



METRO FIRE

Inside Look Into
**Special
Operations**

**COMMUNITY
ANNUAL
REPORT**

2023/24

For the Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2024



**Sacramento Metropolitan
Fire District**

*PROUDLY SERVING THE CALIFORNIA COUNTIES OF
SACRAMENTO AND PLACER*

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The Community Annual Report (CAR) provides summarized financial information in an easily understood format. The CAR is derived from the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), which is a detailed report showing Metro Fire's financial condition. While the CAR is presented in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, it contains only selected financial data rather than financial statements and does not include required note disclosures. It is not intended to be a substitute for the ACFR. To view the ACFR, visit:

<http://metrofire.ca.gov/annual-comprehensive-financial-reports>

CORE VALUES

- Integrity •
- Professionalism •
- Teamwork •
- Devotion to Duty •



Did you know?

Metro Fire's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Program is staffed by on-duty pilots deployed from the fire stations where they are assigned that day. The three or four pilots on every shift have completed UAV flight ground school and flight training, qualifying them to operate a variety of UAV aircraft.

COVER PHOTO by Wes Schulz. TEMS team in training with Sacramento Sheriffs.

Message from the FIRE CHIEF

Dear residents of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District,

Professionalism is a Metro Fire core value: a personal commitment to exceed expectations of our profession in our attitude, ability, and appearance. To model that value, our firefighters train rigorously on skills that enable them to meet, without interruption, the fire response, rescue, and emergency transport services expected by our community. Upon this foundation of professionalism and essential skills Metro Fire adds the unique services of special operations teams.

In this Community Annual Report (CAR), I want to give you a look inside Metro Fire's special operations teams, comprised of expertly trained and certified firefighters with advanced skills to respond to low-frequency, high-risk events. These special teams complement the core first responders and enable Metro Fire to serve as an "all hazard" response unit.

The principal function of the Community Annual Report is to provide financial data and a snapshot of the Metro Fire's financial status. I am pleased to report that Metro Fire's financial condition is sound and continues to support high-quality services to our community.

I would like to thank our citizens for their continued support and the confidence they have placed in us.



Adam A. House, Fire Chief

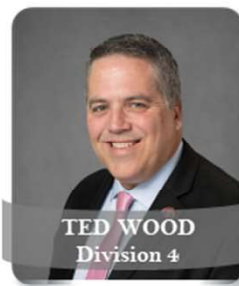
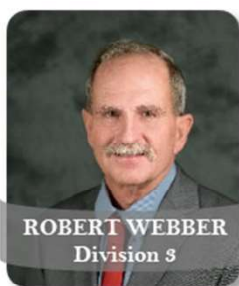


Elected Board of Directors

As of June 30, 2024



PRESIDENT



VICE-PRESIDENT



SECRETARY



1922

Mills Fire Dept.



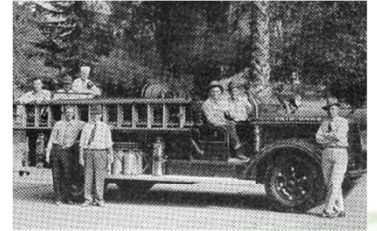
1935

Citrus Heights Fire District



1942

Fair Oaks Fire District



1923

Rio Linda Outpost of Fire Protection



1938

McClellan Air Force Base Fire Dept.



1942

Florin Fire District



1918

Mather Air Force Base Fire Department, the first department of several that would one day form the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District.

1933

Orangevale Volunteer Fire Dept.



