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# Annual Report – CY 2010

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## Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department

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*Respectively submitted in April 2011 by Kelly Schomburg*

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## Executive Summary

The mission of the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department (FCVFD) is to aid in the preservation of life and property. This mission is completed in cooperation with the City of Falls Church government and the Arlington County Fire Department (ACFD). During the calendar year 2010, the volunteers orchestrated, led, developed and participated in a myriad of functions related to the public safety of the citizens of the greater Falls Church and Arlington communities. This report provides an overview of these incidents and events, as well as a summary of training and other activities that FCVFD members completed in order to provide a high level of professional emergency response and public education services.

The report is organized as follows:

- **Membership Statistics** – Provides summary data of the personnel strength and hours contributions during incidents, events and training
- **Emergency Operations** – Provides a summary of the major incidents and apparatus staffed by volunteer personnel in partnership with the Arlington County Fire Department
- **Public Events** – Identifies public gatherings where volunteers provided fire and medical support or participated in the event itself
- **Fire Prevention and Public Education** – Provides an overview of interactions with the community to promote fire and life safety
- **Training** – Highlights the fire, rescue, hazardous materials, and emergency medical training activities of the membership throughout the year
- **Presentations** – Details the honors and awards received from outside agencies and organizations
- **Finances and Projects** – Explains fiscal allocations and contributions of station equipment, apparatus, and other tangible goods that enhance service delivery to the community
- **New Apparatus and Equipment** – Describes new investments in apparatus and equipment with projected delivery timelines

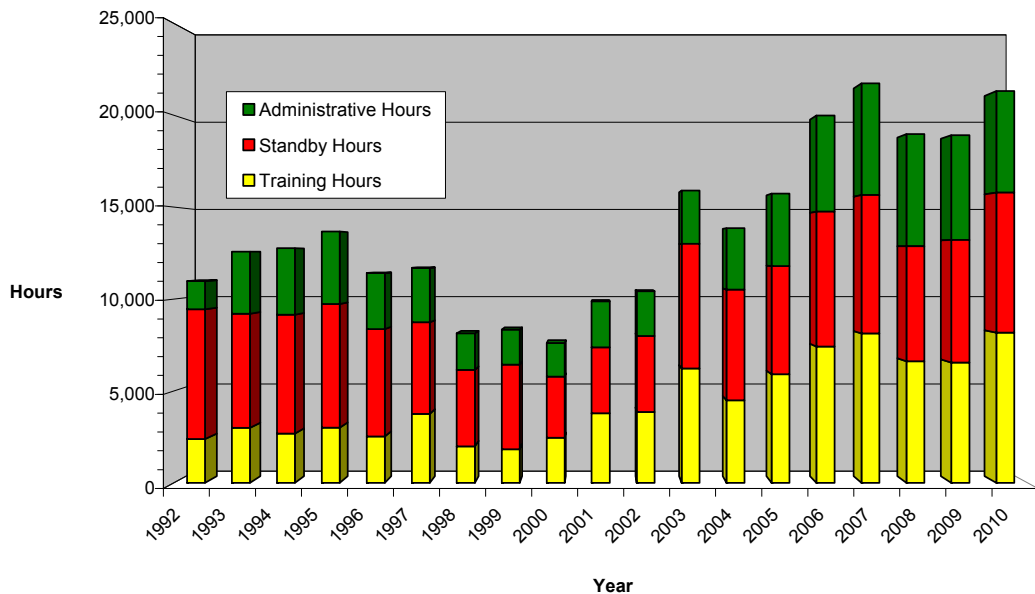
## Membership Statistics

### Hours and Emergency Responses

The FCVFD membership contributed **21,310.5** hours in 2010. Using the 2010 Virginia average hourly rate for volunteer time (\$22.03), as calculated by the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), the total value of these hours is approximately \$470,000.

The 2010 contribution represents a 12.2 percent increase over 2009. See the chart below for a historical accounting of hours contributed by the FCVFD membership.

**Hours Contributed to the Community**  
**1992 to 2010**



Membership contributions are grouped into three major categories – Apparatus Staffing and Standby, Training, and Administration.

#### **Apparatus Staffing and Standby – 7,600.75 Hours**

Members of the FCVFD contributed 7,600.75 hours staffing volunteer units and supplementing the career staff during 2010. This number represents a 15.2 percent increase over 2009. During those hours, personnel participated in 1,885 incidents. More information about Apparatus Staffing and Standby are detailed in the sections on Emergency Operations and Public Events.

Another key achievement for the FCVFD is the number of unique days that the FCVFD membership provided supplemental staffing to the full-time career units. Per the chart below, volunteers augmented career staff on more than one-third of the days in 2010.

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Unique Days with Volunteer Supplement</b>	<b>Staffing Hours</b>	<b>Incidents</b>
Engine 106	90	1,218	221
Truck 106	118	1,818.75	183
Medic 106	25	274.25	75

