

2021

ANNUAL REPORT





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MISSION, VISION & VALUE STATEMENTS

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, 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"



MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



2021 marked the second year of the worldwide pandemic and the continued challenges presented by COVID-19. These challenges impact East Pierce Fire & Rescue (EPFR) and the entire community. Once again, East Pierce has navigated these challenges and continued to meet the motto of *Where Compassion and Action Meet*. This annual report captures a small part of the accomplishments of the district and all of its incredible employees.

Administratively, 2021 remained as busy or busier than in years past. In February, the district kicked off a strategic planning process to lay out the future direction of EPFR. Twenty employees from throughout the organization served on the planning team, which worked on the project for six months. Once completed, the Board of Fire Commissioners unanimously adopted the Strategic Plan to guide the district over the next five years.

Throughout the year, we made progress on bond projects. EPFR took delivery of six new fire engines and one new ladder truck (known

as a tractor-drawn aerial or TDA). Our fleet had become mechanically unreliable, so these new units are extremely valuable in their reliability in delivering emergency service. These new units can now be seen on the streets every day, serving our community.

The other bond projects include the building of five fire stations. The first station broke ground toward the end of the summer in 2021 in the City of Edgewood (Station 118). Work on the new Station 118 is well underway, with anticipated completion in the fall of 2022.

Later in 2022, we expect to begin construction on three more stations (Bonney Lake/Station 111, Tehaleh/Station 117, and Lake Tapps/Station 114), with anticipated completion in 2023. It is exciting to see the progress of these much-needed facilities begin to take shape!

In June, Fire Chief Bud Backer retired from EPFR after an admirable 34-year career. Chief Backer was responsible for several critical projects as the Fire Chief of EPFR. Some of the most important accomplishments the district saw under his leadership were substantial improvements in fire station operational staffing and securing an 80 million dollar bond to purchase new equipment and build five fire stations. He leaves behind an organization in great shape and firing on all cylinders. Thank you, Chief Backer, for your service!

Emergency call volume returned to normal in 2021. In 2020, we saw a dip in 9-1-1 usage in the early stages of COVID-19 which resulted

in a year-over-year decrease that year. With 2021 returning to normal and our population increasing, crews responded to 12,491 calls for service, a 12.1% increase over the prior year. Our emergency units are busy protecting the citizens of East Pierce Fire & Rescue every day.

Thankfully our local wildfire season was not as significant as in 2020 when the Sumner Grade Fire occurred. We still saw substantial wildfire activity in the district, including two large fires (10 acres +) near the Tehaleh community. Thankfully no injuries occurred and no homes were destroyed, but the threat of these types of fires continues to remind us that we are not immune from large-scale fire events as seen up and down the West Coast.

In August, voters re-approved the EMS tax levy for the district. This levy funds ALS paramedic level care and medical transport to area hospitals with no out-of-pocket cost for EPFR residents. Unfortunately, the fire levy lid lift did not pass in 2021. Administration and the Board of Fire Commissioners will spend 2022 developing a long-range funding plan to address this levy failure and ensure no interruptions in emergency service delivery.

The last item of note is that the Board of Fire Commissioners approved the 2022 Operating Budget in November. The adopted budget is a 1.17% increase over 2021, resulting in an increase of \$15 per year to the average homeowner in the district.

Thank you for your trust and approved funding to provide for your safety. We would not be able to meet your needs without your support.

-Fire Chief Jon Parkinson

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS



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 occur on the third Tuesday of every month. With the continuance of the pandemic into 2021, the board moved to virtual meetings, allowing the board to continue conducting business and serving the public. Virtual meetings were open to the public via links posted on our website.

Visit our website at www.eastpiercefirerescue.org for meeting minutes and agendas.

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

JON NAPIER

Chair / Position 2

ED EGAN

Vice Chair / Position 4

MIKE CATHEY

Position 3

KEVIN GARLING

Position 1

RANDY KROUM

Position 6

PAT McELIGOTT

Position 5

CYNTHIA WERNET

Position 7

2022 Commissioners Meeting Schedule

January 18

February 15

March 15

April 19

May 17

June 21

July 19

August 16

September 20

October 18

November 15

December 20



COMMAND STAFF



Jon Parkinson
Fire Chief



Bill Mack
Deputy Chief



Kevin Stabenfeldt
Assistant Chief
*Operations/Training/
Volunteers*



Jeff Moore
Assistant Chief
Logistics



Chuck King
Assistant Chief/
Fire Marshal
*Prevention/Pub Ed/
Emergency Mgmt.*



Russ McCallion
Assistant Chief
EMS



Brad Dyson
Battalion Chief
*Medical Services
Officer*



Matt Gilbert
Battalion Chief
Training Officer



Justin Doyle
Battalion Chief
A Shift



Mike McGinnis
Battalion Chief
B Shift



Rick Goetz
Battalion Chief
C Shift



FIRE STATIONS & STAFFING | ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

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 = 3
On-Duty Firefighters: 3

