DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
FIRST HALF REPORT
FY 2008

- For the first half of FY 2008, Police calls for service were up 11.8% from 12,824 in FY 2007 to 14,346 this year. Part I criminal offenses for the same period were up 12.6% from 435 in FY07 to 490 in FY08. As is typically the case, the number of violent, person-on-person crimes is relatively low and consistent with previous reporting periods. Our crime statistics are heavily weighted by property crime such as burglary and theft (approximately 86% of the total). We continue to see a close correlation between the increase in calls for service and the increase in crimes reported (11.8% compared to 12.6%) and those numbers would suggest that crime remains relative to other activities in the community.

Year	Murder	Sex Assault	Robbery	Assault Battery	Burglary	Theft	Auto Theft	Arson
FY2007	0	9	2	13	53	329	24	5
FY2008	0	6	5	13	87	336	18	5

- This year's Mayfest event was a success and came to a close without any significant events. The Police department has worked closely with the Boosters over the last couple of years in an effort to reduce the negative incidents. This year, the parade was moved up one hour, as was the closing time for the rides and the entire event and the changes had a significant impact on getting the park cleared before any disturbances took place. We plan to continue examining the event for other opportunities to improve.

- In July, the Police Department made a presentation to the BEST Committee (School Officials) regarding the future funding of the School Resource Officer program. Under the current arrangement, the City funds the entire program, including the three SRO's and the School Crossing Guards. With the addition of three new school facilities on the horizon, it is out belief that additional officers will be needed to properly staff the buildings and provide the level of support necessary to insure safe schools. This meeting was designed to begin a dialog regarding new sources of funding for the program.

- In August, Lt. Pat Beller retired after 25 years of service. As a result of Pat's departure, Sergeant Mick Hunter was promoted to Lieutenant and Patrolman Rob Schmidtke was promoted to Sergeant. A few weeks later, Telecommunicator Michelle Fulton was selected to serve as the Supervisor of that unit. Michelle has been with the Police Department for more than 7 years and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to her new position. Over the course of the past two years, the Police Department has experienced a total of 10 internal promotions and everyone has adapted well to their new positions. At present, Lt's Hunter and VanHook are

participating in two separate sessions of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command in an effort to expand their job knowledge and prepare them for positions of higher responsibility.

- EMS calls for service continued to increase. For the period this year, calls increased by 10.6% from 1,531 in FY 07 to 1,694 this year. While we had experienced some periods of slower growth, this return to a double digit increase is more consistent with what has been occurring over the past 5 to 7 years. As previously noted, the increased demand for service will eventually lead to the need to staff a third ambulance. The factors used to help define that timeline (call volume, response times, simultaneous incidents and total patient transports) are all moving in a direction that would indicate that the additional support will be needed in the foreseeable future.

- Toward the end of the period being reviewed, EMS began using the new 800 MHz radio system available throughout St. Clair County. Through a grant received by the Fire Department, all three of the ambulances were equipped with new radios, we were provided with “portable” radios for use by the paramedics and a “patch” to the new system installed in the communication center allowing for complete communications. The early reports on the system are very good and we will continue to pursue grant funding to move the entire Department of Public safety to the new system. This move was critically important for EMS as they frequently have the need to communicate with our communications center from locations remote to our current infrastructure (local and St. Louis Hospitals for example).