



Response to Questions on the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008

Question: Please explain the County's take home vehicle policy. How many vehicles by department are taken home by County employees?

Response: The County take-home vehicle policy as listed in Procedural Memorandum No. 10-01: County Vehicle Use and Assignment Policies, Criteria and Procedures, is as follows:

Annually, each agency will assess its operational needs for take-home vehicles and submit their requirements, along with justifications, to the Director of Vehicle Services (DVS). Justifications must be specific to operating groups and/or individuals within the reporting agency. Requirements must list the vehicle number, the driver's name, a vehicle description, the number of call-outs during the past 12 months, and the city and state of the driver if their home is outside the county. The Director of DVS reviews each agency request to ensure compliance with the intent of policy. The requests are sent to the County Executive for approval.

It should be noted that in addition to the vehicles governed by the Countywide policy, the Police Department currently has 404 take-home vehicles which are allocated based on departmental policy. Police take-home vehicles are individually approved by the Chief based on defined criteria outlined in the recently updated Police take-home vehicle policy implemented in Spring 2008.

All Police take-home vehicles must meet or fall within one of three categories: on-call vehicles, which are provided to personnel assigned to on-call status expected to be en route to callback assignments within 30 minutes; stand by vehicles, which includes commanders and other personnel with a critical duty assignment and highly specialized skills; and special exemption vehicles, which are specifically authorized by the Chief based on the unique nature of an assignment and/or the purpose and design of the vehicle including undercover vehicles and K-9 units. Fairfax County does not staff all functions of the agency on a 24-7 basis. Instead, many positions of a specialized, technical, investigative, or command nature are given take-home vehicles in an effort to maintain 24-7 response capability while limiting cost to the taxpayer. This includes but is not limited to homicide detectives, narcotics detectives, senior detectives, and SWAT and other specialized teams.

The following chart summarizes approved take-home vehicles for FY 2009 by agency:

FY 2009
Approved Take-Home Vehicles:

Department	Daily Take-Home Vehicles	Assigned Motorized Fleet to Agency	% of Motorized Fleet
Police Department	404	1175	34.4%
Sheriff's Office	35	84	41.7%
Fire & Rescue	33	378	8.7%
Housing & Community Development	12	52	23.1%
Facilities Management	9	85	10.6%
Wastewater Collection	8	90	8.9%
Maintenance & Stormwater Management	3	79	3.8%
Public Safety Communications Center	3	4	75%
Solid Waste Disposal & Resource Recovery Division	2	95	2.1%
Solid Waste Collection & Recycling Division	2	83	2.1%
Department of Family Services	2	68	2.9%
Wastewater Treatment	1	31	3.2%
County Attorney	1	1	100%
Planning & Zoning	1	25	4.0%
Emergency Management	1	5	20%
Park Authority	1	188	<1%
TOTAL	518	2443	21.2%