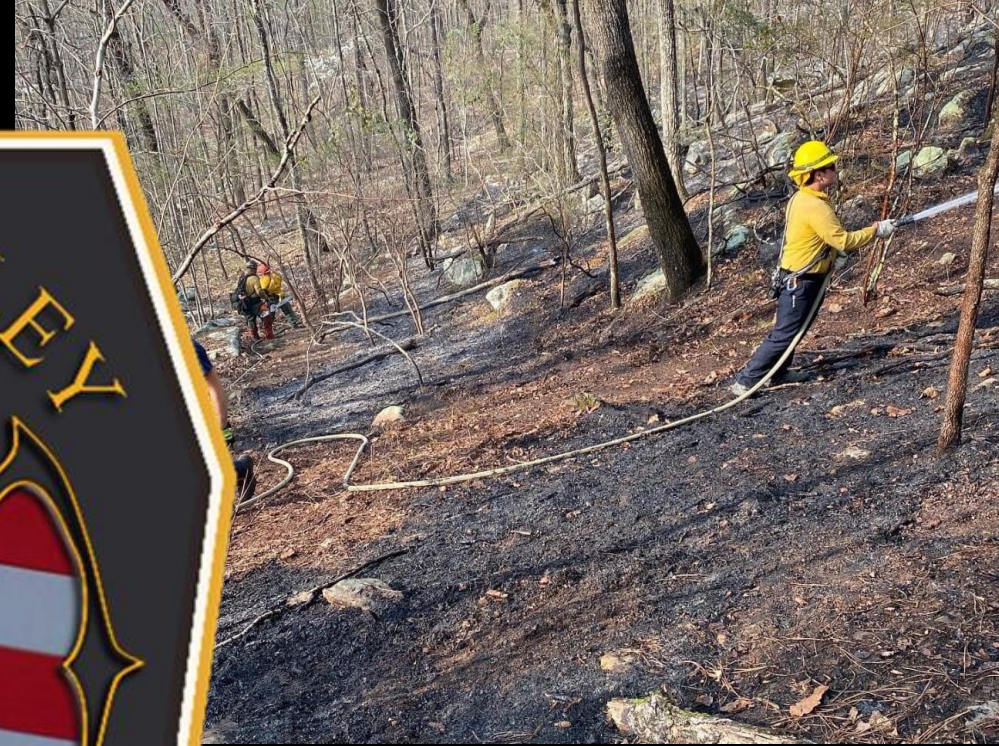


Close before you doze

See the dramatic difference a closed door can make.







2022 Review



Total Calls - 3803

452 - increase in calls in the District

33 - Structure Fires

2433 - Emergency Medical Calls (73%)

237 - Motor Vehicle Accidents

1135 - Ambulance Transports

32 - Cardiac Arrest - 16 ROSC

22 - STEMI

33 - Stroke

60 - Overdose

Patient Age - 58% over age 55



Mission and Vision

The mission of the Cahaba Valley Fire and EMR District is to deliver professional and compassionate service through our unwavering duty to our community.

We will accomplish this through ongoing training and professional development, public education, *risk reduction and an efficient and effective response force.*

The vision of the CVFD is to be an accredited professional organization meeting the diverse needs of a growing community.



Goals

1. Retain Firefighters with Competitive Pay
2. Provide appropriate staffing levels to meet community needs
3. Restore previous ambulance services



Background

- Achieved Effective Response Force
 1. Engine 185 / Narrows
 - a. Response time reduced in the Narrows from 7 minutes to 4 minutes
 - b. Average 63 call per month
 2. Staffing levels increase to 16 per day
 3. On the path for ISO Class 1 rating



Challenges

1. 2021 vote
 - a) **Needs are becoming more critical**
2. All firefighter and paramedic salaries across the metro area and state have increased
3. Firefighter pay the lowest in the area
 - a) \$28,000 starting
4. Paramedic pay and all other ranks falling behind
5. 38% turnover since February 2022
 - a) Increasing cost of hiring and training
 - b) Causing decrease in daily staffing levels



