

City Council Questions FY 2014-15

The list below shows the City Council's questions and requests for further information to staff about certain areas of the FY 2014–2015 budget. These questions and requests are displayed to give the public more information about the budget. *Some questions do not have answers available at this time, and therefore will show, "In Progress"*. Please check back every Monday for updates.

Department	Council Member	Date Received	Question	Date Answered
VBCPS	Councilman Moss	March 31, 2014	What is the funding required to fund the same 3% raise for school board employees that city employees are proposed to receive?	April 04, 2014
Human Resources	Councilman Moss	March 31, 2014	Please provide the mean daily vacancies broken out by public safety and non-public safety.	April 11, 2014
Human Resources	Councilman Moss	March 31, 2014	Please provide the number of positions vacant more than ninety days broken down by public safety and non-public safety. Provide the same for positions greater than 180 days.	April 11, 2014
Human Resources	Councilman Moss	March 31, 2014	Please provide the average number of days to fill a newly created position in this year's budget.	April 18, 2014
Human Resources	Councilman Moss	March 31, 2014	Please provide the mean time to hire an entry, mid, and senior level engineer?	April 11, 2014
Planning	Councilman Moss	March 31, 2014	Why didn't the budget contain the option of privatizing the new state requirement on managing land disturbance?	April 18, 2014
Planning	Councilman Moss	March 31, 2014	How many positions are Chesapeake and Norfolk adding for the new state requirement on managing land disturbance? Also, please add Fairfax, Henrico, and Chesterfield counties.	April 11, 2014
VBCPS	Councilman Moss	March 31, 2014	If the old Kemps Landing School was unsuitable from a facilities point of view for gifted students and had to be replaced, why is it now suitable to house sixth graders from Bayside Middle School? Please provide a copy of the facility assessment of the current Kemps Landing that justified its replacement.	April 04, 2014
Budget & Management Services	Councilman Martin	March 31, 2014	What is the amount of money raised by the non-adjustable "service fees" which contribute to revenues? Not water bills, but trash collection, storm water, and other costs which are standard per dwelling unit.	April 04, 2014
Housing & Neighborhood Preservation	Councilwoman Wilson	April 01, 2014	Please provide the definition of workforce housing and affordable housing. How are they different?	April 04, 2014

Emergency Communications & Citizen Services	Councilman Moss	April 01, 2014	Please provide a breakout of the operating costs and capital expenses for the Department's capital projects.	May 02, 2014
Police, Fire & EMS	Councilman Moss	April 01, 2014	Can we use demographic information to project call volumes?	April 11, 2014
Police, Fire & EMS	Councilman Moss	April 01, 2014	Please provide the attrition (both number and rate) that has occurred in your department, minus retirements, for the last three calendar years.	April 04, 2014
Finance	Councilman Moss	April 01, 2014	Please provide some information on why risk management charges are increasing overall.	April 11, 2014
Public Works	Councilman Moss	April 01, 2014	Please provide some information on why city garage charges are increasing, and what is being done to reduce these costs. What results have been achieved as a result of any cost saving measures that have been implemented. What is the trend line of city garage costs over the last five years? How do our costs for standard services like oil changes compare to fleet costs incurred by UPS, FedEx, etc.?	May 02, 2014
Human Resources	Councilman Wood	April 01, 2014	Please provide an overview of how the compressional adjustments that are included in the budget would be applied.	April 11, 2014
Strategic Growth Area Office	Councilwoman Henley	April 01, 2014	Please provide a report on the new special event fees and what costs are being recouped.	April 11, 2014
Budget & Management Services, City Attorney	Councilwoman Henley	April 01, 2014	Please explain why the public hearing scheduled for April 22nd is on the same night as a schedule City Council meeting and not being held on a date separate from a City Council meeting?	April 11, 2014
Convention & Visitor's Bureau, Economic Development	Councilman Moss	April 01, 2014	Please provide a breakdown of what we are spending at each of the satellite offices located outside of the United States. What metrics are being used to track the performance of these offices?	April 11, 2014
Economic Development	Councilman Moss	April 01, 2014	How could the city facilitate internships within the fields of STEM in order to develop a more prepared workforce for employees located within the city?	April 11, 2014
Human Resources	Councilman Wood	April 01, 2014	Regarding the compression plan, what would be the impact of changing the proposed plan to \$250 per year up to 10 years of service?	April 11, 2014
Strategic Growth Area Office	Councilman Moss	April 01, 2014	Why are the parking fines no longer coming back to the General Fund?	April 04, 2014

