

Alternative Funding for the Monroe Township Fire Department

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CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

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ABSTRACT

Due to the status of the economy, fire departments across the state and country are being forced to become creative with options for funding in order to provide adequate levels of service to their respective communities. The current economic status has given rise to the need to research ways to generate revenue for the Monroe Township Fire Department (MTFD) to offset increased operational costs and prevent the possibility of the laying-off firefighters.

This research project investigated one type of alternative funding sources: user/service fees. These are charges for such services as building inspections, plans reviews, hazardous materials incidents, and rescue operations at auto accidents. If implemented, these fees could have an immediate impact on the department's budget without having to go through the lengthy and risky process of seeking approval for another tax levy.

This study included a literature review focusing on economic problems in today's society and the fire service, information regarding service/user fees, and the cost recovery currently being used in the fire service as well as a statistical analysis of services provided by the MTFD. Descriptive research was used to determine the answer to three research questions:

- What services/programs are being used by other departments in Ohio to generate user fees?
- What are other Ohio fire departments charging for these services/programs?
- What impact could the income from these fees have on the department's operational budget if implemented?

A survey was created that focused on the different service areas of the fire service: emergency medical services (EMS), vehicle accidents/rescue related activities, fire suppression/false alarms, hazardous materials, fire inspections/plans reviews, and other areas.

This survey was sent to fire service executives throughout the State of Ohio. The results of this survey combined with a statistical analysis of the MTFD definitively answered the three main research questions.

Based on the results of the survey and the statistics of the MTFD, there were areas where revenue could be generated by the services provided by the department. A suggested course of action was recommended which includes action steps to gauge legality and public opinion as well as suggested steps for implementation of the fee programs.

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INTRODUCTION

Statement of the Problem

Due to the status of the economy, fire departments across the state and country are being forced to become creative with options for funding in order to provide adequate levels of service to their respective communities. The Monroe Township Fire Department (MTFD) is no different than any of other department in this regard.

Currently the MTFD is facing an increase in operational costs with no foreseeable increase in funding. These cost increases include basic operational expenses such as fuel for vehicles, emergency medical services (EMS) supplies, and station utilities, as well as increases in workers' compensation, salaries, and insurance.

The problem this study addressed is that if additional funding sources are not realized to compensate for the increases in operational costs there is a possibility that firefighter/paramedics may be laid off to offset these rising costs. These layoffs could cause the quantity and quality of service provided by the department to the community to fall below a level that is acceptable to the public and the department.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to look at one type of alternative funding program: user fees. This study was to explore what user fees are available to the MTFD, and, if any of these user fee programs were implemented, whether they could offset any of the rising expenses associated with the operations of the department.

If implemented, user fees could have an immediate impact on the operational budget of the department and complement the monies already being collected through EMS transport

billing, private donations, and grants without having to go through the lengthy and risky process of pursuing an additional tax levy.

Research Questions

The research questions this study investigated are:

1. What services/programs are being used by other departments in Ohio to generate user fees?
2. What are other Ohio fire departments charging for these services/programs?
3. What impact could the income from these fees have on the department's operational budget if implemented?

BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

The Monroe Township Fire Department is a combination department with thirteen full-time employees and twenty-two volunteers located in Johnstown, Ohio. The department provides fire and advanced life support (ALS) transport services from one station to a 62-square mile area that encompasses all or a portion of Monroe Township, the Village of Johnstown, Jersey Township, Liberty Township, McKean Township, and the Village of New Albany. Located in the western portion of Licking County, it also regularly provides assistance to neighboring jurisdictions in Delaware and Franklin Counties. A predominately agricultural community, the area has seen an increase in growth as the City of Columbus has pushed its boundaries to within ten miles of the borders of the department's coverage area.

There has been an increase of new builds of residential and light manufacturing facilities over the past twenty years as the community transforms to an area where those who are employed in Columbus come to escape the hustle of city life and raise their families. This increase is evident by looking at estimates from City Data.com which shows that from 1980 to 2000 there were 1,321 new residential homes built and a 17.5% increase in population from 2000 to 2009.

Growth, as well as an increased demand for service, spurred an organizational change in 2000 when the then Johnstown Volunteer Fire Department Incorporated dissolved. Operating control of the fire department was transferred and all of its assets relinquished to the Monroe Township Trustees who then formed the Monroe Township Fire Department.

At the time of the reorganization the department employed six full-time employees who worked three different eight-hour shifts, Monday through Friday, and two different eight-hour shifts on Saturday and Sunday. The full-time staffing was complemented by the thirty-four

volunteers and off-duty full-time employees responding to the station from their homes when they were available.

The department hired its first full-time fire chief in 2000, and in 2001 the transition was made to “shift work” by placing two full-time firefighter/paramedics on-duty twenty-four hours, off-duty forty-eight hours, 365 days a year. The department also added one full-time firefighter Monday through Friday during the day when many of the volunteers were unavailable while working their full-time jobs.

The MTFD is mainly funded by different permanent property tax levies. According to the report obtained from the Monroe Township Trustees labeled 2009 tax year- fire levies, these different levies generate an annual income of \$974,839 for the department. Because the levies are permanent, the department has a guaranteed income each year and does not have to continually return to the voters for approval every five years to maintain the services that can be funded at that level. The downfall to these levies is they are subject to “rollback”. This means the amount of money collected by these levies never increases with the change in population or increase in property values. Each levy collects a certain amount of money and that is all it will ever collect unless it is replaced and increased to account for new property evaluations. This rollback is evident by looking at same 2009 tax year figures obtained from the Monroe Township Trustees that show the voted millage versus the effective millage for the various tax levies within the coverage area of the MTFD.

While all the municipalities served by MTFD, except McKean Township, have a voted taxation rate of six mils, many are collecting at well below that amount. For instance, Monroe Township (which includes the Village of Johnstown) has one levy that was voted into effect in 2007 at 6 mils. This levy now collects at a rate of 5.922 mils. Jersey Township and the section of

New Albany which was annexed from Jersey Township has three levies that make a combined voted millage of 6 mils. One was approved in 1987 for 2.9 mils and collects at 1.204, one for 1.5 mils approved in 1992 and collects at .6814 mils, and a five-year levy approved in 2006 for 1.5 mils that collects at 1.134 mils. Liberty Township has two levies that make the total voted millage of 6 mils. A 2.9 mil levy voted into effect in 1987 that collects at 1.232, and a 3.1 mil levy approved in 2006 now collects at a rate of 2.180 mils. McKean Township is an exception because they pay the department a contracted amount annually and that is not based on property tax evaluation.

In 2006, after the voters approved a replacement of a permanent property tax, three additional full-time firefighter/paramedics were added to the department. This brought daily uniformed staffing up to three 24/48 firefighter/paramedics and one forty-hour a week firefighter/paramedic, all of which were still complemented by the volunteers and off-duty employees responding from home. Around this same time the department introduced its “out of town volunteer” program. This program allowed people who did not live within the contractual area of the department and had fire and EMS training to join as volunteers, but they were required to schedule themselves to be on station ninety-six hours per month. This gave these volunteers valuable experience and training while providing the department with little-to-no-cost manpower.

In 2006 and 2007 the MTFD began to distribute “customer satisfaction surveys” to each patient treated by the department’s EMS service. The survey asked questions regarding the quality of their service, the politeness and appearance of the staff, etc. Lastly, it asked if the patient would support the department billing their insurance company for the service that was provided. The results showed that an overwhelming majority of the patients treated would

support such billing. The department also spoke with representatives from the neighboring Plain Township Fire Department who had previously implemented EMS billing and found that they received overwhelming voter support even after billing was started. So in June of 2008, the MTFD followed the lead of other neighboring departments and began billing for EMS calls. The department employed a private company to review its EMS reports and bill patients' insurance if they were treated and transported by the department. The department chose to follow the policies of other departments and "soft bill" for this service. This means that if a person cannot afford to pay a bill, the fire department will not take the person to collections, the bill is just dropped. Through this billing the department has been able to bring in an additional \$200,000 per year to the township coffers. Although this effort has brought in additional revenue, it also increased the department's operating expenses. This was chiefly because the area hospitals that MTFD transports to have policies where the hospitals do not allow agencies that bill for EMS transports to exchange supplies (other than linens) that were used on runs. These policies now required the MTFD to purchase and stock items that were previously replaced by the hospitals.

The department has been very fortunate since its inception, receiving over \$1,000,000 in grants from various sources including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to replace most of its fleet and make capital expenditures. Grant funding information obtained from an interview with MTFD Chief Wright shows this has included receiving FEMA grants for each of the following: \$142,200 for a new tanker/tender (2004), \$58,798 for 800MHz interoperability radios (2005), \$57,563 for new air packs (2006), \$93,076 for turnout gear and computers (2007), \$471,200 (supplemented by a \$100,000 private donation) for a 75-foot quint (2008), and \$60,800 for a sprinkler system for the station (2009). In 2009, the department received a grant from the ODNR as well as a donation

from its Firefighter's Association to replace an aging brush truck. The department also applies for and receives grants from the Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of State Fire Marshal Fire Department Equipment and Training Grant. This program reimburses the department for the EMS, fire, inspector, and officer training some of its members receive.

Also according to MTFD Chief Wright, in 2007 the department was awarded a \$210,850 Staffing For Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) grant from the Department of Homeland Security to hire two additional firefighter/paramedics. This is a matching funds grant that reduces in funding each year for five years. The two firefighter/paramedics were added in 2008, bringing daily uniformed staffing up to four firefighter/paramedics per day which continue to be complemented by the volunteers and off-duty employees responding from home as well as the out-of-town (scheduled) volunteers.

This staffing increase assured that there was nearly always adequate coverage to respond at least two of the department's three medic units simultaneously. This was important since the department has always been notorious for having multiple emergency runs at the same time. In 2009 the department responded to 1,882 calls for service; of those calls 328, or 17.4%, of them occurred while another call was already in progress. This was an increase from 299 of 1,814 calls (16.5%) in 2008, and 272 of 1,704 calls (15.9%) in 2007. In the past on-duty personnel would have to wait for a volunteer or off-duty firefighter to arrive from home to man the second piece of equipment. With the increase in staffing, the manpower was now on station for the second ALS ambulance to respond immediately to calls for help. In the instance that a person is having a heart attack, this could be the difference between life and death. Faster response means faster diagnosis and treatment!

