

Highlights

Why We Did This Audit

Comparing Kansas City's fire suppression and emergency medical services (EMS) resources, deployment, workload, and response times with other jurisdictions could help decision makers determine whether the city's practices are in line with others. A 2017 study by BKD, LLP, of the Kansas City, Missouri, Fire Department's overtime recommended the city conduct benchmarking with other communities to further analyze whether the department's staffing and deployment model could be improved to match available resources while maintaining public safety.

Audit Methodology

We surveyed Kansas City, Missouri, and other jurisdictions to compare the use of fire fighting and emergency medical services resources, deployment, workload and response times. Jurisdictions were chosen based on demographic and geographic characteristics and whose fire suppression and EMS functions were within their fire departments.

Auditors used the survey information to develop graphs and tables related to department, firefighting, and EMS resources; deployment; workload; and response time to show how Kansas City, Missouri, compared to other jurisdictions. Auditors did not verify the reliability of the self-reported data submitted.

Collective bargaining agreements of surveyed jurisdictions were also reviewed to identify overtime categories and required staffing levels.

Click [here](#) to view the full report.

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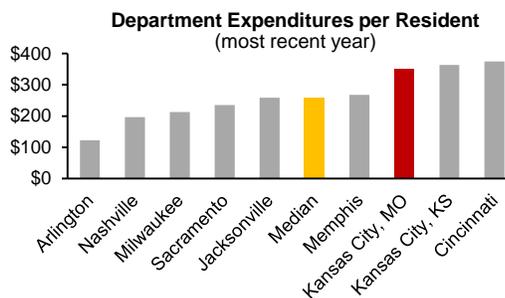
PERFORMANCE AUDIT

Comparative Study of Fire Department Use of Resources

Survey Results

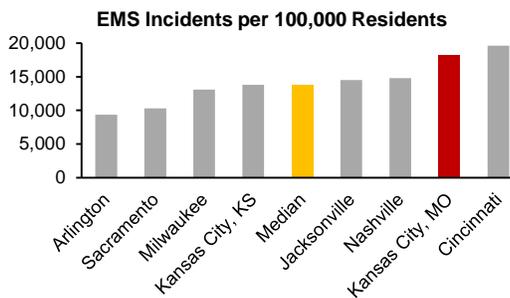
The audit report uses about 60 graphs and tables to show how the Kansas City, Missouri, Fire Department compared to surveyed jurisdictions' fire departments. To normalize the comparisons across jurisdictions of varying demographics and services, when possible, we analyzed resources, deployment, and workload on a per resident and per square mile basis as well as percentage change and percent of actual to budget. The median numerical value of the responding jurisdictions was included as a way of mitigating differences and providing some additional context when viewing graphs. Comparisons included:

Resources: Total expenditures, overtime expenditures, number of employees, use of leave time, and number of fire stations and equipment. The following graph illustrates a comparison of fire departments' use of resources.



Deployment: Staffing requirements, minimum staffing by apparatus, and fire fighting and EMS minimum staffing.

Workload: Fire incidents and responses, structure fires, and EMS incidents and responses. The following graph illustrates a comparison of fire departments' EMS workload.



Response times: Firefighting and EMS turnout and travel time.

How to Use This Information

This comparison should help identify areas for further study, provide further context, and promote discussion by decision makers about matching fire suppression and EMS services to available resources while maintaining public safety. The differences identified between jurisdictions may help identify leading strategies as well as suggest achievable goals.