Strategic Growth Area Office	Councilman Moss	April 01, 2014	Why are we converting a contractual employee to an FTE in Parking? What are the long-term costs associated with each?	April 04, 2014
Economic Development	Councilman Moss	April 01, 2014	On the organizational chart that was provided to City Council, are all of the positions on the second line considered supervisors?	April 11, 2014
Budget & Management Services	Councilman Moss	April 01, 2014	Please provide an itemization of fringe benefits for the two, and soon be three classifications (in terms of Virginia Retirement System) of employees.	April 11, 2014
Fire Department	Councilman Wood	April 01, 2014	Regarding 4-person staffing on fire apparatus, please provide a matrix showing each station, identifying each piece of equipment assigned to the station and which pieces have 3-person and which pieces have 4-person staffing.	April 04, 2014
Emergency Communications & Citizen Services	Councilman Wood	April 01, 2014	During the ECCS presentation, mention was made of improved hold time for 9-1-1. Please provide some backup details on this.	April 18, 2014
Economic Development	Councilman Moss	April 02, 2014	What is the cash balance of the EDIP fund?	April 11, 2014
Economic Development	Councilman Moss	April 02, 2014	Please provide the ratio of supervisors to non-supervisors in the Economic Development Department.	April 11, 2014
Police, Fire, Sheriff	Councilman Moss	March 31, 2014	Do public safety departments have to call staff in and pay them overtime in order to backfill for staff that is out on compensatory time? If known, what is the magnitude of the problem? As what point does it make sense to add additional staff as opposed to providing overtime/compensatory time?	April 11, 2014
Consolidated Benefits Office	Councilman Wood	April 03, 2014	Retiree Healthcare - What would the cost impact be if pre-65 year old retirees were offered the same rate as active employees?	April 11, 2014
Consolidated Benefits	Councilman Wood	April 03, 2014	Healthcare - Can the city offer a Medicare supplemental policy to post-65 year old employees in lieu of regular coverage? What would be the cost impact?	April 04, 2014
EMS	Councilman Wood	April 06, 2014	For the supervisor positions that were requested but not funded: 1) what is the average daily census of volunteer and career first responders working to provide direct care (i.e., those on the street not working in administrative jobs) over the past 5 years on an annual basis? 2) At full staffing, how many career supervisors are on the street managing these career and first responders (same time frame)? 3) Please provide a comparison chart showing the ratio of street	April 11, 2014

supervisors to public safety first responders for police, fire and EMS. 4) What is the justification for not including additional supervisors if the call volume and number of first responders are increasing over time? 4) Please provide any additional relevant data that supports this request for additional staff.

For the requested but not funded zone cars: 1) how many zone cars are assigned to EMS? 2) Please provide a chart showing make/model, vehicle year, date placed in service, and approximate mileage for each zone car. 3) How many zone medics are on the street on average for the past 5 years? 4) How many qualified volunteer and career paramedics are there in the system providing active direct patient care who could operate zone cars? 5) In the absence of additional career medic staffing, would zone cars have utility? Would they be staffed by volunteers? 6) Please provide any additional relevant data that support this request for additional zone cars.

EMS	Councilman Wood	April 06, 2014		April 11, 2014
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In your response to the question regarding Kemps Landing Magnet School and Bayside Middle School (FY15 008), it states that Kemps Landing Magnet School is considered a borderline facility. Please explain what is meant by "borderline facility"? What is the basis for the decision on whether a school is borderline? Please also indicate the status of Bayside Middle School – is it borderline?

VBCPS	Councilman Moss	April 06, 2014		April 11, 2014
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The response to question FY15 032 seems to contradict my earlier question on the possibility of the city offering a stipend in lieu of insurance when I was told that the city had to offer insurance. Please clarify this. If we can offer lower premiums for lower-paid employees, how would that work? Provide a low cost HMO plan as I originally suggested? How many insurance eligible employees make less than \$35,000 per year in base salary?

Consolidated Benefits Office	Councilman Wood	April 07, 2014		April 11, 2014
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April 08, Please provide a chart showing the departments revenue by category.

Planning	Councilman Moss	April 08, 2014		April 18, 2014
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April 08, What is the status of the discussion related to "interim billing" for utilities?

