



City of Manassas *Fire and Rescue*



FY2014 Annual Report
Chief Brett R. Bowman

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Fiscal Year 2014 was a very exciting year for the City of Manassas Fire and Rescue Service. The City of Manassas Fire and Rescue Department, the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company and the Greater Manassas Volunteer Rescue Squad continued the evolution and integration to provide high quality public safety services to our citizens and visitors of the City, and the surrounding communities.

While Fiscal 2014 was busy and productive, a few notable activities are highlighted below:

While it seems so long ago, back at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2014, in July 2013, we worked jointly with Manassas Public School System staff to host the first Fire and Rescue Summer Camp for incoming Osbourn High School Freshmen. Eighteen students participated in this inaugural event and it was a huge success. This was further demonstrated when 17 of the 18 original students signed up to participate in a Sophomore Camp this past summer (The one that didn't come back has moved out of the area).

In May 2014, the tangible realities of the Fire and Rescue Fleet Plan as adopted by City Council became a reality when a new pumper, tower ladder and volunteer battalion chief's vehicle were placed into service to serve our community. This was followed up at the end of the fiscal year with the addition of a new ambulance and volunteer Rescue Chief's vehicle. The fleet plan provides a prudent approach to maintain the expensive investment of emergency vehicles through a reasonable anticipated life cycle and is adequately funded for the foreseeable future.

A new word was introduced to the regions vocabulary in January 2014 when we experienced a Polar Vortex. Emergency Management staff reacted swiftly to the snow and extremely cold temperatures, by opening a shelter at Osbourn High School and in conjunction with Prince William County staffed a warming shelter at Grace United Methodist Church. Our emergency management preparation continued to develop and evolve during Fiscal 2014 with several local and regional exercises and many staff hours of training and planning.

Our Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program was recognized with the 2014 Outstanding EMS Agency Award from the Northern Virginia EMS Council. Dr. Thomas Luckey, our Operational Medical Director was also recognized as he received the Outstanding EMS Physician Award. We continue to advance and improve our delivery of life saving care every day.

I along with all of the men and women of the three agencies that form the City of Manassas Fire and Rescue Service are proud to serve the citizens of the City of Manassas. I personally want to thank all of the fire and rescue members for the effort, commitment and professionalism they contribute to the provision of emergency services and public safety. It is an honor to serve as your Fire and Rescue Chief.

Be safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett R. Bowman".

Brett R. Bowman
Fire and Rescue Chief

Introduction

The City of Manassas Fire and Rescue System, organized by City Ordinance #O-2010-14 and comprised of the City of Manassas Fire and Rescue Department, the Greater Manassas Volunteer Rescue Squad and the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company, had a groundbreaking year in fiscal year 2014.

Emergency Medical Services, coordinated by Battalion Chief Todd E. Lupton and supervised by Dr. Thomas Luckey, became an award winning program this year. The program was awarded the 2014 Regional Award for Outstanding Achievement in EMS by the Northern Virginia EMS Council (NVEMSC). Additionally, the NVEMSC awarded Dr. Thomas Luckey with the 2014 Award for EMS Physician with Outstanding Contribution to EMS.

Continuing the award winning year, former GMVRS President Michael Enright was selected as one of the Outstanding Volunteers of the Year. Battalion Chief Todd E. Lupton and Fire Marshal Francis J. Teevan received their Chief Fire Officer designation this year. This designation recognizes fire officers with proven excellence and outstanding achievement throughout their career. This was exciting opportunity for both officers.

Members of MVFC formed a team and participated in the Mini's Mission Kickball Tournament; the event raised approximately \$30,000 for children's cancer research.



Each year, the City of Manassas recognizes Fire Prevention Week (October) and EMS Week (May). Corresponding with these nationally sponsored awareness campaigns, both MVFC and GMVRS open the doors to the stations for an Open House. These open houses are well attended by the community and offer a wide range of activities from EMS and fire demonstrations, to moon bounces. Both GMVRS and MVFC participate in events throughout the City with staffing, but additionally, they staff a booth during the Fall Jubilee in an effort to inform citizens and potentially recruit new members.

Operations

The Operations Division, led by Deputy Chief Wade House and supported by three Battalion Chiefs, is responsible for the hands-on delivery of emergency and non-emergency actions to address response and mitigation of fire and emergency medical services (EMS) within the community.

