



## Response to Questions on the 2016 LOBs

**Request By:** Supervisor Herrity

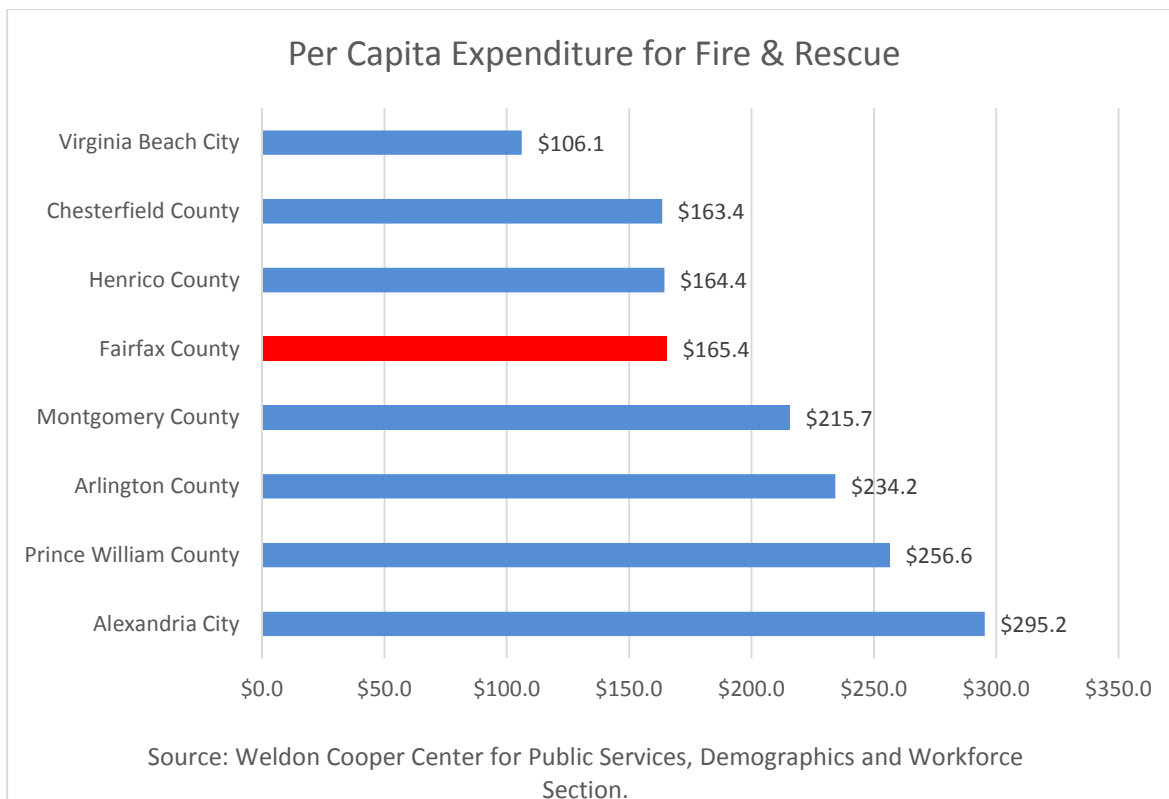
**Relevant LOB(s):** LOBs #223, #232, #233, #240

**Question:** Provide benchmark metrics showing per capita expenditures, response times, and manager-to-firefighter ratios.

**Response:**

### Per Capita Expenditures

Per Capita expenditures reflected below represent FY 2016 Adopted Budget levels as reported in the various jurisdictions' budget divided by population as reported by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Services, Demographics and Workforce Section. It is important to note that administrative differences exist impacting localities budget totals and published data does not clearly disclose every category of funding included. Therefore it may be assumed the chart is not a perfect comparison as some budgets may include fringe benefits or capital replacement, and some organizations are primarily career while others may be primarily volunteer. However, the primary functions are generally the same making comparisons relevant. Based on this comparison, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FRD) ranks the fourth lowest when compared to the other jurisdictions.





