

# BERMUDA FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

## Head 45

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**Mr. Chairman,**

I am pleased to present the estimates of revenue and expenditure for Head 45, the Bermuda Fire and Rescue Service.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Mission of the Bermuda Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) is “To provide adequate Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services for all areas of these Islands. To extinguish fires, to protect life and property in case of fire, road accident, or other calamity as defined by the Fire Service Act or subsequent Regulations. To Provide Aircraft Rescue firefighting at the L.F. Wade International Airport.”

The Departmental Objectives for fiscal period 2017/2018 are:

- Implement Home Fire Service program
- Implement the new Fire Safety Act 2014
- Continue re-certification in aircraft firefighting for personnel attached to the Airport Operation Division
- Continue core competency skills training program to all operational firefighters
- Continue Leadership training courses for middle managers
- Continue training courses for succession planning for senior managers
- Continue with specialized training for Fleet maintenance and repair of the airport crash/fire apparatus
- Re-validate all Emergency Medical Dispatchers in accordance with Association of Public Safety Communication Officials (APCO)
- Specialize Leadership Training courses for Middle Management Officers
- Specialized Technical Training for Middle Management Officers
- Continue with training courses for senior management to assist with succession planning
- Implementation of Phase I of the organizational structure and staffing of the Bermuda Fire and Rescue Service
- Installation of mobile data terminals in five fire apparatus

**Mr. Chairman,**

I am pleased to provide an analysis by cost centre of the changes in the 2017 - 2018 estimates compared to fiscal period 2016 - 2017.

The Bermuda Fire and Rescue Service Budget allocation of Thirteen Million, Two Hundred Sixty One Thousand Dollars (\$13,261,000) as seen on page B-299, represents an increase of six percent (6%) from the 2016 - 2017 budget.

For your convenience, Mr. Chairman, I will highlight a few of the more notable changes.

**Cost Centre 55080                      Other Services Central                      \$277,000**

This Cost centre is responsible for the maintenance of all Bermuda Fire and Rescue Service vehicles and equipment. This division consists of four (4) personnel who are tasked to ensure that all emergency vehicles and related equipment are maintained to manufacturer and recognized safety standards. Funding in this cost centre also includes cost for the Service's Cook who provides meals to staff weekdays and during emergencies. This cost centre has not been changed in comparison to Fiscal year 2016/2017.

**Cost Centre 55060      Central Emergency Fire Service                      \$6,262,000**

The Central Emergency Fire Service Cost Centre covers the provision of Fire & Emergency Services from the Hamilton Fire Station, King Street. This station responds to Fire, Road Traffic Accidents and Hazardous material incidents as well as provides support to all the other Fire Stations when required. The Hamilton Station has a total of fifty six (56) personnel providing 24/7 emergency coverage on a four shift system. This Cost Centre has been increased by Seven Hundred and Ninety Four Thousand Dollars (\$794,000) which represents a 15% increase due to four (4) new firefighters commencing employment in April 2017.

**Cost Centre 55070      Emergency Medical Service                      \$157,000**

This cost centre solely represents salaries allocated to the Chief Fire Officer for the overall operational management of the Bermuda Fire & Rescue Service.

**Cost Centre 55090 St. George's Emergency Fire Services                      \$1,216,000**

The St. George's Emergency Fire Services Cost Centre covers the provision of Fire & Emergency Medical Services for the Clearwater Fire Station, located at Southside, St. David's. This station responds to Emergency Medical, Fire and Hazardous material incidents, as well as provides support to the Airport Operations Division of the Bermuda Fire & Rescue Service for aircraft incidents. The Bermuda Fire & Rescue Service has partnered with Bermuda Hospitals Board to continue the Island Wide Joint Ambulance Initiative. This initiative began on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. This Division has a total of thirteen (13) personnel providing 24/7 emergency coverage on a four shift system. This Cost Centre has been increased by Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000) which represents a 1% increase.

**Cost Centre 55100                      Emergency Medical Services                      \$50,000**

In contrast to the previous cost centre, this allocation covers the purchase of Emergency Medical Supplies for the Bermuda Fire & Rescue Service. This Cost Centre has been decreased in comparison to Fiscal year 2015 – 2016 by Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) which represents a 23% decrease.