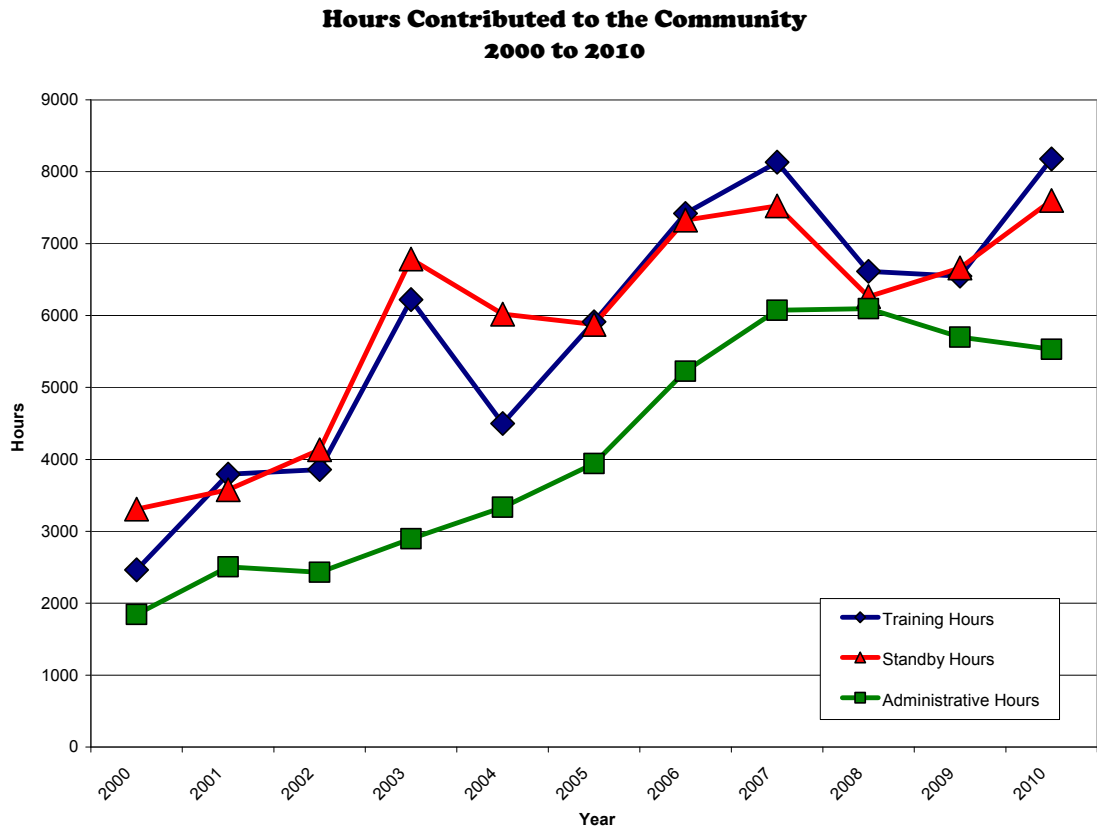
**Training – 8,178.25 Hours**

In preparation for fire department activities, members participated in 8,178.25 hours of fire and emergency medical services training. This training was conducted both in-station and by outside resources. These accomplishments are outlined in the Training section of this report.

**Administration – 5,531.5 Hours**

In addition to the actual emergency operations and service delivery aspects of the Department, members spent 5,531.5 hours completing the necessary administrative functions to deliver fire prevention information, promote fire safety in the community, raise funds, promote the services of the FCVFD, maintain facilities, and perform other basic business tasks.

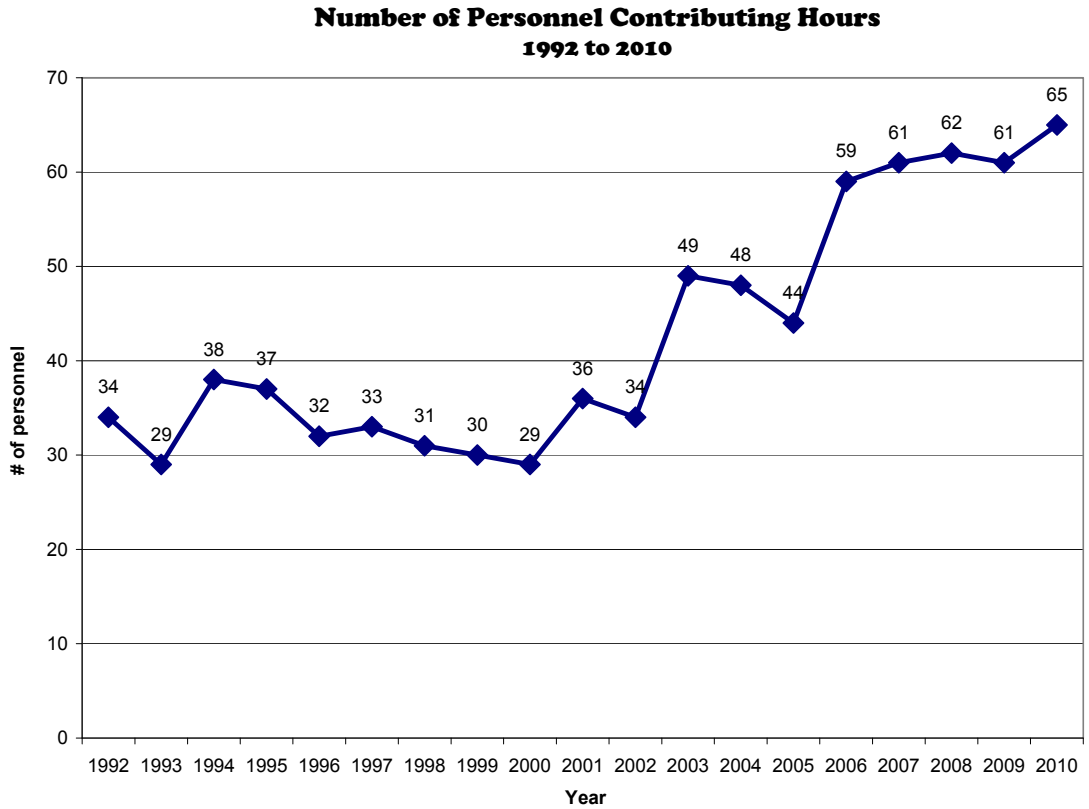
The following chart shows a comparison of hours by category contributed since 2000.



## Membership

During 2010, 65 FCVFD and Auxiliary members contributed hours. Of the 65 members, 43 are operational members serving as firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs).

The following chart shows the number of personnel contributing hours to the FCVFD each year since 1992.



## Emergency Operations

### Structure Fires

Throughout 2010, FCVFD firefighters responded with the career staff to numerous working fire incidents. During these incidents, members performed a variety of functions, including placing ladders, ventilating structures, overhaul, salvage, hoseline management, breathing air replenishment, investigation support, and overhauling fire areas.

