

COMMUNITY ANNUAL REPORT 2020



*Service in a Year of
Adversity*

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

PROUDLY SERVING THE CALIFORNIA COUNTIES OF SACRAMENTO AND PLACER



Did you know?

Metro Fire's roots can be traced all that way back to 1918 with Mather Field Fire Department that employed about 30 firefighters and served an area of 4 square miles. With the addition of new agencies and consolidations, Metro Fire was formed and now serves 359 square miles and employs over 500 firefighters.

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Core Values

Integrity · Professionalism · Teamwork · Devotion to Duty

The Community Annual Report (CAR) provides summarized financial information presented in a format that's easily understandable. It is derived from the audited financial statements that form part of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which is a detailed report showing Metro Fire's financial condition. The CAR is presented in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles but is not intended to be a substitute for the CAFR. To obtain a copy of the CAFR, visit:

www.metrofire.ca.gov/departments/finance/cafr

Message from the Fire Chief

Dear Residents of Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District,

This past year we faced an adversary unlike any we've seen in the history of Metro Fire. The pandemic is sweeping through our community and has touched every aspect of our lives. In these uncertain times, we will strive to be a source of strength and stability. Whenever you dial 911, you can count on us to show up no matter the circumstances.

Our strength lies in the core values that Metro Fire is built on – professionalism, integrity, teamwork, and devotion to duty. These values are reflected in the service and dedication we provide to you every single day. One thing I have learned through it all is that if we carry on with the hope that tomorrow will be better and knowing that we are all in this together, then we can face any adversity.

Thank you for reviewing Metro Fire's Community Annual Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. This report will show you how effectively we used your tax dollars and how we operated during the pandemic. We welcome your questions, comments, and suggestions regarding the information in this report and about how Metro Fire is performing.



T. Harms
Todd Harms
Fire Chief



December 1, 2020 marks Metro Fire's 20th anniversary. Thank you for the continued confidence and support you have given us through the years.