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 = 3
On-Duty Firefighters: 3

Station 115 | Lake Tapps - East
1605 210th Ave. E.
Occupied by Training Division

Station 116 | Foothills
10515 234th Ave. E.
Fire Engine = 3 | Medic Unit = 2
On-Duty Firefighters: 5

Station 118 | Edgewood
10105 24th St. E.
Fire Engine = 3 | Medic Unit = 2
On-Duty Firefighters: 5

Station 119 | South Prairie
350 State Route 162
Volunteer Firefighter Staffed

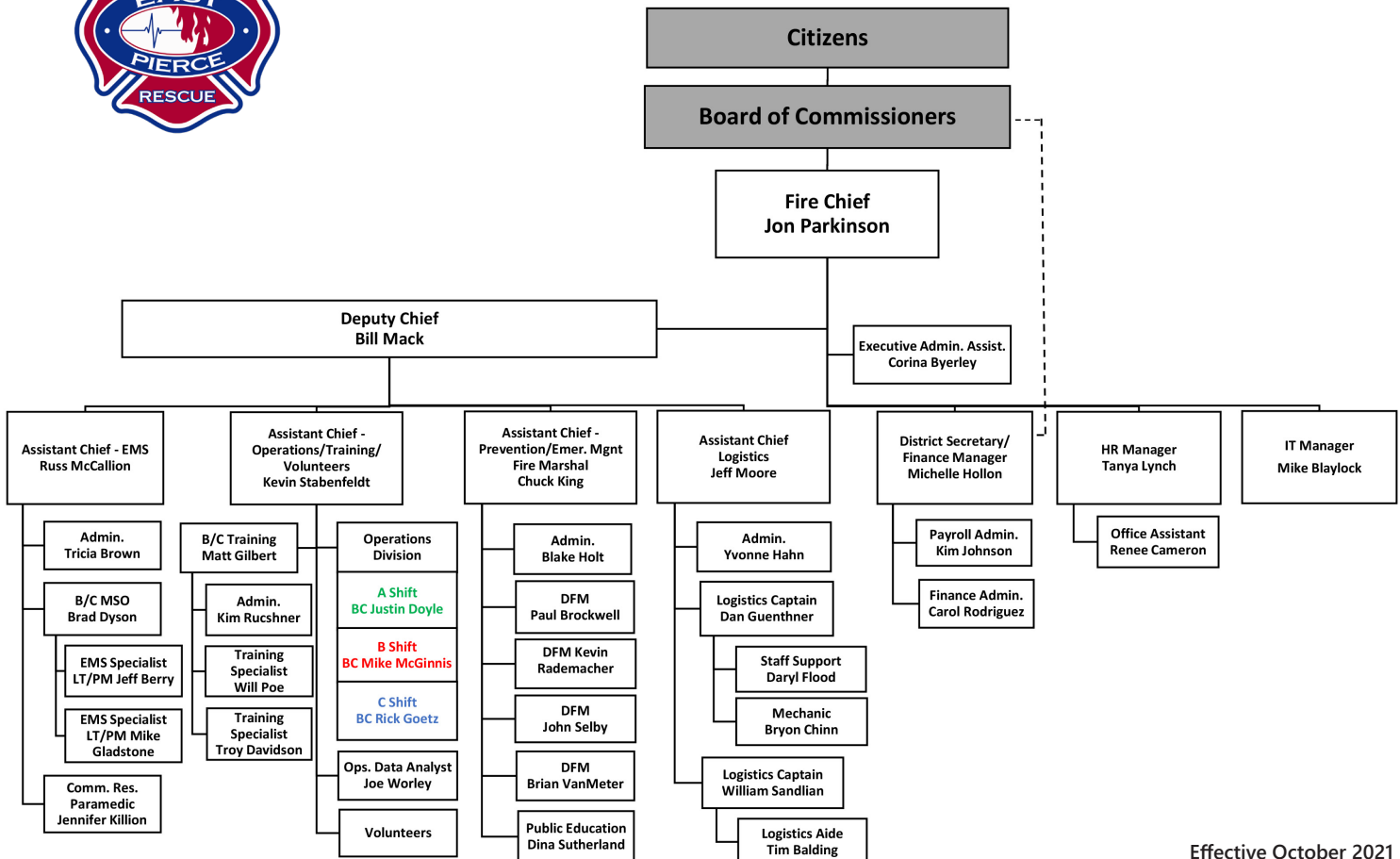
Station 121 | Buckley
27723 Sumner-Buckley Hwy.
Logistics Station

Station 122 | Lake Tapps
2905 Sumner/Tapps Hwy. East
Marine Service Unit

Station 124 | Milton
1000 Laurel St.
Temporary quarters for Engine 118 during
contruction of new Station 118.



