



**Mayor Coleman's 2009 Proposed Budget:
Financial Stability. Wise Investments. Strong Management.**

Public Safety in Saint Paul

Overview

Mayor Coleman's budget will maintain historically high staffing in the police department and continue implementation of recommendations from the 2007 Fire Department audit. They include:

- **Hiring 14 new police officers.** The additional officers will take the department to a staff of 630, the largest in Saint Paul's history, giving the department resources to increase community policing efforts – walking, riding, and biking community beats, getting to know neighbors and building relationships essential to crime prevention.
- **Establishing new life saving “super medic” units.** Increasing daily on-duty staffing from 113 to 115, which allows SPFD to put into service a second 2-person EMS unit. This is a key element in balancing EMS and Fire workloads, address rising EMS demands, and keeping fire suppression resources strong. The department's Strategic Plan ultimately calls for three such rigs and 117 daily staffing.
- **First-ever funding for replacement equipment.** Funding – for the first time ever – to support the long-term replacement of essential department equipment such as portable pumps, ground ladders, hand and power tools, and hardware and communications gear for our pen-based and mobile data systems.
- **New resources for new vehicles.** Sufficient funding for all scheduled vehicle replacements for 2009, including a replacement for Ladder 18 (75 feet tall) with at least a 95-foot ladder truck, and two ambulances.
- **Ensuring the health and safety of our firefighters.** Reallocation of existing funds to provide for a full-time health and wellness coordinator to reduce firefighter injuries, manage OSHA and NFPA-mandated physical fitness testing, reduce cardiac-related events, and improve health and healthy lifestyles of Fire and EMS personnel.
- **Building a department that reflects the face of our community.** Hold a firefighter entrance test that results in a diverse hiring list in the summer of 2009.

Safe streets, safe neighborhoods

Saint Paul is blessed with world-class police and fire departments that are integral to making our streets safe for children, families, and residents. Mayor Coleman has committed to building the best departments through wise investments in personnel, facilities, and equipment, and this budget affirms that commitment.

The 2009 proposed budget enables the departments to:

- Effectively address downtown drug dealing and reduce domestic abuse.
- Help young people resist gang involvement.
- Conduct all prescribed missions and duties in a safe, effective manner.
- Make notable progress to implement the Mayor's six strategic goals for making Saint Paul the Most Livable City in America.
- Make solid progress towards implementing the Fire Department's Strategic Plan.
- Remain within the base budget prescribed by the Office of Financial Services.
- Delivers better service to the citizen at a better price.



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Service delivery improvements in last four years

- In 2007, police officers held 868 proactive meetings with community members, and they are on target for 1,000 meetings in 2008.
- Overall crime is down 13%, and homicides in the city dropped from 24 in 2005 to 14 in 2007.
- Number of domestic violence cases in the city have fallen from nearly 9,300 cases in 2006 to an estimated 8,100 cases this year.
- Rape incidents decreased each year from 2005 to 2007, down 18% total from 209 to 197 to 171 offenses.
- Aggravated assaults saw a 4% decrease, from 1411 offenses to 1356.
- Robbery incidents decreased 8.5% in 2007 from 2006, and commercial burglary is down 33% since 2005.
- Motor vehicle theft decreased in each of the last two years, down 13% from 2005 to 2006 and down 3% from 2006 to 2007. 2008 auto theft calls are down 14%.
- Theft incidents fell similarly, decreasing 15% in 2006 and an additional 4% in 2007.
- A comprehensive administrative and operational audit of the department was completed in 2007 and the recommendations were incorporated into a 5-year strategic plan for the department.
- A new Emergency Management Department was created in 2008 to centralize emergency management and homeland security functions citywide.
- In partnership with the Emergency Communications Center, the on-duty Fire/EMS dispatching staff has increased from 3 to 4, additional staff to perform Fire and EMS dispatching has been cross-trained, and essential life-sustaining and life-saving pre-arrival instructions are now provided to all Ramsey County residents.
- On-duty Fire/EMS daily staffing levels have increased from 106 in 2001 to 110 in 2005, to 115 in 2009. This has ensured full staffing of all Fire/EMS units, and for the first time in decades, the normal department staffing levels comply with NFPA minimum staffing standards.
- The department has harnessed new technology to improve effectiveness, efficiency, and safety, including: 800 Mhz radios, mobile data computers in all Fire/EMS units; and a new pen-based EMS computer that improves documentation and revenue collection.
- Improvements in facilities, including a new Fire Station 8 and the planned merger of two fire stations and fire headquarters into a new facility opening by the end of 2009.
- A renewed sense of trust and a spirit of cooperation between labor and management in the department are healing several years of instability, leadership changes, and contentious labor-management relations.