



2019 Annual Report

Providing emergency medical services and safety education to promote the health and well-being of our community.

Est. 1925

P.O. Box 7014
Falls Church, Virginia 22040

Visit our website at
www.fallschurchfire.org
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A Message from the President and the Chief

2019 was another exceptional year for the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department (FCVFD). Our dedicated volunteer personnel devoted **6,984 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 and supplemented career staff during routine calls, at major incidents, and at special events throughout the area.

Volunteer EMTs responded to **237 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 **475 hours on ACFD apparatus**, support 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 **2,556 hours of training** on topics ranging from emergency medical services and fireground operations to equal employment opportunity laws and maintaining an inclusive workplace environment.

Prevention of fires and emergency medical incidents is also a top priority for FCVFD. Our personnel spent **775 hours educating the public** through programs such as school and church visits, Firehouse birthday parties, meetings with local Scout troops, our annual open house, and "Santamobile."

Whether responding to a call from an injured citizen, assisting paid firefighters during a blizzard or other weather emergency, 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 2019.

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.

Adriana Palacios
President

Brendan Meehan
Chief

2019 Officers

Corporate Officers



Adriana Palacios
President



Blair Monroe
Vice President



Richard Klein
Secretary



Rita Wells
Treasurer



Jason McCandless
Compliance Officer

Operations Officers



Brendan Meehan
Chief



Dave Dougherty
Assistant Chief



Emma Pierce
Lieutenant



Haithem Hammad
Lieutenant



Jason McCandless
Lieutenant

2019 Trustees



Steve Sisler
Trustee



Jim O'Dowd
Trustee



Blair Monroe
Trustee



Dave Dougherty
Trustee



Richard Klein
Trustee



Emma Pierce
Trustee

Emergency Services Partnership

The mission of providing emergency services at Fire Station 6 is accomplished through a partnership between the FCVFD, the City of Falls Church, ACFD, and Arlington County.

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

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



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	
Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technicians	3
Emergency Medical Technicians	15
Recruits	14
Administrative Volunteers	10
Life Members	10
TOTAL	52

