

Response to Questions on the FY 2019 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Herrity

Question: Please provide the market value of the Channel 16 bus, the annual cost of operations and source of funding for the bus, and the uses of the bus.

Response:

Fairfax County Government Channel 16 operates a remote production vehicle to extend multi-camera studio production programming into the field. The current production vehicle is a 2007 TecNec 20' Mobile Video and Audio Production Trailer towed by a 2003 Ford Explorer. The production trailer was purchased in FY 2007 for \$16,495 and outfitted with standard definition television production equipment valued at \$84,349 and supplemented with additional cameras from the Channel 16 studios as needed.

In FY 2017 the Department of Vehicle Services recommended that, given the weight of production equipment in the trailer, the age of the trailer, and the towing capacity of the Ford Explorer, Channel 16 replace the production trailer with a motorized production vehicle. As part of the annual budget process, the Department of Cable and Consumer Services developed a multi-year plan to fund the replacement of the remote production trailer. Capital equipment funding in the amounts of \$114,000 in FY 2016; \$120,000 in FY 2017; and \$218,000 in FY 2018 were identified to support the procurement and integration of cameras and camera control units, character generators, terminal equipment, and a production switcher in the new production vehicle. Funding for the project was approved as part of Cable Communications' PEG capital access grant of \$350,000 annually which is designated for video replacement equipment.

The Department of Vehicle Services identified a County vehicle (2002 Freightliner step van) scheduled for surplus and transferred the vehicle to the department at no cost. Using the previously approved funds, Channel 16 is outfitting the vehicle with high definition television production equipment consistent with the channel's digital transition and high definition road map. Channel 16 plans to put the new vehicle into service before the end of the current fiscal year. DCCS will surplus the current production trailer.

Annual cost of operations for the new vehicle will remain consistent with the current annual cost of approximately \$36,000, of which \$34,000 is associated personnel costs and \$2,000 is associated operating cost (fuel, maintenance, and repair). Funding for the annual cost of operations is included within the annual budget appropriation for Communications Productions which is supported by revenue received from local cable operators through franchise agreements and the Communications Sales and Use Tax. The operation of the remote production vehicle has no fiscal impact to the County General Fund.

Using the new production vehicle, Channel 16 will continue to provide remote production services of town meetings and summer concerts, and will increase television coverage of events throughout Fairfax County.