



2019

ANNUAL REPORT



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EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE MISSION STATEMENT

Exceptional people providing compassionate service and rapid response to our community's diverse needs.

VISION STATEMENT

East Pierce Fire & Rescue is a regional leader in providing the highest level of fire and emergency medical and prevention services to a diverse and growing community with:

- Mission-essential staffing and training
- State-of-the-art facilities, equipment and technology
- A strong, diverse and sustainable funding base, while maintaining stewardship of taxpayer resources
 - A safe environment for our citizens through effective and comprehensive prevention and public education programs
- A safe and healthy workforce

CORE VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our community and our employees are our most important resource.

We are committed to:

Doing the Right Thing

Integrity, Trust, Respect and Commitment

Everyone Must Make a Difference

Individual, Organizational, Responsibility, Accountability, Teamwork and Collaboration

Anticipating and Meeting Our Community's Needs

Proactive Planning, Innovation, Creativity, Responsiveness and Excellent Customer Service

"Where Compassion and Action Meet"



2019 has brought us closer to achieving the goal of adequate staffing for emergency response so that we can continue to provide quality service. This process started with obtaining a Federal Grant to cover a portion of the cost of nine firefighters. With that help, we have been able to hire additional firefighters.

We continued to hire additional firefighters to reach our goal of staffing each fire engine and ladder truck with three firefighters per unit. Sixteen firefighter/paramedics were hired in 2019. Not all of the 16 were new positions, as four were needed to fill vacancies created by retirements. We anticipate reaching the staffing goal in the first half of 2020. This will increase firefighter and public safety by providing the minimum number of firefighters necessary to conduct immediate rescue operations at a fire scene with the first arriving fire engine or ladder truck.

The need for hiring firefighters will

continue as we work to maintain staffing levels and fill retirement vacancies. As our calls for service continue to climb, so will the need to add more response capabilities to our system due to the rapid growth in population.

Orders were placed in October 2019 to purchase six fire engines and one ladder truck. The delivery of the fire engines will occur between 2020 and 2021, with the ladder truck arriving in late 2020. Replacement of fire stations funded by the 2018 Bond Issue is in progress. Design is underway for both Station 118 (Edgewood) and Station 111 (Bonney Lake). Negotiations are in progress to acquire land for Station 112 (Prairie Ridge) and Station 114 (Lake Tapps). Station 117 (Tehaleh) is currently planned to be the final station constructed as the call volume in that area remains low - less than one call per day.

The increase in call volume returned to normal trends in 2019. After experiencing a small increase of 1% in 2018, the number of incidents in 2019 climbed by 5.69%, an increase of 634 alarms over the previous year. Population growth added to the increased need for services, and more growth is certain. We are planning to add resources which will drive the need for additional firefighters. The district will need to evaluate funding options to meet this growing need.

In order to efficiently support our mission, two long-standing vacant positions were filled at the administration level. Deputy Chief Jon Parkinson came to our

department in February, bringing an abundance of knowledge and experience. In May, Michelle Hollon was promoted to Finance Manager in order to improve our financial controls and oversee the Finance Division. Both functions had been split between the Fire Chief and other positions since 2015.

Thank you for your trust in providing us with the funding to provide for your safety. We would not be able to meet your needs without your support.

Fire Chief Bud Backer

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Hired 16 Firefighters.

Retired our Limited Tax General Obligation (LTGO) Bond 12 years ahead of schedule saving over \$500,000 in interest payments.

Placed orders for 6 Fire Engines and 1 Ladder Truck.

Began design of new fire stations.

Filled Deputy Fire Chief and Finance Manager vacancies.

Received large Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) back-payments - deposited to Reserve Fund.



FIRE COMMISSIONERS



2020 EPFR Commissioners Meeting Schedule

January 21
February 18
March 17
April 21
May 19
June 16
July 21
August 18
September 15
October 20
November 17
December 15

Fire Commissioners form a board elected by the public to represent the fire district. The board meets monthly to set budgets, establish policy and provide administrative oversight.

East Pierce Fire Commissioners serve six-year terms. Any resident, 18 years or older, who lives within the East Pierce service area is eligible to apply for an open position on the board.

All regular meetings of the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Board of Commissioners are held on the third Tuesday of every month at headquarters station in Bonney Lake.

Meetings are open to the public and offer residents an opportunity to provide input. Visit our website at www.eastpiercefirerescue.org for meeting minutes and agendas.



COMMAND STAFF



Bud Backer
Fire Chief



Jon Parkinson
Deputy Chief



Ed Goodlet
Assistant Chief
Operations/Training/
Volunteers



James Jaques
Assistant Chief
Emergency
Management/IT/
Logistics



Chuck Kling
Assistant Chief
Fire Marshall/
Prevention/Pub Ed



Russ McCallion
Assistant Chief
EMS



Jeff Moore
Battalion Chief
Medical Services
Officer



Doug Walker
Battalion Chief
Training Officer



Justin Doyle
Battalion Chief
A Shift



Jay Adams
Battalion Chief
B Shift



Rick Goetz
Battalion Chief
C Shift

FIRE STATIONS AND STAFFING



Station 111 | Bonney Lake 18421 Veterans Memorial Drive E.

Fire Engine = 3 Medic Unit = 2
Battalion Chief=1 **On-Duty Firefighters: 6**

Station 112 | Prairie Ridge 12006 214th Ave. E.

Fire Engine/Medic Unit = 2
On-Duty Firefighters: 2

Station 113 | Sumner 800 Harrison St.

Ladder Truck = 3 Medic Unit = 2
On-Duty Firefighters 5

Station 114 | Lake Tapps 3206 West Tapps Drive E.

Fire Engine/Medic Unit = 2
On-Duty Firefighters: 2

Station 115 | Lake Tapps - East 1605 210th Ave. E.

Volunteer Firefighter Staffed

Station 116 | Foothills 10515 234th Ave. E.

Fire Engine = 2 Medic Unit = 2
On-Duty Firefighters 4

Station 118 | Edgewood 10105 24th St. E.

