



IMPACTS OF BUDGET CONSTRAINTS ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIMES

Fire Department
Police Department

City Council
November 1, 2016

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FIRE DEPARTMENT – CURRENT STATUS

1. Increase in call volume outside of station primary response areas attributed to:
 - a. to the summer season and
 - b. Squad 5 was placed temporarily out of service as a budget balancing measure.



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FIRE DEPARTMENT – CURRENT STATUS

2. Since Squad 5 was removed from service, surrounding fire stations are responding longer distances to render aid.
3. Longer travel to fire and EMS emergencies is unproductive and impacts firefighter safety and patient medical treatment.



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FIRE DEPT – INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Operates under three broad expectations for incident management :

1. Stop the escalation of the emergency
2. Respond with enough resources to:
 - a. execute the "Critical Tasks"
 - b. provide for the safety of fire personnel
3. For EMS calls:
 - a. arrive before brain death occurs in a full arrest, and
 - b. extricate and transport trauma patients within 60 minutes

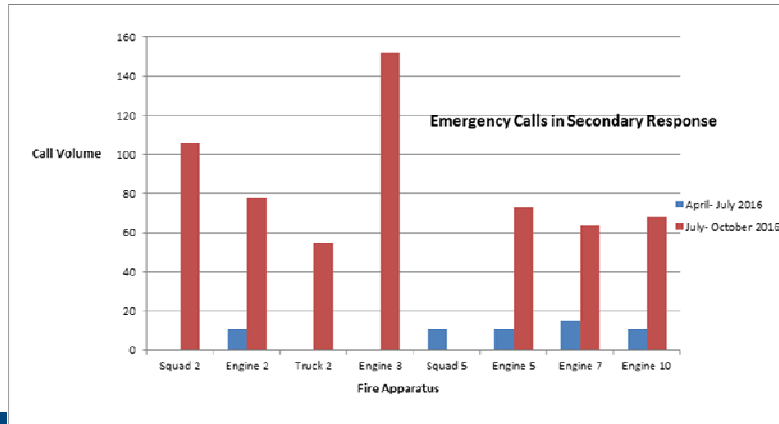


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FIRE DEPT – SECONDARY RESPONSE AREAS

The average response time for units traveling to secondary response areas is **10 minutes and 30 seconds** for 90% of incidents.



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FIRE DEPT- PATIENT CARE STATISTICS

1. Cardiac Arrest can be reversed if treated with ALS
2. A victim's chance of survival reduces 7-10% with every minute that passes without ALS intervention
3. Few attempts of resuscitation succeed after 10 minutes

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FIRE DEPT – NATIONAL STANDARDS

National Fire Protection Association:

1. Advanced Life Support is to arrive on scene for EMS calls within 8 minutes
2. Fire extinguishment (15 people min.) is to arrive on scene within 8 minutes.



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POLICE DEPARTMENT - CURRENT STATUS

1. There is no accepted national standard for measuring police response time.
2. Time can greatly vary from city to city, based on how the agency defines emergencies.
3. Each call for service is evaluated and the appropriate response is prioritized and initiated.
4. The standard response time to calls for service is to dispatch a sworn police officer to respond to a location as quickly as possible.



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POLICE DEPARTMENT - CURRENT STATUS

5. Not every citizen who calls the police requires, or even necessarily expects a rapid response.
6. The Department has been dealing with resource shortages and is looking for ways to streamline existing resources to improve efficiency and effectiveness by implementing alternative response strategies.



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POLICE DEPT – INCIDENT PRIORITY CODES

Priority	Description	Response
0 - Emergency	Considered the highest priority; have or are likely to cause serious injury to peace officers or firefighters; incidents involving the potential for mass casualty.	Broadcast immediately to all units
Priority 1	Also of the highest priority; incidents that have or are likely to cause serious injury to citizens; involving actual, threatened or imminent domestic violence	Broadcast immediately to the closest available units
Priority 2	Incidents or circumstances that may lead to serious injury to citizens; involving damage or loss of personal property.	First available area unit; or held for the next available area unit
Priority 3	Past occurrences of felonies/misdemeanors when rapid police intervention will not lessen the gravity of circumstances or damage.	First available area unit
Priority 4	Past occurrences of crimes and suspicious circumstances.	First available area unit.

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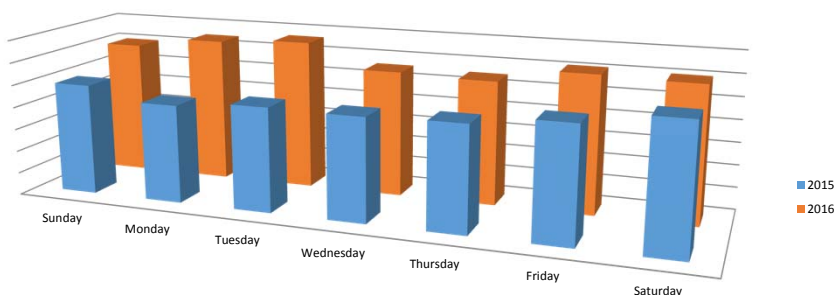


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POLICE DEPT – CALL VOLUME

During the recent budgetary staffing reduction, there has been an increased call volume as compared to the same time last year.

July - September



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total	Increase
2015	4,953	4,378	4,644	4,596	4,677	5,060	5,578	33,886	
2016	6,025	6,468	6,669	5,623	5,520	6,127	6,037	42,469	8,583

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POLICE DEPT – RECOMMENDED

1. Response times for the Police Department would improve with increased staffing levels.
2. Adding officers will:
 - a. reduce overtime costs in the future
 - b. increase the quality of service provided to the City
 - c. improve the quality of life for all Department personnel.



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Recommendations

That the City Council receive and file information regarding the impact of budget constraints on emergency response times.



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