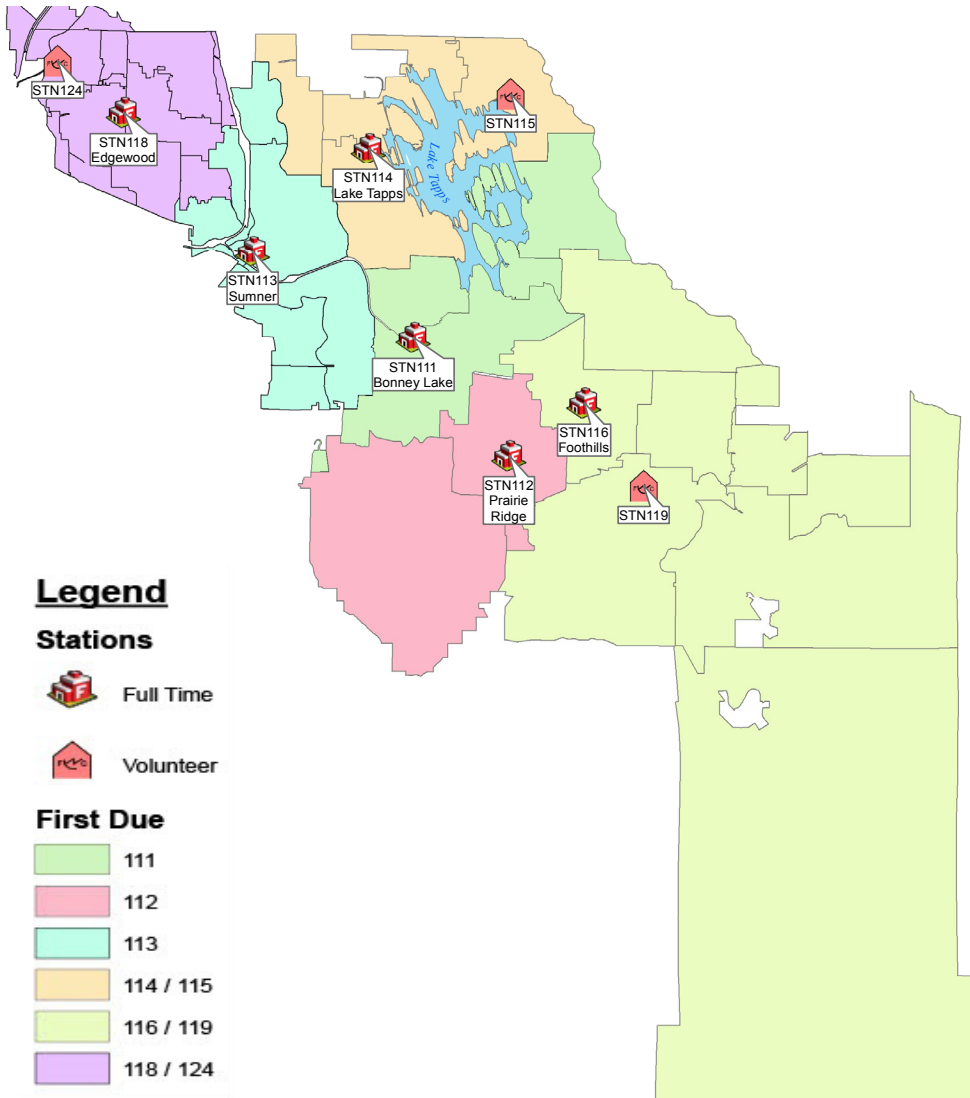
East Pierce Organizational Chart - 2021



Effective October 2021



EPFR SERVICE AREA



91

CAREER FIREFIGHTER-EMTs

59

CAREER FIREFIGHTER-PARAMEDICS

7

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

153

square miles

100,508

total population

CALLS BY TYPE FOR 2021

Emergency Medical Calls	8,811
Good Intent	1,334
Public Assist	1,171
False	613
Fire	318
HazMat	223
Other	21

TOTAL 12,491

TOTAL 9-1-1 CALLS BY STATION

Station 113 Sumner	2,850
Station 111 Bonney Lake	2,441
Station 112 Prairie Ridge	1,771
Station 118 Edgewood	1,473
Station 124 Milton	1,237
Station 116 Foothills	1,096
Station 114 Lake Tapps	878
Station 119 South Prairie	304
Station 115 Lake Tapps - East	282
* Mutual Aid	159

* Mutual Aid provided to neighboring fire departments

TREND: RESPONSE TIMES

Year	Dispatch to Arrival (in minutes)
2015	6:43
2016	8:42
2017	7:35
2018	7:44
2019	7:34
2020	8:08
2021	7:38

Response times for the fire service are essential for two reasons: saving lives and reducing the damage to someone's property. Emergency response to the scene can vary depending upon how far the emergency is from the fire station.

