

Response to Questions on the FY 2013 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Cook

Question: Excluding Public Safety, on average, how many County vehicles are unused each day, broken down by Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), Park Authority, and Other County Vehicles?

Response: The Department of Vehicle Services (DVS) does not track daily vehicle use, nor is it required for agencies to track *daily* vehicle use. While daily vehicle use is not monitored, the county does track *overall utilization by vehicle* to ensure that the fleet includes only vehicles that are required and used. On an annual basis, in accordance with Procedural Memorandum 10-06, the Fleet Utilization Management Committee (FUMC) performs a low utilization analysis identifying vehicles driven less than 4,500 miles per year. FCPS, Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department vehicles, and certain highly specialized vehicles are exempt from this analysis. However, public safety vehicles used for administrative purposes are included. This analysis includes each vehicle in the fleet, and requests that agencies justify the need for vehicles with low utilization. Vehicles without sufficient justification are recommended to be turned in as excess. Since FY 2004, 189 vehicles have either been turned in as excess or reassigned based on this review.

Notwithstanding the fact that daily vehicle use is not widely tracked, DVS requested agencies to provide information on the number of unused vehicles they have each day. Here is information based on the responses received.

FCPS: FCPS reported that they do not track vehicles that are unused each day. However, they indicated that the only time a bus would be unused would be while it is in the shop for service or repair. During these times a spare bus would be in use in its place.

Park Authority (FCPA): FCPA reported that less than 5 percent of their fleet of vehicles might go unused each day on average. That equates to approximately 9 vehicles. The FCPA said that most of their vehicles are motor pool vehicles not assigned to individuals. This allows them to be available for use on a daily basis. The exception is vans assigned to tradesmen (electricians, plumbers, painters, etc.). These vehicles are equipped with specialized tools for those staff members. These vehicles are used on a daily basis unless those employees are on vacation or out sick.

Other County Vehicles: Based on responses from other county agencies, an estimated total of 110 vehicles might go unused each day on average; however, approximately 80 of the 110 vehicles are assigned to DPWES, supporting Solid Waste, Stormwater, Land Development Services, and Wastewater. Many of these vehicles are specialized vehicles that are used for specific purposes such as support of sewage line repair/maintenance. Vehicles of this nature are used frequently but not every day. In addition, certain other specialized vehicles are used seasonally, such as those for yard debris pickup in the spring or leaf collection in the fall.

Like the Park Authority, some other agencies also have vehicles assigned to specific tradesmen and carrying specialized tools and supplies. Those vehicles may go unused on a day the assigned user is sick or on vacation. In addition, all agencies will experience some downtime for a small percentage of vehicles requiring maintenance or repair.