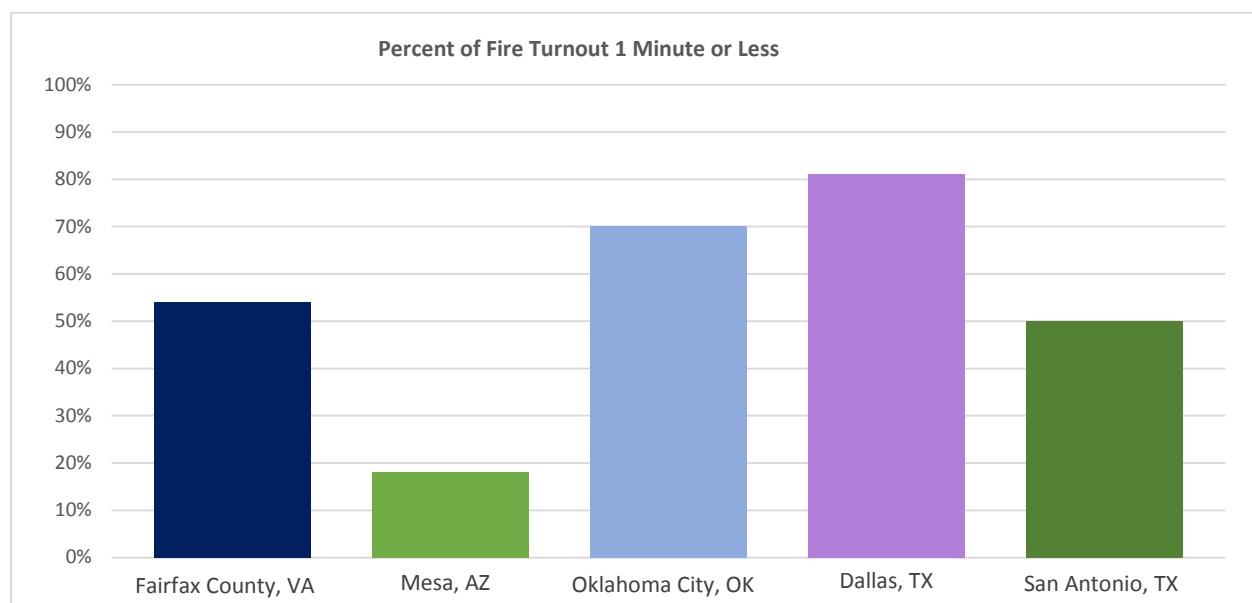
## Response Times

FRD uses National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) metrics as benchmark standards in conjunction with other internal metrics to evaluate system performance. Benchmark response time metrics include: Automated External Defibrillator (AED) response rate within 5 minutes, Advanced Life Support (ALS) Transport unit on scene within 9 minutes, first engine company on scene of a structure fire within 5 minutes and 20 seconds, and deployment of a full effective firefighting force on the scene of a structure fire within 9 minutes and 20 seconds. The goal of these standards is to achieve the response times with 90 percent reliability ensuring response time standards are consistently met.

Even though FRD performs response analysis according to national and international standards, the department also engages within the International City/Council Management Association (ICMA) by reporting requested fire department statistics. Participation in ICMA reporting enables FRD to compare response time metrics with comparably sized jurisdictions. Illustrated in the graphs below are ICMA metrics from the latest submission (FY 2014) relevant to fire department performance. Please note, although ICMA provides definitions on what information should be included and excluded, there may be variability in how individual subscribing agencies calculate each metric. ICMA elements are similar to NFPA; however, some metrics include/exclude certain incident types therefore ICMA data may diverge from that reported in the County's performance measures and throughout the budget process.