Response time starts when crews are alerted by dispatch of an emergency to the time crews arrive at the incident scene.



HISTORY | PERSONNEL RECOGNITION



East Pierce Fire & Rescue was founded on a strong commitment to customer service. The department's Mission, Vision, and Values guide the district's actions 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 to provide a seamless emergency response. 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 approximately 100,508 residents living in and around Bonney Lake, Sumner, Lake Tapps, the Ridge Communities, South Prairie, Tehaleh, Edgewood, and

Milton. The district covers approximately 153 square miles and protects residents from eight stations—six career-staffed, one volunteer-staffed, 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 medical emergencies and fires.

An independently-elected board of fire commissioners governs the agency.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

The East Pierce Fire & Rescue Board of Fire Commissioners and Command Staff honor the 2021 awards recipients during an Awards and Recognition Ceremony. All personnel are invited to attend.

Recipients are voted on by their peers through a nomination and ballot process. The only award not chosen this way is the Chiefs Company, in which the Command Staff selects the recipients based on demonstrated leadership skills.

2021 AWARD RECIPIENTS

CHIEF'S COMPANY

Lieutenant Tim Jewitt
Firefighter Corey Snope
Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Russell
Volunteer Captain Noel Fitzgerald

CAREER OFFICER

Lieutenant Troy Davidson

CAREER FIREFIGHTER

Firefighter Jared Snope

VOLUNTEER RESPONDER

Firefighter DeAnn O'Leary

EMS PROVIDER

Firefighter/Paramedic Patience Taylor

FITNESS

Firefighter Andrew Craig

MIKE ROBERTS GOODWILL

Lieutenant Jeff Berry &
Firefighter James Parke

KEN THAWSH INSPIRATIONAL

Firefighter DeAnn O'Leary

SUPPORT STAFF

Bryon Chinn

2021 RETIREMENTS

Battalion Chief
JAY ADAMS
35 Years of Service

Lieutenant
DOUG BABCOCK
32 Years of Service

Fire Chief
BUD BACKER
33 Years of Service

Firefighter
JAMES CLARK
29 Years of Service

I.T. Technician
ROB HANSON
11 Years of Service

Firefighter
BOB HOTH
32 Years of Service

Admin Support Specialist
CARLA VIGNA
13 Years of Service

Thank you for your many years of dedicated service!

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION



THE EMS DIVISION PROVIDES CLINICAL DIRECTION, MEDICAL OVERSIGHT, AND SUPPORT FOR 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.

East Pierce firefighter-EMTs and paramedics responded to 8,811 medical emergencies in 2021, an average of 24.1 medical 9-1-1 calls per day. Emergency medical services (EMS) call volume steadily increases and makes up almost 71% of the fire department's 9-1-1 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 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 (4) medic units (paramedic ambulances), staffed 24 hours per day, which respond to EMS scenes and transport patients to area hospitals and specialized trauma, burn, cardiac, and stroke centers. Two reserve medic units can also be deployed if there is a spike in emergency medical 9-1-1 calls.

At a minimum, all EPFR firefighters are cross-trained Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), and 59 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 the use of automated defibrillators. EMT-certified members can also administer a limited

number of drugs, such as epinephrine, for patients suffering from anaphylactic shock. Firefighter-EMTs work 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 to stabilize critically ill or injured patients. Paramedics are certified to administer intravenous fluids, give more than 40 medications, insert breathing tubes, interpret 12-Lead ECGs, and provide electrical pacing, cardioversion, and defibrillation.

In 2021, East Pierce Medic units transported 6,014 patients to area hospitals, an average of 16.5 patients per day, a 3.3% increase over 2020. Overall, there has been a cumulative five-year increase of 8.2% in EMS transports.

EPFR's EMS call volume is predicted to continue increasing steadily in coming years, for reasons including:

- An increasingly older population will increase EMS call volume. Patients over age 65 typically call 9-1-1 at a rate 2 to 3 times higher than younger people.
- Increasing shortages of primary care physicians result in people calling 9-1-1 and going to the emergency department when they can't see their doctor.
- The opening of new assisted living centers, adult family homes, senior apartments, and dementia care centers. Residents in these facilities typically generate between 2 and 3 EMS transports per person

per year, a 9-1-1 call volume rate some thirty times higher than citizens living independently. In total, these care centers generate 10% to 15% of our medical calls per year.

Almost 68% of patients seen by EPFR crews receive transport 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 sign a medical "release of responsibility" or "refusal against medical advice" forms. These patients typically present with minor injuries or illnesses treated at the scene. These patients may not require additional care, or they may decide to have family or friends take them to a hospital, clinic, or doctor's office.

