

Eye-Popping Numbers For Fire Department Overtime

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 Publisher

During calendar year 2010, 108 members of the Long Beach Fire Department each earned a minimum of \$50,000 in overtime pay – including 7 who each received more than \$90,000.

These numbers come from data obtained by the Business Journal from the City of Long Beach, which listed 386 fire department positions that received overtime pay from January to December 2010. By year's end, the city (the taxpayers) paid out \$15,282,171.89 in overtime to the people filling those 386 positions – an average of \$39,591.

FIRE DEPARTMENT	2010 Average
Title/Number	Overtime Pay
Battalion Chief (16)	\$35,544
Fire Captain (90)	\$35,577
Fire Boat Operator (7).....	\$20,497
Fire Engineer (88)	\$35,501
Firefighter (185)	\$44,562
386 Positions*	\$39,591**
* During the course of the year, people within each position may have been promoted, retired, left for another fire department or were injured on the job.	
** This is overtime pay only.	
Source: City of Long Beach for calendar year.	

The box above shows the break down by firefighter title. The totals were tabulated by the city, not the Business Journal.

By comparison, during the same 2010 year, the police department – whose chief told councilmembers last week that more money for overtime is needed to fight crime and for follow up investigations – rang up \$8,397,743.46 in overtime for 895 personnel. Police officer overtime averaged \$9,383, as shown in the box above right.

POLICE DEPARTMENT	2010 Average
Title/Number	Overtime Pay
Police Lieutenant (31)	\$6,330
Police Investigator (9)	\$5,236
Police Corporal (14).....	\$10,768
Police Sergeant (120).....	\$11,692
Police Officer (720)	\$9,167
895 Positions*	\$9,383**

* During the course of the year, people within each position may have been promoted, retired, left for another police department or were injured on the job.
 ** This is overtime pay only.
 Source: City of Long Beach for calendar year.

The 2010 total payroll for the fire department (all employees, not just firefighters) was roughly \$62 million. Overtime, therefore, accounted for approximately 25 percent of payroll.

By comparison, the police department's overtime cost was about 7 percent of its total payroll.

The firefighters have argued many times that the overtime cost is a result of the high number of "open positions," which they said are about 30. As a result, the union said that overtime is necessary in order to maintain four-man crews on an engine and to fill in for those who are on vacation, out ill, on personal time, etc. However, while the union stressed that overtime costs can drop if the city fills the open positions, it also said it is less expensive to pay overtime than bring on more workers.

At a recent city council meeting, Rich Brandt, president of Firefighters Local 372, said that the city saves 12¢ on every dollar by paying overtime instead of hiring more firefighters.

This argument over firefighter overtime is not new and goes back at least two decades. In 1993, a Business Journal story pointed out that firefighter overtime had been budgeted

at \$4.1 million for fiscal year 1992-93, but came in at \$6.5 million. In 2007, another Business Journal article showed that overtime for the calendar year had reached \$12.3 million (about a million dollars more than budgeted). Now, three years later, it was at \$15.3 million (the FY2010 budget showed overtime was estimated at \$13.4 million).

The proposed 2012 budget lists fire department overtime at a significantly lower \$9.66 million. Part of the reason for the projected decline is that city management has recommended using three-man crews on some of the engines. Page 173 of the proposed budget states: "Daily staffing on up to eight engines will be reduced from four to three, reducing one post position per engine. The three-person engine is used as the fire response model in some surrounding communities such as Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach and Santa Fe Springs. Staffing on the remaining 6 General Funded engines will remain at four firefighters."

During recent budget discussions, Fire Chief Alan Patalano told councilmembers that the decision on which engines go to three-man will be based on numerous factors, including calls for service, population density and the ability of adjacent units to serve as a back up.

The firefighter union strongly objects going to three-man crews, claiming such a move puts the public and firefighters at greater risk. Brandt has repeatedly called on councilmembers to provide "adequate funding for public safety."

In a statement he released in late July, Brandt wrote: "Since 2004, the Long Beach Fire Department has lost 30 sworn positions and is now at 1970s staffing levels when the department responded to 5,000 emergency calls, compared to 2010s 48,525 calls. The Long Beach Firefighters are especially concerned about a city proposal to cut staffing

onboard firefighting units from four to three, since this will cause completely unnecessary life-threatening delays.”

