

Branch — Fire Rescue Services



Introduction

Fire Rescue Services serves to protect the lives, properties and environment of citizens within our community by providing excellence in services and public safety. Edmonton Fire Rescue Services is a Commission on Fire Accreditation (CFAI) Accredited Agency.

In 2010, Fire Rescue Services responded to 33,528 total dispatched events, including 21,297 medical event responses, 7,867 rescue event responses, 3,311 fire suppression event responses and 1,053 hazardous material event responses. Total response time was less than 7 minutes, 75% of the time for fire calls, an improvement of 10% from 2009, but still below the Fire Rescue Master Plan service level target, and NFPA standard, of 90%.

Fire Rescue Operations is predominately staffed by front-line firefighters, who respond to a range of public emergencies including fire suppression, medical response, vehicle extrication, specialty rescue, water rescue, hazardous materials and environmental impact events. Fire Rescue Operations staff provide public safety coverage to the community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Public Safety is responsible for oversight of the risk assessment model, fire prevention inspections, public education programs and fire investigations by providing enforcement of and compliance with provincial and federal legislation for the safety and security of people and property. This service area also works to provide advocacy to other orders of government in order to improve safety, specifically regarding fire and building codes.

Training is responsible for the recruitment and training of new firefighters, as well as maintaining certifications, occupational skills and ongoing career development of firefighters, keeping front-line staff current with knowledge of an ever-changing fire industry. **Logistics** provides fire protection engineering to ensure Edmonton is a fire safe city by using science and technology to protect people and property from destructive fires. This service area also: coordinates the design, selection, purchase and maintenance of Fire Rescue Services vehicle and apparatus fleet; manages the coordination of Fire Rescue facilities, personal protective equipment, safety equipment and supplies; and oversees the joint Health and Wellness program for Fire Rescue members.

Technical Services is responsible for evaluating incoming 911 calls, dispatching resources, providing emergency response communications, providing public safety technology and delivering mapping services. Technical Services also manages fire rescue accreditation and environmental programs.

The Office of Emergency Preparedness is responsible for ensuring the City of Edmonton is prepared for, can respond to and recover from all hazards including natural disasters, technological incidents and human caused incidents. In order to be ready, we conduct training and exercises with city staff and stakeholders on a regular basis.

MAJOR SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Fire Rescue Operations	Public Safety	Training and Logistics	Technical Services	Office of Emergency Preparedness
Fire Suppression Event Response	Quality Management Plan	Training e-Learning	Call Evaluation and Dispatch Services	Emergency Management Planning
Medical Event Response	Fire Prevention	Fire Protection Engineering	Emergency Response Communications	Emergency Management Training and Public Awareness
Rescue Event Response	Fire Inspections	Fire Rescue Facilities and Protective Equipment	Public Safety Technology	Emergency Management and Coordination
Hazardous Materials Event Response	Public Education	Fire Rescue Fleet and Equipment	Environmental Management	Emergency Operations Centre
Specialty Response	Fire Investigations	Logistical Planning Joint Health and Wellness Program	Fire Accreditation	



Opportunities and Challenges

The City's vision describes Edmonton as a city of arts, recreation, many cultures and educational opportunities, a city that citizens feel is special. Fire Rescue Services plays a key role in making this vision a reality by protecting life, property and the environment in our city. Fire Rescue Services delivers an essential public service, helping make Edmonton a safer place to live, work and play.

Through its many programs and services, the Fire Rescue Services Branch strives to improve Edmonton's liveability.

- Property, people and the environment are protected and impacts of fire are minimized.
- Citizens are aware of fire safety issues and emergency preparedness.
- Impacts of hazardous material breaches are minimized.
- Fire stations and resources are strategically planned and located to meet community needs.
- Structures are designed and maintained to provide a safe environment.
- Emergency scenes are mitigated to allow people and goods to move through the city in a safe manner.

Fire Rescue Services has an organizational philosophy that places emphasis on four cornerstones. By maintaining focus on serving the public, striving for optimal citizen and firefighter safety, maintaining the public's trust, and working together as a team, the Branch is taking action to move forward and continuously improve toward the goal of becoming a leading North American fire service.