Elected Board of Directors as of June 30, 2020

PRESIDENT



JENNIFER SHEETZ
Division 5

VICE-PRESIDENT



MATT KELLY
Division 7

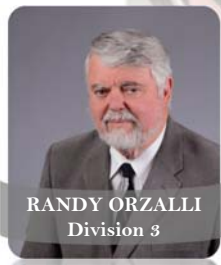
SECRETARY



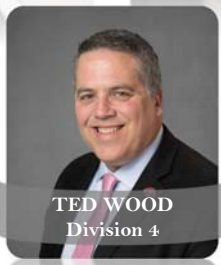
CINTHIA SAYLORS
Division 1



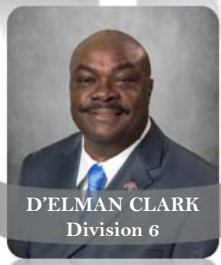
GRANT GOOLD
Division 2



RANDY ORZALLI
Division 3



TED WOOD
Division 4



D'ELMAN CLARK
Division 6



GAY JONES
Division 8



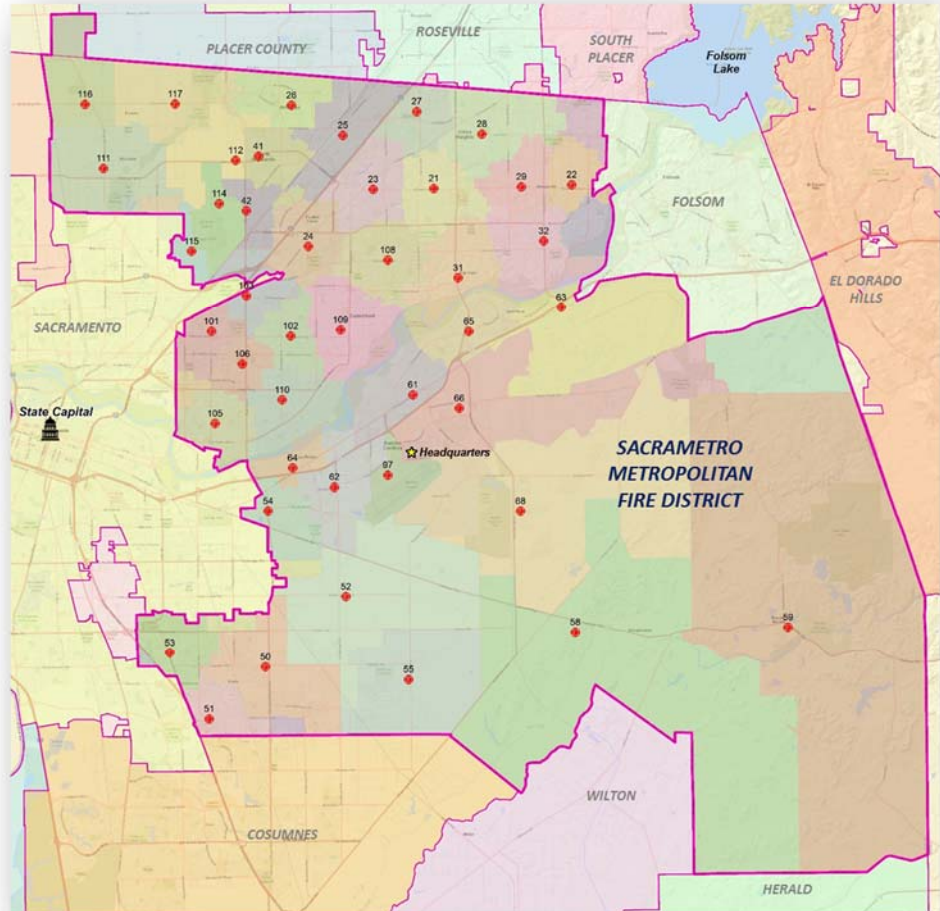
WALT WHITE
Division 9



AT A GLANCE

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District was established on December 1, 2000 through the merger of the American River and Sacramento County Fire Protection Districts, which brought together 16 predecessor fire agencies. Metro Fire is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors duly elected by citizens from each of the nine geographical divisions in Metro Fire's area of responsibility.

Today, Metro Fire is the largest fire agency in the County of Sacramento and one of the largest in the State. The combined District provides fire suppression and emergency medical services along with various other public safety and hazard mitigation community services to 757,000 residents in approximately 359 square miles that include two cities, most of the unincorporated area of Sacramento County, and a portion of Placer County. Within the boundaries of Metro Fire are wildland areas, single and multi-family residential units, commercial and light industrial occupancies, hotels, regional hospitals, institutional buildings, local airfields, numerous convalescent and assisted living facilities, equestrian areas, and open space areas including several major hiking trails.



Numerous main interstate highways also traverse Metro Fire's jurisdiction, along with the American River, a major recreation resource for area residents.

Metro Fire provides all-hazard emergency services to the communities it serves through 41 stations strategically located across its service area in order to rapidly and effectively respond to any emergency within its goal of 4-minute travel time.

Did you know?

While Metro Fire primarily serves the County of Sacramento, it is often called upon to assist in state and national emergencies. Through cooperation with state and federal agencies, you may see fire engines and firefighters from different fire agencies at a wildfire or other disaster working under a unified command.

OUR HISTORY



Mills Fire Dept.



Arcade Fire Protection District



Elverta Fire District



Citrus Heights Fire District



Carmichael Fire District



1918

1922

1923

1925

1933

1935

1938

1942



Mather Air Force Base Fire Dept.

Rio Linda Outpost of Fire Protection



Orangevale Volunteer Fire Dept.



Fair Oaks Fire District



Florin Fire District



McClellan Air Force Base Fire Dept.





North Highlands Village Fire District

Merger of North Highlands Village FD into Citrus Heights FPD



Consolidation of Arden FPD and Carmichael FD into American River FPD

Consolidation of Rancho Cordova FPD, Fair Oaks FD and Citrus Heights FPD into Sacramento County FPD

Consolidation of Citrus Heights FD and Orangevale Volunteer FD into Citrus Heights FPD

1943

1945

1947

1951

1958

1983

1984

1989

2000



Arden Fire District



Rancho Cordova Fire Protection District



Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

Consolidation of all 16 historic fire districts

Sloughouse Fire Protection District



PANDEMIC RESPONSE

With the adversity brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, Metro Fire acted quickly to execute a coordinated and methodical response to address the impacts of the virus on its operations and the community.

Timely Communication

Communication plays a crucial role in any crisis, even more so when dealing with a hitherto unknown and highly infectious disease. At the outset of the pandemic, Metro Fire launched the Emergency Operations Team tasked with keeping personnel healthy and safe, and most of all providing consistent and timely information. Bulletins and newsletters were regularly sent out to all personnel to provide guidance on areas such as the use of protective equipment, disinfecting apparatus and fire stations, temperature checks, working from home, and other measures to prevent the spread. Suggestions from personnel were also elicited. The flow of information went both ways throughout the organization.