Significant Incidents

Due in part to the intense training and exceptional skills, personnel were able to make two successful CPR saves in FY2014. Other significant incidents include:

- Townhouse Fire, 2 Alarm – Carlton Drive, significant damage to three (3) units, displaced twenty-three (23) residents (September 2013)
Damage Loss: \$182,000
- Vehicle Fire – City School Bus was heavily damaged by fire while parked in the bus lot on Public Works Drive. (December 2013)
Damage Loss: \$100,000
- Building Fire – VMEA Generation Facility, Godwin Drive, operated by the City of Manassas Utilities Department, suffered a major fire; while the fire suppression system limited the spread of the fire, one generator did receive significant damage along with some building damage. (January 2014)
Damage Loss: \$900,000
- Building Fire – Metz Middle School, Wellington Road. A fire was intentionally set and contained to the boy's bathroom; smoke damage extended out into adjacent areas of the school. No students were injured. (March 2014)
Damage Loss: \$40,000
- Shed Fire – Merit Court (May 2014)
Damage Loss: \$40,000
- Townhouse Fire – Taney Rd (June 2014)
Damage Loss: \$25,000



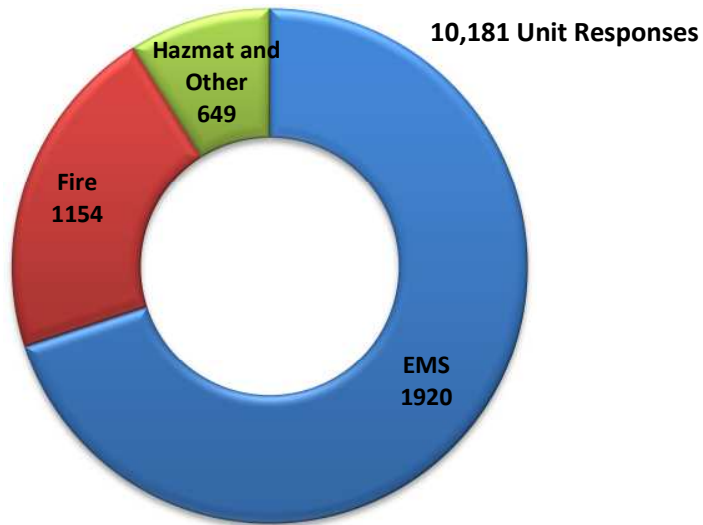
A DAY IN THE LIFE.....

Each day, the Fire and Rescue System

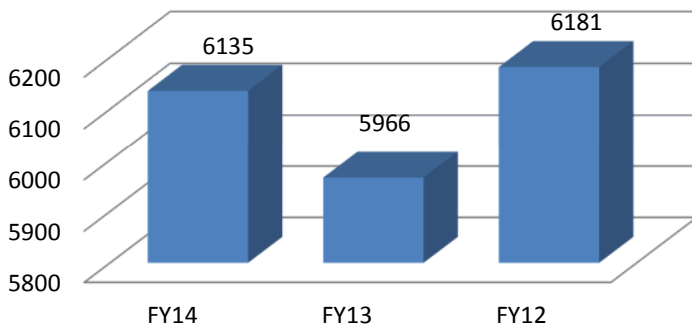
- *Responds to **16.81** calls for service,*
- *With **27.89** unit responses, and*
- *Recovers **\$1,563.09** in EMS revenue*

Incident Data

Emergency calls come in to the Public Safety Communications Center for various reasons. The chart below demonstrates that the majority of the calls are for EMS (emergency medical services). In FY2014, the City of Manassas responded to 6,135 calls for service with 10,181 unit responses; of those, 4,293 were for EMS care. ALS, which stands for advanced life support, had the highest number of calls for service this year.



Operations - History
Total Calls Run



DID YOU KNOW.....

- Fires in a home double in size every thirty (30) seconds
- According to the Red Cross and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), fire experts agree that people may have as little as two (2) minutes to escape a burning home before it is too late to get out.

