

CODE COMPLIANCE SECTION

PROGRAM MISSION

The Code Compliance Section safeguards public health, safety, and welfare by enforcing State-mandated construction codes by inspecting buildings under construction.

Inspectors from the Code Compliance Section perform inspections to assess compliance with various model codes adopted by the Commonwealth of Virginia to achieve minimum safety requirements. These model codes include Building, Plumbing, Fuel Gas, Mechanical, Electrical, Energy, Elevator, Backwater Sanitation, as well as The One and Two-Family Dwelling Code. In addition to the model codes, the State adopts amendments that must also be enforced, and includes material standards. The Code Compliance Section is responsible for monitoring the progress of new construction throughout the County according to these codes and standards. Often, aspects of construction cause conflict with meeting the strict requirements of these codes and standards. In these cases, the inspectors must evaluate alternative materials and methods of construction. Staff also investigates complaints of non-compliance and acts of illegal construction projects, and assists the Community Code Enforcement Section with full code inspections and blighted properties. Lastly, staff coordinates with the Zoning Administration and the Department of Environmental Services on Final Inspections and Certificate of Occupancy Inspections.

PROGRAM FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Adopted	FY 2007 Proposed	% Change '06 to '07
Personnel	\$1,783,984	\$2,002,642	\$2,254,334	13%
Non-Personnel	166,155	182,352	201,630	11%
Total Expenditures	1,950,139	2,184,994	2,455,964	12%
Fees	1,950,139	2,184,994	2,455,964	12%
Grants	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	1,950,139	2,184,994	2,455,964	12%
Net Tax Support	-	-	-	-
Authorized FTEs	24.0	24.0	26.0	
Funded FTEs	24.0	24.0	26.0	

SIGNIFICANT BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- ↑ The increase in personnel costs reflects a two percent market pay line adjustment, a 10% increase in employer health insurance costs, and an increase in employer retirement contributions to maintain full funding of the retirement fund, the full-year impact of the FY 2006 revision to the overtime policy (\$6,155) and the addition of two FTEs and funds (\$127,902) as approved by the County Board in FY 2006.
- ↑ The increase in non-personnel costs (\$19,278) reflects an increase in County vehicle charges (\$1,578), an increase for fuel for County vehicles (\$700) and full year funding for the 2.0 FTEs approved by the County Board during FY 2006 (\$17,000).
- ↑ Division-wide revenues for FY 2005, FY 2006 and FY 2007 have been allocated to show full cost recovery in the Code Compliance and Plan Review Sections, with the remaining excess revenues allocated to the Permit Processing Section.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Estimate	FY 2007 Estimate	FY 2007 Goal
Percent of all inspections completed within 24 hours of request	N/A	75%	82%	80%	80%	90%	90%
Percent of customers satisfied with the inspection process	N/A	N/A	N/A	95%	95%	95%	95%
Percent of inspections approved	N/A	N/A	95%	85%	85%	85%	85%
Total inspections conducted	37,612	40,193	42,490	44,382	45,000	45,000	45,000
Inspections per inspector per day [average]	11.4	11.7	11.9	13.75	13.75	13	13

FUTURE BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

- Mobile data entry terminals will enhance customer service by enabling inspectors to obtain inspection and permit history, and enter inspection results directly into the system while in the field. Funds for hardware and software, as well as a means to connect to the permitting system (i.e. wireless network) will need to be identified.
- Adoption of the 2003 Uniform Statewide Building Codes (which were adopted by the State in November 2005) requires ongoing training for technical staff charged with enforcing those Codes.
- The amount of illegal construction projects and community complaints is on the rise. Field Inspectors, with full daily schedules, are pulled from assignments to investigate complaints on a daily basis. Often these are complex and require more time than a regular site visit or trades inspection. Additional staff resources will be needed to create a Non-Compliance Investigations section to help bring these projects into compliance with the State and County construction codes as the County continues to grow.