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Government Affairs
Manager



Fire and EMS Issues

Agenda



1. Overview of VDFTP
2. Role of Government Affairs
3. VDFTP Initiatives
4. HB 2175 Workgroup
5. Fire and EMS Issues



Vision

- The Virginia Department of Fire Programs will be nationally recognized as the leader in enhancing the quality of fire and emergency services.

Mission

- To provide funding, training, and educational programs to enhance public safety throughout the Commonwealth.



Our History

1940: Fire Training Need Identified;

1969: VDE established Fire Services Training Section;

1978: Fire Services Training section established as separate office; reports to Secretary of Public Safety;

1981: Office of Fire Services Training combined with VA State Fire Services Commission to create VDFP and its policy making board – the Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB);

1985 to Present:

Funding sources established: VA Fire Programs Fund; assesses 1 percent of five lines of insurance (homeowners, farm owners, marine, fire, etc.)

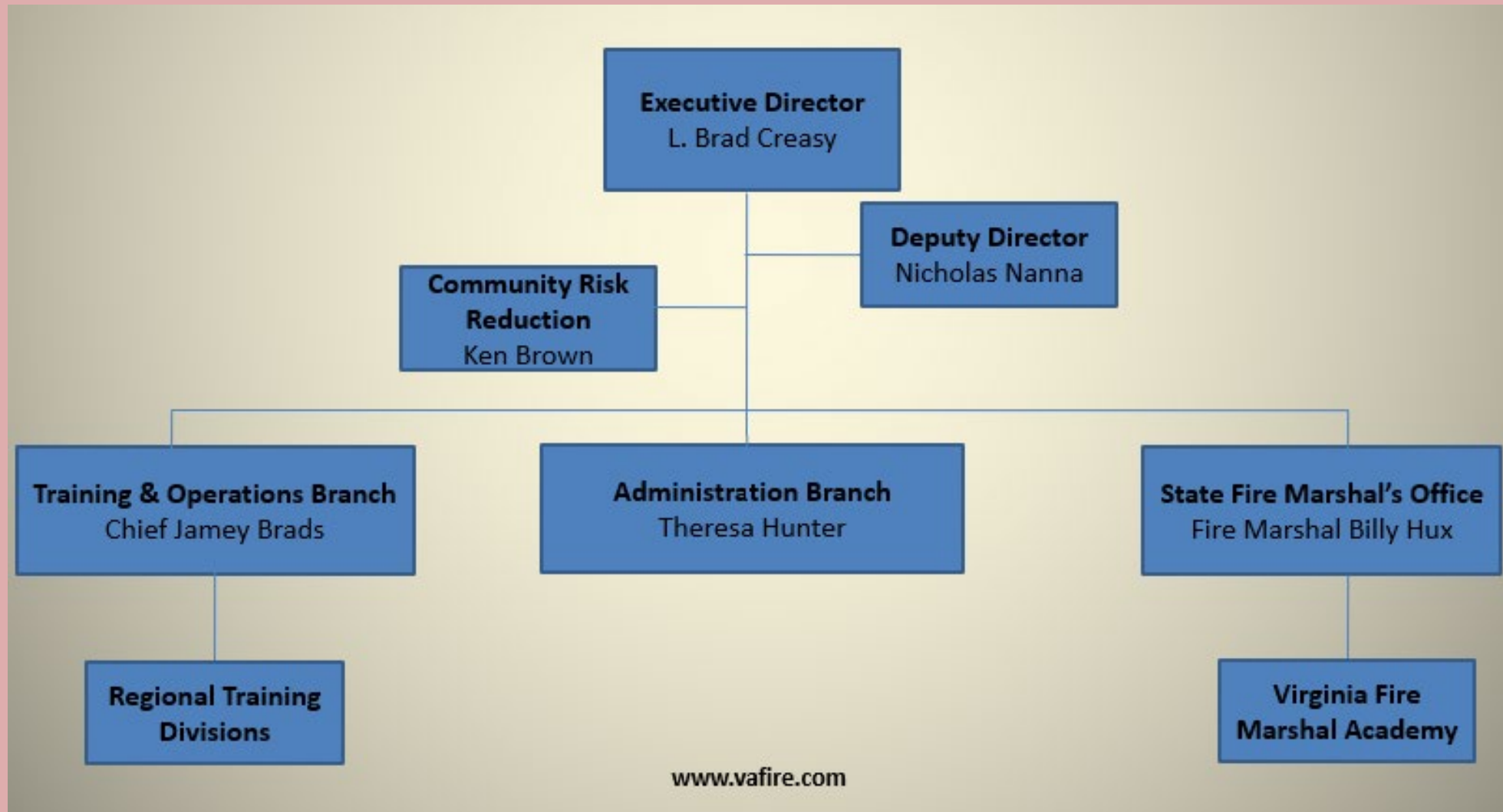
State Fire Marshal's Office joins VDFP - 2008