This increase in staffing also meant the first responding piece of apparatus can usually respond immediately to a fire with four firefighters instead of having to wait for a volunteer or off-duty firefighter to arrive at the station from home. This lowered the response times to fires as well as allowed the department to comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's two-in and two-out rule once the first piece of equipment and the chief arrived on the scene. Since they had the required two firefighters outside they were now able to make entry into a building with two firefighters immediately instead of having to wait on other units to arrive. This allowed for a quicker attack on the fire, stopping its progression sooner and reducing the amount of damage caused by the fire.

The country is now faced with a downturn in the economy. People are out of work, construction of new homes has slowed, and property values are plummeting as foreclosures of homes increase. The cost of healthcare and other living expenses are increasing. Many people cannot afford the taxes they are already paying so the department is faced with increased costs as well as no foreseeable increase in funding. *The potential impact this study could have on the MTFD is the monies that could be realized by the implementation of user/service fees could have an immediate impact on the department budget and allow for the continued employment of all the current firefighters or possibly even allow them to increase the department's staffing levels. In turn, this would allow the department to maintain or improve the quality of services provided by the department and expected by the community they serve.*

LITERATURE REVIEW

The purpose of this literature review is to find information about service/user fees and cost recovery in the fire service, and the feasibility of implementing any of the programs and services within the operations of the Monroe Township Fire Department.

“Providing quality, affordable emergency services is a complex and difficult task. Every organization operates under different state laws and local ordinances with few common dominators” (Wilson 2008). Across the state and country the way fire departments are funded, staffed, and operate varies from department to department. Some are funded by property taxes, others are funded by income taxes, and then there are those which rely on fundraisers and community donations. There are many departments that have all full-time staffing, many that have a combination of full-time and part-time, and still others that rely solely on volunteer staffing. The type of services provided from department to department varies as well as the way these services are provided. All of these variables provide a challenge to each organization’s leadership when it comes to funding and providing a level of service that is adequate or acceptable to the public. These changing variables make it impossible to continually follow the lead of other departments because what is good for or works for one department is not necessarily beneficial for another. “The one common denominator is this difficult economy” (Wilson 2008).

According to a May 28, 2010 report from the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, the cost of fuel oil and other home heating fuels has increased 21.9% since April 2009. During this same time there has been a 38.1% increase in the costs of gasoline and transportation fuels, 18.5% in energy costs and a 3.7% increase in healthcare, just to name a few. The *Newark Advocate* reports on November 23, 2010 that the unemployment rate in Licking

County is at 9%, an increase of 0.2% from September 2010 and “does not include those people who have stopped looking for work or those who are working part-time but seeking full-time employment”. Add to this the fact that according to the Licking County Clerk of Courts, foreclosures of homes have increased from 863 in 2005 to 1181 in 2009 and 999 as of October 27, 2010. Not only do all of these factors (cost increases, unemployment, and foreclosures) directly affect the people in the communities served by their fire departments, but they also increase each department’s operational expenses as well as tax monies collected.

As the costs associated with everyday living continue to increase, people have become better consumers of goods and services. They want the best products and services for the least amount of money. “No matter what type, volunteer, combination, and paid fire forces cost money. There is no such thing as a free lunch. However, the more expensive a department is, the more people want to know what they are getting for their money” (Coleman 2007). More often than ever, the informed public is now asking how much will emergency services cost and what is the direct benefit to them. They see the benefit to them as being firefighters in the firehouse, and as fire trucks and medic units being able to respond to their calls for help rapidly. They often do not understand the importance of the behind-the-scenes actions of fire departments: programs like public education for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and fire prevention, or the need for building inspections to mitigate potentially hazardous conditions in public buildings. These programs are an essential part of every fire department and require money to be operated effectively. Most importantly the public needs to understand, “The primary benefit of having a well-equipped, well trained and properly led fire department is that it provides a community with the highest potential quality of life. Our benefit is our availability and our reliability when called upon” (Coleman 2007).

How do fire departments address shrinking budgets without sending out requests for another tax increase to an already financially struggling public? “The most obvious way to balance any budget is to increase the tax base an organization draws from.....The last thing residents want to hear from their fire chief is a plea for more taxes” (Wilson 2008). People as a whole are struggling to make ends meet and, “raising property taxes to meet the increased service demands is not necessarily fair to the property owners when many motor vehicle incidents and other emergency services involve individuals not owning property or paying taxes in the fire department’s service area” (Nelesen 2010). One answer to this question can be to institute user fees. These are charges for such examples as building inspections, plans reviews, hazardous materials incidents, and rescue operations at auto accidents. “These (fees) target mostly the user as opposed to sending out another property tax increase” (Nelesen 2010). Departments pass the costs for these services to the individual users of the service instead of passing the expense of these services to the entire tax-paying public.

“Many communities now charge to send fire trucks to accident scenes” (Khol 2005). Fire departments can bill a motorist’s insurance company for actions taken by fire crews at auto accident scenes. “Typically, insurance will pay for such charges” (Nelesen 2010). If the fire department arrives on the scene and finds no action is needed by the fire/rescue crews then there is no charge; however if fire/rescue interventions are needed they will bill for those actions. “For example, the City of Cleveland now charges \$580 to send a fire truck to an accident scene, and it charges \$850 to free people from wreckage” (Khol 2005). According to department statistics, in 2009 the MTFD responded to 108 auto accidents, twenty-three of which required extrication services. Based on these statistics, if the department charged the same amount as the City of

Cleveland (and every bill were paid) they could have grossed and estimated \$68,850 in fees for actions at auto accidents in 2009.

Almost every fire department across the state and country is involved in the construction process of new buildings within their contractual areas. This can range from a review of initial construction plans to final occupancy inspections in addition to other fire safety reviews during the construction process. Many departments do not employ full-time inspectors and construction related activities can take firefighters off the streets to perform these tasks or create the need to bring off-duty firefighters in on overtime to perform them. The State Fire Marshal has already established a standard fee schedule within the Ohio Fire Code that can assist departments with recovering some of the costs associated with these services. “The fire marshal shall require New Construction inspection fees as follows: (a) Initial inspection fee of two hundred dollars. (b) Re-inspection fee of fifty dollars..... (g) Subsequent Follow-up inspection fees are increased in fifty dollar increments” (Ohio Fire Code, 2007). According to internal statistics the department was only involved in the construction of one commercial building in 2009 which required six inspections. By following this fee schedule it could have generated an estimated \$950.00 and helped offset the costs the department incurred for these inspections. Currently the department has four commercial buildings in the beginning phases of construction for 2011 one being a 500,000 square foot manufacturing facility. Adopting this fee schedule could help offset the manpower and overtime costs that will surely be associated with the construction of these facilities.

“The State Fire Marshal, the fire chief of a municipal corporation that has a fire department, or the fire chief of a township that has a fire department shall enforce the provisions of this chapter and chapter 3791 of the Revised Code that relate to fire prevention” (Ohio

Revised Code, 2009). This statement found in chapter 3781 of the Ohio Revised Code requires that a fire chief enforce the Ohio Fire Code and perform fire safety inspections within his/her jurisdiction. This creates a burden on fire chiefs across the state on top of their already lengthy list of responsibilities if they are not able to delegate these tasks to other department personnel. Like the MTFD many departments do not employ full-time inspectors. These inspections can once again take firefighters off the streets or create the need to bring off-duty firefighters in on overtime to perform them. The State Fire Marshal has placed a standard fee schedule in the Ohio Fire Code to assist departments with recovering fees associated with these services also. "The fire marshal shall require fire safety inspection fees for all other inspections as follows: (a) Inspection fee of one hundred dollars. (b) Re-inspection fee of fifty dollars. (c) Subsequent re-inspection fees of fifty dollars per re-inspection" (Ohio Fire Code, 2007). According to department records the MTFD conducted 165 building inspections in Monroe Township in 2009. Of these inspections eighty required one re-inspection and thirty-six of them required a second re-inspection. Had the department adopted this fee schedule and every bill had been paid the department could have grossed an estimated \$22,300.

This Literature Review has shown there are options available to the MTFD to recover the costs for services that are provided by the MTFD instead of passing these expenses on to the taxpaying public. The state fire code mandates some inspection activities and already contains provisions for charging fees to perform this work. Meanwhile, other departments are already billing for other services like sending fire equipment to auto accidents. More research is needed to evaluate what types of services/programs are being used by other Ohio departments and to generate user fees. These departments will also need to be surveyed to determine what those departments charge for these services. Finally this information will need to be compared to the

applicable statistics of the MTFD records to determine if user/service fees can make a positive impact on their operating budget.

PROCEDURES

The current economic status has forced the need to research ways to generate revenue for the MTFD. This research investigated the services and programs used by other departments, what they charge, and the impact they could have on the budget of the MTFD. This study included a literature review focusing on economic problems in today's society and the fire service, information regarding service/user fees currently being implemented across Ohio, and the cost recovery currently being used in the fire service in Ohio as well as a statistical analysis of services provided by the MTFD.

The attached survey, Appendix 1, was created and focused on the different service areas of fire departments EMS, vehicle accidents/rescue related activities, fire suppression/false alarms, hazardous materials, fire inspections/plans reviews, other areas. The survey requested information about what each department charges for these services and how they pursue collection (hard or soft billing). The original intention was to mail the survey to twenty-five fire departments in each of the four quadrants of Ohio as well as twenty-five departments in Central Ohio. After evaluating the cost and time involved with sending this survey by mail, it was determined that it would be more economical to create the survey in an electronic format and distribute and collect responses by this method.

The survey was transformed to an electronic format using the on-line Survey Monkey program. An e-mail list of current and former Ohio Fire Executive (OFE) students was obtained from the office of the Ohio Fire Chief's Association. The survey was then e-mailed to 180 fire service executives throughout the state. Each potential respondent was allowed three weeks to complete the survey. Of the 180 surveys sent out there were ninety responses received.

After receiving the completed surveys, each section of each survey was analyzed to answer the following questions:

- Does the respondent's department provide this service?
- Does the respondent's department bill for this service?
 - What does the respondent's department charges for this service?
 - What is the respondent's department's percentage of returns for this service?
 - Does the respondent's department hard or soft bill for this service?

The answers to these questions and a statistical analysis of the MTFD were used to answer the three main research questions. After collecting this information, the findings were calculated to determine an average fee that is charged for each of the services provided. These different fees were then compared to the actual statistical data from the MTFD to determine if any of the different fee programs could have an impact on the operational budget of the MTFD.

