

FIRE & LIFE SAFETY

Michael Caven, Fire Chief

firelife@springfield-or.gov

541-682-5411

Department Overview

The Cities of Springfield and Eugene consolidated their fire departments via an intergovernmental agreement in 2010. Operating as Eugene Springfield Fire, 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.

	FY21 Actuals	FY22 Actuals	FY23 Amended	FY24 Proposed
5 PERSONNEL SERVICES	15,605,426	16,053,396	16,780,321	17,196,488
6 MATERIALS & SERVICES	5,336,804	5,631,815	5,582,392	4,910,839
7 CAPITAL OUTLAY	587,492	270,240	1,263,823	221,500
Grand Total	\$ 21,529,722	\$ 21,955,451	\$ 23,626,536	\$ 22,328,827

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

Budget Summary – FY2024

Staffing

FY24 staffing levels for Springfield Fire and Life Safety will remain the same.

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

No service level changes to the Springfield community are anticipated in FY24.

Accomplishments FY2023

- **Ground Emergency Medical Transport Program (GEMT)** – GEMT was enacted by Oregon Health Authority (OHA) in FY20 to help address revenue shortfalls for ambulance services provided to Medicaid fee for service (FFS) transports. OHA expanded GEMT in FY22 to include Medicaid consolidated care organization (CCO) transports. The Department is expected to receive \$140,000 in additional revenue through the GEMT FFS program and \$800,000 in additional revenue through the GEMT CCO program in FY23.
- **Assistance to Firefighters Grant** – The Department was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant to purchase 6 Lund University Cardiopulmonary Assist System (LUCAS) devices for Springfield apparatus. Springfield's share of this grant totaled just over \$100,000 in equipment, batteries, and service agreements. LUCAS devices maintain chest compressions while traveling and have shown to increase the survivability from heart attack which further advances the Department's efforts to make our community a Heart Safe Community.
- **Wildfire season** – The Department provided resources in the Summer and Fall of 2022 to six separate wildfires and Hurricane Ian. Eugene Springfield Fire invoiced the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office over \$45,000 for Springfield's share of these efforts, the largest of which was the Elbow Creek Fire which accounted for \$24,000 of the reimbursement packet. ESF leveraged grant funding for overtime staffing to ensure the communities were better protected during critical fire weather.
- **Apparatus Updates** – The Department replaced a Springfield fire engine which was ordered in FY21 and put into service in FY23. The Department also acquired a reserve ladder for Springfield to help extend the life cycle of the main ladder when the main ladder goes in for service and preventative maintenance.
- **2022 Special Events** – In the early summer of 2022 the Department simultaneously participated in the 2022 World Games, the Lane County Fair, and the Oregon Country Fair by providing standby services for events and extra unit coverage for the additional visitors the Games brought into our community. These events stretched the Department thin, but staff stepped up to the challenge and provided exceptional service to our community members and visitors.
- **Fuels Reduction** – The Department worked with North West Youth Corps on various fuels mitigation and defensible space projects around Eugene and Springfield. The Department also provided an opportunity for Youth to visit a large scale wildfire exercise in the Thurston Hills Natural Area for exposure to the job.

Initiatives FY2024

- **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 Department continued work on the formal evaluation of the consolidation in FY23 and this work will continue into FY24 including next steps for a path forward to resolving remaining consolidation issues.

- **Single Role Paramedics/EMS Redesign** – The Department began an EMS redesign project in FY23 to help align revenue and costs for ambulance transports. 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 lower cost FTE than the traditional Dual Roll Firefighter Paramedics that have historically staffed medic units. The transition will be complete in FY24 with long term deployment between the cities still in the planning phase.
- **Non-Emergent Transports** – The Department historically has contracted out non-emergent transports. The current vendor recently informed the department that they will not be renewing their contract at the end of FY23. A request for proposal (RFP) is being issued to find a replacement vendor with the department prepared to assume the work under the City of Eugene in the event there is no interest.
- **Fire Marshall updating fire code and fee structure** - The Fire Marshall's Office is working on aligning permit and inspection fees that need to be amended to coincide with the adoption of new 2022 Fire Code using consistent methodology within the Department.