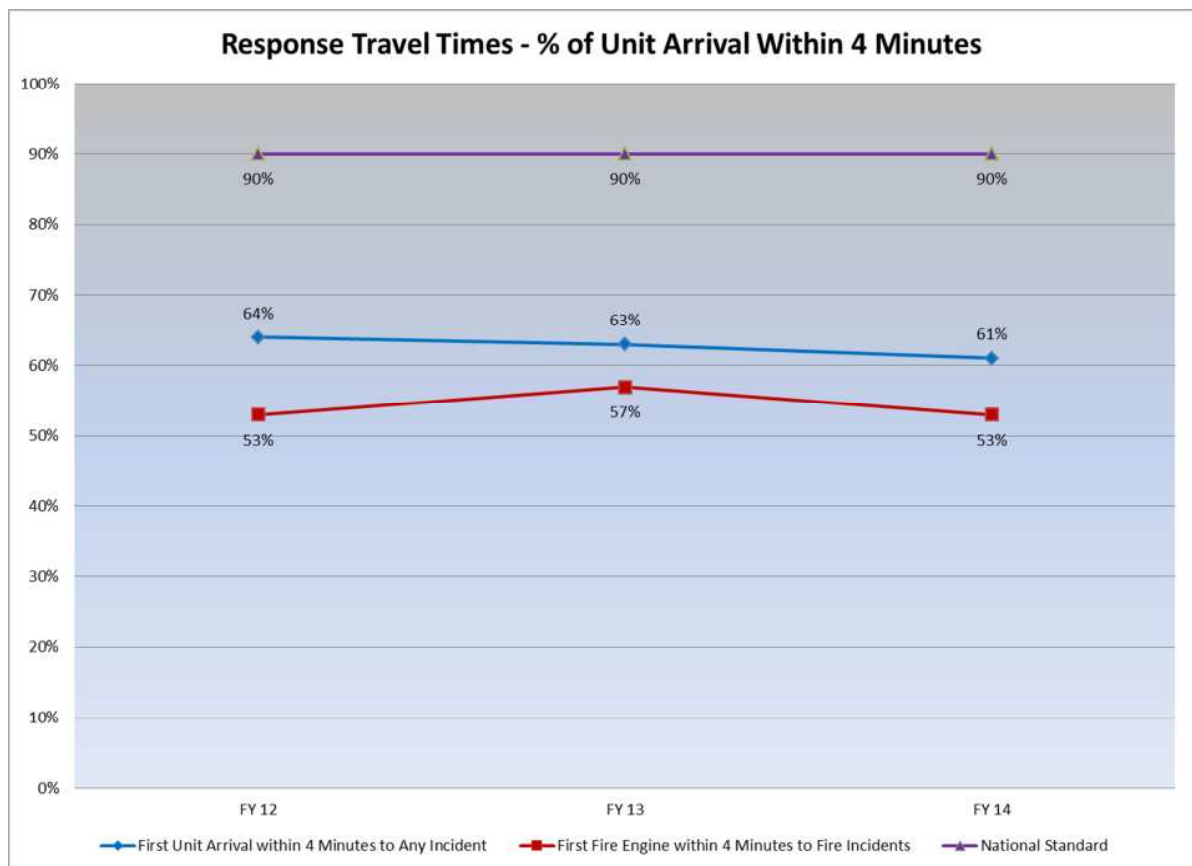
Response Times

No matter what type of call for service we receive, we respond as if your life depended on it – because it may very well. With those 4,239 calls for service, we had 10,181 units responding. Response times of those units can drastically change the outcome of any call.

In FY2014, MFRD arrived on scene within four (4) minutes of dispatch 61% of the time; when considering calls for ALS (advanced life support), personnel arrived on scene within eight (8) minutes of dispatch 93% of the time. While the percentages sound adequate, consider this:

Studies have shown that a person suffering a heart attack may have 4 – 6 minutes, without any intervention, before irreversible brain damage may occur. With the right conditions, a fire can spread to an uncontrollable state within seconds.

In any situation, the sooner trained emergency personnel can arrive, the better.





Fleet

During FY2014, the new Pumper, Ladder Truck, and Command Vehicle (Volunteer Fire) were received. These vehicles were approved in the System fleet plan (Ordinance #O-2012-10) which was enacted March 12, 2012. Also during this fiscal year, the new Medic unit and Command Vehicle (Volunteer Rescue) was ordered. In total, on all five pieces of apparatus, there was a savings of \$262,901.

Manassas Volunteer Fire Company hosted a housing ceremony on May 24, 2014 in respect to the new ladder truck and pumper. This housing ceremony is a tradition in the fire service and includes firefighters pushing the new apparatus into the bays. This tradition dates back to when horse and carriages were used as fire apparatus and needed to be pushed into the bay after each incident. This was a well-attended community event.



Uniform Rank Structure

In June 2011, the Fire and Rescue Committee approved a Uniform Rank Structure standard operating procedure which requires ranks, no matter career or volunteer, to maintain the same level of certifications. Members had two (2) years to become compliant with these requirements. In FY2014, a review of compliancy with the Uniform Rank Structure was done. The results of the study showed an overwhelming 88.34% compliancy with the overall Uniform Rank Structure.