1942

Carmichael Fire District



1925

Elverta Fire District



1942

Arcade Fire Protection District (FPD)



HISTORY

1951

*North Highlands
Village Fire District*



1945

*Consolidation
of Citrus
Heights FD
and
Orangevale
Volunteer FD
into Cordova
Heights FPD*

1958

Rancho Cordova FPD



1989

*Consolidation of
Rancho Cordova FPD
and Citrus Heights
FPD into Sacramento
County FPD*

1994

*Fair Oaks FD
consolidated into
Sacramento County
FPD*



1943

*Arden Fire
District*



1984

*Merger of North
Highlands Village FD
into Citrus Heights
FPD*

1983

*Consolidation of Arden
FPD and Carmichael FD
into American River FPD*



1947

Sloughouse FPD



2000

*Consolidation of 16 preexisting
fire districts*

**SACRAMENTO
METROPOLITAN FIRE
DISTRICT**



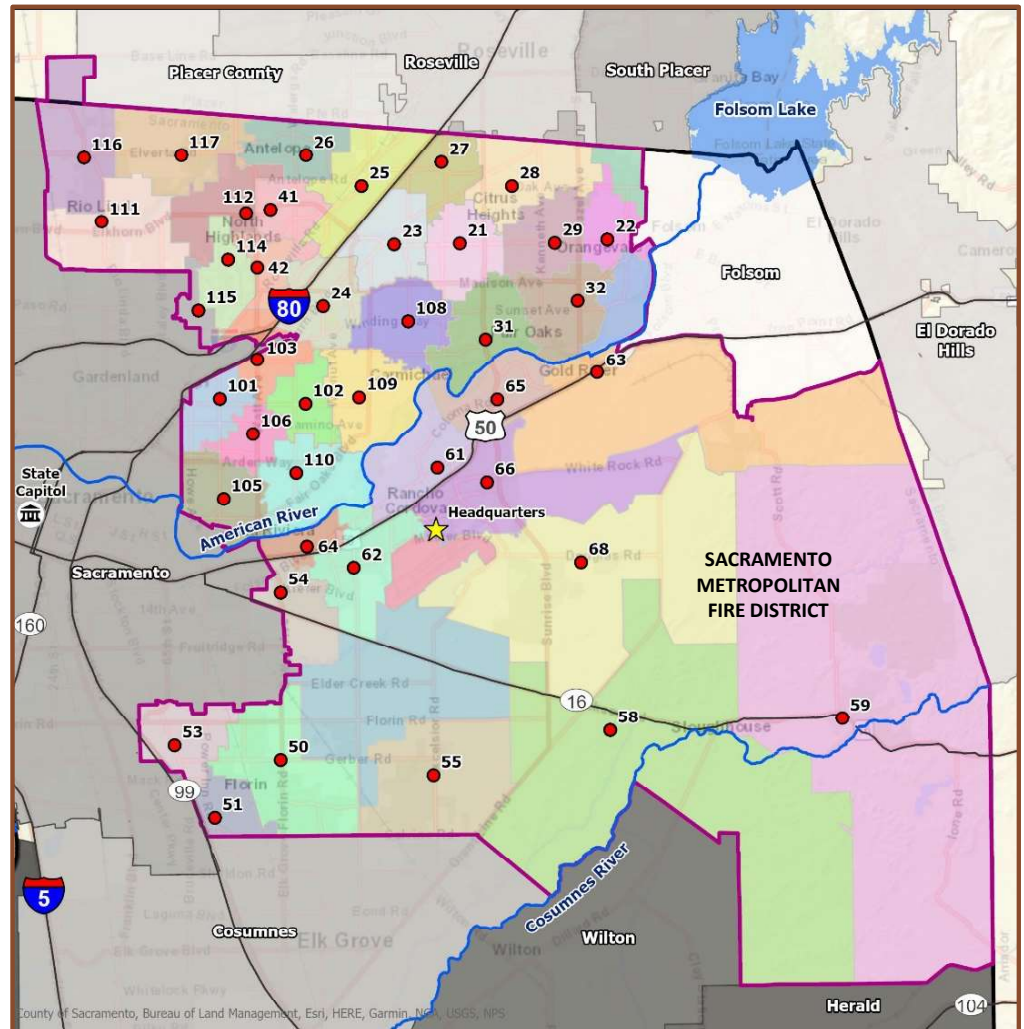
AT A GLANCE

The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District was established on December 1, 2000 through the merger of the American River and Sacramento County Fire Protection Districts, which brought together 16 predecessor fire agencies. Metro Fire is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors elected by citizens from the nine geographical divisions in Metro Fire's area of responsibility.

