



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

## Waterloo Morada

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# ORGANIZATION

## Mission Statement

*The mission of the Waterloo Morada Fire District is to preserve life and property through public education and prompt efficient emergency response.*

## Organizational Vision

*The Waterloo Morada Fire District is dedicated to serving the people of our community and we will work to continue to exceed community expectations. We will provide leadership locally and regionally. We will establish and strengthen partnerships and cooperate with allied agencies to enhance our service. We will provide the best service possible within the fiscal opportunities available. We will exercise foresight in planning, preparing and auditing for the safety and well-being of the community. We will promote confidence, trust and self-reliance through personal and professional growth. We will support our workforce to maintain a healthy lifestyle and perform duties in a safe and responsible manner.*

## Value Statements

### ***We value service to our community through...***

- *Teamwork – empowerment of our personnel to provide quality customer service*
- *Traditions – remembering the past*
- *Innovation – always seeking to acquire knowledge and skill*
- *Integrity – adherence to moral and ethical principles*
- *Honor – integrity in one’s beliefs and actions*
- *Respect – deference to the rights or opinions of others*
- *Creativity – transcending traditional ideas or patterns to create meaningful new ideas*
- *Courage – facing difficulty without fear*

# *Our Customers... Our Priority*

## Our Customers



# MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

This past calendar year we have accomplished a great many projects. The members of this fire district over the past several years has had to just make do or do without. Apparatus were not replaced and repairs costs grew each budget cycle. The fire station that was built in 1947 and has went through at least 4 major remodels over the years and was in need of much repair.

- Cancer Prevention Program
- Deferred Station Maintenance Repair
- Qualified to teach Off Road 4x4 Fire Apparatus Operations
- Lost three senior members of the District
- Conducted a Fire Captains exam and promoted 2 of 3 candidates
- Began formal process to address the Sustainable Revenue project

We were able to enact policies and purchase equipment that will address the growing concern of Firefighters being overly exposed to cancerous materials on emergency scenes and in the fire station.

After some heavy rains early in the year it was discovered that we had standing water on the roof that was seeping into the attic and walls of the fire station, to reserve funds were needed to apply a new roof throughout the buildings. After the repairs were done, the station was painted on the exterior.

The Fire District has begun on a path to ask our community for more revenues to bring the District back into the black and set a plan for our future. As part of our supporting reasoning to increase monies will be to increase staffing, purchase fire apparatus, repair/remodel existing capital facilities, future building needs, and day to day operating expenses. The District is currently receiving a special tax that was approved in 1986. Rising cost of the economy and unfunded mandates from County and State governments have eroded the operating costs of the District. It is imperative that actions be taken to address the lack of sustainable revenue for the District. The only other answer is a reduction of service which equates to less firefighters available to respond to the communities ever increasing calls for emergency service.

I am proud to be able to lead such a dedicated group of firefighters. They truly believe in the fire district's motto "*Our Community...Our Priority*" and live it each day.



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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board President - Clay Titus



Marc Youngblood  
Vice President



Bill Snyder  
Board Secretary



Ralph Lucchetti  
Director



John D. Baker  
Director



## Administration Staff

Steve Henry  
Fire Chief



Yolanda Palermo  
Administrative Secretary



## Fire Suppression Command Staff

Jason Culbertson  
Battalion Chief  
'A' Shift



Scott Byous  
Battalion Chief  
'B' Shift



Jason Harper  
Battalion Chief  
'C' Shift





## Organizational Chart



# RESPONSE STATISTICS

## Incidents

Since we are an All Risk Fire District which means we respond to all types of calls. In the pie chart below (Chart 1) we have broken down the types of calls by percentage. As you can see EMS is our highest call volume. The time of day our calls come in varies, but as shown in Chart 2, the afternoon hours see our busiest responses. We responded to 2,253 calls for service in 2018

