



MERCED FIRE DEPARTMENT



Master Fee Schedule Update



MFD Master Fee Schedule Update

History of MFD Cost
Recovery

Current Issues

Outreach Efforts

Staff Recommendations



Statistics for Growth of City of Merced

Year	Population	Square Miles	Stations on Duty	Call Volume	Calls per Day	Staffing	Staffing per Resident
1984	43,000	15	4	392	1.1	53	811.3
2006	70,000	20	5	4,533	12.4	86	709.3
2023	90,494	23.25	5	<i>12,000</i>	32.8	68	1,330.8
<i>2030 Projection</i>	<i>102,952¹</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>16,000</i>	<i>43.8</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>735.4</i>

1. Merced County Forecast Summary, University of the Pacific, Eberhardt School of Business, Center for Business and

History of Cost Recovery

1998 Council Direction

- Updates began in 2013
- Brought back to council in 2016
- Council adopted NBS Fee Study

Cost Recovery

- Fire Prevention Fees
 - Occupancy Types
 - Operational Permits
- Vehicle Accidents
- Weed Abatement

EMS First Responder Fee

- First Responder Fee has been collected since early 2000s
- Collected at same rate since inception, \$125
- Report from consultant was brought to council in 2022



Current Issues

Why is this so important? Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention has been a staple of the Merced Fire Department service to the citizens and businesses of Merced since paid organization in 1949

Fees have not been adjusted since 2016 adoption

Costs have outpaced the ability to provide excellent service

Fire suppression crews are too busy and call volumes will only increase; new staffing needed

Expansion of Fire Prevention Bureau is needed to keep pace with city growth

Current Issues

Why is this so important? EMS



January – March 2023 saw record low compliance in ambulance response times

1,580 High Call Density late ambulance responses in a 3-month period (10:59 response time requirement)

Fire engines and police cars are transporting patients (Los Banos Fire and PD)

Patients and families are being directed to drive their own vehicles (Daily occurrence)





Outreach

- Met with community groups
- Met with business groups
- Radio spots
- Utility bill inserts



Utilizing CPI



The Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services.

In short, it measures inflation.

In April-May of 2023, the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers increased 0.4 percent, and the total within the last 12 months is at 5.5 percent.

Effects on Fire Prevention, alone: increased costs from fuel to the office lease, and from staffing to our records-management system (subscription for processing inspections)



Breakdown of occupancy fees:



- “Tiers” would now be provided for R-1, F, H, and M occupancies
- Examples for R-1 occupancy fees based on size:
 - 1 and 2 story
 - 3 and greater



Breakdown of occupancy fees:



- “Tiers” would now be provided for R-1, F, H, and M occupancies
 - Examples for M occupancy fees based on size:
 - Target—around 95K sq. ft. @ \$312
 - US Foods Chef Store—around 14500 sq. ft. @ \$234
 - Small Clothing Store—4200 sq. ft. @ \$156
- ★current fee for M occupancies @ \$195





Breakdown of EMS fees:



- Fees established for both **TRANSPORT** and **NON-TRANSPORT**
- EMS Transport Fees
 - Established based upon approved Merced County EMS Agency fees from 2019 application to the Merced County EMS Agency Request for Proposal for ALS Transport Services
- First Responder Fee
- Treat/No Transport Fee



Compassion Fee Waiver Policy



Draft policy awaiting fee adoption



Similar policy in many public safety agencies



Utilizes United States Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines which are updated annually

Staff Recommendations

Master Fee Schedule



Fire Prevention

- Update fees utilizing CPI calculation from 2017 to 2022
- Addition of CPI annually to mirror Building Department
- Addition of “B” occupancy triannual business inspections
- Addition of “R-1” occupancy cost recovery
- Tiered approach to “F”, “H”, “M”, and “R-1” occupancies based upon business square footage or floor levels in R-1



A photograph of a fire station. In the foreground, a red fire truck with "MERCED FIRE/RESCUE" written on its side is parked. In the background, a helicopter is flying in a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

Staff Recommendations

Master Fee Schedule

Emergency Medical Services

- ALS Transport Fee
 - Emergency and Non-Emergency
- BLS Transport Fee
 - Emergency and Non-Emergency
- Critical Care Transport Fee
- Mileage Fee
- Night Call Fee
- Oxygen Fee
- First Responder Fee
- Treat/No-Transport Fee
- Direction to return with adoption of Compassion Fee Waiver Policy



Questions?

