

CHAPTER 9 – FIRE

The mission of the Stockton Fire Department is to provide a high level of life and property safety through fire control, fire prevention services, emergency medical services, and the mitigation of hazardous material incidents. This commitment is intended to safeguard the general economy and welfare of the community. It is the Department's objective to provide these services in a way that the community will know that "we care."

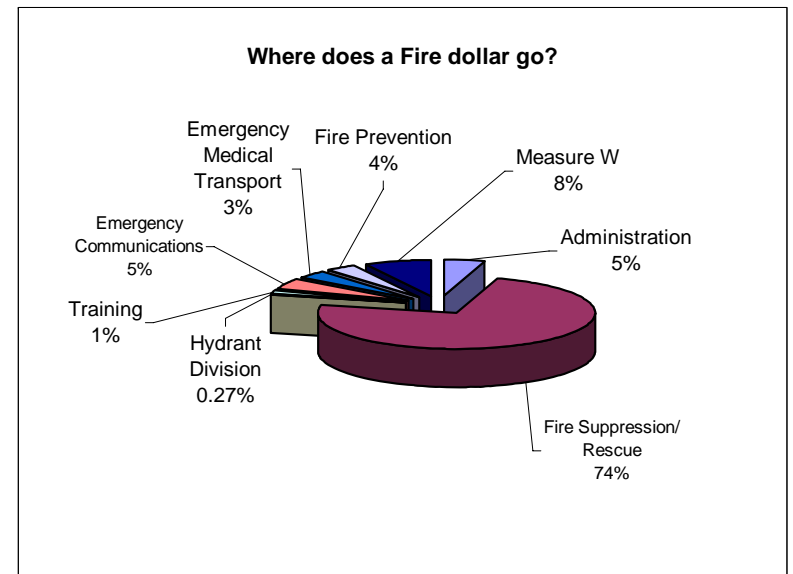
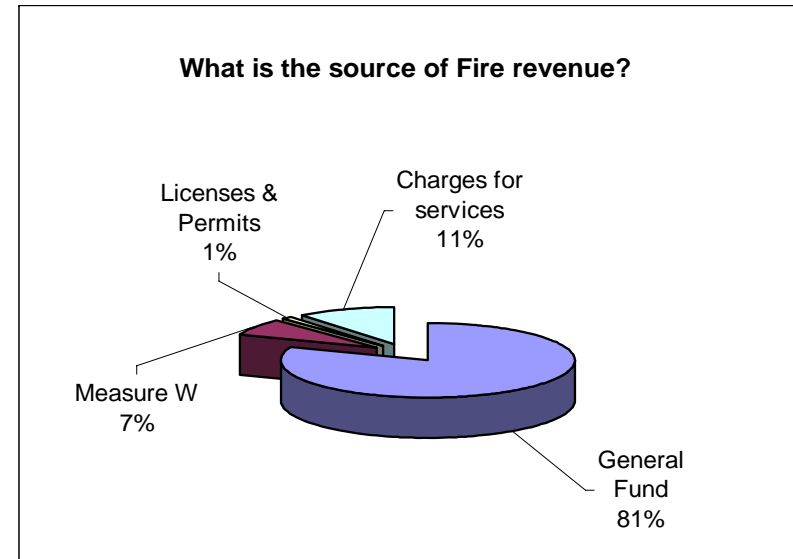
The Fire Department has provided fire protection and emergency medical services to the Lincoln Fire District since 1976, and the Eastside and Tuxedo-Country Club Fire Districts since 1984. In 1992, the city also agreed to provide contractual service to the Boggs Tract Fire Protection District. All four districts have boundaries that are contiguous to the City of Stockton bringing the total area protected to about 87 square miles.

The department has 13 fire stations housing 13 engine companies and four truck companies. In addition, a Hazardous Materials Team is staffed by Engine 10; a Water and Dive Rescue Team is staffed by Engine 6; Urban Search and Rescue Team at Company 3; Fire Cause & Origin Investigation is provided by an arson investigator. Every firehouse is a Safe Station and a Safe Surrender Site. Tactical Emergency Medical Support is a team of Paramedics that support SWAT incidents with Stockton Police Department.