Adaptability

Defined as the ability or willingness to change in order to suit different conditions, this is an essential survival skill, and in this period of uncertainty, there is a need to adapt faster and stay ahead of the situation.

Before the outbreak, Metro Fire had been working on a mobile health program that would address the needs of high utilizers of the health care system. As the pandemic began gripping the nation, the program was repurposed and deputized by the County to provide assessment and COVID-19 testing in areas with identified clusters of test-positive patients and at-risk populations. Metro Fire led a county-wide charge by deploying two Metro Fire units to screen for the virus, bring healthcare to the patient's home, and follow-up after hospital discharge. These units were staffed by a firefighter-paramedic paired with an advanced provider such as a Physician's Assistant or Doctor.

Support from the Community

We are thankful for the support of the Community, from donations of face shields to meals provided to our front line personnel. It really takes all of us to get through this adversity.

Inter-Agency Cooperation

A coordinated effort is required to mount an effective response. Metro Fire's Fire Chief, along with other fire chiefs, immediately met with Sacramento County Public Health to address risk exposures and quarantine recommendations for personnel exposed to the virus. Throughout the pandemic, a unified top-down approach was used to coordinate the efforts of each local fire agency in stopping the spread of the virus and caring for those already affected.



Service to the Community

"Ben" was involved in a devastating vehicle accident, leaving him with a traumatic brain injury which required admission to a rehabilitation facility. Except there was one problem – to secure the one open spot, the facility required a COVID-19 test. This was hard to find since he didn't meet the testing criteria. After running into many dead ends, his family reached out to Metro Fire for help. We were able to test Ben within hours, and with a negative test result the next day, he was accepted into the facility. We are always here to serve your needs any way we can.



LIFE SAVING GEAR

a **Ambulance** ≈ \$215,000
Also known as a “medic”, this apparatus is normally staffed with 2 firefighter/paramedics or EMT.

b **Additional PPE**
During this COVID-19 pandemic, masks, face shields and disposable gowns are added to the safety gear already worn by the paramedic.

c **Blue Medic bag** ≈ \$1,000
This bag is essential and includes over 100 medical supplies that may be needed for Advanced Life Support (ALS).

d **Automated Chest Compression device** ≈ 13,400
Also known as a “Lucas device” this provides continuous, uninterrupted chest compressions on a cardiac arrest patient, and allows the paramedic to tend to other patient needs.

e **Cardiac Heart monitor** ≈ \$36,600
Also known as a “defibrillator”, this is used to restore a normal heartbeat by sending a shock (electric pulse) to the heart.

f **Motorized Gurney** ≈ \$25,500
This gurney safely locks into the medic’s floor, and expands and contracts the legs and wheels of the gurney by motor. This reduces the risk of back injuries to paramedics and ensures safe transport of the patient.



Did you know?

Firefighters have a device attached to their SCBA pack called a PASS which stands for **Personal Alert Safety System**. It can be triggered manually, or if a firefighter becomes immobile for a certain amount of time, automatically. It emits a highly visible light and loud audio tones to pinpoint the firefighter’s location.



BY THE NUMBERS

For the year ended June 30, 2020

330+

Apparatus and other Vehicles

including trucks, engines, rescues, medics, and cars

653

Metro Fire Employees

552 Fire, Medical, and Rescue
31 Fire Prevention, Safety, Training
70 Administration and Support

41

Fire Stations

325

Fire Investigations

Years in Service

By December , 1, 2020

10

Average Years Working at Metro Fire

Captain – 17 years
Engineer – 13 years
Firefighter – 6 years
All others – 10 years

96,230

Emergency Calls

7 of 10

Medical Calls

3,307

Fires Extinguished



4m 28s

Average Response Time Structure Fires

6m 8s

Average Response Time Medical Aid

14,720

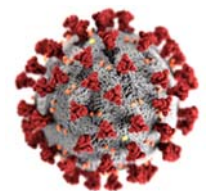
Inspections and Plan Reviews

5,015 Code Enforcement Inspections
3,170 Plan Reviews
5,874 Construction Inspections
170 Fire Works Inspections
491 Weed Abatement Inspections

269

Fire Safety Presentations

19 General Fire Safety Education Presentations
250 Milo & Moxie presentations
5,345 kids educated



COVID-19 Pandemic

3,552

Tests Administered to the Public

2

Community Care Response Units (Ambulances) Activated for COVID-19 Assessment & Testing

1,500

Gowns Monthly Usage, 17 times more than pre-COVID

4,700

Masks Monthly Usage, 9 times more than pre-COVID

What We Own & What We Owe

The government-wide Statement of Net Position provides a “snapshot” of where the District stood financially at the close of the fiscal years. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position is improving or deteriorating.

