

## Response to Questions on the FY 2008 Advertised Budget Plan

**Request By:** Supervisor DuBois

**Question:** What is the revenue being recovered by Fairfax County during FY 2007 through the Ambulance Transport insurance reimbursement program? How many or what percentage of transports remain unreimbursed? To what revenue fund are these reimbursements applied?

**Response:** The *FY 2007 Revised Budget Plan* estimate for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Transport Billing fees is \$10,422,211, an increase of 2 percent over FY 2006 collections of \$10,217,854 based on a projected rise in the number of transports. In FY 2006, the net collection rate was 69 percent. The net collection rate indicates how much revenue the County receives as a percentage of total billed less any contractual adjustments such as those associated with Medicare and Medicaid. It also takes into account co-payment and hardship waivers. The County's net collection rate of 69 percent is comparable to other large jurisdictions that bill for EMS Transport services. A similar net collection rate is anticipated for both FY 2007 and FY 2008. There are current accounts which are in various stages of reimbursement. Open accounts range from co-pays as little as \$5 to pending payments from commercial insurance companies, Medicare and Medicaid. The processing time for payment to the County also varies from several weeks to up 12 months. It should be noted that since the EMS Transport Billing began in April 2005, 3,919 accounts have been written off as bad debt while 899 have received hardship waivers under the County's compassionate billing policy. The total number of EMS transports to date is 85,192. Revenue from EMS Transport billing fees is posted to the General Fund and is projected to be \$10,630,655 in FY 2008.