Limitations of the Study

This study is limited due to the fact that this researcher did not judge public reaction to the implementation of any or all of these service/user fee programs. There is a question as to whether the implementation of such programs could cause public support for any future tax levies or other taxpayer-funded programs initiated by the MTFD to falter.

There is also a question of the legality of such programs within the MTFD contractual area. Can the department legally institute such fee programs? The department's administration would need to contact their legal council to obtain an opinion about the legality of charging user/service fees for service provided both within their contractual area and when providing assistance to other departments.

RESULTS

The problem this study addressed is that if additional funding sources are not realized by the MTFD to compensate for the increases in operational costs there is a possibility that firefighter/paramedics may be laid off to offset these rising costs.

Descriptive research was used to determine the answer to three research questions:

1. What services/programs are being used by other departments in Ohio to generate user fees?
2. What are other Ohio fire departments charging for these services/programs?
3. What impact could the income from these fees have on the department's operational budget if implemented?

An electronic survey, which focused on the different service areas of fire departments, was sent via e-mail to 180 current and former students of the OFE program. It contained sections for EMS, vehicle accidents/rescue related incidents, hazardous materials incidents, fire inspections/plans reviews, and other services being provided by departments. The survey questioned whether the respondent's department provides each of these services and, if his or her department charges for these services, what those charges are and the rate of return for these charges. Of the 180 surveys distributed ninety were received back. The results of these surveys, Appendix 2, were reviewed and incorporated into the following findings for each section.

According to the responses received, 85% of the respondents stated their department billed for providing EMS services. The survey revealed these departments tend to bill on a tiered level based on the services provided with \$500 being the minimum and \$1,200 being the maximum amount charged. Most respondents indicated they bill in accordance with Medicare and Medicaid guidelines and included a charge for loaded mileage that averages \$10 per loaded

mile. Of those respondents who bill for EMS, 84% soft bill for this service. Respondents who bill for EMS have a typical rate of return of 50 – 75%.

Results of the survey showed 23% of the respondents' departments charge to send fire apparatus to vehicle accidents/rescue related activities. Those respondents' departments that do charge for this service either charge a flat fee that averages \$250 or charge a tiered fee based on services provided that average \$250, \$500, or \$1,250. Among departments that charge for this service, 93% of the respondents' departments soft bill for this service with an average rate of return of 0 – 25%.

Two of the ninety respondents' departments charge for fire suppression activities. One only charges to provide assistance to other agencies, and then only if they perform a task at the incident. The other only charges if the incident is deemed arson and did not indicate an amount charged for this service.

Among the respondents, 30% charge for false alarms. The average charge is \$200 after the third response in a calendar year. Of these respondents, one half hard bill and one half soft bill for this service with an average rate of return of 50%.

Results show that 86% of the respondents' departments recover costs associated with the response and mitigation of hazardous materials incidents. The majority of these departments charge for the actual cost of materials/equipment used as well as the actual cost of manpower and overtime for the incident. Costs for these incidents are typically recovered through the local emergency management agency.

Only 4% of respondents indicated their departments charge to perform annual fire inspections although more than 4% responded with charges for this service. The average fee for this service is \$50 and includes one re-inspection. Among those who bill for this service 66%

hard bill. The average rate of return among all those who bill for inspections fell into the range of 75 – 100%.

Of the respondents' departments 12% charge to review plans associated with the construction and renovation of commercial buildings. There was a mixed fee schedule, and almost none of the respondents supplied an average dollar figure to perform the service. Some stated their department charges an hourly rate and others stated their department charges a flat rate based on the square footage of the building. All respondents in this category hard billed for this service with a 75 – 100% return rate.

Among respondents, 64% stated that their departments install car seats in vehicles for the public. Every positive respondent stated his or her department does this free of charge as a public service.

Finally, 25% of the respondents teach CPR to the public with an average charge of \$50 per person.

According to the 2009 statistics of the MTFD, Appendix 3, the department responded to 108 auto accidents, twenty-three of which required extrication of patients from vehicles. They also responded to forty-four false fire alarms with twenty-five of those responses constituting a third or subsequent response to the same address in the calendar year.

Also in 2009 the MTFD performed 165 annual fire inspections. Of these inspections eighty required one re-inspection and thirty-six required one additional inspection.

The MTFD currently has a business park and four commercial buildings in the beginning phases of construction for 2011, one being a 500,000 sq foot manufacturing facility which is under construction and has already required in excess of twenty inspections for the building and surrounding business park. To date no fees have been charged for these inspections.

The MTFD currently offers CPR to the community which the instructors teach while off duty. The instructors are free to charge whatever the market will allow but are required to pay the department \$10 per student to cover the costs associated with maintaining equipment and needed supplies.

Based on the survey information programs/services being used by other departments in Ohio to generate user fees include: billing to provide emergency medical services, providing apparatus and extrication services at vehicle accidents and other rescue related activities, charging to respond to false fire alarms, establishing a fee program for annual fire inspections, and establishing a fee program to perform inspections and plans reviews associated with new construction and renovation.

The survey shows there are various amounts being charged by Ohio fire departments for these services/programs. These amounts include: following Medicare/Medicaid guidelines for EMS transport billing, charging \$250 to send fire apparatus to vehicle accidents as well as a tiered fee schedule for rescue related activities of \$250, \$500, and \$1250 based on services provided. Other charges include \$200 to respond to multiple fire alarms in a calendar year, charging \$50 to perform annual fire inspections, as well as charging actual manpower and equipment cost to mitigate hazardous materials incidents.

This research and survey show there are areas where revenue for services could be generated by the MTFD. What impact this revenue could have on the operational budget of the department will be discussed in the proceeding sections of this report.

DISCUSSION

A survey was created and sent electronically to 180 fire service executives across the state, with ninety responses being received. The results of that survey are listed in the preceding section of this report. This researcher has now evaluated each section of the study and drawn conclusions as to how each of these options could affect the MTFD.

The MTFD currently bills for EMS transports. This section was put in the survey for two reasons. First it served as an icebreaker to the survey. Since EMS billing is the most popular cost recovery program in the fire service it was felt this section gave each respondent the opportunity to become comfortable with the survey and answer questions he or she might be familiar with. The second reason was to look at what other departments are charging for this service and to see if the charges currently implemented by the MTFD are in line with the industry average. In the opinion of this researcher, the survey results confirm the charges for EMS transports being billed by the MTFD are in line with the industry average and do not need to be re-evaluated at this time.

“Many communities now charge to send fire trucks to accident scenes. For example the City of Cleveland now charges \$580 to send a fire truck to an accident scene, and it charges \$850 to free people from wreckage” (Khol 2005). The survey found that the average fee charged to send a piece of equipment to an auto accident is \$250 with a tiered fee for extrication services of \$250, \$500, and \$1,250. In 2009 the MTFD responded to 108 auto accidents, twenty-three of which required extrication services. If the department charged the survey average of \$250 to send a piece of equipment to an auto accident and charged the middle tier of \$500 for extrications, the MTFD could have generated an estimated \$32,750 in auto accident user fees for 2009 if all charges were paid. The survey indicated the average return rate of 25% which, at this

return rate, would still generate an estimated \$8,000 for the MTFD. This service could provide added income to the MTFD, and this researcher feels implementation of such fees should be explored further.

Of the respondents, only two stated they charged for fire suppression services. Of those two respondents, one only charged for mutual aid responses where the department actually performs a task and the other only charged if the incident was ruled arson. In the opinion of this researcher there is no need to further explore fees for fire suppression services at this time due to the lack of available data and lack of implementation currently on a state-wide basis.

False fire alarms are so much a part of the fire service that if a person asked, any firefighter could probably supply at least one address which they his or her department is commonly dispatched to for false alarms. Among respondents, 30% stated that their department charges for this service but generally only after the third response to an address within a calendar year. The average charge for this service is \$200. The MTFD responded to forty-four false alarms in 2009, twenty-five of which fell into the billable category of more than three responses to the same addresses. If the MTFD charged the survey average of \$200 per response after the third response they could have generated an estimated \$5,000 if every charge had been paid. The survey indicated an average rate of return of 50% which translates to an estimated \$2,500 of revenue potential for the MTFD. Furthermore, charging for this service may cause individuals to make proper repairs to their systems and prevent the need for the department to respond to these un-needed calls, thus reducing wear-and-tear (and operational costs) for the department. This service could be a benefit to the MTFD and this researcher recommends this option should be explored further.

Of the respondents 86% stated that their departments recover costs associated with hazardous materials incidents. All of the respondents stated that they only charge for the actual cost of any materials or equipment used as well as the actual cost of manpower, all of which is billed through the local emergency management agency. This is currently the same fee mechanism being used by the MTFD. In the opinion of this researcher the MTFD should continue to follow this system for cost recovery and ensure that the charges for manpower include all actual costs (i.e. hourly rate, plus overheads).

“The State Fire Marshal, the fire chief of a municipal corporation that has a fire department, or the fire chief of a township that has a fire department shall enforce the provisions of this chapter and chapter 3791 of the Revised Code that relate to fire prevention” (Ohio Revised Code, 2009). This requirement mandates the fire chief of the MTFD enforce the provisions of the Ohio Fire Code and requires that commercial buildings within the contractual area of the MTFD be inspected annually. The Ohio Fire Code has a fee schedule that could be adopted by the MTFD to recover costs associated with the performance of these inspections.

“The fire marshal shall require fire safety inspection fees for all other inspections as follows: (a) Inspection fee of one hundred dollars. (b) Re-inspection fee of fifty dollars. (c) Subsequent re-inspection fees of fifty dollars per re-inspection” (Ohio Fire Code, 2007). Of the respondents 4% stated that their department charges to perform annual fire inspections although more than 4% provided information on fees charged for this service. The average charge for annual fire inspections based on the survey was \$50, which typically included one re-inspection while any subsequent inspections increased in \$50 increments. Although this charge is less than what is recommended by the Ohio Fire Code, it is a dollar figure which would be less of a burden on the businesses of the community. In 2009 the MTFD conducted 165 annual building inspections in

Monroe Township and the Village of Johnstown. Of these inspections eighty required one re-inspection and thirty-six required one additional re-inspection. By following the survey average fee schedule, the department could have grossed an estimated \$10,050 for inspection fees in 2009. The average rate of return for those surveyed was in the range of 75 – 100%. At the 75% level the MTFD could have still grossed around \$7,500 in inspection fees for 2009. In this researcher's opinion implementing inspection fees could have a clear, predictable positive impact on the MTFD budget and should be explored.