Stockton Fire is one of 47 cities in the nation that holds the Class 1 City rating from the Insurance Services Office.

The Department has nine major budget areas as follows:

- Administration
- Fire Suppression/Rescue
- Training
- Telecommunications
- Emergency Communications
- Emergency Medical Transport
- Fire Prevention
- Fire Prevention - Hydrant Division
- Measure W



Source: FY 2007 revenue and expenditure data (Percentages do not total to 100 percent due to rounding.)

REVENUE AND SPENDING

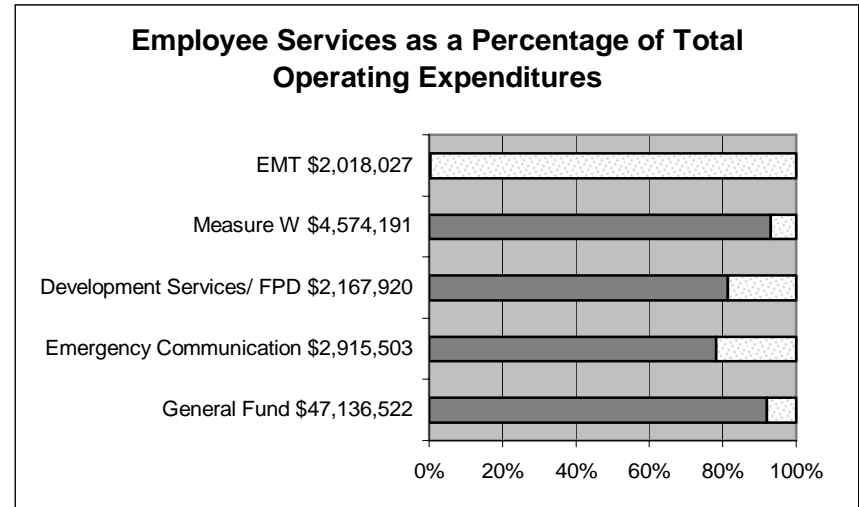
Fire is funded through the General Fund and several Special Revenue Funds. As shown in the chart on the previous page, 81 percent of funding was from the General Fund for FY 2007. Other sources of revenue included 11 percent from charges for services, seven percent from Measure W funding, and one percent from licenses and permits.

As with most General Fund departments, a portion of personnel costs are allocated to other funds through the budget process. As a result, budget and actual expenditures reported by department represent the unallocated operating cost per department. The City's financial system is not set up to easily determine total operating costs by department.

In examining where a Fire dollar is spent, we noted 74 percent is spent on Fire Suppression/Rescue, with eight percent on Measure W activities to increase Fire protection, and five percent on Emergency Communications. The remaining 13 percent is spent on Administration, Fire Prevention, Emergency Medical Transport, and Training as shown on the previous page.

As shown to the right, the majority Fire's budget is spent on Employee Services. Over 90 percent of General Fund and Measure W expenditures are for Employee Services. Employee Services account for 81 percent of Development Services/Fire Prevention Division, and 78 percent of Emergency Communication Fund expenditures. With Emergency Medical Transport operations discontinued, Employee Services were negligible.

For FY 2007, service contracts with four county fire districts generated \$4,600,140 in General Fund revenue.