Fire Engine = 2 Medic Unit = 2
On-Duty Firefighters: 4

Station 119 | South Prairie 350 State Route 162

Volunteer Firefighter Staffed

Station 122 | Lake Tapps 2905 Sumner/Tapps Hwy. East

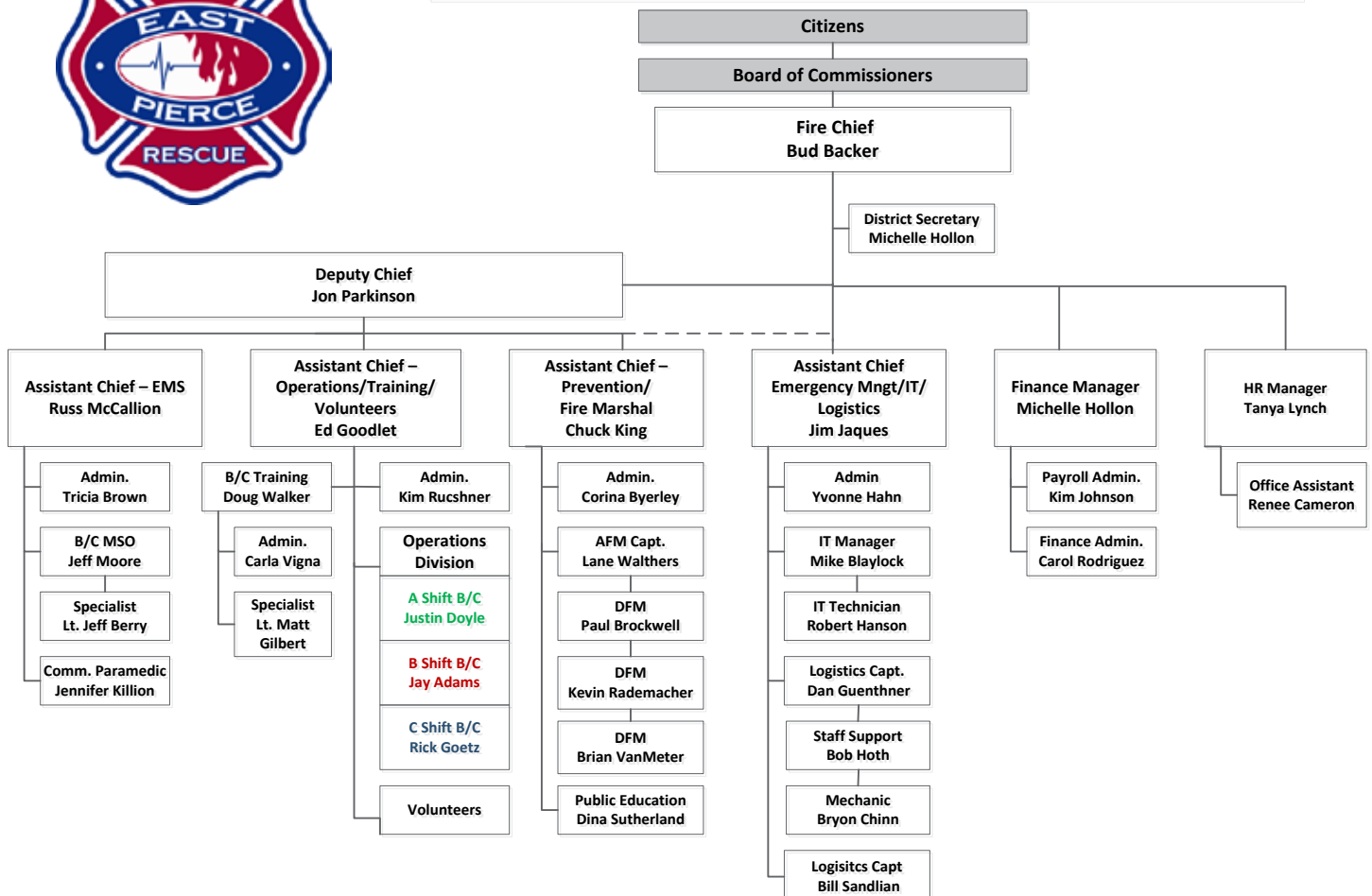
Marine Service Unit

Station 124 | Milton 1000 Laurel St.