On a related matter, the proposed 2012 budget calls for the elimination of 259 city positions. However, only 59 of those positions are currently filled, and some of those may be saved depending on negotiations with the police and fire unions.

Following is a by-position list as provided by the City of Long Beach of all 386 fire department personnel who received overtime pay during calendar year 2010:

Title	Overtime Pay
Battalion Chief	\$3,303.12
Battalion Chief	\$4,932.45
Battalion Chief	\$6,606.23
Battalion Chief	\$6,658.92
Battalion Chief	\$9,820.80
Battalion Chief	\$16,902.03
Battalion Chief	\$34,291.02
Battalion Chief	\$37,980.24
Battalion Chief	\$37,664.96
Battalion Chief	\$46,668.82
Battalion Chief	\$53,977.04
Battalion Chief	\$54,015.27
Battalion Chief	\$62,171.97
Battalion Chief	\$59,424.84
Battalion Chief	\$61,058.57
<u>Battalion Chief</u>	<u>\$73,231.47</u>
Total	\$568,707.75
Average	\$35,544.23

Title	Overtime Pay
Fire Boat Operator	\$1,216.83
Fire Boat Operator	\$9,481.05
Fire Boat Operator	\$15,875.40
Fire Boat Operator	\$18,497.11
Fire Boat Operator	\$26,486.89
Fire Boat Operator	\$27,866.01
<u>Fire Boat Operator</u>	<u>\$44,054.21</u>
Total	\$143,477.50
Average	\$20,497

Title	Overtime Pay
Fire Captain.....	\$2,808.89
Fire Captain.....	\$2,177.27
Fire Captain.....	\$2,758.87
Fire Captain.....	\$5,393.71
Fire Captain.....	\$4,160.45
Fire Captain.....	\$4,539.73
Fire Captain.....	\$5,067.27
Fire Captain.....	\$7,131.47
Fire Captain.....	\$12,373.23
Fire Captain.....	\$11,599.60
Fire Captain.....	\$11,671.16
Fire Captain.....	\$14,668.85
Fire Captain.....	\$14,514.91
Fire Captain.....	\$16,803.90
Fire Captain.....	\$16,160.87
Fire Captain.....	\$18,226.72
Fire Captain.....	\$21,268.73
Fire Captain.....	\$24,593.75
Fire Captain.....	\$37,461.72
Fire Captain.....	\$28,127.11
Fire Captain.....	\$27,242.82
Fire Captain.....	\$23,397.54
Fire Captain.....	\$26,463.28
Fire Captain.....	\$28,612.32
Fire Captain.....	\$26,972.21
Fire Captain.....	\$31,464.39

