

# Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Resource Summary

## Appropriation Summary

	FY 2002-03 Actual	FY 2003-04 Adopted	FY 2004-05 Proposed	FY 2004-05 Adopted	% Change
Expenditures	\$17,692,963	18,577,287	21,107,632	21,023,632	13.12%
FTE	245	242	242	242	0.00%

## Department Mission

Providing efficient fire prevention, fire suppression, emergency medical care, hazardous material response, and disaster preparedness services to Portsmouth citizens is the Portsmouth Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Service's mission.

## Strategic Goals

- 1. Leadership:** The Portsmouth Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services leadership goal is to develop a strategic plan link with the City's **Sphere of Success** and **Vision Statement** objectives.
- 2. Community Partnerships:** In accordance with the **Neighborhood Visioning** philosophy and reflecting the community's needs, neighborhood relationships and partnerships will be developed to implement EMS/Fire prevention strategies and activities.
- 3. Workforce Planning:** To ensure "the right people with the right skills are in the right place at the right time" balance is achieved, a workforce planning strategy will be developed.
- 4. Emergency Management:** A quality and cost effective Fire and EMS service delivery system will be incorporated.

## Department Budget in Brief

With no overall growth in the operating lines, the department submits the FY05 budget. To reflect planned departmental expenses accurately, with a focus on maintaining current services and strong fiscal strength, adjustments have been made internally in the 300, 400, and 500 categories. Overall total 300, 400, and 500 category reductions equal \$95,142. Additionally, no new personnel have been requested. Operating out of eight facilities, service will continue to be provided through seven Engine Companies, three Squad Companies, three Ladder companies and 4.5 Medic units. No service reductions are anticipated; moreover the staffing level, compared to the previous budget cycle, has not changed.

This budget cycle's highlight is a Quint fire apparatus request. As required by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) fire department rating schedule, the City does not currently have a reserve ladder truck. The current rating schedule requires at least one city reserve ladder truck. The City currently enjoys a Class 2 rating (Class 1 rating is the highest level). The department's new apparatus purchase will allow the existing Quint unit to be put into a reserve ladder status. This will either improve or protect the present rating measure.

In an effort to increase the Truxtun/Portsmouth Blvd. neighborhood area service delivery, a new fire facility CIP request has been adopted within the FY '05 budget. The Effingham Street Fire Station (2 Engines/1 Ladder/1 Medic) currently serves the majority of the proposed Truxtun Fire Station response area as well as the Downtown, Park View, and Effingham corridor. These areas represent 17% of the City's dwelling units and 15% of the City's population; moreover of all Fire and EMS Portsmouth responses needed, the Effingham Street Fire Station responds to 25% of them. With this high of a demand, potential service response delays could occur. By placing a station in this area, the opportunity to increase citizen and business (Fire and EMS) service levels in the immediate "first-due" response area (Truxtun Station) is certain; moreover back-up response to the Craddock, southern Victory Blvd., Effingham corridor neighborhoods, and the planned New Port community development will be enhanced.

## Department Operational Summary

**Administration:** Administrative services include the Fire Chief's office, the Deputy Chief of Administration, two administrative support staff members, and the Logistics Lieutenant. Fire Administration provides both internal and external customer critical functions. They include Strategic Planning, Fiscal Management, Staffing/Workforce Planning, Human Resource Management, Risk Management, Program Management, uniform and protective gear procurement and disbursement, departmental logistics, ensuring all on-going and annual collateral duty assignments are maintained/completed, ensuring compliance with local, state and federal policies, guidelines, standards, ordinances and laws, Neighborhood Quality Action Plan, and Evaluation.

**Operations:** The Operations Division is commanded by the Deputy Chief of Operations and is supported by an Administrative Coordinator I. They are responsible for all aspects of emergency fire protective service, technical service, and emergency medical service (EMS) aspects. Service is provided by three shifts consisting of seven engine companies, three squad companies, three ladder companies, and 4.5 advanced life support ambulances (medic units). Each commanded by a Battalion Chief (6 total), fire protective services are divided into two districts. Daily EMS services are supervised by a field supervisor (Fire Lieutenant-3 total). The field supervisor reports to the EMS Manager (Fire Captain). The Deputy Chief, assisted by the Battalion Chief of Technical Services, coordinates all technical rescues, maritime response programs, and the Hazardous Materials Team. Operational services include preventative measures necessary to reduce loss of life and property from fire, fire confinement at the point of origin, fire extinguishing, mitigating hazards from hazardous material incidents, providing basic and advanced life support pre-hospital care and transportation, managing and delivering technical rescue programs, conducting company fire

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inspection/pre-fire planning, administering public fire education and the child safety seat program. The Company level staffing is comprised of 30 Fire Captains, 39 Fire Lieutenants, 28 Firefighter/Paramedics and 108 Firefighters.

