

FIRE & LIFE SAFETY

Michael Caven, Fire Chief

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Department Overview

The Cities of Springfield and Eugene consolidated their fire departments via an intergovernmental agreement in 2010. Operating as Eugene Springfield Fire (ESF), the three-battalion system provides services that prevent the loss of life and property and protect the environment not only within the boundaries of those two cities, but services extend to the urban growth boundaries and East Lane Ambulance Services areas. The City of Springfield contracts to provide fire, rescue, and emergency services to the Glenwood and Rainbow Water Districts and a portion of the Willakenzie Fire Protection District, providing fire suppression services to 20 square miles and an ambulance service area of 1,452 square miles.

Departmental services include fire protection and prevention; firefighting; basic and advanced life support and ambulance transportation; illness and injury prevention; special rescue; hazardous materials control; fire safety education; code enforcement; and fire investigation. Administration in the department supports the direct departmental services for finances, technology, logistics and facilities, as well as ambulance billing services.

	FY22 Actuals	FY23 Actuals	FY24 Amended	FY25 Proposed
5 PERSONNEL SERVICES	16,053,396	15,629,145	17,205,705	18,090,575
6 MATERIALS & SERVICES	5,631,815	6,887,816	5,114,048	5,241,627
7 CAPITAL OUTLAY	270,240	806,985	3,376,378	643,940
Grand Total	\$ 21,955,451	\$ 23,323,947	\$ 25,696,131	\$ 23,976,142

*5, 6 & 7 indicated in table above are the numeric categories used in the general ledger to represent the different expense types.

Budget Summary – FY2025

Staffing

FY25 staffing levels for Springfield Fire and Life Safety will increase by six FTE. The Department has reduced Ambulance Billing by one FTE, added one FTE Public Information Officer (PIO) for a new Wildfire Resilience program, and added a net increase of five FTE in the Ambulance Transport Fund. The additional five FTE in the Ambulance Transport Fund are cost neutral to the Department due to reducing higher cost dual-role Firefighters with lower cost single-role Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Paramedics and single-role EMT-Basics.

Department Funding

Fire Operations are funded through General Fund sources and the Fire Local Option Levy, as well as by fees for service including fire suppression services for other fire districts, ambulance transport fees, FireMed membership fees, building permit fees, and inspection fees.

Service Level Changes

The Department is deploying a Wildfire Resilience program in FY25 that will add one FTE PIO to support public information and education related to emergency preparedness.

Accomplishments – FY24

- **Ambulance Transport System Redesign** – The Department transitioned one of three ambulances from dual-role Firefighter/Paramedic staffing to single-role EMT/Paramedic staffing. This initiative opens the recruiting to a more diverse workforce among those who do not wish to fight fires and focus on emergency medical services. Savings realized in staffing costs are applied to system resource needs to meet service demand without further burdening the General Fund.
- **Recruitment** – The Department made changes to the minimum qualifications to enter the career in the wake of significant recruiting challenges. ESF now requires EMT-Basic as the minimum EMT level for employment. This action drew 270 applicants for our fall Fire Academy. To put this in perspective, ESF has averaged 50 or less applicants for more than a decade. ESF is staffed with an overwhelming majority of staff holding the EMT-Paramedic certification allowing recruitment of EMT-Basics without eroding response capabilities.
- **Training** – The Department has revamped and revitalized its fire training program to ensure staff are prepared to meet the rigorous demands of the job. This included establishing a regular and predictable schedule that culminates with skill evaluations and live fire exercises on an annual basis for all staff including Chief Officers.
- **Data** – The Department is making strides toward being more data informed in our response planning and execution. Our data team worked with response personnel and command staff to identify areas where ESF was over-resourcing calls. The outcome has improved response reliability by limiting the year-over-year growth in service demand which has grown unchecked. The Department is deploying a data analytics tool that will allow real-time decision making on staffing and station locations based on historical response and service data.
- **Wildfire Season** – The Department provided resources in the Summer and Fall of 2023 to five separate wildfires. Eugene Springfield Fire invoiced the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office over \$118,000 for Springfield's share of these efforts, the largest of which was the Tye Ridge Fire which accounted for \$60,550 of the reimbursement packet. ESF leveraged new Ford pickup trucks with inexpensive water pump/tank systems to assign existing crews as force multiplier in wildfire response. Previously a three-person engine crew would jump on a water tender for fire calls which was not efficient when only one person really needed to shuttle water. Now two people staff the type 6 wildland engine, and one person staffs the tender.
- **Apparatus Updates** – In keeping with the Council goal to Strengthen Public Safety by Leveraging Partnerships and Resources, the Department ordered three fire apparatus which will arrive in FY27/28, and the Department also ordered four ambulances this year with the expectation that the new vehicles will be in service in FY26. These pieces of equipment will ensure response reliability as ESF works to fulfil its mission.
- **Eugene Springfield Fire Consolidation Evaluation** – The Cities of Springfield and Eugene consolidated their fire departments via an intergovernmental agreement in 2010. This consolidation of departments created a three-battalion system to provide an integrated response to fire-service related emergencies, regardless of the emergency's location, while each City retains full budget authority over its expenditures. This consolidation has worked smoothly in many operational areas and presented challenges in many administrative areas. The Cities continued