In 2010, FCVFD members provided additional support to the following multiple-alarm calls:

- February 7 – Two-alarm fire at 2927 North Lexington Street
- October 22 – Two-alarm fire in Fairfax County
- October 23 – Two-alarm fire in Alexandria

### Basic Life Support Ambulance

The FCVFD acquired the Arlington Falls Church Volunteer Rescue Squad in 2010 and assumed the organization's assets, which included a Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance known as Ambulance 102. This acquisition led to a tremendous improvement in FCVFD operations as it adds additional resources and capabilities to Falls Church. The new BLS ambulance was staffed on weekends and select weekdays for emergency assistance by fire department volunteers from Falls Church and Arlington.



The existing unit, Ambulance 106, was placed in service during a number of special events and holidays for backup support. A significant benefit of this service is that it enables the Advanced Life Support units to respond to more life-threatening situations.

During 2010, Falls Church volunteers staffed the BLS units as follows:

BLS Unit	Man Hours	Calls
Ambulance 102	2529.75	347
Ambulance 106	432.25	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>2962.0</b>	<b>375</b>

## Light and Air 103

The Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department owns and maintains a unit to provide lighting, salvage, and air cylinder replenishment at the scene of major incidents. During an emergency, staffing is obtained by use of pagers to call in volunteer members, including firefighters from the FCVFD.

In 2010, FCVFD members responded to 18 incidents with Light and Air 103, spending 118.75 man hours on emergency scenes.

FCVFD members also contributed many hours to staff the unit during training exercises and public events. The vehicle is stored at the Falls Church station, which is Fire Station 6, due to space limitations at its previous location in Arlington. Incident responses ranged from greater alarm fires to water leaks to police events. For example, on November 4, Light and Air 103 assisted the Arlington County Fire Marshal's Office with ordinance disposal.



## Canteen 106

The FCVFD maintains a stepvan equipped to operate as a mobile kitchen during extended incidents. The unit is capable of preparing hot and cold food and drinks. It is staffed exclusively by volunteers alerted by pager and text message during large incidents.

Throughout 2010, 18 personnel contributed 77.5 hours supporting a variety of activities and operations, as outlined below:



Activity	Staffing Hours
Fire Calls (2)	8
Police Assists (2)	12
Memorial Day Parade	10
Marine Corps Marathon	13.5
Live Fire Training	34



## **Severe Weather**

Periodically, severe weather taxes the regular resources of the regional fire and rescue departments. Severe thunderstorms create an increased call volume for the fire department due to downed trees, power lines, and lightning strikes. Extreme cold and winter weather cause utility outages, impassable roads, and flooding due to burst water pipes. In an effort to decrease the impact of these weather events on the availability of emergency resources, the FCVFD augments the standard assortment of units by staffing auxiliary vehicles, such as Light and Air 103 and Utility 106.

In 2010, the FCVFD members provided callback staffing during multiple weather events, with key units running multiple calls during each period. Below is a list of major weather events and the respective calls run by FCVFD volunteers.

- Two back-to-back snow storms between February 5 and February 14
  - Utility 106 – 43 calls
  - Utility 102 – 10 calls
  - Ambulance 106 – 14 calls
  - Ambulance 102 – 43 calls
  - Light and Air 103 – 1 call
- Heavy rains and thunderstorms on August 30
  - Utility 106 – 1 call
- Heavy storms on December 27
  - Utility 106 – 4 calls
  - Ambulance 102 – 4 calls

## **Station Fill at Arcola-Pleasant Valley VFD**

On January 23, 2010, five FCVFD members relieved the usual volunteer duty crew and staffed Loudoun County Rescue Engine 609 during the annual banquet and installation of officers. During the 6pm to 6am shift, the station received no calls for emergency service.

## **Public Events**

### **New Year's Eve – December 31, 2009**

Despite frigid temperatures and high winds that cancelled most outdoor activities, seven volunteers staffed an ambulance and a pumper in support of the New Year's Eve festivities in downtown Falls Church. Additionally, three personnel staffed an ambulance that remained in quarters to respond to emergencies outside of the event. There were four requests for emergency assistance during the event, but no one was transported to a hospital. In addition to their emergency function, members provided tours of the fire engine and information about the Department.

### **Four Courts Four Miler – March 13**

Two FCVFD emergency medical technicians staffed a basic life support ambulance for approximately four hours during the race in Clarendon. No patients were treated.

### **Friends of the W&OD Trail 5K Race – March 27**

FCVFD provided EMS support to the annual race, which rotates locations on the W&OD Trail each year. The race participants were shadowed by one EMS bicycle team with three FCVFD personnel. No patients were treated.

### **St. Agnes 10K/5K Race – April 17**

FCVFD provided EMS support to this Arlington race, which included approximately 300 participants. Two FCVFD emergency medical technicians staffed a basic life support ambulance while one EMS bike team with two FCVFD personnel shadowed the runners. Total man hours for this event totaled 22. There were no requests for emergency assistance during the event.

### **Run for Wakefield – April 24**

Two FCVFD emergency medical technicians staffed a basic life support ambulance while one EMS bike team with two FCVFD personnel shadowed the runners. Total man hours for this event exceeded 14. There were no requests for emergency assistance during the event.

### **Pacers Half Marathon – May 9**

Two FCVFD emergency medical technicians staffed a basic life support ambulance in support of this race. Total man hours for this event exceeded 11. There were no requests for emergency assistance during the event.

### **Taste of Arlington – May 15**

Three FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance while one EMS bike team shadowed runners. Total man hours invested in this event exceeded 28. No fire or EMS services were needed.

### **Bike DC – May 23**

Two FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance for this annual event in DC, while one EMS bike team with two FCVFD personnel shadowed bikers. Total man hours for this event exceeded 24. Personnel ran one call, but the two patients refused transport after treatment.

### **Memorial Day 3K Fun Run and Parade**

In coordination with the Falls Church Recreation & Parks Department, 17 volunteers provided standby support, including emergency medical services, during the annual Falls Church Memorial Day festivities. Members staffed both fixed and mobile assets, including two ambulances, an engine, a bike team, a utility vehicle, a gator, a canteen unit, and a first aid station. Combined, these volunteers served a total of 177 man hours.

