

Mission Statement

The O'Fallon Fire Department is organized to provide a highly trained, rapid response, fire rescue force to meet the needs of residents and visitors to one of the fastest growing areas in Southern Illinois. These services include fire prevention, fire suppression and vehicle extrication. The O'Fallon Fire Department is dedicated to providing top quality service through training and experience. We instill in our members the courage to confront perils. Our ability to remain on the cutting edge of technology makes us the first line of defense against disaster.

Goals and Objectives

This budget request provides for the continuing upgrades to equipment and buildings to meet the needs and requirements of our rapidly growing community. It addresses current and future training responsibilities as well as striving to maintain a volunteer force. The Fire Department's budget request for 2005-2006 will allow the department to maintain high quality service while operating within a frugal budget.

Program Highlights and Justifications

Salaries:

Unprecedented growth in the City has increased administrative and leadership needs of the department many fold. Senior administrative leaders spend significant amounts of time managing fire department processes and attending meetings to keep up with growth. Many important community, municipal functions, fire service meetings and related opportunities are missed due to the lack of available personnel on a daily basis. The time has come for the Fire Department to function as a more integral part of the City, not a separate division.

Continued growth of commercial and multi-family occupancies has overwhelmed current staffing. Proper pre-planning and annual documentation of changes have not been completed in years past. Staffing would allow for the ISO (Insurance Services Office) required documentation to be completed in a timely manner and provide on scene building information enhancing fire fighter safety.

The salaried positions would be phased in over the next two years.

Fire Runs and Fees:

Fire runs this year outstripped the estimates provided for in the FY 04-05 budget. In addition there are funds budgeted to begin contributions to a retirement fund. This increase funds both higher fire runs costs and raises the run stipend to allow for the contribution to the retirement fund.

Maintenance of Vehicles:

Vehicles Maintenance incurred costs well above the budgeted amount over the last year requiring rebalancing from other fire department funds to continue essential operations. The higher costs in this line item reflect an anticipated assessment of the vehicle and equipment costs that will be incurred over the next fiscal year.

Computer Services:

The department anticipates installing significant, but portable infrastructure to support fire department functions. Advancements in technology and programs enable the department to provide improved service to the community through better training and preparation. Upgrades in computer equipment will enhance on scene fire fighter safety by providing increased information on incidents.

Physicals:

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) guidelines require that fire departments conduct both pre-placement and periodic medical evaluations. The department feels that this program needs to be started for all current and future members. Fire department management has met with a local health care provider company and anticipates beginning to use their services immediately. The increase in this line item supports a strong beginning for a required and ongoing health and wellness program for the department's members.

Uniforms/Firefighter Equipment:

The department is currently 9 members below authorized strength. The higher figures seen in this item anticipate new members joining the department, increased costs for clothing replacement and repair for normal wear and tear on members clothing and equipment.

Equipment:

Major portions of the increased costs in this line are for recurring payment on Self Contained Breathing Apparatus acquired in FY 04-05, protective equipment for responders to weapons of mass destruction incidents and radio upgrades to existing equipment both at the fire stations and public safety facility to increase firefighter safety.