Source: FY 2007 expenditure data

SPENDING, PER CAPITA, & STAFFING

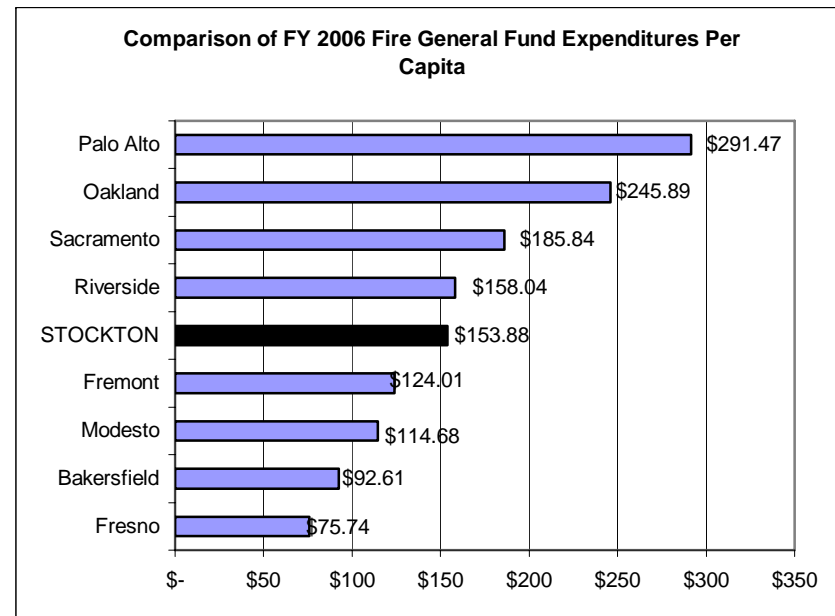
Overall, total operating expenditures for Fire have increased 38 percent compared to five years ago. As a result, Fire’s per capita increased 25 percent from \$161.66 in FY 2003 to \$202.95 in FY 2007.

Per capita comparisons between cities can be difficult as cities vary in population, number of departments, and offer a different mix of services than Stockton.

As shown to the right, Stockton’s FY 2006 Fire General Fund expenditures per capita were greater than Fremont, Modesto, Fresno and Bakersfield but less than Palo Alto, Oakland, Riverside and Sacramento. Per capita comparisons were based solely on cities expenditures and population. We made no attempt to examine the types of services performed or cost allocation methods used by the respective cities’ administrative services department.

Expenditures for Administration and Fire Suppression/Rescue have increased approximately 44 and 43 percent respectively over the last five years. While Emergency Medical Transport has been discontinued, activity continues related to payments for services rendered before that time and paying for unsettled legal matters.

Fire authorized full time staffing has increased 14 percent from 270 in FY 2003 to 307 in FY 2007. At the end of FY 2007, actual full time staffing was at 294 positions.



Source: FY 2006 Cities’ Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports and Annual Budgets¹

	Operating Expenditures										Staffing	
	Admin- istration	Fire Suppression/ Rescue	Hydrant Division	Training	Telecom- munications	Emergency Communi- cations	Emergency Medical Transport	Fire Prevention	Measure W	TOTAL	Per Capita	Authorized full time staffing ²
FY 2003	\$1,926,566	\$30,346,310	\$1,896,763	\$759,815	\$2,323,870		\$3,090,950	\$1,896,763		\$42,241,037	\$161.66	270
FY 2004	\$2,648,976	\$32,960,451	\$598,131	\$672,371	\$2,532,668		\$4,559,382	\$1,393,960		\$45,365,939	\$168.58	308
FY 2005	\$2,265,970	\$39,150,877	\$130,231	\$671,883	\$601,019	\$2,288,411	\$5,021,933	\$1,972,201	\$1,759,512	\$53,862,037	\$192.70	312
FY 2006	\$2,633,936	\$40,079,991	\$198,389	\$831,443	\$262,496	\$2,969,258	\$4,851,776	\$1,983,732	\$3,484,094	\$57,295,115	\$200.30	324
FY 2007	\$2,776,459	\$43,442,231	\$158,024	\$759,811	\$0	\$2,915,503	\$2,018,027	\$2,167,920	\$4,574,191	\$58,812,166	\$202.95	307
Change over last 5 years ³	44%	43%	-92%	0%	-100%	27%	-35%	14%	160%	39%	26%	14%

¹ Department expenditures were obtained from cities’ Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports. Where data was unavailable, expenditures were obtained from department’s annual budgets.

² Authorized full time staffing is based on approved annual fiscal year budgets.