Public Utilities	Councilman Uhrin	April 08, 2014		April 18, 2014
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Public Works	Councilman Moss	April 08, 2014	Please provide a breakdown of the \$1 million in electrical savings. What portion is cost avoidance, actual budget reduction, and baseline savings?	May 02, 2014
Public Utilities	Councilwoman Henley	April 08, 2014	What is the status of state legislation that would provide elderly or low income individuals with exemptions or costs breaks on their water and sewer bills?	April 18, 2014
Budget and Management Services	Councilman Moss	April 08, 2014	Please breakout the exact and annualized distribution of the increase in the personal property tax by category of source collection. What is the revenue tax rate and the revenues in excess of neutral rate? Please identify the revenue increases that are exempt from the revenue neutral rate computation? What analysis has the staff done to compute the private to private sector economic activity reduction and growth impact of the increased revenue taking? Is the staff assuming that tax rate and fee increases are frictionless on the private sector? If yes, please share the reasoning. If no, and no quantitative analysis was conducted, please share the criteria and qualitative analysis supporting the additional income transfer from the private to the public sector. Please be mindful that median family income in down 4.6%; therefore, fee and tax increases at the household level further reduces the income of families.	April 18, 2014
VBCPS	Councilman Moss	April 14, 2014	Since the \$800K recycle bill was sent to the Schools after they submitted the budget, what is the school adjusting to offset the emergent expense? During the council discussion on the former topic, it was mentioned that the school system had an additional liability of \$1.8 million. Please provide additional background on the latter issue not included in the budget submitted by the school board.	May 02, 2014
Police	Councilman Moss	April 14, 2014	If the city council were to add new police officer positions and they enter employment in a January academy, what is the exact salary and benefit expense factoring in recruit pay? What is the actual labor and equipping cost for every four officers? Please itemize the equipping cost for each officer. Does each of the four officers drive a car?	April 18, 2014
Fire Department	Councilman Moss	April 15, 2014	Since there is no vehicle expense for manning the fourth position on the fire truck given time to recruit and start a	April 18, 2014

training academy, like question FY15 043, what are the labor costs actually required to fund every four firefighter positions?

Budget & Management Services	Councilman Moss	April 14, 2014	If for other than new proposed positions, all FTEs are funded assuming a lapse rate of 1%, what are the salary and benefit now proposes expenses that would be released/freed up?	May 02, 2014
Budget & Management Services	Councilman Moss	April 14, 2014	What is the delta between what is proposed to be budgeted for new positions and funding new positions for 6-months or 9-months?	April 18, 2014
Finance	Councilman Moss	April 15, 2014	Please provide by department the risk management charges and is there a hard copy document that I can review the methodology and parameters used? What is the cash balance of the risk management fund?	May 02, 2014
Budget & Management Services	Councilman Moss	April 15, 2014	Can you provide a single sheet to show by department those departments who receive 20% or more state funds for their operations?	May 02, 2014
Parks & Recreation	Councilman Moss	April 15, 2014	Please provide the position and salary in next year's budget for the Parks and Recreation Director's Office positions and each position that reports directly to any position in the Director's Office.	April 18, 2014
Human Services	Councilman Moss	April 15, 2014	Please provide a breakdown for SNAP and Medicaid showing the growth in these two programs based on changes in eligibility.	May 02, 2014
Human Services	Councilman Moss	April 15, 2014	What is the total budget for contracted manpower for the Human Services Department?	May 02, 2014
Museums	Councilman Moss	April 15, 2014	In terms of maintenance projects, what has been completed and what is planned next for the City's historic houses?	May 02, 2014
Finance	Councilman Moss	April 15, 2014	For the Parks and Recreation Department, please provide a list of incidents that have occurred over the past three years that have been reported to risk management and the dollar value of those incidents.	May 02, 2014
Parks & Recreation	Councilman Moss	April 15, 2014	Please provide some additional information on the long term vision for the Rock Church property.	April 18, 2014
Budget & Management Services	Councilman Moss	April 15, 2014	What is the opportunity cost of reducing the 2-cent dedication to roadways?	May 02, 2014
Budget & Management Services	Councilwoman Henley	April 15, 2014	What is the influx of state money for roadways that was referred to in the executive summary?	May 02, 2014

Non-Departmental	Councilman Moss	April 15, 2014	How much space does the city lease? When do these leases expire?	May 02, 2014
			Regarding the Juvenile Detention Center: 1) what is the capacity (# of beds)? 2) What is the average daily census of offenders for the last 3-years? 3) What is the total annual cost to operate the facility (local and non-local costs)? 4) Number and total salary of all FTEs assigned to the center 5) How many non-resident offenders are held at the center? How many offenders are being held on crimes not occurring in Virginia Beach? Do we hold offenders for other cities? 6) What other centers operate in the region, what are their capacities and what are their average daily censuses for the last 3-years?	
Human Services	Councilman Wood	April 15, 2014	7) How many centers in Virginia are operated by Sheriffs or other correctional entities as opposed to Human Service?	May 02, 2014
Strategic Growth Area Office	Councilwoman Kane	April 16, 2014	Where are we with project 9-506, Rosemont SGA?	May 02, 2014
Budget & Management Services	Councilwoman Henley	April 17, 2014	What is the policy (or recommended action) for the relationship between the Comprehensive Plan and the Capital Improvement Program?	May 02, 2014
Budget & Management Services	Councilwoman Henley	April 17, 2014	There are no road projects in the proposed CIP in the Transition Area (TA). In 2003, when the current plan for the TA was adopted, the linchpin was a funding plan for infrastructure in which the TA would fund its infrastructure with a TIF-like setup. That was suspended around 2009-10 since it was not working as projected. If that plan were re-activated, would it be more successful today? Absent that plan, how can the TA reasonably expect to qualify for road improvement funding?	May 02, 2014
Public Works	Councilwoman Henley	April 17, 2014	Princess Anne VII-A was first developed in the FY 2013-14 CIP to develop some safety improvements for the section of Princess Anne Road from Sandbridge intersection to the Pungo intersection with an allocation of \$300,000 in 2014 and a projected allocation of \$350,000 in 2015. The proposed CIP removes \$200,000 from the 2014 allocation and makes no additional allocation for 2015. Where did the \$200,000 from the 2014 allocation go? What was the rationale for not proceeding with this project? Are there any other projects	May 02, 2014

