

Response to Questions on the FY 2015 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Herrity

Question: The Budget Consideration Item reduction “*Reduce communication positions over two years by 25 percent*” has been requested. Provide a summary of the reduction including the impact it would have.

Response: Fairfax County has a total of 56 positions that perform communication related activities. Of this total, 48 are funded by the General Fund. The total cost of these positions, including both salary and benefits, is slightly over \$5.2 million. As a result, a 25 percent reduction, phased in over a period of two years, would generate savings of \$1.3 million when fully realized. It is unclear that this reduction could be achieved through natural attrition over the two year period.

A reduction of this size would have a significant impact on County operations and, ultimately, communications with the public and employees. It would impede the timely publication of emergency information (such as during the derecho, Hurricane Sandy, multiple major snowstorms, etc.) and affect the number of platforms that could be used, an important consideration in today’s multichannel/multimedia world. This reduction would also impact the County’s ability to provide strategic communications; coordinate media relations efforts; publish quality website content (and meet ADA requirements); promote/market events and issues of interest to the community; and, deliver information on mobile devices. In addition, employee communications, which are critical to the success of an organization, would be impacted both within agencies and countywide as a result of this reduction.