



2016 Annual Report

Aiding in the Preservation of Life and Property Since 1925

P.O. Box 7014
Falls Church, Virginia 22040

Visit our website at www.fallschurchfire.org
Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Contents

A Message from the President and Chief	3
2016-2017 Officers.....	4
Emergency Services Partnership.....	5
Volunteer Personnel	6
Number of Volunteer Personnel.....	6
Hours of Service	7
2016 Volunteer Hours by Category.....	7
Emergency Response	8
FCVFD Apparatus	8
2016 Emergency Call Data by FCVFD Unit	9
Notable Emergency Responses and Special Event Standbys.....	10
Training	16
2016 Training Topics	16
Notable Training Activities and Achievements	17
Volunteer Performance Standards	17
Donated Structure Training	17
Recruit Schools.....	18
Fire and Life Safety Education.....	19
Fire Prevention Week and Open House.....	20
Santamobile	20
Birthday Parties.....	21
Five Ways to Support the FCVFD	22
Fiscal Year 2016 Budget	23
Revenue	23
Expenditures	24
Awards	25
History of the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department	26



A Message from the President and Chief

2016 was another exceptional year for the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department. Our dedicated volunteer personnel devoted **17,555 hours** to fulfill the FCVFD's mission to aid in the preservation of life and property in the communities we serve.

Throughout the year, we worked closely with our partners in the Arlington County Fire Department (ACFD) to provide fire and emergency medical services to the citizens of the City of Falls Church and Arlington County.

Our certified firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) regularly staffed volunteer apparatus, providing assistance to career staff at major incident scenes and during special events.

Volunteer EMTs responded to **309 basic life support trauma and medical calls**, freeing up ACFD's advanced life support units to focus on more critical incidents.

Our members also recorded **370 hours on frontline apparatus**, providing a helping hand to ACFD staff on fire and EMS calls throughout the City and County.

When they weren't responding to emergency calls, FCVFD volunteers were focused on enhancing their knowledge, skills and abilities to better serve their communities.

Our personnel completed **3,316 hours of training** on topics ranging from emergency medical services and fireground operations to equal employment opportunity laws and maintaining an inclusive workplace environment.

The implementation of ACFD volunteer standards in August was a major milestone for the FCVFD, which has worked closely with ACFD leadership to formalize the role and training requirements for volunteers in the County's system.

Prevention of fires and emergency medical incidents is also a top priority for FCVFD. Our personnel spent **1,016 hours educating the public** through programs such as school and church visits, our annual open house and "Santamobile."

Whether responding to a call from an injured citizen, assisting paid firefighters during a blizzard, providing EMS standby at a community event, teaching students about fire safety, or taking classes to improve their skills, our members demonstrated their commitment to giving back to their community throughout 2016.

We look forward to continuing to advance our mission in the new year, and further strengthening our partnership with the City of Falls Church and Arlington County.

Nick Anderson
President

Kevin Henry
Chief

2016-2017 Officers

Corporate Officers



Nick Anderson
President



Ben Morlock
Vice President



Adam Gruen
Secretary



Julianne Stilwell
Treasurer



Kim Klingler
Compliance Officer

Operations Officers



Kevin Henry
Chief



Brendan Meehan
Assistant Chief



Drake Springer
Deputy Chief



Jarrod Tsukada
Lieutenant

Board of Trustees

Nick Anderson
Doug Briller
Adam Gruen
Steve Haines
Kevin Henry
Ben Morlock
Jim O'Dowd
Steve Sisler
Julianne Stilwell

Emergency Services Partnership

The mission of providing emergency services at Station Six is accomplished through a shared partnership between the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department (FCVFD), the City of Falls Church, Arlington County Fire Department (ACFD), and Arlington County.

Responsibilities for equipment, apparatus, facilities, and manpower are distributed and coordinated among all parties. The graphic below demonstrates the contributions of each party.

The FCVFD recognizes the continued support of its partners and appreciates the tremendous dedication to this critical mission.

