

GUIDE TO READING THE PROPOSED BUDGET

With the FY 2014 budget, as a cost savings measure, the County continues with a reduced size of its printed proposed budget; detailed, line of business specific information is available on the County's website. The table of contents in the proposed budget book lists all documents which are part of the budget presentation, and differentiates via the use of **bold** and *italics* which documents are both in the book and on the web, and which are on the web only (**bolded** documents appear in **both the book and web**, and ones shown in *italics* are *only on the web*).

The budget is broken down by sections. Although the Table of Contents outlines what is contained in each section, this guide serves to assist the reader in better understanding how the budget is structured.

COUNTY MANAGER'S BUDGET MESSAGE

The County Manager, who serves as the Chief Administrative Officer of the County, summarizes the proposed budget, highlighting the most significant issues addressed in the budget and the major policy issues the County Board will be dealing with during their budget deliberations.

BUDGET SUMMARIES (Section A)

Section A contains fund descriptions, tables and charts that summarize the budget. The major components of this section are as follows.

- **Fund Descriptions:** For accounting purposes, fiscal activities in the County are separated by fund type. The fund descriptions outline the categories of funds used for budget purposes. This section also includes a table which shows which departments are budgeted in which funds.
- **Expenditure Summary - All Funds:** This section illustrates all of the County Government and School Board expenditures, by fund type.
- **General Fund Summary:** This section illustrates major categories of General Fund expenditures and revenues. The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the County.
- **Pie Charts:** The revenue chart illustrates the revenue sources that comprise Arlington's General Fund revenues. The expense chart details how the budget is distributed among various services within the General Fund.
- **Expenditure and Revenue Summary by Fund:** This summary shows FY 2014 proposed revenues and expenses broken out by accounting categories for all funds which will be appropriated as part of the adopted budget (excluding Schools funds). Note that transfers out to other funds are included in the expenditures of the source fund.
- **County Government Summary:** This summary provides a three year (FY 2012 Actual, FY 2013 Adopted, and FY 2014 Proposed) detail of staffing levels (authorized full time equivalent positions, or FTEs) and expenditures by department and fund.
- **Expenditure Comparison:** This summary provides a three year department-level detail of expenditures, including the change between the current year adopted budget and the proposed budget.
- **Proposed Budget Position Changes:** This chart summarizes the changes in full time equivalent positions (FTEs) between the FY 2013 adopted budget and the FY 2014 proposed budget, highlighting positions added, transferred between departments or eliminated.

- **Compensation Summary:** This section includes information on General Fund and all fund totals budgeted in FY 2014 for employee salaries and benefits, and historical information on employee compensation and retirement rates. Information on FY 2014 health/dental insurance rates is also included.

REVENUE SUMMARY (SECTION B)

A summary of proposed tax and fee changes, and descriptions of major revenue sources are included.

GENERAL FUND DEPARTMENT BUDGET NARRATIVES (Section C)

Arlington County government services are provided by departments that focus on particular areas such as human services or public safety. These departments typically, but not always, can be further subdivided into various lines of business. Section C provides information about each of the County's General Fund departments. The print version of the proposed budget provides the department summary narrative; the web version includes additional narratives for each department's lines of business, and a ten-year history for each department.

The **Department Summary Narrative** (included in both the print and web versions) provides the following information:

- **Mission Statement:** The department mission statement is a brief comment about the department's function in County government.
- **Department Budget/General Fund Budget:** A pie chart indicating how the department's proposed expenditure budget relates in size to the entire General Fund budget. The pie also notes what percent of the department's budget is from federal/state funding, local funding (net tax support) and other funding (generally fees).
- **Department Lines of Business:** An organization chart with the principal divisions or first tier of the department's organizational structure and the department's lines of business. Lines of business are shown in bold type; some lines of business also list sub-activities. A separate budget narrative for each bolded line of business can be found in the web version of the proposed budget.
- **Significant Budget Changes:** This section highlights the major issues and changes in expenditures, revenues, and full-time equivalent positions (FTEs). Remarks are included with up (↑) and down (↓) arrows to indicate whether the budget changes show increases or decreases. Budget reductions made as part of the balancing of the FY 2014 proposed budget are detailed by line of business and each includes an impact statement.
- **Department Financial Summary:** The Department Financial Summary is intended to provide information regarding the categories of expenditures, revenues and full-time equivalent positions (FTEs) by providing the FY 2012 actual, FY 2013 adopted budget, and FY 2014 proposed budget and the percent change from FY 2013 to FY 2014.

