

METRO FIRE

BEHIND THE BADGE

COMMUNITY
ANNUAL
REPORT

20
21



For the Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2021



Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

PROUDLY SERVING THE CALIFORNIA COUNTIES OF
SACRAMENTO AND PLACER

Did you know?

Prior to the purchase of the headquarters building at Mather, California at the end of 2010, Metro Fire's administrative divisions were spread across multiple locations in the Sacramento area. Today seven divisions are together, including the Office of the Fire Chief.

The building also provides training space for government and community groups and the formal boardroom can be reserved by the public at no cost.



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The Community Annual Report (CAR) provides summarized financial information in an easily understood format. The CAR is derived from the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), 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 ACFR. To obtain a copy of the ACFR, visit: <https://metrofire.ca.gov/departments/Finance/acfr>

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Core Values

Integrity · Professionalism · Teamwork · Devotion to Duty

Message from the FIRE CHIEF

Dear Residents of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District,

The dual threats of a continuing worldwide pandemic and record-breaking wildfires tested the men and women of Metro Fire again this year and I am proud to share how they persisted and prevailed. Our staff on the front lines endured extended shifts and family separations, and overcame grave risks in the communities where they serve and were deployed.

Notwithstanding their extraordinary efforts, none of it is possible without the exceptional cadre of professional staff supporting them. In this year's community annual report I would like to recognize the teams "behind the badge," who ensure our suppression and field staff are equipped, funded, and in all other ways resourced to do their job successfully.

As 2021 comes to a close we are again facing a surge of coronavirus cases unlike any we've seen since the pandemic began. Nevertheless, we have learned much over the last two years and I'm heartened by the unwavering commitment of the entire Metro Fire team, and I am pleased to focus this year's Community Annual Report on our support teams.

Finally, I am also deeply grateful to our Board of Directors who has provided the District and me with the guidance needed to ensure the District is properly supported and well led.