ARLINGTON VIRGINIA

- Provides 24/7 career Firefighter/EMT and Paramedic staffing to Fire Station 6
- Provides fire prevention activities and an array of specialty response capabilities including Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue, Explosives, and Mass-Casualty
- Daily upkeep of station and apparatus
- Services are provided through your tax dollars

CITY OF FALLS CHURCH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT

- Staffs volunteer units and supplements career staffing
- Administrative activities to deliver fire prevention information, raise funds, maintain facilities, and perform other essential business functions
- Services are made possible through community contributions

Working Together to Serve You!

Proudly serving the communities of the City of Falls Church, Arlington and Fairfax Counties with compassion, integrity and commitment through prevention, education and professional response to all hazards. Providing automatic mutual aid to guarantee the closest emergency response unit regardless of jurisdictional boundaries.

ARLINGTON VIRGINIA

- Provides equipment/supply needs through ACFD Logistics
- Performs maintenance of all fire department vehicles
- Shares 50% of personnel costs for career staff

CITY OF FALLS CHURCH VIRGINIA

- Owns fire station facility
- Provides budgetary support for operations including vehicles and facilities maintenance and supplies
- Shares 50% of personnel costs for career staff

Volunteer Personnel

FCVFD firefighters are certified by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. Our Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are certified by the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services. Recruits have successfully completed FCVFD Recruit School and are on a career development path to obtain EMT and/or firefighter certification from the Commonwealth of Virginia. Administrative volunteers participate in fire safety education programs, raise funds, help maintain facilities, and perform other administrative functions for the department.

Number of Volunteer Personnel (as of March 1, 2017)	
Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technicians	17
Emergency Medical Technicians	27
Recruits	14
Administrative Volunteers	11
Life Members	6
TOTAL	75



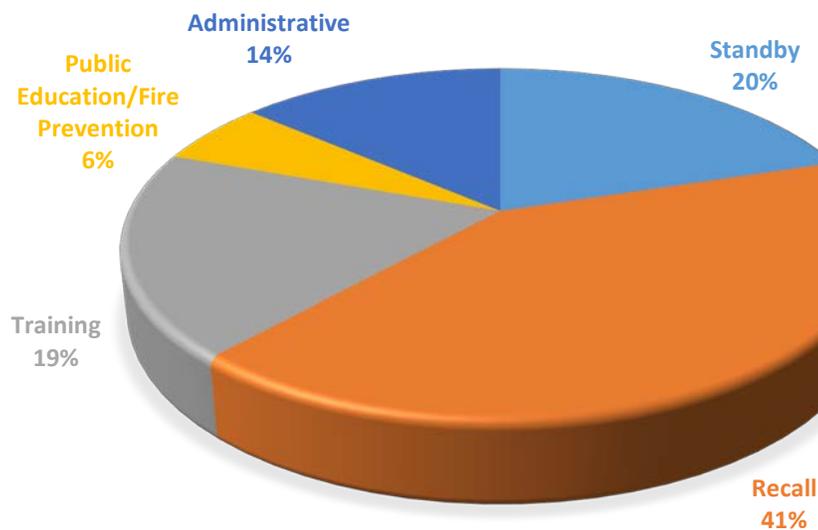
FCVFD personnel meet with City of Falls Church Police Chief Mary Gavin before deploying to support Memorial Day activities.

Hours of Service

FCVFD personnel contributed hundreds of “standby” hours staffing emergency apparatus and responding to calls for service in 2016. They also logged “recall” hours where they remained prepared to respond to the station in case of emergency. In accordance with their ongoing training requirements and career development plans, our personnel participated in both in-house and external fire and emergency medical services classes and drills. In addition to responding to emergency calls, FCVFD personnel conducted extensive outreach in the communities we serve, delivering safety education for people of all ages. Many members also contributed their time and talent to carrying out the administrative functions of the department.

2016 Volunteer Hours by Category	
Standby	3,534
Recall	7,296
Training	3,316
Public Education/Fire Prevention	1,016
Administrative	2,393
TOTAL	17,555

HOURS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE BY CATEGORY



Emergency Response

FCVFD Apparatus

The FCVFD owns and operates a fleet of emergency vehicles staffed by our volunteer personnel:

Ambulance 102 – A Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance staffed by two to four volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians certified by the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services. Ambulance 102 is routinely placed into service on Friday nights and Saturdays, which are periods of peak emergency call volume in the City of Falls Church and Arlington County. When Ambulance 102 is in service, the Arlington County Fire Department's Advanced Life Support (ALS) units will often transfer care of BLS patients to volunteer personnel. This allows the ALS units to remain available to respond to critical trauma and medical calls. Ambulance 102 is also placed into service to provide standby EMS support for a variety of special events in the City and the County.