Three Year Considerations FY2025-FY2027

- **Population and Call Volume** –Emergency response has steadily increased over the last five years except for a temporary dip in call volume due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Call volume started to return to pre-COVID levels in FY22 and is expected to continue to increase 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.
- **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. These fee schedules have remained flat or shown only moderate increases with the ambulance inflation factor (historically less than 2% annually, except 2023 was at 6%). With this recent increase in the ambulance inflation factor, the Department will also be updating the ambulance transport rate fee schedule. Fire staff will continue evaluating the EMS system design for potential expense savings in the coming years.
- **Single Entity** – In its current form Eugene Springfield Fire has staff allocated to 10 different funds, providing services for the cities of Springfield and Eugene and several contracts for service. This arrangement makes transparent tracking and containment of costs next to impossible. A single entity such as a district streamlines the books for improved budget transparency at a programmatic level. ESF already services a large part of our region with ambulance services and supports regional fire incidents through mutual aid. Threat of climate driven urban conflagrations are real, and these incidents are likely to start and grow initially unchecked in neighboring jurisdictions due to lack of resources. Positioning governance to a fire district will allow ESF to leverage regional resources to a more coordinated and aligned regional fire service model. A regional district allows for savings in overhead to be applied as staffing in underserved and high-risk areas. Near-future infrastructure investments (fire stations) are needed in areas where the cost and service should be shared beyond city boundaries.

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541.726.3700

Financial Summary by Fund

	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
	Actuals	Actuals	Amended	Proposed
100 General Fund	12,686,131	12,678,949	12,707,910	13,151,343
204 Special Revenue Fund	-	-	936,232	266,209
224 Building Code Fund	76,248	79,641	84,213	85,645
235 Fire Local Option Levy Fund	1,550,348	1,633,752	1,668,748	1,725,722
615 Ambulance Fund	6,608,002	7,285,297	7,066,407	6,862,659
713 Vehicle & Equipment Fund	608,992	277,811	1,163,027	237,250
Grand Total	\$ 21,529,722	\$ 21,955,451	\$ 23,626,536	\$ 22,328,827