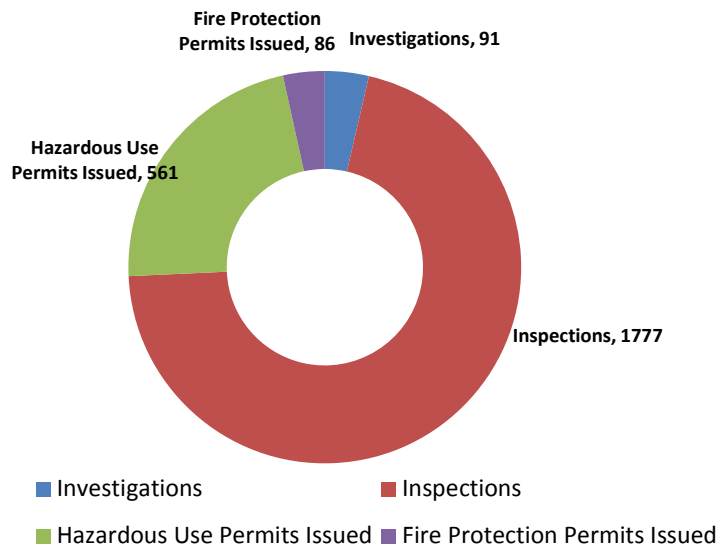
We are committed to continuing improvement and the assurance of adequately trained and prepared responders are available for our community.

Prevention and Preparedness Division

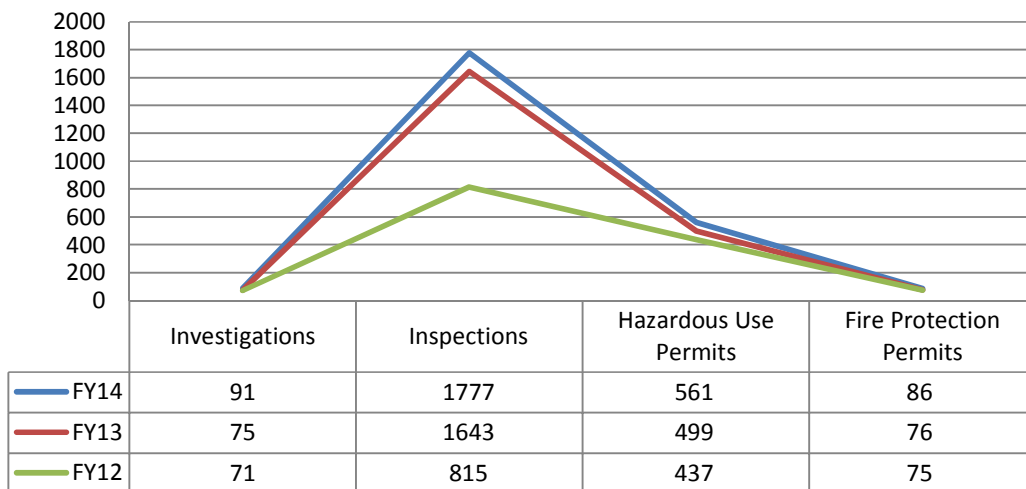
The Prevention and Preparedness Division is formed by two vital roles within the fire and rescue service: fire prevention and emergency management.

Prevention

Prevention is staffed by two Fire Marshals. Throughout FY2014, they were able to complete 1,777 inspections, issue a total of 647 permits, and conducted 91 investigations.



Fire Marshal Activity - History



Preparedness

Preparedness, or Emergency Management, focuses on four phases: Preparedness, Response, Recovery, and Mitigation. In FY2014, the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funded the Emergency Management Planner position with \$125,000. Those funds were used to pay the Emergency Management Planner, continuing education, and various programs to assist the community in being prepared in case of a disaster.

In November 2013, the City of Manassas activated the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) in coordination with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), Northern Virginia Council of Governments, and the Virginia Emergency Operations Center for the CHAOS drill.



The Polar Vortex impacted not only the City of Manassas and the region significantly in FY2014 but also the Prevention and Preparedness Division. In coordination with Family Services, Police, Manassas City Public Schools, the American Red Cross and community leaders, shelters were opened to offer a warm place to stay for those in need. As a result of this demonstration of need a Shelter Workgroup was established. This workgroup is revising the existing plan for shelters. A grant, in the amount of \$3,340 was received to purchase shelter supplies.

Manassas Alert was implemented in FY2014 with coordination between the Prevention and Preparedness Division, and other City agencies. This system is an emergency notification system that allows City officials to notify residents and businesses by telephone, cell phone, text message, email and social media with important information during an emergency. Administrators of the system can also use it to notify groups of information during non-emergencies. It is used to activate special teams such as the CERT team. Users can register for whichever alerts they wish to receive (emergency alerts are automatic upon registration) including weather alerts, amber alerts, and at times potentially utility and/or police activity in a certain area of our community.



Visit www.ManassasCity.org to sign up for Manassas Alert. All City landlines are already registered for this alert system; however, alerts can be sent via text message and/or email as well.