Agency Strength

- 82 Full-time
- 22 Part-time
- 3 Appointed Officials
- Up to 500 Adjunct Instructors
- 7 work sites
 - 7 Division Offices
 - 1 Agency Headquarters, Glen Allen (Division 1 is located here)





Government Affairs

- Virginia Fire Services Board

- Manages VFSB
- Coordinates Meetings and Board Business
- Fire/EMS Studies

- Liaison

- Office of the Governor
- Office of the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security
- General Assembly

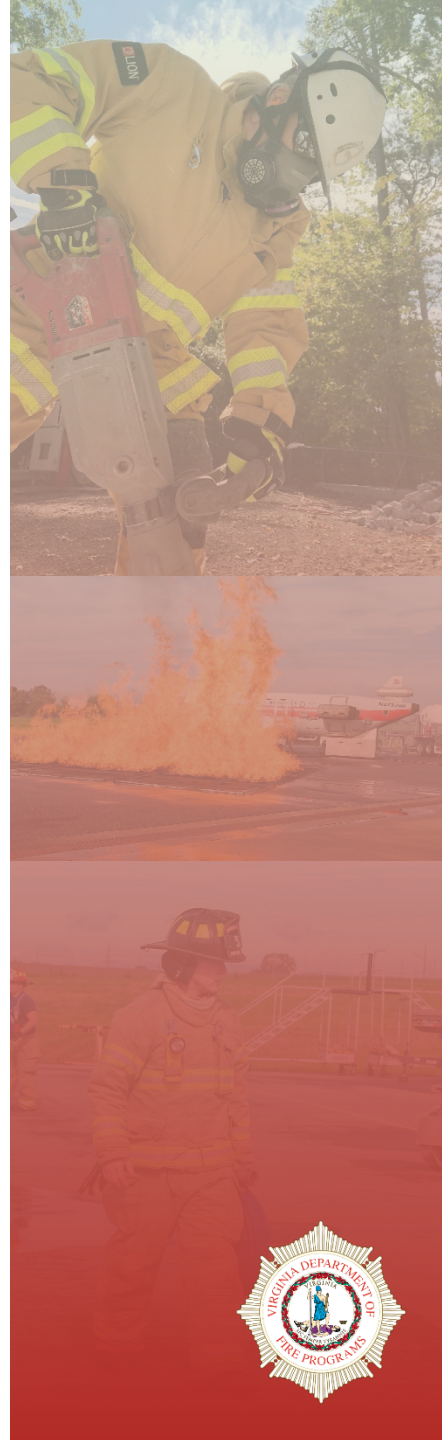
- Policy

- Oversees VDFP internal policy
- Records Retention
- Regulatory Coordinator



VDFP Initiatives

- Online Student Testing
- Electric Vehicle Fires/Battery Fire Training
- Development of New Training Sites
 - Water Rescue Training Facility Capital Budget Request
- Development of Agency Scorecard
- SB1046 Workgroup: Local Fire Marshals



HB 2175 Workgroup

HB 2175 Workgroup was formed by the General Assembly and consists of various stakeholders such as:

