Alexandria Fire Department

Since 1774

Dedicated to Our Community, Our Profession, and Each Other

A Proud History…

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Dedicated to Our Community, Our
Profession, and Each Other

Continued Dedication…

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Our *New* Vision

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Alexandria Fire Department

- 325 authorized positions (FY2010)
- $40.3M operating budget (FY2010)
- 9 Stations protect 15 square miles
- ~19,000 annual emergency calls
  - +500 calls FY2009 > FY2008
  - 64% EMS-related
- 300+ “working” structure fires each year

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Our Mission

The mission of the Alexandria Fire Department is to plan for and deliver responsive and caring emergency service, mitigate emergencies and disasters, prevent the loss of life, protect property, and enforce applicable construction, fire, and building maintenance codes for City residents and the general public in order to maintain and enhance public safety.

Alexandria Fire Department

- Emergency Management
- Building and Fire Code Administration
- 24/7/365 All-hazards emergency response
  - Emergency medical services (EMS)
  - Fire suppression
  - Hazardous materials
  - Technical rescue
  - Marine operations

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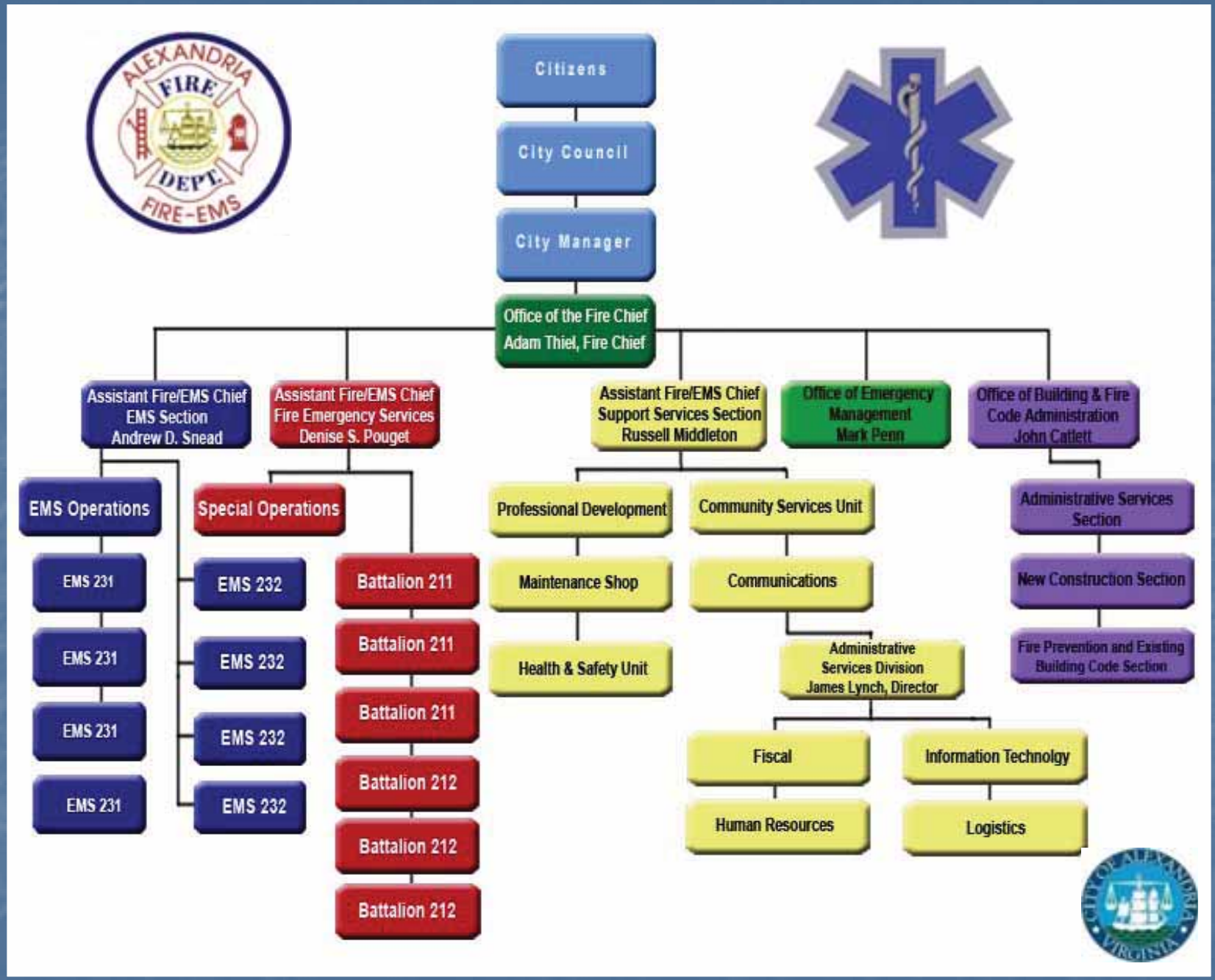

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Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

- Coordinates, mitigates, prepares for, and responds to all disasters within the City
- Maintains the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Liaison with Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) and FEMA

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Office of Building and Fire Code Administration

- Uniform Statewide Building Code
- Virginia Maintenance Code
- Statewide Fire Prevention Code
- Environmental Investigation Unit

