

## Response to Questions on the FY 2012 Budget

**Request By:** Supervisor Foust

**Question:** What efforts are being implemented to reduce costs by utilizing technology such as teleconferencing to reduce intra-county travel for county employee meetings? What is the County's policy with respect to the number of employees who attend any meeting and how are the attendees selected?

**Response:** Several agencies utilize technology such as teleconferencing to both save costs and improve employee productivity.

As part of the Courthouse Technology Project arraignments can now be done via videoconference. This capability eliminates the need for the Office of the Sheriff to physically move inmates from the Adult Detention Center to the Courthouse for arraignments and also has enabled remote arraignments from jurisdictions across the state saving staff time, reducing travel requirements and costs and improving courthouse security.

Other uses of this technology include:

- The Department of Human Services Administration, Department of Family Services and Community Services Board have implemented video teleconferencing to conduct business between different agency locations in the County and with the state as needed,
- Public Safety agencies (Fire Department and Police Department) also use teleconferencing to communicate with staff stationed at various locations, and
- Most National Capital Area (NCR) meetings are conducted using video or teleconferencing, thus Fairfax County staff can participate in regional meetings without travel to various sites across the region.

A specific County policy pertaining to the number of employees attending a meeting and how those attendees are selected does not exist. It is at the discretion of the Agency Director or his/her designee to determine the appropriate number and mix of employees to bring to a particular meeting.