006 Projection	2007 Budget
Personal Services	$ 241,559	$ 328,900	$ 141,854	$ 327,400	$ 327,800
Contractual Services	2,272	4,900	1,783	4,900	4,000
Fixed Charges	5,600	5,600	2,800	5,600	5,600
Materials & Supplies	2,977	9,900	2,323	9,900	7,900
Total Expenditures	$ 252,408	$ 349,300	$ 148,760	$ 347,800	$ 345,300

Staffing

Administration

	2005	2006	2007
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

	2005	2006	2007
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	21.00	21.00	21.00
Firefighter	44.00	44.00	44.00
Total FTE Positions	87.00	87.00	87.00

Inspection

	2005	2006	2007
Deputy Chief	1.00	1.00	1.00
Fire Inspector	2.00	2.00	-
Fire Inspector I	-	-	1.00
Fire Inspector II	-	-	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 Bruce Fuerbringer

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.

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 we continue to re-evaluate the Fire Department's approach to capital equipment needs. The department traditionally relied upon adequate funding in the CIP budget to purchase apparatus and other major equipment needs. With limited funding available, we have had to try to extend the service life of our apparatus. In the 2007 CIP, a proposal is included to replace two ambulances, one with a distance-transport ambulance, and to replace two pumpers and two ladder-pumpers. A portion of the funding for the equipment is proposed to come from general obligation bond proceeds.

Fire Operations Highlights

Equipment Grants

A number of Homeland Security grants have been forthcoming from the federal government, administered by the State. The State provides agencies with lists of equipment that qualify for purchase under the guidelines of the grant.

In 2005, the department was awarded a FIRE Act grant in the amount of approximately $98,000 for the replacement of our vehicle extrication equipment. This federal grant required a local match of approximately $29,000, which came from our planned CIP budget. This is the fourth time the department has been successful in obtaining a FIRE Act grant. Department personnel worked through a lengthy extrication gear evaluation program to assess the needs of the department now and in the future with the various vendors. A detailed specification was written for the new equipment, with the procurement hopefully to be approved in the first quarter of 2006.

With additional savings from the vehicle extrication equipment grant, the department also was able to obtain a small fire prevention grant (with no local match) for the replacement of Freddie the Fire Truck. Freddie is a small remotely operated device used in fire prevention activities for small children. Freddie can move around, talk and listen to the children, squirt water, flash its lights and sound its siren, and give personalized messages to the given audience. The previous Freddie was nearly 15 years old and was involved in hundreds of public education presentations. Freddie is an incredible tool to use in reaching children with the fire safety message.

Freddie the Fire Truck

The department also was notified in December 2005 that it was awarded another Office of Justice Assistance (Homeland Security) grant in the amount of approximately $110,000 for additional equipment for the development of a collapse rescue team. This federal grant again requires no local matching monies. The procurement process is ongoing and will be completed by the third quarter of 2006. Delivery of the special rescue replacement vehicle also will occur in that timeframe.

Equipment Replacement Schedule

The department continues to utilize 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 July 2005, the department submitted a procurement order for the replacement heavy rescue vehicle as noted above. Again, all funding will come from grant and contract funds.

Regional Collapse Rescue Team Development

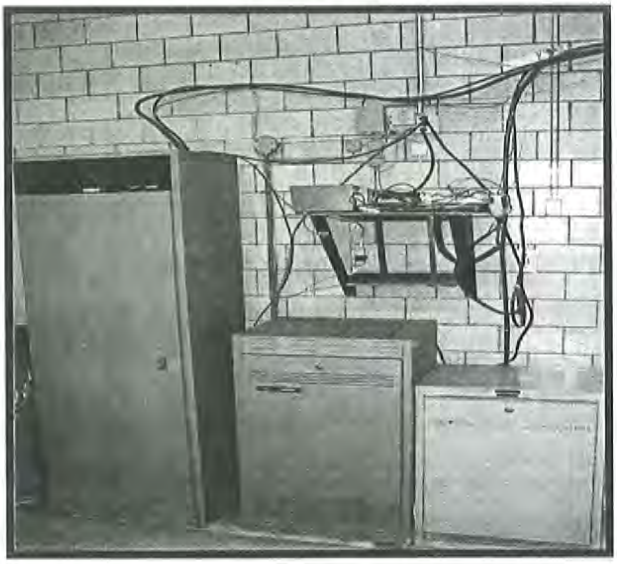
The department is continuing to secure equipment through the Office of Justice Assistance and Homeland Security to establish a regional collapse rescue team for this part of the state. The State has finally provided qualified training criteria for the various disciplines involved with a special rescue 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.

