



“...balance the County’s commitment to transparency and openness while ensuring the protection of the County’s privacy and security interests...”

– Countywide FOIA Policy

The Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA) is the state law governing access by citizens of Virginia, and representatives of the media, to public records and to meetings of public bodies. VFOIA provides that, with some specific exemptions and exceptions, all meetings of public bodies shall be open to the public and all public records open for public inspection.



VFOIA requires public bodies to respond to FOIA requests within 5 business days.

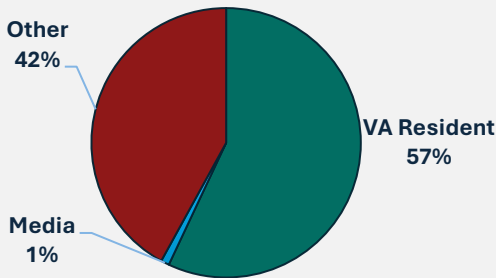


Fairfax County tracks VFOIA requests received by all Fairfax County agencies and Board of Supervisors’ offices with the VFOIA Tracker application.



VFOIA contains exemptions that allow agencies to withhold exempt information. Other laws require that Fairfax County withhold certain information.

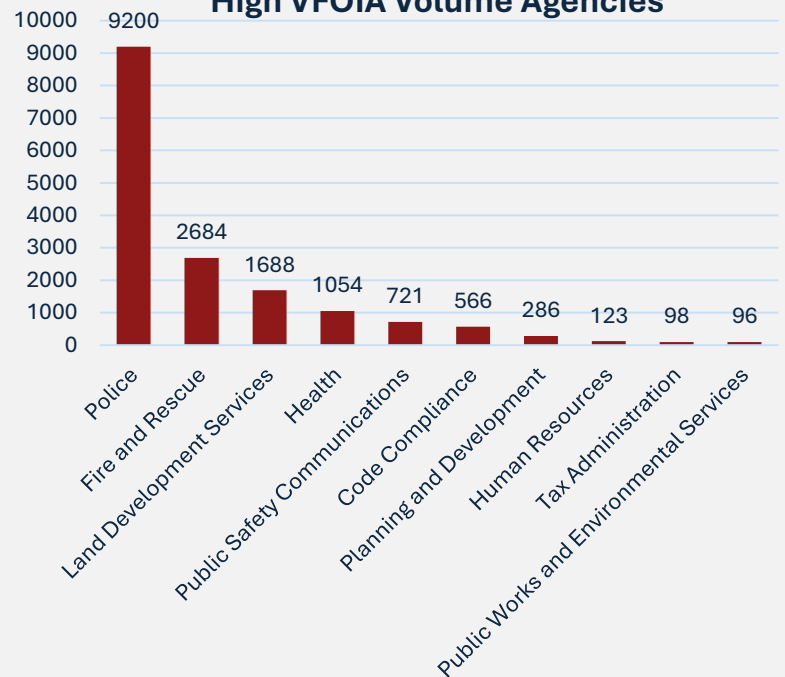
Requesters



Frequently Requested Records

911 Calls and Police Reports	Fire/EMS Incident Reports	Contractor Bids and Proposals
Environmental Inspections	County Employee Salary Information	Delinquent Real Estate Tax List
Traffic Calming Study Tally Results	Emails and Text Messages	Voter Registration Information

High VFOIA Volume Agencies





FOIA Fees

\$133,579.39

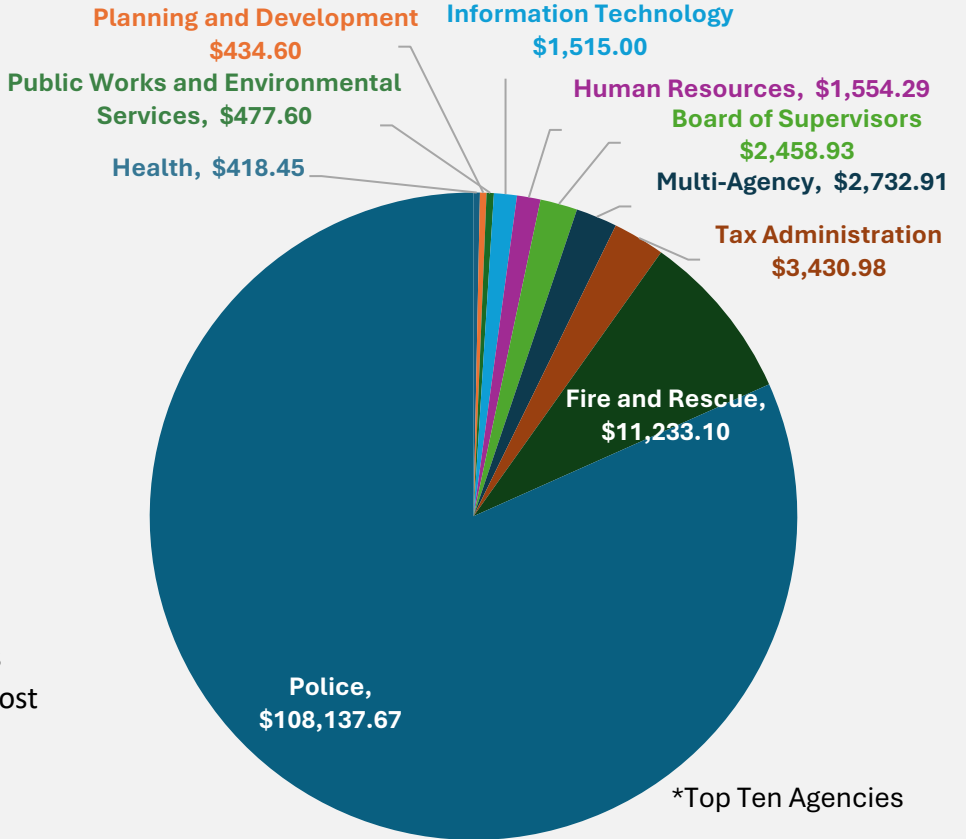
VFOIA allows Fairfax County to assess reasonable, actual costs incurred for labor time and material costs related to processing FOIA requests.

Fee Waivers

11,451

Per County policy, Fairfax County agencies should consider fee waivers when the total cost of the FOIA request is less than \$50.

FOIA Fees by Agency



Data Highlights

- On average, Fairfax County received **72 requests** per working day.
- **88%** of FOIA requests were received by email. **8%** of requests were received in person.
- Fairfax County held approximately **1,380** public meetings.
- **46%** of records were released in full. **24%** of records were released in part.
- More FOIA requests were received in **August** (1,630) than in any other month.
- The Office of Public Affairs managed **957** FOIA requests.
- The Office of Public Affairs conducted **10** FOIA trainings to **over 250 attendees**.
- **\$2,368.00** was the highest paid FOIA fee paid.

