

Response to Questions on the FY 2013 Budget

Request By: Supervisors Hyland and Foust

Question: Please provide additional background on the Police Department's cadet program, including the cost of restoration. Please include the revenue associated with the fingerprinting function the cadets provide in this analysis.

Response: The cadet program, which currently consists of 5/5.0 SYE positions, and minimal associated Operating Expenses, provides law enforcement training and experience to persons between the ages of 18 and 20 at the time of appointment who are interested in pursuing a career with the Fairfax County Police Department. Cadets provide administrative and logistical support in key areas while being introduced to career opportunities in law enforcement.

The elimination of this program would result in the loss of opportunity to recruit young persons into the field of law enforcement for the Department. Diversity recruiting will be impacted, along with the loss of cadets for proactive law enforcement operations such as alcohol sting operations. Customer service at the Central Records Office will be adversely impacted, including the elimination of background fingerprinting services currently available to the public. These fingerprinting services generate an estimated \$130,000 in revenue annually.

Further, if the cadet program is eliminated, police officers will be required to perform routine tasks that cadets normally complete, such as transporting property, evidence and assisting with maintaining the vehicle fleet at a higher cost. In addition, the Virginia State Police require Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN) validation, a time-consuming task, which would be impacted by the lack of cadet staffing.

It should be noted that as part of the Lines of Business review in FY 2010, a total elimination of this program was proposed; however, the Board instead chose to reduce the program from a previous level of 9/9.0 SYE positions to its current level of 5/5.0 SYE positions.

The net cost to fully restore the cadet program is \$154,010. This is calculated by restoring an amount of \$284,010 in the Police Department, partially offset by restoring the \$130,000 in General Fund revenue that will be generated through fingerprinting services.

Alternative restoration options include reducing the 5/5.0 SYE positions from full time to 32-hours-per-week at a net cost of \$97,210. This would restore \$227,210 in Police Department expenditures partially offset by the \$130,000 in revenue generated through fingerprinting services. Another option is to eliminate the 5/5.0 SYE positions and replace them with "B" Status positions at a net cost of \$83,010. This option would restore \$213,010 in Police Department expenditures partially offset by the \$130,000 in revenue generated through fingerprinting services.