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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

COUNCIL MINUTES

April 9, 2026

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in the Study Session room at City Hall, 20 East Main Street, on April 9, 2026, at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT	COUNCIL ABSENT	OFFICERS PRESENT
Mark Freeman*	Francisco Heredia	Scott Butler
Scott Somers		Holly Moseley
Rich Adams*		Jim Smith
Jennifer Duff		
Alicia Goforth		
Dorean Taylor		

(*Participated in the meeting through the use of video conference equipment.)

Vice Mayor Somers conducted a roll call.

Vice Mayor Somers excused Councilmember Heredia from the entire meeting.

1-a. Hear a presentation, discuss, and provide direction on the Mesa Fire and Medical Department budget.

Fire Chief Mary Cameli introduced Assistant Chief Brent Burgett, Assistant Chief Brian Darling, Assistant Chief Cori Hayes, Assistant Chief John Locklin, and Deputy Director Tara Acuna and displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 1)**

Chief Cameli expressed her gratitude for the ongoing support from the Council and City management and provided an overview of the Mesa Fire and Medical Department (MFMD) divisions. She discussed the key outcome areas that serve as factors in helping to save lives, including maintaining a highly skilled workforce and achieving fast response times. (See Pages 2 and 3 of Attachment 1)

Assistant Chief Locklin reviewed the response time key performance indicators (KPIs) and explained that response times include the time required for dispatchers to answer and process a 911 call, the turnout time for crews to be notified and get to the apparatus, and the travel time from the station to the scene. He stated that response times are reported at the 90th, 75th, and 50th percentiles, with the 90th percentile serving as the industry standard for National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and accreditation reporting. He added that, following voter approval of the public safety sales tax and bonds in 2018, response times initially increased slightly as new units were placed into service; however, as additional stations and response units were added, including Stations 21 and 22, response times began trending downward. He highlighted the upcoming implementation of a new intersection preemption system that utilizes GPS to trigger traffic signals for fire trucks more quickly, resulting in improved response times. (See Page 4 of Attachment 1)

Assistant Chief Locklin discussed the annual call volume KPI and stated that overall call volume has remained relatively consistent since 2021, generally ranging between 70,000 and 72,000 calls per year. He added that the department also monitors calls by category, including medical and fire-related incidents and that consistency allows the department to accurately evaluate response time improvements as new stations and response units are added. (See Page 5 of Attachment 1)

Assistant Chief Burgett highlighted the reductions in 911 calls since increasing the number referrals to the social services team. He defined high utilizers as individuals who call 911 more than three times within a 90-day period and explained the calculations of overall percentage reduction. He stated that the social services team, which includes two social workers and one intern, typically receives approximately 100 referrals from crews each month. He noted that the average reduction in calls after intervention was approximately 45%. He provided an example of how crews helped identify a service gap and used a multi-tiered approach, including the senior adult living program, transportation advocacy, and coordination with hospital social workers, to help connect a higher utilizer with needed long-term care. He added that the goal is to reduce recidivism and help residents access appropriate services rather than relying on 911 for non-emergency needs. (See Page 6 of Attachment 1)

Discussion ensued regarding social services referrals for high utilizers of the 911 system.

In response to a question from Councilmember Goforth related to a fire engine responding to calls rather than a medical response vehicle, Assistant Chief Locklin explained that a fire engine is dispatched to ensure crews have the full range of equipment available, if necessary, to avoid delays of service. He stated that the nature of a medical call can change from what was initially reported, and crews may be redirected to another incident before returning to the station.

Additional discussion ensued regarding the types of response vehicles dispatched to calls for assistance and the importance of ensuring crews have the appropriate equipment available to respond effectively.