The MTFD is involved with the construction and renovations of commercial buildings within its contractual area. This involvement includes everything from reviewing plans prior to construction, conducting acceptance test inspections during construction, to conducting final life safety inspections. Of the respondents, 12% stated that they charge to perform these different services for new construction. The charges that were provided by the respondents varied so much from department to department that it is difficult to come up with a survey average for the different inspections. Some respondent's departments charge a flat rate based on the square footage of the building while others charge an hourly rate based on time required to perform the plans review plus a fee for each inspection. The Ohio Fire Code has a fee schedule in place that could be adopted by the department to offset costs associated with conducting these needed reviews and inspections. "The fire marshal shall require New Construction inspection fees as follows: (a) Initial inspection fee of two hundred dollars. (b) Re-inspection fee of fifty dollars..... (g) Subsequent Follow-up inspection fees are increased in fifty dollar increments" (Ohio Fire Code, 2007). The MTFD currently has a business park and four commercial buildings in the beginning phases of construction for 2011, one being a 500,000 square foot manufacturing facility which is under construction and has already required in excess of twenty inspections for

the building and the business park. Had the MTFD adopted this fee schedule already they could have generated in excess of \$5,000 in fees associated with the construction of this one building and its surrounding campus. Establishing a fee schedule to offset costs associated with the construction and renovation of commercial buildings would clearly benefit the department.

The MTFD currently does not offer the service of installing of child safety seats in vehicles. Among respondents 64% state that their respective departments do offer this service, but in every case the service is provided free of charge. In the opinion of this researcher there is no need by the MTFD to pursue this service unless they wish to do so from a public relations standpoint.

Currently the MTFD does offer CPR certification to the public. The individual instructors conduct the courses while off duty and are free to charge the students whatever he or she deems is appropriate. The department charges each instructor \$10 per student in order to recover the costs to maintain equipment and purchase the needed supplies. Of the survey respondents, 25% state their departments provide this service with the average charge being \$50 per student. This researcher feels the MTFD should evaluate their costs to maintain equipment and purchase needed supplies and make sure that what they are charging the instructors is truly offsetting the department's expenses.

The research and survey have shown there are several options available to the MTFD to recover costs associated with the different services they provide. The funds that could be realized by charging for these services could clearly make a positive impact on the budget of the MTFD. These optional fees include charging for providing fire apparatus and extrication services at auto accidents, charging occupants for multiple false alarms, establishing a fee for annual fire inspections, as well as establishing a fee schedule to review plans and conduct inspections

associated with the construction and renovation of commercial buildings. The department would also want to evaluate their actual manpower costs for hazardous materials responses and what they currently charge instructors to teach CPR classes to make sure they are recovering all the costs associated with providing these services.

It is important to note that since the beginning of this research project the MTFD was fortunate and able to pass an additional three mil permanent property tax levy for Monroe Township in November of 2010. This levy will generate an estimated \$472,000 per year for the department. This additional revenue helps eliminate the need to fast track any of these funding options that may benefit the department but does not eliminate the need to consider the implementation of any of these programs in the future.

Based on the results of the survey and the statistics of the MTFD there were areas where revenue could be generated by the services provided by the MTFD. A suggested course of action was recommended which included action steps to gauge legality and public opinion as well as suggested steps for implementation of the fee programs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The research and survey has shown there are options available to the MTFD to recover costs associated with the different services they provide. The funds that could be realized by charging for some of these services could make a positive impact on the budget of the MTFD.

The possible options for user/service fees include:

- Establish a fee program to provide fire apparatus and extrication services at motor vehicle accidents and charge for other technical rescue services. By charging for this service it passes the burden for the expense of providing these services from the entire tax-paying public to the individual user of the service. This is a benefit to the public since many accidents involve people who do not live or pay taxes in the MTFD's first due service area. The revenue generated by establishing this program can also assist with the costs of maintaining the equipment required to perform these tasks as well as assist with the costs associated with training the firefighters who perform these tasks.
- Establish a fee program for responding to multiple false alarms at the same address within a calendar year. Although this would provide added revenue to the department in the form of user/service fees, the biggest benefit this program could have is that residents and businesses would be incentivized to make necessary repairs to their alarm systems in a timely fashion so they could avoid a charge. Home and business owners making the necessary repairs earlier would eliminate the need for the department to respond to these un-needed calls. Implementing this fee could reduce the amount of automatic fire alarm calls, which in turn reduces the amount of time the department's vehicles are committed/unavailable

while responding to and investigating these calls and instead keeps them in-service to assist people with a true emergency.

- Establish a fee program to perform annual fire inspections. The research shows that this could benefit the department and help offset the cost associated with taking firefighters off the street to perform these inspections. Establishing a fee program that includes increased fees for multiple inspections would encourage business owners to make the proper corrections sooner, making their business safer for the public and the firefighters who may have to enter their building during an emergency situation.
- Establish a fee program to perform plans reviews and conduct inspections associated with the construction and renovation of commercial buildings. Although the firefighters who are employed by the MTFD are each certified fire safety inspectors, the department does not have a fire prevention bureau with a person whose only job is to perform inspections. This creates a burden on the department when it comes to plans reviews, acceptance tests, and other necessary tasks associated with the construction of commercial buildings. The department is required to take firefighters off the street or bring firefighters in on overtime to conduct these required inspections. Establishing a fee program for these tasks would help the department recover the cost associated with the performance of these duties.
- Evaluate the department's actual manpower costs for hazardous materials responses as well as what they currently charge instructors to teach CPR classes

to make sure they are fully recovering all the costs associated with providing these two services.

The next step for this research project would be for the MTFD administration to evaluate the provided information and then decide if they what to pursue any or all of the possible options for user/service fees. Once they have decided which fee programs they may be interested in implementing the administration would need to present these ideas to the Licking County Prosecutor's Office and obtain an opinion about the legality of such programs. Once they receive the opinion of the prosecutor they should survey the residents and businesses within their contractual area to gauge the reaction to implementing such user/service fees. It would not be logical to implement such programs at the risk of losing voter support for future levies or other funding programs.

Assuming positive outcomes from the legal reviews and public surveys, the administration would then need to decide how they would impose these fees. The questions of how much will they charge and who would be responsible for the billing and collection of these fees must be answered.

They would need to compare the suggested fee schedule versus the statistics of the department to determine an estimated income. They would then need to compare the estimated income versus any costs associated with the billing and collection of fees to see if these programs could have a positive impact on the department's budget. The administration could chose to bill for and track the charges themselves or employ a third party service, similar to that currently being used for EMS billing, to perform such work. They would need to evaluate the charges imposed by a third party to collect these funds versus the cost and manpower needed to collect

these fees themselves and the anticipated revenue from such fees to determine which is the best choice.

Finally, if the administration deems it appropriate to institute any of these programs they would then need to create a plan for implementation.

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APPENDIX 1 – SURVEY DOCUMENT

DEPARTMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Name of Department _____ County _____

Name and Title of person completing survey? _____ Contact Number _____

Estimated population served _____

What services are provided by your department? (check all that apply)

Emergency Medical

EMS Transport

EMS First response

Fire Suppression

Hazardous Materials

Heavy Rescue (extrication)

Fire inspections

Plans reviews

car seat inspection

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Does your department bill for EMS? Yes No

Does your department bill for all patient contact or only if a patient is transported? Contact Transported Both

What does your department charge for these services? Contact _____

Transport _____

What is your percentage of returns for: Contact _____ Transport _____

Does your department hard or soft bill? Hard Soft



VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Does your department bill to send fire apparatus to vehicle accidents? Yes No

What are your fees for this service?

What is your percentage of returns?

Does your department hard or soft bill? Hard Soft

RESCUE

Does your department bill for rescue related services? (extricate from machinery, etc) Yes No

What are your fees for this service?

What is your percentage of returns?

Does your department hard or soft bill? Hard Soft

Does your department charge to assist with lock outs? Yes No

What are your fees for this service?

What is your percentage of returns?

Does your department hard or soft bill? Hard Soft



FIRE SUPPRESSION

Does your department bill to extinguish structure fires?

Yes No

What does your department charge for this service?

What is your percentage of returns?

Does your department hard or soft bill?

Hard Soft

Does your department bill for false alarms?

Yes No

What does your department charge for this service?

What is your percentage of returns?

Does your department hard or soft bill?

Hard Soft

Does your department charge to extinguish open burns, rubbish, or trash fires?

Yes No

FIRE SUPPRESSION CONT.

What does your department charge for this service?

What is your percentage of returns?

Does your department hard or soft bill?

Hard Soft

Does your department bill for grass, brush, or wildland fires

Yes No

What does your department charge for this service?

What is your percentage of returns?

Does your department hard or soft bill?

Hard Soft

List any other suppression related services your department charges for:

What are your charges for these services

What is your percentage of returns?

Does your department hard or soft bill?

Hard Soft

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Does your department recover costs associated with mitigating hazardous materials incidents?

Yes No

What are your charges for this incidents? (cost of equip. used plus hourly rate for manpower. ETC)

How are these costs recovered? (billed through dept., EMA, etc)

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CONT.

What is your percentage of returns?

Does your department hard or soft bill?

Hard Soft

FIRE INSPECTIONS/PLANS REVIEWS

Does your dept. charge to perform annual fire inspections?

Yes No

What are your charges for this service?

(please include reinspection charges)

What is your percentage of returns?

Does your department hard or soft bill?

Hard Soft

Does your dept. charge for inspections related to new construction?

Yes No

What are your charges for this service?
(please include reinspection charges)

What is your percentage of returns?

Does your department hard or soft bill?

Hard Soft

Does you dept. charge to review plans for existing or new construction?

Yes No

What are your charges for this service?

What is your percentage of returns?

Does your department hard or soft bill?

Hard Soft

OTHER SERVICES

Does your department install car seat?

Yes No

Do you charge for this service?

Yes No







OTHER SERVICES CONT.




What are your charges for this service?