Today, Metro Fire is the largest fire agency in the County of Sacramento and one of the largest in the State. The combined District provides fire suppression and emergency medical services along with various other public safety and hazard mitigation community services to 726,000 residents in approximately 359 square miles. The District's service area includes two cities, most of the unincorporated area of Sacramento County, and a portion of Placer County. Within the boundaries of Metro Fire are wildland areas, single and multi-family residential units, commercial and light industrial buildings, hotels, regional hospitals, institutions, local airfields, assisted living and

convalescent facilities, equestrian areas, and open space areas including several major hiking trails. Numerous main interstate high-ways also traverse Metro Fire's jurisdiction, along with the American River, a major recreation resource for residents and visitors alike.

Metro Fire provides all-hazard emergency services through 41 stations strategically located across its service area in order to respond to any emergency within its goal of 4-minute travel time.



Did you know?

Metro Fire closely monitors response performance so that the right resources are in the right spots to rapidly respond to calls. When response gaps are identified, resources may be reallocated: adding an ambulance or engine to an existing station, or even adding new station! The District is currently Building its next new fire station in The Vineyard Springs neighborhood of Elk Grove.



Metro Fire's Special Operations Division consists of multiple programs designed to meet exceptional emergency service needs. Each specialized program enhances the District's service delivery while preserving the functions needed to operate as an "all-hazard" emergency services agency.

Air Operations – Metro Fire operates three Bell UH1 helicopters with attached tanks typically used for water drops on wildland fires. Aircraft are equipped with a rescue hoist with nearly 250 feet of cable, enabling crews to perform rescues in hard to reach places such as mountains and flooded areas. Metro Fire has one of the few air operations teams in northern California with night vision capability.

Dozer – The Dozer fights vegetation fires by creating fire lines thru blading the ground and removing flammable plant material down to bare soil. The Dozer also recovers stuck apparatus and vehicles. When Metro Fire declares the start of wildland firefighting season, the Dozer is staffed with one qualified Dozer operator 24 hours-a-day 7 days-a-week until wildland season is ended.

Tactical Emergency Medical Services – Metro Fire provides Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS), better known as SWAT Medics, to various law enforcement agencies throughout the region. We support the Sacramento County Sheriff, Citrus Heights police, Rancho Cordova police, FBI, and Department of Homeland Security. The TEMS team is composed of 16 specially-trained paramedics who have completed extensive training in advanced medical procedures, trauma care, canine care, and related SWAT tactics. On average, Metro Fire's TEMS team responds to approximately 80 calls per year, including high-risk warrant services and hostage rescues.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle – Used primarily to gather situational awareness on scene, the personnel trained to operate UAVs work directly for the incident commanders. All UAVs in the program are capable of day and night flight as well as thermal imaging and live remote video streaming, providing excellent information-gathering capabilities over a variety of incidents. Many of the District's UAVs also have spotlight and loud speaker capabilities. The UAVs can also provide mapping capabilities and deliver items like personal floatation devices and radios.

ARFF – Metro Fire has been providing continuous Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) services to the McClellan Airport and the United States Coast Guard by contractual agreement since April 2001. Located directly adjacent to the flight line, Fire Station 114 houses seven full-time crew members per shift dedicated to fulfilling the mission of airfield fire suppression and rescue.

Hazardous Materials Response – Metro Fire responds to an average of 400 incidents involving hazardous materials every year. Housed at Station 109 in Carmichael, Metro Fire's Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT) is comprised of 110 personnel trained to the level of Hazardous Materials Specialist and is equipped to handle incidents varying in complexity from small chemical spills to large releases of industrial chemicals. Metro Fire's Type 1 HMRT is specially equipped to respond to terrorism and/or weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incidents that may involve chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and/or explosive substances.