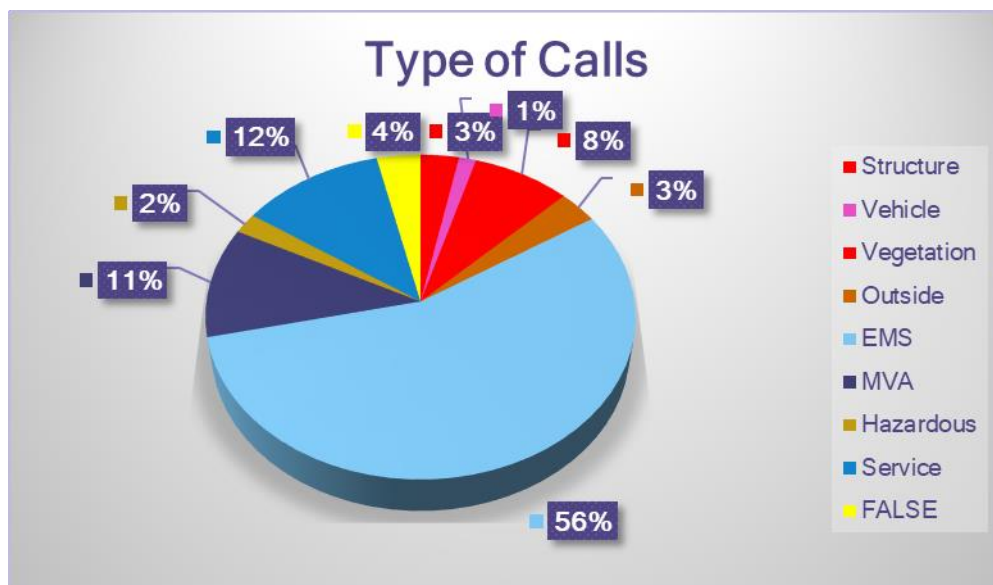


Chart 1

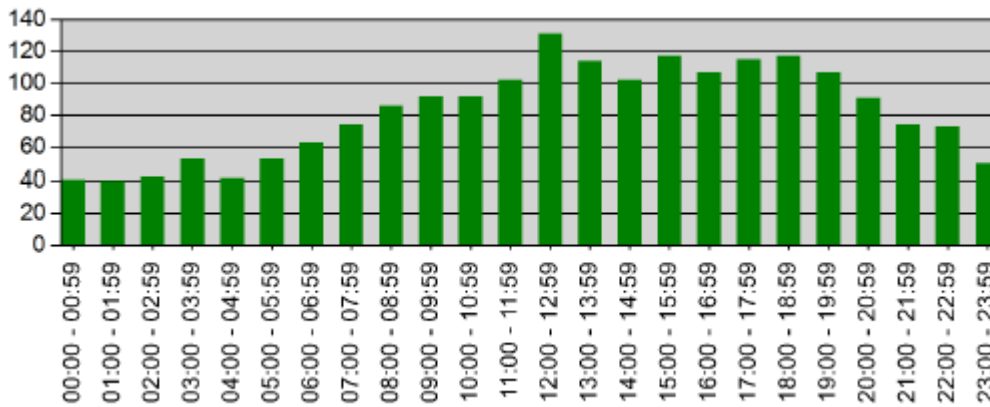


Chart 2

### Time Committed

There are 8,760 hours in a year, during 2018 WMFD was committed to incidents 3,849 hours or 44% of the time.

### Response Times

To meet the national standard, we need to reduce our average response times by 3 minutes. The only way to do that is to strategically build a fire station in the area that is underserved.

*“Are only at peak staffing 70% of the time.” We need 6 additional personnel to be fully staffed.*

### Staffing

Being understaffed is a growing concern and has started to affect the service levels provided by the fire district. As our call volume continues to grow, we have not added units to keep up, and many times we have to handle more than one incident at a time. We are currently operating at 1987 staffing levels.

### Fire Losses

We track fire loss by building costs and by value of contents. This past year we saw \$1,870,700 dollars in property loss, and 496,700 dollars in loss of content.

### Homeless Impact

We have begun collecting data on our responses involving the homeless population since July of this year, they are 6% of our calls. WMFD fire personnel have volunteered to assist the Program Administrator for Homeless Initiatives, San Joaquin County Administrator’s Office in the homeless population count.

## Departures

In 2018 we said goodbye to 3 long time district employees. Battalion Chief Robert “Bub” Lewallen retired after over 32 years of dedicated service to this community. We will miss his wisdom, experience and tales of the past, but are excited for him and his new chapter in life. Many thanks to both of you from a grateful community.

Captain Josh Houston departed late in the year and he and his family relocated to the state of Alabama. Josh was the District’s Training Officer and he will be hard to replace. Good luck to the Houston Family.

Engineer Ismael Ochoa decided after 18 years with WMFD, that we would change his service to the community by taking a position with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. We wish him the best on his career change.

Bub Lewallen



Josh Houston



Ismael Ochoa



## New Hires

As we said good-bye to our longtime friends, immediately began looking for new ones. We conducted a Fire Captain and Firefighter Exam and hired both top candidates. Fire Captain Adam Harnage came to us from a local agency and quickly had to assume the role of one of our leaders. Probationary Firefighter James Wicke was not new to the district, he has been a Reserve Firefighter for us.