Ropes Rescue Training

Bio-Terrorism Preparedness Committee

This committee, which consists of a number of community public service agencies including fire, law enforcement, EMS, both hospitals, emergency government, the Eau Claire School District, UWEC, CVTC, Red Cross and others, continues to meet on a monthly basis. The primary focus of the group has changed from organizing a response to an incident of bio-terrorism, to a broader perspective of preparedness for a number of natural or man-made health-related incidents. The current focus is on preparing for a potential bird flu pandemic. The groundwork laid by the original committee, along with the response matrix based on the National Incident Management System (NIMS), has allowed our community and region to be significantly ahead of the curve in response preparedness!

Communications Interoperability Project



The first phase of our ongoing communication upgrade in the county was a survey and study of communications currently in place in Eau Claire County and 14 other counties in West Central Wisconsin, with a recommendation of a technical specification for the program. The second phase involved the hiring of a consultant to develop a planning document to analyze each county's existing infrastructure and its unique requirements, along with assisting in developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) that will follow the State's specifications for that county. The third phase allowed each county to apply for federal grants to carry out the phase two infrastructure replacement/development required to meet the State plan.

Currently, Eau Claire County is working to complete the third phase, with the reprogramming of mobile and portable radios; the upgrade of the Eau Claire City/County Communications Center equipment; linking area communications centers, the installation of an area Mutual Aid Radio Channel (M.A.R.C.) repeater for large scale area events; and an Eau Claire County repeated tactical channel for large scale county events. Training and operational guidelines are being developed for the effective utilization of the new assets.

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS)

Several years ago the state of Illinois established a system of mutual aid response and communications that melded the resources of all emergency responders for large-scale events. The program, called MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System), established a clear command and control; radio communications matrix; and consistent response criteria for communities to operate seamlessly for events that go beyond the capabilities of one given community.

In February 2006, the State of Wisconsin enacted a law that adopted the MABAS program for implementation into Wisconsin. This effort will be a multi-year initiative to improve the response capabilities of emergency first responders throughout the state and essentially the country as required.

EMS / ALS Communications Repeater

In early 2005, County personnel noted the advanced life support paramedic radio frequency was down to half strength. This frequency provides the infrastructure for the ambulances and the hospitals. The cost to replace the system was $42,000. Eau Claire County paid $22,000 of the cost and will provide maintenance of the equipment. Sacred Heart and Luther Hospitals split the remaining cost. This equipment is expected to last an additional 10 to 15 years.

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 2006:

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

- One member attended an Incident Response to Terrorist Bombing course in Socorro, New Mexico. This training provided advanced bombing information and covered threat situations related to Weapons of Mass Destruction responses.

- 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.

- Three employees attended a Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) course in May. This course teaches responders how to plan for emergencies.

- 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 our oversight and involvement.

- Level A Haz Mat team outreach training with Menomonie Fire Department, who will serve as a Chemical Assessment Team for first responses. This training occurred on April 11 and covered team expectations and hazardous material response methods.

- Heavy Rescue Task Force – Ropes training at Chippewa Valley Technical College for team members. This training was conducted in May and June and will allow team members to diversify their skills in technical searches and rescues involving heights.

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

Regional EMS

Chief Fuerbringer made presentations to the Eau Claire County Board Committee on Administration in December 2005, proposing to establish a task force to research regionalizing Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The concept set forth was to have Eau Claire Fire provide 911 emergency medical services to Eau Claire County. Over 85 percent of the county's population either live in the city or within 3 – 4 miles of the city limits. This segment of the population living outside city limits could experience significantly improved ambulance response times by removing the borders created by having separate ambulances serving each area. The committee was formed, and recommendations are anticipated in the third quarter of 2006.

EMS Council and Medical Control

The Eau Claire County EMS Council continues to develop under its new organizational structure. Dr. Kirk Dahl has been hired as the County's new medical director. Dr. Dahl will oversee 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 is active in such areas as radio interoperability, regional trauma care efforts, and Incident Command and EMS training while continually monitoring and providing recommendations to improve emergency medical response in Eau Claire County.