Ambulance 102 assists AirCare Medevac with a patient transfer to Virginia Hospital Center on the weekend of February 20, 2016.

Ambulance 106 – Another BLS ambulance that is primarily used to provide standby EMS support for special events in the City and the County.

Bike Team 106 – A pair of bicycles specially equipped with BLS equipment. Typically deployed with an FCVFD ambulance at public events, the bicycles allow volunteer EMTs to reach patients quickly in environments the ambulance cannot easily access such as parade routes, race courses and other crowded areas.

Engine 106 Bravo – A reserve engine that is primarily used for volunteer training and special events in the City and County. It can be activated and staffed with volunteer Firefighter/EMTs as needed.

Light and Air 106 – Provides support at emergency scenes such as multi-alarm fires and police investigations, as well as public events and training exercises. The unit is equipped with an array of lighting equipment, a compressor used for refilling firefighters' breathing air cylinders, and a full complement of tools used for overhaul and salvage. Volunteer personnel staff the unit on a recall basis, responding to emergency calls via text message and pager.

Utility 106 – A unit equipped with lighting equipment and tools used for salvage operations. It is primarily put into service during severe weather events in the City and County, and is also used for special events and training activities.

Utility 106 Bravo – A unit that is primarily used for transporting volunteer personnel and equipment for training and other administrative purposes. During severe weather events, it can be placed into service with a crew of two to four volunteer personnel.



Utility 106 Bravo was utilized by FCVFD personnel who participated in the Arlington Police, Fire and Sheriff 9/11 Memorial 5K on September 10, 2016.

Medic 106 – In the spring of 2016, the FCVFD took delivery of a new 2016 Horton Ambulance. Placed in service in March, the unit is staffed full-time by Arlington County Fire Department paramedics, and supplemented occasionally by FCVFD EMTs. Medic 106 is the front-line Advanced Life Support ambulance for the City of Falls Church and surrounding counties. The FCVFD would like to thank our community for their generous donations that assisted us in the purchase of this unit, which reduced the burden on taxpayers. We look forward to Medic 106's many years of service.



2016 Emergency Call Data by FCVFD Unit		
Unit	Calls	Man Hours (Standby & Recall)
Ambulance 102	300	2,209
Ambulance 106	7	81
Bike Team 106	0	18
Engine 106 Bravo	2	34
Light & Air 106	21	7,463
Utility 106	17	412
TOTAL	347	10,217

Notable Emergency Responses and Special Event Standbys

Date	Event	Description
January 22-26	Blizzard	FCVFD volunteers provided 524 hours of staffing over a continuous 90-hour operational period. Ambulance 102, Light and Air 106, Utility 106 and Utility 106 Bravo responded to calls and assisted the Arlington County Fire Department and the Virginia National Guard with emergency response.
February 24	Standby Support Requested by Arlington County Fire Department	Arlington County Fire Department Battalion Chief 112 requested FCVFD personnel to put Utilities into service to help with influx of fire calls.
March 19	City of Falls Church Farmers Market	FCVFD personnel provided EMS standby support for the City Farmers Market and recruited volunteers.
April 1	Police Investigation Assistance	Arlington County Police Department requested Light & Air 106 to provide scene lighting for an investigation.
April 10	Peruvian Election	Ambulance 102 provided EMS standby support for the Peruvian election held at George Mason High School and Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School.
April 20	Mutual Aid for Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department	Ambulance 106 covered Station 33 in Kentland, Maryland, while members of of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department attended a memorial service for Firefighter/Paramedic John Ulmschneider.