**Cost Centre 55120                      West End Emergency Fire Service                      \$897,000**

This Cost Centre covers the provision of Fire & Emergency Medical Services for the Port Royal Fire Station located at Middle Road, Southampton. This station responds to Emergency Medical, Fire and Hazardous material calls and

provides support to the Hamilton and Clearwater Stations for emergencies when required. This Division has a total of nine (9) personnel providing 24/7 emergency coverage on a four shift system. This Cost Centre has been decreased by Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000) which represents an 1% decrease.

**Cost Centre 55150                                      Training                                      \$113,000**

Funding allocation in this Cost Centre represents costs associated with the further development of Officers and NCO's throughout the various Divisions of the Bermuda Fire & Rescue Service. In 2016 three (3) Officers attended the Fire and Emergency Services Training Institute Toronto, Canada. In September 2016, one (1) Officer successfully obtained the National Fire Protection Association, Professional Fire Service Instructors Level 1 Certification, and in October 2016 two (2) Officers successfully obtained the National Fire Protection Association, Fire and Explosive Investigators Certification. These various development programmes are designed to prepare Officers to deliver certified training courses in Bermuda and to enhance the ability of the Service to investigate cause of fires. In 2016 Fire Officers completed eight hundred and six (806) hours of continuing education units by way of a new E-Learning platform. This new learning platform facilitates maintenance of Officers' professional Fire Fighter and Emergency Medical Technician certifications. In April 2017 four (4) new Recruit Fire Officers will commence a five (5) month training programme to the National Fire Protection Association, Professional Firefighting Standards. This Cost Centre has not been changed in comparison to Fiscal year 2016/2017.

**Cost Centre 55030                                      Fire Prevention Training \$15,000**

In contrast to the previous cost centre, this allocation covers the training costs for the Fire Prevention Division which consists of three (3) Lieutenants. The Fire Safety Act 2014 was passed in the 2014/2015 fiscal year and will generate revenue in 2017/2018 from the new licensing fees once enacted. The Fire Prevention Division also hosts the yearly Fire Prevention Week which promotes fire awareness in schools and the community. This Cost Centre has not changed in comparison to Fiscal year 2016 - 2017.

**Cost Center 55170                                      General Administration                                      \$940,000**

This Cost Center provides General Administration at the Southside Headquarters and the Hamilton Station. The General Administration section ensures that the entire operations of the Bermuda Fire & Rescue Service are managed professionally, namely the Budget, Salaries, Inventory, Staff Leave, etc. This Cost Center has 7 personnel in total.

**Cost Center 55190                                      Emergency Dispatch                                      \$795,000**

This Cost Center provides Emergency Dispatch coverage for all 911 emergency calls covering all parishes. This Cost Center has 14 personnel in total. Each year all Emergency Medical Dispatchers are required to be re-validated in accordance with the Association of Public Safety Communication Officials (APCO).

**Cost Center 55200                                      Airport Fire Station                                      \$2,532,000**

This Cost Center provides Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Services at the L.F Wade International Airport, as prescribed by the Overseas Territories Aviation Requirements part 140 and the Bermuda Civil Aviation Authority. This Cost Center has 24 personnel in total. Additionally this Cost Center was reduced by Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) which represents a 2% reduction.

**Cost Center 55110 Eastern Volunteer Division \$7,000**

Funding allocation in this Cost Centre represents costs associated with the Eastern Volunteer Division which currently consists of seven (7) Volunteer firefighters. These volunteers continue to support the full time staff during emergency incidents in particular being recalled for aircraft incidents and hurricanes.

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**CAPITAL EXPENDITURE \$822,414**

**Mr. Chairman,**

The total Capital Expenditure for the Bermuda Fire and Rescue Services is (\$822,414), all allocated to Capital Acquisitions, compared to (\$0) in 2016/2017.