The largest portion of the Metro Fire's net position reflects its net investment of \$77 million in capital assets, net of related outstanding debt used to acquire those assets. Metro Fire uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although Metro Fire's net investment in capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be liquidated for these liabilities.

Metro Fire's negative unrestricted net position is largely due to the recognition of the liability owed to its employees as they retire from Metro Fire which includes pension liability and post-retirement medical liability. Metro Fire is making great strides in addressing these deficits by setting aside money each year to slowly but surely chip away from that deficit.

NET POSITION

As of June 30 <i>(in thousands)</i>	FY2020	FY2019
ASSETS		
<i>What is owned by Metro Fire.</i>		
Cash and other assets <i>Includes such items as cash and investments, receivables, and inventories.</i>	\$ 87,429	\$ 81,528
Capital assets <i>Includes such items as land, buildings, apparatus, and equipment net of accumulated depreciation.</i>	100,225	98,476
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS		
<i>Use of net position applicable to a future year.</i>		
Total assets and outflows	305,064	289,814
LIABILITIES		
<i>What Metro Fire Owes</i>		
Current and other liabilities <i>Includes such items as payables, payroll, accrued interest and unearned revenue.</i>	10,773	12,757
Long-Term liabilities <i>Includes such items as bonds, net pension liability, other postemployment liability, and other obligations.</i>	762,216	735,785
DEFERRED INFLOWS		
<i>Net position received applicable to a future year.</i>		
Total liabilities and inflows	875,941	859,786
NET POSITION		
<i>The difference between: assets plus deferred outflows of resources; minus liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. It's Metro Fire's net worth.</i>		
Net investment in capital assets <i>Represents amounts invested in capital assets less accumulated depreciation and any outstanding debt used to acquire these assets.</i>	77,153	74,969
Restricted <i>What is not available for use by Metro Fire because it is set aside for a particular use.</i>	8,691	7,920
Unrestricted <i>Funds available for Metro Fire to use for operations.</i>	(656,721)	(652,861)
Total net position	\$ (570,877)	\$ (569,972)

Did you know?

Property taxes support Metro Fire's operations, but only the fire suppression side.

User charges and insurance cover ambulance services.



REVENUE

Where the Money Came From

SOURCES

(in thousands)

FY2020

FY2019

Program Revenues

Revenues that are derived directly from the program itself or from other parties, not the taxpayers

Charges for services <i>Fees charged for ambulance transports, deployments to other jurisdictions, and other similar charges</i>	\$ 67,196	\$ 73,324
Grants <i>Resources received through federal and state grant awards</i>	5,200	5,398

General Revenues

General revenues are those not required to be reported as program revenues.

Property taxes <i>Real estate taxes received from property owners based upon the assessed valuation and tax rate.</i>	159,601	149,288
Tax-related revenues <i>Resources received from other local agencies</i>	3,910	4,559
Miscellaneous / Other Income <i>All other revenue such as investment and rental income</i>	1,413	2,688

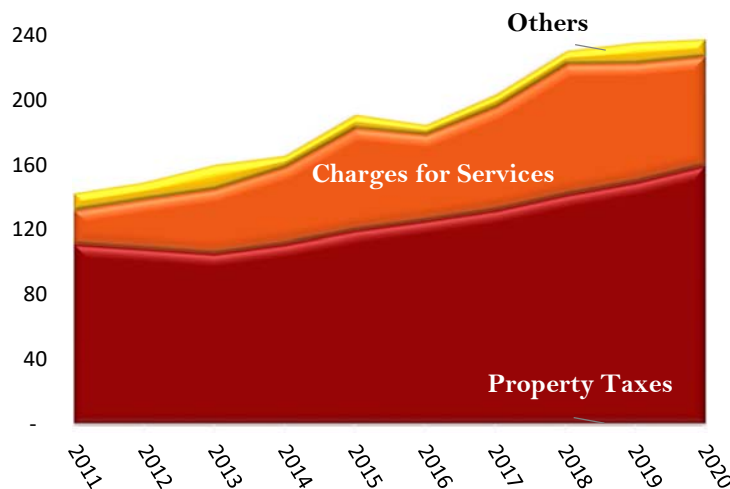
Total Revenues \$ 237,320 \$ 235,257

Property tax revenue is the main source of Metro Fire's funding and provides support for its fire suppression activities. For every dollar paid by a resident in Metro Fire's jurisdiction, about 21.68 cents go to Metro Fire.