During the event, units responded to nine (9) calls for medical services. Two patients were transported for heat-related illnesses.

### **Falls Church Cubmobile Race – June 6**

Three FCVFD volunteers staffed a basic life support ambulance during the annual Cub Scout soapbox derby on South Oak Street in Falls Church. Total man hours for this standby totaled nine. There were no requests for fire or EMS services.

### **Falls Church Independence Day – July 4**

Ten (10) FCVFD volunteers staffed Engine 116 and Utility 106 for the annual City of Falls Church Independence Day celebration at George Mason High School. Combined, these volunteers served a total of 80 man hours. There was one request for medical assistance during the event, but the patient refused transportation to a hospital.

During setup, personnel from Engine 116 coordinated prevention measures with the Deputy Fire Marshal from Arlington County. Utility 106 provided area lighting to assist spectators with exit following the fireworks. Units remained at the school until satisfied that all ordnance had been secured by the fireworks contractor.

### **Independence Day on the George Washington Parkway – July 4**

In addition to the City of Falls Church activities, ten (10) FCVFD members assisted the ACFD with emergency medical services along the George Washington Parkway. These personnel staffed two basic life support ambulances, an EMS bicycle team and an EMS cart, each from 10am until 11pm for a total of 130 hours. Units assisted with ten (10) unique emergencies during the event.

### **Crystal City Twilighter 5K – July 24**

Two FCVFD medical technicians staffed a basic life support ambulance at this third annual evening run in Crystal City. Total man hours for this standby totaled six. During the standby, there was one request for EMS service but the patient refused transport.

### **March of Dimes “Bolt for Babies” 5K Race – August 28**

Three FCVFD personnel provided EMS support to the third annual March of Dimes “Bolt for Babies” 5K race that took participants through Arlington. Total man hours for this event were four. There were no calls during the event.

### **Arlington Police/Fire/Sheriff 9-11 Memorial 5K – September 11**

Two FCVFD personnel staffed a basic life support ambulance during this annual remembrance event in Pentagon City. In addition to staffing an ambulance, eight (8) FCVFD personnel were among the 3,263 runners who participated in the race. The FCVFD Team placed eighth in the fire department team category.

### **Taste of Falls Church and Fall Festival – September 11**

Three FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance during the annual Fall Festival and Taste of Falls Church event in Cherry Hill Park. Total man hours for this event exceeded 18. There were two requests for medical services but neither required transport.

### **Race for Grace & Fireman Chase – September 12**

In coordination with ACFD Captain Bennett, three FCVFD personnel traveled to Spotsylvania with Engine 116, Utility 106 and the Department’s antique fire truck to participate in a fundraiser for the Grace Oughton Cancer Foundation. The foundation has a goal of developing a full-service pediatric field clinic in the Fredericksburg region. Five FCVFD members, along with firefighters from various departments, ran the one-mile Fireman Chase in their protective equipment with the children.

### **Clarendon Day – September 25**

Two FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance during the annual Fall Festival and Taste of Falls Church event in Cherry Hill Park. Total man hours for this event totaled nine (9). There were no requests for medical services.

### **Ragnar Relay Race – September 25**

During the Clarendon Day event, Ambulance 102 was diverted by the Arlington County EMS Supervisor to provide support services to this event. Organizers had not pre-arranged any local medical support for this relay race, which included several hundred participants running over 100 miles from West Virginia to Washington, DC. After arrival, FCVFD volunteers retrieved Canteen 106 to provide water relief for the event.

There were two requests for medical services, but no transports. There were also many requests to locate lost runners. Total man hours for this spontaneous request for service reached 14.

### **Army 10-Miler – October 24**

Two FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance during this annual Army tradition held at the Pentagon. Man hours for this event totaled 16. Despite the large number of participants – 30,000 runners – there were no incidents reported during the event.

## **Marine Corps Marathon – October 31**

To support the Marine Corps Marathon on the south side of Arlington County, eight FCVFD members staffed two basic life support ambulances and two EMS bicycle teams. Each unit stood by at the marathon for 14 hours, making the total man hours for the event exceed 108. There were 14 calls for medical assistance, but Ambulance 106 was the only unit to transport a patient.

## **Falls Church New Year's Eve – December 31, 2010**

Two members staffed Ambulance 102 during the evening for a total of 17 man hours. During the stand-by, one child was treated for injuries from a fall and transported to the hospital.

## **High School Varsity Football Games**

The FCVFD was requested to provide emergency medical services by Yorktown and Bishop O'Connell High School during their home football games on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons, respectively. During the 2010 season – eight at Yorktown and three at Bishop O'Connell – there were three incidents.

## **“Old Tom” Activities**

Throughout 2010, the 1918 Model T Chemical Fire Engine known as “Old Tom” represented the FCVFD at public events. Through the generosity of a private citizen, the unit continues to be housed in a garage in the City of Falls Church.

Public events in 2010 included:

- Shenandoah Apple Blossom Parade, Winchester, VA – April 30
- Falls Church Memorial Day Parade – May 31
- Fairfax Independence Day Parade – July 3
- Neighborhood Parade, Arlington, VA – September 14
- Race for Grace, Spotsylvania, VA – September 12
- Falls Church VFD Open House – October 9
- Herndon Homecoming Parade – October 23
- Vienna Halloween Parade – October 27



## **Fire Prevention and Public Education**

### **Fire Prevention Week and Open House**

Surrounding the week designated by the National Fire Protection Association as Fire Prevention Week, FCVFD members visited Saint James, Mount Daniel, Thomas Jefferson, and Dulin Schools to teach approximately 1,000 children – ranging from pre-school to third grade – about fire safety. Older students had an opportunity to practice “Get Low and Go” by crawling towards a firefighter in full gear. They also learned how to organize fire drills in their home, how a smoke alarm works and how they can help their parents test the smoke alarm monthly. Younger students learned why they should not play with matches and what to do if they hear a smoke alarm, as well as sang a song about fire safety.