Community Outreach (Public Education)



This year was an exciting, groundbreaking, year for community outreach in the fire and rescue system. In coordination with Manassas City Public Schools, we hosted our first Freshman Fire and Rescue Camp. The camp was a huge success with nineteen students participating. Fox 5 news attended camp one morning to report on the accomplishments of the camp – campers, instructors, and program.



Firefighters also participated in National Young Readers Day and Walk to School Day within the community, among the many other public education events regularly attended.

When requested, units have assisted local businesses with required fire extinguisher training, fire drill evacuations, and fire prevention tips for home and office.

Donations are still being received from private citizens, local businesses and grants for the smoke alarm give-away program. This program has been overwhelmingly well received in the community. Old Town Business Administration has begun to assist the Fire and Rescue System in distributing smoke alarms to their customers.

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

During the year, CERT program conducted two Basic CERT training classes and added sixteen new members to the roster. Training was provided to members in traffic control, crowd management, and scene security. Prior to participation in a scheduled event, training, or an emergency, CERT must be formally activated. A formal activation message is sent via the new ALERT MANASSAS (Everbridge) System to each member of the team with a description of the event, when and where to report, and what duties they are assigned.



CERT members were activated for two snow storms, the annual air show, a shelter drill, and six annual events (and parades) in Old Town throughout the year.

During annual, large scale, events within the City, CERT acts as the central point for first aid and a lost and found center. Members have, several times, aided lost family members to be reunited during events with tens of thousands of attendees. This is a crucial service and by CERT fulfilling this role, it allows public safety personnel to attend to other service areas.

Service Efforts and Measures

MFRD has three divisions with service efforts and measures: Administration, Operations, and Prevention and Preparedness. (See Appendix A for data analysis)

ADMINISTRATION Service Efforts and Measure	FY2013 Actual	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Budget
# of EMS incidents within the City of Manassas	3,008	3,903	3,100
# of Fire incidents within the City of Manassas	550	649	600
Emergency incident response arrival within 4 minutes of dispatch	63%	61%	63%
Advanced life support response arrival within 8 minutes of dispatch	94%	93%	90%

OPERATIONS Service Efforts and Measure	FY2013 Actual	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Budget
# of Emergency vehicle responses	9,671	10,181	10,000
# of Community events attended to delivery informational and safety oriented programs	62	46*	80
# of Patients transported	2,503	2,595	2,400
Average number of training hours per Operations Division FTE	200	200	200

PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS Service Efforts and Measure	FY2013 Actual	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Budget
# of Fire investigations	75	91	73
# of Annual fire inspections performed	1,643	1,777	1,200
% of Plans reviewed within two weeks	100%	100%	100%
# of Prosecutions	23	5	17
# of Disaster preparedness training and event planning hours	n/a	1,145	1,000

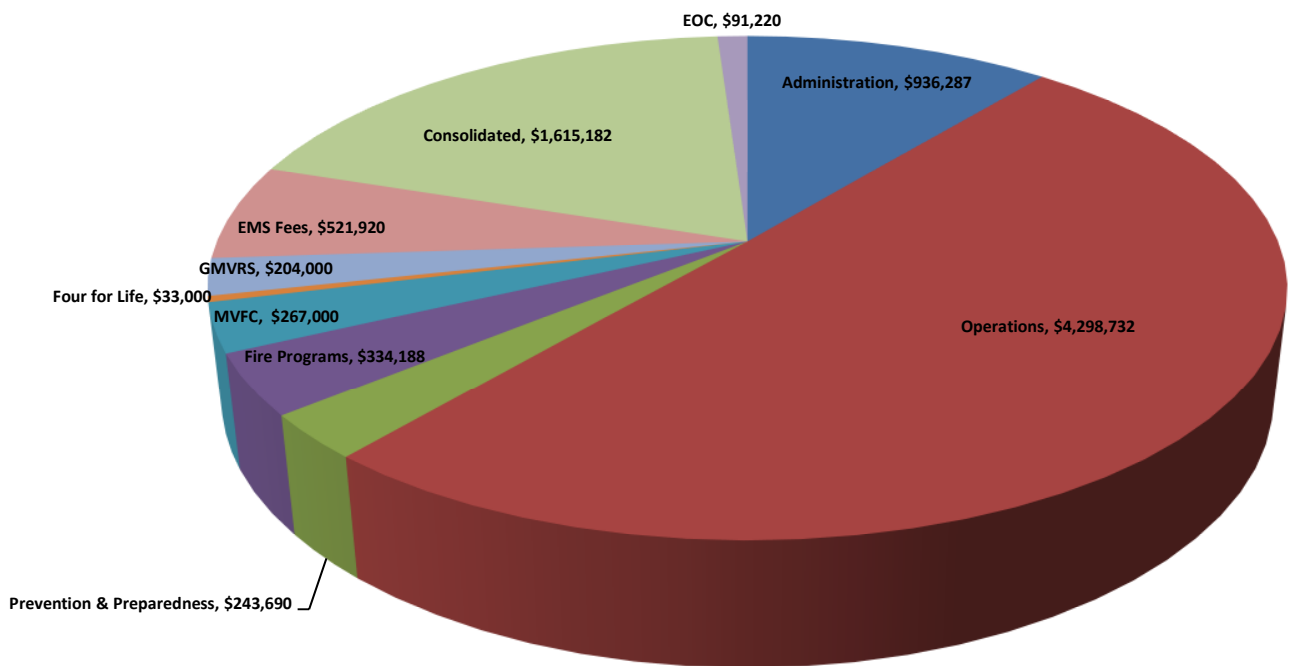
**Data collection methods changed in FY2014 and accurate numbers were unable to be captured.*