- Virginia Professional Fire Fighters
- Virginia Fire Chief's Association
- Virginia State Firefighters Association
- Virginia Association of Counties
- Virginia Municipal League
- Association of Government EMS Administrators
- State Partners: VDFP, OEMS, and DPB
- Regional EMS Councils



HB 2175 Tasks

- Analyze Existing Fire Service Needs
- Virginia Fire and EMS Needs Assessment and Survey

- Study Sustainability of Current Funding
- Compare call volume and state funding through VDFP and OEMS

- Review Models of other States
- Maryland
- North Carolina
- IAFC
- NACo



Virginia Fire and EMS Needs Assessment and Survey

- Released through a partnership between VaCo, VML, and VDFP
- 87% response rate (86% of counties)
- Total of 19,299 fire and EMS providers
- 91% reported a decline in volunteers
- 18% of localities cannot meet OEMS standards, 70% of localities cannot meet NFPA staffing recommendations
- Call volume from 2021-2023 rose by 40%
- State funding has risen by 6.67% during the same time
- 20% of frontline apparatus is over 20 years old

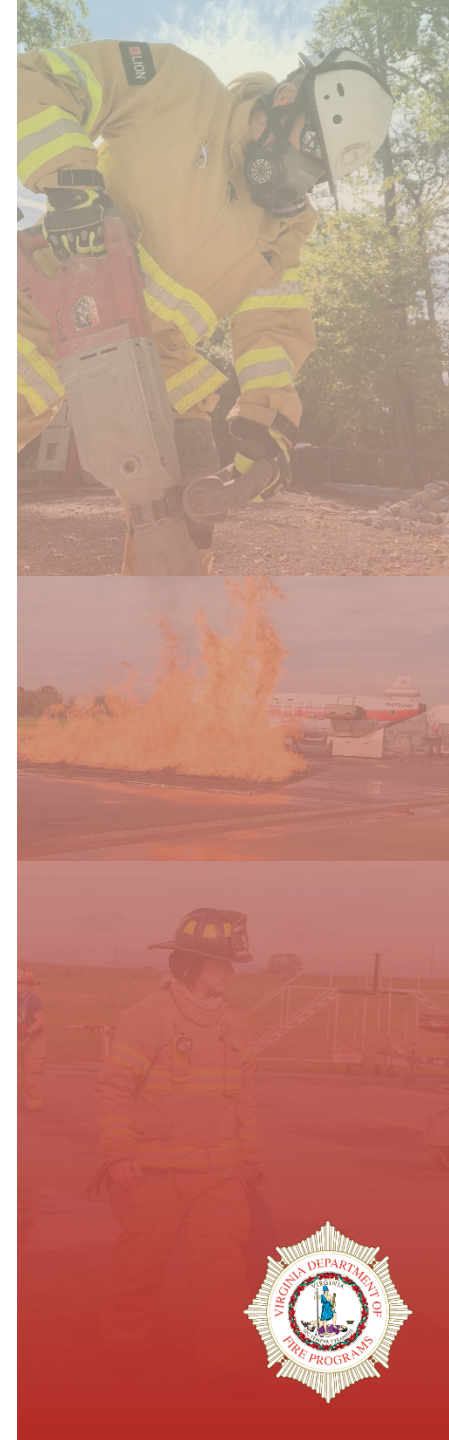
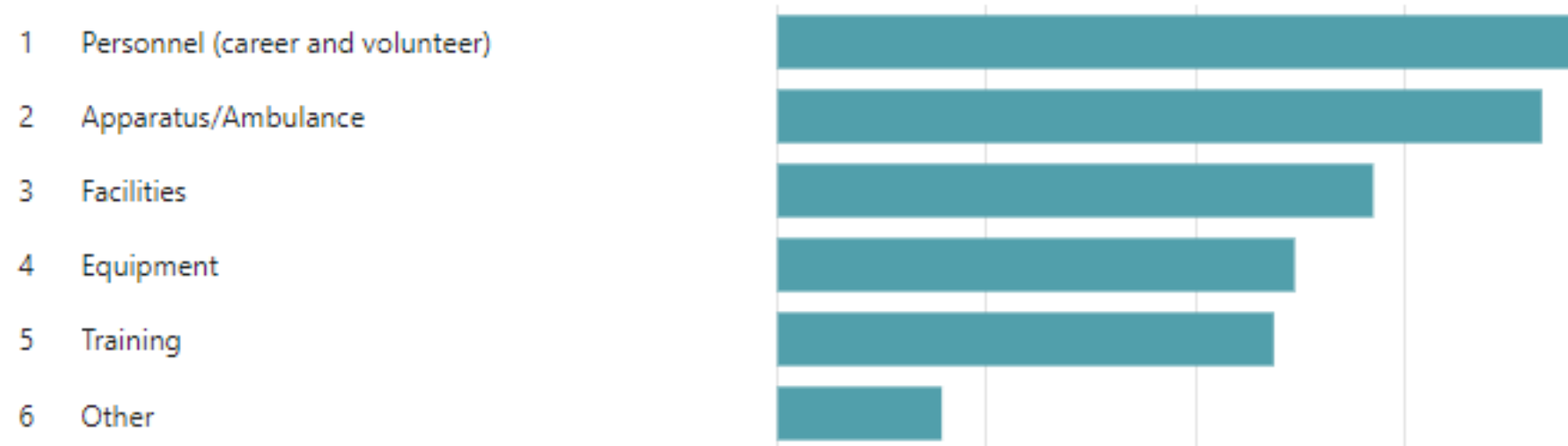