Urban Search & Rescue – California Task Force 7 is a FEMA Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) team based in Sacramento. The team is made up of over 200 members from Sacramento area fire agencies, including 37 members from Metro Fire. Team members are highly trained and certified, using some of the latest rescue techniques and equipment in collapse rescue, heavy rigging, logistics support, hazardous materials response, medical care, communications, canine search, technical search, and water rescue. Over the last five years, FEMA has activated Task Force 7 at least once a year.

Water Rescue – Metro Fire has two dedicated jet boats operating out of fire stations 62 and 65, a few miles from the American River. The water rescue team patrols the river during high-visit days such as Independence Day, and responds to as many as 50 calls for water rescue every year. The team also operates two inflatable rigid boats and eight Jon boats to respond to flood in the Sacramento region.

SPECIAL OPS APPARATUS

- Dozer tractor with lowboy trailer for fast deployments of Dozer to grass fires.
- Bell Huey helicopter equipped with recue hoist and night vision capabilities.
- Aircraft Rescue Firefighting vehicle with roof turret and bumper nozzles to sweep back and forth at ground level.
- Swiftwater boat with jet pumps give the ability to conduct rescues even in rapids.
- The hazmat truck comes with a command center and storage for hazmat suits and specialized equipment.



1, 2 – Copter 2 refilling its water tank and deploying to a grass fire.

3 – Dozer crew with its transport getting ready to deploy.

4 – Captain Randy Gross and Dusty deployed with Urban Search and Rescue team following the 9/11 attack on New York City.


5 – Aerial view captured by UAV provide real-time data to assess the size, spread, and behavior of fires.



AT WORK



Did you know?



Water alone will not extinguish large flammable or combustible liquid fires from gasoline, diesel, and ethanol. Metro Fire deploys two Type I foam units from Station 31 in Fair Oaks and Station 114 in North Highlands, each carrying 660 gallons of class B alcohol resistant-aqueous film forming foam to extinguish these types of fires.

6 – Metro Fire TEMS medics drilling with County of Sacramento sheriffs on rapid insertion tactics.

7 – Water rescue team is on the lookout not just for people in distress along the American River but also wildlife in harms way, like the buck pictured here.

8 – Hazmat truck operating out of Station 109 showcasing its full loadout of equipment including gas and radiation detectors, protective suits, and testing kits. The apparatus itself comes with Wi-Fi and phone systems, satellite weather tracking systems, cameras, monitors, broadcast video and audio recording equipment—even its own laboratory.

9 – HazMat Team sampling drum contents for unknown and potentially hazardous wastes.

BY THE NUMBERS

For the year ended June 30, 2024

public safety



107,316

Calls Dispatched



6.7 of 10

Medical Calls



3,529

Fires Extinguished



4,172

Vehicle Accidents



6m 35s

Average Response Time to
Provide Medical Aid



5m 32s

Average Response Time to
Reach Structure Fires



5m 21s

Average Response Time to
Reach Vehicle Accidents

41

Fire
Stations



10

Major
Incident
Deployments
8 California
2 National

369

Apparatus and Other Vehicles

Trucks, engines, rescues,
medics, and cars

fire family



752

Metro Fire Employees

4 Office of the Fire Chief

635 Operations

- Fire Suppression
- Emergency Medical Services
- Metro Medic Program

77 Support Services

- Community Risk Reduction
- Facilities
- Fleet
- Information Technology / Communications
- Logistics

36 Administration

- Community Relations
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Planning and Development
- Training and Safety

