VFOIA Annual Report FY20

*". . .balance the County's **commitment to transparency and openness**, while ensuring the protection of the County's **privacy and security interests**. . ." – Countywide FOIA Policy*

FOIA REQUESTS

Average Response Time

2 business days

The Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA) requires public bodies to respond to FOIA requests within 5 business days.

Total Requests

11,762

Fairfax County tracks FOIA requests for 50+ Fairfax County agencies with the VFOIA Tracker application.
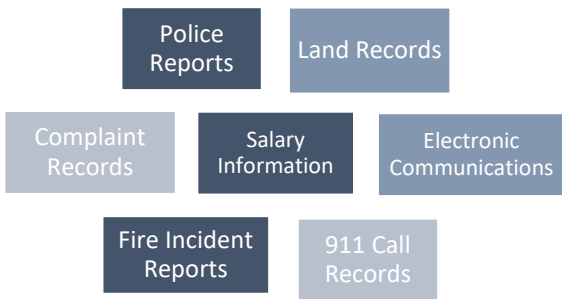
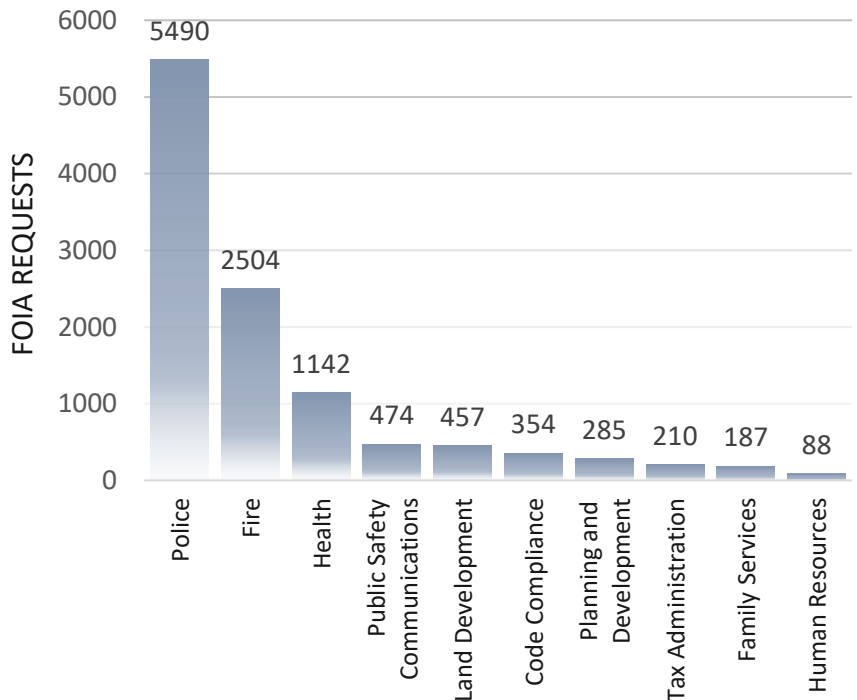**VFOIA** TRACKER

Records Released in Full

54%

VFOIA contains exemptions that *allow* agencies to withhold exempt information. Other laws *require* that Fairfax County withhold certain information.
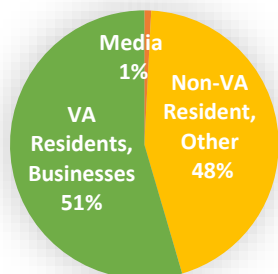
Top Requested Records

- Police Reports
- Land Records
- Complaint Records
- Salary Information
- Electronic Communications
- Fire Incident Reports
- 911 Call Records

Requesters

- Media 1%
- VA Residents, Businesses 51%
- Non-VA Resident, Other 48%

Top Ten Agencies

FOIA REQUESTS

Agency	FOIA Requests
Police	5490
Fire	2504
Health	1142
Public Safety Communications	474
Land Development	457
Code Compliance	354
Planning and Development	285
Tax Administration	210
Family Services	187
Human Resources	88