Date	Event	Description
April 20	Police Investigation Assistance	Arlington County Police Department requested Light & Air 106 to provide scene lighting for an investigation.
May 19	Structure Fire	Alexandria Fire Department requested Light & Air 106 to provide support at the scene of a multi-alarm structure fire.
May 27	Structure Fire	Alexandria Fire Department requested Light & Air 106 to provide support at the scene of a multi-alarm structure fire.
May 29	Rolling Thunder	Ambulance 102 provided EMS standby support for the Rolling Thunder motorcycle rally at the Pentagon.
May 30	Memorial Day	FCVFD put all units into service for the annual City of Falls Church Memorial Day Festival & Parade.
May 30	Hazardous Materials Incident	Light & Air 106 was dispatched to a hazardous materials incident in the City of Alexandria.
June 5	Cubmobile Races	Utility 106 provided EMS standby support for the Cub Scout Pack 657 Cubmobile Races on South Oak Street in Falls Church.
June 21	Multi-Alarm Fire	Light & Air 106 was dispatched to an underground transformer fire. FCVFD personnel provided breathing air cylinder replenishment.
June 22	Police Investigation Assistance	Arlington County Police Department requested Light & Air 106 to provide scene lighting for an investigation.

Date	Event	Description
June 27	Structure Fire	Light & Air 106 responded to a multi-alarm structure fire in Arlington County. FCVFD personnel provided breathing air cylinder replenishment.
July 29	Hazardous Materials Incident	Light & Air 106 was dispatched to a hazardous materials incident in the City of Alexandria.
July 4	Independence Day	Engine 106 Bravo, Ambulance 106 and Light & Air 106 provided Fire and EMS standby for Independence Day celebrations.
July 13	Falls Church Public Schools Summer Camp	Engine 106 Bravo provided fire safety education and a "wetdown" on a hot summer day for camp students.
Fall	High School Football	FCVFD provided EMS standby at local high school football games throughout the season.
August 29	Structure Fire	Alexandria Fire Department requested Light & Air 106 to provide support at the scene of a multi-alarm structure fire.
August 30	Structure Fire	Light & Air 106 was dispatched to a multi-alarm structure fire in Station Six's first due territory.
September 3	Structure Fire	Light & Air 106 was dispatched to a multi-alarm structure fire. FCVFD personnel provided breathing air cylinder replenishment, food and water.
September 10	Arlington Police, Fire and Sheriff 9/11 Memorial 5k	A102 was requested by the Arlington County Fire Department to provide EMS standby at the 5k.

Date	Event	Description
September 17	Fall Festival and Taste of Falls Church	Engine 106 Bravo provided EMS standby and invited members of the community to participate in our Fire Prevention Week Open House.
September 22	Police Checkpoint Assistance	Light & Air 106 and Utility 106 provided assistance to the Arlington County Police Department at a DUI checkpoint.
October 7	Memorial for Former FCVFD Volunteer	Light & Air 106 paid respects at the visitation for Craig A. Ballinger who served with the FCVFD from 1968 to 1978.
October 30	Marine Corps Marathon	Ambulance 102 provided EMS Standby at the request of the Arlington County Fire Department.
November 11	Structure Fire	Alexandria Fire Department requested Light & Air 106 to provide support at the scene of a multi-alarm structure fire.
November 28	City of Falls Church Downtown Tree Lighting Ceremony	Light & Air 106 transported Santa to the City's holiday lighting ceremony on Broad Street, and provided standby support.
December 17	Wreaths Across America	The Fort Myer Fire Department requested Ambulance 106 to provide EMS standby for Wreaths Across America at Arlington National Cemetery.
December 21	Structure Fire	Alexandria Fire Department requested Light & Air 106 to provide support at the scene of a multi-alarm structure fire.

Date	Event	Description
December 31	City of Falls Church Watch Night	Ambulance 102 and Light & Air 106 provided EMS standby and scene lighting for the City's New Year's Eve celebration.

Ambulance 106 covered Station 33 in Kentland, Maryland, while members of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department attended a memorial service for Firefighter/Paramedic John Ulmschneider on April 20, 2016.



Bike Team 106 provides EMS standby for City of Falls Church Memorial Day festivities on May 30, 2016.

Light & Air 106 on the scene of a multi-alarm transformer fire on June 21, 2016. FCVFD personnel provided air cylinder replenishment.





Engine 106 Bravo provides a “wetdown” on a hot summer day for students at Falls Church Public Schools Summer Camp on July 13, 2016. Our Fire Prevention & Life Safety Education program makes a point to integrate safety tips and education with fun activities to keep young people engaged.