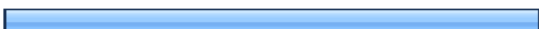



APPENDIX 2 – SURVEY RESULTS




user fees





| Please enter your department demographic information. | | | |
|---|--|-------------------|----------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Department Name: |  | 100.0% | 90 |
| Name and title of person completing survey: |  | 100.0% | 90 |
| City/Town: |  | 100.0% | 90 |
| County: |  | 100.0% | 90 |
| Email Address: |  | 100.0% | 90 |
| Phone Number: |  | 100.0% | 90 |
| | | answered question | 90 |
| | | skipped question | 0 |

| Estimated population served by department? | | | |
|--|---|------------------|----------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| 0-5,000 | | 0.0% | 0 |
| 5,000-15,000 |  | 21.1% | 19 |
| 15,000-25,000 |  | 34.4% | 31 |
| 25,000 or more |  | 44.4% | 40 |
| answered question | | | 90 |
| skipped question | | | 0 |

| What services are provided by your department? (check all that apply) | | | |
|---|--|------------------|----------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Emergency Medical |  | 92.2% | 83 |
| EMS Transport |  | 93.3% | 84 |
| EMS First Responder Only |  | 3.3% | 3 |
| Fire Suppression |  | 98.9% | 89 |
| Hazardous Materials response |  | 85.6% | 77 |
| Heavy Rescue (extrication) |  | 93.3% | 84 |
| Fire Inspections |  | 97.8% | 88 |
| Building Plans Reviews |  | 91.1% | 82 |
| Car Seat Inspections |  | 60.0% | 54 |
| Other (please specify) | | | 25 |
| answered question | | | 90 |
| skipped question | | | 0 |





| Does your department currently bill for EMS? | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Yes |  | 84.4% | 76 |
| No |  | 14.4% | 13 |
| Do not provide EMS |  | 1.1% | 1 |
| answered question | | | 90 |
| skipped question | | | 0 |



| Does your department bill for all patient contact, transports only, or both? | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Contact | | 0.0% | 0 |
| Transports |  | 91.5% | 65 |
| Both |  | 8.5% | 6 |
| What does your department charge for these services? | | | 55 |
| answered question | | | 71 |
| skipped question | | | 19 |

| Page 3, Q1. Does your department bill for all patient contact, transports only, or both? | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | \$650 BLS \$750 ALS | Feb 21, 2011 10:38 AM |
| 2 | BLS: \$450 + \$7.50/mi. ALS: \$600 + \$7.50/mi. (Last week we sent in a proposal to the Mayor that we increase our rates to match max. allowable per Medicare) | Feb 21, 2011 6:58 AM |
| 3 | Dont have the numbers as we just adjusted and Administrative Assistant is OFF today I can send them to you next week... Also for the below question we hard bill non-residents and soft bill residents... | Feb 10, 2011 12:03 PM |
| 4 | no billing, just taxed based | Feb 10, 2011 5:57 AM |
| 5 | Unsure of the cost. Depends on type of care provided (BLS vs. ALS). Also depends on mileage to the hospital. | Feb 9, 2011 9:05 AM |
| 6 | we will start billing contact details if the patient receives treatment. Diabetics, breathing treatments than refusal transport | Feb 9, 2011 7:27 AM |
| 7 | Unknown - there is a one fee for BLS, one fee for ALS and a mileage charge. We use a third party billing company called Med3000. | Feb 8, 2011 9:21 AM |
| 8 | BLS in the city \$400 ALS 1 in the city \$550 BLS outside city \$450 ALS 1 outside city \$600 ALS 2 in the city \$700 ALS 2 outside the city \$750 Hospital to Hospital transfers \$600 Helicopter prep fee \$200 Nursing home transports \$200 Loaded mileage is \$10/mile | Feb 8, 2011 6:25 AM |
| 9 | \$750.00 per transport and 56 cents a Mile | Feb 8, 2011 4:10 AM |
| 10 | Depnds on the services provided BLS v. ALS | Feb 7, 2011 5:59 PM |
| 11 | BLS - \$500.00 ALS 1 - \$900.00 ALS 2 - \$980.00 | Feb 7, 2011 3:03 PM |
| 12 | Explanation of contact. We have just started charging for pt. requiring EMS intervention and then refusing to be taken to the hospital and we are hard billing non-residents. We change our billing structure every 2 years to follow the Medicare billing. We have also raised our rates for mileage. I do not have the exact numbers but it is close to say that 450 for BLS and 550 for ALS plus mileage. We also bill for auto accidents when we have been at the scene for more than 20 minutes and had to do safety and clean up. The auto insurance does not like paying the bill, but we know it is within their capacity to pay. Their attitudes are changing. | Feb 7, 2011 2:44 PM |
| 13 | ALS1- \$860 ALS2- \$1075 BLS- \$488 Mileage- 11.09 a loaded mile | Feb 7, 2011 12:24 PM |
| 14 | We use the typical Medicare rates, our billing agency maintains the charge rates. | Feb 7, 2011 11:28 AM |
| 15 | \$600.00 for ALS \$450.00 for BKL puls mileage | Feb 7, 2011 7:34 AM |
| 16 | n/a | Feb 7, 2011 7:33 AM |
| 17 | BLS \$450.00 ALS 1 \$675.00 ALS 2 \$725.00 Specialty Care \$750.00 Mileage \$10.00 | Feb 7, 2011 7:29 AM |
| 18 | BLS transport- \$500.00, ALS transport \$600.00 and \$10.00/ mile loaded. No out of pocket cost to residents of Parma. We also provide an ambulance with two paramedics for special events (high school football games, ...) at a cost of \$270.00 for three hours and an additional \$90.00 per hour after 3. | Feb 7, 2011 7:25 AM |

| Page 3, Q1. Does your department bill for all patient contact, transports only, or both? | | |
|--|--|----------------------|
| 19 | We use a third party service not sure what the current fees are, they are aligned with Medicare/Medicade allowable fees. | Feb 7, 2011 7:04 AM |
| 20 | BLS ALS 1 ALS 2 Mileage | Feb 7, 2011 6:51 AM |
| 21 | ? We only bill non residents | Feb 7, 2011 6:43 AM |
| 22 | 450.00 | Feb 7, 2011 6:38 AM |
| 23 | Standard Federal Medicare/Medicaid rates. These fees are set by the federal govt. | Feb 7, 2011 6:09 AM |
| 24 | Residents: \$350 BLS/ \$425 ALS plus \$8 per loaded mile Non-residents: \$450 plus \$8 per loaded mile | Feb 7, 2011 4:35 AM |
| 25 | not sure but around \$300 for BLS and \$700 for ALS | Feb 6, 2011 6:42 PM |
| 26 | \$500 for ACLS \$250 for BLS \$50 for contact | Feb 6, 2011 3:56 PM |
| 27 | We use MBI as our billing company. I believe a BLS transport is around \$300 and an ALS transport is around \$600. However, we typically get a fraction of that from the insurance companies, Medicaid and Medicare. | Feb 5, 2011 7:21 PM |
| 28 | i do not know the exact figures on charges send me an email and i can get you the dollar amounts and our collection | Feb 5, 2011 1:44 PM |
| 29 | Current Medicare rate as well as current insurance remibusement rate | Feb 5, 2011 1:26 PM |
| 30 | Range depending on service \$375-750 | Feb 5, 2011 12:00 PM |
| 31 | 865 plus miles | Feb 5, 2011 10:33 AM |
| 32 | It depends on what type of run. ALS BLS Miles Traveled | Feb 5, 2011 7:01 AM |
| 33 | Fee based on itemized billing varies per type of call, supplies used and mileage. Average ALS call is in \$750 range. | Feb 5, 2011 4:52 AM |
| 34 | We have number of charges: BTLS \$250 BTLS I \$300 ALS \$500.00 | Feb 4, 2011 6:38 PM |
| 35 | I dont know. | Feb 4, 2011 4:45 PM |
| 36 | \$465.00 Per Transport Plus \$8.00 per loaded Mile Rittman Residents recieve a Property Tax credit of up to \$265.00 for Basic Transports and up to \$345.00 for ALS Transports. | Feb 4, 2011 4:07 PM |
| 37 | Follow Medicaid for BLS, ALS 1 and ALS 2 plus additional mileage charge. | Feb 4, 2011 3:43 PM |
| 38 | \$500-750, plus mileage | Feb 4, 2011 3:38 PM |
| 39 | Medicount handles billing at standard medicare reimbursement rates. | Feb 4, 2011 3:18 PM |
| 40 | Tiered billing ... As advised by our billing agency. | Feb 4, 2011 2:25 PM |
| 41 | \$500-\$800 | Feb 4, 2011 2:19 PM |
| 42 | BLS-\$400 ALS1 - \$750 ALS2-\$850 Mileage - \$12.15/mile | Feb 4, 2011 1:59 PM |

| Page 3, Q1. Does your department bill for all patient contact, transports only, or both? | | |
|--|--|---------------------|
| 43 | Our fees are set by the billing agency, MED3000. | Feb 4, 2011 1:50 PM |
| 44 | 700 for BLS, 1200 for ALS | Feb 4, 2011 1:48 PM |
| 45 | BIS - \$400 ALS - \$600 and up depending on what is done. | Feb 4, 2011 1:34 PM |
| 46 | Varies by level of transport, based on patient needs and care. Billing rates are in compliance for Medicare / Medicaid regional reimbursement rates | Feb 4, 2011 1:34 PM |
| 47 | BLS \$649.32 ALS \$771.08 ALS2 \$1116.04 Mileage \$13.74 | Feb 4, 2011 1:26 PM |
| 48 | Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement limits including mileage. | Feb 4, 2011 1:24 PM |
| 49 | We Do not bill at this time. | Feb 4, 2011 1:21 PM |
| 50 | BLS - residents - \$250.00 ALS1 - residents - \$350.00 ALS2 - residents - \$450.00 BLS - non-residents - \$425.00 ALS1- non-residents - \$450.00 ALS2 - non-residents - \$550.00 Mileage - \$7.00/loaded mile | Feb 4, 2011 1:20 PM |
| 51 | Our current fee schedule is as follows: Ground Mileage, \$13.74 BLS, \$649.32 ALS1, \$771.08 ALS2, \$1,116.04 | Feb 4, 2011 1:19 PM |
| 52 | The standard medicare rates | Feb 4, 2011 1:17 PM |
| 53 | \$475.00 Basic \$600.00 ALS | Feb 4, 2011 1:16 PM |
| 54 | ALS-2 \$1121 ALS-1 \$804 BLS \$652 Mileage \$14 | Feb 4, 2011 1:16 PM |
| 55 | \$10/mile from center of city to area hospitals BLS \$450 ALS \$550 | Feb 4, 2011 1:15 PM |

| What is your percentage of returns for EMS billing? | | | |
|---|--|------------------|----------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| 0-25% |  | 1.5% | 1 |
| 25%-50% |  | 17.6% | 12 |
| 50%-75% |  | 64.7% | 44 |
| 75%-100% |  | 16.2% | 11 |
| answered question | | | 68 |
| skipped question | | | 22 |

