

Water Department

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES:

The DPW Director manages the water department and is responsible for the overall operation, planning and budgeting. The Operations Manager runs the Water departments daily effort including material and equipment needs and staffing assignments. Under the recent re-organization the water the Highway superintendent manages department's daily work with the assistance of the water general foreman. These men oversee the daily tasks such as sampling, meter reading and replacement, operation of the Water Tower and Pressure Reducing Valve Station (PRV), system flushing, hydrant testing and replacement and response to emergencies. The re-organization resulted in the elimination of a water technician.

The department operates and maintains a distribution system including pipe, valves, hydrants, service boxes and meters and maintains 2 buildings (PRV & 1M gallon water tower). The department reads and services about 4500 +/- meters including final read and complaint resolution. EPA regulated sampling, reporting, bi-weekly, quarterly sampling & monthly metal sampling. The department is responsible for emergency planning & preparedness and staff licensing and training.

HIGHLIGHTS:

In addition to the routine activities of the department the staff, for the first time in several years initiated a uni-directional flushing program. At this point 3 phases of a 14-phase program to flush the Town's mains, exercise the valves and to test hydrants has been completed. The department is also preparing for the replacement of water meters.

BUDGET ISSUES:

The major budget item for this department is the cost of wholesale water purchase from the MWRA, which represent about 80% of the department budget. Otherwise the primary budget concerns are associated with the aging infrastructure and equipment. The department also struggles with the cost associated with random, unplanned emergency main break and escalation of material costs.

STAFFING:

33% Director with D-3 license, the Operation Manager, Water general foreman with D-2 license, a heavy equipment operator, 3 senior water technicians, a water technician, 50% of an engineering aid and a clerk.

Element Totals	FY2006 Expended	FY2007 Appropriated	FY2008 Dept Request	FY2008 Recommend
Compensation	605,680	527,199	563,290	598,854
Expenses	1,295,519	1,500,354	1,667,415	1,582,365
Total	1,901,199	2,027,553	2,230,705	2,181,219