Volunteer Firefighter Staffed



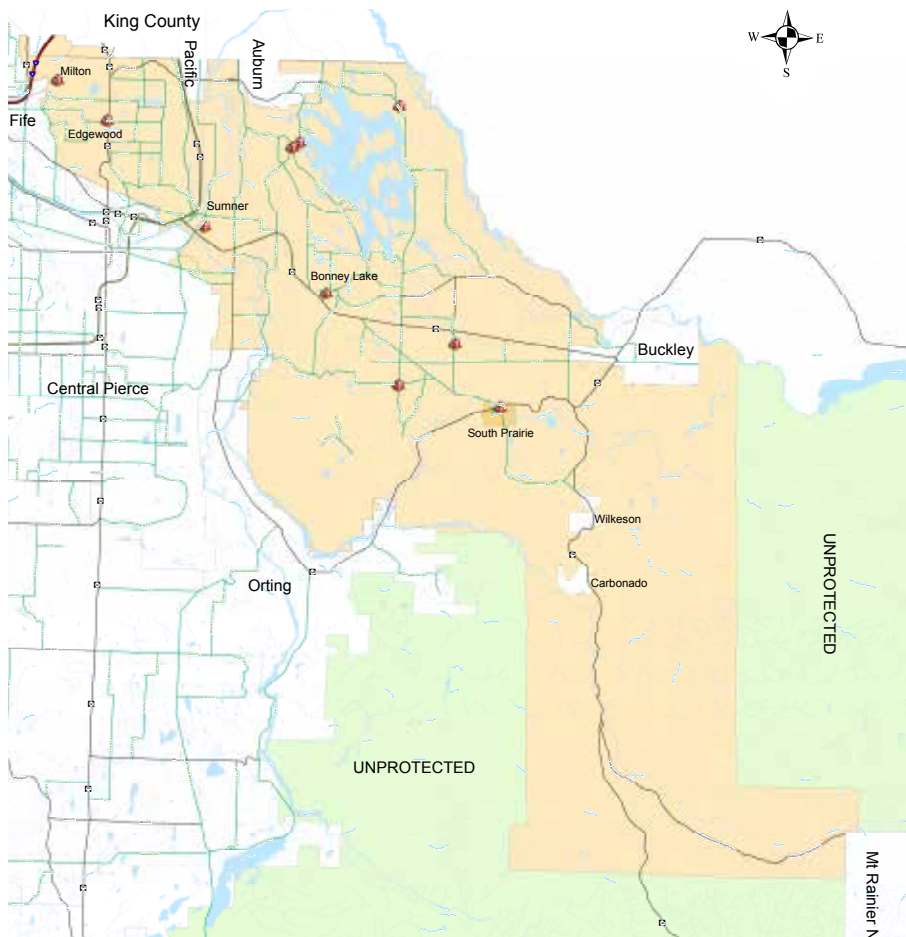
East Pierce Organizational Chart – 2019





SERVICE AREA OVERVIEW & STATS

EPFR SERVICE AREA



153
square miles

96,000
total population

77
CAREER FIREFIGHTER-EMTs

52
CAREER FIREFIGHTER-PARAMEDICS

10
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS



CALLS BY TYPE FOR 2019

Emergency Medical Calls	8,540
Good Intent	1,254
Public Assist	950
False	511
Fire	302
HazMat	205
Other	16
Weather	6

TOTAL 11,784

TREND: RESPONSE TIMES

Year	Dispatch to Arrival (in minutes)	Response times for the fire service are important for two reasons—first, to save lives and second, to reduce the damage to someone's property. An emergency response to the scene can vary depending upon how far the emergency is from the fire station.
2013	6:21	Response time starts when crews are alerted by dispatch of an emergency to the time crews arrive at the incident scene.
2014	6:36	
2015	6:43	
2016	8:42	
2017	7:35	
2018	7:44	
2019	7:34	

TOTAL 911 CALLS BY STATION

Station 113 Sumner	2,654
Station 111 Bonney Lake	2,145
Station 112 Prairie Ridge	1,715
Station 124 Milton	1,452
Station 118 Edgewood	1,238
Station 116 Foothills	752
Station 114 Lake Tapps	746
Station 119 South Prairie	433
Mutual Aid•	342
Station 115 Lake Tapps - East	306

* Mutual Aid provided to neighboring fire departments



EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE HISTORY

East Pierce Fire & Rescue was founded on a strong commitment to customer service. The department's Mission, Vision and Values guide the actions of the district and its employees. Exceptional customer service and a concern for the employees and their families have become hallmarks of our culture.

EPFR was created when the City of Bonney Lake Fire Department, Pierce County Fire District 22/Lake Tapps Fire and Pierce County Fire District 24 merged in 2000 with the goal of providing a seamless response to emergency situations.

Since then, the following mergers or annexations into EPFR have occurred:

- 2006: Pierce County Fire District 12 and South Prairie/ Fire District 20
- 2008: Sumner/ Fire District 1
- 2010: Edgewood/ Fire District 8
- 2013: Milton Fire Department

Today, East Pierce serves a population of approximately 96,000 residents living in and around Bonney Lake, Sumner, Lake Tapps, the Ridge Com-

munities, South Prairie, Tehaleh, Edgewood and Milton. The district covers approximately 153 square miles and protects residents from 10 stations—six staffed and three volunteer, and one facility on Lake Tapps for the marine rescue unit.

All full-time firefighters are certified as either emergency medical technicians (EMTs) or paramedics and can respond to both medical emergencies and fires.

An independently-elected board of commissioners governs the agency.

EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE 2019 RETIREMENTS

Lieutenant
JEB BAKER
22 Years of Service

Firefighter
LANCE SCHINKAL
27 Years of Service

Captain
GREG REINKE
28 Years of Service

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE!

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

The East Pierce Fire & Rescue Fire Commissioners and Command Staff honored the recipients of the 2019 Annual Recognition Awards at a ceremony held on March 17 at the headquarters station in Bonney Lake. Recipients are voted on by their peers through a nomination and ballot process. The only award not chosen this way is the Chiefs Company. The command staff selects the recipients of that award based on leadership skills.

2019 AWARD RECIPIENTS

CHIEFS COMPANY

Lieutenant Troy Sterrenburg
Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Gladstone
Firefighter/EMT Matt Lee
Firefighter Luzia Ballew

CAREER OFFICER

Career Officer Lieutenant Matt Gilbert

CAREER FIREFIGHTER

Firefighter Bryan Hoon

VOLUNTEER RESPONDER

DeAnn O'Leary

EMS PROVIDER

Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Lathrop

FITNESS AWARD

Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Russell

KEN THAWSH INSPIRATIONAL AWARD

Firefighter DeAnn O'Leary

MIKE ROBERTS GOODWILL AWARD

Firefighter/Paramedic Rex Orcutt

SUPPORT STAFF

Bryon Chinn

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 RECIPIENTS!



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

THE EMS DIVISION PROVIDES CLINICAL DIRECTION, MEDICAL OVERSIGHT AND SUPPORT FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) OPERATIONS. EMS PERFORMANCE IS ANALYZED THROUGH A QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (QI) PROGRAM. EMS DIVISION STAFF WORK WITH THE TRAINING DIVISION TO COORDINATE AND DELIVER EMS-RELATED EDUCATION AND TRAINING.



EPFR Community Resource Paramedic Jen Killion, is helping vulnerable members of our community by connecting them with needed resources.

East Pierce firefighter-EMTs and paramedics responded to 8,540 medical emergencies in 2019, an average of 23.9 medical 911 calls per day. Emergency medical services (EMS) call volume continues to steadily increase, and now make up 72.5% of the fire department's 911 workload.

EPFR provides a full-range of EMS services for the community, including "first response" by fire engines, basic and paramedic-level ambulance transport of patients, and patient assistance and care management through our new Community Resource Paramedic program.