| Does your department bill to send fire apparatus to vehicle accidents (not including extrication/rescue services)? | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Yes |  | 22.6% | 19 |
| No |  | 77.4% | 65 |
| If yes, what are your fees for this service? | | | 22 |
| answered question | | | 84 |
| skipped question | | | 6 |



| Page 4, Q1. Does your department bill to send fire apparatus to vehicle accidents (not including extrication/rescue services)? | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | Insurance specific | Feb 21, 2011 10:38 AM |
| 2 | None | Feb 16, 2011 4:19 PM |
| 3 | no billing | Feb 10, 2011 5:57 AM |
| 4 | we used the fema scale for billing | Feb 9, 2011 7:27 AM |
| 5 | \$250.00 plus materials (floor dry, Stop Leak, Extrication,) | Feb 8, 2011 4:13 AM |
| 6 | see the last explanation | Feb 7, 2011 2:44 PM |
| 7 | \$50 - \$1,500 depending on amount of services performed | Feb 7, 2011 1:30 PM |
| 8 | Currently we do not charge for auto extrication service, only patient care. | Feb 7, 2011 11:29 AM |
| 9 | If it involves an auto accident | Feb 7, 2011 8:19 AM |
| 10 | Long list | Feb 7, 2011 6:44 AM |
| 11 | Response \$225 Clean Up \$250 Extrication \$300 | Feb 6, 2011 5:44 AM |
| 12 | we were billing for auto accident and the insurance companies stopped paying | Feb 5, 2011 1:45 PM |
| 13 | None | Feb 5, 2011 1:26 PM |
| 14 | None | Feb 5, 2011 4:52 AM |
| 15 | Again numerous charges Basic: \$140 minor extraction \$400.00 Auto Accident with entrapment with Air Care \$1200.00 | Feb 4, 2011 6:39 PM |
| 16 | No fees are currently sent for this. It was preposed 3 years ago. Trustees vetoed it. | Feb 4, 2011 3:19 PM |
| 17 | None | Feb 4, 2011 2:26 PM |
| 18 | Tiered 1-4: 1 - \$500, 2 - \$1000, 3 - \$1500, 4 - \$2000 | Feb 4, 2011 2:00 PM |
| 19 | We do not charge for this at this time | Feb 4, 2011 1:34 PM |
| 20 | We just started this fee this year. It is estimated that the city will collect between 15 to 30k annually. Outside billing company is handling this process and it is only sent the party that caused the accident. | Feb 4, 2011 1:26 PM |
| 21 | Level 1 \$200 Level 2 \$300 Level 3 \$500 | Feb 4, 2011 1:24 PM |
| 22 | 500 base and additional for air rescue and pin jobs | Feb 4, 2011 1:16 PM |

What are your percentage of returns?



| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-------------------|--|------------------|----------------|
| 0-25% | | 70.0% | 14 |
| 25%-50% | | 20.0% | 4 |
| 50%-75% | | 5.0% | 1 |
| 75%-100% | | 5.0% | 1 |
| answered question | | | 20 |
| skipped question | | | 70 |



Does your department hard or soft bill for this service?



| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-------------------|--|------------------|----------------|
| Hard | | 6.7% | 1 |
| Soft | | 93.3% | 14 |
| answered question | | | 15 |
| skipped question | | | 75 |

| Does your department bill for rescue related services? (extricate for machinery, etc) | | | |
|---|--|------------------|----------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Yes |  | 3.6% | 3 |
| No |  | 96.4% | 81 |
| What are your charges for these services? | | | 2 |
| answered question | | | 84 |
| skipped question | | | 6 |

| Page 5, Q1. Does your department bill for rescue related services? (extricate for machinery, etc) | | |
|---|--------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Same as Fire | Feb 8, 2011 4:13 AM |
| 2 | see previous | Feb 7, 2011 2:45 PM |


| What are your percentage of retuns for rescue related charges? | | | |
|--|--|------------------|----------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| 0-25% |  | 60.0% | 3 |
| 25%-50% |  | 40.0% | 2 |
| 50%-75% | | 0.0% | 0 |
| 75%-100% | | 0.0% | 0 |
| answered question | | | 5 |
| skipped question | | | 85 |

| Does your department hard of soft bill for rescue related services? | | | |
|---|--|------------------|----------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Hard |  | 0.0% | 0 |
| Soft |  | 100.0% | 6 |
| answered question | | | 6 |
| skipped question | | | 84 |


| Does your department charge to assist with lock outs from vehicles or structures? | | | |
|---|--|------------------|----------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| yes |  | 2.4% | 2 |
| No |  | 97.6% | 82 |
| What are your charges for these services? | | | 5 |
| answered question | | | 84 |
| skipped question | | | 6 |



| Page 5, Q4. Does your department charge to assist with lock outs from vehicles or structures? | | |
|---|--|---------------------|
| 1 | Due to liability reasons, we do not assist people who are locked out of their vehicles unless it is an emergency (infant locked in car). | Feb 5, 2011 7:22 PM |
| 2 | occasionally for a building lock out we will go and see if we can get in a window or something, this is at no charge | Feb 5, 2011 1:46 PM |
| 3 | Free of charge. Police stopped doing them. Our department picked up the service. | Feb 4, 2011 3:20 PM |
| 4 | No charge | Feb 4, 2011 1:35 PM |
| 5 | Not unless there is a medical issue or some jeopardy of physical harm. | Feb 4, 2011 1:21 PM |

What are your percentage of returns?



| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-------------------|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| 0-25% |  | 100.0% | 1 |
| 25%-50% | | 0.0% | 0 |
| 50%-75% | | 0.0% | 0 |
| 75%-100% | | 0.0% | 0 |
| answered question | | | 1 |
| skipped question | | | 89 |



Does your department hard or soft bill for lockout services?



| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-------------------|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| Hard | | 0.0% | 0 |
| Soft |  | 100.0% | 1 |
| answered question | | | 1 |
| skipped question | | | 89 |

| Does your department charge for fire suppression services? | | | |
|--|--|------------------|----------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| yes |  | 2.4% | 2 |
| No |  | 97.6% | 82 |
| What are your charges for these services? | | | 3 |
| answered question | | | 84 |
| skipped question | | | 6 |

| Page 6, Q1. Does your department charge for fire suppression services? | | |
|--|---|---------------------|
| 1 | For mutual aid responses only if we go to work, \$750 | Feb 7, 2011 1:32 PM |
| 2 | state law does not allow a municipality to bill for the service | Feb 5, 2011 1:49 PM |
| 3 | Only if arson is involved percentage of loss | Feb 4, 2011 6:40 PM |

| What are your percentage of returns? | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------|----------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| 0-25% |  | 66.7% | 2 |
| 25%-50% | | 0.0% | 0 |
| 50%-75% | | 0.0% | 0 |
| 75%-100% |  | 33.3% | 1 |
| answered question | | | 3 |
| skipped question | | | 87 |

| Does your department hard or soft bill for suppression services? | | | |
|--|---|------------------|----------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Hard |  | 50.0% | 1 |
| Soft |  | 50.0% | 1 |
| answered question | | | 2 |
| skipped question | | | 88 |





| Does your department charge for false alarms? | | | |
|---|--|------------------|----------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| yes |  | 28.6% | 24 |
| No |  | 71.4% | 60 |
| What are your charges for these services? | | | 29 |
| answered question | | | 84 |
| skipped question | | | 6 |



| Page 6, Q4. Does your department charge for false alarms? | | |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| 1 | \$300 for two or more incidents | Feb 21, 2011 10:39 AM |
| 2 | After 5 false alarms in one year, \$250 per alarm. | Feb 21, 2011 7:00 AM |
| 3 | We have made the statement to our customers that we will charge if we get excessive false alarms from the same address. To my knowledge we gave never done it to this point. | Feb 9, 2011 10:13 AM |
| 4 | after 3 false alarms 25.00 after each additional alarm | Feb 9, 2011 7:28 AM |
| 5 | However, in a very, very few cases where these false alarms have become a nuisance we have. This is not standard. | Feb 8, 2011 9:24 AM |
| 6 | We have the ability to bill after a given number of false alarms but to date, we have not done so. | Feb 8, 2011 7:32 AM |
| 7 | \$250.00 per call, 72 hours given to have system serviced by repair tech then bill waved. With statement from service tech as to what issue was found and repaired. | Feb 8, 2011 4:14 AM |
| 8 | after three calls within a year and notification that the next time will cost the homeowner \$50, then \$75, then 100 and on. | Feb 7, 2011 2:46 PM |
| 9 | Billed through or PD. \$0 for 1 - 3, then \$50 up to \$250 | Feb 7, 2011 1:32 PM |
| 10 | Starts at 50.00 and increases with additional false alarms. | Feb 7, 2011 8:21 AM |
| 11 | First is free, second is \$500.00, third \$1000.00, subsequent \$2000.000. | Feb 7, 2011 7:36 AM |
| 12 | \$250.00 per incident after the first event. | Feb 7, 2011 7:27 AM |
| 13 | 2nd offense only 75.00 | Feb 7, 2011 6:39 AM |
| 14 | After 3 false alarms in a calendar year, we may charge up to \$50 per additional occurrence. | Feb 7, 2011 6:11 AM |
| 15 | No but we are looking strongly at it. In the past several years we have seen a dramatic increase in both medical and fire alarms. | Feb 7, 2011 4:36 AM |
| 16 | We have a written format to charge \$100 for false alarms but have never charged anyone. It was more of a soft threat than implementation plan. It caused more businesses to cancel us prior to our arrival and implement policies that were unsafe for the patrons of the business. We still have the policy to charge though. (We still respond to check status of alarm even though we are cancelled) | Feb 6, 2011 4:00 PM |
| 17 | after three false alarms in the same location or device we have the ability to charge. we have not billed anyone for several years but it is a good leverage tool to get the system fixed. | Feb 5, 2011 1:49 PM |
| 18 | AFTer three false alarms commerical \$300.00 | Feb 4, 2011 6:40 PM |
| 19 | I dont know | Feb 4, 2011 4:46 PM |
| 20 | Not normally only for nucience alarms 5 + but have never actually billed for them. | Feb 4, 2011 3:21 PM |



Page 6, Q4. Does your department charge for false alarms?

| | | |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 21 | Both police and fire do this by ordinance. On the fire side, a facility gets two alarms/calender year. If an alarm is deemed false after two, the thrid run is \$250, a fourth false alarm is \$500, etc... | Feb 4, 2011 2:02 PM |
| 22 | Our police agency will right a citation for the third false alarm. | Feb 4, 2011 1:51 PM |
| 23 | An accumulation of four false alarms within the license year will be cause for imposing a fee of forty dollars (\$40.00) for the fourth and each additional alarm received. This has never been enforced. | Feb 4, 2011 1:42 PM |
| 24 | Only if we respond more than 3 times a quarter or 6 times per year. | Feb 4, 2011 1:27 PM |
| 25 | 300.00 dollars....its on the books but we have never charged. | Feb 4, 2011 1:22 PM |
| 26 | After three false alarms in 30 days on commercial properties. There is a charge per apparatus and per person. | Feb 4, 2011 1:22 PM |
| 27 | after 3rd: \$125 for forth and up | Feb 4, 2011 1:18 PM |
| 28 | 50.00 after 2 | Feb 4, 2011 1:17 PM |
| 29 | 1st one is free, any after in a rolling 12 month period is \$500 each time. | Feb 4, 2011 1:16 PM |

What are your percentage of returns?