### Fire Turnout Less than one minute

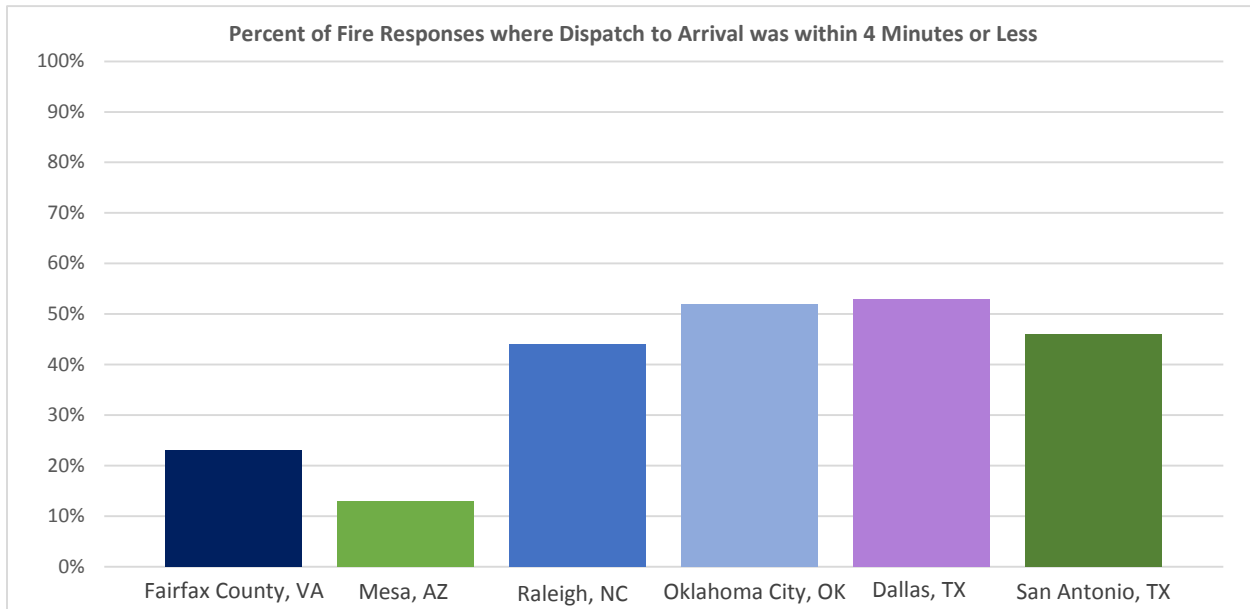
The graph below illustrates the percent of time turnout (dispatch to enroute) was less than one minute for fire incidents. Comparatively FRD performs moderately well with room to improve. The improvements and investments FRD makes in technology such as Automated Voice Dispatch/WestNet station alerting, are aimed at improving turnout times.





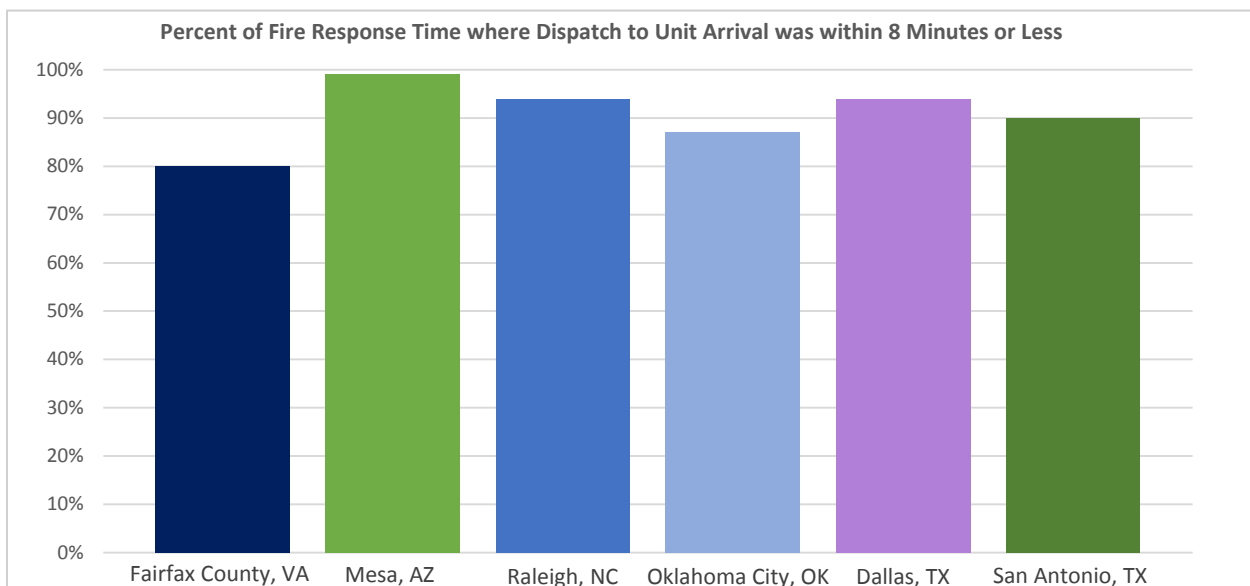
#### Fire Dispatch to Arrival within four minutes

The graph below illustrates the percent of fire incident responses where dispatch to arrival on scene was within four minutes. Compared to the NFPA standard none of the agencies reporting to ICMA achieved a travel time of four minutes 90 percent of the time. However, other agencies highlighted were able to achieve a travel time within four minutes 40 to 50 percent of the time. The DC-MD-VA area continues to be plagued with bad traffic congestion which requires FRD to look for innovative ways to improve travel times. Initiatives, such as traffic preemption, are aimed at improving both firefighter and citizen safety as well as improving response times.