The average assessed value of a detached single family residential home in Metro Fire's jurisdiction is \$258,429, which means that a homeowner typically contributes about \$560 per year in property taxes to Metro Fire.

During the most recent recession, annual property taxes declined from a peak of \$129 million to \$105 million in 2012/13. Since then, assessed property values experienced seven straight years of growth. In the current fiscal year, property taxes were at \$160 million, an increase of close to 7% from last year.



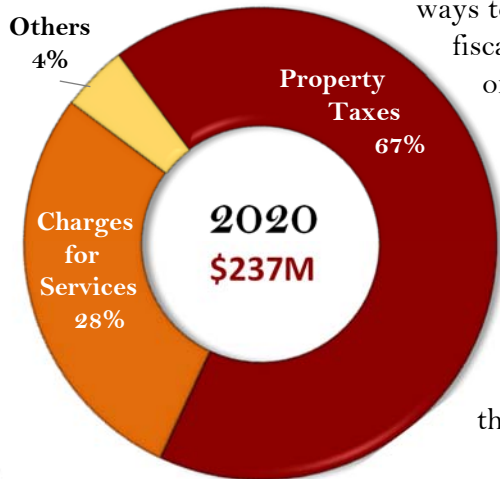
While management expects to see modest growth in property taxes, it continues to find ways to lessen its

fiscal dependency on property tax revenues.

These efforts

successfully yielded better cost recovery on its emergency medical services. As can be seen on the graph above, property taxes contributed 80% of total funding sources ten years ago compared to 67% today.

Charges for services and other revenues now amount to \$67 million in the current fiscal year.



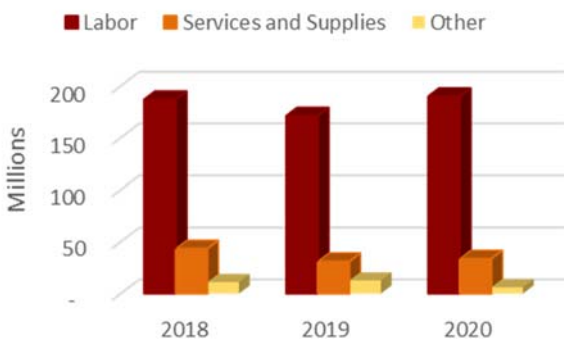
Where the Money Went

EXPENSES

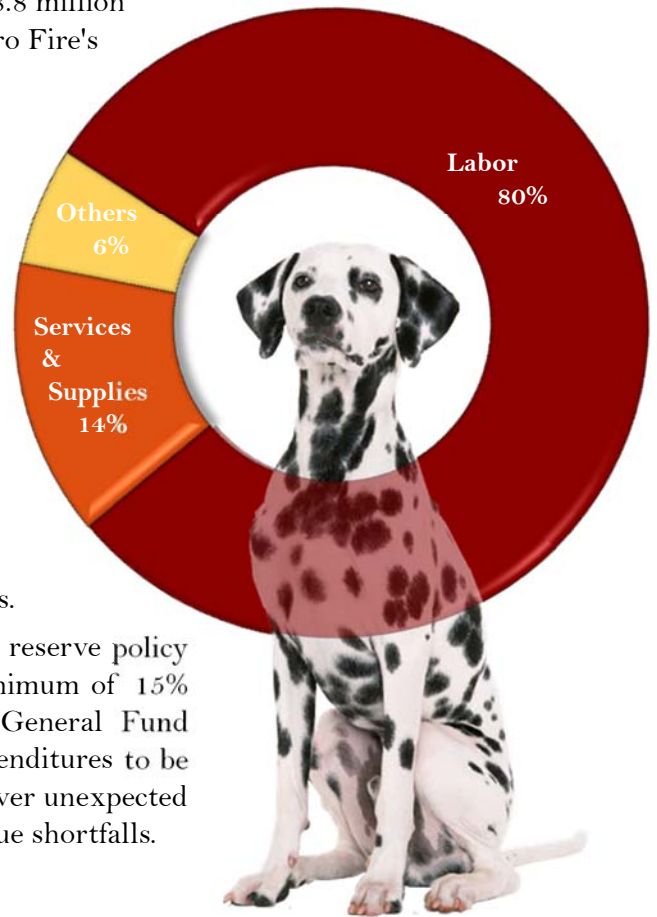
As a public safety provider, the majority of Metro Fire’s operating expense relates to personnel costs, which comprise about 80% of total expenses. The 11% or \$18.8 million increase is mainly due to an increase in the estimates for Metro Fire's obligation for post-retirement pension benefits.