community



21,447

Inspections and Plan Reviews

8,598 Code Enforcement Inspections

3,256 Plan Reviews

7,471 Construction Inspections

138 Fireworks Inspections

1,984 Weed Abatement Inspections



346 Community Engagements



208 Special Events/Station Tours

72,489 Estimated residents reached



114 School Visits

20,994 Estimated Students Reached



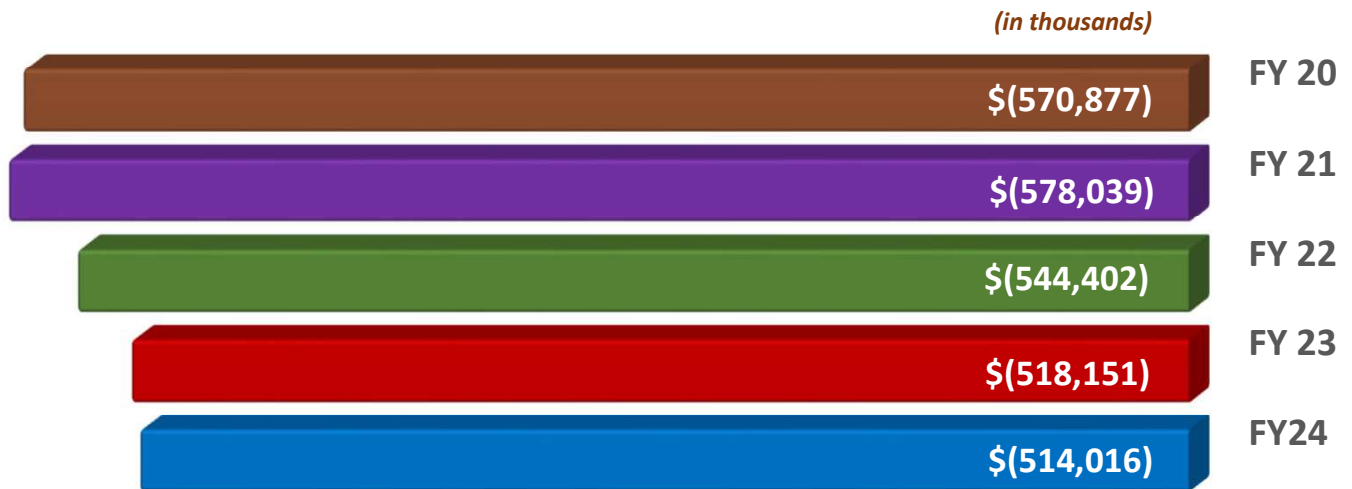
24 Other Events

4,964 Estimated Residents Reached

NET POSITION

What We Own & What We Owe

The government-wide Statement of Net Position provides a “snapshot” of where the District stood financially at a moment in time. Metro Fire's negative net position is largely due to the liability owed to its employees as they retire from Metro Fire, which includes pension liability and post-retirement medical liability. Changes in net position over time is highly sensitive to changes in these liabilities. Over the past three years, Metro Fire has slowly improved its financial position.



NET POSITION

(in thousands)

	2024	2023
Cash and other assets <i>cash and investments, receivables, and inventories</i>	\$ 125,082	\$ 113,957
Capital assets <i>land, buildings, and equipment net of accumulated depreciation</i>	105,581	101,911
Deferred outflows <i>expenses incurred but applicable to a future year</i>	227,646	204,807
TOTAL ASSETS AND OUTFLOWS	458,309	420,675
Current and other liabilities <i>payables, payroll, and unearned revenue</i>	14,286	11,637
Long-term liabilities <i>bonds, other post-employment benefits, pensions, and other obligations</i>	915,234	861,254
Deferred inflows <i>Income received applicable to a future year</i>	42,805	65,935
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND INFLOWS	972,325	938,826
Net investment in capital assets <i>net book value of capital assets less related outstanding debt</i>	86,988	87,197
Restricted <i>what is not available for use because it is set aside for a particular use</i>	24,690	19,753
Unrestricted <i>funds available to use for general operations</i>	(625,694)	(625,101)
TOTAL NET POSITION	\$ (514,016)	\$ (518,151)

REVENUE

Where the Money Came From

SOURCES <i>(in thousands)</i>	2024	2023
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Program Revenues - Revenues that are derived directly from operations, not the taxpayers

Charges for services <i>Fees charged for ambulance transports, deployments, and similar charges</i>	\$ 104,945	\$ 82,494
Grants <i>Federal and state grant awards</i>	5,115	18,090

Total Program Revenues	110,060	100,584
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General Revenues - Revenues not required to be reported as program revenues