On October 9, the FCVFD and ACFD career staff hosted the annual open house to conclude fire prevention week activities. Thirty-five (35) FCVFD members spent more than 329.25 hours planning and executing this event.

Citizens were invited to visit the fire station and obtain fire safety tips, learn about the equipment, and watch demonstrations of fire and rescue techniques. Volunteer and ACFD career personnel conducted demonstrations that included structure fire attack, vehicle rescue, aerial ladder operations, and emergency medical procedures. Displays of fire and EMS equipment were available for close examination by visitors and blood pressure screenings were offered. Throughout the day, the FCVFD Auxiliary provided refreshments to visitors, who consumed 700 hotdogs – a record number!

A silent auction fundraiser netted over \$2,400 for goods and services donated by local businesses and organizations. Donors included Mad Fox Brewery, Argia’s Restaurant, Pizzeria Orso, Natalia’s Bakery, La Cote D’Or, Dogma Bakery, Brown’s Hardware, Sisler Stone, Pampered Chef, Massage Envy, Bowl America, Dogwood Tavern, Clay Café Studios, Pie-Tanza, Clare & Don’s Beach Shack, Papa John’s Pizza, Cosi, and Alexandria Colonial Tours.

Also participating in the Open House were deputies from the Falls Church Sheriff’s Office, who brought their dog Fany and assisted parents with fingerprinting a record 215 children during the event; the Falls Church Police Department (FCPD); the Falls Church Community Emergency Response Team (CERT); Arlington County Police Department (ACPD); National Capital Poison Center; and Washington Gas. Each group set up an exhibit displaying the services they provide.

During the week prior to the event, the local office of the Virginia Department of Transportation provided a large programmable sign board that directed traffic on Lee Highway to the event. The Sheriff’s Office also provided the use of their traffic control trailer to assist in maintaining an orderly parking lot and traffic flow during the event.

## Santamobile – December 15-23

As it has done for over 30 years, Santamobile traveled through the City of Falls Church and surrounding areas of Arlington and Fairfax County during the weeks before Christmas. Santamobile is the affectionate name for Engine 116 after it has been decorated with holiday lights, tinsel and a chair atop the hose bed for Santa himself. During its travels, FCVFD members furthered the Department's fire safety and education mission by handing out over 4,000 fire safety flyers to the public.



FCVFD members also distributed 4,320 candy canes and over 150 dog biscuits.

In 2010, Santamobile was graciously sponsored by two Falls Church businesses – Anthony's Restaurant and Claire & Don's Beach Shack. It was through their generous donations that this annual event was made possible.

Thirty-six (36) FCVFD members donated 279.5 hours of service during the Santamobile operation.

## FCVFD Meeting Hall

Through a lease agreement with the City of Falls Church, the FCVFD manages a meeting facility on the second floor of Fire Station 6. In addition to being a classroom and meeting room for the FCVFD, public safety agencies, private organizations, and individual citizens reserve the room throughout the year.

The most frequent use of the FCVFD Meeting Hall is for children's birthday parties. During 2010, FCVFD members contributed 609.75 hours hosting 75 birthday parties, which were attended by 1,117 children. Each birthday party included a fire safety presentation and tour of the station. The service has become widely popular and drawn many accolades (examples below) in the past year.

*"The party was terrific. All the kids had a great time."*

*"It was perfect; I think I will do my son's party again next year."*

*"We had a great time and the staff did a great job adjusting to our relatively young group."*

*"The party was fantastic; we just want to make sure the firefighters in charge know how much we appreciate everything they did to make my son's birthday special and the party a big success."*

In addition to birthday parties, the FCVFD Meeting Hall was utilized for a variety of events, hosted by a variety of organizations, including:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Events</b>
Arlington County Fire Department	52
Arlington County Police Department	2
Falls Church Police Department	7
City of Falls Church Government	2
Private Organizations	5

During the blizzard in February 2010, the FCVFD Meeting Hall was utilized as a dormitory to house firefighters and EMTs. Cots and blankets were provided by the American Red Cross. Firefighters were required to take a 12-hour rest period after working as much as 24-hours straight. These additional accommodations helped make their break comfortable so they could return to duty rested and prepared.

### **Local School Visits**

Throughout the year, FCVFD volunteers visited local schools to teach children about fire safety. For example, in August, four (4) members gave the annual fire safety presentation and “wet down” to approximately 60 kids at Thomas Jefferson Elementary.

### **Cultural Care Au Pair Fire Safety Demonstration – April 16**

At the request of the Cultural Care Au Pair Service, four FCVFD volunteers presented a combined fire safety and medical preparedness presentation to nannies working for area families. Specific topics included escape planning, how to conduct a fire safety check, what information they should know about their children in case of a medical emergency, and general fire safety.

### **Cub Scout Pack in Falls Church – September 17**

Four (4) FCVFD volunteers led a fire safety presentation and station tour for approximately 25 Cub Scouts. Total man hours exceeded six for this event.



## Training

Falls Church volunteers participated in a wide variety of certification and non-certification courses throughout 2010. The following is a summary of the formal courses completed by members.

