

## **Response to Questions on the FY 2012 Budget**

**Request By:** Supervisor Gross

**Question:** Please provide an update on the removal from service of BLS units including the impact on ambulance fee revenues.

**Response:** On February 28, 2011, Ambulance 408 and Ambulance 409 converted to peak staffing units. As peak staffing units they operate from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, seven days a week. At 7:00 pm each evening, these units go out of service and personnel staffing the units are reassigned to offset overtime. This occurs on an as-needed basis and fluctuates depending on each day's callback requirements. If callback is not required on a particular day, it is possible these units will remain in service for the full 24 hours.

The Fire and Rescue Department (FRD) has seen no negative impact on revenue received for Ambulance Billing as a result of this conversion and does not anticipate a negative impact in the future. When determining which units to convert to peak staffing, potential loss of revenue was taken into consideration. In order to minimize the need for mutual aid response from Arlington and Alexandria, which would result in revenue loss, Ambulance 410 and Ambulance 411 remain 24-hour units.

In addition, after accounting for the days Ambulance 408 and Ambulance 409 are left in service for the full 24 hour period, the potential for lost revenue is reduced dramatically. Volunteer companies are also filling the void when possible by placing units in service during this time frame. However, volunteer units cannot be relied upon to consistently staff units during this time frame, as their ability to do so is dependent upon personnel availability.

Although FRD does not anticipate any loss of revenue due to peak staffing, the situation will continue to be monitored closely.