Property taxes <i>Received from property owners based on the assessed valuation and tax rate.</i>	202,446	192,166
Miscellaneous / Other Income <i>All other revenue such as resources received from other agencies, investment and rental income</i>	8,423	5,797

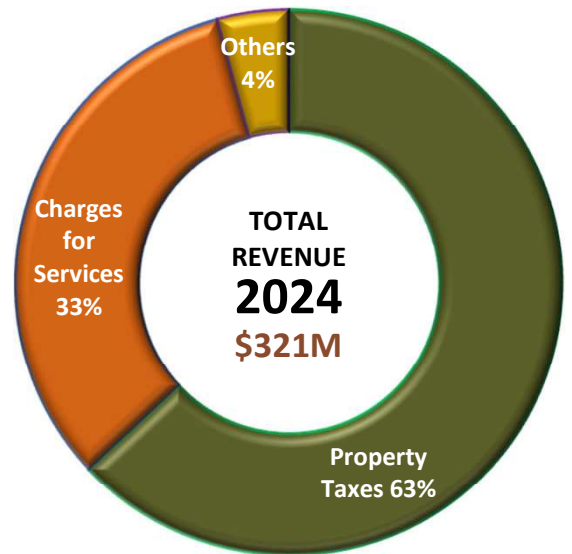
Total General Revenues	210,869	197,963
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Total Revenues	\$ 320,929	\$ 298,547
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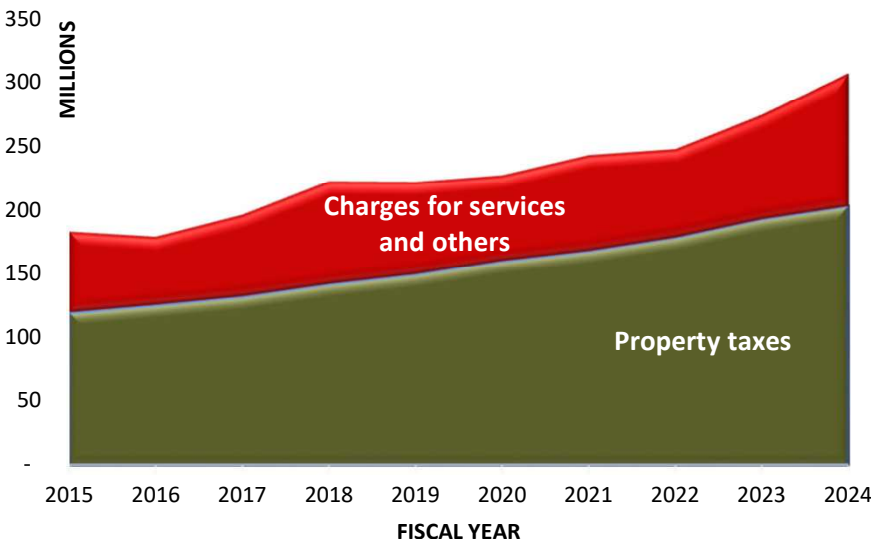
Property tax is the main source of funding for fire suppression activities. For every dollar paid by a resident in Metro Fire's jurisdiction, about 21.68 cents go to Metro Fire.



The average assessed value of a detached single family residential home in Metro Fire's jurisdiction is \$340,000, which means that a homeowner typically contributes about \$736 per year in property taxes to Metro Fire.



Metro Fire experienced 11 straight years of growth in assessed property values since FY 2012/13, increasing by \$5.6 billion in the most recent fiscal year to a total of \$89.4 billion. This generated \$202 million in property tax revenues for FY 2023/24, \$10 million more than the prior year.



