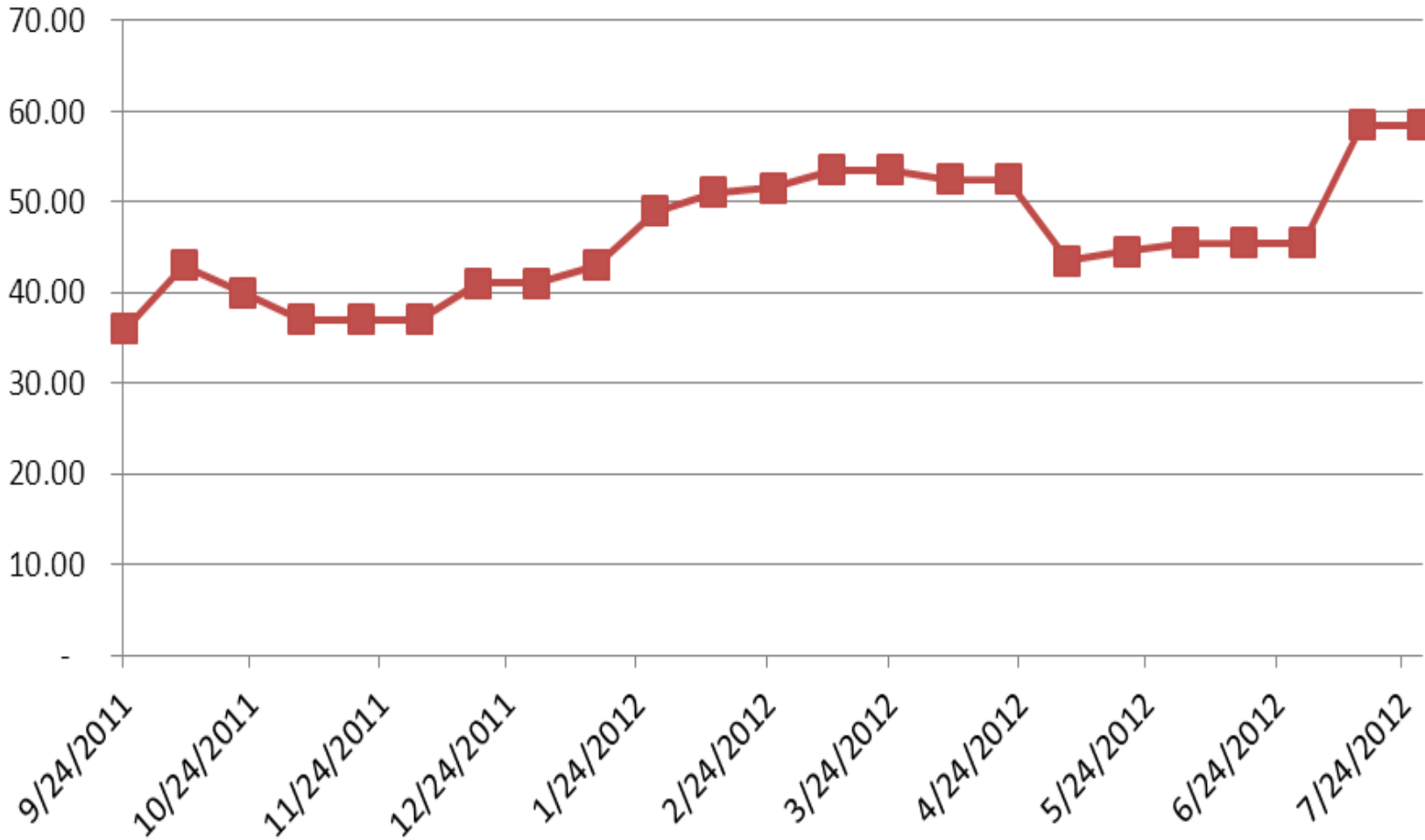


EMS Vacancies By Pay Period for FY 11-12



Pay Period Ending	9/24/2011	10/8/2011	10/22/2011	11/5/2011
Vacancies	36.00	55.00	52.00	49.00
Vacancies less Mueller	36.00	43.00	40.00	37.00
Pay Period Ending	11/19/2011	12/3/2011	12/17/2011	12/31/2011
Vacancies	49.00	49.00	53.00	53.00
Vacancies less Mueller	37.00	37.00	41.00	41.00
Pay Period Ending	1/14/2012	1/28/2012	2/11/2012	2/25/2012
Vacancies	55.00	61.00	63.00	63.50
Vacancies less Mueller	43.00	49.00	51.00	51.50
Pay Period Ending	3/10/2012	3/24/2012	4/7/2012	4/21/2012
Vacancies	65.50	65.50	64.50	64.50
Vacancies less Mueller	53.50	53.50	52.50	52.50
Pay Period Ending	5/5/2012	5/19/2012	6/2/2012	6/16/2012
Vacancies	55.50	56.50	57.50	57.50
Vacancies less Mueller	43.50	44.50	45.50	45.50
Pay Period Ending	6/30/2012	7/14/2012	7/28/2012	
Vacancies	57.50	58.50	58.50	
Vacancies less Mueller	45.50	58.50	58.50	

STATESMAN INVESTIGATES: GOVERNMENT SPENDING

OT, drug costs cited in EMS budget overrun



Ralph Barnes/American-Statesman

Paramedics Wes Mooney, left, and Galen Wasem return to the Bee Cave station after a greenbelt rescue. Some EMS stations earlier this year ran solely on overtime workers because of a high number of vacancies.

City, county officials express dismay after learning figure may be as high as \$910,000

By Patrick George
pgeorge@statesman.com

For the first time in at least a dozen years, Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services will close out the fiscal year having exceeded its spending budget, in part because of increased overtime expenses caused by nearly 50 vacant ambulance worker positions and other costs, the American-Statesman has learned.

EMS Chief of Staff James Shamard said the agency could end the year as much as \$910,000 over its approximately \$49.5 million budget. Shamard called the number a worst-case projection.

"We will not know the final

number until sometime in October," when the budget year ends, he said.

In addition, for possibly the first time in the agency's history, EMS has asked Travis County — which annually funds part of the agency to send ambulances outside city limits — to pay an additional \$229,000 to help cover the shortfall.

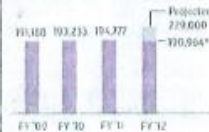
Travis County Emergency Services Manager Danny Hobby said he was notified of the shortage this month, something he said he's none too pleased with.

"I'm asking for complete justifications of why they're calling me at the end of the budget year," Hobby said. "This is not news I wanted to hear in August."

The vacancies caused several ambulance stations in the city and the county to be

Budget continues on A13

EMS overtime hours



* Through July. Fiscal year ends Sept. 30

Source: Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services

Robert Calade/American-Statesman

WATCHDOG COVERAGE

This story is part of the American-Statesman's continuing focus on public safety and taxpayer dollars. Previous reports included in-depth looks at gaps in ambulance and firetruck coverage, a staff shortage at Austin's 911 call center and Travis County's use of property tax overpayments.