

Mission

The mission of the Fire Department is to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of our community by providing a wide range of innovative services.

Vision

"To set the standard for excellence and innovation in public safety."

Department Description

Clearwater Fire and Rescue is divided into three divisions: Operations, Fire Prevention Services, and Support Services. There are 212 fire-fighting, emergency medical services, management staff and support staff full time equivalent positions allocated to support and protect the City and the unincorporated areas of Pinellas County within the Clearwater Fire District.

The internationally accredited Department serves a fire district with a total area of forty-two and a half miles with a permanent population of approximately 133,000 residents, which increases to over 160,000 during peak tourist season. The community is being served by eight fire stations strategically located to provide expeditious response times throughout the City. We are a full service Fire and Rescue Department providing non-emergency and emergency response services, including: Fire Prevention, Public Fire and Life Safety Education, Building Plan Review, Inspections, Basic and Advanced Life Support Rescue (BLS and ALS), Fire Suppression, Technical Rescue and Marine Rescue. In addition to the engine companies at each station (four ALS and four BLS), the Department also responds with six Advanced Life Support (ALS) rescue units, two truck (Aerial) companies, and one squad/heavy rescue/air supply unit. Two Assistant Chiefs who divide the response area supervise this complement of equipment on a 24-hour basis.

Fire and Rescue supports several community programs, such as but not limited to: Chaplainship, Elder's Link, Special Needs Evacuation, Smoke Detectors, Holiday Food Basket, and Shelter Care.

DEPARTMENT SUMMARY					
	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2006/07	Budget 2007/08	Budget 2008/09	% Change
Administration	724,338	700,009	787,910	826,700	5%
Support Services	2,470,212	3,716,079	2,657,990	2,227,130	-16%
Fire Prevention Services	696,250	1,012,465	651,130	756,280	16%
Fire Operations	11,240,456	11,944,082	11,500,630	11,401,880	-1%
Emergency Medical	5,155,014	6,303,925	5,825,750	6,046,440	4%
Total Fire	20,286,270	23,676,560	21,423,410	21,258,430	-1%

DEPARTMENT FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS

	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2006/07	Budget 2007/08	Budget 2008/09
Fire Administration	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Support Services	4.0	4.0	1.0	2.0
Fire Prevention Services	13.0	15.0	7.0	8.0
Fire Operations	131.0	136.0	132.0	130.0
Emergency Medical Services	57.0	56.0	62.0	62.0
Total Fire Department	215.0	221.0	212.0	212.0

Program Description

Fire Administration provides direction and exercises all operational, support, and administrative control for Fire and Rescue activities. Functions include supervising support elements, including corollary programs relating to the County Fire and EMS district. Fire Administration provides operational business and strategic plans; analyzes operations for cost effectiveness; represents the Department with government entities and other fire divisions and personnel. All Department contracts and grants are produced, prepared, and/or reviewed by this office in conjunction with the City Manager and City Attorney's Offices. Additionally, Administration establishes, reviews, and updates operational directives, policies, and procedures.

PROGRAM SUMMARY					
	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2006/07	Budget 2007/08	Budget 2008/09	% Change
Personnel	670,077	651,744	744,500	755,660	1%
Operating	1,964	2,900	3,000	25,350	745%
Internal Services	40,723	39,721	40,410	45,690	13%
Debt Service	11,574	5,644	-	-	n/a
Total Fire Administration	724,338	700,009	787,910	826,700	5%

PROGRAM FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS				
	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2006/07	Budget 2007/08	Budget 2008/09
Fire Administration	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Total Fire Administration	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0

Program Highlights

- ❖ The Fire Administration program is supported by ten full-time equivalent positions, the same as the 2007/08 budget.
- ❖ There have been no significant changes in the Fire Administration program in the 2008/09 budget. The budget for this program reflects an increase of 5% over the 2007/08 budget.
- ❖ Other Operating costs increase 745% or \$22,350 from the 2007/08 budget due to redistribution of costs among the different programs. Overall, Other Operating costs increase 3% for the Fire Department.
- ❖ Across all programs, the Fire Department budget reflects a decrease of 1% from the 2007/08 budget.
- ❖ Internal Services increase 13% in this program primarily due to an increase in garage services costs. Across all Fire Department programs, Internal Services costs increase 5% primarily due to garage services and building & maintenance costs.