work on the formal evaluation of the consolidation in FY24 receiving a final report to councils in May of 2024. In FY25, the City Councils and City Managers will be working with ESF staff on the final plan for the Department's future form of governance.

Initiatives – FY2025

- **Wildfire Resilience** – In FY25, the Cities of Eugene and Springfield are funding a Wildfire Planning and Fuels Mitigation program through Eugene Springfield Fire. The City of Springfield will support this program through the addition of a Public Information Officer to disseminate information regarding active emergency incidents and public education and emergency preparedness. This program will enhance our community's preparedness and resilience in the face of a growing threat from wildfire.
- **Department Goals, Vision, Mission, Values and Guiding Document Updates** – The Department is working on updating organizational structures, modernizing assignments and vision titles. This work will transition to a review of our core values, and mission statement before transitioning to a regular update and revision of department policies. ESF has undergone many changes in leadership and workforce since these documents were last updated. The Department will also be refreshing its "Standards of Cover" and working toward a modern strategic plan.
- **Fire Station Resilience** – The Department will be working with Finance and Emergency Management to apply for State of Oregon seismic grants to bring four of five stations into compliance with seismic standards.
- **Ambulance Transport System Redesign** – The Department began an EMS redesign project in FY23 to help align revenue and costs for ambulance transport. As part of this redesign project the department created new single-role Paramedic positions and single-role EMT positions to only work on medic units. These new positions are a lower cost staffing than the traditional dual-role Firefighter Paramedics that have historically staffed medic units. This transition will be complete in early FY25. The Department is evaluating the efficacy of transitioning all ambulance transport services to single-role staff.

Three Year Considerations – FY2026-FY2028

- **Population and Call Volume** – Emergency response has steadily increased over the last three years by 2.84% in FY21; 10.68% in FY22; and 1.2% in FY23. Call volume is expected to continue to increase by 2% with population growth and an aging population. The department will continue to update its Standards of Cover which will serve as the basis for strategic future growth planning, including future land acquisition needs and station placement.
- **Glenwood Fire Service** – As Glenwood redevelopment occurs, we anticipate increased service demand in the area. This is one part of our service area where we cannot provide a response within adopted time standards. Planning for a Glenwood fire station or realignment of existing stations will be necessary in the redevelopment planning.

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- **Threat from Natural Disaster** – The Department continues the development of plans to prepare for and respond to increasing severe weather events such as ice/snow, flooding, earthquake, and wildfire.
- **Ambulance Transport Fund** – Even with a projected increase in call volume, revenues within the Ambulance Fund do not keep pace with rising expenditures. Nearly 80% of all patients transported are covered by Medicare or Medicaid, which establish capitated fee schedules. Fire staff will continue evaluating the EMS system design for potential expense savings in the coming years.