Fire engines, deployed at each of our six career-staffed fire stations, serve as "first response" units to quickly get medically-trained firefighters to the scene of EMS calls. East Pierce also deploys four medic units (paramedic ambulances) which respond to EMS scenes and transport patients to area hospitals and specialized trauma, burn, cardiac and stroke centers. Four reserve medic units can also be deployed if there is a spike in the number of

emergency medical 911 calls.

To provide needed emergency medical services for the community, all EPFR firefighters are cross-trained at a minimum Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) level, and 52 members are cross-trained and certified as paramedics.

EMTs receive 150 hours of training to provide basic emergency care, including splinting, bandaging, spinal immobilization, oxygen and airway management, and automated defibrillation. Firefighter-EMTs work in conjunction with the paramedics to prepare patients for transport to the hospital.

Paramedics receive an additional 1,500 to 2,000 hours of medical training focused on clinical assessment skills and performance of advanced procedures used to stabilize critically ill or injured patients. Paramedics are certified to administer intravenous fluids, give more than 40 medications, insert breathing tubes, and provide electrical pacing, cardioversion and defibrillation.

In 2019, East Pierce medic units transported 5,817 patients to area hospitals, an average of 15.9 patients per day, a 2% increase over 2019. Overall, there has been a cumulative five-year increase of 14% in EMS transports.

East Pierce EMS call volume is predicted to continue increasing steadily in coming years, for reasons including:

- An increasing number of older "Baby Boomer" residents. Patients over age 65 typically call 911 at a rate 2 to 3 times higher than younger people.
- Increased shortages of primary care physicians results in people calling 911 and going to the emergency department when they can't see their own doctor.
- The opening of new assisted living centers, adult family homes, senior apartments and dementia care centers. Residents in these facilities generates between 2 and 3 EMS transports per person per year, a 911 call volume rate some thirty times higher than those of citizens living independently. In total, these care centers generated 12% of our total EMS call volume in 2019.

More than 68% of patients seen by EPFR crews are transported in medic units to area hospitals. Many patients, however, choose not to be taken to the hospital in an East Pierce medic unit. These "non-transport" patients will sign medical "release of responsibility" or "refusal against medical advice" forms. These patients typically present with minor injuries or illnesses which were treated at the scene. These patients may not require additional care, or the patients may decide to have family or friends take them to a hospital, clinic or doctor's office.

8,540
Total EMS Calls

5,817
Patient Transports

77
Firefighter-EMTs

52
Firefighter-Paramedics

Since 2004, East Pierce Fire & Rescue has provided emergency ambulance service to district residents with the goal of providing improved clinical care at no "out-of-pocket" cost to fire district residents. The district does bill, on the patient's behalf, private health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid and other insurance providers. Last year, East Pierce received nearly \$5.2 million in total ambulance transport revenues which are utilized to support the EMS program.

For district residents, insurance co-pays are "written off" against the EMS levy, providing hospital transportation at no "out-of-pocket" expense to the individual patient. We estimate that district residents save between \$900,000 and \$1,200,000 each year from this program, which is underwritten by the EMS levy.

A letter from the department's billing service may be sent to residents requesting verification of insurance information. Patients are required to submit this requested information to enroll in the levy "write-off" program. The letter also includes a description of what the ambulance transport charge would have been if they weren't covered by the EMS levy.

When all available East Pierce units are already on calls – such as during a major fire– private ambulances and units from neighboring fire departments may respond into the district for "mutual aid". In this case, residents may have to pay for ambulance transport, depending upon which agency provided the service. Last year, 40 district residents were transported by mutual aid ambulances, or less than 1% of our total EMS patient transports.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Provision of EMS Training for New Probationary Firefighter/EMTs and Paramedics

In 2019, EMS Division staff provided more than 20 weeks of EMS-focused education and training for new probationary FF/EMTs and FF/Paramedics who were in four different probationary classes. FF/ EMT probationary classes generally received three weeks of intensive EMS training, while FF/Paramedic classes received up to eight weeks of EMS education and training. The EMS training program is designed to orient new employees to Washington and Pierce County EMS rules, regulations and patient care protocols. While this training is critical to the success of our new employees, the demands of the training program, which required course development, equipment set-up, along with multiple instructors per session, consumed more than a third of EMS Division staff hours in 2019.

2. Community Resource Paramedic Program Accomplishments

In 2018, EPFR became the first fire department in Pierce county to launch a "Community Resource Paramedic Program." These programs, which have been deployed across the United States, utilize specially-trained Community Resource Paramedics to work with patients in the community who are struggling with chronic healthcare problems and social service issues.

These vulnerable persons often use 911 as their "lifeline", sometimes calling 911 daily, attempting to get needed help. Firefighters and paramedics, responding to these 911 calls, identify and refer these patients to our Community Resource Paramedic.

Once proper permissions have been obtained from a patient, the EPFR Community Resource Paramedic meets with the person and tries to identify what needs the individual may have. It could be that the patient is unable to pick up their medications at a pharmacy or to get a ride to a physician's appointment. It could be that a patient is falling frequently and is unable to care for them-

selves at home.

The Community Resource Paramedic meets with the patient's caregivers, home health, care managers and a host of other agencies, to connect patients with resources which will allow them to live at home safely and independently. Our program is focused on connecting patients with the resources they need, rather than simply calling 911 in an attempt to obtain help.

The Community Resource Program helps free up fire engines and medic units for other urgent 911 calls, reducing workload on our fire/EMS crews and reducing healthcare costs in ERs. In 2019, preliminary data indicates that more than 350 low-priority 911 calls were eliminated when patients were referred and connected with appropriate social and healthcare resources which helped improve their quality of life.

A Pierce County pilot program in which fire departments worked with a large independent group of physicians and patient case managers, demonstrated reductions of between 30% and 40% in 911 calls, EMS transports, and emergency department visits while working together collaboratively. We will begin examining data in 2019 and 2020 to analyze the performance of our program.