Todd Harms
Fire Chief



Elected Board of Directors

As of June 30, 2021



CINTHIA SAYLORS
Division 1

VICE-PRESIDENT



GRANT GOOLD
Division 2



RANDY ORZALLI
Division 3



TED WOOD
Division 4



JENNIFER SHEETZ
Division 5



D'ELMAN CLARK
Division 6

SECRETARY



MATT KELLY
Division 7

PRESIDENT



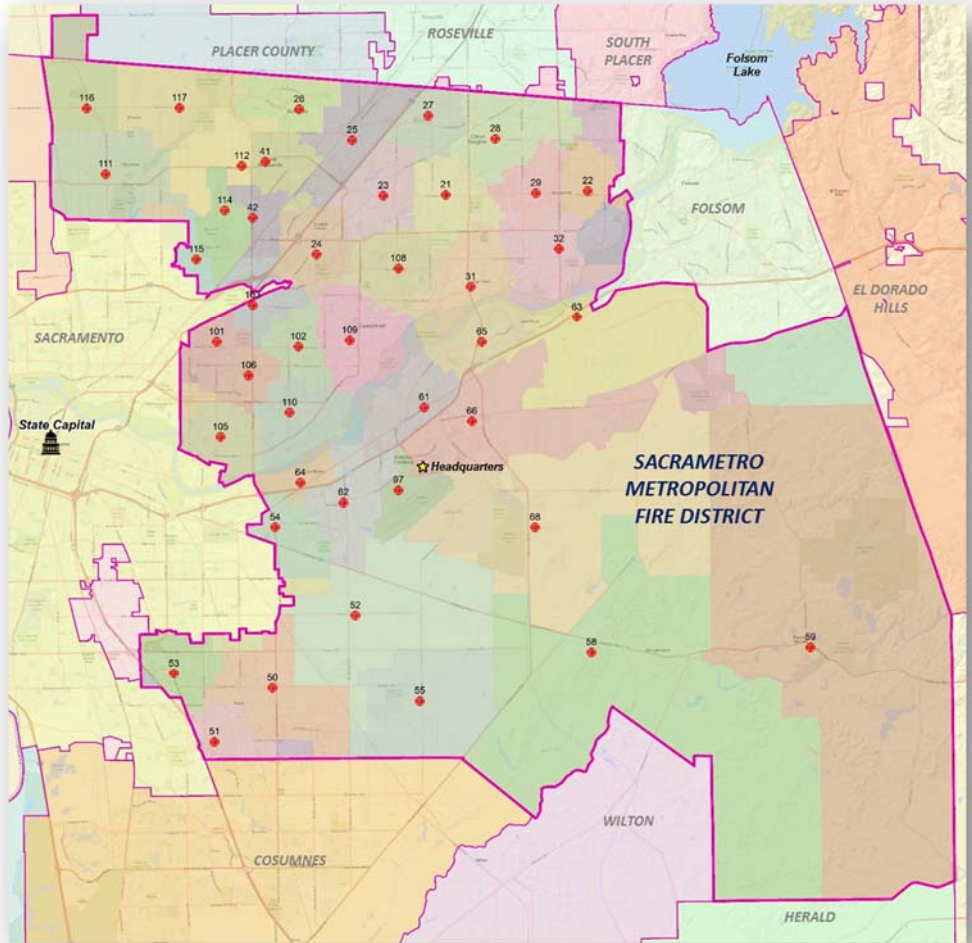
GAY JONES
Division 8



WALT WHITE
Division 9

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 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 720,000 residents in approximately 359 square miles. The District’s service area includes 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 residents and visitors alike.



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

Did you know?

It takes 181 people to fully staff all emergency vehicles throughout the District every single day! That’s 108 seats on 36 engines, 28 seats on 7 trucks, 5 battalion chiefs, 1 shift commander, 3 seats on 1 aircraft rescue vehicle, and 36 medical personnel for 18 ambulances and other medical vehicles.

Now take those seats and multiply them by THREE, as most positions have three shifts - each working in a 2-days on, 4-days off rotation.



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

Arden
Fire District



1945

1947

Sloughouse Fire
Protection District



1951

1958

Rancho Cordova
Fire Protection District



1983

1984

1989

2000

**Sacramento Metropolitan Fire
District**

Consolidation of
all 16 historic fire districts



BEHIND THE BADGE

The year 2021 was another challenging one, and for Metro Fire two particular challenges stretched our capacity to respond and serve. The pandemic persisted and Sacramento County saw as many as 500 hospitalizations per day and nearly 1 in 6 residents infected with the coronavirus. The 2021 wildfire season was among the worst in California's history, with nearly 2.6 million acres burned. Whether Sacramento or statewide, Metro Fire's support teams behind the badge kept our front line firefighters equipped, resourced, and ready to carry out their critical service. .

BEHIND THE BADGE, YOU'LL FIND A TEAM THAT'S...

Adaptable - Firefighter service at the Caldor Fire and other megafires required rapid adaptation to ensure deployed staff were paid and compensation made it to loved ones at home. Finance Division staff ensured all regular and special supplemental pays continued and that District staff had access to credit anywhere, so they could quickly procure necessities like food and water.



Wildfire season also put an enormous strain on the vehicles that carry our firefighters to the scene and the men and women of Fleet Division found new ways to quickly repair and service vehicles so they could be re-dispatched to the fires. During the pandemic the Fleet Division adapted two ambulances from the District's reserve medic fleet to be used as dedicated COVID response units.

Steadfast - Logistics Division was preparing for wildfire season well before it arrived, outfitting new Type III and Type V wildland engines and inventorying and restocking approximately 20 other in-service Type III and Type V engines. By bringing on new suppliers in order to keep up with supply chain issues, the Logistics Division was always able to fulfill personnel protective equipment (PPE) orders and maintain an ample supply of PPE for surge needs.

Within the firehouses, offices, and other District buildings, Facilities Division provided critical operability during COVID and wildfire seasons, such as ensuring all fire stations have functioning air conditioners and ice machines.

Finally, Metro Fire's Community Risk Reduction Division didn't let a pandemic keep them from educating the public about fire safety, including wildfire risks, holding safety lessons for 764 children, performing 19 general safety presentations, and participating in 27 community events.