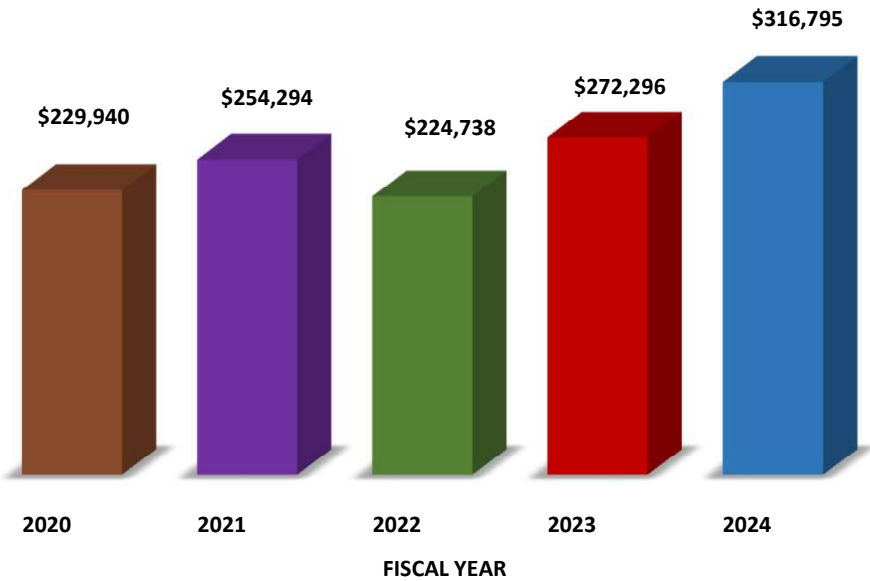
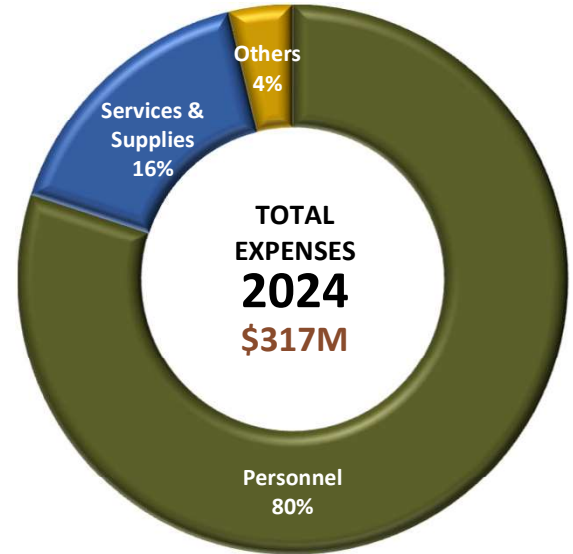
Metro Fire continues to find ways to diversify its revenue base through cost recovery of its emergency medical services. Property taxes now comprise 63 percent of all revenue sources, compared to 80 percent more than a decade ago. Charges for services and other revenues now amount to \$105 million in the current fiscal year.

EXPENSES

Where the Money Went

The overriding goal of the budget process is to optimize services to the community; ensure that the ongoing all-risk fire, rescue and emergency medical needs of the citizens are met; and provide adequate reserves for future contingencies.

As a public safety provider, the majority of Metro Fire’s operating expense relates to **PERSONNEL** costs, accounting for **80 percent** of total expenses. The 16 percent (\$44 million) increase in total expenses for the current fiscal year is mainly due to increases in personnel expenses from contracted across the-board wage increase for all employees of 5 percent and 6 percent effective January 1, 2023 and January 1, 2024, respectively, plus increases in pension and other post employment benefits costs.



EXPENSES <i>(in thousands)</i>	2024	2023
Public Protection - <i>Direct cost of services provided</i>		
Personnel <i>Salaries and benefits such as pension costs</i>	\$ 251,893	\$ 214,758
Services and Supplies <i>Fees paid to vendors for various services and supplies</i>	52,984	45,098
Other <i>Includes assessments paid to other local agencies</i>	2,540	3,149
Depreciation <i>Allocated cost of capital assets over their useful life</i>	7,429	7,281
Interest and Others <i>Includes interest and other miscellaneous expenses</i>	1,949	2,010
Total Expenses	\$ 316,795	\$ 272,296

Did you know?