Two Paramedic Students

In July 2006, one department member completed his studies in the Chippewa Valley Technical College's paramedic curriculum. He will now become part of the department's fire-based EMS system. The department will have a total of 36 trained paramedics and 56 emergency medical technicians.

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

Activities

2005 Incidents

5,685 Total Incidents

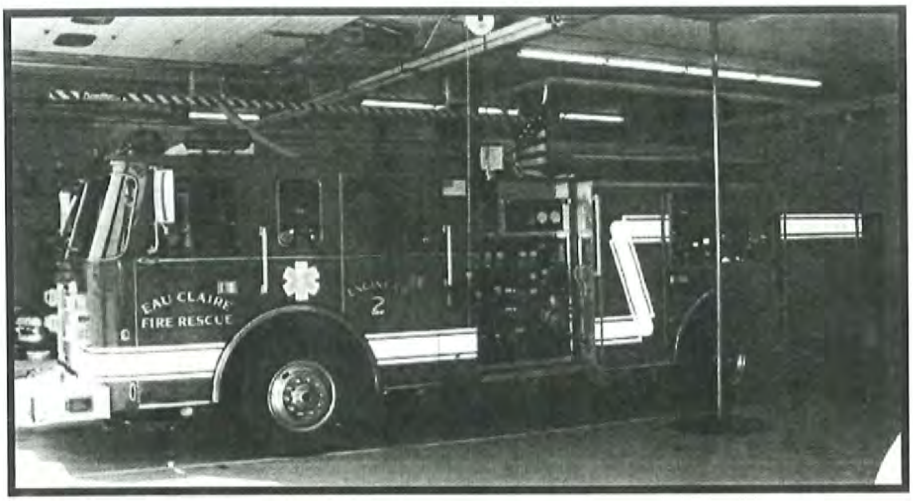
- 4,559 Medical Responses (80.2%)
- 204 Fire/Rescue Responses (3.6%)
- 466 Automatic Alarm Responses (8.2%)
- 179 Hazardous Condition Responses (3.1%)
- 131 Service Call Responses (2.3%)
- 131 Good Intent Responses (2.3%)
- 15 Special Request Responses (0.3%)

Incidents with loss of $50,000 or greater were:

- 4302 Tweed Drive – 4-unit apartment ($360,000)
- 1111 Menomonie Street – business ($350,000)
- 1200 Forest Street – business ($325,000)
- 1011A Main Street – 2-family dwelling ($190,000)
- 636 / 638 Putnam Street – 2-family dwelling ($170,000)
- 3036 Mars Avenue – 2-family apartment ($140,000)
- 1339 Continental Drive – business ($100,000)
- 800 Wisconsin Street – business ($100,000)
- 3144 Runway Avenue – 2-family dwelling ($90,000)
- 806 ½ Market Street – 2-family dwelling ($85,000)
- 4708 Jeffers Road – single family dwelling ($75,000)
- 3006 Otis Street – single family dwelling ($55,000)

Total Fire Loss for the year: $2,775,848

Hazardous Materials Chemical Assessment Vehicle



Engine #2

4-Gas Detection Meter

Station	Responses	Average Response Time
E2	1,056	3.54 Minutes
E5	1,079	3.57 Minutes
E6	689	4.46 Minutes
E8	449	4.58 Minutes
E9	790	4.48 Minutes
E10	709	4.06 Minutes
R5	1,908	4.14 Minutes
R9	1,319	5.13 Minutes
R10	1,448	4.17 Minutes
Average:		4.24 Minutes