Innovative - The modern firefighting service runs on high-performance technology and the District's ability to keep up was tested during the pandemic. Information Technology Division kept pace with new innovations like expanded video conferencing capabilities, remote support and equipment for teleworking and quarantining staff.

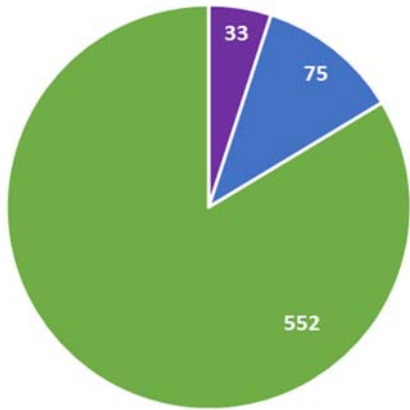
To reduce COVID threats to responding personnel Communications Division technicians updated the Mobile Data Computers in fire apparatus to facilitate real-time communication to help field personnel take necessary precautions before treating patients.

Dedicated - After COVID forced the cancellation of the annual Fire Academy for new recruits, Human Resources didn't stop trying to refill the ranks, hiring more than 90 employees by year end, many on accelerated timelines. These recruitments included Lateral Firefighters with prior firefighting experience, Single Role Paramedics, EMTs, a Fleet Mechanic and a Business Applications Analyst.



fire family

 Metro Fire Employees
660



552 Fire, Medical And Rescue
33 Fire Prevention, Safety and Training
75 Admin And Support

11

Average Years Working at Metro Fire
Chief– 22 years
Captain– 16 years
Engineer – 13 years
Firefighter – 7 years
Paramedic/EMT – 2 years
Support Staff – 9 years

43 Average Age, Support Staff


6:7 Ratio of Women to Men, Support Staff


public safety

 **100,160**
Emergency Calls


 **7 of 10**
Medical Calls

 **3,981**
Fires Extinguished

 **4m 12s**
Average Response Time to Reach Structure Fires

 **6m 9s**
Average Response Time to Provide Medical Aid

41
Fire Stations



11
Deployments
9 California,
2 National


330+

Apparatus and Other Vehicles
Trucks, engines, rescues, medics, and cars

community

2
Community Care Response Units Activated for COVID-19 Testing

 **12,711**
COVID-19 Tests Administered to the Public

 **19,530**
Inspections and Plan Reviews

9,117 Code Enforcement Inspections
3,225 Plan Reviews
6,451 Construction Inspections
145 Fireworks Inspections
592 Weed Abatement Inspections



27 Community Events Attended

19 General Fire Safety Education Presentations
764 Kids attended
60 Adults attended

Did you know?



Have you ever wondered what that tiny device is that's mounted on stoplights at major intersections? Although it is not uncommon to see a camera mounted here beside it, this specific device is actually a receiver that's part of a traffic control system.

Metro Fire's Communication Division installs an Opticom device on all its emergency vehicles which then emits infrared signals. Within two seconds of activation at an intersection, the receiver cycles all lights to red, except for the direction the emergency vehicle is traveling, which cycles to green. Not only does this clear the intersection keeping other drivers safe, it helps crews arrive on scene faster and safer!



captain

engineer

It takes a team working behind the scenes to bring everything on an engine together:



firefighter

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Forecasts and plans station location and type of fire apparatus the station will house



FLEET

Formulates specs of fire engine, selects the manufacturer and also maintains the engine through its service life



PURCHASING

Creates the RFP and orders the fire engine, equipment, and supplies



LOGISTICS

Collects all needed equipment and supplies; stocks the apparatus according to its purpose.



FINANCE – ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Pays the engine manufacturer and equipment vendors



COMMUNICATIONS

Equips the engine and its crew with radios that allow continuous communication with 911 dispatch



HUMAN RESOURCES

Determines the qualifications and hires the captain, engineer, and firefighter who will staff the fire engine.