Since 2004, East Pierce Fire & Rescue has provided emergency ambulance service to district residents to provide improved clinical care at no "out-of-pocket" cost to fire district residents. On the patient's behalf, the district does bill private health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, and other insurance providers. Last year, East Pierce received nearly \$6.6 million in total ambulance transport revenues used to support the department's EMS program.

Insurance co-pays are "written off" for district residents 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, 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 the ambulance transport charge if the EMS levy didn't cover them.

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, 83 district residents received transport by mutual aid ambulances or 1.4% of our total EMS patient transports.



8,811
Total EMS Calls

6,014
Patient Transports

91
Firefighter-EMTs

59
Firefighter-Paramedics

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Management of COVID-19 Pandemic

During 2021, EMS Division staff were focused on supporting the department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Division staff updated EMS response guidelines and provided updates and crew training designed to keep responders and patients safe during 9-1-1 incidents. EMS Division staff participated in multiple Pierce County mass vaccination events and coordinated vaccination programs for East Pierce members and their families.

EMS Lieutenant Jeff Berry deserves special mention as the EPFR COVID-19 Program Manager. Lt. Berry coordinated EPFR's infection control program, establishing quarantine and isolation programs that met CDC and Tacoma Pierce County Health Department standards. Members worked closely with Lt. Berry in monitoring their health and quarantining or isolating as necessary. EPFR quickly obtained accurate, rapid COVID-19 tests and set up a reliable, comprehensive testing program to help identify members who might have acquired COVID-19 from exposure at home or in the community.

Lt. Berry has worked diligently to ensure that EPFR members have necessary personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning supplies, and testing kits available. All the PPE materials, including gloves, gowns, N95 masks, and goggles, along with testing kits and COVID-19 staffing costs, are reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

With focused actions taken to mitigate COVID-19 impacts, our firefighter/EMTs and paramedics have continued to safely provide advanced life support-level medical care and transport for the public.

2. Selection of a New Paramedic ECG Monitor/Defibrillator

In early 2021, the EMS Division conducted a comprehensive evaluation process to select new "paramedic-level" ECG monitor/defibrillators to equip our Medic units and fire engines. The existing units had been in-service with EPFR for 12 to 15 years, outlasting their expected 8 to 10-year lifespan. The manufacturer, per FDA rules, could no longer repair the existing units.

Three participating manufacturers had their units evaluated by an 11-member committee of East Pierce firefighter/EMTs and paramedics. The providers overwhelmingly chose a new ECG monitor/defibrillator from Philips, the Tempus Pro, which offered significant improvements in data management, capabilities, and technology. The paramedic-level ECG monitor defibrillators, which can cost as much as a new car, serve as the cornerstone piece of bio-medical technology used by paramedics. These units, which should last a minimum of 8 to 10 years, are used to defibrillate, pace, and cardiovert patients. The ECG monitor/defibrillator can also be used to acquire diagnostic-quality 12 lead ECGs, measure oxygen levels in the bloodstream (pulse oximetry), carbon monoxide levels, and obtain automated blood pressures. All this data can be sent electronically to the receiving hospital emergency department and then transferred into the electronic patient care report.

The new Tempus Pro units should be deployed in March 2022 upon the completion of in-service training of all members.

3. Implementation of new "best practice" response model for patients suffering a mental health or behavioral health crisis.

EMS Division staff participated in creating a "best practice" management model for joint response by law enforcement, fire/EMS crews, and behavioral health professionals to patients suffering from a mental or behavioral health crisis.

EPFR Community Resource Paramedic Jen Killion helped organize meetings between nine different agencies to identify how they could respond more effectively and safely to care for patients in crisis. The best practice algorithm was adopted and distributed amongst the participating agencies that agreed to continue meeting quarterly to review incidents and identify potential issues that may need to be addressed.

East Pierce is following up with an eight-hour "de-escalation and managing combative patients" course for all members in the first quarter of 2022.

4. Continued EMS training for existing crews and new probationary members.

While COVID-19 presented unique challenges, EMS Division staff continued to provide required EMS training for department members. Existing members are required to attend two EMS classes per quarter.

During the pandemic, a larger proportion of training needed to be delivered remotely, utilizing computer-based training programs or in very small groups, which uses extra instructor resources. In addition to providing training for existing members, EMS Division staff assisted the Training Division in providing almost ten weeks of EMS training for two groups of new probationary members.

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION | PUBLIC EDUCATION



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...EVERY DAY.

In 2021, the Fire Prevention Division took a new direction since plan reviews and construction inspections moved back to city employees by year's end. The new approach provides a proactive fire prevention and life safety inspection program for the businesses within the cities of East Pierce Fire & Rescue. The new process gained authorization by the Board of Commissioners and approval by the cities through interlocal agreements.

This program intends to provide low-impact and educational inspections to help protect commercial properties by reducing risks and increasing the safety of citizens, workers, and first responders. Most issues found during an inspection are easy to correct. The goal is to work with business owners and employees to create cooperation and a willingness to develop and maintain a fire-safe environment.