Results

Adjustments made for FY 23 budget deficits

1. 12 firefighter positions cut
2. Closed the ambulance at 280 station
3. Dropped fire engine staffing from 3 to 2 firefighters
4. Raised pay for firefighter/EMT and Firefighter/Paramedic only
5. Delayed needed improvements to the 280-fire station
6. Sold 2017 ladder truck to purchase used 2004 ladder truck



Impact

1. Lower staffing = decreased efficiency
 - a) 2-firefighter crew 30% less effective than 3 firefighter crew – 2 minutes slower getting water on fire
 - i. *Fire doubles in size every 4 minutes*
2. Effective response force reduced for critical incidents
 - a) Structure fire staffing - dropped from 16 to 11
 - b) Cardiac Arrest – dropped from 6 to 4
 - c) MVC – dropped from 7 to 5
 - d) Sending multiple units to calls to meet staffing needs
3. Response times for ambulance increased by 50%
 - i. *Heart and Stroke patient have irreversible brain damage after 4 minutes without oxygen*
4. ISO rating will drop (could lead to higher insurance rates)



What's ahead FY'24 and Beyond

1. There are 8 developments coming into the district
 - a) 6 are in the Dunnavant Valley Community
 - b) 486 new homes, 188 Apartment units
 - c) 1500 + new residents
2. Issues
 - a) No timeline for completion
 - b) Increase request for services
 - c) Increase in commercial property to meet the demands of community
 - d) Revenue generated will not meet budget needs



Alternative Funding Sources

1. We do not have the revenue streams similar to municipality
2. Not eligible for Federal Grants as municipalities and county (American Rescue Plan)
3. Met with county for assistance with funding
4. Made request to Governor's office for funding
5. Applied for 2 federal grants to increase staffing
6. Tax deductible donations have been received but does not meet budget needs

In Progress

1. Amendments to legislation
2. Received an Attorney General opinion on other revenue sources



Priority 1

- Firefighter Pay
 - Getting sustainable pay for all levels of firefighters
- Retention
 - Full Family Health Insurance



Priority 2

- Long term sustainability
 1. Capital Fund Needs over next 5 years
 - a) 2 - Ambulance replacements
 - b) Fire Engine replacement
 - c) Ladder Truck replacement
 - d) Fire Station issues
 2. Eliminating debt
 3. Reserve fund



Priority 1— Firefighter Pay and Staffing

1. Request a dues increase for FY 24
 - a) \$125 increase to residential properties
2. 23.5% on all other properties
 - i. *Apartments /Commercial / Vacant land*
3. Outcomes
 - a) Supports firefighter pay and retention
 - b) Reestablish appropriate staffing levels
 - c) Restore ambulance at 280 station to improve response times



Priority 2 - Long Term Sustainability

1. Changing billing cycle to June 1 – September 30
 - a) Moves due dates out of tax & holiday season
 - b) Allows additional month to pay bill over time
 - c) Fiscal year begins fully funded vs. operating on reserve funds
 - d) Budget surplus to reserve funds and reduce debt
2. Maintaining revenue with inflation
 - a) FY 25 – FY 28
 - b) Normal 5% increase with additional 4% for total of 9%



Priority 2 - Long Term Sustainability

1. Capital Project Fee
 - a) Cost divided between all properties
 - b) Max \$100 per fiscal year for capital projects
 - c) Reduce/prevent debt by fully funding capital projects
 - d) Opens bond opportunities
2. Ambulance Billing Change
 - a) CVFD shall bill the individual's insurance (if applicable) first, any cost not covered by insurance becomes the responsibility of the individual or the responsible party.
 - b) Revenue to used to support upgrade and maintenance on all cardiac monitors



Actions

- New billing cycle to begin June 1, 2023
- Proposed vote in March 2023
 - Question 1 – Support \$125 increase to residential properties and 23.5% increase to all other properties- (apartments, commercial)
 - Question 2 – Support an additional 4% increase over the allowed 5% for FY25-FY28
 - Question 3 – Support the Capital Fund
 - Question 4 – Support Ambulance Transport Billing



Questions