### Federal and State Courses

Course	Provider	Number of Personnel	Total Man Hours
Emergency Medical Technician – Basic <i>Classroom, practical, and clinical rotations covering all areas of human body systems and initial care for a wide range of medical conditions.</i>	Training 911 Pimmit Hills Adult Education Fairfax, VA	1	78.5
Emergency Medical Technician – Basic <i>Classroom, practical, and clinical rotations covering all areas of human body systems and initial care for a wide range of medical conditions.</i>	Fairfax County Fire/Rescue Training Academy Fairfax, VA	1	84.5
Firefighter I/II Train-the-Trainer <i>Classroom course designed to certify instructors to teach the Firefighter I/II course</i>	Virginia Department of Fire Programs Online Knowledge Center	3	15
Instructor 1 <i>Course designed to prepare firefighters to organize and deliver basic training programs</i>	Sterling Volunteer Fire Company Sterling, VA	2	76
Instructor 1 <i>Course designed to prepare firefighters to organize and deliver basic training programs</i>	Virginia Department of Fire Programs	1	38
Continuing Education for Emergency Medical Technician – Basic <i>Required continuing medical education modules to maintain EMT-B certification</i>	Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services	2	5.5
Arson Detection for First Responders <i>Classroom course provides firefighters with basic skills in identifying fire origin and determining if the cause was accidental, suspicious, or incendiary</i>	Caroline County Regional Fire School Milford, VA	2	32
Incident Safety Officer <i>Classroom course to instruct firefighters how to serve as the independent set of eyes at an incident and aid the Incident Officer in avoiding injury or loss of life</i>	Caroline County Regional Fire School Milford, VA	3	42
Safety Officer <i>Classroom course to instruct firefighters on how to identify and manage workplace hazards and risks</i>	Caroline County Regional Fire School Milford, VA	1	14
Basic Pump Operations <i>Classroom and practical course designed to give firefighters a working understanding of fire engine pumping operations</i>	Caroline County Regional Fire School Milford, VA	2	32

<p>High Rise Operations</p> <p><i>Course designed to educate firefighters on the unique requirements involved in responding to calls at high-rise structures</i></p>	<p>Richmond Regional Fire School Richmond, VA</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>132</p>
<p>ICS-300 Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Events</p> <p><i>Provides training on and resources for personnel who require advanced application of the Incident Command System</i></p>	<p>District of Columbia Homeland Security &amp; Emergency Management Agency Washington, DC</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>International Response to Terrorist Bombings</p> <p><i>Classroom course designed to help firefighters identify terrorist tendencies</i></p>	<p>District of Columbia Homeland Security &amp; Emergency Management Agency Washington, DC</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>Preparation for Initial Company Operations (PICO)</p> <p><i>Classroom course designed to provide a basic foundation for management of one or more companies operating at an emergency</i></p>	<p>National Fire Academy Emmitsburg, MD</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>Train-the-Trainer for Preparation for Initial Company Operations (PICO)</p> <p><i>Classroom course designed to train instructors how to teach PICO</i></p>	<p>National Fire Academy Emmitsburg, MD</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>Strategies and Tactics for Initial Company Operations (STICO)</p> <p><i>Classroom course designed to develop the management skills needed by company officers to accomplish assigned tactics at structure fires</i></p>	<p>National Fire Academy Emmitsburg, MD</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>Leadership I</p> <p><i>Classroom course designed to develop leadership skills in firefighters</i></p>	<p>National Fire Academy Emmitsburg, MD</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>Building Construction – Combustible</p> <p><i>Classroom course designed to better understand the strategies and hazards involved in structural firefighting buildings made of combustible material</i></p>	<p>Loudoun County Fire-Rescue Loudoun County, VA</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>13</p>

## **Scenario-Based Training**

In 2010, the FCVFD continued the 2009 initiative to organize scenario-based training exercises to aid personnel with developing their skills in a realistic environment. Emphasis was placed upon using full protective equipment and breathing apparatus during all evolutions.

Below are a few of the key exercises conducted in 2010:

- June 26 – Gallant Fox Drill – Three FCVFD members participated in the 2010 Gallant Fox multiagency exercise. This exercise, sponsored by the Pentagon Force Protection Agency, simulates a mass casualty event and the ensuing response by first responders. FCVFD members staffing A102 were assigned as treatment unit leaders and assisted with triage.
- August 19 – Firefighter Challenge – This drill included a series of skills stations. Pairs of volunteers competed against each other for the best time.
- October 3 – Firefighter Skills Drill with Shift 6A – This drill included a series of skills stations. One volunteer was paired with one career firefighter. Each set competed against the other pairs for the best time.
- December 4 – House Drill – Volunteers practiced a variety of firefighting skills, using a house donated by a local family. The donated house allows trainers to simulate dynamic scenarios, thereby giving firefighters the unique opportunity to train in a realistic yet unfamiliar setting.

## **Firefighter I/II**

For four months in the spring of 2010, FCVFD instructors conducted a Firefighter I/II course for recruits from Falls Church and two other volunteer departments within Arlington County. Eight (8) FCVFD recruits and five (5) other recruits completed this certification, which includes 149 hours of classroom and 176 hours of practical evolutions.

Most of the training occurred at the meeting facility at Station 6 using Falls Church apparatus and equipment for practical evolutions. Course topics included fire behavior, fire control, hose, water supply, ladders, ventilation, salvage and overhaul, breathing apparatus, personal protective equipment, forcible entry, hazardous materials operations, and two live fire training exercises. To achieve certification, recruits must pass both a written exam and a practical exam, both of which are administered by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

## **Lancaster Fire Exposition**

In May, seven (7) members attended one of the largest fire department trade shows in the United States in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Members took the opportunity to research the latest technology in tools and fire apparatus, particularly breathing air systems and vehicle generators.

## **Recruit School**

During this new four-month course provided in the fall of 2010, FCVFD instructors conducted a combination indoctrination and Firefighter I certification program for recruits from Falls Church and one other volunteer department within Arlington County. Ten (10) FCVFD recruits completed this program, which included 199 hours of classroom and practical evolutions.

Most of the training occurred at the meeting facility at Station 6 using Falls Church apparatus and equipment for practical evolutions. Topics included local subject matter, including Arlington County communications protocols and FCVFD standard operating procedures, as well as topics like fire

behavior, fire control, hose, water supply, ladders, ventilation, salvage and overhaul, breathing apparatus, and personal protective equipment. Virginia Department of Fire Programs administered a written exam as well as a practical exam.

## **Live Fire Training**

FCVFD conducted three live fire training events in 2010. Two were conducted for the benefit of the Firefighter I/II course in the spring, and one was hosted in the fall for the Recruit School.