Budget

The FY2014 system amended budget was \$9,753,308. Grants accounted for \$1,206,897 of the overall budget. In September 2013, federal funding of the SAFER grant ended and the City's required one year funding began.

The fire and rescue tax levy increased from \$0.174 in FY2014 to \$0.182 in FY2015.



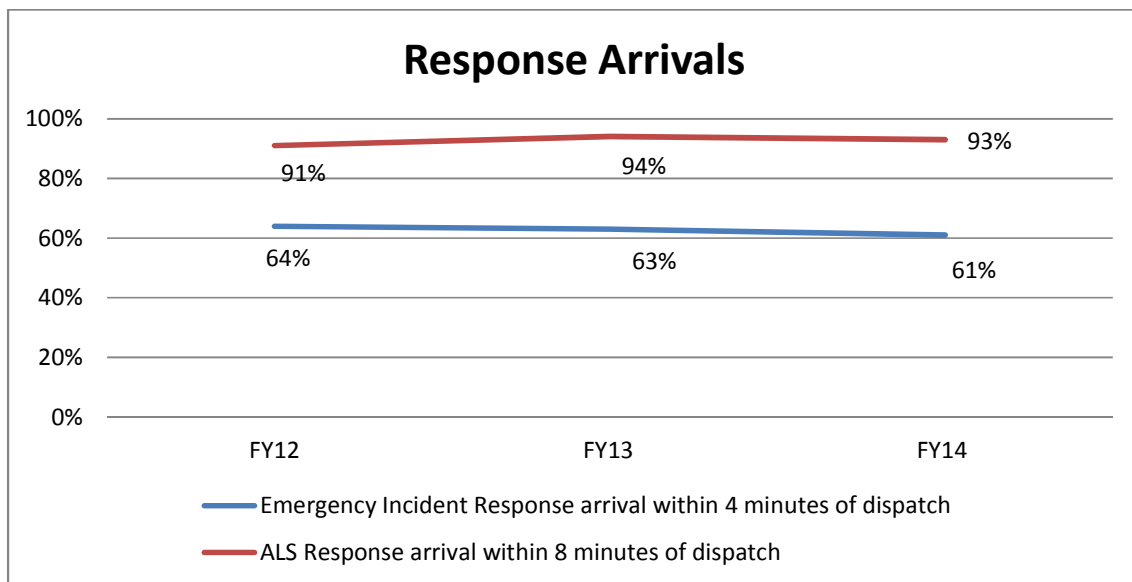
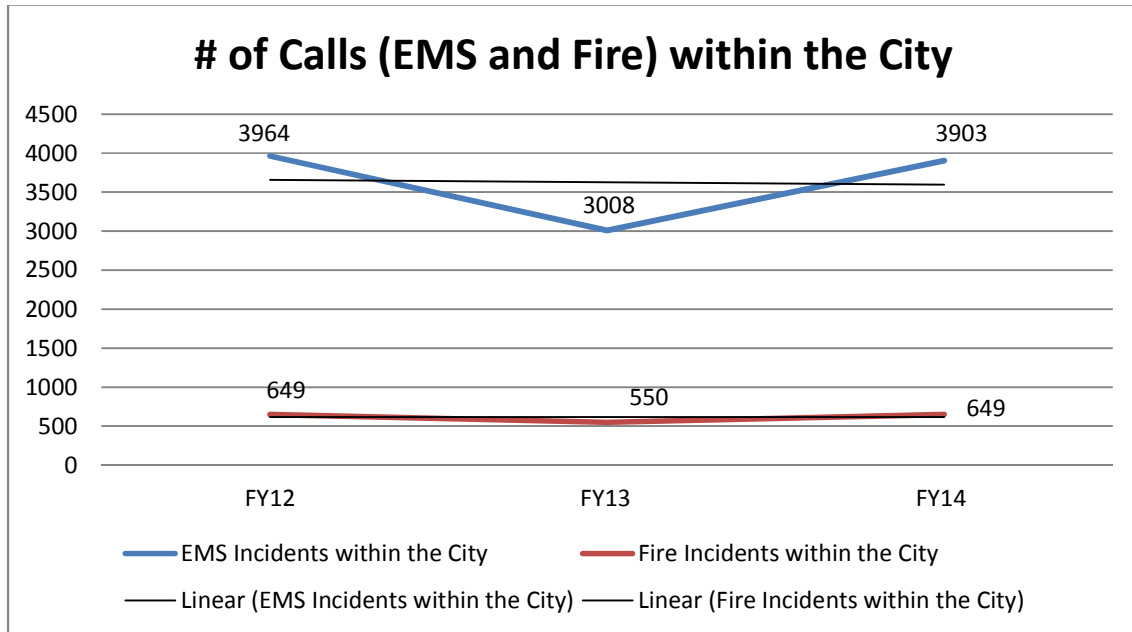
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Billing