Line of Business Narratives – WEB VERSION ONLY

More specific information about how departments provide services and accomplish their goals is provided in the line of business narratives.

- **Program Mission:** The line of business narratives begin with a Program Mission, stating why the program exists, and a brief description of key activities and services provided.
- **Significant Budget Changes:** This section highlights the major issues and changes in expenditures, revenues, and full-time equivalent positions (FTEs). Remarks are included

with up (↑) and down (↓) arrows to indicate whether the budget changes show increases or decreases. Budget reductions made as part of the balancing of the FY 2014 proposed budget are listed and each includes an impact statement.

- **Program Financial Tables:** The budget tables illustrate expenses and revenue by category, and full time equivalent positions (FTEs). These are shown for FY 2012 actual, FY 2013 adopted budget, and the FY 2014 proposed budget. The categories used to detail expenses and revenues may vary somewhat by department, depending on unique circumstances. The major categories include:
 - **PERSONNEL:** Expenses for salaries, wages and employee fringe benefits, such as retirement, health and life insurance.
 - **NON-PERSONNEL:** Operating expenses such as office supplies, equipment, maintenance contracts, telephone charges, and electricity.
 - **INTRA-COUNTY CHARGES and INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CREDIT:** Reimbursement for services performed by one department or program to support another County department, program or fund.
 - **FEES:** Monies received by the County as payment for services, goods or use of a facility, such as residential refuse disposal fees and user fees for recreation programs.
 - **GRANTS:** Monetary contributions, usually from state or federal agencies, to be used for a specific purpose or activity.
 - **NET TAX SUPPORT:** Net tax support is the remainder determined by subtracting all state and federal aid, fees, and charges from the total expenditures of the programs. It is used to project the amount of general tax dollars (as opposed to program-specific revenues) that are required to provide services.
 - **FTEs:** This section displays the number of full-time equivalent positions authorized by the County Board, broken out between permanent and temporary positions.
- **Performance Measures:** Line of business narratives contain performance measures, which typically span six years from FY 2009 Actual to FY 2014 Estimate. Measures are developed to reflect programmatic goals, objectives and resources. These measures are designed to track performance and are regularly updated to better reflect changing goals. When measures are revised, prior year data is often not available. Current and proposed fiscal year measures are expressed as estimates.
- **Ten Year History:** The history displays major changes within the department over time and summarizes expenditures, revenue and authorized FTEs. Entries shown in *italics* indicate adjustments made during the course of the fiscal year through supplemental appropriations, and are not actions taken as part of the adopted budget process.

Sections C also contains information on other General Fund expenditure categories not included in departmental budgets, including expenditures for Debt Service, Metro, Regionals/Contributions, and Non-Departmental (including certain insurance costs, building rent, contingents, and other miscellaneous expenses).

ENTERPRISE, SPECIAL REVENUE AND INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS (Section D)

Found in Section D are summaries of the funds that are not represented in the General Fund (excluding Pay-As-You-Go and Utilities capital, and Master Lease). Definitions of fund types can be located in Section A under Fund Descriptions. Operating (fund) statements are also included for these funds. These operating statements include budgeted amounts in the FY 2013 Adopted column; the FY 2013 Re-Estimate column includes a projection of FY 2013 actual expenses and revenues.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CAPITAL AND MASTER LEASE (Section E)

Pay-As-You-Go Capital refers to County projects, typically valued at \$100,000 or more, that are financed in the same fiscal year the project is initiated. No borrowing or issuing of bonds is undertaken to implement these projects. Section E summarizes the projects planned by Arlington County in FY 2014 for general capital projects and utilities capital. A description of projects funded through master lease financing is also included.

GLOSSARY AND APPENDICES (Section F)

A glossary is located in Section F. The glossary defines key budget and accounting terms used throughout the entire document. The glossary also contains commonly used acronyms. Also included in Section F is a consolidated summary of the governmental operating funds displaying revenues, expenditures and beginning and ending balances for each fund. This section also includes a description of the County's budget process, information on the County's financial and debt management policies, a description of the County's comprehensive plan (web version only), a chart with selected fiscal indicators for the County, and the Arlington County Profile (web version only).