The other significant expense is services and supplies which comprise about 14%. The \$2.6 million increase is due to several factors including higher insurance costs, vehicle maintenance, dispatch fees, and the purchase of new fire equipment supplies and turnouts.

Metro Fire begins its budget process in Spring each year and adopts a preliminary budget in June, a final budget in September, and a mid-year adjustment. The overriding goals of each budget process is to optimize services to the greatest extent possible, ensuring that the ongoing all-risk fire, rescue and emergency medical needs of the citizens are met, and to provide adequate reserves for future contingencies.



The District’s reserve policy calls for a minimum of 15% of budgeted General Fund operating expenditures to be set aside to cover unexpected costs or revenue shortfalls.



EXPENSES <i>(in thousands)</i>	FY2020	FY2019
Public Protection		
<i>Direct cost of services provided</i>		
Personnel <i>Salaries and benefits such as pension and medical costs</i>	\$ 190,010	\$ 171,189
Services and Supplies <i>Fees paid to external vendors for various services and supplies</i>	33,719	31,118
Other <i>Includes assessments paid to other local agencies</i>	6,211	3,827
Depreciation <i>Allocated cost of capital assets over their useful life</i>	5,762	5,434
Interest and Others <i>Includes interest and other miscellaneous expenses</i>	2,523	3,458
Total Expenses	\$ 238,225	\$ 215,026

Did you know?

Dalmatians became the official firehouse dog because they were known to get along well with horses back in the day of horse-drawn fire engines. They did a good job of protecting the engine and even the horses from other dogs and animals.



CAPITAL SPENDING

Investing in reliable firefighting apparatus is a crucial step in building a better fire service. Not only does each apparatus have to be maintained in the highest state of readiness to respond to emergencies, it must also take advantage of better technology that will allow efficient and safe operation.

Taking into account the operational needs, current fleet status, and available resources, Metro Fire invested in the following significant capital assets in the most recent year:

171 SCBA PACKS (\$2.7 million)

The self contained breathing apparatus provides breathable air to a firefighter while in areas filled with smoke, toxic gas or other contaminants immediately dangerous to life and health.



3 TYPE I ENGINES (\$2.1 million)

These engines hold 700 gallons of water and have a larger pump to provide higher water flows for fighting structure fires. These engines are the most common engines at Metro Fire with up to 36 in service daily District-wide.



2 WATER TENDERS (\$882,000)

Transporting more than 2,000 gallons of water, these are mainly used to fight fires in rural areas where there are no working fire hydrants within reach.



1 FIRE STATION (\$397,000 spent in FY2020)

Groundbreaking on new Station 68 located in the Anatolia area, within the City of Rancho Cordova.



In the upcoming year, the following are the significant planned acquisitions:

1 FIRE STATION (\$7 million)

Continued construction of the new Station 68 located in the Anatolia area, within the City of Rancho Cordova.



3 TYPE I ENGINES (\$2.1 million)

2 TYPE V ENGINES (\$420,000)

This is a smaller 4-seater off-road unit to fight brush fires. It has the ability to pump while moving and a water capacity of 400 gallons. It runs in tandem with a Type I fire engine. One Firefighter drives the Type V while the Captain and Engineer ride in the bigger Type I engine while going together on a call.



6 TYPE III AMBULANCES (\$1.3 million)

These smaller ambulances will be replacing the older, larger and more expensive models. These new units have increased fuel economy, longer service intervals, and a lower initial cost.



1 AIR UNIT (\$520,000)

This apparatus is designed to fill the new higher pressure SCBAs and carry rehabilitation equipment for firefighter recovery during fires.