Cameron Street Fire

Facilities

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

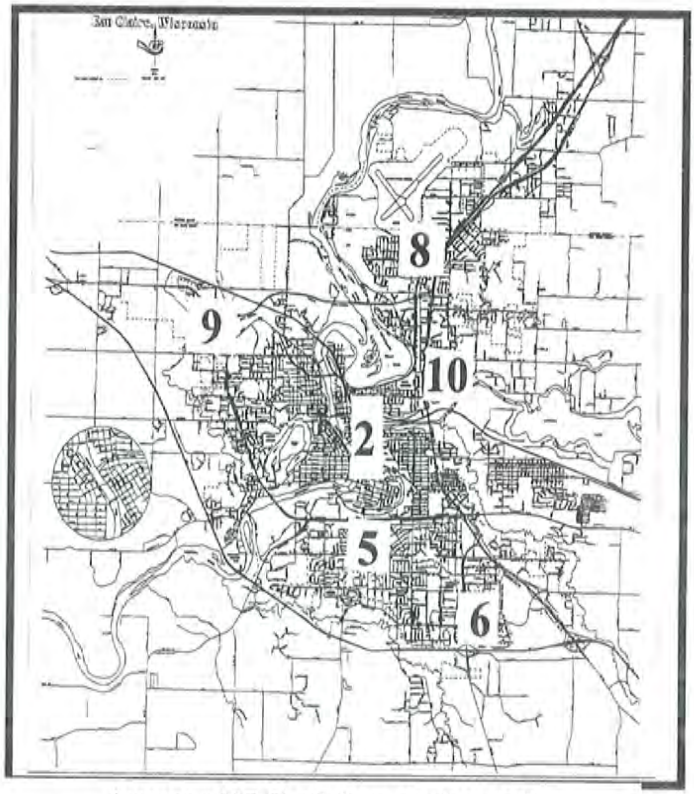
Station 5 - 2500 Patton Street
- 5 Personnel per day
- Fire Engine
- Paramedic Ambulance
- Water Rescue Boat

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 (2 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)
5 – Ambulances (3 Front-Line, 2 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

Rescue #3, Reserve Ambulance

Major Equipment

- Breathing Apparatus ($3,500 per unit)
- Portable Radio ($1,000 per unit)
- Ventilation Saw ($1,700 per unit)
- Hose ($500 per 100' of 5")
- Nozzles ($350 per unit)
- Jaws of Life ($8,000 per set)
- Ambulance Cot ($3,600 per unit)
- Defibrillator ($21,800 per unit)
- Hazardous Materials Suit ($600 per suit)

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

Equipment Replacement

Personal Equipment

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

Fire Inspection Highlights

The Fire Inspection Division is comprised of four full-time staff members, three sworn officers and one clerical. Effective January 2006, one of the sworn positions became 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. 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 to all ages such as:

During 2005, the Eau Claire Fire Department delivered over 6,500 hours of public education.

- 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 years 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 40 participants in the program in 2005. The program was revamped this year, with one session in the morning and another session in the afternoon. This allowed for more children being able to participate. Each child received a bicycle safety helmet for taking part.

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 Inspector Harter presented a program on summer fire safety and home safety to 100 participants on the first day of the camp. The crew from Engine #2 brought the fire truck to the closing picnic and reviewed the truck with the kids.

School Prevention Programs

In September, the department started its fire prevention programs for both public and private schools. The prevention programs consist of six separate programs for Pre-K/K through 5th grade. The 1-½ hour programs were split into a morning session and an afternoon session to accommodate staffing. Each program has a time frame and a message that is specific to a particular age. Approximately 5,000 students benefited from the programs. The fire department and Firefighters Local 487 again sponsored the 3rd grade fire prevention poster contest. This year's theme was "Use Candles with Care".

3rd Grade Poster Contest Winners

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 the Township Fire Department, Fall Creek Fire Department, Fairchild Fire Department, Altoona Fire Department, and Mondovi Fire Department also participated in the event. Approximately 400 children and families attended the event.

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 2005, there were six structure fires during the holiday season, including three in residential homes. One fire resulted in serious burns to a child.

Tours/Public Events

In 2005, 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 2005, the Fire Prevention Bureau trained over 40 area businesses in fire safety procedures including evacuation drills and fire extinguisher use. The number of employees at these businesses varied from 15 to 500. 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 handles approximately ten child cases per year. These children come to the Fire Prevention office as referrals from Juvenile Intake or their parents. In 2005, the department received eight referrals from Juvenile Intake, and there were two 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 2005, 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 $134,643 in 2006 for inspections conducted in 2005.

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 units visit businesses and multi-family occupancies to conduct a walk-through fire inspection of the properties. This inspection attempts 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 will 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 2005.

