

Fire and Rescue Department

92-05-Volunteers

Fund/Agency: 001/92	Fire and Rescue Department	
Personnel Services	\$250,359	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>CAPS Percentage of Agency Total</p> <p>1.0%</p> <p>99.0%</p> <p>■ Volunteers ■ All Other Agency CAPS</p> </div>
Operating Expenses	\$751,937	
Recovered Costs	\$0	
Capital Equipment	\$0	
Total CAPS Cost:	\$1,002,296	
Federal Revenue	\$0	
State Revenue	\$0	
User Fee Revenue	\$0	
Other Revenue	\$0	
Total Revenue:	\$0	
Net CAPS Cost:	\$1,002,296	
Positions/SYE involved in the delivery of this CAPS	2/2	

► CAPS Summary

The goal of the volunteer section is to provide coordination and access to the personnel, equipment, and facilities of the 12 Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs) for the Fire and Rescue Department (FRD) in order to enhance the delivery of emergency medical and fire services in Fairfax County.

Fire and Rescue Department

The 12 Volunteer Fire Departments provide assistance to the FRD in three areas:

Operational Contributions: Volunteers are trained to the same standards as career professionals to assist with fire suppression and emergency medical services as part of a combined career/volunteer system. There are over 380 highly trained operational volunteers who are serving in the system, including 25 Paramedics. Volunteers provide service by placing additional units in service during peak service demand periods or by riding in a supplemental position on minimum staffed vehicles. Trained volunteers provide stand-by medical assistance at multiple events including Celebrate Fairfax, Herndon Festival, Wolf Trap performances, community fairs and 10K runs, band competitions, high school all night graduation parties, and high school football games. In addition, volunteers staff canteen units that provide firefighter rehab at all multiple alarm fires and other incidents where personnel are on scene for extended periods or are subjected to weather extremes. A significant percentage of volunteers are choosing to become qualified as EMS-Only personnel. The EMS-Only program was instituted in 1998 to train qualified Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics to deliver medical services on ambulances and medic units.

Capital Facilities: Eleven of the County's 35 fire stations, valued at over \$36 million, are owned and maintained by the volunteer organizations. These include stations 2, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 22, and 23.

Apparatus: The 12 VFDs own over 40 percent of the FRD's major apparatus (63 units valued at \$10,700,000). They provide front-line units for 15 fire stations, including those stations owned by the VFDs as well as apparatus for stations 1, 21, 37, and 38. In addition to front-line units, VFDs own vehicles that may be placed in service by operational volunteers or used as part of the reserve fleet for any station in the County.

► **Method of Service Provision**

The Volunteer section is staffed by two merit positions and 54 limited term employees. The merit personnel are assigned to day work; however, there are frequent evening and weekend commitments in order to meet the availability of the community and VFD needs. Volunteer training is provided on evenings and weekends and it is taught by the limited-term staff as well as subject-matter experts from other divisions.

Fairfax County provides funding for training citizens who become volunteers through the Fire and Rescue Academy in order to ensure that all volunteers meet local, state, and national standards. Operational volunteers are provided the same protective clothing as career personnel. In addition, the County contributes \$25,000 per station each year as payment against the principal for one apparatus loan. In return, the County has access to all volunteer-owned apparatus and the volunteer-owned stations.

Note: All the costs of providing support to the volunteer system, and the 54 limited-term staff are included in the fiscal component of this CAPS. In order to more accurately depict the efforts required to attain and maintain volunteer training certification, training-related data are shown in Training CAPS detail.

Fire and Rescue Department

► Performance/Workload Related Data

Objectives:

- To recruit 120 new, qualified volunteers annually and to maintain the percentage of new volunteers who are active at the end of one year at 60 percent.
- To increase the utilization of operationally qualified volunteer personnel by 2 percent annually in order to enhance service delivery toward a target of 70,000 hours.

Title	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Actual	FY 2001 Estimate	FY 2002 Estimate
Cost per volunteer recruit	\$6.67	\$6.67	\$7.55	\$8.51	\$8.55
Average operational hours per recruit	240	240	240	240	240
Percent of contacts who join a VFD	18%	16%	17%	20%	20%
Percent of personnel who complete firefighter training	60%	60%	44%	60%	60%
New operations-qualified volunteers	96	110	116	120	120
Percent of new volunteers who are active in VFD at end of one year	50%	55%	55%	60%	60%
Percent change of volunteer participation based on service hours	2%	13%	(16%)	2%	2%

Note: In FY 2000, several active volunteer firefighters became career firefighters in the County and surrounding jurisdictions. This had a negative impact on operational participation at several VFDs.