Did you know?

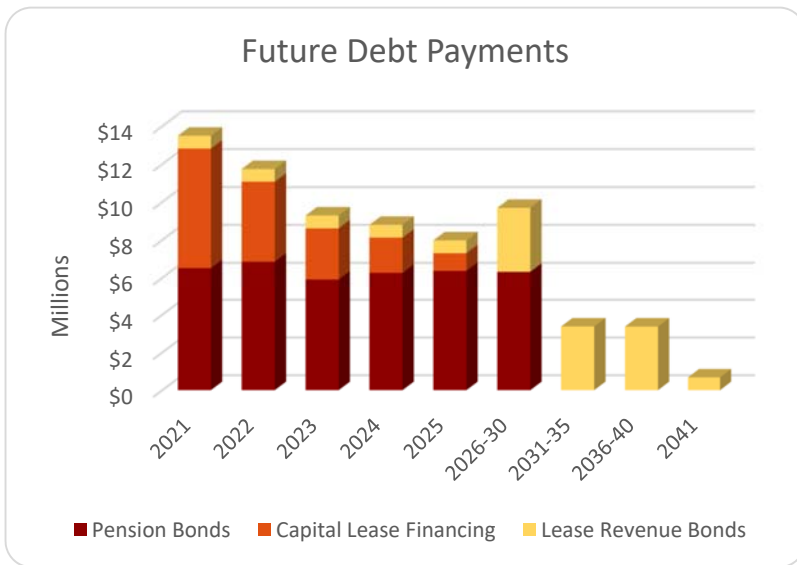


A firefighter's turnout set weighs over 20 pounds. Metro Fire washes an average of 3,000 sets of turnouts or about 60,000 pounds of laundry every year! We have 6 industrial washing machines just for this task.

DEBT SERVICE

Metro Fire uses debt to spread the cost of larger purchases over time. Metro Fire’s debt policy requires that the maturity of a debt issue be consistent with the economic or useful life of the asset being financed, generally level annual debt services payments, and preferences for fixed interest rates and optional redemption at a reasonable call date. This policy prohibits the issuance of long-term debt to fund District operating costs.

Metro Fire has three major debt types: pension bonds, lease revenue bonds, and capital equipment financing. Pension bond proceeds were used to reduce the unfunded actuarial liabilities of its pension plans. The lease revenue bonds were used to purchase the headquarters building, building improvements, and fire-fighting and computer equipment. Proceeds of capital equipment financing are used mainly for ongoing apparatus and equipment needs.



AA

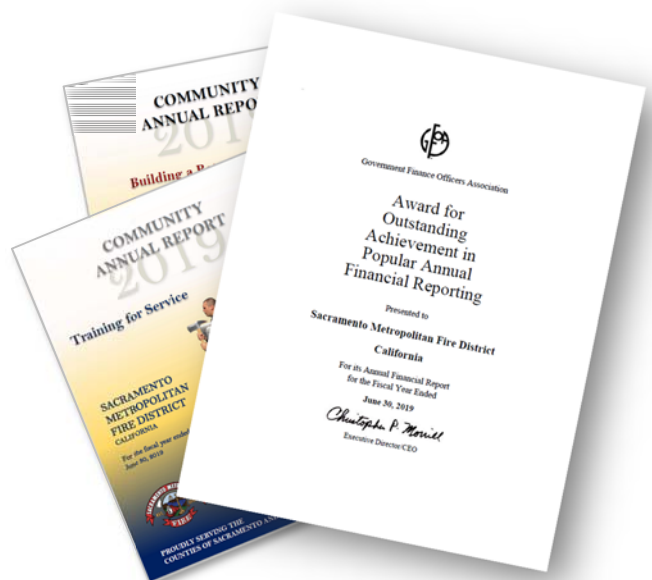
Metro Fire’s
S&P Global Credit Rating

Indicates an extremely strong capacity to meet financial commitments on its pension bonds.

Metro Fire received the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the 2nd straight year for its *Community Annual Report* for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019. This prestigious national award recognizes conformance with the highest standards for the preparation of creative popular annual financial reports specifically designed to be easily understandable to the general public.

Metro Fire has also been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the GFOA for the 6th straight year for its *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report* (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019.

AWARDS





Mission Statement

*“To provide professional and compassionate protection,
education and service to our community.”*