Innovations, Creativity and Best Practices

Fire Rescue Services has applied the following innovative strategies to address operational and service delivery efficiencies:

- A risk assessment instrument was developed and has been applied to all building occupancies within the City of Edmonton. Occupancies were assessed as to the probability of an event occurring and the level of consequence associated with that event should it occur. This innovative process created the opportunity to focus our Fire Prevention resources to ensure that all occupancies identified as Maximum Risk are inspected annually and that all occupancies identified as High Risk are inspected every two years. This schedule of inspections has been reflected in the new Quality Management Plan (QMP) and will result in an increased level of service to Maximum Risk and High Risk properties and will enhance the level of life safety and property protection to the citizens of Edmonton at no additional cost to the city.

- Fire crews visit potential high hazard sites under non-emergency circumstances to evaluate strategic tactics based on hazard assessments and occupancy types. The pre-incident planning program has been made possible as a result of the QMP revision in 2010, which eliminated the firefighter inspection program and allowed for re-allocation of resources within Fire Operations to pre-incident plan buildings and occupancies to increase firefighter and public safety.
- A review of our medical response strategy with regards to medical event responsibility has led to the elimination of ACP registration fees for First Medical Responders as this is not a mandatory requirement.
- A higher than average number of senior officer retirements is projected in 2012. Through the attrition of senior personnel, at the top wage scale bracket, and subsequent recruitment of less experienced personnel, at a lower wage scale bracket, a one time savings of \$1,322,000 has been incorporated into the 2012 Fire Rescue Services budget.

Impact of Capital Projects

There have been no operating impacts of capital identified for Fire Rescue Services during preparation of the 2012 Budget. However, continued growth of the city will have an impact on programs, services and citizen expectations.

Funded Service Packages

The traffic light pre-emption system pilot program will allow for Edmonton Fire Rescue Services front-line fire trucks to deliver firefighters and equipment quicker and more safely to emergency incidents, while improving citizen safety. Other municipalities that use traffic light pre-emption systems have indicated benefits including:

- Improved intersection safety
- Reduced emergency vehicle response times
- Lessened environmental impact
- Reduced fuel consumption and vehicle maintenance
- Decreased liability due to motor vehicle collisions

The traffic light pre-emption service package has a net impact of \$585,000 in 2012.

Service and Budget Review

Fire Rescue Services will be implementing Corporate reduction strategies realized as opportunities during the service and budget review that was undertaken in preparation of the 2012 Budget.

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Approved 2012 Budget – Branch Summary (\$000)

	2010 Actual	2011 Budget	\$ Change '11-'12	2012 Budget	% Change '11-'12
Revenue & Transfers					
User Fees, Fines, Permits, etc.	\$ 2,624	\$ 2,139	\$ (343)	\$ 1,796	(16.0)
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer from Reserves	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue & Transfers	<u>2,624</u>	<u>2,139</u>	<u>(343)</u>	<u>1,796</u>	<u>(16.0)</u>
Expenditure & Transfers					
Personnel	129,151	141,459	559	142,018	0.4
Materials, Goods & Supplies	7,082	4,656	538	5,194	11.6
External Services	8,070	8,092	1,336	9,428	16.5
Fleet Services	7,103	7,647	934	8,581	12.2
Intra-municipal Services	932	398	8	406	2.0
Utilities	669	653	(2)	651	(0.3)
Training & Professional Fees	1,098	1,854	(194)	1,660	(10.5)
Transfer to Reserves	377	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	154,482	164,759	3,179	167,938	1.9
Intra-municipal Recoveries	-	(84)	(2)	(86)	-
Total Expenditure & Transfers	<u>154,482</u>	<u>164,675</u>	<u>3,177</u>	<u>167,852</u>	<u>1.9</u>
Net Operating Requirement	\$ 151,858	\$ 162,536	\$ 3,520	\$ 166,056	2.2
Full-time Equivalents	1,061.5	1,115.5	-	1,115.5	

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Budget Changes for 2012 (\$000)

Revenue & Transfers - Changes

User Fees, Fines, Permits, etc. \$ (343)

Due to the current economic climate, applications for new licenses are substantially lower than predicted, resulting in a decrease in Business Licensing Inspection revenue of \$(400). The balance relates to revenue increases of \$57.

