

Response to Questions on the FY 2014 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Herrity

Question: When grant funding expires, what happens to the associated grant positions?

Response: The Board of Supervisors approves all grant positions either through a Board item or as part of the Third Quarter or Carryover Review packages. Prior to submitting a grant position to the Board for approval, the Department of Management and Budget (DMB) reviews the position request to confirm the grant funding will cover the anticipated cost of the position. Additionally, DMB reviews the length of the grant award, as well as the agency's ability to place the incumbent in a General Fund merit position should grant funding expire.

Board of Supervisors policy also states that the County is under no obligation to continue funding grant positions when grant funding expires. Therefore, when all grant funding has been expended, the grant is formally closed by the Board of Supervisors as part of the Third Quarter or Carryover Review Packages and any associated grant positions are abolished. However, grant employees are afforded the same protections as all merit employee; therefore, if the grant position is filled at the time grant funding has been expended, the employee is moved into an existing vacant General Fund position, rather than instituting a Reduction in Force.

There have been instances where the Board has decided to continue funding positions previously paid for with grant dollars. In these instances, the grant positions are converted to merit positions in the General Fund. For example, as part of the FY 2009 Adopted Budget Plan, funding was included to support the conversion of 4/4.0 FTE grant positions to merit positions in the Police Department to continue the P'CASO (Protecting Children Against Sex Offenders) program. These positions conduct criminal investigations of Internet-based child exploitation, aggressively monitor Fairfax County sex offenders, enforce Virginia Sex Offender Registry requirements, and provide educational programs to raise community awareness of the risks of child exploitation. Without the General Fund support, this program would have been terminated.

Looking ahead, it is currently anticipated that grant funding received in support of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force is ending. This funding primarily supports 2/2.0 FTE grant positions in the Police Department. Sufficient grant funding has been identified for these positions through FY 2014; however, it is anticipated that no additional grant funding will be available in FY 2015 and beyond. Therefore, if the Board directed that this work continue, funding would be necessary and 2/2.0 FTE grant positions would need to be converted to General Fund merit positions.