

Response to Questions on the FY 2006 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Chairman Connolly

Question: Under the PC Replacement Fund program, how often are personal computers replaced? What are the implications and cost savings associated with delaying replacement by one year?

Response: Under the PC Replacement Fund program, personal computers are replaced every four years. This is in line with the industry standard for desktop computers and has proven to be both an efficient and effective timeframe for replacement, as confirmed in a recent study conducted by staff. The study indicated that extending the replacement period would result in: an increased cost to maintain the compatibility between software and hardware; an increased security risk, to include virus management as the older software, may prevent the machine from receiving security updates and ultimately compromising the entire network security program; and may have a detrimental consequence on the productivity of County users as the older machines are outdated and out-of-warranty, requiring hands-on assistance when they break and/or require maintenance.