

AGENCY SUMMARY

VOLUNTEER FIRE COMMISSION

Agency Links:

Volunteer Fire Commission: [Website](#)
Volunteer Fire Commission: [FY 2025 Approved Budget](#)
Volunteer Fire Commission: [FY 2025-2030 Approved CIP Budget](#)
Volunteer Fire Commission: [FY 2025 Budget Review Report](#)
Volunteer Fire Commission: [FY 2026 Budget Review Report](#)
Fire/EMS: [FY 2026 Budget Review PowerPoint](#)

Leadership

Johnathan Bolden, Chair

Core Services

- Emergency medical services including basic and advanced life support.
- Fire suppression.
- Rescue services, including technical rescue, confined space rescue, high-angle rescue, marine rescue, and swift water rescue.
- Hazardous materials, bomb, and explosive device response.
- Fire and arson investigations.
- Fire prevention and life safety, including fire inspections, enforcement, and public education.

Organizational Structure

- Emergency Services Command, Support Services Command, Administrative Services Command, and Volunteer Services Command

FY 2025 Key Accomplishments

- Completed cancer screenings for 226 Volunteer and Career members, which will use biomarkers in blood samples to provide participants with information on their risks for the most common types of cancers diagnosed amongst firefighters.
- Hired a total of 150 new firefighter recruits in four different Career Recruit Schools.
- Hosted the third annual Camp Embers Program designed to allow participants ages 14-18 years old to explore their interests and learn skills through hands-on activities over a two-day camp.
- Educated over 568 seniors on senior safety and 1,296 students on fire safety.
- Trained over 48 individuals on how to properly install car seats.

Budget & Policy Analyst: Malcolm Moody

BACKGROUND

Under the Schedule of Legislation section, [Section 13](#) of the County Charter, the Fire/EMS Department was established. It provides that the Department will be headed by the Fire Chief, who will have at least five (5) years of experience. [Subtitle 11](#), Divisions 1 & 2 of the Prince George's County Code delineate the organization and administration of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department. The primary functions of the agency include fire prevention, fire suppression, emergency medical services, fire and rescue communications, research and training activities, and coordination of the volunteer fire companies. The Fire/EMS Department consists of a combination of sworn and civilian staff, in addition to more than 1,200 active volunteers, united under the operational authority of the County Fire Chief. Together these two labor forces combine to operate 45 fire and EMS stations, as well as several Fire/EMS Department support facilities that are located throughout the County. Each Volunteer Fire/ Rescue Corporation operates at least one station and is a private 501(c)3 corporation. The Fire/EMS Department does not receive financial reports from the individual corporations for any bank accounts outside of the funding provided to the volunteer corporations from the county.

The Fire/EMS Department budget outlines funding for tools, uniforms, and equipment for station supplies and personal protective equipment during firefighting operations. The Fire/EMS Department is awarded funding from the State of Maryland, Senator Amoss funding, also known as 508 funds. These funds are provided to the Fire/EMS Department as a Capital Grant for distribution to the volunteer fire corporations for approved capital projects submitted to the Prince George's Fire Commission.

The Charter also provides that there will be a [Fire Commission](#) whose purpose is to review each volunteer fire company's financial needs and requests for public funds. Annually, it shall formulate one capital budget, one capital improvement program, and an operating budget for all volunteer fire companies regarding the expenditure of public funds and shall submit each budget and program(s) to the County Executive.

The Fire Chief and staff are responsible for the adequate delivery of fire and emergency medical services to the citizens of Prince George's County and house the Office of Professional Standards. The [Emergency Services Command](#) is responsible for the coordination of firefighters, paramedics and volunteers. Headed by one of the department's deputy chiefs, the Emergency Services Command oversees Fire/EMS operations, advanced emergency medical services, technical rescue and the Hazardous Materials Response Team. The [Support Services Command](#) coordinates all of the specialized non-emergency services for the agency, including the Office of the Fire Marshal functions, Apparatus Maintenance, Logistics and Supply, Facility and Resource Planning, Support Services, and Training and Technical Services. [Administrative Services Command](#) is responsible for the coordination of the management, financial and support functions within the department. The division also oversees the operations of Fiscal Affairs, Research, Information Management, Risk Management and Human Resources. The [Volunteer Services Command](#) is responsible for coordinating the day-to-day operations of the County's volunteer fire companies to assist the Fire/EMS Department's response to emergency calls throughout the County.

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FY 2025 Top Priorities

- Improve service delivery and reliability throughout the County, utilizing real-time performance analytics and system-wide situational awareness to meet established performance standards by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).
- Completing the accreditation process through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI).
- Implementing solutions to enhance the health, safety, and wellness of Fire/EMS Department members, which includes reducing on-the-job injuries, identifying the highest physical risks through annual physicals, and enhancing resources to support mental and behavioral health.
- Developing and implementing a comprehensive plan for the standardization of both County-owned and volunteer-owned apparatus and equipment.
- Enhancing community risk reduction efforts through education and residential smoke alarm distribution countywide.
- Increasing the number of filled sworn positions by 77, which are included in the FY 2025 Budget.

Operating Budgetary Resources - Below is the 5-year overview of resources allocated to the Volunteer Fire Commission from FY 2021-25.