## Promotions

When our members leave us it creates openings in our organizational structure and it gives us an opportunity to reach out to other members to step up and take a leadership role. We would like to congratulate Engineers John Kesselman and Scott Smithhart on their promotion to Fire Captain.



## Budget

Special districts are funded by local property taxes and fees for service. They keep local dollars focused on local priorities.

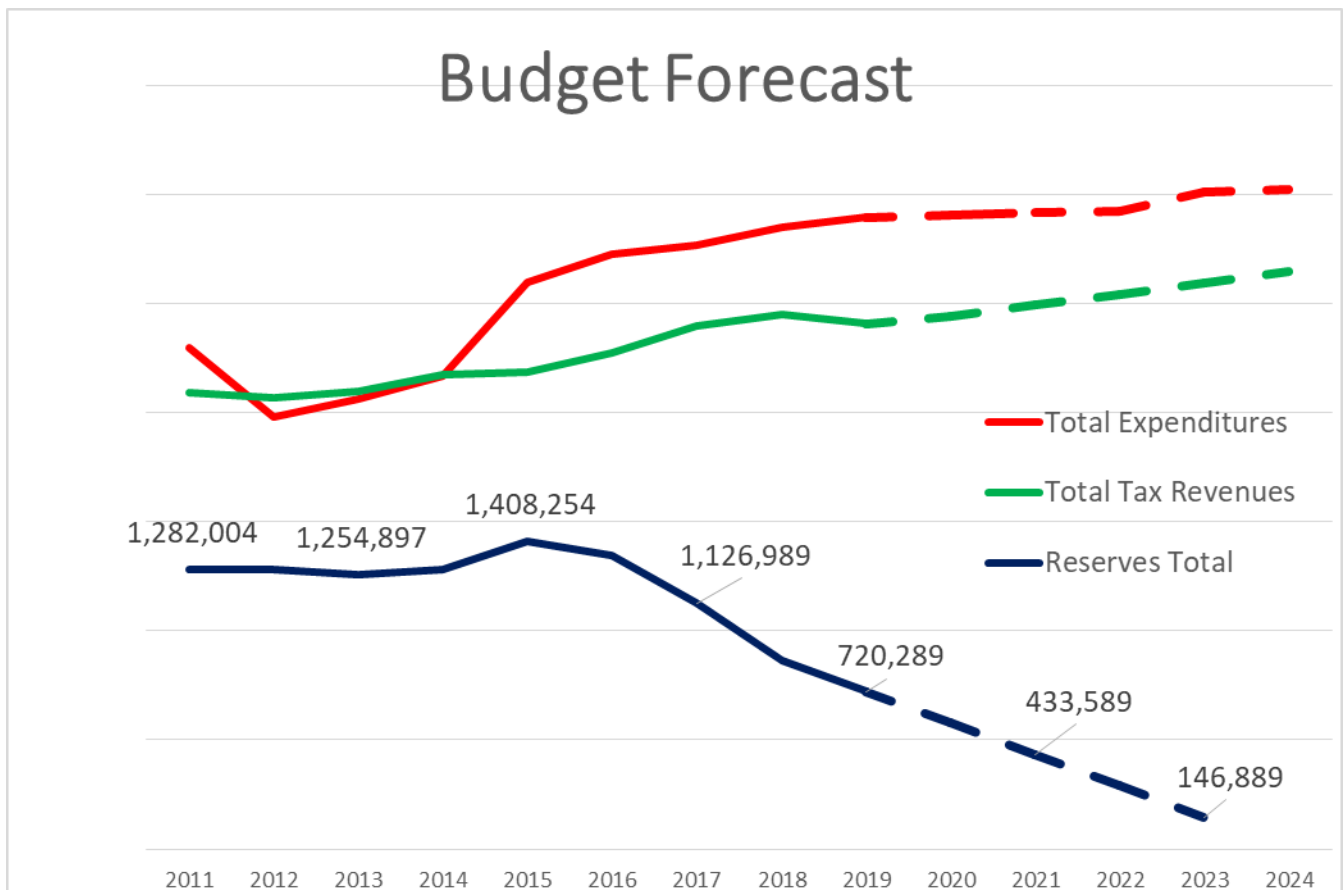
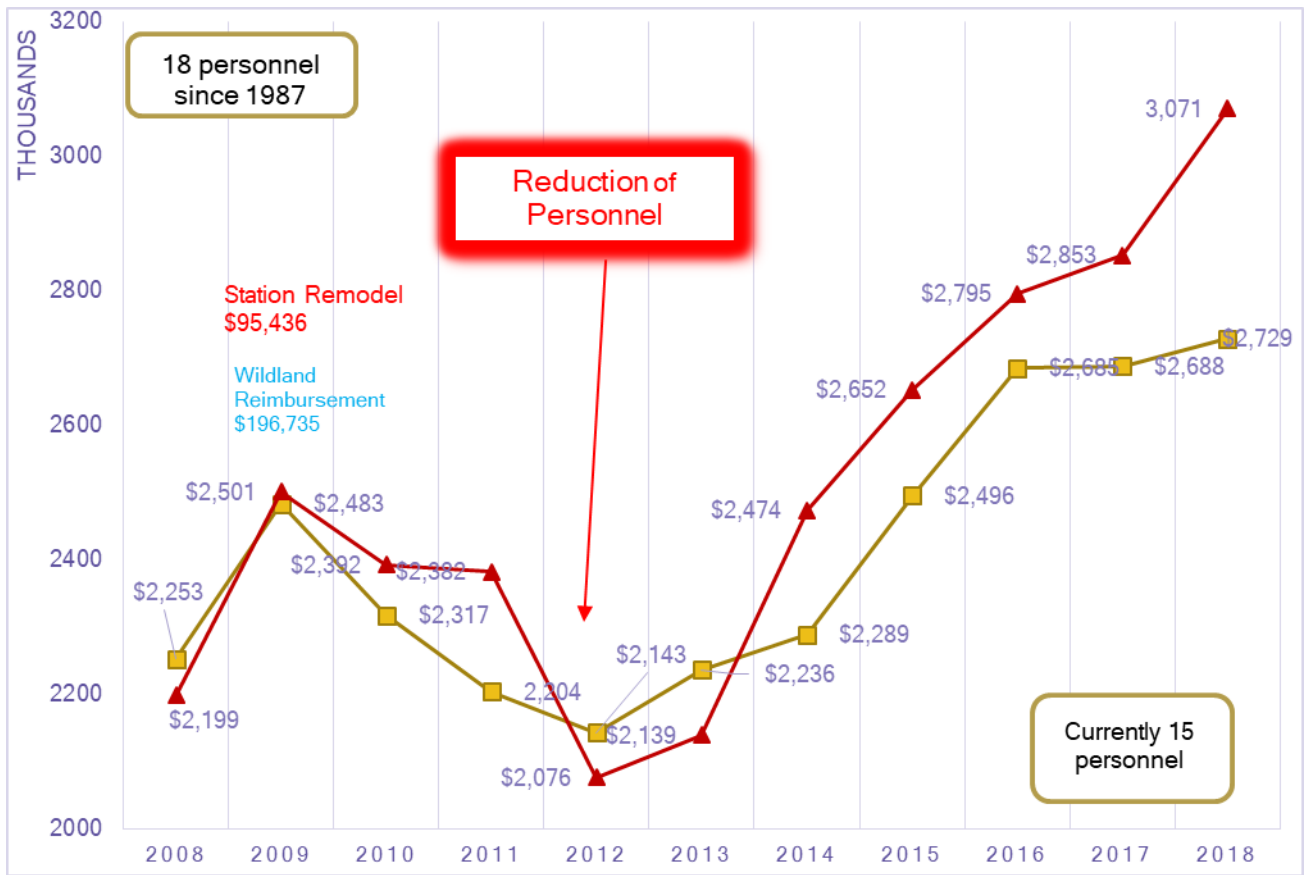
- Local Property Taxes only
- Infrastructure bonding capacity
- Non-enterprise service
- Special Districts go beyond providing important services to their residents. The partnerships they create with members of their community have ripple effects that positively impact the entire state.

### **Budget Revenue used to create a Budget are based from the following item:**

All Property Tax; Secured, Unsecured, Supplemental Tax, State Homeowners Property Tax and Special Assessment (Direct Assessment). The Revenue received is compared with previous year and any change of percent is added or deducted to revenue.

Direct Assessment information must be submitted to the ACO (Auditor Controllers Office) no later than August 10<sup>th</sup> of each year. In mid – **October, all *Direct Assessments are placed on the tax roll* and a letter stating the total assessment for each special district is mailed to District. Also in October the district receive a letter from ACO with the *FY Property Tax Estimated Revenues.***

CATEGORY	COSTS	% BUDGET
PERSONNEL	\$2,549,701	90%
VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT	\$89,745	3%
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	\$24,500	1%
SUPPLIES	\$71,980	3%
SERVICES	\$85,795	3%



# LOOKING FORWARD

## Goals for 2019

- Research a Fire Fee schedule review and establish
- Seek grant funds to replace aging self-contained breathing apparatus
- Policy and procedure manual update
- Begin a Strategic Plan 2020-2025
- Concentrate on Personnel development - Firefighter to Battalion Chief