The scope of these inspections is to identify, assess, and mitigate potential life safety and fire hazards (electrical cords, combustible storage, blocked exits, hazardous conditions, lack of fire protection system confidence tests, etc.). The Deputy Fire Marshal documents noted code requirement violations and explains them to the business's representative. A re-inspection to ensure compliance may be necessary. Levels of non-compliance

or violations may be handled differently depending on the severity (self-clear, reinspect, or enforce). Non-compliance with significant requirements will be subject to notification of the applicable city enforcement division.

In 2021, the fire marshals reviewed 388 construction plans, performed 736 inspections, and completed 22 fire investigations within the city limits. Commercial development outperformed single-family residents overall.

The fire district is responsible for determining the cause of fires within the city limits of the jurisdiction. Many of the routine investigations were conducted by our operations responders, while more complex investigations were completed by East Pierce fire investigators and Pierce County fire marshals.

The Fire Prevention Division's five fire investigators share response duty twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. In 2021, firefighters responded to 318 fire incidents, ranging from small rubbish to commercial building fires. East Pierce fire investigators conducted investigations of 22 fires located in the city limits. The Pierce County fire marshals investigated an additional two fires within the unincorporated areas of the district.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue is committed

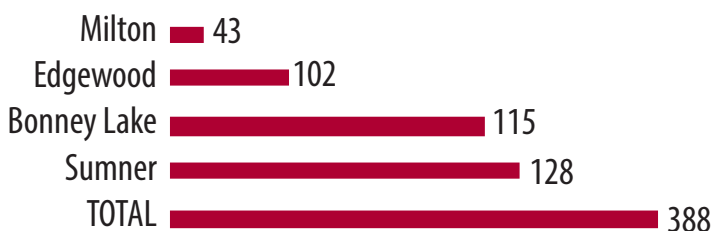
to improving public safety through education and services, like this new fire prevention and life safety inspection program, to reduce the potential for injury and property loss due to fire.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

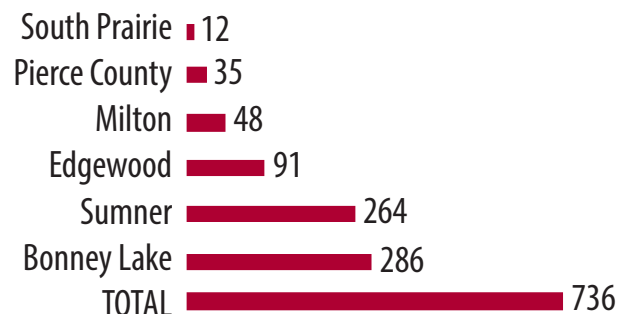
The driving force behind EPFR's public education programs is to reduce the risk of injuries and deaths from fires, drowning, medical emergencies, such as cardiac arrest, and other preventable causes. These programs teach children and adults how to recognize and avoid unintentional injuries through in-person learning, demonstrations, and activities.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact EPFR's public education program delivery during 2021. All in-person learning remained on hold, including Safe Sitter classes, fire extinguisher training, fire station tours, off-site visits, CPR and First Aid classes, and school-based delivery methods like Hands-Only CPR training in high schools and characterization assemblies in elementary schools. We look forward to resuming these programs and engaging with our community again as COVID-19 restrictions begin to scale back.

PLAN REVIEWS BY CITY



INSPECTIONS BY CITY/AREA





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 2021, East Pierce career and volunteer firefighter-EMTs and firefighter-paramedics assigned to the Operations Division responded to 12,491 calls for emergency services. 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 comprised of both career and volunteer firefighters to handle a wide variety of emergencies. Career firefighters and paramed-

ics respond to calls throughout the 153 square-mile district. If volunteer stations are closer to an incident, both volunteer and career personnel respond to the incident.

District fire stations are strategically located throughout the jurisdiction to respond quickly. In 2021, East Pierce personnel responded from ten fire stations, with six stations staffed 24-hours a day, seven days a week by career firefighters. The remaining four stations include three volunteer-staffed stations and a water rescue facility located on the north end of Lake Tapps.

A regional 9-1-1 dispatch center, South Sound 9-1-1, sends the appropriate fire and EMS units from the fire station closest to the emergency location.

The headquarters fire station – Station 111 – located in Bonney Lake, houses emergency response personnel

and the administrative offices for the district.

The Assistant Chief of Operations oversees the Operations Division. This division includes three shifts supervised by a Battalion Chief who works out of the headquarters station and manages the day-to-day operations of the entire shift. An Operations Data Analyst also supports 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.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAMS



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.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM:

HazMat members are extensively trained and equipped to respond to various incidents involving hazardous materials. Being prepared for anything is essential when you have two rail lines, an interstate, a large industrial complex, two pipelines, and a couple of highways running through your district.

