

2024 BUDGET

Fire Department



Our role

Net budget \$25,969,000

The Fire Department has been providing fire fighting and rescue services to residents since 1919. The mandate of the Department is to protect citizens and property by providing proper measures to prevent, control and extinguish fires. The Department also responds to medical emergencies, land and marine rescue operations, request from other fire services, hazardous materials incidents, and request for public service. Our Fire Dispatch Centre provides dispatch call-taking, processing, and dispatching to two client municipalities and the Capital Regional District and its 15 participant Fire Departments. Currently, the Department employs 140 uniformed personnel and 8 support staff.

Services we provide

ADMINISTRATION

Net cost \$2,507,100

The Administration Division is responsible for the organization, administration, and direction of fire and emergency management services for the Municipality in accordance with polices and bylaws approved by Council. Oversight is provided for the application and enforcement of the Fire Safety Act and related Provincial and Federal statutes to support public safety. Administration also supports the Department's role in human resources, collective bargaining, personnel management, strategic planning, budget development and fiscal management, and document management. It takes a lead in fostering constructive external relations, public participation, and internal improvement, and supports management of the Departments buildings, grounds, equipment, and materials.

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SUPPRESSION & RESCUE

Net cost \$18,137,300

The Suppression & Rescue Division is responsible for fire and life safety response within Saanich and upon request of mutual aid partners. There were 6096 incident responses in 2023* for fire, medical, motor vehicle incidents, hazardous materials, marine and technical rescue, and public service calls. This division also conducts fire inspections of buildings, provides fire and life safety public education as well as clean and perform routine maintenance of fire stations, equipment, and apparatus on a regular basis.

*12-month period ending September 30, 2023

DISPATCH SERVICES

Revenues \$436,600

Expenses \$2,393,000

Net cost \$1,936,400

Saanich Fire provides a complete fire call-taking and dispatch service, and is supported by its partnership with E-Comm. The Fire Dispatch Centre is operated by highly trained dispatchers to ensure the highest possible performance as well as maximum uptime for critical systems – specifically for receipt of 911 calls and subsequent dispatch of emergency responders. There were 12857 incidents dispatched in 2023*. Dispatch services are provided using a Tier 1 Hexagon (formerly Intergraph) Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, which includes capabilities such as Global Positioning System (GPS)-based dispatch, support of mobile workstations, multiple agency responses for larger events, as well as individualized response recommendations based on requirements for specific incidents, areas, buildings and risks. We are committed to delivering high quality dispatch services to our client fire departments, supporting more than 215,000 residents in the Capital Region.

*12-month period ending September 30, 2023

FIRE PREVENTION

Net cost \$1,343,400

The Fire Prevention Division manages the inspection of commercial, residential, and industrial occupancies to ensure compliance with municipal and provincial fire safety regulations and by-laws. Fire Prevention conducts fire cause and determination investigations on behalf of the Fire Commissioner, plan reviews for new construction, site inspections for fire and life safety prior to occupancy. Fire Prevention is also responsible

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for the delivery of fire and life safety education to the public through programs such as Learn Not to Burn, Youth Fire Setters, and Seniors Fire Safety. The Division also manages pre-fire plan development, Fire Services Bylaw enforcement and data entry to support safe fire ground operations.

TRAINING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Net cost \$667,400

The Training Division manages the Department's recruiting and staff development activities. This includes planning, implementing, and monitoring the training requirements for all uniformed personnel to improve fire fighter safety, operational efficiencies, promotion, and succession planning requirements, and, to meet the standards of WorkSafe BC and the BC Fire Service Structural Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook. The Training Division manages training records, documentation and certification tracking for individual and fire company training activities. The Training Division also develops operational best practices for disciplines such as high-rise fire fighting and develops implementation plans for new equipment such as fire apparatus.

EQUIPMENT & BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Net cost \$1,377,400

The Mechanical Division is responsible for maintaining the Department's fleet of fire apparatus and vehicles and performing mandated Commercial Transport Inspections of Heavy Apparatus. Firefighting equipment, auto extrication tools, and self-contained breathing apparatus are also maintained, and instruction in the safe operation, care and maintenance of apparatus, vehicles and related equipment is provided. Additional revenue is generated by providing mechanical and pump testing services to other fire departments.