Fire Captain.....	\$31,185.03
Fire Captain.....	\$32,649.20
Fire Captain.....	\$21,515.33
Fire Captain.....	\$32,020.71
Fire Captain.....	\$34,607.26
Fire Captain.....	\$35,908.36
Fire Captain.....	\$29,513.14
Fire Captain.....	\$30,325.81
Fire Captain.....	\$30,878.83
Fire Captain.....	\$37,517.10
Fire Captain.....	\$38,020.29
Fire Captain.....	\$39,351.62
Fire Captain.....	\$33,409.33
Fire Captain.....	\$39,325.95
Fire Captain.....	\$38,845.27
Fire Captain.....	\$40,435.21
Fire Captain.....	\$39,818.72
Fire Captain.....	\$38,220.33
Fire Captain.....	\$33,398.62
Fire Captain.....	\$36,203.75
Fire Captain.....	\$40,234.46
Fire Captain.....	\$34,638.63
Fire Captain.....	\$40,451.89
Fire Captain.....	\$41,000.39
Fire Captain.....	\$43,545.10
Fire Captain.....	\$38,246.51
Fire Captain.....	\$44,690.45
Fire Captain.....	\$40,042.49
Fire Captain.....	\$46,655.08
Fire Captain.....	\$45,319.42
Fire Captain.....	\$44,058.05
Fire Captain.....	\$46,312.43
Fire Captain.....	\$47,798.61
Fire Captain.....	\$42,065.99
Fire Captain.....	\$48,454.20
Fire Captain.....	\$40,430.69
Fire Captain.....	\$49,199.33
Fire Captain.....	\$38,356.99
Fire Captain.....	\$48,944.80
Fire Captain.....	\$49,317.87
Fire Captain.....	\$51,197.21
Fire Captain.....	\$37,807.40
Fire Captain.....	\$47,850.04
Fire Captain.....	\$58,901.03
Fire Captain.....	\$49,028.61
Fire Captain.....	\$49,918.77
Fire Captain.....	\$50,146.62
Fire Captain.....	\$41,811.16
Fire Captain.....	\$46,838.39
Fire Captain.....	\$46,423.59
Fire Captain.....	\$45,305.67
Fire Captain.....	\$52,543.43
Fire Captain.....	\$53,460.52
Fire Captain.....	\$56,567.67
Fire Captain.....	\$39,897.76
Fire Captain.....	\$44,575.40
Fire Captain.....	\$45,669.01
Fire Captain.....	\$59,130.26
Fire Captain.....	\$56,125.76
Fire Captain.....	\$49,608.84
Fire Captain.....	\$48,634.04
Fire Captain.....	\$61,975.18
Fire Captain.....	\$60,321.97
<u>Fire Captain.....</u>	<u>\$59,621.70</u>
Total	\$3,201,934.04
Average	\$35,577

Title	Overtime Pay
Fire Engineer.....	\$674.82

Fire Engineer.....	\$1,325.14
Fire Engineer.....	\$1,392.65
Fire Engineer.....	\$1,209.83
Fire Engineer.....	\$1,785.72
Fire Engineer.....	\$2,431.81
Fire Engineer.....	\$7,355.47
Fire Engineer.....	\$7,752.64
Fire Engineer.....	\$8,756.34
Fire Engineer.....	\$11,461.68
Fire Engineer.....	\$13,019.78
Fire Engineer.....	\$7,458.52
Fire Engineer.....	\$14,755.72
Fire Engineer.....	\$17,093.79
Fire Engineer.....	\$19,016.12
Fire Engineer.....	\$22,443.08
Fire Engineer.....	\$21,334.02
Fire Engineer.....	\$23,260.30
Fire Engineer.....	\$23,441.02
Fire Engineer.....	\$23,778.83
Fire Engineer.....	\$26,197.32
Fire Engineer.....	\$26,400.68
Fire Engineer.....	\$26,503.18
Fire Engineer.....	\$31,167.08
Fire Engineer.....	\$30,095.41
Fire Engineer.....	\$28,812.78
Fire Engineer.....	\$31,050.61
Fire Engineer.....	\$33,077.69
Fire Engineer.....	\$34,499.21
Fire Engineer.....	\$29,494.30
Fire Engineer.....	\$27,699.52
Fire Engineer.....	\$35,936.84
Fire Engineer.....	\$30,637.35
Fire Engineer.....	\$34,214.91
Fire Engineer.....	\$37,121.62
Fire Engineer.....	\$34,588.94
Fire Engineer.....	\$38,297.07
Fire Engineer.....	\$37,529.25
Fire Engineer.....	\$36,112.08
Fire Engineer.....	\$35,701.79
Fire Engineer.....	\$34,500.82
Fire Engineer.....	\$36,398.99
Fire Engineer.....	\$38,548.40
Fire Engineer.....	\$39,024.71
Fire Engineer.....	\$40,137.82
Fire Engineer.....	\$37,669.96
Fire Engineer.....	\$37,635.82
Fire Engineer.....	\$35,931.00
Fire Engineer.....	\$41,128.08
Fire Engineer.....	\$38,346.64
Fire Engineer.....	\$38,605.77
Fire Engineer.....	\$44,312.84
Fire Engineer.....	\$32,817.76
Fire Engineer.....	\$39,434.38
Fire Engineer.....	\$44,655.42
Fire Engineer.....	\$42,371.88
Fire Engineer.....	\$40,941.28
Fire Engineer.....	\$42,713.88
Fire Engineer.....	\$39,842.60
Fire Engineer.....	\$46,824.70
Fire Engineer.....	\$43,178.04
Fire Engineer.....	\$47,196.51
Fire Engineer.....	\$47,102.87
Fire Engineer.....	\$38,198.41
Fire Engineer.....	\$46,838.52
Fire Engineer.....	\$52,570.50
Fire Engineer.....	\$49,982.48
Fire Engineer.....	\$47,994.07
Fire Engineer.....	\$46,769.66
Fire Engineer.....	\$49,301.28
Fire Engineer.....	\$54,214.89