- **Sprinkler Plans** – 16 plans reviewed
- **Kitchen Hood Systems** – 9 hoods inspected
- **Adult Family Homes** – 45 facilities inspected in conjunction with the licensing of the homes through the State of Wisconsin and are done to ensure the home meets the minimum life safety standards
- **Tent Inspections** – 69 tents inspected
- **Complaint or Follow-up Inspections** – Of the 6,000 inspections completed by the fire crews, the Fire Prevention Bureau dealt with approximately 550 complaints or follow-up inspections. Included in this number are phone calls fielded on code questions regarding fire and building construction
- **Fireworks** – 26 fireworks vendor sites inspected
- **Fire Investigations** – Prevention personnel conducted 42 fire investigations
- **Unsafe Living Conditions** – Prevention personnel were involved in eight situations involving unsafe living conditions. These situations are specific to the individual, but on average 40 hours were spent resolving the situation

Tank Inspections

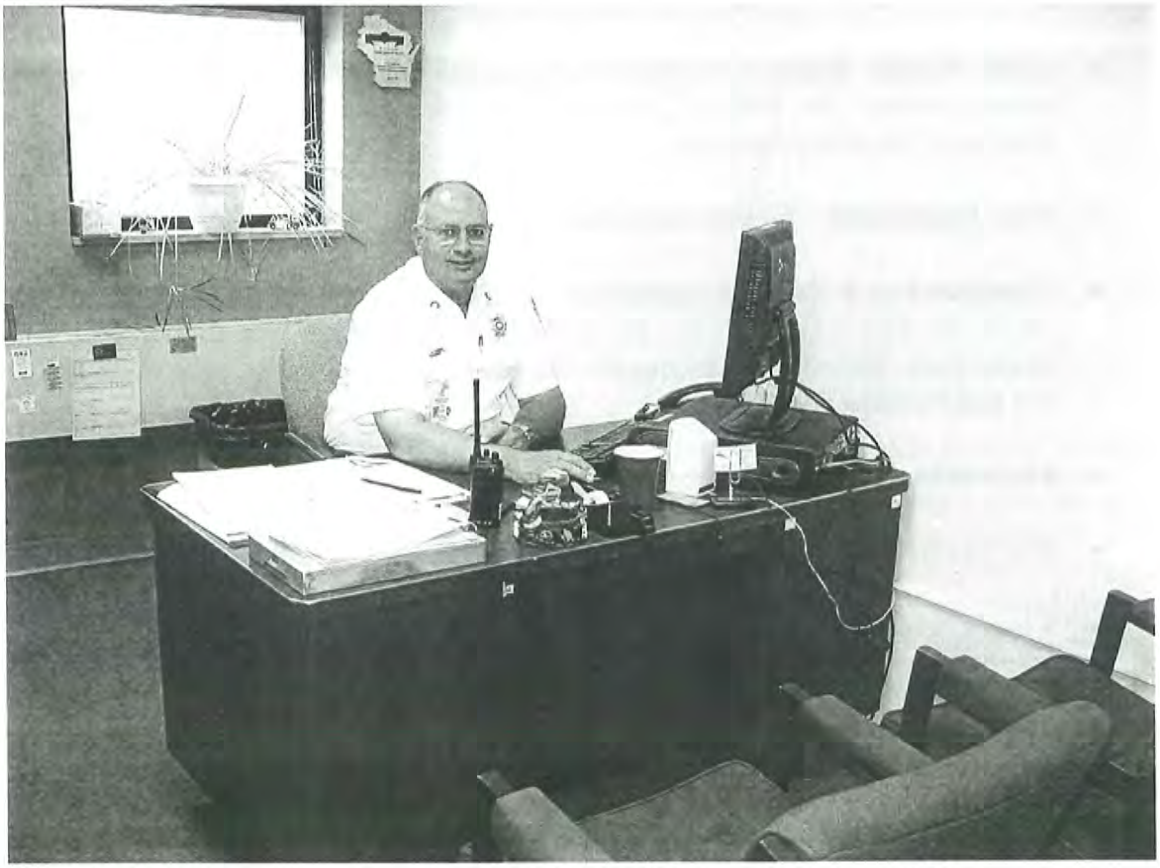
The UST/AST inspection program serves to enforce the groundwater protection requirements of Comm 10. This is accomplished through the review of plans prior to the installation of an underground or aboveground storage tank system. Existing underground and aboveground

storage tank systems are inspected annually for compliance with groundwater protection rules. In 2005, Fire Inspector Harter completed 75 site permit inspections with some sites containing multiple tanks to inspect. There were 17 tank removals and 17 tank installs/upgrades during the year. The State contract provides annual revenue to the City in the $10,000 to $15,000 range.