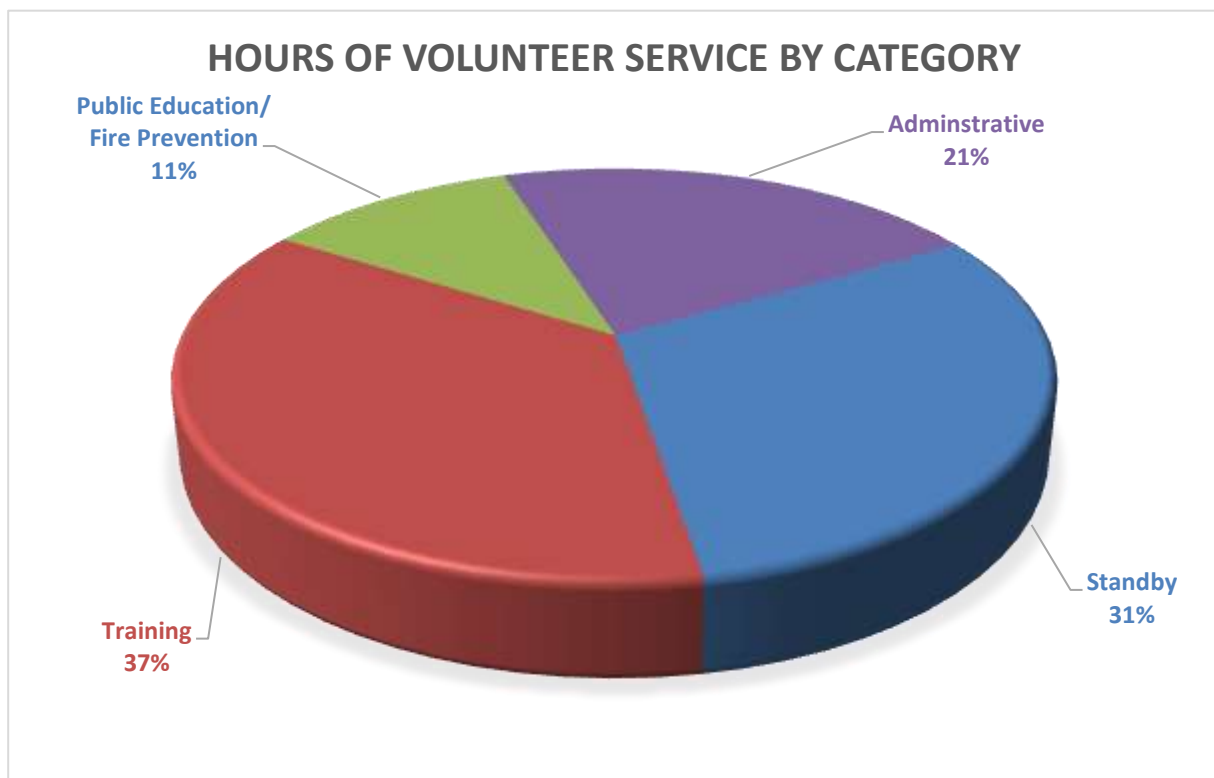


FCVFD Personnel

Hours of Service

FCVFD personnel contributed hundreds of “standby” hours staffing emergency apparatus and responding to calls for service in 2019. 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 talents to carrying out the administrative functions of the department.

2019 Volunteer Hours by Category	
Standby	2,143.5
Training	2,556.5
Public Education/Fire Prevention	775.5
Administrative	1,508.5
TOTAL	6,984



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, the 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 more 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 106 – Another BLS ambulance used primarily 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 smaller 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 utilized by FCVFD personnel

2019 Emergency Call Data by FCVFD Unit		
Unit	Calls	Man Hours (Standby)
Ambulance 102	300	1,328
Ambulance 106	7	130
Bike Team 106	0	58
Light & Air 106	21	10
Utility 106	17	138
TOTAL	347	1,664

2019 Notable Emergency Responses and Special Event Standbys

Date	Event	Description
January 10	Structure Fire	Arlington County Fire Department requested the LA106 unit for scene lightning and air tank refill.
January 13	Storm	FCVFD volunteers provided 12 hours of staffing with our UT106 and UT106B.
January 24	Crime Scene	ACPD Requested LA for scene lightning for a crime scene.
April 21	Scene Investigation	The Light & Air Unit provided on-scene lighting for a police investigation as well as the recovery of the vehicle from the river.
May 19	EMS Standby at CubMobile Races	Ambulance 102 provided EMS standby support for the Cub Scouts.
May 27	Memorial Day	FCVFD put all units into service to provide EMS support for the annual City of Falls Church Memorial Day Festival & Parade.
June 8	Tinner Hill Festival	City of Falls Church requested EMS Standby for their yearly music festival.
July 4	Independence Day	Ambulance 106, our bike team and Utility 106 provided EMS standby for Independence Day celebrations.

July 8	Public Assistance	LA106 was sent to help a community member after a storm.
Fall	High School Football	FCVFD provided EMS standby at local high school football games throughout the season.
September 14	Fall Festival and Taste of Falls Church	Utility 106 provided EMS standby and invited members of the community to participate in our Fire Prevention Week Open House.
September 28	St James School 5K Fun Run	Utility 106 provided EMS Standby at request of the city
October 13	Army Ten Miler	Ambulance 102, Bike Team 106 provided EMS Standby at request of Arlington County
October 27	Marine Corps Marathon	Ambulance 102 provided EMS standby at the request of Arlington County
December 2	City of Falls Church Downtown Tree Lighting Ceremony	Utility 106 transported Santa to the City's holiday tree lighting ceremony on Broad Street, and provided standby support.
December 31	City of Falls Church Watch Night	Utility 106 provided EMS standby at the city's request

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 volunteer personnel also participate in a variety of external training courses.

In 2019, FCVFD personnel participated in training activities focused on a wide variety of fire/EMS topics including:

- Automated External Defibrillator
- Basic Life Support Provider Qualification
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- 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
- Equal Employment Opportunity
- Fire Service History
- EMT Safety and Health
- Gastrointestinal Emergencies
- Geriatric Issues
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
- Incident Command System
- Lifepak Operation
- Light and Air 106 Compressor Operations
- Mass Casualty Incidents
- Musculoskeletal Injuries
- Obstetric Emergencies
- Pediatric Medical Care
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Pharmacology
- Prehospital Trauma Life Support
- Public Relations and Fire Safety Education
- Radio Communications
- Respiratory Emergencies
- Responding to Behavioral Emergencies
- Santamobile Safety
- Scene Lighting
- Scene Size-Up Drills
- Search and Rescue
- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
- Stroke Response
- Territory Familiarization
- Toxicology
- Warm Weather Emergencies



Recruit Schools

FCVFD instructors conducted two recruit schools – in the spring and fall, respectively – for new department operational 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 Fire 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.



