



Response to Questions on the 2016 LOBs

Request By: Supervisor Herrity

Relevant LOB(s): LOB #294

Question: What is the E-911 Center spending per capita compared to other jurisdictions?

Response:

In order to answer this question, the Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC) solicited data via an online survey from the 12 National Capital Region (NCR) jurisdictions with 9-1-1 centers. DPSC only received complete responses from the following two jurisdictions:

- City of Alexandria, VA
- Arlington County, VA

From the data received, DPSC identified clear trends among local 9-1-1 agencies. Most NCR 9-1-1 agencies are part of another public safety agency and/or the technology utilized to operate the 9-1-1 center is managed and funded by separate Information Technology (IT) agencies. This is in contrast to the Fairfax County model which combines the public safety and IT components of the 9-1-1 system in a single fund. The centralized model Fairfax County utilizes provides advantages in efficiency and effectiveness compared to other 9-1-1 agencies with less autonomy.

In order to provide the most valid apples-to-apples per-capita spending comparison possible, DPSC compared personnel expenditures with the two 9-1-1 agencies that responded in full. This was done based on variability associated with non-personnel budgets in 9-1-1 agencies. Operating and capital budgets can vary significantly from year-to-year based on the amount/type of equipment being replaced/updated, the programmatic changes being implemented and other factors. The results of the comparison, which are summarized below, indicate that Fairfax County compares favorably to other NCR 9-1-1 agencies when comparing personnel spending per capita. It is important to note that the budget totals reflected below include salaries, overtime, and fringe benefits.

Jurisdiction	FY 2016 Personnel Budget	CY 2015 Population ¹	Personnel Budget per Capita
Arlington County, VA	\$6,721,335	229,164	\$29.33
City of Alexandria, VA	\$3,899,130	153,511	\$25.40
Fairfax County	\$23,871,204	1,142,234	\$20.90

¹ Population totals are based on the United States Census Bureau population estimates for July 1, 2015.