

## Response to Questions on the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008

**Request By:** Chairman Connolly

**Question:** Please discuss cost sharing options with regards to Police helicopter operations in the region.

**Response:** The Police Department can charge other jurisdictions an hourly rate based on the average cost per hour of helicopter fuel and maintenance by taking the following steps:

1. Set up a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with surrounding jurisdiction.
2. Charge a flat hourly rate based on the annual average per flight hour cost for fuel consumption and maintenance. Currently, this would be \$437 per hour.
3. Average 90 hours x \$437 = \$39,330\* per year. This does not include: the City of Fairfax, Town of Herndon, and Town of Vienna.

\* Based on Calendar Year 2007 activity. Requests for assistance may be reduced by this action, thereby producing less revenue.

It should be noted that the current MOUs with other jurisdictions in the region provide for sharing of resources, but do not provide for reimbursement of costs. Instead, localities have been able to share resources and special units on a mutual aid basis. This has been helpful both for localities that do not have a particular specialized team, as well as when existing resources are currently tied up responding to another incident.

While Fairfax County is currently the only locality in Northern Virginia that has a Police helicopter, implementing a charge for services could potentially alter the nature of MOUs in the region. More staff resources may be needed depending on the ultimate level of chargeback activity.