

## Response to Questions on the FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan

**Request By:** Supervisor Herrity

**Question:** What would be the impact of eliminating the third Assistant Fire Chief position that was added a few years ago? What would be the savings if this position were eliminated?

**Response:** In FY 2007 the Fire and Rescue Department (FRD) reorganized its senior level executive positions to create three bureaus in response to span of control shortfalls for daily management due to departmental growth and an increase in FRD responsibilities. The existing two agency sectors, Field Operations and Administration were divided into three bureaus: Operations, Personnel Services, and Business Services and a third Assistant Fire Chief position was created by abolishing an existing Deputy Chief position.

Prior to the reorganization, FRD's senior management structure placed significant supervisory and oversight burden on the Fire Chief, as he was the first line supervisor for a number of agency sections: public information and life safety, equal employment opportunity and affirmative action, women's programs, and Volunteer liaison. These daily responsibilities required significant time and hands-on management – responsibilities that are now handled more efficiently by an Assistant Fire Chief, freeing the Fire Chief to devote his time more appropriately to strategic issues such as fire industry initiatives and standards, preparedness and response strategies, and participating in and representing Fairfax County on local, regional, state, and national initiatives and task forces.

The elimination of an Assistant Fire Chief position would save the County \$169,342, not including fringe benefits, however it would eliminate appropriate department oversight, control and strategic planning initiatives.