The crew of Ambulance 102 provides EMS standby at a Yorktown High School football game on August 25, 2016.



FCVFD personnel provided EMS standby and scene lighting at the City of Falls Church Watch Night on December 31, 2016.

Training

In addition to responding to emergency calls, FCVFD personnel are required to participate in a minimum number of training hours throughout the course of the year. The Department conducts two internal training drills every month, and our volunteer personnel also participate in a variety of external training courses.

2016 Training Topics

In 2016, FCVFD personnel participated in training activities focused on a wide variety of fire/EMS topics including:

- Abuse, Neglect, & Sexual Assault
- Airway Management
- Automated External Defibrillator
- Basic Life Support Provider Qualification
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Building Construction
- Burn Care
- Cardiac Emergencies
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Cold Weather Emergencies
- Diabetic Emergencies
- Diversity and Harassment in the Workplace
- Downed Power Line Safety and Response
- Emergency Medical Technician Certification
- Emergency Vehicle Operations Certification
- EMS Call Debrief and Best Practices
- EMS Simulations
- Engine Company Operations
- Equal Employment Opportunity
- FCVFD Emergency Vehicle Driver Certification
- Fire Department of New York Medical Special Operations Conference
- Fire Hose Deployment
- Fire Service History
- Fire Simulations
- Fire Training Instructor Certification
- Firefighter Safety and Health
- Gastrointestinal Emergencies
- Geriatric Issues
- Ground Ladders
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA)
- Incident Command System
- Lifepak Operation
- Light and Air 106 Compressor Operations
- Mass Casualty Incidents
- Mayday/Rapid Intervention
- Musculoskeletal Injuries
- Obstetrics Emergencies
- Pediatric Medical Care
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Prehospital Trauma Life Support
- Public Relations and Fire Safety Education
- Radio Communications
- Railcar Emergency Response
- Respiratory Emergencies
- Responding to Behavioral Emergencies
- Santamobile Safety
- Scene Lighting
- Search and Rescue
- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
- Stroke
- Structure Fire After-Action Review
- Summer Heat Emergencies
- Territory and Scene Size-Up Drills
- Toxicology



FCVFD personnel participate in a joint EMS training exercise with members of the Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department.

Notable Training Activities and Achievements

Volunteer Performance Standards

2016 was a landmark year for the formalization and professionalization of the volunteer fire/EMS service in Falls Church and Arlington County.

On August 5, Arlington County Fire Department Chief James Bonzano issued a Department Order to all ACFD personnel implementing new Standards for Fire Department Volunteers.

This was the culmination of many hours of coordination between the FCVFD, ACFD and the Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department (the only other active volunteer fire department in the ACFD system) to create standards for volunteer firefighter/EMT training and procedures.

These standards are based on the training standards of paid ACFD staff, and are intended to guide and unify the relationship between the paid and volunteer members who function within the ACFD system.

The FCVFD and the Cherrydale VFD are now conducting joint training exercises on a routine basis, and working together to ensure all volunteer firefighters and EMTs in the ACFD are in compliance with the new standards.



Donated Structure Training



13 FCVFD firefighters and EMTs conducted training exercises on March 17 at a vacant, donated home that was slated for demolition. Our personnel gained valuable training experience in building construction, scene size-up, fire attack, search and rescue, ventilation, ground ladders, forcible entry, radio communications and overhaul.

Recruit Schools

FCVFD instructors conducted two recruit schools – in the spring and fall, respectively – for new department personnel. This indoctrination program includes over 50 hours of classroom and practical instruction on topics including personal protective equipment, self-contained breathing apparatus, first aid, safety, radio communications, and fire prevention education. Most of the training occurred at Station 6 using Falls Church apparatus and equipment for practical evolutions. To complete the program, candidates took a written exam and a practical exam administered by FCVFD instructors.



The crew of Arlington County Fire Department Engine 102 – B Platoon hosts a training drill for members of the FCVFD on July 21, 2016.

Fire and Life Safety Education

In support of our mission to aid in the preservation of life and property, FCVFD personnel conducted numerous fire prevention and life safety education events in 2016.