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 2019.

Date	Group/Event	Description
March 2	Cub Scouts	FCVFD personnel hosted a group of Cub Scouts for a fire station tour and safety discussion.
March 3	Tiger Scouts	FCVFD personnel hosted a group of Tiger Scouts for a fire station tour and safety discussion.
April 28	Daisy Girl Scouts	FCVFD personnel hosted a group of Daisy Girl Scouts for a fire station tour and safety discussion.
June 4	Communikids	Station tour and safety discussion.
July 12	Kaye Kare Child Center	Fire prevention discussion and station tour.
July 19	50/50 Martial Arts	The Public Education team went to 50/50 Martial Arts Academy to teach first aid.
July 25	Private	Fire station tour.
August 8	Friendship UMC	Fire safety and station tour.
September 6	Cub Scouts	FCVFD personnel hosted a group of Cub Scouts for a station tour and safety discussion.
September 20	McLean Children's Center	Fire prevention discussion and station tour.

September 27	Montessori School of NOVA	Fire prevention discussion and station tour.
October 7	Kaye Kare Child Center	Fire prevention discussion and station tour.
October 8	Mt. Daniel School Kindergarten	Fire prevention discussion.
October 9	Mt. Daniel School 2nd grade	Fire prevention discussion.
October 11	Mt. Daniel School 1st grade	Fire prevention discussion.
October 18	Columbia Baptist	Fire prevention discussion and station tour.
October 22	Falls Church Community Center Juniors Class	Utility 106 visited the FC Community Center and volunteers talked with the children about fire safety.
October 24	Falls Church Community Center K-Readiness Class	Utility 106 visited the FC Community Center and volunteers talked with the children about fire safety.
October 25	Falls Church Community Center Seniors Class	Utility 106 visited the FC Community Center and volunteers talked with the children about fire safety.
October 28	Cub Scouts	FCVFD personnel hosted a group of Cub Scouts for a station tour and safety discussion.
November 10	Au Pair Group	Fire prevention discussion and station tour.
December 14	Private	Utility 106 visited a private party and volunteers taught fire safety to children.

Fire Prevention Week and Open House

October 7-12, 2019

During the National Fire Protection Association's annual Fire Prevention Week, FCVFD personnel visited Mount Daniel Elementary School in the City of Falls Church to discuss fire safety with students. In 2019, volunteers engaged hundreds of kindergarten, first, and second grade students. The week culminated on Saturday, October 12, with the annual Open House at Fire Station 6, where FCVFD and ACFD staff hosted four operational demonstrations, showcased our apparatus, and provided tours of our facility.



Santamobile

December 15-23, 2019

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 2019, the Santamobile was graciously sponsored by Falls Church-based Winn Design + Build, Jhoon Rhee Tae Kwon Do, and MoBu Kids. Winn Design + Build is an award-winning home remodeling company that serves customers in Northern Virginia, the District of Columbia and Maryland. Jhoon Rhee Tae Kwon Do has more than 50 years of experience providing Tae Kwon Do instruction for students of all ages in the Washington DC area. MoBu Kids brings fun to small children in our community by offering a variety of classes, including music & movement, art, and ballet for children ages 8 and under. We are grateful for the support of these sponsors which allowed us to continue a well-loved tradition.