## **EMS Symposium**

Five (5) emergency medical technicians attended 95 hours of training at the 31st annual Virginia Emergency Medical Services Symposium in Norfolk, VA. The week-long symposium offered a wide range of training opportunities in both operational and administrative areas. Training included topics such as trauma patient assessment and treatment skills, tactical wound care, infection control, hands-on anatomy, and leadership development.

## **BLS Provider**

Three (3) FCVFD personnel completed the requisite 16-hour course to serve as an Attendant-in-Charge when staffing a basic life support ambulance. This course is the adopted standard of the FCVFD for its own ambulance operations. It equips emergency medical technicians with procedural and administrative skills beyond the curriculum offered by the local colleges and fire academies. Following the course, candidates participate in a supervised internship program to complete their qualification process.

During 2010, one FCVFD member completed the requirements to achieve Attendant-in-Charge status.

## **Company Drills**

The FCVFD conducts training meetings on the fourth Monday of each month to provide continuing education on fire and EMS topics. FCVFD conducted ten (10) drills in 2010 on the following topics:

- January: Patient Assessments – EMT Instructor Byron coordinated a Patient Assessment exercise for basic life support providers, including various skill stations and scenarios. EMS Captain Fortner, Special Operations Captain Lowry and Firefighter/EMT Vilpors assisted in instruction.
- February: Airway Management and AED Use – EMT Instructor Byron, EMS Captain Fortner, Special Operations Captain Lowry and Special Operations Lieutenant Audet provided information and tactics involving Airway Management and Automatic External Defibrillators.
- March: Firefighter Rescue – Assistant Chief Evinger and ACFD Lieutenant Kramerik educated members on the upgrades to the Rapid Intervention Team tools and tactics to using tag line for large area search and rescue.
- April: Ventilation – Assistant Chief Evinger lead a discussion on Ventilation tactics and cutting tools.

- May: Memorial Day Operations Plan – EMS Captain Fortner and EMS Lieutenant McCandless presented an overview of preparations and expectations for the upcoming Memorial Day Festival hosted by the City of Falls Church.
- June: Firefighter Health and Safety – Lieutenant Blake and FF/EMT Bonds presented information on the proper use and care of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and the need for firefighter health and fitness.
- August: Treatment of Sports-Related Injuries – Deputy Chief Lowry, with assistance from athletic trainers from Bishop O'Connell and Yorktown High Schools, provided information related to Sports Injuries to prepare EMS providers for the upcoming football season.
- September: Fire Prevention and Public Education – Assistant Chief McCarry lead a discussion on creative and effective Fire Prevention presentations to prepare for upcoming visits to City of Falls Church and Arlington County schools and also to prepare for the annual Open House.
- October: Emergency Vehicle Operations – Assistant Chief McCarry provided information on the safe driving of Emergency vehicles both in normal operation and during an emergency response.
- December: Santamobile Safety – Chief Schomburg lead a safety briefing to prepare for the annual Santamobile operations during the holiday season.

## **County Drills**

In effort to ensure proficiency and comply with government requirements for education, countywide training is conducted on a monthly basis. FCVFD instructors organized and supervised many of the drills. Ten (10) drills were provided in 2010 on the following topics:

- February: Airway Management and AED Use – EMT Instructor Byron, Special Operations Captain Fortner, EMS Captain Lowry and EMS Lieutenant Audet provided information and tactics involving Airway Management and Automatic External Defibrillators.
- April: Ventilation Tactics – Assistant Chief Evinger lead a discussion on Ventilation tactics and cutting tools.
- May: Structure Fires – Lieutenant Blake lead scenarios simulating various structure fire emergencies utilizing the Arlington County Fire Training Academy.
- June: Blood borne Pathogen Regulations – EMS Captain Fortner and EMS Lieutenant McCandless held an annual review of HIPAA and Blood borne Pathogen regulations as they apply to first responders and basic life support providers.
- July: Metrorail Operations – ACFD Lieutenant Kramerik provided a presentation on Metro rail operations and ACFD response tactics.
- August: Firefighter Skills Challenge – Lieutenant Blake and FF/EMT Bonds led a Firefighter Skills Challenge. The Challenge provided various physical skill stations to test a firefighter's health and fitness.
- September: Hose and Ladder Scenarios – Deputy Chief Lowry and Lieutenant Blake coordinated scenarios to practice on the use of hose and ladders on a fire ground.

- October: Pediatric Patients – EMT Weston lead a discussion on EMS strategies and tactics involving pediatric patients.
- November: Salvage and Overhaul – Captain Sisler and Firefighter/EMT Fortner reviewed Salvage and Overhaul tactics and procedures.
- December: BLS versus ALS – EMS Lieutenant Katzif reviewed Advanced Life Support assistance skills used by basic life support providers when working with ACFD paramedics.

## **Presentations**

### **Arlington County Volunteer Appreciation Reception**

In April 2010, FCVFD Firefighter Jae Park was selected as one of Arlington County's 2009 Outstanding Volunteers. The ceremony was held at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association building in Ballston. In addition to Firefighter Park, several volunteers from the Department of Human Services, Sheriff's Office, and Department of Parks and Recreation were recognized. County Board members presented the awards with approximately 200 people on hand. Twenty-seven FCVFD members contributing over 250 hours of volunteer service to Arlington County also received certificates recognizing their participation.

### **FCVFD Annual Banquet and 2009 Awards**

The third annual FCVFD banquet was held at PJ Skidoos Restaurant in April. Organized by Lieutenant Patrick Blake, the event featured dinner, a presentation of awards, and a slide show. The slide show, which was assembled by Firefighter Jae Park, portrayed the wide variety of events and functions served by FCVFD members during 2009. In addition, a special slide show presentation was made to commemorate the life membership of firefighter and former Chief Patrick Evinger, who marked 20 years of service with the FCVFD in 2010.

