



## FY 2017 Recommended Budget Budget Question

**Board Question #: 26**

**BUDGET QUESTION:** What is the potential for combining the Sheriff's Office and FREMS dive teams? Why do we need two?

**RESPONSE:** Following is the combined Sheriff's Office and FREMS response:

Over the past four years, Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office and FREM have worked diligently to forge a working partnership that the citizens of Spotsylvania County are proud to call Public Safety. Both offices are in contact daily to share information, resources, and equipment to better serve our community and insure that we are the best steward of tax payer dollars. Presently, the FREM Water Rescue Team & SSO Dive Team continue to work in tandem, to take advantage of each other's individual areas of expertise. The teams work and train together on a regular basis to fully understand each entity's role; yet neither is fully crossed trained to do the other's job, as each entity has its own focus and responsibility on every scene.

If the two teams were combined, there still would be the same total number of persons assigned, and the training would in fact increase as each member would have to be crossed trained for every incident. As such, there is no obvious financial benefit to combining the teams, and may in fact increase costs. Instead, FREM and the SSO prefer to continue to place emphasis on integrating team training when possible, and to take advantage of shared responsibility for certifying participants in various areas where economies of scale are present.