STAFFING

Fills all firefighting seats to keep the engine fully staffed all year-round.



PAYROLL

Pays the engine crew for their life-saving work



FACILITIES

Maintains the station and surrounding properties that house the crew and its engine



NET POSITION

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 year. Over time, increases or decreases in net position serves as a useful indicator of whether the District’s financial position is improving or deteriorating.

The largest portion of the Metro Fire's net position reflects its net investment of \$81 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.

Did you know?



Metro Fire responds to 911 calls dispatched by the Sacramento Regional Fire/EMS Communications Center (SRFECC), which also serves 9 other fire agencies in the region.

In 2020, SRFECC answered 350,000 calls and dispatched close to 200,000 fire and medical incidents. Metro Fire responded to approximately 97,000 of those calls.

Net Position <i>(in thousands)</i>	2021	2020
Assets - What is owned by Metro Fire		
Cash and other assets <i>Includes cash and investments, receivables, and inventories</i>	\$ 89,392	\$ 87,429
Capital assets <i>Land, buildings, and equipment net of accumulated depreciation</i>	101,312	100,225
Deferred Outflows <i>Expenses incurred but applicable to a future year</i>	125,736	117,410
Total assets and outflows	316,440	305,064
Liabilities - What Metro Fire owes		
Current and other liabilities <i>Payables, payroll, and unearned revenue</i>	11,287	10,773
Long-Term liabilities <i>Bonds, other post-employment benefits, pensions, and other obligations</i>	805,573	762,216
Deferred Inflows <i>Income received applicable to a future year</i>	77,619	102,952
Total liabilities and inflows	894,479	875,941
Net Position - Metro Fire's net worth		
Net investment in capital assets <i>Capital assets less accumulated depreciation and any outstanding debt used to acquire these assets.</i>	81,259	77,153
Restricted <i>What is not available for use because it is set aside for a particular use.</i>	7,333	8,691
Unrestricted <i>Funds available to use for general operations.</i>	(666,631)	(656,721)
Total net position	\$ (578,039)	\$ (570,877)

REVENUE

Where the Money Came From

Property tax revenue is the main source of Metro Fire's funding and provides support for its fire suppression activities.

SOURCES (in thousands)

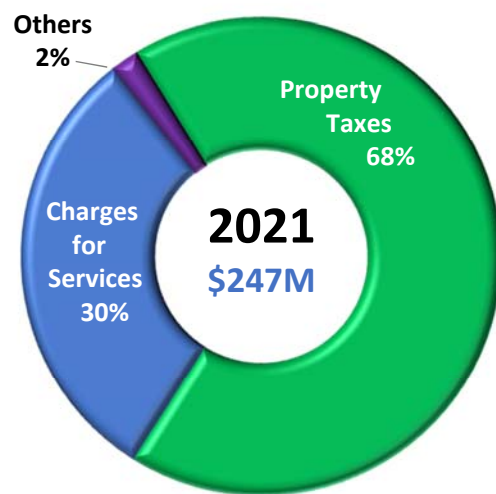
	2021	2020
Program Revenues - Revenues that are derived directly from operations, not the taxpayers		
Charges for services <i>Fees charged for ambulance transports, deployments to other jurisdictions, and similar charges</i>	\$ 75,311	\$ 67,196
Grants <i>Resources received through federal and state grant awards</i>	189	5,200
Total Program Revenues	75,500	72,396

General Revenues - Revenues not required to be reported as program revenues		
Property taxes <i>Taxes received from property owners based upon the assessed valuation and tax rate.</i>	167,482	159,601
Miscellaneous / Other Income <i>All other revenue such as resources received from other agencies, investment and rental income</i>	4,150	5,323
Total General Revenues	171,632	164,924
Total Revenues	\$ 247,132	\$ 237,320