3. Mission Lifeline—Gold Award for Cardiac Care

For the fifth consecutive year, East Pierce Fire & Rescue was awarded a American Heart Association Mission Lifeline—Gold Award for our efforts in improving recognition, time to treatment and expedited transport of patients with severe heart attacks. We worked with area hospitals to develop a "cardiac alert" system reduced the time it took for patients to receive life-saving treatment to open up blocked coronary arteries. East Pierce was one of four fire departments in the state to receive this recognition in 2019.



FIRE PREVENTION

THE FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION PROVIDES A FULL RANGE OF SERVICES TO PROTECT OUR CITIZENS, VISITORS TO OUR COMMUNITY, AND EMPLOYEES OF OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES AGAINST THE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY THROUGH EFFECTIVE AND INNOVATIVE PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES. THE DIVISION APPLIES A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO FIRE PREVENTION AND ENCOURAGES ALL TO PRACTICE SAFETY THROUGHOUT THE DAY...EVERYDAY.



In 2019, the Fire Prevention Division reviewed 791 construction plans, performed 1,478 inspections, and completed 19 fire investigations within city limits. This was an increase of 25% in inspections since 2018. Plan review and construction activity increased by 82% throughout the jurisdiction since 2018. Commercial development out-performed residential overall.

Tenant improvements and remodels in existing buildings continued to be the primary drivers of plan review and inspection activity on the commercial side, although development in the Sumner industrial areas remained strong as well. While the amount of new residential construction increased throughout the fire district, the City of Bonney Lake's municipal code requirement for the installation of residential fire sprinklers in

all new residential occupancies resulted in significant residential plan review and inspection activity.

Plan review projects ranged from large commercial projects to small tenant improvements; from single-family dwellings to multi-unit apartment complexes.

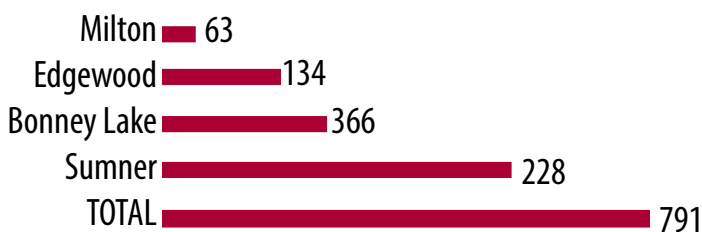
The Fire Prevention Division reviewed plans that included permits for fire district key access to secured residences/ commercial, special events, pre-application conferences, plat, SEPA, site plans, building plans, and plans for fire protection systems such as fire alarms and fire sprinklers.

The fire district is responsible for determining the original cause of fires that occur within its jurisdiction. Many of the

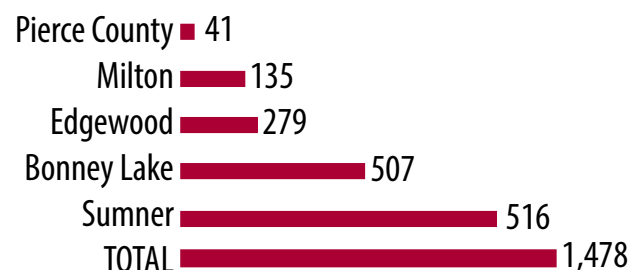
routine investigations are conducted by our Operations Division personnel, while more complex investigations are completed by Prevention Division personnel with assistance from the Pierce County Fire Marshal's Office.

The Fire Prevention Division has five fire investigators who share response duty twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. In 2019, firefighters responded to 302 fires, ranging from small rubbish fires to commercial building blazes. East Pierce Fire Marshals investigated 19 of those fires that were located within city limits. The Pierce County Fire Marshal's Office investigated an additional 18 fires within EPFR jurisdiction, but outside of city limits.

PLAN REVIEWS BY CITY



INSPECTIONS BY CITY/AREA





EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE PROVIDES NUMEROUS PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO HELP KEEP CHILDREN AND ADULTS SAFE FROM FIRE AND OTHER HAZARDS.

The driving force behind the Public Education Division is to reduce the risk of injuries and deaths from fires, drowning, medical emergencies, such as cardiac arrest, and other preventable causes.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue's public education programs are designed to teach children and adults how to recognize and avoid unintentional injuries, especially around water.

EPFR has a longstanding presence in our local schools by sending firefighters to teach age-appropriate lessons on water safety, bike safety, CPR, burns, carbon monoxide poisoning and fire prevention. Outreach consists of assembly-style delivery in the elementary schools and classroom-based delivery in the middle, junior and high schools.

Career and volunteer firefighters provide outreach at many community events, including National Night Out, Sumner Rhubarb Days, Daffodil Festival, Bonney Lake



Days, Edgewood Community Picnic, Milton Days, community parades, and staff the annual EPFR Open House.

Other risk reduction programs and services include fire extinguisher training,

Safe Sitter babysitter classes and child car seat inspections. East Pierce Fire also offers regularly scheduled CPR and Basic First Aid classes at least twice each month, and Hands-Only CPR classes to groups upon request.

PUBLIC EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

22

CHILD
CAR SEAT
INSPECTED

269

BIKE & MULTI-SPORT
HELMETS SOLD
AND FITTED

175

CITIZENS TRAINED
IN FIRE
EXTINGUISHER USE

50

SAFESITTER
BABYSITTER
GRADUATES

580

HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS TRAINED
IN "HANDS-ONLY"
CPR

65

LIFE JACKETS
SOLD AND
FITTED

514

CITIZENS CERTIFIED
IN CPR AND
FIRST AID



OPERATIONS DIVISION

THE OPERATIONS DIVISION PROVIDES FIRE SUPPRESSION, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND TECHNICAL RESCUE RESPONSE FOR THE COMMUNITIES SERVED BY EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE.

In 2019, East Pierce career and volunteer firefighter-EMTs and firefighter-paramedics assigned to the Operations Division responded to 11,784 calls for emergency services, a 5.6% increase in call volume from 2018. While the primary function of the Operations Division is to respond to emergency and non-emergency calls, division personnel also conduct building familiarization walk-throughs to assist them with pre-incident planning activities should firefighters be called back for an emergency.