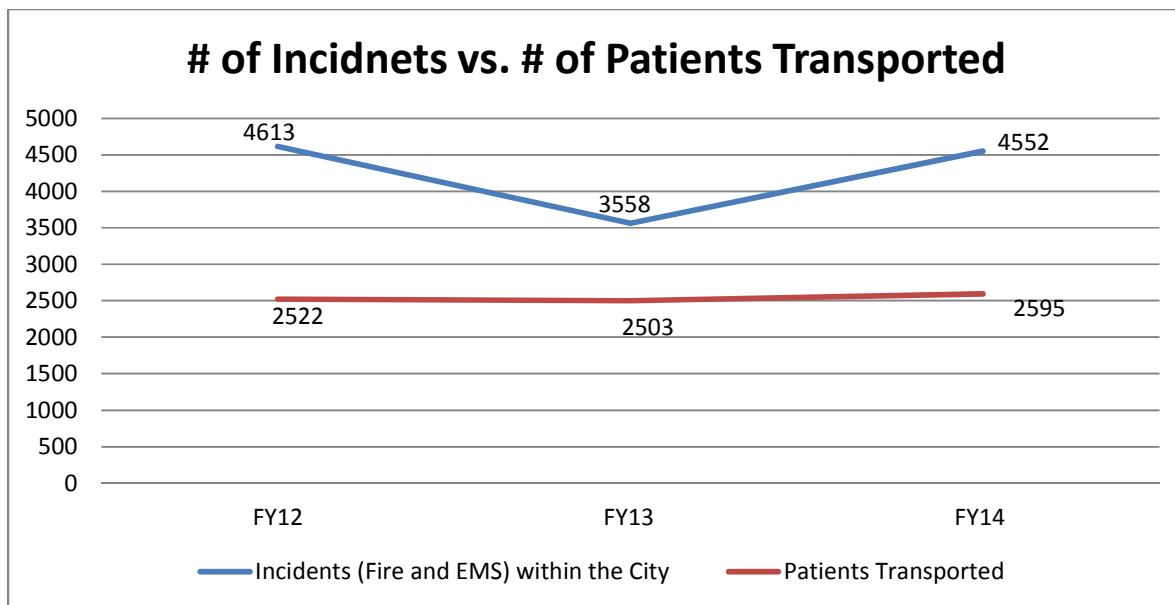
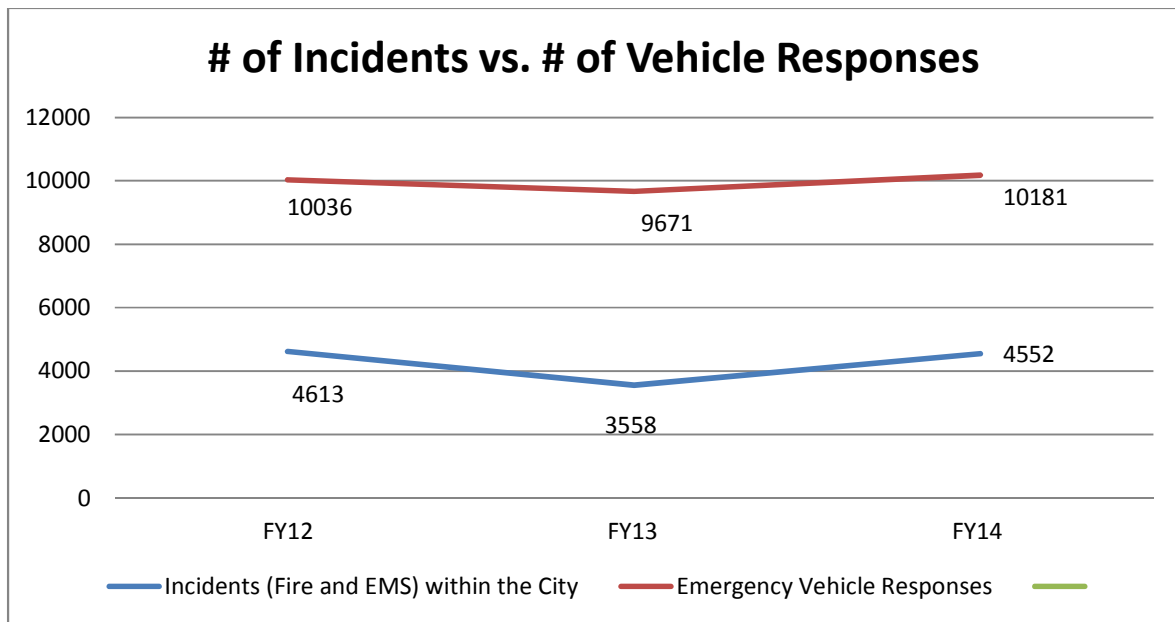
Revenue from billing for emergency medical services is the only other source of revenue, in addition to the tax levy, for fire and rescue. In FY2014, \$570,529 of the forecasted EMS revenue was received. City Council adopted the existing fee for service in FY2013; bringing those fees in line with surrounding jurisdictions has assisted in realizing revenue potential.