**Fire Marshal's Office:** Around the clock services are provided by the Fire Marshal's Office and is accomplished through a staff comprising the Fire Marshal (Fire Captain), a Deputy Fire Marshal (Fire Lieutenant), and five Assistant Fire Marshals. This office is charged with many duties. They include enforcing the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code through routine, life-safety, environmental and special fire prevention inspections; arson detection and investigation; public fire education; pre-employment background investigations; and candidate physical agility testing.

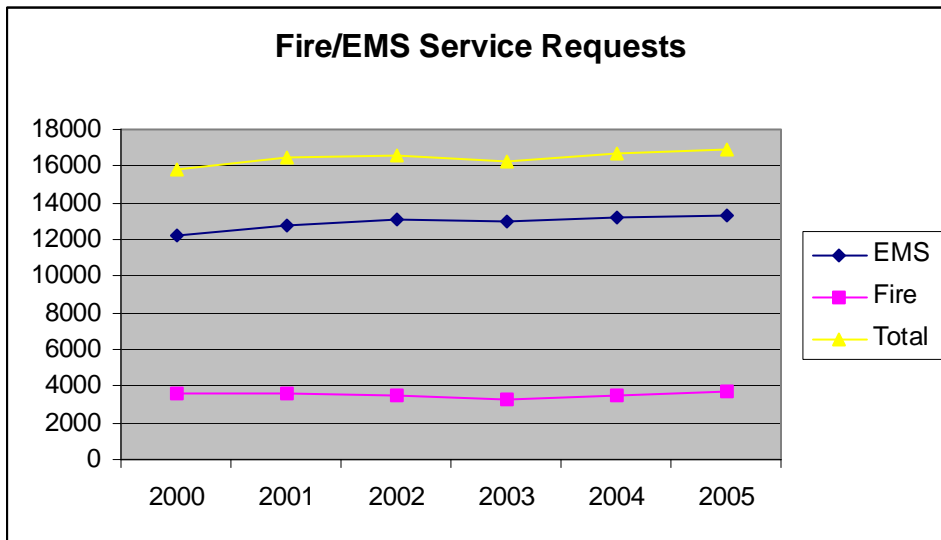
**Training:** The Fire Training Division is supervised by the department Training Officer (Fire Captain) and is assisted by a Fire Lieutenant and a Fire Instructor. Additional training department personnel include a part-time EMS training coordinator and an EMS Instructor (both supervised by the EMS Manager). Services provided by the Training Division include recruit training (Southside Regional Fire Academy), monthly incumbent in-service training (Fire/EMS), training record management, and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.

**Emergency Management:** The Emergency Management component is directed by a Battalion Chief and is supported by one administrative staff member. Services include community disaster planning/preparedness, community all-risk analysis, public information, Emergency Communications Center liaison, hazard mitigation planning, and domestic preparedness planning.

### Departmental Trends

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) requests continue to increase. National health care issues (lack of medical insurance) continue to have a national EMS agency impact. While local hospital emergency departments become the primary care treating facility, the EMS agency is emerging as the primary transporter for citizens suffering from injury or illness. Since 2000, EMS service requests have increased in two of the last three years; moreover due to new community developments in 2004 and 2005, this trend is projected to continue growing.

Since 2000, fire only resource requests have slightly increased or decreased annually. Due to new community and commercial development, request growth is projected.



Equally important to illustrate is the Fire and EMS resource deployment data and their geographic origination points.

The following chart represents FY03 requests for service by resource:

### Response Breakdown FY03 Request for Service

- 80% of received calls are EMS requests
- 69% of EMS calls are answered by a Medic and Fire Unit
- 51% of fire calls are single engine responses
- 49% of fire calls involve multiple fire units
- 73% of total calls include a Fire Unit response