A dozer's fire line plays a crucial role in extinguishing wildland fires. These lines, created by using the front 10-foot blade, are placed ahead of a fire, removing flammable plant material down to bare soil, leaving nothing for the fire to burn. Fire containment is expressed as a percentage of a wildfire's perimeter that is surrounded by a control line. For instance, if a wildfire is 25 percent contained, control lines around 25 percent of its perimeter have been established.

CAPITAL SPENDING

Investing in reliable firefighting apparatus is a crucial step in building a better fire service. Not only does each apparatus have to be maintained in the highest state of readiness to respond to emergencies, it must also take advantage of better technology that will allow efficient and safe operation.

For the year ended June 30, 2024

Taking into account the operational needs, current fleet status, and available resources, Metro Fire invested in the following significant capital assets in the most recent year:

3 TYPE III AMBULANCES (\$897,000)

These smaller ambulances are fully equipped yet have a lower initial cost, increased fuel economy, and longer service intervals.

30 ELECTRIC GURNEYS AND 38 POWER LOADERS (\$2.2 million)

These new gurneys have improved battery life, navigate through tighter quarters, lift 700 lbs. unassisted, and include a tracking system for inventory management. They attach to a mounted power loader inside the ambulance, locking it into place for safe and secure transport.



6 AMBULANCE REMOUNTS (\$1.8 million)

The box portion of an existing ambulance is mounted on a new cab and chassis. This remount process costs about one-third of the price to purchase a new ambulance.

1 AERIAL TRUCK (\$1.3 million)

With no hose or water, this "truck" can still respond to most emergency and medical calls. The large ladder stored across the top extends up to 105 feet making it valuable in special emergencies.



For the upcoming year ending June 30, 2025

The following are the significant planned acquisitions expected to be received in the upcoming fiscal year:

4 TYPE III ENGINES (\$2.2 million)

These grass rigs are the workhorse of the wildland firefighting industry. Each is equipped with four-wheel drive, rugged suspension, and wheel clearance for steep, off-road conditions.



5 TYPE I ENGINES (\$5.8 million)

These engines hold 700 gallons of water and have a larger pump to provide higher water flows for fighting structure fires.



VINEYARD SPRINGS STATION (\$10 million)

ZINANDEL TRAINING SITE PHASE 3 (\$16.9 million)

Did you know?



Tillers are the District's longest trucks and are equipped with ladders that can extend over 100 feet. They have a cab at the rear, which is driven by a firefighter. Although it can be 60 feet long, it can maneuver in tight locations, like a narrow road or an apartment parking lot.

DEBT SERVICE

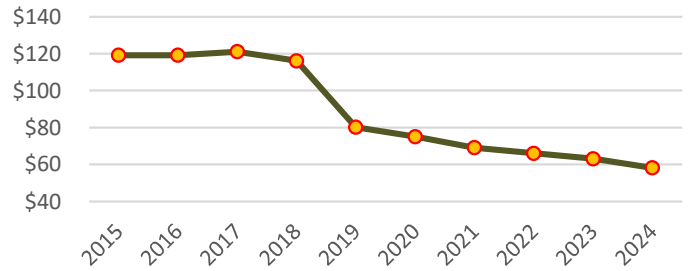
Metro Fire has three major debt types: pension bonds, lease revenue bonds, and capital equipment financing. Pension bond proceeds were used to reduce the unfunded actuarial liabilities of its pension plans. Lease revenue bonds were used to purchase the headquarters building, make building improvements, and acquire fire-fighting and computer equipment. Proceeds of capital equipment financing from banks have been used mainly for ongoing apparatus and equipment needs.

Metro Fire's S&P Global Credit Rating

Indicates an extremely strong capacity to meet financial commitments on its pension bonds resulting in lower borrowing costs.



Debt Per Capita



Future Debt Payments



AWARD

Metro Fire received the award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the 6th straight year for its *Community Annual Report* (CAR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. This prestigious national award recognizes conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.





Mission Statement

“To provide professional and compassionate protection, education and service to our community.”

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