Expenditures & Transfers - Changes

Personnel \$ 559

Movement within the salary ranges, changes in benefits, the last year of a 3-year 1% LAPP contribution increase accounts for \$1,891. The Service & Budget Review reduction accounts for \$(1,332).

Material, Goods & Supplies \$ 538

Increases relate to Traffic Light Pre-emption System Service Package \$450, and inflation. The Service & Budget Review reduction accounts for \$(14).

External Services \$ 1,336

Increases relate to Fire Hydrant Contract \$1,300, Traffic Light Pre-emption System Service Package \$23 and inflation.

Fleet Services \$ 934

An increase of \$111 in Fleet Services is attributed to fuel cost increase. An increase of \$711 is attributed to rate increase and changes in volume due to increased usage. Traffic Light Pre-emption System Service Package \$112.

Intra-municipal Services \$ 8

Increases are related to inflation.

Utilities \$ (2)

Increases are related to inflation. The Service & Budget Review reduction accounts for \$(19).

Training & Professional Fees \$ (194)

Increases are related to inflation. The Service & Budget Review reduction accounts for \$(243).

Intra-municipal Recoveries \$ (2)

Increases are related to inflation.

Full-time Equivalents - Changes

No changes.

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Service Package - Traffic light pre-emption system

Funded

Description

The traffic light pre-emption system will provide Fire Rescue Services with automatic intersection signal control and the influencing of traffic flow, allowing for improved firefighter and citizen safety, while enabling quicker response times to emergency events. When responding to an emergency, transponder equipment mounted on fire vehicles will automate a green light traffic signal at an upcoming intersection, allowing traffic to clear the intersection while providing green lights for Fire Rescue units as they approach the intersection.

This service package will fund a pilot program to include traffic light intersection hardware kits and installation at 45 intersections in the City of Edmonton, and will fund fire vehicle hardware kits and installation into 45 Edmonton Fire Rescue Services front-line apparatus. If the initial testing and trialing phase is deemed to be successful, Fire Rescue Services will initiate a plan for program expansion to include additional hardware kits to be installed into further traffic light intersections and fire vehicle hardware kits to be installed in remaining front-line apparatus.

Justification

Community Services Department report 2011CSF001 'Reducing siren noise in residential neighbourhoods', received for information on February 7, 2011, included a commitment for Fire Rescue to work with Transportation Services in researching potential new technology solutions that would provide improvements to the existing Fire pre-empt systems. This technology has the potential to significantly reduce the use of air horns at intersections.

Funding this service package will allow for Edmonton Fire Rescue Services front-line fire trucks to deliver firefighters and equipment quicker and more safely to emergency incidents, while improving citizen safety. Other municipalities that use traffic light pre-emption systems have indicated benefits including:

- Improved intersection safety
- Reduced emergency vehicle response times
- Lessened environmental impact
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Links to Strategic Goals, Departmental Outcomes & Performance Measures

Strategic Goals:

- The Way We Live - To improve Edmonton's livability
- The Way We Green - To preserve and sustain Edmonton's environment

Corporate Outcomes:

- Safe and clean city.
- The impact of City operations on air, land and water systems is minimized.

Departmental Outcomes:

- Citizens and their property are safe.
- Impact on the environment is minimized.

Performance Measures:

- Fire Rescue's goal is for Travel Time of the first unit arriving on scene to be under 4 minutes, 90% of the time.
- Fire Rescue's goal is to contain fires to the room of origin 75% of the time.

Impact on Other Departments

Fleet Services will install the hardware into fire trucks.
EPCOR will install the hardware at traffic light intersections.

incremental (\$000)	2012				2013				2014			
	Exp	Rev	Net	FTEs	Exp	Rev	Net	FTEs	Exp	Rev	Net	FTEs
New Budget Annualization	\$ 585		\$ 585	-	\$ (585)		\$ (585)	-			\$ -	-
Total	\$ 585	\$ -	\$ 585	-	\$ (585)	\$ -	\$ (585)	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-