The following individuals received recognition at the 2010 event for their achievements in 2009:

- Firefighter of the Year – Charles Frey
- EMT of the Year – Laura Katzif
- Rookie of the Year – Jae Park
- Administrator of the Year – Sarah Greear, Treasurer
- Officer of the Year – Paul Schomburg, Fire Chief

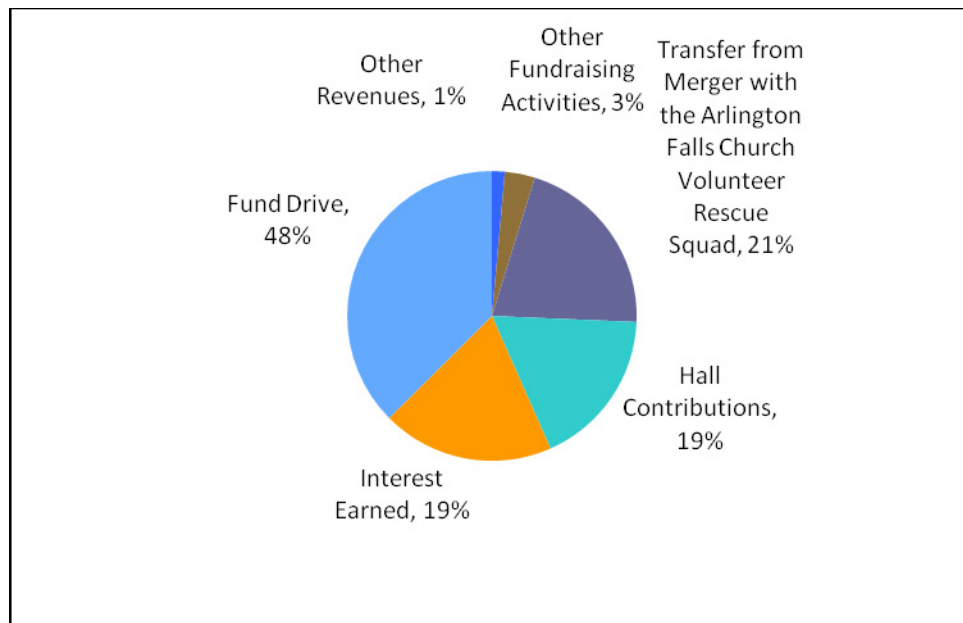
## Finances and Projects

### Budget

To ensure proper handling of funds and sound financial practices, the FCVFD Board of Trustees establishes an annual operating budget for the Department. The fiscal year for the FCVFD ends July 31 each year.

### Operating Revenue

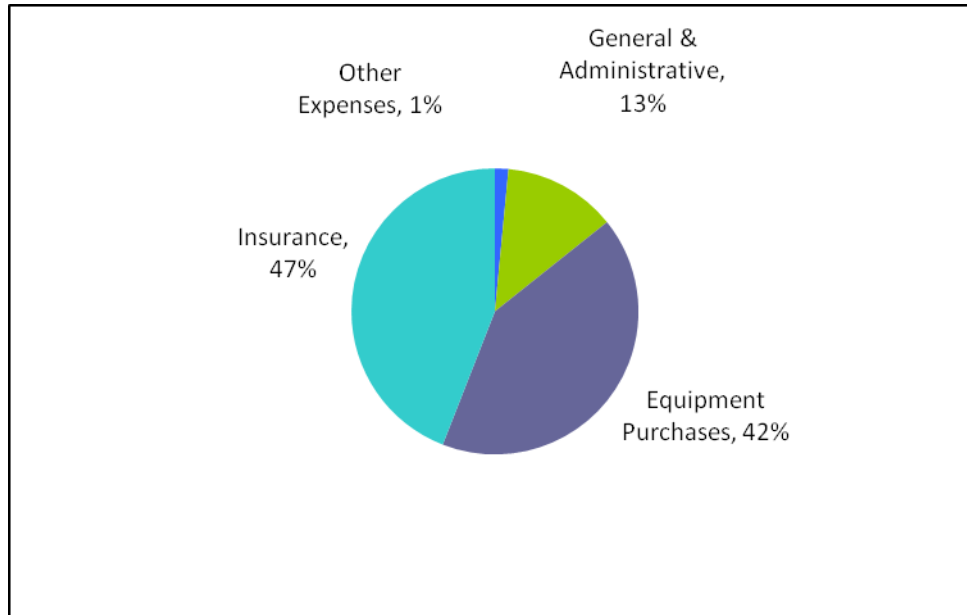
During fiscal year 2010, which ran from August 1, 2009 to July 31, 2010, revenues were generated from the following sources and activities:





## Operating Expenses

During fiscal year 2010, expenditures were made as noted below:



## Canteen Refurbishment

In the summer of 2010, the 1986 Chevrolet Stepvan used as Canteen 106 was given a light refurbishment. The unit was painted and graphics applied to enhance the visibility and uniformity of the markings on the vehicle. Additionally, alterations were made to the warning light package to reduce the power draw on the vehicle systems. Future enhancements as finances permit will include awnings for the sides of the vehicle and scene lighting.

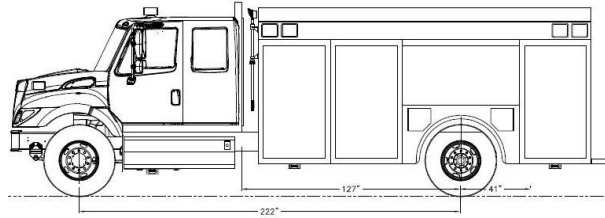
## Fundraising

The majority of funds that support FCVFD operations are obtained through donations and fundraising. Fundraising activities include an annual fund drive mailing, fees from meeting hall rental, children's birthday parties, special events at local businesses, grant solicitations, and a silent auction conducted during the annual Open House.

## New Apparatus and Equipment

### Light and Air 106

In 2010, the FCVFD contracted with M&W Fire Apparatus to manufacture a new Light and Air truck. This unit will replace a 23-year old model that is currently operated by another department. Currently in production, it is anticipated for delivery in June 2011.



Capabilities of the new vehicle include:

- Air replenishment for firefighter breathing apparatus
- Property salvage and water removal
- Firefighter first aid and rehabilitation
- Basic fire investigation support to the City of Falls Church Fire Marshal