Ms. Acuna reviewed the service level categories and financial summary for the General Government Funds, noting that the proposed budget includes budget reductions, budget adjustments, and merit increases. She recalled that the increase in community involvement was due to inspector positions added mid-year, while the year-end estimate is lower due to a vacant position being held in anticipation of budget reductions. She stated that departmental support increased due to scheduled lifecycle replacement costs, noting that expenditures are expected to slightly exceed budget due to utility costs; however, the proposed FY 26/27 budget decreases because fewer lifecycle projects are scheduled. She explained that the increase in incident response was due to benchmarking implementation and that the year-end estimate is projected to exceed budget primarily due to ongoing dispatch/call center overtime. She added that staff is working with the Office of Management and Budget on the issue, and that the proposed FY 2026/27 budget includes transferring four positions to the Public Safety Sales Tax Fund, with reductions offset by merit increases for sworn personnel. (See Page 7 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Acuna reviewed the Public Safety Sales Tax Fund and stated that Departmental Support remains relatively stable, as it primarily includes a small number of administrative positions. She explained that incident response includes dispatch and operations, and that the FY 25/26 revised budget is higher because positions in the fund are budgeted at fully loaded, top-step costs, with overtime budgeted at 17%. She noted that this created capacity for an $800,000 reduction in the proposed budget for the following year, related to the transfer of four positions from the General Fund to the Public Safety Sales Tax Fund and a reduction in overtime funding. (See Page 8 of Attachment 1)

Responding to a question from Vice Mayor Somers, Assistant Chief Locklin explained that rover personnel are used to help backfill vacancies caused by vacation, sick leave, injury, and other absences. He noted that the size and use of the rover pool is regularly evaluated to determine the most cost-effective balance between rover staffing and explained how those decisions are considered.

Ms. Acuna reviewed the Emergency Transportation Services (ETS) fund, noting that the increase from FY 2024/25 to FY 2025/26 reflects the full buildout of ambulance services and a proposed shift from 12-hour to 24-hour coverage. She stated that revenues are projected to exceed expenses, with adjustments to be made for bad debt and citywide overhead, and the remaining funds are intended to help build fund balance for future capital needs. She summarized the proposed budget reductions, including elimination of a vacant marketing and communications specialist position and the reallocation of four positions. (See Pages 9 through 11 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Acuna provided updates on current fire station construction projects. She commented that Fire Station 224, located at 80th Street and Elliot Road, is more than 50% complete and is anticipated to open in November, and Fire Station 205 has completed demolition, groundwork, and underground electrical work, with opening anticipated in approximately one year. (See Pages 12 and 13 of Attachment 1)

Assistant Chief Hayes discussed the purchase of 35 automated CPR devices, known as LUCAS devices, for use on frontline ambulances, with additional units available for reserve and training purposes. She reported that the purchase is supported by a $725,000 Assistance to Firefighters Grant, with an approximate 10% City match funded through Emergency Transportation Services and the Fire Department. She confirmed that the devices will improve responder safety and provide consistent, high-quality CPR during ambulance transport, while also allowing personnel to perform other critical tasks during emergency care. (See Page 14 of Attachment 1)

Assistant Chief Burgett provided an overview of the Firewise program, a community risk reduction effort focused on wildfire mitigation and neighborhood resiliency. He noted that Firewise communities in Mesa include Las Sendas, with Madrid and Mountain Bridge added in February. He recalled that using GIS and drone technology have been an asset used to assess vegetation risks, develop maps, and share information with residents in areas near the Tonto National Forest. (See Page 15 of Attachment 1)

Assistant Chief Locklin addressed emerging energy and power systems that may create additional challenges for firefighters responding to structure fires. He stated that in addition to the traditional power grid, homes and businesses may use other energy systems that make it more complex to safely isolate power during an emergency, particularly with solar panels that may re-energize when exposed to sunlight. He discussed compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles as another emergency response challenge that requires different firefighting considerations because the pressure relief valves must be allowed to function properly. He reiterated that firefighters must be trained to safely manage these incidents due to the potential hazards associated with pressurized fuel systems. (See Pages 16 and 17 of Attachment 1)

Assistant Chief Locklin outlined the fire risks associated with lithium-ion batteries used in scooters, e-bikes, phones, laptops, and similar devices. He emphasized the importance of using properly listed batteries and chargers, ensuring devices are not damaged, and avoiding charging devices near exits. He stated that if a battery fire occurs, individuals should immediately evacuate and call 911. He discussed the use of fire blankets for electric vehicle fires that are intended to help suppress fire, heat, and gases after initial fire knockdown and may assist crews in safely moving or isolating vehicles. He stated that MFMD is awaiting additional guidance from the Fire Safety Research Institute and will coordinate regionally on best practices for deployment and use. (See Pages 18 and 19 of Attachment 1)

Assistant Chief Darling reviewed the MFMD's Cancer Prevention program and listed the various services funded by public safety sales tax funding and more than $2 million in grant funding since FY 2019/20. He verified that the program has helped identify cancer in 13 members, allowing for early detection and treatment, and emphasized the importance of continued cancer prevention efforts for firefighter health and safety. (See Page 20 of Attachment 1)

Mayor Freeman expressed support for the Fire Department budget, emphasizing the importance of cancer screening and health support for fire personnel. He stated that maintaining a full-service public safety response is non-negotiable and thanked staff for their hard work.