³ Where five years of data was not available, the change was based on the first available data.

FIRE SUPPRESSION/RESCUE

The Fire Suppression and Rescue Unit is responsible for combating hostile fires, conserving property through overhaul and salvage operations, providing urban search and rescue, providing water rescue, delivering advanced and basic life support medical services, as well as providing mitigation resources for hazardous materials incidents.

- The volume of calls for service have remained relatively consistent over the last five years.
- The increase in dollar loss per structure fire is related to a change in the methodology used to estimate losses.
- In 90 percent of all emergency calls for service, the first apparatus arrives on scene in seven minutes and 30 seconds.
- In 90 percent of structure fire incidents, the first apparatus arrives on scene in six minutes and 15 seconds.
- Seventy-seven percent of survey respondents rated fire services as good or excellent. Fifty-three percent reported feeling very or somewhat safe from fire.
- Sixty-seven percent of respondents rated ambulance/emergency medical services as good or excellent.

Travel Time Required to Reach 90% of Incident Locations within the Engine's Station Area		
Engine Company	Incidents in area, where Engine was 1st due on scene	90% Time (minutes)
E1	779	5:00
E2	2,752	3:30
E3	2,073	5:15
E4	2,492	4:00
E5	1,102	4:45
E6	2,058	5:00
E7	2,500	4:30
E9	3,578	4:30
E10	1,780	5:30
E11	2,861	4:15
E12	2,214	5:45
E13	605	5:15
E14	1,564	5:30

Source: Citygate Associates, LLC report of 2006 calls for service.

Calendar Year	Calls for service	Rescue medical calls for service	Hazmat calls for service	Water rescue calls for service	Structure fires	Fires per 1,000 population	Total dollar loss estimate due to structure fires	90% Response time to all incident types (minutes) ¹	90% response time to structure fires (minutes) ¹	Citizen Survey	
										Percent rating fire services as good or excellent	Percent rating ambulance/emergency medical services as good or excellent
2003	34,356	21,337	545	26	256	0.9797					
2004	34,964	20,957	471	26	238	0.8844	\$2,542,330				
2005	36,985	22,623	531	23	220	0.7871	\$1,733,410				
2006	35,850	23,473	489	26	254	0.8880	\$13,062,859	7:30	6:15		
2007	32,693	22,499	485	31	237	0.8178				77%	67%
Change over last 5 years ²											
	-5%	5%	-11%	19%	-7%	-17%	414%				

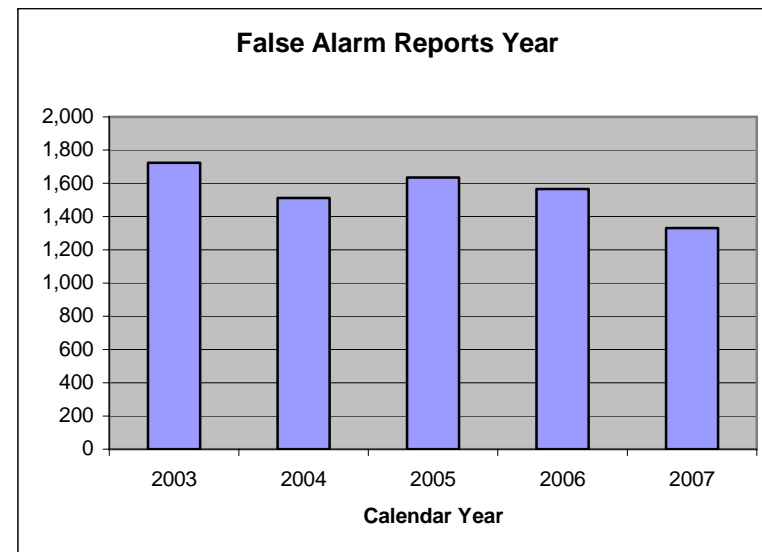
¹ Response time begins with receipt of the call in the City's Fire dispatch center.

