

ARLINGTON COUNTY FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

FY2018 PROPOSED BUDGET

BUDGET AREA:	Fire Dept.
FAAC REVIEWERS:	Peter Robertson, Patrick Bogenberger
DATE OF FAAC ACTION:	March 16, 2017

**FAAC Opinion**

After receiving a modest funding increase and 13 additional FTEs in FY 2017, the FY 2018 budget proposes a funding increase of 6%, but no increase in FTEs from the FY 2017 adopted level. There are increases in funding (both in personnel and non-personnel, ongoing and one time) related to conducting two recruit classes at the Fire academy in FY 2018.

The Chief's main priorities/concerns are acquiring more staff FTEs; sufficient funding for the academy: being able to recruit enough quality personnel: and moving to a shorter work week (which will help in recruitment). The Chief would like to do more proactive prevention efforts, but it's a collateral duty.

The department's spending for overtime is projected to be significantly more than what is currently in the budget. The current staff attrition rate is 2.7 members/month.

FAAC Recommendation #1			
The FAAC recommends that the County Board approve the county manager's FY 2018 proposed budget for the Fire Department.			
Vote:	Yes: 9	No: 0	Abstain: 0
Comment:			

FAAC Recommendation #2			
The FAAC recommends that the County Board direct the County Manager to work with the Fire Chief to prioritize the development of guidelines/policies with the goal of finding the appropriate overtime/FTE balance.			
Vote:	Yes: 9	No: 0	Abstain: 0
Comment:			

**FAAC Recommendation # 3**

The FAAC recommends that the County Board direct the County Manager to work with the Fire Chief to review recruitment standards and practices to expand the pool of eligible employees while maintaining the high quality of Department staff.

Vote:	Yes: 9	No: 0	Abstain: 0
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Comment:	
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**Future Considerations**

- Moving from the current 56-hour workweek
- Cancer risks issues
- Option to hire above entry level