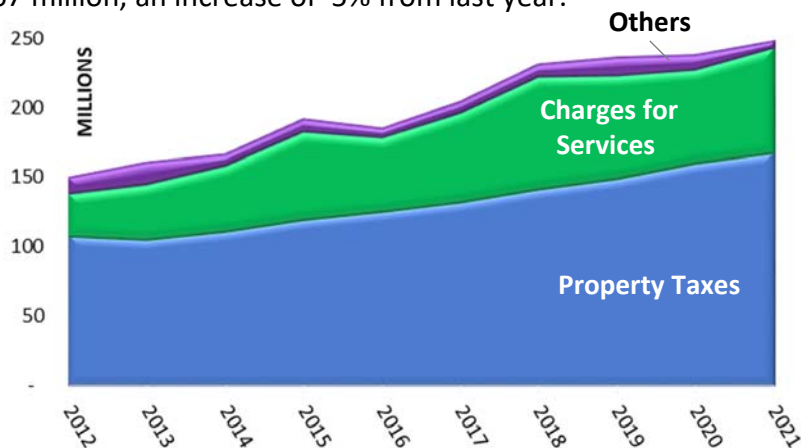
For every dollar paid by a resident in Metro Fire's jurisdiction, about 21.68 cents go to Metro Fire.



The average assessed value of a detached single family residential home in Metro Fire's jurisdiction is \$284,646, which means that a homeowner typically contributes about \$617 per year in property taxes to Metro Fire.



During the most recent recession, annual property taxes declined from its peak of \$129 million to \$105 million in 2012/13. Since then, it experienced 8 straight years of growth in assessed property values. In the current fiscal year, property taxes were at \$167 million, an increase of 5% from last year.



While management expects to see modest growth in property taxes, it continues to find ways to diversify its revenue base. These efforts successfully yielded better cost recovery on its emergency medical services. As can be seen on the graph to the left, property taxes contributed 80% of total funding sources ten years ago; that portion now composed 68% of all sources. Charges for services and other revenues now amount to \$75 million in the current fiscal year.

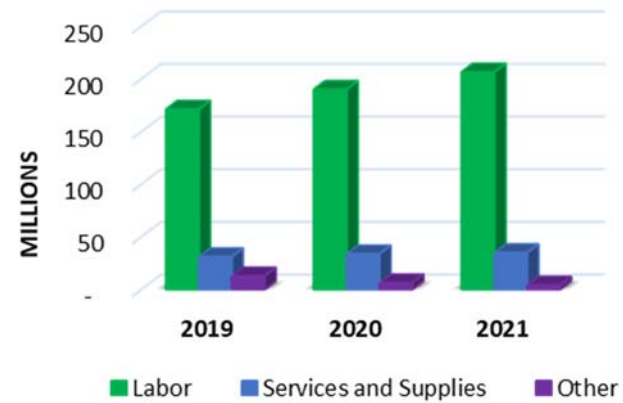
EXPENSES

Where the Money Went

As a public safety provider, the majority of Metro Fire’s operating expense relates to personnel costs, which comprise about 81% of total expenses. The 7% or \$16 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 \$1.2 million increase is due to several factors including higher insurance costs, vehicle maintenance, and dispatch fees.

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.

Did you know?

A cylinder for the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) supplies up to 35 minutes of clean room air to a firefighter in a fire. Our Logistics Division fills up to 40 cylinders a day. Each cylinder weighs 13.9 lbs. and takes up to 5 minutes to fill. That’s over 10,000 cylinders and 1,300 hours a year!



EXPENSES <i>(in thousands)</i>	2021	2020
Public Protection - <i>Direct cost of services provided</i>		
Personnel <i>Salaries and benefits such as pension and medical costs</i>	\$ 206,496	\$ 190,010
Services and Supplies <i>Fees paid to external vendors for various services and supplies</i>	34,936	33,719
Other <i>Includes assessments paid to other local agencies</i>	4,026	6,211
Depreciation <i>Allocated cost of capital assets over their useful life</i>	6,418	5,762
Interest and Others <i>Includes interest and other miscellaneous expenses</i>	2,418	2,523
Total Expenses	\$ 254,294	\$ 238,225

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.