² Where five years of data was not available, the change was based on the first available data.

FIRE PREVENTION

The Fire Prevention Unit prevents fires and fire related injuries through enforcement and education. The Fire Prevention Hydrant division inspects underground water systems, places hydrants in newly developed areas, and maintains the current hydrant system.

- False alarm reports have decreased by 23 percent compared to five years ago.
- In 2007, 143 fire drills, 84 school inspections, and 207 fire safety presentations were conducted.
- The Hydrant Division replaced 35 fire hydrants and repaired 51. An additional position was allocated in FY 2008.
- In addition to the 2,850 operational permit inspections and 1,231 Apartment inspections, the Unit inspects a variety of operations and buildings for compliance with California Fire Code.
- Fifty-two percent of survey respondents rated fire prevention and education as good or excellent.
- Fifty-two percent of respondents were prepared to sustain themselves for 72 hours in the event of disaster. Of those who said they were not prepared, 59 percent responded that they know what to do to get prepared.



Source: Fire Department

Calendar Year	False alarm reports	Fire drills	School inspections	Fire Safety presentations	Smoke detectors Installed	Fire hydrant replacements	Fire hydrant repairs	Arson investigations	Operational permit inspections	Apartment inspections	Citizen Survey	
											Percent rating fire prevention and education good or excellent	Percent of respondents prepared to sustain themselves for 72 hours in the event of disaster
2003	1,725											
2004	1,510											
2005	1,634											
2006	1,564											
2007	1,330	143	84	207	217	35	51	284	2,850	1,231	52%	52%
Change over last 5 years	-23%											

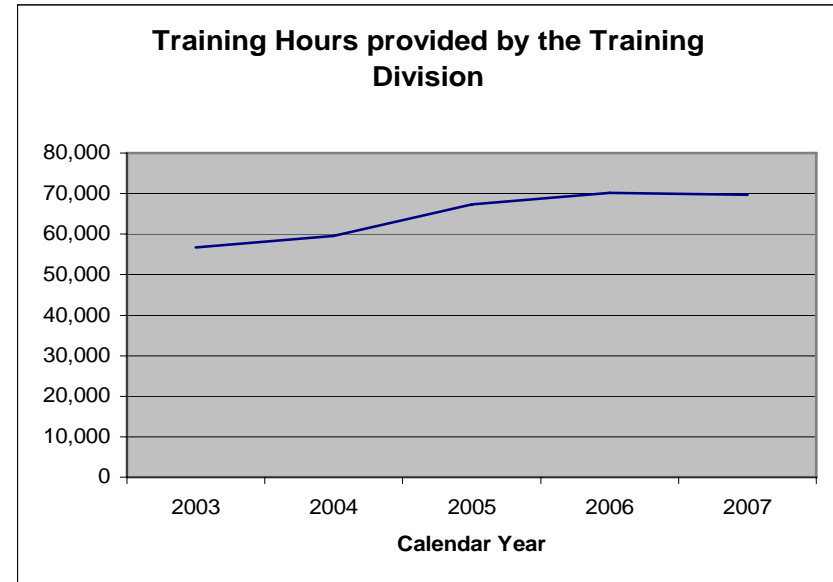
TRAINING

The Training Division is responsible for developing and coordinating all training activities for the Department. These include in-service, recruit academy, special operations, and State mandates. The Division also purchases and distributes all safety and firefighting equipment.

- Average training hours per employee has increased 25 percent over the last five years.

Calendar Year	Total hours of training	Average hours per employee	Authorized full time staffing ¹
2003	56,782	220.09	270
2004	59,604	226.63	308
2005	67,355	264.14	312
2006	70,235	263.05	324
2007	69,733	274.54	307
Change over last 5 years	23%	25%	14%

¹ Authorized full time staffing is based on approved annual fiscal year budgets.



Source: Fire Department

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

The Emergency Communications Division's purpose is to receive and appropriately dispatch calls for service from citizens, businesses, and other government agencies. The division maintains 24-hour emergency communications