

# City of South Burlington

## FY 2023 Proposed Budget: Fire/EMS Department



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**City Council**

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# Overview

- Staffing
- FY23 Budget Items
- Emerging Issues
- Spotlight!

# Staffing

32 Cross-trained Firefighter EMT/AEMT/Paramedics, and one civilian, our Electrical Inspector, configured in:

## **3 Divisions:**

- **Fire/EMS/Special Operations** - 29 Firefighters (6 Fire Officers and 23 firefighters) operating from 2 Fire Stations in three 24 hour shifts with an average 9 members per shift. (1 position remaining unfunded)
- **Fire Marshal's Office** – Fire Inspector and Electrical Inspector
- **Fire Administration** – Fire Chief/Fire Marshal

# Activity 2021

Fire/EMS/Special Operations

Total Incident **4,140**

- Fire/Hazard Mitigation 1,415 incident (35% of calls)
- 63 fire incidents
- 16 structural fires - 3 civilian injuries, 3 Firefighter injuries
- \$1,087,000 in property loss
- 286 IDLH incidents. (Immediately Dangerous to Life & Health )
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# EMS

## SBFD operates a two-tiered ALS Response System

- 2,575 EMS Calls - 2,106 Patients Transported to Hospital.
- 65 % of all FD incident responses.
- 49% of transported patients needed some level of Advanced Life Support care.
- 469 Patients were medically evaluated by our firefighters but not transported.

# EMS

Our City is following a National trend where EMS is the de facto Primary Care Providers for some of our neighbors who are traditionally under served, and for those persons over age 65.

- 18.5 % of City residents are 65+
- 52% of patient transported are 65+
- 56% of all transported patients have some type of public insurance plan.

# Fire Marshal's Office

## Building Construction & Safety inspections

- 1,763 inspections - 244 Building Permits issued.
- 3,882 Requests for Information and Service.

## Electrical Inspections

- 1,205 Inspections – 254 Electrical permits issued.
- 3,710 Requests for Information and Service.

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# FY23 Budget: Revenue

**FY'22 Revenues** are on track to collect a total of \$1.2M in revenues.

\$510,000 in permit and inspection fees

\$750,000 in Ambulance billing

COVID continues to impact the fees collected through Medicaid/Care as higher reimbursement fees are frozen during the Pandemic.

- **FY23 Revenues** are projected to be relatively flat \$1.24M with only a slight increase in permit monies.



# FY23 Budget: Expenditures

- Increase in training monies to re-established suspended specialty rescue certifications affected by the pandemic.
- Use of ARPA funds to purchase a new ALS Ambulance deferred for 2 years in CIP.
- Use of ARPA funds to re-establish replacement program for Firefighter Personal Protective Ensembles (PPE).



# Emerging Issues

- COVID and all its variants are still circulating in our community. Sbfd is still treating and transporting these patients to hospital **EVERY** day.
- Managing its effects on our community, and our fatigued first responders, and other health care providers is imperative.
- Replace 25 y.o. Records Management System that is on a platform that is being phase out.

# Emerging Issues

- Reestablish a Deputy Chief position.
- Incremental implementation of a long term staffing plan to handle ever increasing calls for service of all types from our residents.
  - Currently responding with the same number of on duty personnel in 2021 as 2007 with 56% increase in incidents (4140 calls v. 2679 calls)
- Explore non traditional methods to recruit broader candidate pool to SBFDD ranks, that the plan creates.

# Spotlight!

- Hired 3 of the 4 previously open firefighter positions created through attrition and retirement.
- Firefighters, have participated as vaccinators and clinic support staff at COVID vaccine clinics throughout the state.
- Staff utilized 583 hrs. off duty time to vaccinate more than 4800 Vermonters.
- Implemented a comprehensive Apparatus Alarm Response Plan to limit the number of responding units to calls emergently, and streamline mutual aid responses in to, and out of the City.