Program Description

The Support Services Division is made up of three (3) bureaus: the Finance Bureau, Logistics Bureau, and the Health and Safety Bureau.

Finance Bureau – The Administrative Support Manager administers the Department budgetary and financial programs, including Capital Improvement and purchasing programs. In addition to preparing a complex \$21.3 million budget, the Manager also prepares and submits a separate Pinellas County Budget. This budget provides for reimbursement to the City for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provided in the Fire District and for Fire services provided to unincorporated Pinellas County. This reimbursement will provide over \$7.5 million of intergovernmental revenue for the Department. The Administrative Support Manager oversees and processes all payroll activities and employee reclassifications.

Logistics Bureau – This Bureau ensures all fire equipment, apparatus, and facilities are extensively researched, planned and acquired to ensure compatibility with existing systems and appropriateness for Fire and Rescue present and future mission accomplishment. This Bureau also maintains all equipment, exhaust and pressure fans, chain saws, portable generators, pneumatic bags, foam systems, nozzles, specialized valves, tanks, pumps, radios, pagers, and breathing apparatus.

Research and development on new products, equipment, apparatus and technologies is performed through this Bureau to help determine future purchases into the Fire and Rescue Department. Major project management, such as station construction and building renovations, is managed with the expertise of Fire and Rescue personnel.

The Storekeeper for the Department works in conjunction with the Finance Bureau and Operations Division to purchase, store and distribute all of the needed operational supplies.

Health and Safety Bureau – This Bureau evaluates various equipment for safety, effectiveness, and compatibility to ensure a well-equipped, responsive, and prepared Fire and Rescue workforce. The Assistant Chief of Health and Safety facilitates the wellness program and promotes health and safety preparedness through the Department. The Bureau oversees and reviews the accidents and injuries within the Department and analyzes the causes in order to rectify potential reoccurring damages. The Bureau coordinates with the Human Resources Department for the recruitment and advancement of Fire and Rescue personnel. The Assistant Chief is responsible for the development of an Incident Scene Safety Officer Program to enhance firefighter safety and implementation of an International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) / International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) joint initiative based wellness program.

PROGRAM SUMMARY					
	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2006/07	Budget 2007/08	Budget 2008/09	% Change
Personnel	606,846	1,691,691	437,640	509,600	16%
Operating	1,010,494	821,818	921,030	877,830	-5%
Internal Services	507,432	557,436	1,047,320	651,160	-38%
Capital	85,621	24,088	-	32,540	n/a
Debt Service	16,459	4,734	-	-	n/a
Transfers	243,360	616,312	252,000	156,000	-38%
Total Support Services	2,470,212	3,716,079	2,657,990	2,227,130	-16%

SUPPORT SERVICES

PROGRAM FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS				
	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2006/07	Budget 2007/08	Budget 2008/09
Support Services	4.0	4.0	1.0	2.0
Total Support Services	4.0	4.0	1.0	2.0

Program Highlights

- ❖ The Support Services program is supported by two full time equivalent positions, an increase of one over the 2007/08 budget. A position of Logistics Chief has been transferred from the Fire Operations program and reclassified to Logistics Manager. This change, along with salary adjustments, results in a 16% increase in personnel service costs for the 2008/09 budget.
- ❖ Internal services cost decrease 38% primarily due to the redistribution of charges between this program and the Emergency Medical Services program. Across all Fire Department programs, Internal Services costs increase 5% primarily due to garage services (due to fuel price increases) and building & maintenance costs.
- ❖ Operating costs reflect a 5% decrease directly due to a City Manager mandated 20% reduction in training, travel, memberships and subscriptions.
- ❖ Transfers include \$156,000 as a transfer to the Capital Improvement Program to support the funding of Fire capital equipment. This is a reduction of 38% from the 2007/08 budget.
- ❖ There have been no other significant changes in the Support Services program. The budget for this program reflects a decrease of 16% from the 2007/08 budget.