While on duty, the firefighters also participate in training, public education events, vehicle and equipment inspections and maintenance, and other routine activities.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue is a combination department utilizing both career and volunteer firefighters to handle a wide variety of emergencies. Career firefighters and paramedics are automatically dispatched to calls throughout the 153 square-mile district. If unstaffed volunteer stations are located closer to an incident, volunteers will also be dispatched to the scene along with career crews.

District fire stations are strategically located throughout the jurisdiction to enable a quick response. In 2019, East Pierce responded out of 10 fire stations. Six of the



stations are staffed 24-hours a day, seven days a week by career firefighters. The others include three volunteer stations and a water rescue facility located on the north end of Lake Tapps.

A regional 911 dispatch center, South Sound 911, sends the appropriate fire and EMS units from the fire station closest to the emergency call.

The headquarters fire station – Station 111 – located in Bonney Lake, houses emergency response personnel in addition to the administrative offices for the district.

The Assistant Chief of Operations oversees the Operations Division. This division is split into three shifts, each headed by a Battalion Chief who works out of the headquarters station and manages the day-to-day operations of the shift. An administrative support specialist is also assigned to the division.

In addition to responding to fire, emergency medical and rescue incidents, the Operations Division maintains four special operations teams comprised of personnel with specialized training. The special operations teams include: Wildland, Water Rescue, Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue.





SELECTED EAST PIERCE FIREFIGHTERS ARE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE ON ONE OF THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAMS MAINTAINED BY THE FIRE DISTRICT. TEAM MEMBERS ATTEND ADDITIONAL TRAINING BEYOND THE FIRE SUPPRESSION, RESCUE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRAINING RECEIVED BY ALL CAREER AND VOLUNTEER PERSONNEL.

EAST PIERCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAMS:

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM: HazMat members have been extensively trained and equipped to respond to specific types of incidents. When you have a train track and a couple of highways running through your district, you must be prepared for anything. Commercial buildings - from storage warehouses to home improvement stores - pose a particular risk. They can contain everything from flammable liquid to toxic materials.

As part of their on-going training, the East Pierce HazMat Team drills once a month, practicing responses to fuel spills, gas leaks and radioactive materials spills. They also train to respond to biohazard emergencies and terrorist attacks.

Maintaining a large team with all the proper equipment is an expensive operation, so the East Pierce Team works with the Pierce County Hazardous Incident Team, a multi-jurisdictional response team that includes hazmat-trained firefighters from West Pierce, Graham, and Central Pierce. In addition to the monthly training, the HazMat Team drills with the regional team twice a year.



WATER RESCUE TEAM:

Members of the Water Rescue Team regularly practice skills and techniques they learn in various water rescue training classes. Team members gain hands-on experience diving at Lake Tapps and the Puget Sound. They also practice swiftwater rescue on local rivers.

The team provides surface, dive and swiftwater services when responding to emergencies on the many bodies of water in the area.

TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM: The East Pierce firefighters who belong to the Technical Rescue Team respond to extraordinary or highly dangerous rescue situations such as building collapses, confined-space entrapments, wilderness, and high-angle rescues.

Before team members can respond to a call, they must have completed several hundred hours of demanding training demonstrating proficiency in specialties such as trench rescue, confined space, rope rescue and complicated motor vehicle extrications.

The East Pierce team is a member of the Pierce County Technical Rescue Team. Together they form a regional response throughout Pierce County. East Pierce crews have become proficient responding to numerous emergencies in isolated locations.

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING TEAM:

This team trains monthly in preparation of every fire season, refreshing past skills and learning new techniques before they must use them at a real fire.



The team is comprised of career and volunteer firefighters who train to battle brush fires that occur with some frequency in our area.

The tactics, strategies, equipment and techniques for fighting wildfires is much different than fighting structure fires. The Wildland Team often must bring water to areas without fire hydrants, refill engines in remote locales and use chain saws and hand tools to clear brush surrounding a fire.

The team is also available to help neighboring districts. Occasionally, they are deployed to Federal or State wildfires, where the team gains valuable experience. In these cases, the Federal government or the State Department of Natural Resources pays for the cost of the firefighter's deployment.



TRAINING DIVISION

EAST PIERCE FIREFIGHTERS MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE SKILLS AND ABILITIES THROUGH ONGOING TRAINING OVERSEEN BY THE TRAINING DIVISION. ALL CAREER AND VOLUNTEER PERSONNEL MUST UNDERGO ANNUAL FIREFIGHTING AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRAINING.



Training and education are essential for maintaining and improving critical firefighting, rescue and medical skills. Training provides an opportunity to update members on new regulations and industry "Best Practices." It allows firefighters to become familiar with equipment and procedures and work efficiently and effectively on a wide variety of emergency scenes including house fires, vehicle collisions, medical emergencies, high-angle cliff rescues and hazardous materials incidents.

East Pierce firefighters receive training on a wide range of topics and skills from the most commonly used to the complex and unique. Crews practice rope rescue techniques, wild-land firefighting, and swift water, underwater and trench rescue skills. These complex skills require frequent training and practice for members to maintain proficiency.

The EPFR Training Division is responsible for assessing training needs, developing a training calendar and curriculum, coordinating the delivery of instruction for specialized training programs—including special teams and EMS training—and then maintaining training records and certifications. Training Division members provide direct delivery of many fire and rescue training-oriented programs.

The Training Division also conducts evaluations of probationary personnel, crew-based training drills and assists in all testing for new employees and promotional processes.

Career firefighters receive most of their training while on-duty, while evening and weekend training is geared toward the volunteer firefighter drills. Personnel also attend specialized classes outside the department at community colleges, workshops, and firefighting academies.

Managed by a Battalion Chief with oversight by an Assistant Chief, the Training Division also consists of a Lieutenant Training Specialist, a Firefighter Training Specialist, and an Administrative Support Specialist.



2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Helped plan and/or participated in the following events and exercises:

Onboarding of 16 new career firefighter recruits to include: a 2-week pre-academy, 13-week fire academy, and an 8-week post-academy.

