



Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission
Report to the County Board

FY 2022 Proposed Budget

Budget Area:	Department of Public Safety Communications & Emergency Management (DPSCEM)
FAAC Reviewers:	Brian Sigriz, Thelma Askey, Lauren Harris, Chanda Choun
Date of FAAC Action:	3/18/2021

FAAC Opinion

FAAC recognizes the role DPSCEM has played over the past year in addressing COVID-19, and working with other county agencies in implementing the county's response. FAAC is also appreciative of DPSCEM's efforts over the past year to streamline operations, including moving to remote 9-1-1 services. Given the overall budget challenges faced by the county in the current fiscal environment, FAAC is supportive of the proposed reduction of 3.0 percent.

FAAC Recommendation #1			
The FAAC recommends that the County Board adopt the current budget proposal for DPSCEM.			
Vote	Yes:10	No:0	Abstain: 0
Comments			

Future Considerations

1. Ensure sufficient staffing at DPSCEM so that Police and Fire do not need to fill-in for 911 services, which requires DPSCEM to pay them their higher rates.
2. If funding becomes available in the future, the County Board should consider unfreezing two vacant emergency communications call takers, as DPSCEM has played a vital role in residents receiving information about county operations. The unfreezing of the two vacant positions could also help to reduce overtime costs.

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3. DPSCEM should seek to keep remote 911 services in order to maintain current benefits including allowing staff to pick up shifts more easily and providing greater workforce flexibility.
4. The county should consider the future of x7999, which currently handles non-emergency COVID related calls. The number is currently supported by FEMA and CARES Act funds. Post pandemic, DPSCEM may have to absorb call with reduced staff capability.
5. Emergency communications systems may require future, additional capital advancements due to technological improvements, including the possibility of video 911. Video 911, in combination with the Fire Department's EMS enhancements and movement towards telemedicine/treatment in place, may help to support the county's efforts in promoting greater equity.
6. Ensure that DPSCEM prioritizes equity in its operations including, but not limited to, data collection, transparency, and training.