

FIRE PREVENTION, CODE ENFORCEMENT, INVESTIGATIONS AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

PROGRAM MISSION

To reduce threats to life, property and the environment through education, inspection, enforcement, and community service.

This program enforces the Fire Prevention Code; enforces requirements in the County code in order to insure public building safety; educates the public, investigates the causes of fires, explosions and environmental crimes and renders safe all identified hazardous devices. These functions will be accomplished through comprehensive Fire Prevention Code inspections and ongoing training in the community. Investigations are conducted to determine origin and cause of fires or explosions and determine the circumstances or person responsible for spills, leaks and/or clean up of environmental incidents. In addition, this program provides fire safety education to the community which includes civic associations, school children, businesses, organizations, hotels, motels, medical facilities, and municipal employees. Additionally, the Public Education Program evaluates evacuation plans, which include organizing fire brigades for high-rise buildings, coordinating fire safety programs between fire stations and public schools.

The proposed budget provides funding to continue inspections of places of assembly during hours of peak activity, continue the tests of high-rise buildings fire protection systems, expanded code enforcement activities by Shift Fire Marshals, continuing "Operation Fire Safe" (the smoke detector give away and installation program) supported by fire operations units, continuation of the "Risk Watch Program" in County Schools at a rate of one school per year, and the "Remembering When Program" for all seniors living in Arlington.

PROGRAM FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Adopted	FY 2007 Proposed	% Change '06 to '07
Personnel	\$1,291,334	\$1,156,840	\$1,564,190	35%
Non-Personnel	122,309	124,305	151,446	22%
Total Expenditures	1,413,643	1,281,145	1,715,636	34%
Total Revenues	235,107	194,131	425,150	119%
Net Tax Support	\$1,178,536	\$1,087,014	\$1,290,486	19%
Authorized FTEs	12.0	12.0	14.0	
Funded FTEs	12.0	12.0	14.0	

SIGNIFICANT BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The budget for the Code Enforcement, Investigations and Education Program reflects:

- ↑ A two percent market pay line adjustment, a 10% increase in employer health insurance costs, an increase in employer retirement contributions to maintain full funding of the retirement fund, and both the impact of public safety pay enhancements and the full-year impact of overtime policy revisions approved in FY 2006.
- ↑ Expenditures, revenue and FTEs reflect the addition of two grant funded Fire Marshals to be stationed at the Pentagon not included in the FY 2006 adopted budget (\$226,318 expense and revenue, 2.0 FTE).
- ↑ The increase in non-personnel includes full-year funding for the grant funded Fire Marshals and an inflationary increase for EMS operating equipment (\$2,355).

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PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Estimate	FY 2007 Estimate	FY 2007 Goal
Violations cited	700	670	923	820	950	950	950
Inspections conducted	N/A	N/A	1,024	1,163	1,200	1,200	1,200
Systems tests conducted	86	88	56	174	175	175	175
Fires investigated	129	136	158	123	160	160	160
Requests for information processed	124	126	104	108	120	120	120
Environmental crimes investigated	5	3	4	9	24	24	24
Fire Prevention Code permits issued	720	820	730	830	750	750	750
Hoarding investigations	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	65	75	75

- The Inspection Program includes all Fire Prevention Code, fire protection systems, and hazardous materials inspections. Actuals are not available prior to FY 2004.

FUTURE BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

- Additional Fire Prevention resources to manage growth in development and increase the systems testing program.
- As recommended in the TriData report, the public education unit should be increased by at least one full-time public educator and one administrative assistant.