Date	Group/Event	Description
February 7	Arlington Spanish Seventh-Day Adventist Church	25 children and 15 adults visited the fire station for a tour and safety discussion.
March 5	Webelos	FCVFD personnel hosted a group of Cub Scouts for a tour and safety discussion.
May 25	Homestretch Preschool	Ambulance 102 visited the preschool to discuss safety and provide a tour.
June 8	Boy Scouts	Demonstration of Automated External Defibrillator (AED).
June 10	Girl Scouts	First aid demonstration.
July 24	Little Falls Presbyterian Church	Light & Air 106 attended the vacation bible school picnic to discuss summertime fire safety.
August 4	Columbia Baptist Church Preschool Summer Camp	Fire prevention and safety discussion.
September 8	Home School Students	Station tour and safety discussion.
September 9	Cub Scout Pack 657 from Falls Church Presbyterian Church	Cub Scouts held their annual recruitment drive in the FCVFD meeting hall and participated in a station tour.
September 27	Falls Church Chamber of Commerce Mini-Golf Family Fun Night	Engine 106 Bravo attended this annual event to provide fire safety information and connect with city business leaders.
November 30	Webelos	FCVFD personnel helped 10-12 Cub Scouts earn their first aid merit badge.

Fire Prevention Week and Open House

October 9-15, 2016

During the National Fire Protection Association's annual Fire Prevention Week, FCVFD personnel visited schools in the City of Falls Church to discuss fire safety with students. In 2016, volunteers engaged hundreds of kindergarten and first grade students at Mount Daniel and Thomas Jefferson elementary schools.



The week culminated on Saturday, October 15, with the annual Open House at Station Six, where FCVFD and ACFD staff hosted four operational demonstrations, showcased our apparatus and provided tours of our facility. Fany – an explosives detection canine from the City of Falls Church Sheriff's Office – and her partner, Sergeant Gregory M. Stone, visited with attendees and conducted a demonstration. Donations were provided by [Harris Teeter](#) and [BJ's Wholesale Club](#).

Santamobile

December 15-23, 2016

As it has done for decades, Santamobile traveled through Falls Church and surrounding areas in Arlington and Fairfax counties on the evenings of December 15-23. With Santa aboard Engine 106 Bravo, FCVFD members distributed fire safety flyers, candy canes and dog biscuits to residents.

In 2016, Santamobile was graciously sponsored by [Winn Design + Build](#), a Falls Church-based, award-winning home remodeling company that serves customers in Northern Virginia, the District of Columbia and Maryland.



Birthday Parties

On Saturdays and Sundays throughout 2016, families from across the region hosted their children's birthday parties in the FCVFD meeting hall, providing volunteer personnel the opportunity to educate kids and parents on fire prevention and life safety.



Five Ways to Support the FCVFD

1. **Donate Funds** – The Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department is a nonprofit charity that depends on donations from generous community members in order to sustain the services we provide to the people of Falls Church and Arlington County. The most impactful way to support us is to [make a tax-deductible charitable contribution](#) to the FCVFD. Your donation will be used to cover the costs of training, equipment, insurance and other expenses our department incurs in the delivery of fire/EMS service and fire safety education to our community.
2. **Host a Fundraising Event** – Local businesses can increase engagement with customers in their community and support the FCVFD at the same time by hosting a fundraising event. Send an email to info@fallschurchvfd.org for more information.
3. **Volunteer** – Our department is comprised of dedicated and certified volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians who train throughout the year to respond to fire and EMS calls in our community. We also rely on our administrative volunteers to assist with critical functions such as fire safety education, fundraising and office management. Consider [joining the FCVFD](#) to contribute your time and talents to serve your community.
4. **Host Your Child's Birthday Party at the FCVFD** – Are you looking for a unique way to celebrate your child's birthday? [Our meeting hall is available for party rental](#) on weekends from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All parties are staffed by FCVFD personnel and include a tour of the firehouse, an opportunity to sit in the fire engine, a gear demonstration and a fire safety message.
5. **Donate a Structure for a Training Exercise** – Property owners who have a vacant building that is ready for demolition may provide FCVFD personnel with the opportunity to conduct training in the structure. Donated structures provide valuable opportunities for our firefighters and EMTs to learn about building construction and practice scene size-up, forcible entry, search and rescue, ventilation and fire suppression. Please note that donated structures will be damaged during the training. Send an email to info@fallschurchvfd.org for more information.