Fire Engineer.....	\$51,692.91
Fire Engineer.....	\$48,695.02
Fire Engineer.....	\$49,525.68
Fire Engineer.....	\$50,205.27
Fire Engineer.....	\$54,929.55
Fire Engineer.....	\$45,969.84
Fire Engineer.....	\$55,927.22
Fire Engineer.....	\$50,442.30
Fire Engineer.....	\$55,732.98
Fire Engineer.....	\$58,647.69
Fire Engineer.....	\$62,079.60
Fire Engineer.....	\$50,102.53
Fire Engineer.....	\$51,912.15
Fire Engineer.....	\$51,316.87
Fire Engineer.....	\$58,001.46
Fire Engineer.....	\$71,654.73
<u>Fire Engineer.....</u>	<u>\$67,194.09</u>

Total **\$3,124,104.78**
Average **\$35,501**

<u>Title</u>	<u>Overtime Pay</u>
Firefighter	\$1,051.30
Firefighter	\$3,752.86
Firefighter	\$3,165.47
Firefighter	\$4,612.57
Firefighter	\$5,333.71
Firefighter	\$7,420.00
Firefighter	\$7,024.44
Firefighter	\$7,022.29
Firefighter	\$7,056.22
Firefighter	\$7,521.18
Firefighter	\$8,054.97
Firefighter	\$10,353.20
Firefighter	\$9,532.65
Firefighter	\$10,488.56
Firefighter	\$9,928.61
Firefighter	\$12,744.46
Firefighter	\$12,543.97
Firefighter	\$13,249.34
Firefighter	\$11,977.55
Firefighter	\$15,656.89
Firefighter	\$11,995.72
Firefighter	\$15,743.03
Firefighter	\$18,307.93
Firefighter	\$16,285.31
Firefighter	\$18,645.91
Firefighter	\$13,069.73
Firefighter	\$13,483.25
Firefighter	\$20,960.42
Firefighter	\$16,248.57
Firefighter	\$20,028.49
Firefighter	\$20,126.57
Firefighter	\$17,246.51
Firefighter	\$21,457.38
Firefighter	\$26,442.54
Firefighter	\$20,800.31
Firefighter	\$19,780.50
Firefighter	\$17,592.88
Firefighter	\$22,482.84
Firefighter	\$23,573.44
Firefighter	\$25,764.12
Firefighter	\$23,836.33
Firefighter	\$26,496.03
Firefighter	\$27,299.04
Firefighter	\$26,682.07
Firefighter	\$22,583.39
Firefighter	\$23,514.44
Firefighter	\$25,016.98
Firefighter	\$25,271.25
Firefighter	\$28,699.96
Firefighter	\$22,616.79

Firefighter	\$31,074.76
Firefighter	\$26,375.71
Firefighter	\$28,604.46
Firefighter	\$27,425.64
Firefighter	\$29,250.02
Firefighter	\$36,994.37
Firefighter	\$35,513.85
Firefighter	\$25,345.32
Firefighter	\$34,042.56