Mr. Butler stated that early screening helps identify health risks and allows employees to receive needed treatment, sometimes before they are aware of a problem. He commented that supporting employee health is both the right thing to do and a smart business decision, particularly for recruitment, as prospective employees are more likely to join an organization that takes care of its personnel.

(At 8:54 a.m., Vice Mayor Somers excused Mayor Freeman from the remainder of the meeting.)

1-b. Appointments to various boards and committees.

It was moved by Councilmember Duff, seconded by Councilmember Goforth, that the Council concur with the Mayor's recommendations and the appointments be confirmed. **(See Attachment 2)**

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Somers–Adams–Duff–Goforth–Taylor
NAYS – None
ABSENT– Freeman–Heredia

Vice Mayor Somers declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

2. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

2-a. Museum & Cultural Advisory Board meeting held on January 22, 2026.

2-b. Approval of minutes from City Council executive session held on March 5, 2026.

It was moved by Councilmember Duff, seconded by Councilmember Taylor, that receipt of the above listed minutes be acknowledged.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Somers–Adams–Duff–Goforth–Taylor
NAYS – None
ABSENT– Freeman–Heredia

Vice Mayor Somers declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Current events summary including meetings and conferences attended.

There were no reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

4. Scheduling of meetings.

City Manager Scott Butler stated that the schedule of meetings is as follows:

Thursday, April 16, 2026, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

5. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

MARK FREEMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 9th day of April 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

sr
(Attachments – 2)

Mesa Fire & Medical Department

April 9, 2026

Chief: Mary Cameli
Assistant Chiefs: Brent Burgett, Brian Darling,
Cori Hayes, John Locklin
Deputy Director: Tara Acuña

Fiscal Year 2026/27

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The Mesa Fire & Medical Department exists to deliver timely, compassionate, and effective all-hazard and medical response, paired with community risk reduction to decrease loss of life, property, and preventable harm for a safe and thriving Mesa.

WHY WE EXIST

OUTCOMES-base of KPIs

HOW WE ALIGN TO THE PRIORITIES

PERFORMANCEPLUS

ENVISION. ELEVATE. IMPACT.

tcome Areas

Decrease loss of life
- Highly skilled workforce
- Fast response times

Decrease loss of property
- Well maintained equipment
- Trained on proper techniques

Decrease preventable harm
- Following up on referrals
- Providing additional resources to citizens

: Response Times

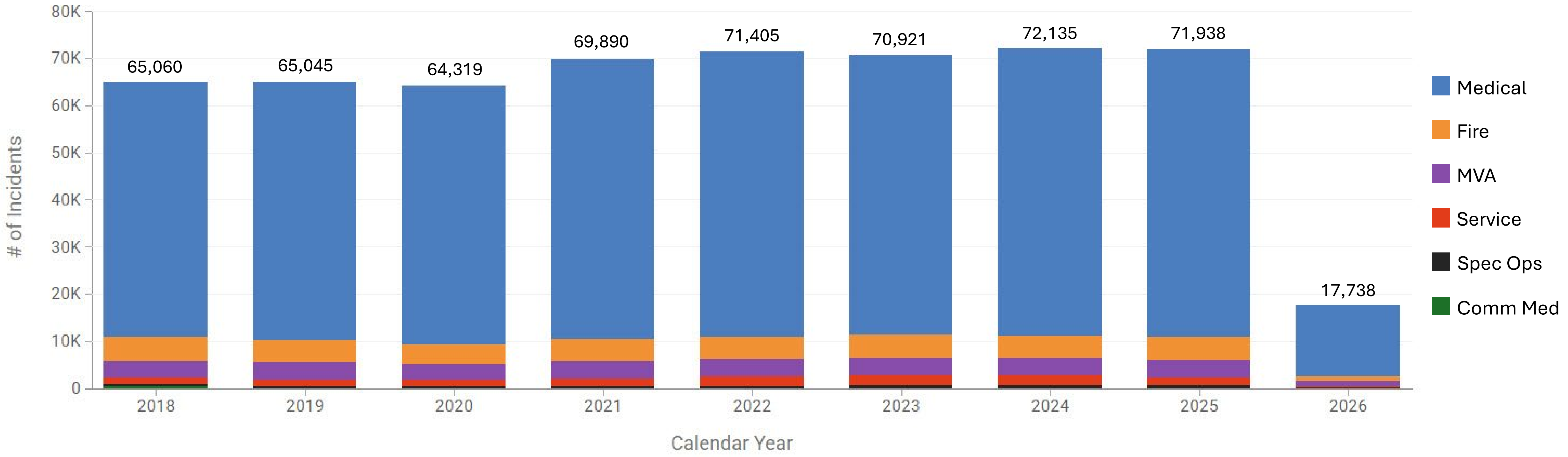
Fire and Medical Code 3 Incident Response Times by Percentile