Fiscal Year 2016 Budget

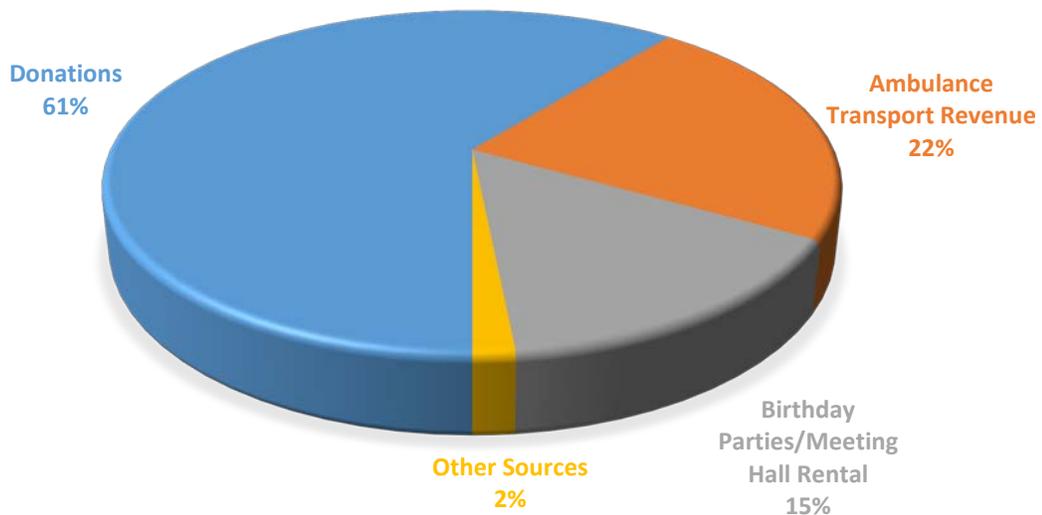
To ensure proper handling of funds and sound financial practices, the FCVFD Board of Trustees establishes an annual operating budget for the Department. The fiscal year for the FCVFD ends July 31 each year.

Revenue

During fiscal year 2016, which ran from August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016, revenues were generated from the following sources and activities:

- Donations
 - Fund Drive
 - Combined Federal Campaign
 - Silent Auction
- Ambulance Transport Revenue
- Birthday Parties/Meeting Hall Rental
- Other Sources

FISCAL YEAR 2016 REVENUE BY CATEGORY

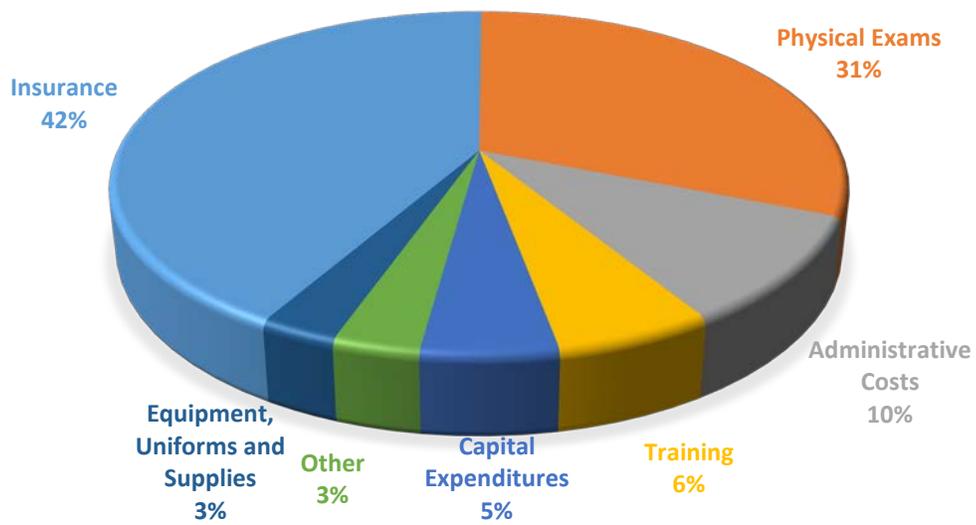


Expenditures

Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2016, included:

- Insurance for personnel, vehicles and property
- Annual physical examinations for personnel
- Training
- Equipment, uniforms and supplies
- Capital expenditures
- Administrative costs

FISCAL YEAR 2016 EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY



Awards

FCVFD Life Saving Award for Susan Audet

On December 12, the FCVFD's own EMT Susan Audet was presented with the department's Life Saving Award.