Maintaining a large team with all the proper equipment is an expensive operation, so EPFRs HazMat Team is a member of the Pierce County Hazardous Incident Team. This multi-jurisdictional response team includes hazmat-trained firefighters from West Pierce Fire & Rescue, Graham Fire & Rescue, and Central Pierce Fire & Rescue. In addition to monthly training at East Pierce, the HazMat Team drills quarterly with the county team and neighboring hazmat jurisdictions 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 swift water rescue on local rivers.

The team provides surface, dive, and swift water 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 dangerous rescue situations such as building collapse, confined-space entrapments, trench, machine, and vehicle rescues, and high-angle rope incidents. They also support injured wildland firefighters by participating as REM (Rapid Extrication Module) team members.

Before team members can respond to a call, they must have completed over 250 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 in responding to numerous emergencies in isolated locations.

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING TEAM:

This team trains monthly in preparation for every fire season, refreshing past skills and learning new techniques before using them at a real fire. The team consists 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 differ from fighting structure fires. The Wildland Team must often fight fire in remote locales without fire hydrants. Crews commonly use chainsaws, portable water pumps, and hand tools to extinguish fires. Additionally, bulldozers and helicopters are often used to contain and control wildfires.

The team is also available to help neighboring districts. Occasionally, they are deployed to Federal or State wildfires, where they gain 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 various topics and skills from the most commonly used to the complex and unique. Crews practice rope rescue techniques, wild-land firefighting, 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 and 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 at community colleges, workshops, and firefighting academies.

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

2021 TRAINING HOURS BY CATEGORY

8,545

SUPPRESSION/
OPERATIONS

4,717

EMERGENCY
MEDICAL
SERVICES

1,838

HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS

1,275

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

2,371

TECHNICAL
RESCUE

1,994

RECRUIT
TRAINING

1,058

WILDLAND
FIREFIGHTING

1,055

WATER
RESCUE

22,853

TOTAL HOURS
OF TRAINING

14

AVERAGE
NUMBER OF TRAINING
HOURS PER FIREFIGHTER
PER MONTH

166

AVERAGE
NUMBER OF TRAINING
HOURS PER FIREFIGHTER

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Recruit Training

- Onboarding 12 new career firefighter recruits to include a 2-week pre-academy, 13-week fire academy, and an 8-week post-academy.
- Eight firefighters completed their probationary period from a previous recruit class.
- Completed transition to the Washington Fire Chiefs Emergency Vehicle Incident Prevention Program (EVIP).
- Facilitated eight days of "live fire" training for firefighters.
- Trained 22 new drivers on the new ladder truck/TDA (tractor-drawn aerial).

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.

During a significant fire that requires many firefighters, or when there are an unusually high number of incidents, volunteer firefighters 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 Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers sets minimum standards for all volunteers and manage 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 EPFR or other neighboring fire departments in Washington State.

It is becoming more challenging to maintain a volunteer program in today's society. We are thankful for the volunteers we have and appreciate their commitment and time to our community.

Volunteer response, training, and participation were limited in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

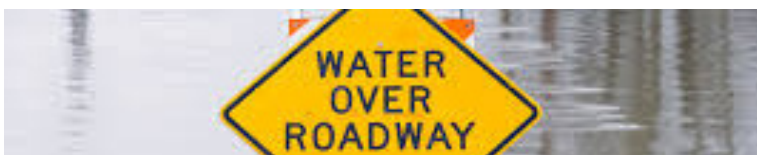


EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WORKS CLOSELY WITH CITY, COUNTY, STATE, AND FEDERAL AGENCIES, INCLUDING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS, 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 to live with environmental and technical hazards and deal with the disasters they can cause. This team provides leadership during a community-wide disaster, 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, Emergency Management has a plan - whether a severe winter storm or massive flooding.



2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

- Pierce County Emergency Operations Center (PC-EOC)
- East Pierce County Lahar Rapid Action Procedure Committee
- South Prairie Creek Flood Control Process
- Tehaleh Firewise
- Local Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Teams (PC-NET)
- Pierce County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)



LOGISTICS DIVISION

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 175 employees cost-effectively and efficiently. The Logistics 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 all supplies and equipment for the district, including uniforms, protective clothing, and firefighting and rescue tools. They have been certified to repair the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and taught to program radios. Logistics personnel repairs some items in-house to reduce outsourcing costs, like vehicle exhaust systems. The Logistics Division also coordinates the purchase and maintenance of major items such as apparatus, HVAC, and roof repairs.

The Logistics Division includes the Information Technology group, consisting of an Information Systems Manager and a Technician. They ensure 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 also responsible for the firefighters' electronic tablets 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 fire and EMS vehicles, provide maps and updates as the firefighters respond to 9-1-1 calls.