The response time (in minutes) for Code 3 emergency calls by calendar year. Times are shown in decimal format (e.g., 4.50 = 4 min, 30 sec).

: Incidents

MFMD Annual Incidents Responded to by Type

Number of fire and medical incidents within Mesa Fire and Medical's jurisdiction per type per calendar year.



: High Utilizers

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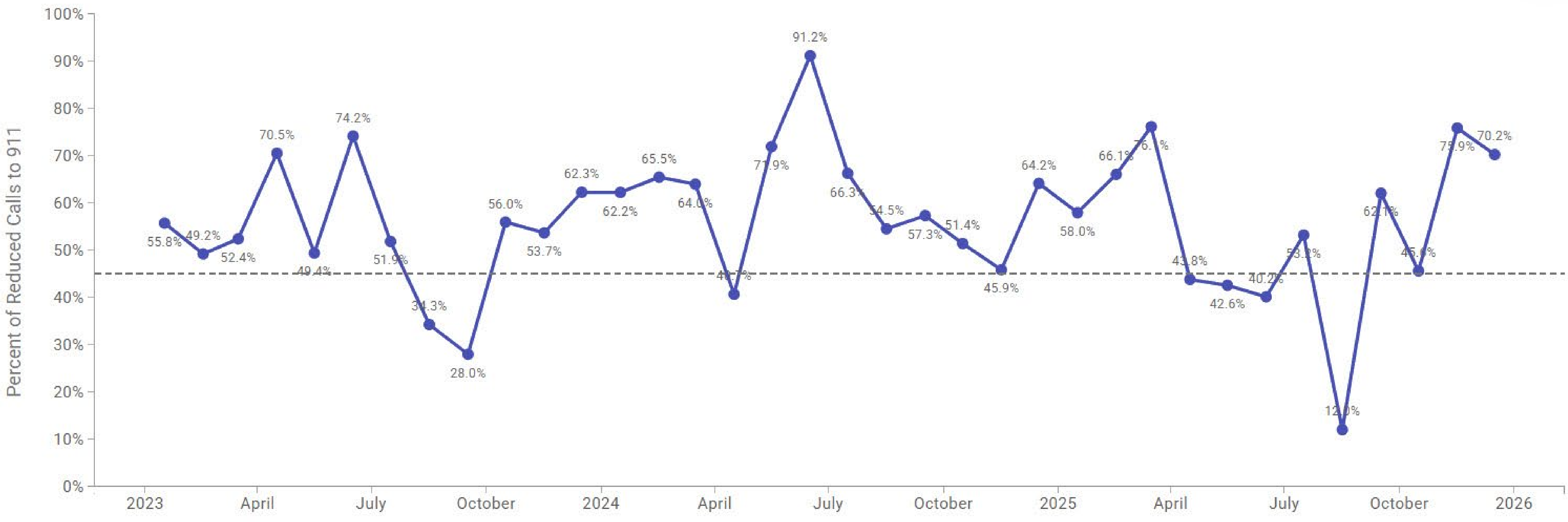
Reduction of 911 Calls from Emergency Services High Utilizers