2 Formal Badge Pinning Ceremonies.

Completion of a Drivers Rodeo for C shift.

Completion of a Boat Skills Rodeo for A and B shift.

Completion of Initial Training Program for UTV.

Began formal Ladder Company training program with 6 members attending FDTN Ladder Operations course.

Completed Blue Card Simulation Labs for 10 members to I/C #1 and 2 members to I/C #2 levels.

2019 TRAINING HOURS BY CATEGORY

6035

SUPPRESSION
OPERATIONS

7,091

EMS

2,330

HAZ MAT

2,354

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

1,207

TECHNICAL
RESCUE

735

RECRUIT
TRAINING

503

WILDLAND
FIREFIGHTING

494

WATER
RESCUE

20,749

TOTAL HOURS
OF TRAINING

141

AVERAGE
NUMBER OF TRAINING
HOURS PER FIREFIGHTER

12

AVERAGE
NUMBER OF TRAINING
HOURS PER FIREFIGHTER
PER MONTH





VOLUNTEER DIVISION

THE VOLUNTEER DIVISION COORDINATES THE ACTIVITIES OF EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE'S FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) VOLUNTEERS. VOLUNTEERS RESPOND TO A BROAD RANGE OF EMERGENCIES INCLUDING FIRES, MEDICAL EMERGENCIES, VEHICLE COLLISIONS, HAZMAT INCIDENTS, "GENERAL ALARMS" AND NATURAL DISASTERS.



On a typical day, volunteers either respond from home to volunteer fire stations, staff volunteer stations or work at career-staffed stations side by side with career firefighters during a Volunteer Experience Opportunity Program (VEOP) shifts. VEOPs allow volunteers to gain valuable experience and training.

During a significant fire that requires a large number of firefighters, or when there are an unusually high number of incidents, volunteers are called in to assist during what is known as a "general alarm". Depending on the type of emergency, a general alarm can range from 30 minutes to more than 24 hours.

Volunteers also serve our local community through public education. They participate in citizen CPR training, Open House events and other community outreach. The Washington State Board of Volun-

teer Firefighters and Reserve Officers sets minimum standards for all volunteers and manages a disability and pension system.

Traditionally, the Volunteer Program has been a gateway to a career in the fire service. Over the past several years, many of our volunteers have become career firefighters with East Pierce Fire & Rescue or other neighboring fire departments in Washington State.

In today's society, it is becoming more difficult to maintain a volunteer program. We are thankful for the volunteers that we have and appreciate their commitment and time they give to our community.

STATISTICS In 2019, volunteer staffed

420

VEOP
HOURS

377

VOLUNTEER
PERSONNEL
INCIDENT
RESPONSES

141

STATION
MAINTENANCE
DUTY

204

APPARATUS
INSPECTIONS

25

PUBLIC
EDUCATION
EVENTS

23

GENERAL
ALARM
RESPONSES



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WORKS CLOSELY WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES TO PREPARE AND MANAGE LARGE-SCALE EMERGENCIES.

The mission of the Emergency Management Division is to prevent, prepare, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards – natural or man-made. In the simplest terms, emergency management is the management of risk so that we can live with environmental and technical hazards and deal with the disasters they can cause. During a community-wide disaster, this team provides leadership, deploying highly trained emergency response forces.

Unlike a typical emergency response, emergency management is proactive. Effective emergency management relies on the integration of emergency plans at many levels. The Emergency Management

Division works closely with personnel from local law enforcement, various school districts and city, state and federal agencies. When disaster strikes, whether a severe winter storm or massive flooding, the Emergency Management Division has a plan.

During a disaster, members of a regional team activate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the public safety building in Bonney Lake. The EOC manages fire, EMS, rescue and hazmat resources within East Pierce Fire & Rescue's jurisdiction, while closely coordinating with Sumner, Bonney Lake, Lake Tapps, Milton, Edgewood, South Prairie, Tehaleh and Pierce County.



The EOC tracks resources, manages responders, and moves needed supplies to the affected areas. When area resources are depleted, our EOC can request resources from the EOCs operated by Pierce County and Washington State.

The Emergency Management Team is trained to provide a quicker, more comprehensive look at the cost and damage assessment during these disasters. In the event our jurisdiction needs to request a disaster declaration, our Emergency Management Team is ready to act, if needed. This will expedite and improve cost recovery for our citizens and response area.



2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Helped plan and/or participated in the following events and exercises:

Oversight Board for the Tri-County Complex Coordinated Terrorism Attack (CCTA) planning.

Local Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Teams (PC-NET).

The Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series (JCTAWS) follow up.

Pierce County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

Sumner Bonney Lake School District meetings and tabletop exercises.

Cities of Bonney Lake and Sumner emergency management planning.

Mt. Rainier evacuation planning, workgroup meetings and tabletop exercises.

Evacuation planning on both a regional and local level with the Tehaleh community.



THE LOGISTICS DIVISION SUPPORTS THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS THROUGH THE ACQUISITION AND MAINTENANCE OF FIRE AND EMS VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES, AND THE PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS NECESSARY FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO FUNCTION.



The Logistics Division of East Pierce Fire & Rescue coordinates the complex operation of supporting 11 facilities, 80 emergency response and support vehicles, and 173 employees in the most cost-effective and efficient manner. The Logis-

tics Division deals with the procurement, storage, distribution, maintenance and replacement of the district's materials and equipment, and maintains the fire stations inside and out.

Logistics personnel order supplies needed for the fire district, such as firefighter uniforms, protective clothing and the tools firefighters use to fight fires and perform rescues. They have been certified to repair the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and taught to program radios. Logistics personnel repair some items in-house, like vehicle exhaust systems, to reduce costs of hiring the work out. The Logistics Division also coordinates the purchase and maintenance of major items such as apparatus, HVAC, and roof repairs and services.

The Logistics Division includes the Information Technology group, which is comprised of an Information Systems Manager and a Technician. They make sure all computers, printers and copiers are in working order across the district – plus they keep the network and phone systems running.