2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Logistics Accomplishments:

- Completed fire station security fencing projects at multiple stations throughout the district.
- Purchased and replaced a 14-passenger shuttle bus due to high miles and increased maintenance costs. This apparatus moves personnel and equipment to and from training events and supports emergency incident rehab efforts and other events such as the annual open house.
- Purchased and upfitted six new engines and Ladder Truck (TDA) to replace aging apparatus to improve safety, unit reliability, and maintenance costs. The 2018 Bond Issue funded these purchases.
- Completed facility upfitting and firefighter safety improvements in response to the COVID-19 epidemic.
- Completed respirator fit tests for emergency response personnel per State requirements. Each member tested the two respirators used during EMS and fire incidents.
- Completed annual fire hose, ladder, and nozzle flow testing per State requirements resulting in the replacement of all failed equipment on all emergency response apparatus.

Information Technology Accomplishments:

- Migrated department reporting program to a new system.
- Installed new equipment at fire stations to provide network redundancy.
- Deployed new tablet computers to administrative staff.
- Deployed new desktop computers to administration staff.
- Deployed new tablet computers to fire engines and medic units.



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 fiscal responsibility and controls costs for the public.

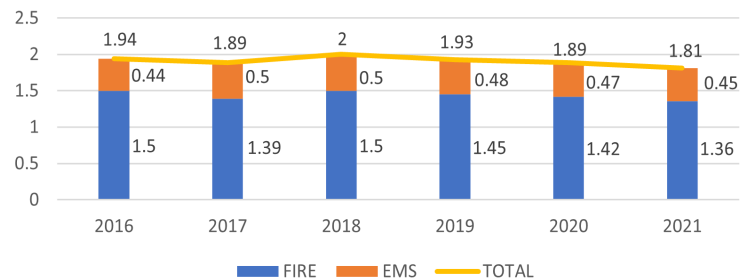
In 2021 the COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a financial impact on the district, increasing expenditures by \$69,401.17. The district submitted for reimbursement for related COVID-19 expenses through federally funded grants.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue's annual audit for 2021 was deferred to 2022 due to low staffing at the Washington State Auditor's Office. Due to the district's excellent audit history, a 2-year audit will be conducted in 2022.

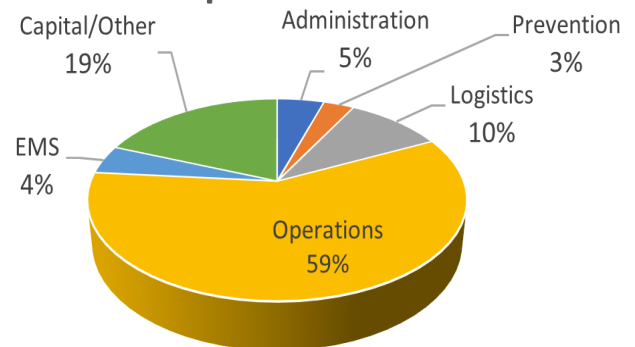
During 2021, revenues collected revenues totaled \$42,884,910.55, and expenditures totaled \$41,798,537.41. Payments received in 2021 for the Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) program were in the amount of \$3,890,596.17 (Federal reimbursement for the transport of Medicaid patients). Ambulance fees collected in 2021 were in the amount of \$2,775,238.72. The 2021 collection for the district's Unlimited Tax General Obligation (UTGO) Bond was \$2,008,000 based on \$0.106 per 1,000 of assessed value.

HISTORICAL OPERATING FUND
COLLECTION RATES

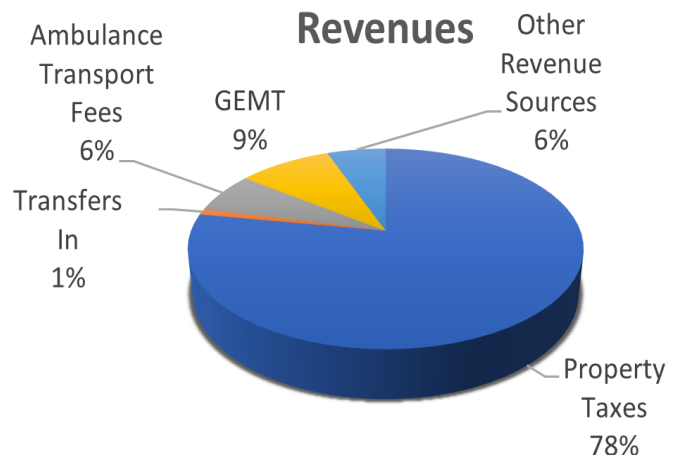
(rate per \$1,000 of assessed value)



Expenditures



Revenues



2021 Operating Budget	Budgeted	Actual
Expenditures	\$45,004,828	\$41,798,537
Revenues	\$41,222,712	\$42,884,970



"Where Compassion and Action Meet"

HEADQUARTERS STATION

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