

The High Cost of Providing Public Safety

Helmet and hood: \$250

Self-contained breathing apparatus: \$3,300

"Pass" alarm to monitor firefighter while deployed: \$500

Heat-reflective, fire-resistant coat: \$1,300

Firefighter pager: \$350

Heat-reflective, fire-resistant pants: \$700

Puncture-proof, heat-resistant boots: \$300

TOTAL: \$6,700

Average Salary for Entry Level Police Officer and Firefighter

Police Officer: \$46,944 plus benefits annually

Firefighter: \$42,825 plus benefits annually

Source: TML Salary and Benefits Survey

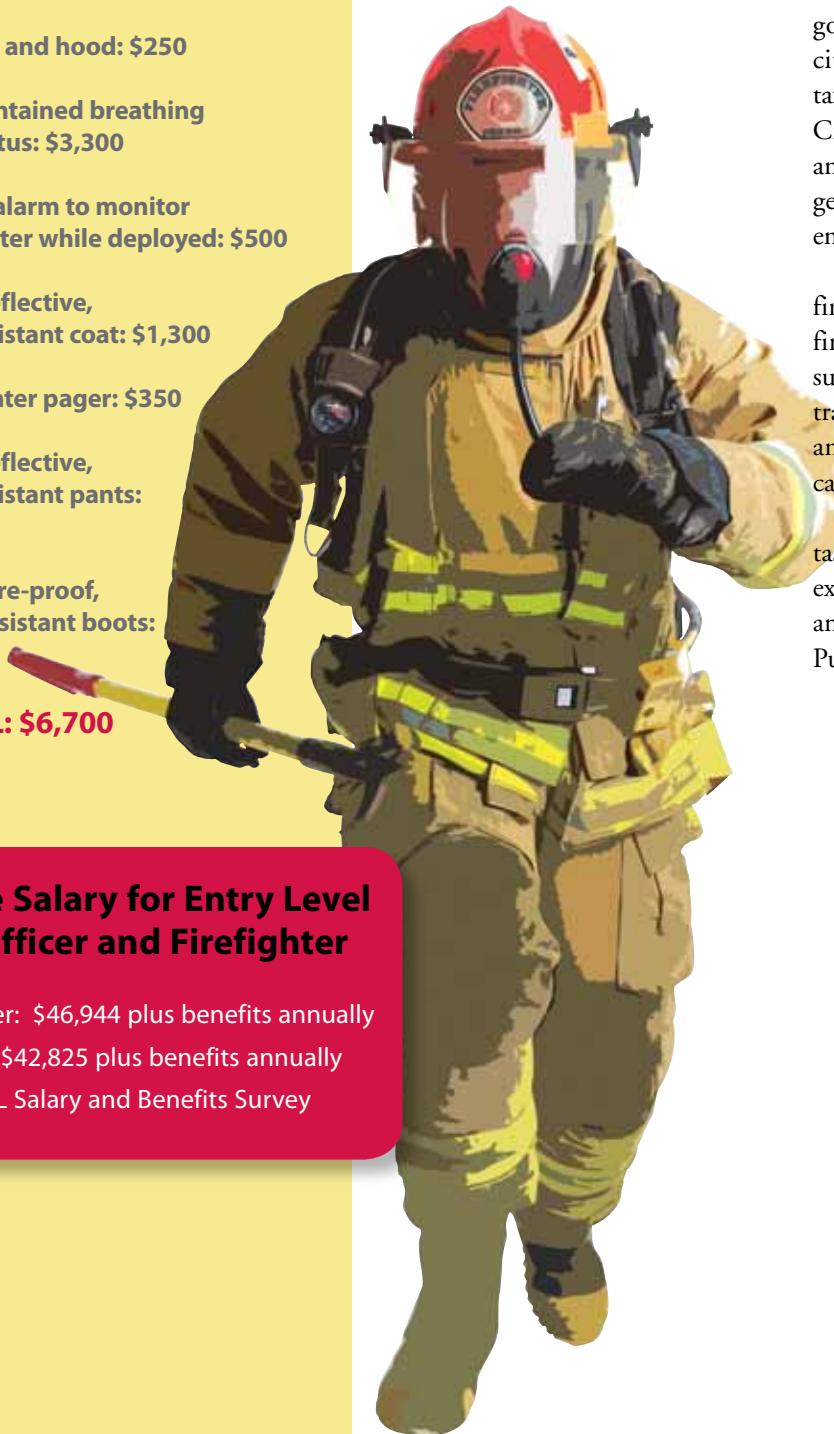
Ensuring that citizens have a safe city in which to live and work is of the utmost importance to the state. Cities strive to promote the health, safety, and welfare of all of their citizens. Unfortunately, providing a high level of public safety does not come cheap.

For most citizens, it is almost an automatic response to turn to government in times of need. In cities, that translates to spending tax dollars on public safety services. Cities expend considerable resources anticipating what the public at large generally doesn't want to think about—emergencies.

Public safety includes traditional fire protection, such as fighting house fires; traditional police protection, such as officers patrolling streets for traffic violations and criminal activity; and responding to numerous 911 calls.

However, in today's world the task of providing public safety has expanded as threats have increased and citizen expectations have grown. Public safety now encompasses:

- hurricanes and other natural disasters;
- preventing and responding to terrorist threats and attacks;
- federal homeland security mandates;
- emergency medical services (EMS) and ambulance services;
- border security;
- hazardous materials response;
- drug task forces; and
- search and rescue, along with a host of other activities.



As the list illustrates, police, fire, and EMS are now expected to protect our homeland and be ready to respond to terrorist attacks with chemical, biological, and weapons of mass destruction. That's a tall order, considering the cost of standard public safety training and equipment.

For example, it costs approximately \$2,000 to provide basic protective equipment for a single structural firefighter. Of course, the equipment needed to enter a burning building is specialized and much more expensive than the standard issue equipment. (See firefighter diagram.) In addition to the expensive equipment necessary for firefighters to safely carry out their jobs, they must also receive continuous training. This training is often expensive and must be supplemented on an ongoing basis. ★

Texas Cities Assist with Hurricane Relief

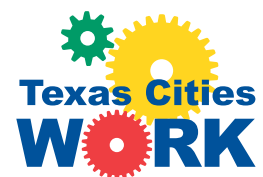
Over the past several years, cities have played a major role in hurricane relief and rebuilding efforts as hurricanes Dolly and Ike hammered Texas. According to *Texas Rebounds*, a publication of the governor's office, Hurricanes Ike and Dolly caused the City of Houston to sustain local government infrastructure damages of more than \$100 million. The city rushed to repair vital infrastructure in the days following the storm, dedicating countless resources to restoring necessary services to citizens. The City of Galveston, also hard-hit by Ike, expended \$500 million to repair and replace housing, city buildings, and utility infrastructure, not to mention millions more to repair roads, revitalize the business community, and much more. Many of these expenditures may ultimately be reimbursed by the federal government, but the ability of cities to react quickly and decisively during and after a natural disaster is an invaluable service.



You see a fireman

We see a first responder who does more than fight fires. Today's firefighters provide emergency medical services, participate in search and rescue, and are trained to respond in the event of a natural disaster or a terrorist threat. Even more, they participate in Career Day at schools and teach youngsters how to respond in case of an emergency. And... they do it all with a smile.

The things you don't think about, cities provide. And we're proud of it.



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