Birthday Parties



On Saturdays and Sundays throughout 2019, over 70 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 organization 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 life 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 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 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. Contact us for more information.
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 2019 Budget

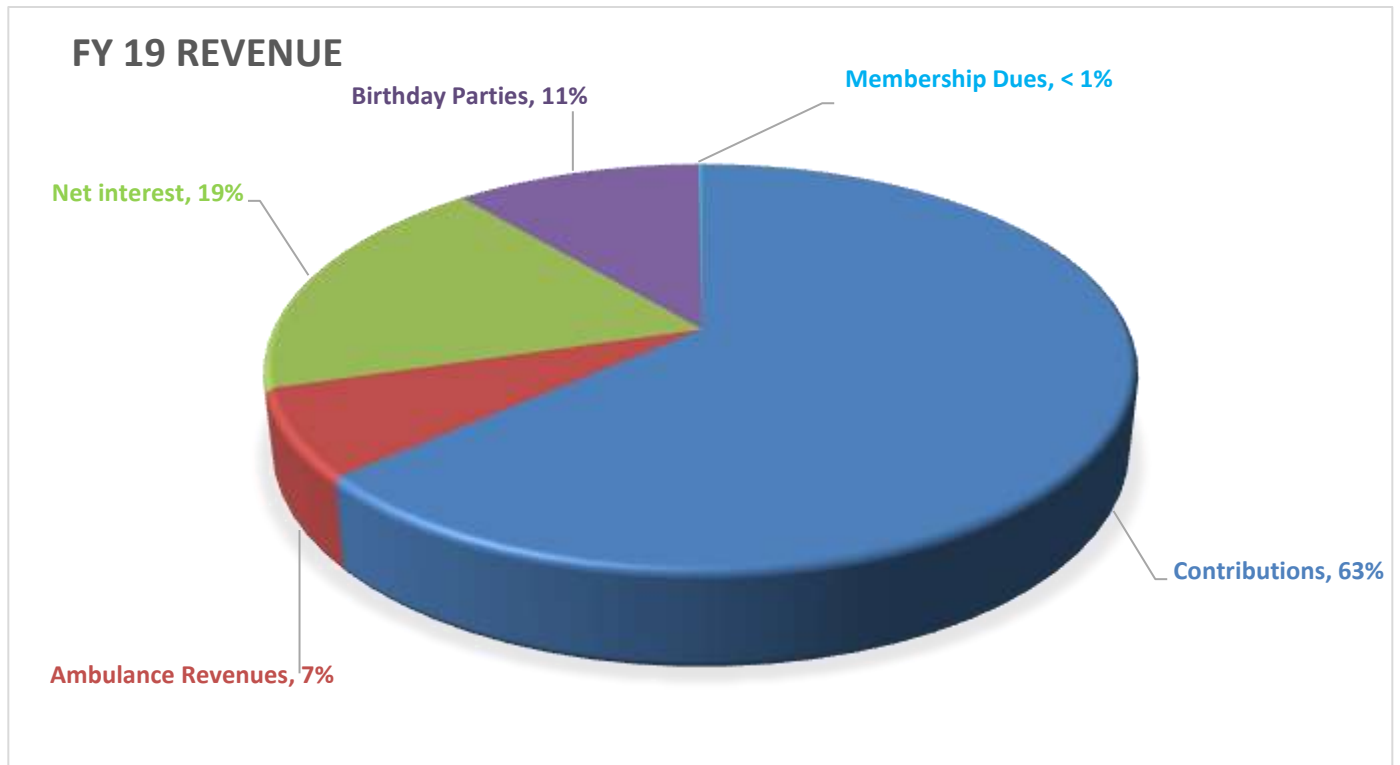
To ensure proper handling of funds and sound financial practices, the FCVFD Board of Trustees establishes an annual operating budget for the Department. The fiscal year for the FCVFD starts on August 1 each year and ends on July 31 of the next year.

The FCVFD financial statements are reviewed by an independent Certified Public Accounting (CPA) firm in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. As a nonprofit organization, the FCVFD does not pay income tax; however, it files IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, each fiscal year.

Revenue

During fiscal year 2019, from August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019, revenues were generated from the following sources and activities:

- Fundraising Contributions
- Ambulance Transport Revenue
- Interest
- Birthday Parties/Meeting Hall Rental
- Membership Dues



In addition, the City of Falls Church reimbursed the FCVFD for a vehicle insurance premium.