#### Fire Dispatch to Arrival within eight minutes

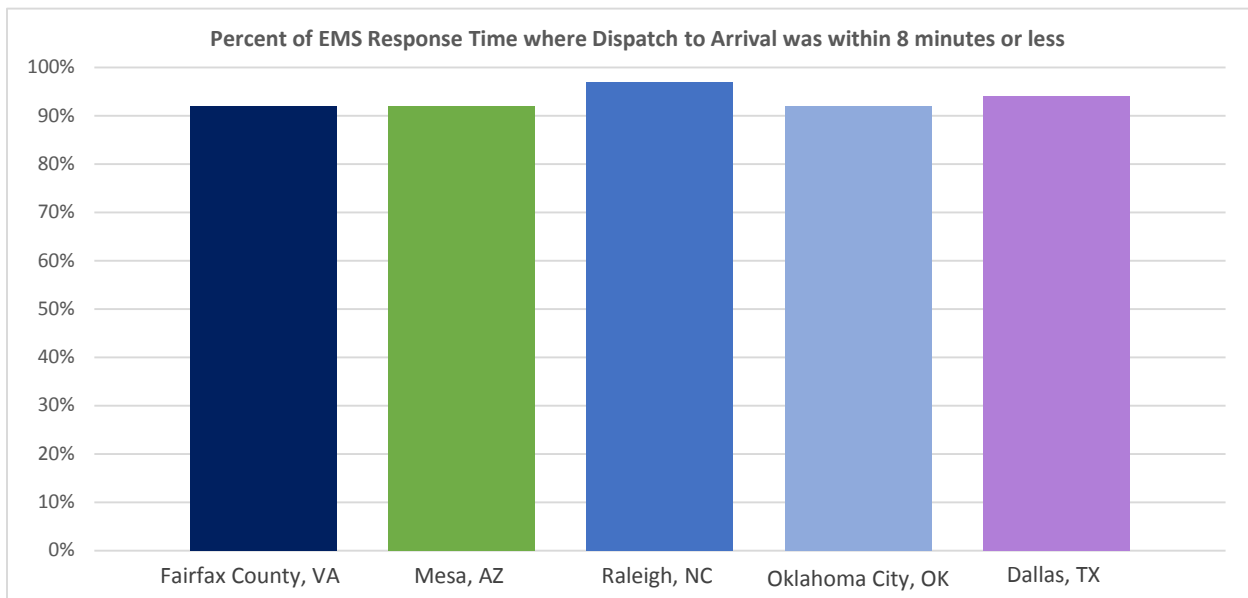
The graph below illustrates the percent of fire incident responses where dispatch to arrival on scene was within eight minutes. The graph illustrates that 80 percent of the time the first unit, from dispatch to enroute, arrives within eight minutes in Fairfax County.





### EMS Dispatch to Arrival within eight minutes

This metric was a new ICMA request for FY 2014 and the graph below illustrates how FRD compares to other jurisdictions. Most jurisdictions are able to get the first unit on the scene of an EMS incident within 8 minutes. The benchmark standard FRD strives to meet is the NFPA standard to have the first arriving unit with an AED on the scene in under 5 minutes and the first transport unit on scene in under 9 minutes because of the research that has linked both early defibrillation and rapid transport to positive patient outcomes.



### Manager-to-Firefighter Ratios

FRD strives to achieve optimal span of control standards for field operations. The International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA), an organization comprised of technical experts dedicated to developing and upgrading firefighting techniques and safety through training, is the curriculum prescribed to by Fairfax County for training firefighters. IFSTA states that any officer can effectively supervise or manage only a certain number of individuals or groups ranging from 3 to 7, with 5 being optimum.

Field Operations personnel presently operate with a manager to firefighter ratio of 1:6.58. Managers are defined as employees at the rank of Captain I or higher. Based on the IFSTA standard, FRD is within an acceptable span of control range, albeit at the higher end. Research by staff has revealed that no existing documentation is presently available with which to measure FRD against other departments; however, FRD has reached out to fire service professional organizations in an attempt to assess whether there is a mechanism for gathering data on this metric. Should FRD gain additional metrics, follow-up information will be provided.