Information Technology staff are responsible for the electronic tablets the firefighters use for patient care reporting and documentation during EMS calls. Vital health information can be transmitted wirelessly from the tablet to the hospital saving precious time, especially for patients experiencing a cardiac event, stroke or trauma. Mobile Data Terminals, used in both the fire and EMS vehicles, provide maps and updates as the firefighters respond to 911 calls.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Logistics Accomplishments:

Replaced the pavement in front of Station 116.

Replaced several staff cars due to excessive miles and wear.

Completed respirator fit tests for emergency response personnel, per the state requirements. Each member was tested for both the respirator that is used on EMS calls and the Scott-SCBA masks used during fires.

Refurbished a Medic Unit due to high miles and increased maintenance costs. Instead of purchasing a new Medic Unit, the patient care

portion of the unit was removed, updated and placed on a new chassis.

Information Technology Accomplishments:

Implemented Microsoft SharePoint and OneDrive for district personnel allowing easy access to computer files across the district.

Replaced computers in all station shift offices to accommodate firefighter report writing, complete online training, and facilitate emails.

Deployed new tablet computers for the Fire Marshals to accommodate inspections and fire investigations in the field.

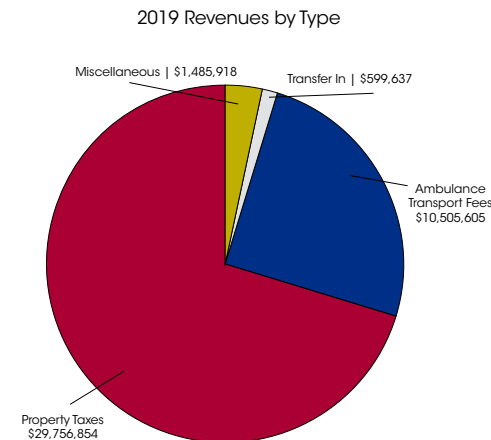


THE FINANCE DIVISION PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNTING, BUDGETING, PAYROLL ADMINISTRATION, DEBT MANAGEMENT, INVESTMENT, FINANCIAL REPORTING AND INTERNAL CONTROL SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue continues to be the only major fire district in Pierce County operating within the limits of the two primary levy sources for funding. Operating with only the Regular Fire Levy (\$1.50/\$1,000 A.V.) and the EMS Levy (\$0.50/\$1,000 A.V.) limits us to a maximum combined tax collection rate of \$2.00 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Most career fire districts operate with an additional Maintenance & Operations levy or a Benefit Charge, which brings their total rates well above what East Pierce collects (one agency is over \$3.00).

While this limits how fast we can address our staffing shortages, working within the \$2.00 for as long as we can ensures strong fiscal responsibility and controls costs for the public.

In addition to the rates illustrated in the chart below, 2019 was the first year of repaying a 20-year Unlimited Tax General Obligation Bond. In 2018, voters approved an \$80 million-dollar bond to build five fire stations and upgrade emergency vehicles. The District sold \$40,000,000 of those bonds on December 28, 2018. As such the repayment began in 2019 for those bonds at a collection rate of 12.6 cents per 1,000 of assessed value. The District anticipates selling the remaining bonds (second half) at the end of 2021.



Both Expenditures and Revenues were impacted by unbudgeted Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) payments. This raised the revenues as funds were received and raised the expenditures as those same funds were transferred to the Reserve Fund for future equipment replacement.

After adjusting revenues and expenditures to account for the GEMT funds (Federal reimbursement for the transport of Medic-

aid patients), and for paying off the LTGO Bond that purchased property for a new fire station in Bonney Lake in 2012, the expenditures total \$34,025,145 or 88% of the 2019 General Fund/Expense Budget. Property taxes continue to reflect recent trends as to the amount collected annually, collecting at a combined 99.3% for 2019.

Overall, Revenues are reported 17.4% above what was budgeted. This is due in large part to the GEMT one-time back payments paid in 2019. These types of payments are completed with only small back payments occurring in the future for annual reconciliation. When removing the GEMT unbudgeted revenues from the equation, total revenues were only 2.5% above what was budgeted.

With those GEMT back payments, ambulance transport fees experienced a dramatic jump in 2019. These one-time back payments doubled anticipated revenues and were deposited to an EMS Equipment fund which will provide for replacement of EMS equipment and vehicles for several years.

The total GEMT payments in 2020 and beyond will be greatly reduced as they will only be for the current year.

EARLY PAYOFF OF 2012 LTGO BOND

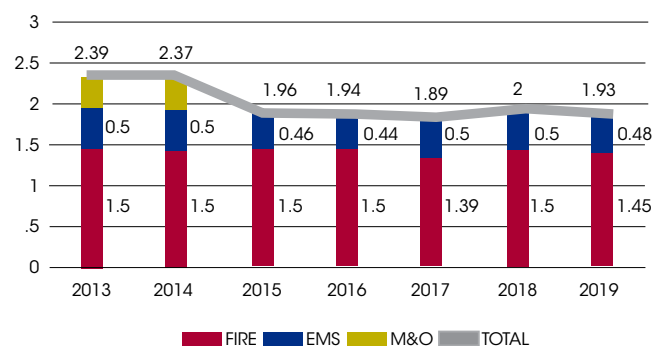
In 2012 the district financed the purchase of land to construct a new headquarters fire station in Bonney Lake. This land will be used to construct the new station financed by the 2018 Bond.

With effective use of savings and carry over funds, the district was able to pay off the Limited Tax General Obligation (LTGO) Bond 12 years ahead of schedule. This saves the public additional interest that would have been paid on the \$2,485,000 bond.

As repaying an LTGO bond comes directly from annual operating funds, it also eliminated an annual payment of over \$210,000 each year. This frees up those funds for other priorities such as staffing.

HISTORICAL OPERATING FUND COLLECTION RATES

(rate per \$1,000 of assessed value)



2019 Operating Budget	Budgeted	Actual	Percent of Budget	Percent Over/Under
Expenditures	\$38,690,428	\$41,605,719	107.5%	7.5% Over
Revenues	\$36,083,417	\$42,348,014	117.4%	17.4% Over



“Where Compassion and Action Meet”

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