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------|
| 0-25% |  | 22.2% | 4 |
| 25%-50% |  | 22.2% | 4 |
| 50%-75% |  | 5.6% | 1 |
| 75%-100% |  | 50.0% | 9 |
| answered question | | | 18 |
| skipped question | | | 72 |




| Does your department hard or soft bill for false alarms? | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Hard |  | 50.0% | 8 |
| Soft |  | 50.0% | 8 |
| answered question | | | 16 |
| skipped question | | | 74 |

| Does your department recover costs associated with the mitigation of hazardous materials incidents | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Yes |  | 85.4% | 70 |
| No |  | 14.6% | 12 |
| What are your charges for these incidents? (cost of equipment used plus hourly rate for manpower. Etc) | | | 58 |
| answered question | | | 82 |
| skipped question | | | 8 |

| Page 7, Q1. Does your department recover costs associated with the mitigation of hazardous materials incidents | | |
|--|--|-----------------------|
| 1 | supplies and manpower for hazmat incidents | Feb 21, 2011 7:03 AM |
| 2 | Follow the county HazMat billing agreement FIRE APPARATUS BILLING RATES ENGINE - \$200.00 P/HR RESCUE - \$200.00 P/HR FD COMMAND POST - \$100.00 P/HR SUPPORT UNIT(S) - \$100.00 P/HR AIR TRUCK - \$200.00 P/HR FOAM UNIT - \$200.00 P/HR MASS CASUALTY UNIT - \$200.00 P/HR | Feb 10, 2011 12:25 PM |
| 3 | we bill the off the FEMA schedule to recover equipment used and man hours over our standard responce. | Feb 10, 2011 6:01 AM |
| 4 | Equipment and manpower charged to the spiller. | Feb 8, 2011 10:17 AM |
| 5 | Only for supplies used or damage to equipment | Feb 8, 2011 9:25 AM |
| 6 | Set by County stantard | Feb 8, 2011 7:33 AM |
| 7 | EMA rates apply | Feb 8, 2011 6:27 AM |
| 8 | Actual cost of materials and manpower. | Feb 8, 2011 4:15 AM |
| 9 | Cost of materials used, hourly rates for personnel on scene. | Feb 7, 2011 6:01 PM |
| 10 | Hourly Personnel, Apparatus, and Equipment Costs | Feb 7, 2011 3:04 PM |
| 11 | Bill out all OT wages plus benifits and actual cost to replace materials/supplies used. | Feb 7, 2011 1:33 PM |
| 12 | Typically we bill for supplies and overtime costs associated with team response. | Feb 7, 2011 11:30 AM |
| 13 | This is billed through the Northwest Area Strike Team so it varies per department | Feb 7, 2011 9:02 AM |
| 14 | Equipment | Feb 7, 2011 8:21 AM |
| 15 | actual cost of equipment plus hourly rate for manpower. | Feb 7, 2011 8:12 AM |
| 16 | All documented costs. \$150.00 per hour for medic unit \$200.00 per hour for Engine \$250.00 per hour for ladder or haz-mat truck Hourly or overtime costs for all personnel, and cost of all equipment used. | Feb 7, 2011 7:38 AM |
| 17 | FEMA truck rates, actual cost of manpower, supplies. | Feb 7, 2011 7:34 AM |
| 18 | If the incident is a large scale incident involving our regional team (Southwest Emergency Response Team SERT) we bill for man hours and equipment but SERT receives the reimbursement for time. | Feb 7, 2011 7:30 AM |
| 19 | equipment and manhours | Feb 7, 2011 7:11 AM |
| 20 | We use FEMA amounts in Lorain County | Feb 7, 2011 7:06 AM |
| 21 | Equipment, manpower | Feb 7, 2011 6:52 AM |
| 22 | ? | Feb 7, 2011 6:45 AM |
| 23 | \$100/vehcile \$25/person | Feb 7, 2011 4:37 AM |

| Page 7, Q1. Does your department recover costs associated with the mitigation of hazardous materials incidents | | |
|--|---|----------------------|
| 24 | Cost of supplies used | Feb 6, 2011 6:46 PM |
| 25 | Recovered directly to HAZMAT team which is a county team. | Feb 6, 2011 4:01 PM |
| 26 | \$ 100 Hr per piece of apparatus Plus hourly rate of personnel on scene Plus any material or equipmnet used on the incident | Feb 6, 2011 5:46 AM |
| 27 | Done through County EMA they bill for personnel, apparatus, and equipment | Feb 5, 2011 3:46 PM |
| 28 | the regional hazmat team bills for the service and recoups the money | Feb 5, 2011 1:50 PM |
| 29 | The Summit County response team bills for all Haz-Mat calls which it asks each member (dept) who responds to submit man hours and equipment used | Feb 5, 2011 1:29 PM |
| 30 | Cost of equipment only | Feb 5, 2011 12:01 PM |
| 31 | Hourly by vehicle, charge by type. Personnel at their hourly rate. Responsible party to replace supplies through their purchasing agents. Generally our events have been short and only supplies replaced | Feb 5, 2011 10:41 AM |
| 32 | This would be Through the Northwest Area Strike Team | Feb 5, 2011 7:02 AM |
| 33 | Equipment cost per hour based on type of equipment, hourly manpower rate plus supplies and equipment. | Feb 5, 2011 4:56 AM |
| 34 | Per incident because of the variables. | Feb 4, 2011 6:40 PM |
| 35 | I dont know | Feb 4, 2011 4:46 PM |
| 36 | Both for material used and man hours for larger incidents | Feb 4, 2011 3:45 PM |
| 37 | Billing can only be done for personnel trained in haz mat. Recovery is done by the haz mat team then repaid back to our department | Feb 4, 2011 3:23 PM |
| 38 | The charges for Hazardous Materials incidents is recouped by the LEPC in Lake County. | Feb 4, 2011 3:03 PM |
| 39 | all available, all of the above | Feb 4, 2011 2:38 PM |
| 40 | Just cost of disposables | Feb 4, 2011 2:24 PM |
| 41 | Determined through the Portage EMA based off of a table of accepted charges | Feb 4, 2011 2:15 PM |
| 42 | Varies, to long to list in this survey | Feb 4, 2011 2:03 PM |
| 43 | Based on billing summary of equipment replacement only. all payment is made through our local Haz Mat Consortium and EMA. | Feb 4, 2011 1:52 PM |
| 44 | Staff Cars \$100.00 hr Apparatus \$150.00 hr Personnel Hourly Rate Materials Cost of materials Administrative Fees 20% | Feb 4, 2011 1:51 PM |
| 45 | Manpower, cost of any equipment, and possible injury liability | Feb 4, 2011 1:51 PM |
| 46 | Equipment Damaged Equipment Used Manpower | Feb 4, 2011 1:44 PM |
| 47 | These are billed using the curent FEMA rate | Feb 4, 2011 1:43 PM |

| Page 7, Q1. Does your department recover costs associated with the mitigation of hazardous materials incidents | | |
|--|--|---------------------|
| 48 | Cost of equipment plus hourly rate for staffing. | Feb 4, 2011 1:42 PM |
| 49 | equipment and manpower | Feb 4, 2011 1:36 PM |
| 50 | Materials used, manpower cost, back fill cost | Feb 4, 2011 1:28 PM |
| 51 | Limits of federal law. | Feb 4, 2011 1:27 PM |
| 52 | When it involves a DOT transportation accident we will send a bill. | Feb 4, 2011 1:24 PM |
| 53 | We Follow the NIMS cost recovery document provided by our county EMA | Feb 4, 2011 1:23 PM |
| 54 | Large fee schedule based on equipment, personnel, and hours. | Feb 4, 2011 1:22 PM |
| 55 | actual | Feb 4, 2011 1:19 PM |
| 56 | all as outlines under SARA Title 3 | Feb 4, 2011 1:19 PM |
| 57 | up to \$500.00 per hour for engines, plus back pay for wages | Feb 4, 2011 1:19 PM |
| 58 | Done via the County HAZMAT Team. | Feb 4, 2011 1:17 PM |

| How are these costs recovered? | | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|----------------|
| Billed through EMA |  | | 55.7% | 39 |
| Billed by Department |  | | 31.4% | 22 |
| Other (please specify) |  | | 12.9% | 9 |
| | | | answered question | 70 |
| | | | skipped question | 20 |

| Page 7, Q2. How are these costs recovered? | | |
|--|---|---------------------|
| 1 | The City of Fairfield is part of the Greater Cincinnati Hazardous Materials Unit. Refund of department supplies is recouped from GCHM after they receive payment. | Feb 9, 2011 9:07 AM |
| 2 | In cases of damaged equipment we submit an insurance claim and they attempt to recover the costs through the responsible party | Feb 8, 2011 9:25 AM |
| 3 | We are part of the Hamilton Co. response team. | Feb 8, 2011 7:33 AM |
| 4 | Through the Haz-Mat Coordinator | Feb 7, 2011 3:04 PM |
| 5 | Regional Haz Mat team | Feb 7, 2011 8:21 AM |
| 6 | Billed from SERT for large scale and City of Parma for incidents we handle on our own. | Feb 7, 2011 7:30 AM |
| 7 | We contract through the Greater Cincinnati Hazardous Materials Unit. We pay a membership fee and they respond to any hazardous material responses in our city. Their staff would do all billing for reimbursements. | Feb 5, 2011 7:25 PM |
| 8 | the regional coordinator handles the billing | Feb 5, 2011 1:50 PM |
| 9 | Billed through the county haz mat team indirectly EMA | Feb 4, 2011 3:23 PM |



What are your percentage of returns?