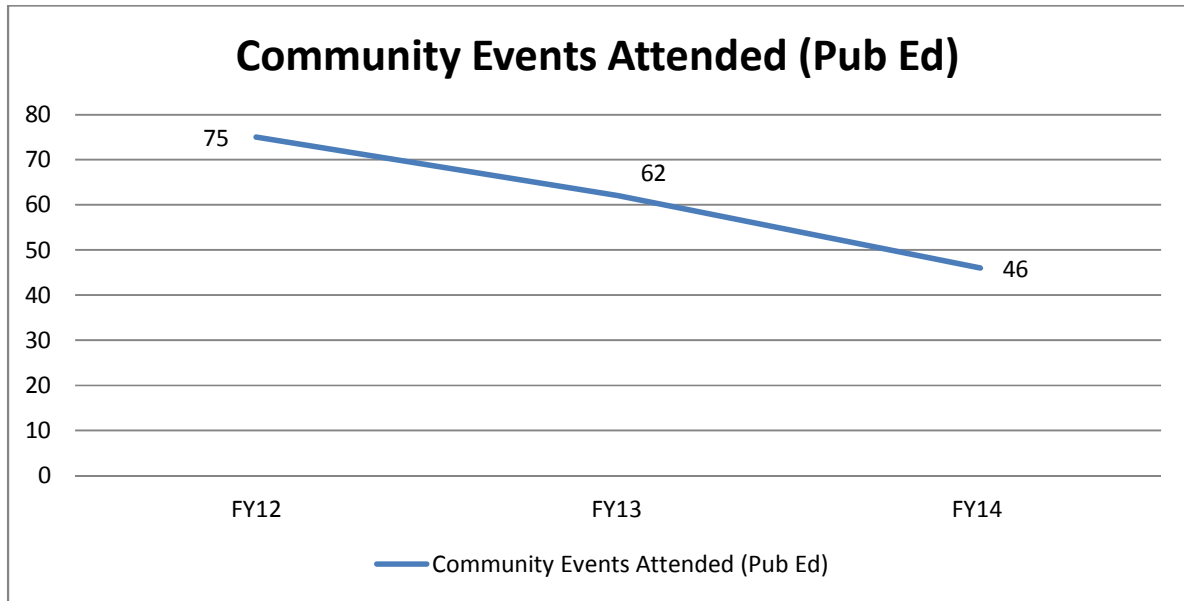
Intermedix is the EMS billing coordinator; the City signed a contract with them in FY2013. Since this contract was signed, the EMS fee revenue recovery has increased considerably.

Service Efforts and Measures – Data Analysis
Administration



Operations





*The number of reported public education/community events attended in FY2014 appears low due to a change in data collection methods this year. Staff attended many more events than were captured in the reporting system. FY15 numbers should more accurately reflect attendance.

Prevention and Preparedness