<u>Title</u>	<u>Overtime Pay</u>
Firefighter	\$26,634.68
Firefighter	\$37,177.52
Firefighter	\$32,984.53
Firefighter	\$27,033.11
Firefighter	\$35,248.49
Firefighter	\$31,841.86
Firefighter	\$40,123.90
Firefighter	\$34,139.37
Firefighter	\$40,272.96
Firefighter	\$34,238.57
Firefighter	\$25,587.91
Firefighter	\$36,107.20
Firefighter	\$37,377.43
Firefighter	\$40,808.48
Firefighter	\$31,278.07
Firefighter	\$42,340.87
Firefighter	\$40,609.24
Firefighter	\$31,159.32
Firefighter	\$44,999.62
Firefighter	\$41,069.19
Firefighter	\$42,286.46
Firefighter	\$46,564.77
Firefighter	\$42,564.49
Firefighter	\$46,066.08
Firefighter	\$44,355.79
Firefighter	\$41,645.64
Firefighter	\$43,783.55
Firefighter	\$51,166.77
Firefighter	\$42,755.64
Firefighter	\$49,033.53
Firefighter	\$38,345.50
Firefighter	\$39,714.58
Firefighter	\$45,517.79
Firefighter	\$51,532.03
Firefighter	\$47,004.25
Firefighter	\$43,217.01
Firefighter	\$36,048.91
Firefighter	\$41,855.52
Firefighter	\$46,863.08
Firefighter	\$43,246.17
Firefighter	\$45,978.87
Firefighter	\$51,197.47
Firefighter	\$43,735.13
Firefighter	\$46,893.49
Firefighter	\$54,076.08
Firefighter	\$45,665.14
Firefighter	\$55,799.43
Firefighter	\$50,142.10
Firefighter	\$49,855.47
Firefighter	\$51,935.74
Firefighter	\$42,622.98
Firefighter	\$48,715.91
Firefighter	\$43,714.93
Firefighter	\$47,774.42
Firefighter	\$45,789.38
Firefighter	\$46,017.40
Firefighter	\$54,878.82
Firefighter	\$50,370.38
Firefighter	\$55,023.20
Firefighter	\$59,723.37

Firefighter	\$56,760.12
Firefighter	\$60,534.37
Firefighter	\$58,608.57
Firefighter	\$63,114.47
<u>Title</u>	<u>Overtime Pay</u>
Firefighter	\$55,977.81
Firefighter	\$60,215.17
Firefighter	\$55,415.10
Firefighter	\$53,150.49
Firefighter	\$61,725.41
Firefighter	\$58,625.88
Firefighter	\$53,842.34
Firefighter	\$63,593.62
Firefighter	\$58,556.40
Firefighter	\$56,330.73
Firefighter	\$64,378.74
Firefighter	\$59,057.71
Firefighter	\$62,994.12
Firefighter	\$58,632.93
Firefighter	\$58,187.29
Firefighter	\$57,356.52
Firefighter	\$66,751.71
Firefighter	\$63,354.82
Firefighter	\$58,282.43
Firefighter	\$49,147.38
Firefighter	\$59,992.14
Firefighter	\$70,688.63
Firefighter	\$62,596.24
Firefighter	\$53,192.94
Firefighter	\$65,593.14
Firefighter	\$65,855.45
Firefighter	\$68,590.07
Firefighter	\$65,582.47
Firefighter	\$56,341.81
Firefighter	\$56,294.94
Firefighter	\$72,556.46
Firefighter	\$58,516.05
Firefighter	\$57,635.43
Firefighter	\$64,081.24
Firefighter	\$63,691.44
Firefighter	\$64,991.62
Firefighter	\$63,657.06
Firefighter	\$76,424.68
Firefighter	\$80,455.29
Firefighter	\$78,587.26
Firefighter	\$62,921.26
Firefighter	\$88,057.05
Firefighter	\$74,563.81
Firefighter	\$70,908.76
Firefighter	\$77,784.71
Firefighter	\$85,610.48
Firefighter	\$85,054.21
Firefighter	\$87,017.09
Firefighter	\$71,161.50
Firefighter	\$72,664.07
Firefighter	\$95,572.84
Firefighter	\$72,458.72
Firefighter	\$86,375.35
Firefighter	\$81,975.13
Firefighter	\$80,071.30
Firefighter	\$75,510.49
Firefighter	\$90,986.93
Firefighter	\$101,075.27
Firefighter	\$94,075.22
Firefighter	\$107,580.60
Firefighter	\$103,290.41
<u>Firefighter</u>	<u>\$99,635.88</u>
Total	\$8,243,947.82
Average	\$44,561.88