Financial Summary by Fund

	FY22 Actuals	FY23 Actuals	FY24 Amended	FY25 Proposed
100 General Fund	12,678,949	12,537,426	13,240,919	14,271,425
204 Special Revenue Fund	-	867,822	303,173	175,381
224 Building Code Fund	79,641	83,858	85,645	96,795
235 Fire Local Option Levy Fund	1,633,752	1,690,732	1,754,343	1,833,986
615 Ambulance Fund	7,285,297	7,427,706	6,953,678	6,857,494
713 Vehicle & Equipment Fund	277,811	716,403	3,358,373	741,062
Grand Total	\$ 21,955,451	\$ 23,323,947	\$ 25,696,131	\$ 23,976,142

Financial Summary by Program

	FY22 Actuals	FY23 Actuals	FY24 Amended	FY25 Proposed
1000 Default Community Services	-	1	-	-
1030 Building Plan Review	127,599	133,527	133,204	151,964
1039 Development Review	34,051	36,190	36,424	42,713
1090 Fire & Arson Investigation	70,757	100,478	92,258	74,903
1091 Community Risk Reduction	245,460	155,474	424,864	332,351
1092 Plan Review	40	-	-	-
1093 Apparatus & Equipment Maintenance	341,539	402,307	373,900	386,368
1096 Fire Suppression Operations	12,636,885	13,107,873	13,177,058	14,038,299
1097 Dispatch and Communication	725,736	758,699	881,641	880,641
1098 Training & Development	376,615	658,603	565,048	871,926
1099 EMS Operations	5,342,457	5,360,833	4,736,228	4,421,032
1100 Fire Logistics	219,388	355,717	175,003	171,003
1102 EMS Billing - Enterprise	496,056	399,026	567,473	516,992
1104 FireMed	151,607	110,937	125,000	125,000
1105 Community Outreach	-	8,000	8,000	8,000
1106 BLS Operations	336,662	373,598	350,000	350,000
1146 Traffic Team	-	230	-	-
7000 Department Administration	569,654	646,050	691,657	863,888
7022 City Facilities Operations, Maintenance and Custodial S	3,134	-	-	-
9000 Non-Program	277,811	716,403	3,358,373	741,062
Grand Total	\$ 21,955,451	\$ 23,323,947	\$ 25,696,131	\$ 23,976,142