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-------------------|--|------------------|----------------|
| 0-25% | | 3.8% | 2 |
| 25%-50% | | 1.9% | 1 |
| 50%-75% | | 23.1% | 12 |
| 75%-100% | | 71.2% | 37 |
| answered question | | | 52 |
| skipped question | | | 38 |

Does your department hard or soft bill for these services?

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-------------------|--|------------------|----------------|
| Hard | | 64.4% | 29 |
| Soft | | 35.6% | 16 |
| answered question | | | 45 |
| skipped question | | | 45 |

Does your department charge to perform annual fire inspections?

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-----|--|------------------|----------------|
| Yes |  | 3.7% | 3 |
| No |  | 96.3% | 78 |

What are your charges for this service? Please include reinspection charges.

6

answered question

81



skipped question



9

Page 8, Q1. Does your department charge to perform annual fire inspections?

| | | |
|---|--|---------------------|
| 1 | We do not charge for inspections, however all company's in Fairfield that are considered places of assembly or have Hazordous Materials on-site are charged &25.00 per year for a permit. | Feb 9, 2011 9:11 AM |
| 2 | Inspections and the first re-inspection is free, subsequent re-inspections are \$50.00 and then \$100.00. | Feb 7, 2011 7:40 AM |
| 3 | First inspection is free first re-inspection is free second re-inspection is \$50 third re-inspection is \$100 fourth re-inspection is \$150 Fireworks inspection fee \$150 Tent inspection fee \$50 | Feb 5, 2011 4:14 PM |
| 4 | Part of doing business also used for preplannin purposes. | Feb 4, 2011 3:24 PM |
| 5 | \$95.00 | Feb 4, 2011 2:04 PM |
| 6 | \$25 per inspection | Feb 4, 2011 1:37 PM |



Does your department hard or soft bill for these services?

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|------|--|-------------------|----------------|
| Hard |  | 66.7% | 4 |
| Soft |  | 33.3% | 2 |
| | | answered question | 6 |
| | | skipped question | 84 |

| Does your department charge for inspections related to new construction or renovation? | | | |
|--|--|------------------|----------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Yes |  | 12.3% | 10 |
| No |  | 87.7% | 71 |
| What are your charges for these services? Please include reinspection charges. | | | 12 |
| answered question | | | 81 |
| skipped question | | | 9 |

| Page 8, Q3. Does your department charge for inspections related to new construction or renovation? | | |
|--|---|---------------------|
| 1 | permit scale the icc uses | Feb 9, 2011 7:29 AM |
| 2 | These types of construction are the Building Department's responsibility until occupancy is granted. However, we are involved in the process as the inspectors allow us to make requests for changes. | Feb 8, 2011 7:34 AM |
| 3 | We are looking into billing these services. | Feb 8, 2011 4:16 AM |
| 4 | Flat fees | Feb 7, 2011 6:02 PM |
| 5 | very minimum. We charge what the State of Ohio warrants for permits. | Feb 7, 2011 2:48 PM |
| 6 | Fee permits only | Feb 7, 2011 9:03 AM |
| 7 | Only for missed inspections, if scheduled and the provider is not ready or does not show he is billed \$50.00. | Feb 7, 2011 7:40 AM |
| 8 | Initial inspection fee is included in the plan review fee. Re-inspection fees are \$50 After hour inspection fees \$150 base fee then \$50/hour after the first hour | Feb 5, 2011 4:14 PM |
| 9 | Don't have the chart in front me I m at home. Charges on web site www.sycamoretownship.org' | Feb 4, 2011 6:42 PM |
| 10 | \$195.00 | Feb 4, 2011 2:04 PM |
| 11 | Done through building department | Feb 4, 2011 1:37 PM |
| 12 | Fees based on size of project | Feb 4, 2011 1:29 PM |

Does your department charge to review plans associated with new construction and renovation?

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|--|------------------|----------------|
| Yes |  | 13.6% | 11 |
| No |  | 86.4% | 70 |
| What are your charges for this service? | | | 13 |
| answered question | | | 81 |
| skipped question | | | 9 |



Page 8, Q4. Does your department charge to review plans associated with new construction and renovation?

| | | |
|----|---|----------------------|
| 1 | (pending legislation to start charging \$50) | Feb 21, 2011 7:04 AM |
| 2 | 75.00 per hour billed through the City Building department | Feb 9, 2011 7:47 AM |
| 3 | same as above | Feb 9, 2011 7:29 AM |
| 4 | We are looking into billing these services. | Feb 8, 2011 4:16 AM |
| 5 | depending on the renovations | Feb 7, 2011 6:02 PM |
| 6 | Base fee of \$150 Divide the total square footage of the project by 100 then multiply by \$1.50 Subdivision review base fee \$50 number of lots to be developed multiplied by \$2.50 \$25 per hydrant for acceptance testing for private hydrants | Feb 5, 2011 4:14 PM |
| 7 | Charges are through building department. There is no income returned to FD | Feb 5, 2011 3:47 PM |
| 8 | 3cents / square foot | Feb 4, 2011 2:26 PM |
| 9 | \$25 per plan. (Constuction/Suppression/Hood/etc.) | Feb 4, 2011 1:45 PM |
| 10 | Based on negotiated amount which may change from year-to-year with Villages of Groveport, Canal Winchester and Obetz | Feb 4, 2011 1:43 PM |
| 11 | Done through building department | Feb 4, 2011 1:37 PM |
| 12 | based on square foot, schedule is avail at www.lsfed.org | Feb 4, 2011 1:20 PM |



Page 8, Q4. Does your department charge to review plans associated with new construction and renovation?

| | | |
|----|--|---------------------|
| 13 | \$25.00 per hour for plan review. This under review to raise rates to \$50.00 per hour | Feb 4, 2011 1:20 PM |
|----|--|---------------------|

Does your department install child safety seats in vehicles?

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-------------------|--|------------------|----------------|
| Yes |  | 64.2% | 52 |
| No |  | 35.8% | 29 |
| answered question | | | 81 |
| skipped question | | | 9 |

Do you charge to perform this service?

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-----|--|------------------|----------------|
| Yes |  | 1.8% | 1 |
| No |  | 98.2% | 55 |

What does your department charge for this service?

5

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|----|
| answered question | | | 56 |
| skipped question | | | 34 |

Page 9, Q2. Do you charge to perform this service?

| | | |
|---|--|---------------------|
| 1 | if we charge i would assume that it would increase our liability if something happens with that seat | Feb 9, 2011 7:30 AM |
| 2 | Donations | Feb 7, 2011 7:35 AM |
| 3 | Free of charge, seats are provided by local Child Safety agency. | Feb 4, 2011 3:25 PM |
| 4 | We contract with a non-profit organization to have someone on site two times per month. | Feb 4, 2011 1:53 PM |
| 5 | We do not charge but if asked will asked for a donation to support the services of the local health department concerning child safety | Feb 4, 2011 1:24 PM |

Please list any other service your department provides that you charge a service fee for. Please include your charges for this service.

| | Response Count |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | 15 |
| answered question | 15 |
| skipped question | 75 |

Page 9, Q3. Please list any other service your department provides that you charge a service fee for. Please include your charges for this service.

| | | |
|----|--|-----------------------|
| 1 | CPR up to \$25.00 for initial certification | Feb 21, 2011 10:40 AM |
| 2 | None | Feb 9, 2011 9:11 AM |
| 3 | CPR Classes 20.00 renewal, 50.00 for new cert. | Feb 8, 2011 4:17 AM |
| 4 | Address Signs - \$12.00 per sign (Dropped off, picked up, or installed) | Feb 7, 2011 3:06 PM |
| 5 | none. | Feb 7, 2011 2:48 PM |
| 6 | CPR \$10 for residents \$25 for non-residents | Feb 7, 2011 9:04 AM |
| 7 | none | Feb 7, 2011 8:13 AM |
| 8 | Special duty EMS and fire standby. | Feb 7, 2011 7:35 AM |
| 9 | N/A | Feb 7, 2011 7:07 AM |
| 10 | Tent Permits \$125 Service Station permits \$75 | Feb 7, 2011 6:37 AM |
| 11 | No we don't charge for any service other than EMS and Haz Mat recovery | Feb 5, 2011 10:43 AM |
| 12 | Address signs, \$15.00 per sign | Feb 4, 2011 3:46 PM |
| 13 | This is a tax-based department, at a high level. With that goes all of the trappings including a very high level of service and performance. The only thing that we would "bill" for is HM response through the EMA, and that opportunity has not presented itself in years. | Feb 4, 2011 2:40 PM |
| 14 | Permits for installation or modification of Hood Suppression Systems, Fire Alarms, Tents, Sprinkler Systems and various fire protection items. The fees vary on the size of the structure and the type of permit. | Feb 4, 2011 2:18 PM |
| 15 | No others | Feb 4, 2011 2:04 PM |

APPENDIX 3 – 2009 MONROE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Emergency Responses

Fire: 451 EMS: 1434 Total: 1885

Responses by Township

Monroe Twp: Fire: 84 EMS: 189 Total: 273

Village of Johnstown: Fire: 138 EMS: 912 Total: 1050

Jersey North of 161: Fire: 67 EMS: 106 Total: 173

Liberty Twp: Fire: 49 EMS: 121 Total: 170

McKean Twp: Fire: 12 EMS: 23 Total: 35

Total responses within MTFD contractual area: 1701

EMS Stats

1391 Patients treated

853 Patients transported

Transports by hospital

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Riverside: 18 | Mt. Carmel East: 210 | Childrens: 33 |
| OSU: 10 | Grant: 37 | Licking: 210 |
| St. Anns: 337 | | |

Fire Stats

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|-------------|
| Structure fires: 25 | Other fires: 60 | Haz-Mat: 25 |
| Auto accidents: 108 | Extrications: 23 | |
| False Fire Alarms: 44 | False Fire Alarms >3 responses to same address: 25 | |

Inspections 2009

Total annual fire inspections: 165 1 re-inspection: 80 2nd re-insp.: 36

Occupancy inspections existing buildings: 6 Fireworks insp.: 2

New buildings: 1 building, 6 inspections.