



FY 2019 Recommended Budget Budget Question

Board Question #: 48

BUDGET QUESTION: There's \$104,000 added to Fire/Rescue training largely due to revised State requirements for EMT certifications. Will this be an on-going expense or a one-time expense? If every year, why every year?

RESPONSE: This will be an ongoing expense for the next 5 to 6 years. This expense is related to the elimination of the EMT-Intermediate program by the Virginia Office of EMS, which will require the department to pursue EMT-Paramedic as the level of training for all additional Advanced Life Support (ALS) training. The Paramedic class is significantly longer than the Intermediate program, resulting in an additional cost to achieve the required training and certification process.

All personnel hired for the past several years are required to acquire an ALS certification (now Paramedic) within 4 ½ years from their date of hire as a condition of employment. In addition to the elimination of the Intermediate program, the State has changed the way it administers EMS training funds, which has resulted in an increased local cost to conduct the training as the accredited training centers are no longer eligible for subsidies from the State to lower the local cost of the training per student.