from which previously allocated funds were removed and reallocated?

The Rural Roads project allocates \$200,000 annually toward making safety improvements for rural roads and there has been such a project since the mid-80s. (I believe that, for a brief time, we allocated \$500,000 annually for this program). Each proposed project, though small in scope, takes many years to bring to fruition, such that very few projects are actually built. Finally, maybe the Gum Bridge turn lane will get constructed this year. Besides the West Neck and Pleasant Ridge turn lanes, what subsequent projects are being planned for this ongoing project? I would like to see an accounting of the funds that have been allocated and spent in this projects since its inception.

[May 02, 2014](#)

Public Works

Councilwoman Henley

April 17, 2014

Please provide a status of the latest Water Services Contract True-up.

[April 18, 2014](#)

Public Utilities

Councilman Jones

April 08, 2014

Are lower customer flows to the sanitary sewer system increasing corrosion?

[April 18, 2014](#)

Public Utilities

Councilman Martin

April 08, 2014

Please provide information with respect to the criteria used for deciding which infrastructure to replace or rehabilitate.

[April 18, 2014](#)

Public Utilities

Councilman Moss

April 08, 2014

Have you or would you consider the benefits of changing the title of the bill so that our customers would be less included to think of it as just the "water" bill?

[April 18, 2014](#)

Public Utilities

Councilwoman Wilson

April 08, 2014

This question relates to the 2-cent road construction allocation created in FY 2012-13. A large number of our concerns in the city, center around road and traffic issues. The proposed FY 2014-15 budget suggest dedicating the 2-cents to the Operating Budget/CIP, while relying on state funding and debt to address our road concerns. With state funding uncertain, why are we doing this? Are we confident that state funding will come in at a level that is comparable to

the 2-cent or better to ensure our road concerns are addressed?

[May 02, 2014](#)

Budget & Management Services

Councilwoman Kane

April 21, 2014

Please give me an update on the following projects impacting Rose Hall: 1) 2-034 S. Independence & Silverleaf intersection 2) 2-041 Dam Neck/Holland Road Phase 1 3) 2-059

[May 02, 2014](#)

Various

Councilwoman Kane

April 21, 2014

Holland/Rosemont Intersection 4) 9-506 Rosemont SGA 5) 2-032 Lynnhaven/International Parkway Intersection 6) 2-038

Rosemont Road Phase V 7) 2-414 Shipps Corner Road
 Improvements 8) 7-028 Windsor Woods Drainage 9) 4-309
 Mount Trashmore Signature Park Renovations Phase 2

Communications & Information Technology	Councilwoman Kane	April 21, 2014	CIP project 3-648 Bi-weekly Payroll Implementation: Why does it cost \$1.4 million to switch to bi-weekly payroll?	April 25, 2014
VBCPS	Councilman Moss	April 22, 2014	How much of the vacancy lapse rate do you reallocate in the budget?	May 02, 2014
VBCPS	Councilman Moss	April 22, 2014	What metrics are looked at by US News and Word Reports when developing the school competency ratings?	May 02, 2014
Commissioner of the Revenue	Councilman Moss	April 22, 2014	On slide 2 of the Commissioner of the Revenue's presentation, he refers to CIP project 3-200. Please explain what this is.	May 02, 2014
Budget & Management Services	Councilwoman Wilson	April 22, 2014	What is the impact of the state legislation that exempts business personal property tax for two years?	May 02, 2014
Communications & Information Technology	Councilman Moss	April 22, 2014	What is the implementation schedule for the e-ticket project? Has the state law that was holding up the implementation of this program been resolved?	May 02, 2014
Human Resources	Councilman Moss	April 22, 2014	What is the analysis for raising the salaries of positions that were making a rate of pay less than \$10.10 per hour?	May 02, 2014
Budget & Management Services	Councilman Moss	April 29, 2014	In FY 2014-15, the amount budgeted for vehicle replacements for solid waste vehicles is broken out in the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund and not shown in the same account in which it was previously budgeted. Please provide the total amount budgeted for vehicle replacements for FY 2013-14 and FY 2014-15 combining non-departmental and solid waste.	