FIRE PREVENTION SERVICES

Program Description

Fire Prevention Services - The Division Chief/Fire Marshal serves as the Fire Chief's designated code enforcement official referred to the Florida Fire Prevention Code as "The Authority Having Jurisdiction".

The Fire Marshal and a Police Detective serve as investigators for the determination of the origin and source of all fires. These individuals are also assigned to investigate and respond to questions or complaints from the public and City officials.

Prevention Services Bureau - Fire Inspectors evaluate and ensure that the inspect-able occupancies within the City are code compliant. This involves the inspection of all structures, plus the necessary re-inspections and testimony in County Court (if necessary), to ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

Construction Services Bureau - This Bureau evaluates and ensures that all plans submitted for construction, renovation or alteration permits meet the standards of the Florida Fire Prevention Code. The staff of the Bureau meets with development, design, and construction professionals as needed to ensure that project planning, development, and construction are compliant with the applicable codes and guidelines. Additionally, the plans reviewer for each permitted job is responsible for conducting the required field inspections to ensure the permitted work is code compliant.

PROGRAM SUMMARY					
	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2006/07	Budget 2007/08	Budget 2008/09	% Change
Personnel	503,143	959,068	584,420	679,460	16%
Operating	10,638	14,450	12,670	13,000	3%
Internal Services	24,120	30,598	44,380	54,160	22%
Debt Service	8,349	8,349	9,660	9,660	0%
Transfer	150,000	-	-	-	n/a
Total Fire Prevention Services	696,250	1,012,465	651,130	756,280	16%

PROGRAM FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS				
	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2006/07	Budget 2007/08	Budget 2008/09
Fire Prevention Services	13.0	15.0	7.0	8.0
Total Fire Prevention Services	13.0	15.0	7.0	8.0

FIRE PREVENTION SERVICES

Program Highlights

- ❖ The Fire Prevention Services program is supported by eight full time equivalent positions, an increase of one position over the 2007/08 budget. One position of Firefighter has been transferred from Fire Operations program and reclassified to a Fire Inspector position. This change, along with salary adjustments, results in a 16% increase in personnel service costs for the 2008/09 budget.
- ❖ Internal Services reflects an increase of 22% and this is directly related to increased costs for garage services.
- ❖ There have been no other significant changes in the Fire Prevention Services program in the 2008/09 budget. The budget for this program reflects an increase of 16% over the 2007/08 budget.

Program Description

Fire Operations provides the vital fire and emergency medical services (EMS) capabilities required to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Clearwater and residents of the Fire District. Fire Operations is managed by a Division Chief, and ten Assistant Chiefs who supervise over 180 dual (Fire and EMS) certified line personnel. The Assistant Chiefs manage the staffing of all apparatus and take the role of Incident Command Officer during emergency situations. Fire Operations' personnel provide fire as well as, basic and advanced life support services. Additional responsibilities include response to emergency medical calls and to hazardous materials conditions to stabilize the incident with help from the Pinellas County Hazardous Materials team.

Fire Operations is budgeted under two separate programs: Fire Operations and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Pinellas County contracts with the City to provide emergency medical services on their behalf and costs are budgeted separately for reporting and accounting purposes.

Suppression Bureau – This Bureau's primary tasks are to locate a fire, confine it to the point of origin; evacuate and rescue victims; extinguish the fire; salvage property; and overhaul the fire to prevent rekindle. Other tasks include vehicle accidents, technical rescues, and emergency medical responses.