The allocations of these funds will enable the purchase of an Ambulance, at a cost of One Hundred Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty One Dollars (\$109,931). Twenty One Thousand, Nine Hundred Dollars (\$21,900) will be used to replace an overhead door in the Fire Service workshop and Six Hundred Ninety Thousand, Five Hundred and Eighty Three Dollars (\$690,583) will be used as half payment on a new Fire Service Ladder Truck.

**MANPOWER**

**Mr. Chairman,**

The 'full time' complement has remained unchanged at one hundred and twenty eight (128) personnel for 2017/2018. Notwithstanding the Fire Service has recruited four (4) fire fighter positions for the 2017/2018 fiscal period.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Department's Performance Measures are found on page B-301. Members will note that the Output Measures in the budget book are not presented in sequential order by Cost Centre. I will highlight a few notable achievements and identify them by Cost

MEASURE/INDICATOR	ACTUAL OUTCOME	FORECASTED OUTCOME 16/17	TARGET OUTCOME 17/18
<b>BUSINESS UNIT: 55060 Central Emergency Services</b>			

Percentage of incidents in the city from the total number of calls	42%	40%	40%
Percentage of road traffic accidents from total number of calls	26%	35%	24%
Average response time per call	7 mins	7 mins	7 mins
<b>Business Unit: 55090 East End Emergency Services</b>			
Percentage of road traffic accidents from total number of calls	12%	12%	12%
Percentage of emergency medical calls from the total number of calls	73%	70%	70%
<b>Business Unit: 55120 West End Emergency Services</b>			
Percentage of road traffic accidents from total number of calls	21%	15%	18%
Percentage of emergency medical calls from the total number of calls	61%	70%	65%
<b>Business Unit: 55190 Emergency Medical Dispatch</b>			
Percentage of emergency medical dispatches from the total number of calls	58%	58%	58%
Percentage of fire dispatches from the total number of calls	45%	45%	44%
<b>Business Unit: 55200 Airport Operations Division</b>			
Percentage of aircraft refueling calls from the total number of calls	10%	10%	10%
Percentage of inflight emergency calls from the total number of calls	1%	2%	1%

### Mr. Chairman,

In 2009 the Bermuda Government requested the services of the Office of the Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor (United Kingdom) to conduct a review of the Bermuda Fire and Rescue Service. The review was completed and a report was prepared and approved by Cabinet in 2011. The Chief Fire Officer in conjunction with the Ministry of National Security has developed a strategic plan which is ongoing.

The Service continues to encourage its personnel to undergo career development and skill certification opportunities both locally and abroad. During the past year the following personnel have successfully completed the respective training:

Fire Fighter Delton White attended the Fire and Emergency Services Training Institute in Toronto, Canada and successfully obtained the National Fire Protection Association, Professional Fire Service Instructors Level 1 Certification. Lieutenant Leonard Davis and Lieutenant Albert Jay Donawa, attended the Fire and Emergency

Services Training Institute in Toronto, Canada and successfully obtained the National Fire Protection Association, Fire and Explosive Investigators Certification.

Six (6) Fire Fighters successfully completed their Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Re-certification Course at the Fire Emergency Services Training Institute in Toronto, Canada.

In April 2017 four (4) Recruit Fire Fighters will commence a five (5) month training programme to the National Fire Protection Association, Professional Firefighting Standards.

**Mr. Chairman,**

I can also advise that five (5) personnel are continuing with their aspirations of working towards achievement of Bachelor's Degrees in Fire Science and Management disciplines via long distance learning. To date one officer has attained a Master's Degree in Public Administration, and a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science. Another Officer has attained a Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Safety and Health Fire Science with a concentration in Fire Science. Another officer is soon to attain a Master's Degree in Public Administration.

**Mr. Chairman,**

As honorable members of this House are aware fiscal period 2017-2018 will be a challenge. The Bermuda Fire and Rescue Service will however endeavor to continue to provide emergency services at a high standard of operational efficiency. The dedication of all personnel has been confirmed on numerous occasions by letters of appreciation from members of the community for the Service's emergency operations and community service efforts. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chief Fire Officer, R. Lloyd Burchall and members of the Service for their continued efforts on behalf of the people of Bermuda.

**Thank you Mr. Chairman.**