

Response to Questions on the FY 2005 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Chairman Connolly

Question: What is the impact of proposed federal cuts to the COPS program on both Fairfax County's existing COPS awards as well as any current or future applications as part of the COPS program?

Response: Lower Federal appropriations to the COPS program will not impact COPS grants already awarded and accepted by the County. In addition, the Fairfax County Police Department does not have any current applications for COPS funding on file with the Department of Justice pending a decision of award. Therefore, there will be no impact to such proposals.

The Federal appropriations included in Public Law 108-199, signed on January 23, 2004, do not include funding that will allow the Police Department to apply for additional supplements of COPS Universal Hiring Program or COPS in Schools grants for the establishment of positions for newly sworn officers. However, it should be noted that the Police Department will have the opportunity to accept funds for certain future COPS-related grants as appropriated under Public Law 108-199, as noted below:

- An amount of \$395,791 has been earmarked for the County's participation in the \$158,407,000 Law Enforcement Technology Program. No Local Cash Match is required in order to take advantage of this opportunity.

The Police Department may also have the opportunity to apply for certain other COPS-related grants as appropriated under the same law:

- An amount of \$10,000,000 will provide jurisdictions selected through a competitive application process with awards to support Police Integrity initiatives. The Police Department currently participates in this program, which under provisions of the existing \$125,000 grant requires no Local Cash Match. The Department anticipates that continuation funds will be available.
- An amount of \$85,000,000 will provide jurisdictions selected through a competitive application process with awards to support a COPS Interoperable Communications Program. This program is very likely to include grants that will provide an opportunity to the Police Department, the Office of Emergency Management or both. It is not yet known whether programs under this appropriation will require the provision of a Local Cash Match.

In total, seven COPS Universal Hiring Program grants and two COPS In Schools grants have already been awarded and accepted by the County. Several of these grants are still active, however when they are all complete, these COPS grants will have provided over \$18.6 million in funding to support the hiring of 226 officers. It should be noted that the County has provided over \$48.2 million in Local Cash Match to secure this grant funding.