Expenditures

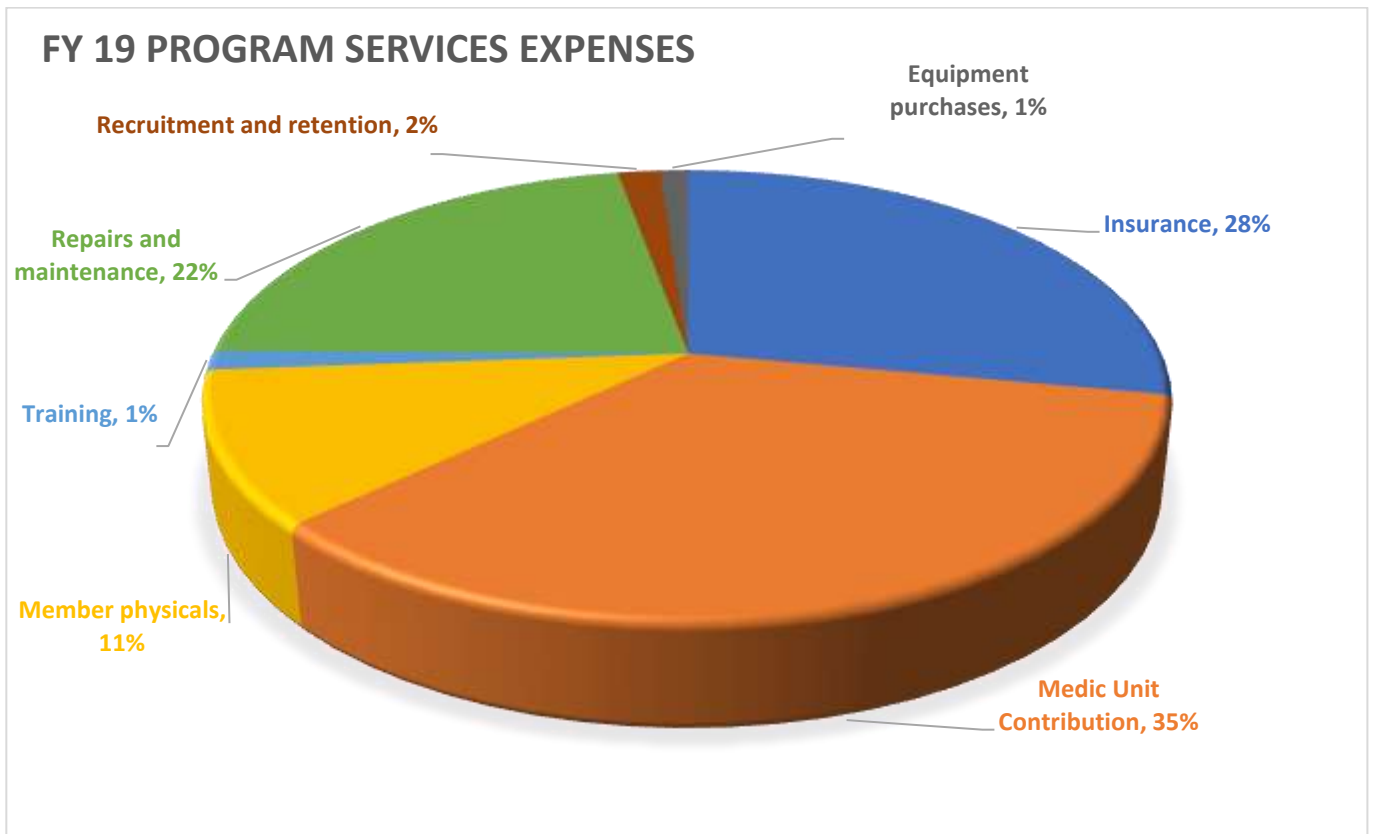
Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2019, included three categories:

- Program Services: 86.42% see breakout below.
- General and Administrative: 8.03% for accounting and legal service fees.
- Fundraising: 5.55% for mailing services including postage and printing

The FCVFD used office space in Fire Station 6 at no cost. Depreciation of equipment is recorded in the FCVFD financial records.

Program Services expenses included the following:

- Equipment purchases
- Insurance for personnel, vehicles, and property
- Medic unit contribution for ambulance
- Annual physical examinations for personnel
- Training
- Repairs and maintenance
- Recruitment and retention



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 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 smaller 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 1 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 department also participates in community outreach activities to teach people of all ages about safety and fire prevention.