

04-07-Communications Policy and Analysis

Fund/Agency: 105/04	Department of Cable Communications and Consumer Protection	
Personnel Services	\$226,879	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>CAPS Percentage of Agency Total</p> <p>1.7%</p> <p>98.3%</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> ■ Communications Policy and Analysis ■ All Other Agency CAPS </div> </div>
Operating Expenses	\$28,798	
Recovered Costs	\$0	
Capital Equipment	\$0	
Total CAPS Cost:	\$255,677	
Federal Revenue	\$0	
State Revenue	\$0	
User Fee Revenue	\$0	
Other Revenue	\$0	
Total Revenue:	\$0	
Net CAPS Cost:	\$255,677	
Positions/SYE involved in the delivery of this CAPS	0/2.5	

► CAPS Summary

Broadband Communications Policy, Analysis, and Development includes: developing testimony or drafting legislation for federal, state, and local telecommunications initiatives; analysis of, and participation in judicial broadband services proceeding that could significantly impact Fairfax County; the research and analysis of telecommunications topics as requested by the County Executive or Board of Supervisors; administering County conformance to related federal and state telecommunications statutes; coordinating County's response to telecommunications issues and actions; administration of non-County cable franchise requirements; supporting regional and state organizations on telecommunications issues; and, developing and negotiating video service franchises.

The passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, along with the intensive technological development of the telecommunications industry as a whole, continues to have a significant impact on the County and its citizens. The County has assumed a leadership role in this process at all federal, state and local governmental levels as is demonstrated by the following examples:

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- Developing testimony on congressional legislation, including amendments to the Communications Act, and Federal Communications Commission proposed regulations on the provision of broadband services ;
- Preparing drafts and participating in judicial proceedings, including cases involving the pass through of non-subscriber fees to subscribers and improved customer service standards;
- Assisting the National Association of Counties, the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators, and the National League of Cities in their development of telecommunications legislative positions and testimony on telecommunications issues;
- Developing rights-of-way management partnerships with the Virginia Department of Transportation and the local telecommunications construction industry;
- Providing legislative review of Virginia General Assembly telecommunications-related legislation;
- Providing leadership and position statements on telecommunications issues to the Washington, DC and Virginia Chapters of the Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, the Virginia Association of Counties, and the Virginia Municipal League;
- Conducting special studies for the County Executive, the Board and commissions (e.g., Consumer Protection Commission) on telecommunications issues such as:
 - telecommunications resources available in Fairfax County,
 - telecommunications management, regulation and enforcement best-practices,
 - cable operator's exclusive contracts with multi-dwelling unit owners, and
 - multiple system cable operator performance in other jurisdictions;
- Updating County Code Chapter 9.1, Communications, to promote competitive video services, incorporate customer service standards, conform with federal and state requirements, and keep pace with technological innovations that impact the County;
- Providing analysis of telecommunications market conditions and specific company investigations regarding new and transfer video service applicants;
- Administering a public, educational, and governmental access program among users such as Fairfax Cable Access Corporation, Fairfax County Public Schools, George Mason University, and Northern Virginia Community College;
- Manages County agencies' response and actions regarding Countywide telecommunications issues by serving as Chair of the County Telecommunications Committee;
- Providing telecommunications presentations to citizen associations and groups; and,
- Serving as the Communications Administrator on the Institutional Network Steering Committee.

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As the pace of telecommunications issues continue to increase, the County will be faced with both unforeseen and anticipated requirements. At the federal level, there is mounting pressure to reopen the Telecommunications Act of 1996, develop new initiatives to promote video services competition and manage rates, and create new wireless services (with the resulting antenna siting issues). At the state level, better methods of rights-of-way management need to be developed, local control over planning and zoning must be insured, and appropriate compensation for use of County property by current and new telecommunications providers required. The County will face the challenges of renewal proceedings for Comcast Communications, the solicitation of a competitive cable overbuilder, improving rights-of-way management, and other issues associated with the ongoing changes in telecommunications technology, the industry, and federal and state requirements.

► **Method of Service Provision**

Services are provided primarily by merit County employees, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Additional services are provided by exempt limited term County employees as required.

► **Performance/Workload Related Data**

The passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the wholesale revision of federal and state telecommunications legal and regulatory regime, and the intensive technological development of the telecommunications industry as a whole, has significantly added to the demand for this CAPS. The increase in demand for these services has been met through reassignment of position responsibilities with no additional positions added to the division.