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

Fire Investigations

There were 42 fire investigations completed by Prevention Division personnel during 2005. 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 Inspector Gary Puljas

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 our 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

Hazardous Materials Response Training

Programs & Services

- Contracted with the State of Wisconsin to deliver regionalized Level "A" Hazardous Material Response.
- City of Eau Claire tax dollars were not 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

Operating Budget	2005 Actual	2006 Adopted	2006 6-Month Actual	2006 Projection	2007 Budget
Revenues and Other Financing Sources:					
Intergovernmental	$ 180,069	$ 180,100	$ -	$ 180,100	$ 180,100
Charges for Services	5,156	3,000	1,276	3,000	3,000
Miscellaneous	8,890	1,000	3,220	1,000	1,000
Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources	194,115	184,100	4,496	184,100	184,100
Expenditures and Other Financing Uses:					
Personal Services	51,538	43,500	24,330	43,500	43,400
Contractual Services	14,575	25,800	2,530	25,800	23,300
Utilities	926	1,500	474	1,500	1,000
Fixed Charges	10,000	10,000	5,000	10,000	10,000
Materials & Supplies	12,367	32,900	3,393	32,900	63,900
Contributions & Other Payments	67,974	76,000	33,030	76,000	76,000
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	47,000	25,000
Other Financing Uses	156,067	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	313,447	189,700	68,757	236,700	242,600
Excess (Deficiency) of Funding Sources Over Uses	$ (119,332)	$ (5,600)	$ (64,261)	$ (52,600)	$ (58,500)
Working Capital/Available Fund Balance					
Beginning Balance	$ 343,295	$ 87,595		$ 223,963	$ 171,363
Changes in Available Balances:					
From operations	(119,332)	(5,600)		(52,600)	(58,500)
Ending Balance	$ 223,963	$ 81,995		$ 171,363	$ 112,863

Budget Overview

REVENUE

The current state contract for Regional Hazardous Materials response is good through June 30, 2007.

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

Using grant money obtained from Wisconsin Emergency Management, upgraded hazardous materials communications equipment was purchased in 2005. The communication equipment fits into the overall interoperability plan for our region. The team's goal is to allow for seamless communications for responders in all of our 14 counties served by the response team.

To augment our communications capability, a satellite receiver was installed on Squad One that will provide a vital link to other regional teams and resources. While some of the response area has spotty cell phone coverage, the satellite system provides access to the Internet and a communication link in virtually any location throughout the state. The funding for this system and the service came from a grant that the State Lab of Hygiene wrote to enable infrared spectral scans to be sent to the lab for further analysis, as well a providing a vital communication link to regional teams operating in the field.

Additional equipment purchased with 2005 grant funds includes replacement decon and level "A" entry suits, Drager tubes, meter sensors, and miscellaneous equipment for maintenance of equipment and services. In 2005, Haz Mat Level "A" funding of $156,100 was transferred to Central Equipment to replace the HazMat truck, which should be delivered in July 2006. This specialized vehicle will allow for much greater capabilities and equipment transfer.

A great deal of training and planning effort has been put forth in 2005 and 2006 towards the development of response capabilities for the United States Postal Annex in Eau Claire.

Haz Mat Rescue Truck

Each of the larger postal annex facilities is installing multi-million dollar Bio-Detection Systems (BDS) that will detect the presence of certain WMD (Weapon of Mass Destruction) hazards. If the BDS instrumentation detects a WMD, the operational guideline calls for a response by the regional Haz Mat team. All regional hazardous materials response teams in Wisconsin were charged with the development and implementation of a response for the command and control, containment, decontamination of postal personnel, recon, and analysis of the WMD as required.

The first full-scale exercise was held in June 2006. It allowed for analysis and redevelopment of the response guideline while working with the postal community. This program will be a work in progress for years to come.

Staffing

40 Personnel are assigned to the Team

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

Revenue Detail

Revenue Classification	2005 Actual	2006 Budget	2006 6-Month Actual	2006 Projection	2007 Budget
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES					
State aid	$ 180,069	$ 180,100	$ -	$ 180,100	$ 180,100
Total intergovernmental revenues	180,069	180,100	-	180,100	180,100
CHARGES FOR SERVICES					
Hazardous response charges	5,156	3,000	1,276	3,000	3,000
MISCELLANEOUS					
Interest income	8,890	1,000	3,220	1,000	1,000
Total revenues	$ 194,115	$ 184,100	$ 4,496	$ 184,100	$ 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

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, we 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. We 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