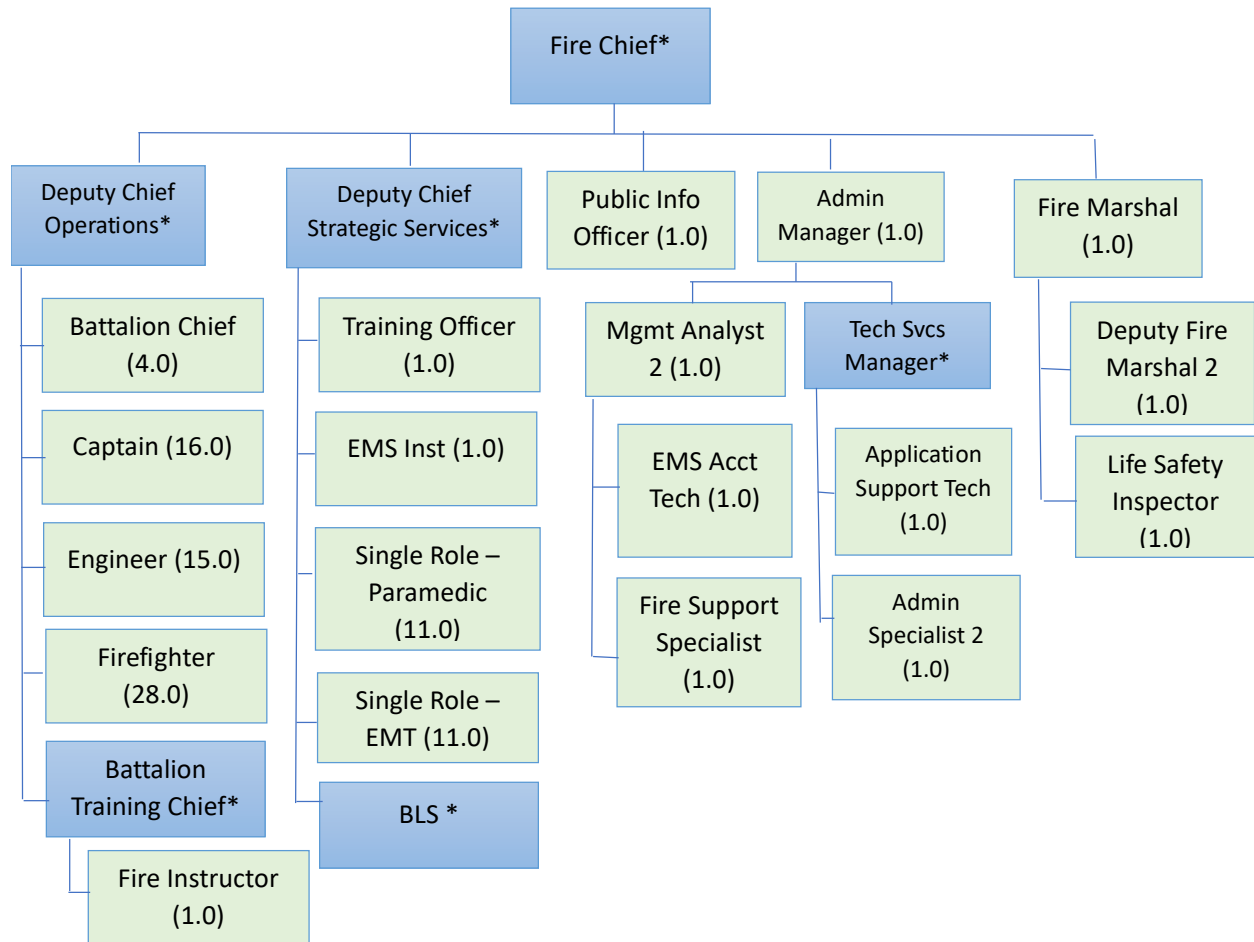
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Organizational Structure



*City of Eugene positions

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Summary of Full-Time Equivalent by Position

	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Administrative Specialist II	-	1.00	1.00	1.00
Application Tech Specialist	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Deputy Fire Marshal 2	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Ems Accounting Tech	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00
EMS Instructor	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Executive Assistant	1.00	-	-	-
Fire Admin Div Mgr	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Fire Battalion Chief - Ops	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Fire Captain - Shift	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00
Fire Engineer - Shift	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Fire Inspector	-	1.00	-	-
Fire Instructor	-	1.00	1.00	1.00
Fire Life Safety Inspector	-	-	1.00	1.00
Fire Management Analyst 2	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Fire Marshal / Division Mgr	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Fire Support Specialist	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Firefighter - 40L	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Firefighter - Shift	30.00	30.00	30.00	26.00
Firefighter (40L)	2.00	2.00	2.00	-
Firefighter (Shift)	11.00	11.00	11.00	-
Public Information Officer	-	-	-	1.00
Single Role EMT 24HR	-	-	-	11.00
Single Role Paramedic 24HR	-	-	-	11.00
Training Officer	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Grand Total	91.00	93.00	93.00	98.00

Summary of Full-Time Equivalent by Fund

	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
100 General Fund	57.60	57.60	57.60	60.60
204 Special Revenue Fund	-	2.00	2.00	1.00
224 Building Code Fund	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40
235 Fire Local Option Levy Fund	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
615 Ambulance Fund	26.00	26.00	26.00	29.00
Grand Total	91.00	93.00	93.00	98.00

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Summary of Full-Time Equivalent by Program

	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
1030 Building Plan Review	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65
1039 Development Review	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20
1090 Fire & Arson Investigation	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35
1091 Community Risk Reduction	0.80	0.80	1.80	1.80
1096 Fire Suppression Operations	61.00	61.00	61.00	62.00
1098 Training & Development	2.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
1099 EMS Operations	19.00	19.00	19.00	23.00
1102 EMS Billing - Enterprise	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00
7000 Department Administration	5.00	6.00	5.00	6.00
Grand Total	91.00	93.00	93.00	98.00

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