FOIA FEES

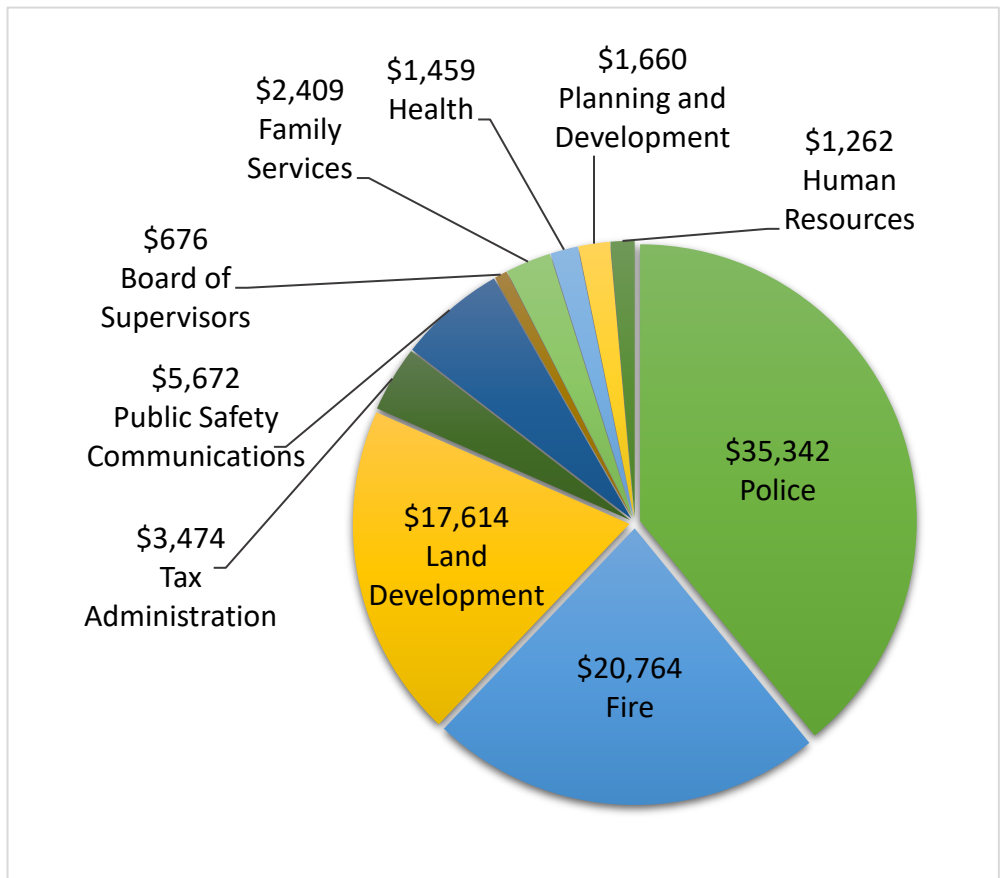## FOIA Fees Assessed

$94,253.29

VFOIA allows Fairfax County to assess reasonable, actual costs related to processing FOIA requests.

FOIA Fee Waivers

6,479

Per County policy, waivers should be considered when the total cost of the FOIA request is less than $50.

Top Ten Agencies

- $2,409 Family Services
- $1,459 Health
- $1,660 Planning and Development
- $1,262 Human Resources
- $676 Board of Supervisors
- $5,672 Public Safety Communications
- $3,474 Tax Administration
- $17,614 Land Development
- $35,342 Police
- $20,764 Fire

INTERESTING DATA

On average, the County received **47** requests per working day.

The Office of Public Affairs responded to or provided agency support on **846** FOIA requests.

8,655 FOIA responses were sent via email, and **3,107** were distributed in-person, over the phone, via fax or by letter.

$786 was the highest paid FOIA fee.

Fairfax County agencies processed **26%** more FOIA requests in FY20 than in FY19 (9,329 FOIA requests).

The Office of Public Affairs conducted **15** FOIA trainings attended by **453** individuals.

More FOIA requests were received in **March** (1,154) than in any other month.

Requests categorized above as VA residents and businesses were sent by: **75%** private citizens; **21%** developers, businesses, and law firms conducting business in Fairfax County; and **4%** from social services and non-profit organizations.