

You too can work with the Federal government!

Prince George County IGSA with Fort Lee – how to engage a military base.

It is not often that the Federal government appropriates funding to a local government. But, that is exactly what happens when local government leaders actively engage their military counterparts and keep the lines of (emergency) communication open, literally. A sidebar discussion eventually led to an Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) signing ceremony on February 8, 2019 between Prince George County and Fort Lee.

The Fort Lee Police Department initiated discussions with the County Police Department to enter into a local agreement, which would add Fort Lee to the County's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and call handling system. This agreement will grant Fort Lee access to a newer CAD system and grant additional benefits to emergency calls on base. The IGSA will also improve interagency cooperation with the two entities sharing the same system and call handling equipment. There will be an increased cost in expenditures during the contract term, but Fort Lee will be reimbursing Prince George County for 100% of the expenditures.

The contract is for a period of five (5) years with the ability to renew for successive one (1) year periods for four (4) additional years.

Some of the highlights:

- Upgraded 911 CAD capabilities will decrease emergency response times and increase accuracy of emergency reporting in Prince George County and Fort Lee.
- Upgrades to the 911 CAD will bring the Prince George County 911 system in compliance with the Enhanced 911 dispatch standards, mandatory by 2022.
- Fort Lee's total 5-year investment is \$308K, which represents a \$5.3M cost avoidance over five years for taxpayers (difference in cost for a new Fort Lee only CAD system).

The County will maintain the shared software and hardware installed in the County, while Fort Lee will maintain any equipment and software installed for Fort Lee staff. And since all of Fort Lee is within Prince George County, this partnership will provide an even closer working relationship for the public safety groups of both organizations.



(photo credit: Jeff Stoke)