Percent reduction in calls from high utilizers after social services intervention. Calculated by total number of high utilizer 911 calls 3 months prior to intervention/total number of high utilizer 911 calls 3 months after intervention.



ancial Summary

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General Governmental Funds

Service Level	FY 24/25 Year End Actuals	FY 25/26 Revised Budget	FY 25/26 Year End Estimate	FY 26/27 Proposed Budget
Community Involvement	$4.3	$4.8	$4.7	$4.9
Departmental Support	$26.3	$35.0	$35.3	$26.7
Incident Response	$82.4	$89.0	$89.5	$89.3
Total Expenses	**$113.0**	**$128.8**	**$129.5**	**$120.9**

Figures in millions, rounded

ancial Summary

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Public Safety Sales Tax Fund

Service Level	FY 24/25 Year End Actuals	FY 25/26 Revised Budget	FY 25/26 Year End Estimate	FY 26/27 Proposed Budget
Departmental Support	$0.5	$0.7	$0.6	$0.7
Incident Response	$13.1	$17.8	$15.4	$18.7
Total Expenses	**$13.6**	**$18.5**	**$16.0**	**$19.4**

Figures in millions, rounded

Emergency Transport Services Fund

Service Level	FY 24/25 Year End Actuals	FY 25/26 Revised Budget	FY 25/26 Year End Estimate	FY 26/27 Proposed Budget
Incident Response	$15.7	$22.5	$22.6	$23.0
Total Expenses	**$15.7**	**$22.5**	**$22.6**	**$23.0**

Service Level	FY 24/25 Year End Actuals	FY 25/26 Revised Budget	FY 25/26 Year End Estimate	FY 26/27 Proposed Budget
Incident Response	$24.7	$31.2	$31.2	$33.7
Total Revenues	**$24.7**	**$31.2**	**$31.2**	**$33.7**

Figures in millions, rounded

26/27 Budget Reduction Summary

General Fund Reduction Target: $1.35M over three years

Reduction	FTE / Vacant?		Reduction Amount	Fund
Eliminate Vacant PIO Marketing/Communications Specialist II	-1	Yes	-$126,000	General
Reallocate (4) Firefighters from GF to PSST Fund	-	-	-$705,000	General
Total	**-1**		**-$831,000**	

26/27 Adjustment Request Summary

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Ranking	Adjustment	FTE	One-Time	Ongoing	Fund
1	ETS Fund Modification	0	-	$286,000	ETS
2	ETS Conversion (12hr to 24hr)	2	-	$290,000	ETS
	ETS Fund Total	**2**	**$0**	**$576,000***	

Will be offset by program revenue

Community Health & Safety


CORE
Mesa Fire Station 224
04/01/2026


CORE
Mesa Fire Station 224
04/01/2026

Station 224

Station 205

o CPR Devices – FEMA AFG Grant

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wise Program

rent & Emerging Home Energy Challenges

- Solar
- Residential Battery Storage
- Power Grid
- Generator Power
- Hydrogen Diffuser
- Electric Vehicle

Flashover due to Battery Charger

CNG Challenges for Firefighters

lving Equipment for Electric Vehicle Fires

Cancer Prevention

Starting in FY 19/20, $210,000 was budgeted annually through the public safety sales tax for cancer prevention.

We've received over $2M in grant funding for cancer mitigation over the last three years.

The funding has been used for the following:

- Cancer screenings/full body MRI scans
- Exhaust removal systems in bays
- Relocation of ice machines/turnout storage in bays
- Clean-cab concept implementation
- Galleri blood tests
- Turnout cleaning

To date, the following cancers have been identified through the preventative screening measures taken: esophageal, colorectal, glioma brain, kindey, leukemia, lymphoma, thyroid, various skin and testicular.

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April 9, 2026

TO: CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM: MAYOR MARK FREEMAN

SUBJECT: Appointments to Boards and Committees

The following are my recommendations for appointments to the City of Mesa Advisory Boards and Committees:

Transportation Advisory Board – Eleven-member board including new appointments.

Nathan Woodworth, District 1. Mr. Woodworth is a Business Development Manager/Project Manager at Hunter Contracting Co. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Arizona State University. His partial term will expire June 30, 2028.

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