

Fire and Rescue Department

Lines of Business

LOB #223:

OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

Purpose

The Fire Chief in collaboration with the Assistant Chief of the Business Services Bureau, the Assistant Chief of the Operations Bureau, and the Assistant Chief of the Personnel Services Bureau comprise the senior leadership team that formulates the overall mission of the FRD, articulating its vision, and establishing the framework for the organization.

Also reporting to the Office of the Fire Chief is the Intelligence Analyst, the Metro Liaison, and the Public Information Office (as discussed in LOB #224).

Description

The Fire Chief is the highest ranking uniform member of the Fire and Rescue Department (FRD). The Office of the Fire Chief directs the overall policy, planning and management of the department with the goal of ensuring efficient daily operation of the Fire and Rescue Department (FRD) as well as to provide leadership and vision to the organization in order to focus on innovation and resource optimization.

The *Regional Intelligence* function supports the National Capital Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC), a collaborative effort, in a dedicated facility, between various local, state and federal agencies to share information, resources and expertise. These combined resources are used to combat security threats and prevent, detect, and deter criminal acts.

The *Metro Liaison* works in Metro's Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC) where train controllers monitor the subway in real time. The Liaisons role is to assist the transit agency and firefighters avoid communication confusion during emergencies.

Benefits

Identifying and communicating a clear vision is one of the most important functions in an organization. A clear, shared vision helps define the values of FRD and helps guide the behavior of all employees. A strong vision also leads to improved productivity and efficiency.

The Office of the Fire Chief recently lead the department's initiative of undergoing the Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification (PPC). The PPC Program reviews the fire prevention and overall fire suppression capabilities of communities. The Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) considers three main areas of the community's fire suppression system: emergency communications, fire department (including operational considerations), water supply, and community risk reduction (fire prevention, fire safety education, and fire investigations).

The PPC plays a vital role in calculating and underwriting insurance premiums for residents, property owners, and businesses located in Fairfax County. Most insurance companies use PPC information as an integral part of deciding what businesses to underwrite, what types of coverage to offer, and overall premium costs.

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The PPC is critical to both the community and the fire and rescue department. With an improved PPC, residents and businesses may receive lower insurance premiums, and departments receive valuable benchmarks, helping to measure program effectiveness, and plan for future improvements.

After months of data collection, analysis, and testing, the Insurance Services Office rated Fairfax County a Public Protection Classification (PPC) of 01/1Y, the highest rating in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The NCRIC collects, evaluates, analyzes, and disseminates information and intelligence data regarding criminal and terrorist activity in the National Capital Region. Information and intelligence data is collected, integrated, evaluated and analyzed for dissemination to the NVRIC members of the law enforcement and public safety communities responsible for the prevention, mitigation, and response to crime and terrorism.

Participation in the ROCC allows FRD the opportunity to be able to provide critical information in the first couple of minutes of an incident improving response.

Mandates

This Line of Business is not mandated.

Trends and Challenges

The Fire Chief's objective to provide the highest quality services to protect the community is being challenged daily by economic realities negatively impacting County financial resources, continuing increases in regular operating costs, dwindling opportunities for alternative funding sources, expanding unfunded mandates, and increasing competition for qualified employees. To successfully meet challenges posed by increasing urbanization and a more densely populated response area, the department must continue to be progressive in efforts to achieve economies of scale through regional cooperation, seek out innovative methods for keeping pace with technology, sustain programs to maintain a healthy workforce and adjust staffing configurations to meet the needs of a growing County.

The NCRIC and ROCC are valuable collaborations for residents and the agencies working together to ensure the safety of the community. It is expected current resources dedicated to these initiatives will remain flat unless

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Resources

Category	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted
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FUNDING			
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Compensation	\$579,342	\$569,598	\$564,138
Operating Expenses	168,796	172,003	142,261
Capital Equipment	6,715	0	0
Total Expenditures	\$754,853	\$741,601	\$706,399
General Fund Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost/(Savings) to General Fund	\$754,853	\$741,601	\$706,399
POSITIONS			
<i>Authorized Positions/Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</i>			
<u>Positions:</u>			
Regular	4 / 4	6 / 6	6 / 6
Total Positions	4 / 4	6 / 6	6 / 6

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Metrics

Metric Indicator	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Estimate
Number of officers attending professional development courses	52	73	80	80	80
Hours dedicated towards regional terrorism prevention and awareness	2,080	2,080	2,080	2,080	2,080

Officer development is a department initiative to prepare officers at various levels for future career advancement while giving them the leadership skills to excel in their current position. FRD uses a combination of County offered training and in-house departmental training to accomplish this initiative. Examples include:

- Leadership Fairfax Institute
- Emerging Leaders Institute
- Leadership Development Institute
- Virginia Fire Officers Association
- Horse Sense
- WestPoint Leadership
- Fire Chief Office Internship
- Middle Managers Roundtable
- County Executive Coaching/Mentoring Program

The mission of the Northern Virginia Regional Intelligence Center (NVRIC) is to collect, evaluate, analyze, and disseminate information and intelligence data regarding criminal and terrorist activity in the National Capital Region while following Fair Information Practices to ensure the rights and privacy of individuals and organizations. The information and intelligence data collected, integrated, evaluated and analyzed is disseminated to the NVRIC members of the law enforcement and public safety communities responsible for the prevention, mitigation, and response to crime and terrorism.

FRD supports the efforts of the NVRIC through the support of one full-time position. It is expected this will remain constant in the future unless actions warrant change.