Figure I: Requests for Additional Funding by Localities in Fire and EMS



**Final Report due:
October 1st, 2023**

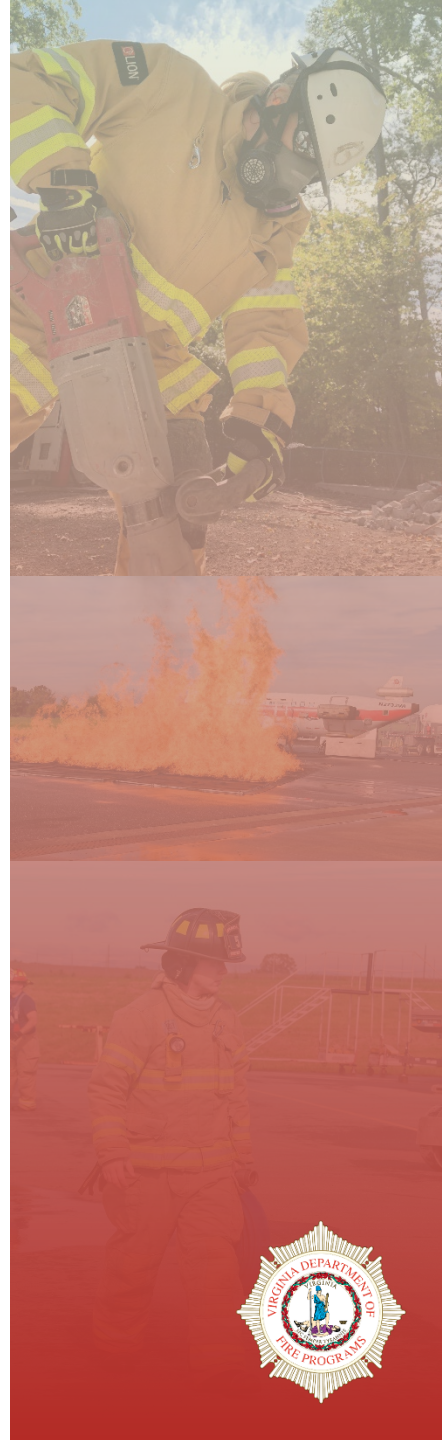
**General Assembly
Reviews**

**Possible
Legislation during
2024 Session**



Overarching Issues

- Funding is not sustainable with rising costs and rising call volume
- Some localities are not able to provide adequate service to citizens
- Personnel (volunteer or career) and apparatus/ambulance costs were the most prevalent issue
- Virginia General Assembly must address these issues to enable future growth in the Commonwealth





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Thank You

