

FIRE DEPARTMENT
FUND NO. 001
ACCOUNT NOS. 0901-08

DESCRIPTION

The Merced Fire Department endeavors to protect lives, assist citizens, and save property by adhering to the concept of the mission statement and the design of the Merced Fire Protection Master Plan. The Fire Department is divided into five spheres of responsibility and each operational area is committed to insuring that the goals and objectives are realized to the fullest extent possible within permissible guidelines. The areas of responsibility are Administration, Prevention, Training, Logistics/Support, and Operations.

MISSION

The Merced Fire Department strives to provide the highest level of life, environment, and property protection to the citizens of Merced through fire / rescue and emergency / disaster mitigation, emergency medical services, fire prevention, and related services.

ADMINISTRATION

GOAL

- ◇ Coordinate the efforts of the Fire Department to meet the expectations of the Community Fire Protection Master Plan (CFPMP) and to effectively manage goals and objectives so that they meet the current and projected fire and life safety needs of the citizens.

OBJECTIVES

1. Insure the efficiency and direction in departmental growth and development.

***PERFORMANCE
MEASUREMENTS/INDICATORS***

Review projected station locations for integration and service delivery within the designated Sphere of Influence. Determine projected need for personnel and support staffing by Spring 2006.

FIRE

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| 2. Maintain response times and provide prompt emergency services. | Continue development and construction of a new fire station in northeastern Merced. Address operational changes and plan for opening in the third quarter of 2005. |
| 3. Increase the departments' ability to plan for providing future response, task, technological, and staffing needs. | Continue working with other City agencies in establishing standards, requirements, and shared databases relative to infrastructure, growth, and streamlined services. Timeframes will be according to committee and individual department capabilities and needs. |

PREVENTION **GOAL**

- ◇ Proactively diminish the potential for pain, suffering, and monetary loss from fire and injury, maintain inspection programs, and minimize the fire hazards by coordinating the systematic removal of weeds, trash, and other related dangerous conditions.

OBJECTIVES

- 4. Maintain a fire safe community with current and updated practices, information, and training.

PERFORMANCE **MEASUREMENTS/INDICATORS**

Develop a comprehensive Fire Prevention Standards Booklet to provide information to contractors, business owners, and other groups as guidelines for consistency in complying with Fire Code requirements by Spring 2006.

Review and update the Fire Code permit fees to insure accurate reflection of departmental costs by the end of 2005.

Update pre-incident plan software, provide training, and research technological options and advancements for field inspection activities by Spring 2006.

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TRAINING **GOAL**

- ◇ Prepare and maintain personnel with the skills necessary for delivering quality service to the citizens by- establishing and adhering to performance and safety standards, recognizing and implementing federal, state, and local training mandates, and providing direction for career growth and advancement .

OBJECTIVES

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS/INDICATORS

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| 5. Increase the department's ability to recruit and retain personnel. | Continue to coordinate efforts with Merced College to promote the local firefighter academy and the Fire Technology program. Develop a list of infrastructure needs, for budgeting and planning purposes, for a new training facility to support this program by Spring 2006. |
| 6. Enhance the department's ability to provide formal education based training opportunities necessary for promotion. | Review the state requirements for needed specialty courses and develop a plan for providing regionalized specialized training by Winter 2005 |

FIRE

LOGISTICS/SUPPORT

GOAL

- ◇ Promote the efforts of all other divisions by fulfilling logistical needs and by maintaining and enhancing facilities, services, and materials and assuring the effective use of resources and supplies while utilizing the latest equipment and technology.

OBJECTIVES

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS/INDICATORS

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| 7. Maintain, repair, and replace emergency equipment in accordance with safety and manufacturers guidelines. | Review the vehicle replacement plan, with associated contributions, to address a 10 year projected growth and service level needs of the city by Spring 2006. |
| 8. Update equipment and support systems as necessary to stay in line with performance and technological growth and advancements. | Coordinate plans and projections with the communications center to address growth, including future districts and emergency responses. This will include geographical issues, tactical capabilities and interagency coordination. Preliminary outlines by Spring 2006. |

FIRE

OPERATIONS

GOAL

- ◇ Plan and provide for a maximum emergency reflex response time of 4-6 minutes citywide and manage operational objectives directly applicable to the primary mission of protecting lives and property.

OBJECTIVES

- 9. Insure the efficiency and direction in departmental growth and development.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS/INDICATORS

Review identified issues and evaluate response data from Station 55's emergency operations and business activities. Research information for possible modification of existing response and business policies and procedures and for possible modification of the existing Facilities Plan by the end of fiscal year 05-06.

2005-2006 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- (1) In this fiscal year, the department will continue efforts to increase our service capabilities with the addition of fire station #55, continue C.E.R.T. training, refine our specialty training, and increase our Juvenile Firesetter program activities. We will continue to review: manpower and equipment needs and distribution, resource allocation for jurisdictional coverage and support operations to manage the rapid growth of the service area.
- (2) The development of U.C. Merced and changes within the Merced County Fire Department will require that continued consideration is given to the possibility of the City contracting services to both of the agencies.
- (3) The city Fire dispatch and communication system needs significant upgrading in order to meet existing and future needs. Inter-agency communication, secondary and secure communications, and encrypted or adaptable radio systems are being proposed as necessary by federal and state agencies as part of the "Homeland" protection service delivery system. A grant was awarded last fiscal year for some operational upgrades and additional F.I.R.E. Act grant funding is being pursued to address more of the dispatch and communication system needs.

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- (4) Functional and tabletop exercises are being planned to test recently updated disaster plans and inter-agency coordination. Grant requests are being submitted to address potential threat issues and local agencies are coordinating grant awards in order to avoid duplication of effort while increasing overall service delivery.
- (5) This years' budget requests include; 9 line personnel to increase the manning on each response apparatus to 3 people for safety and operational considerations; 1 Fire Inspector to address the increased fire prevention inspection activities due to the rapid growth; and 1 Division Chief officer to help address the need for additional management staff.