For the year ended June 30, 2021

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:

FIRE STATION #68 (\$3.3 million spent in FY2021)

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

1 AIR UNIT (\$520,000)

Designed to fill the new higher pressure SCBAs and carry rehabilitation equipment for firefighter recovery during fires.

6 TYPE III AMBULANCES (\$1.3 million)

These smaller ambulances are fully equipped yet have a lower initial cost, increased fuel economy, and longer service intervals.



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 when going on a call together..



3 TYPE I ENGINES (\$2.1 million)

The most common engine type here at Metro Fire with up to 36 in service daily District-wide.

For the upcoming year ending June 30, 2022

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

6 AMBULANCES (\$1.3 million)

1 AERIAL TRUCK (\$950,000)

With no hose or water, this "truck" can still respond to most emergency and medical calls. The large ladder stored across the top extends up to 105 feet (7 stories) making it valuable in special emergencies.

FIRE STATION #68 (\$5.3 million)

Building completion of the new Station 68 located in the Sunridge area within the City of Rancho Cordova.



2 TYPE III ENGINES (\$1 million)

1 WATER TENDER (\$575,000)

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.



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.



Did you know?

A new fire station is planned up to 20 years into the future. It then takes about 3 years for design and construction plans, and 3 more years to purchase property and build the station. Over 30 contractors will be involved and the overall cost can easily be over \$14 million once the apparatus and furnishings are included.



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. Lease revenue bonds were used to purchase the headquarters building, make building improvements, and acquire fire-fighting and computer equipment. Proceeds of capital equipment financing have been used mainly for ongoing apparatus and equipment needs.

Future Debt Payments



Metro Fire's S&P Global Credit Rating.

Indicates an extremely strong capacity to meet financial commitments on its pension bonds resulting in lower borrowing costs.

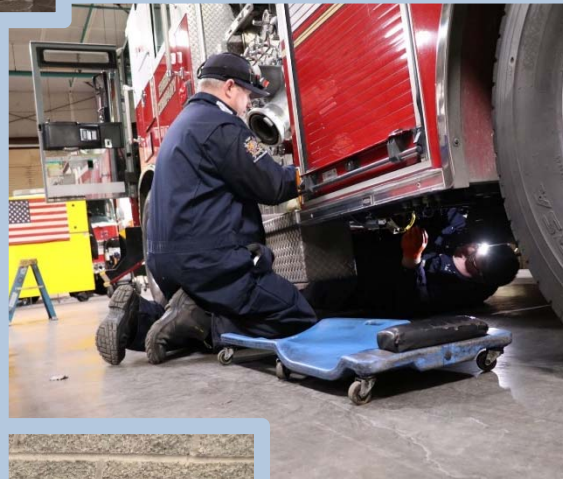
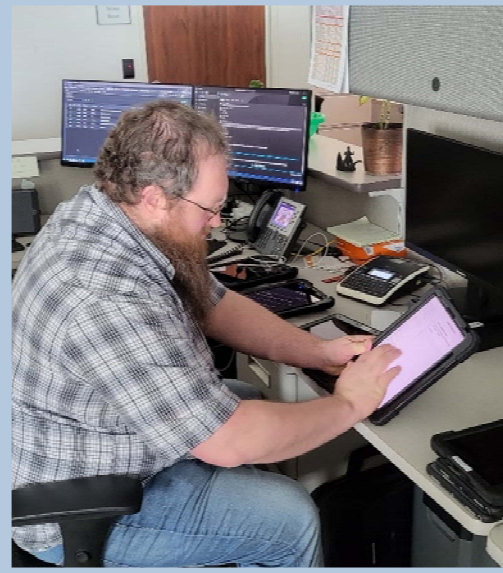


AWARDS



Metro Fire received the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the 3rd straight year for its *Community Annual Report* for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. 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 7th straight year for its *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)* for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020.



Did you know?

Through the efforts of the economic development grant team, Metro Fire was awarded \$11.5 million to cover the cost to add 21 firefighters to the staff for 3 years. This grant marks the largest grant ever awarded to Metro Fire and the 35th grant received since the grant team was formed in 2010.





Mission Statement

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

metrofire.ca.gov