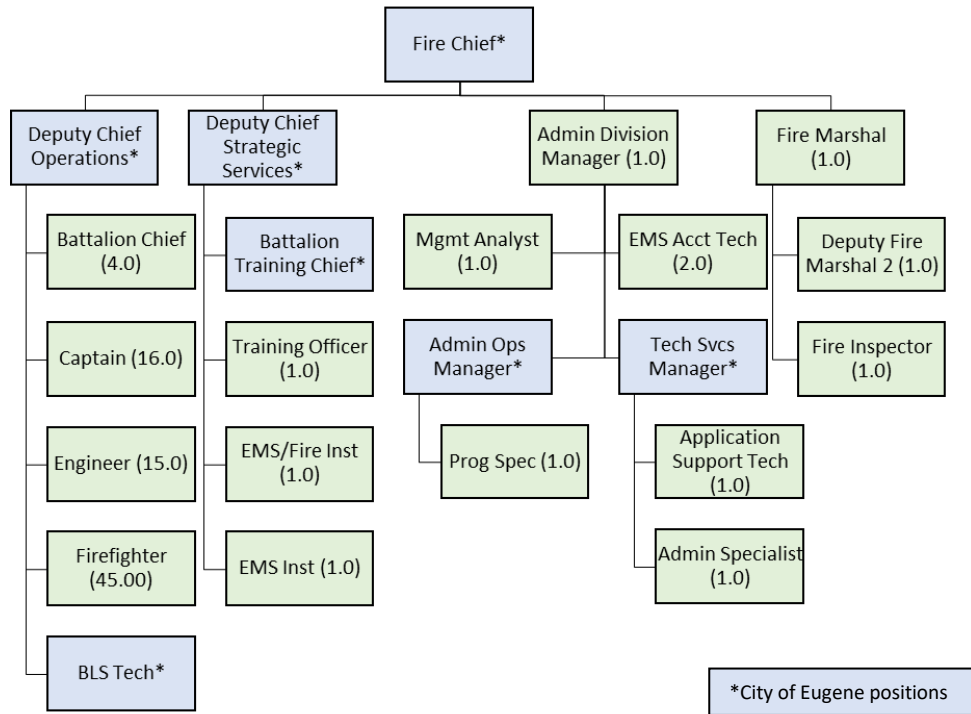
Financial Summary by Program

		FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
		Actuals	Actuals	Amended	Proposed
Active Programs	1030 Building Plan Review	116,976	127,599	132,113	133,204
	1039 Development Review	32,557	34,051	35,694	36,424
	1090 Fire & Arson Investigation	93,417	70,757	77,300	92,258
	1091 Community Risk Reduction	342,737	245,460	237,900	391,109
	1093 Apparatus & Equipment Maintenance	334,090	341,539	347,200	373,900
	1096 Fire Suppression Operations	12,303,052	12,636,885	13,378,634	13,055,651
	1097 Dispatch and Communication	796,700	725,736	881,641	881,641
	1098 Training & Development	467,742	376,615	579,753	565,048
	1099 EMS Operations	4,763,575	5,342,457	4,889,390	4,736,228
	1100 Fire Logistics	155,225	219,388	179,860	175,003
	1102 EMS Billing - Enterprise	480,525	496,056	460,610	476,454
	1104 FireMed	221,152	151,607	135,200	125,000
	1105 Community Outreach	-	-	8,200	8,000
	1106 BLS Operations	294,424	336,662	302,300	350,000
	7000 Department Administration	498,318	569,654	817,713	691,657
	9000 Non-Program	608,992	277,811	1,163,027	237,250
Active Programs Total		21,509,483	21,952,277	23,626,536	22,328,827
Inactive Programs	1006 Economic Development Agency Funding	20,099	-	-	-
	1092 Plan Review	-	40	-	-
	1103 EMS Billing - Springfield	(0)	-	-	-
	7005 City-Wide Management & Oversight	100	-	-	-
	7022 City Facilities Operations, Maintenance and Custodial Services	40	3,134	-	-
Inactive Programs Total		20,239	3,174	-	-
Grand Total		\$ 21,529,722	\$ 21,955,451	\$ 23,626,536	\$ 22,328,827

Notes:

- Program 1103 was merged into program 1102 in FY21.
- Program 9000 FY21 Actuals reflects an accounting change for recording Fund 713 vehicle and equipment replacement items.

Organizational Structure



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Summary of Full-Time Equivalent by Position

	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Administrative Specialist II	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Application Tech Specialist	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Deputy Fire Marshal 2	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00
Ems Accounting Tech	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
EMS Instructor	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
EMS/Fire Instructor	-	-	1.00	1.00
Fire Admin Div Mgr	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Fire Battalion Chief - Ops	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Fire Battalion Chief (Ops)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Fire Captain - Shift	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00
Fire Engineer - 40L	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Fire Engineer - Shift	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00
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
Firefighter - Shift	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
Firefighter (40L)	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Firefighter (Shift)	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Program Specialist	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Training Officer	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Grand Total	92.00	91.00	93.00	93.00

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Summary of Full-Time Equivalent by Fund

	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
100 General Fund	57.60	57.60	57.60	57.60
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	27.00	26.00	26.00	26.00
204 Special Revenue Fund	-	-	2.00	2.00
Grand Total	92.00	91.00	93.00	93.00

Summary of Full-Time Equivalent by Program

		FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
		FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Active Programs	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	0.80	1.80
	1096 Fire Suppression Operations	61.00	61.00	61.00	61.00
	1098 Training & Development	2.00	2.00	3.00	3.00
	1099 EMS Operations	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00
	1102 EMS Billing - Enterprise	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
	7000 Department Administration	5.00	5.00	6.00	5.00
Active Programs Total		92.00	91.00	93.00	93.00
Grand Total		92.00	91.00	93.00	93.00