Special Operations Bureau – This Bureau organizes the special teams planning, training, certification and response. Specialized teams include the Marine Response Team, Technical Rescue Team, Community Emergency Response Team, and Honor Guard and Fire Explorer programs.

Training Bureau – This Bureau involves a classroom, fire tower, burning pits, computer access and a library that provides comprehensive firefighting and emergency medical services training programs necessary to continually update, certify, and refresh knowledge and performance in every discipline.

PROGRAM SUMMARY					
	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2006/07	Budget 2007/08	Budget 2008/09	% Change
Personnel	10,727,434	11,547,393	11,018,130	10,594,990	-4%
Operating	113,136	133,330	88,330	130,330	48%
Internal Services	177,308	168,200	229,330	497,600	117%
Debt Service	222,578	95,159	164,840	178,960	9%
Total Fire Operations	11,240,456	11,944,082	11,500,630	11,401,880	-1%

PROGRAM FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS				
	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2006/07	Budget 2007/08	Budget 2008/09
Fire Operations	131.0	136.0	132.0	130.0
Total Fire Operations	131.0	136.0	132.0	130.0

Program Highlights

- ❖ The Fire Operations program is supported by 130.0 full time equivalent positions, a decrease of two FTE positions from the 2007/08 budget. One position of Logistics Chief has been transferred to Support Services and reclassified to Logistics Manager. Another position of Firefighter has been transferred to the Fire Prevention program. These changes, along with salary adjustments for current personnel, result in a 4% decrease in personnel service costs for the 2008/09 budget.
- ❖ Overtime costs in this program are budgeted at \$423,850, a decrease of 31% from the 2007/08 budget.
- ❖ There have been no other significant changes in the Fire Operations program in the 2008/09 budget. The budget for this program reflects a decrease of 1% from the 2007/08 budget.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Program Description

Emergency Medical Services Bureau - Our EMS responsibilities include responding to medical calls and providing emergency medical services to injured parties of fires, traffic accidents, or other medical-related incidents. The EMS effort utilizes paramedic-trained firefighters, advanced and basic life support vehicles, a Lieutenant supervisor on each shift, and the EMS Assistant Chief to fulfill its objectives. Emergency medical care is provided under the direction of a licensed Emergency Physician. The EMS Bureau plans and oversees a model Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program that has received national recognition from the American Heart Association.

PROGRAM SUMMARY					
	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2006/07	Budget 2007/08	Budget 2008/09	% Change
Personnel	4,000,047	5,214,066	4,765,460	4,779,400	0%
Operating	398,710	351,924	352,790	371,330	5%
Internal Services	229,272	238,704	250,590	437,640	75%
Capital	27,574	7,490	-	10,850	n/a
Debt Service	146,908	164,071	219,640	241,950	10%
Transfers	352,503	327,670	237,270	205,270	-13%
Total Emergency Medical Services	5,155,014	6,303,925	5,825,750	6,046,440	4%

PROGRAM FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS				
	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2006/07	Budget 2007/08	Budget 2008/09
Emergency Medical Services	57.0	56.0	62.0	62.0
Total Emergency Medical Services	57.0	56.0	62.0	62.0

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Program Highlights

- ❖ The Emergency Medical Services program is supported by 62 full time equivalent positions, the same level as the 2007/08 budget.
- ❖ Personnel costs represent 79% of this program's budget.
- ❖ The \$18,540, or 5%, increase in operating costs is primarily due to a increases in uniforms for employees and operating supplies.
- ❖ Internal services cost increases of 75% are primarily due to the redistribution of charges between this program and the Support Services program.
- ❖ Transfers include \$153,270 as a transfer to the Central Insurance Fund to cover the cost of liability insurance on the EMS vehicles. In addition, \$52,000 is transferred to the Capital Improvement Program to support the funding of EMS capital equipment.
- ❖ There have been no other significant changes in the Emergency Medical Services program. The budget for this program reflects an increase of 4% over the 2007/08 budget.