While off duty on the morning of November 10, 2016, Susan came upon the scene of a collision between a car and a train. The train pushed the car approximately one city block with a single occupant inside the vehicle.

Susan performed a rapid trauma assessment of the patient who had an altered level of consciousness. She performed an emergency move to extricate the patient from an unsafe environment and rendered aid until fire department units arrived on scene.

The FCVFD was pleased to recognize Susan for her quick thinking and courageous actions with one of the department's most prestigious awards.



History of the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department

Like most communities in Virginia prior to the late 1800s, Falls Church citizens responded to fires in their community by forming an impromptu bucket brigade.

When a building known as the Kerr Mill burned, it was decided that the method was inadequate and so the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1898.

The officers consisted of Dr. J.B. Gould, Chief Engineer; George T. Mankin, Fire Warden, 1st Ward; Edgar A. Kimball, Fire Warden, 2nd Ward; D.B. Patterson, Fire Warden, 3rd Ward.

On July 28, 1899, a local newspaper reported that, "The Town Council of Falls Church will levy a special tax of 15 cents on the \$100 in the rate of taxation for the purchase of chemical engines for the fire department of that town. It is proposed by the Council to purchase three chemical engines; one large one for the center of town and two smaller ones to be located at East and West Falls Church respectively."

The large engine was placed beside Brown's Store and held 35 gallons of chemicals. The two chemical units were first used when the summer kitchen at the "Home House" of Charles E. Mankin burned in 1899.

The department's fleet also included one fully equipped ladder truck. All of the apparatus were hand drawn, but were later rigged by a local blacksmith to be drawn by horses.

In 1914, Falls Church purchased one of the first pieces of motorized fire equipment in Northern Virginia. A Model T Ford was retrofitted with the chemical tanks from the department's original 55 gallon engine. The Model T, known as "Old Tom", is still owned by the FCVFD today. It is displayed at the department's annual Fire Prevention Week Open House and has participated in various local parades.



Despite having modern fire apparatus, Falls Church lacked a central location to store its fleet. In 1923, when a fire broke out at the Eagle House, "Old Tom" was found buried under several tons of lumber at the Falls Church Lumber Company in East Falls Church.

This incident prompted a reorganization of the fire department, and the first fire house was built in 1925 near the location of the present-day fire house on Lee Highway.

The Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department was officially incorporated on February 27, 1925. The first officers of the department were: J. Earl Brunner, President; J. Stanley Higgins, Secretary; Clarence Pullman, Chief (for about two months before he resigned and Edward M. Ward became Chief). The first trustees were: E.D. Williams, C.V. Shreve, Frank H. Eastman, Horace E. Brown, Dr. Macon Ware, and William H. Lynch.

The department's first new engine was a Republic engine with two large soda and acid tanks, and in 1927 a 500 gallon-per-minute American La France pumper was purchased.

In July 1934, Frank David Hinkins became the department's first and only line of duty death when he was killed while responding to a false alarm. His name is listed on the Arlington County Fire Department's memorial at Fire Station One on South Glebe Road with other local firefighters – both paid and volunteer – who have been killed in the line of duty.

Today the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department operates from a modern station near the site of its original firehouse. The building is owned by the City of Falls Church, which shares costs with the Arlington County Fire Department to provide paid staffing of the station's engine, truck and medic unit 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The frontline units are designated as 106.

In 2015, the department celebrated its 90th anniversary. FCVFD personnel continue to serve the citizens of Falls Church and Arlington County by staffing volunteer units on weekends, at special events and during major incidents. The department also participates in community outreach activities to teach people of all ages about safety and fire prevention.



In Memory of
Frank David Hinkins
Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department
Died in the Line of Duty
July 1934