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Emergency Medical Services

- 24-hour Advanced Life Support (ALS) Care
- 5 paramedic transport units
- 2 EMS supervisors
- Specialty teams: Special Events, SWAT, Marine Operations

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Fire Suppression

- Cross-Trained Firefighter/EMTs
- 8 Engine Companies
- 3 Ladder Trucks
- 1 Rescue Squad*
- 1 Fire Boat – *"The Vigilant"*
  - 2 Rigid inflatable boats (RIBs)
- 2 On-Duty Battalion Chiefs
- Specialty Teams: Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue, and Marine Operations

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Hazardous Materials

- Cross-Trained Firefighter/EMTs
- State Response Team of over 40 trained Specialists & Technicians
- Respond to incidents involving Weapons of Mass Destruction and other chemical/environmental hazards, including fuel spills
- Engine 209*
- Hazmat 209
- Support 209
- Foam 209

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Technical Rescue

- Cross-Trained Firefighter/EMTs
- Specializing in trench collapse, confined space, and high-angle rescues
- Trained for advanced vehicle extrication and structural collapses

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Marine Operations

- Established in 1997
- Cross-trained Firefighter/EMTs and paramedics
- Fireboat 201*: “The Vigilant”
- Zodiacs 204* & 214*

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Automatic Mutual-Aid

- Members include: Alexandria, Washington, D.C., Arlington County, Fairfax County, Prince George's County, Prince William County, Montgomery County, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
- Units respond on a first-available basis regardless of jurisdiction

Fire Communications

- 24/7/365 Staffing includes 1 Supervisor and 2 Dispatchers* on 4 Shifts
- Shifts are 12 hours in duration
- The Center handles over 19,000 emergency calls per year
- Transitioning with APD to consolidated Department of Emergency Communications (DEC)

Maintenance Shop

- Shop employs 1 Supervisor and 3 Mechanics
- Maintains all heavy fire-EMS apparatus (engines, ladder trucks, medic units), support vehicles, and small tools/equipment.

Professional Development

- On-site practical training and classroom facilities*
- Four full-time staff
- Burn Building
- Physical fitness and CrossFit facility

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Our *New* Core Values

- Professionalism
- Preparedness
- Community
- Dedication
- Unity

Our Strategy

Our Focus Areas

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AFD Strategic Priorities, FY2010-11

- **Professionalism**
  - Training and education
  - Professional standards
- **Community Engagement**
  - Emergency management planning/education
- **Prevention, Health and Safety**
  - Operational safety
  - Behavioral health
  - Employee wellness and fitness

Community Services Unit

- Public Information Officer
- Youth and Senior Education Programs
- City Fire Academy
- Smoke Alarm Program
- Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program
- To Schedule, call 703-706-3940 ext 222

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AFD Strategic Priorities, FY2010-11

- **Readiness and Infrastructure**
  - *Fire Communications staffing and support*
  - *Fire/Emergency services staffing*
  - *Emergency Medical Services (EMS) capacity*
  - *Facilities improvements*
- **Accountability**
  - Strategic/Operational Planning
  - Fiscal management
  - Performance management

Routley Report Recommendations

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August 25, 2007

- 6101 Edsall Road—Alexandria Knolls West
  - 18-story condominium complex
  - ~300 residents
  - Fire resistive construction
  - Automatic fire alarm system
  - Two standpipes
  - No automatic fire sprinklers

Outcomes

- 3-Alarm+ fire
- Entire building evacuated
- 4 occupants rescued
  - Aerial ladder or carried downstairs
  - Transported to hospitals by additional EMS units
- 6 firefighters (FF) injured
  - 1 Fairfax, 5 Alexandria
    - 3 Alex. FF admitted to hospital (1 in ICU)

Investigations

- AFD Code Enforcement Bureau
  - Fire cause and origin
- AFD Fire Chief's Office
  - Incident analysis ("Routley Report")
- Virginia Occupational Safety and Health
  - Catastrophic incident investigation

Findings

- Communications
  - Capacity
  - Training
  - Equipment
- Command
  - Capacity
  - Training
  - Equipment

Findings

- Procedures
  - Emergency Management interface
  - Fire Marshal interface
- Coordination
  - Regional resource deployment
  - Dispatch coordination

Findings

- Safety
  - Capacity
  - Training
  - Culture
  - Oversight

Findings

- Resources
  - Capacity
    - Engine company staffing
    - Ladder truck staffing
    - Rescue company staffing
    - Support staffing
  - Regional mutual-aid system

Proposed Multi-Phase Timeline to Implement Routley Report Recommendations

2009

Establish Shift Safety Officers

*

Maintain Experienced Communications personnel on Duty

*

Emphasize Incident Management Training

*

Dispatch Emergency Management to Assist Evacuees

*

Establish Procedures for Activating Staff Personnel on Major Incidents

*

Establish CAD Interface with Alexandria, Fairfax, & Arlington Communications Centers

*

Incident Management Training for EMS Supervisors

*

Dispatch EMS Supervisors to Box Alarms

2010

Increase Communications Staffing to 1 Supervisor 3 dispatchers Per Shift

*

FY 2008 SAFER Grant Award increased staffing on one suppression unit

YEAR 1

Additional Dispatcher Training to Assist 911 callers

*

Increase Staffing on One Additional Suppression Unit

*

Direct MDT Access to pre-fire plans; target Hazard Data

YEAR 2

Increase Staffing on Four Additional Suppression Units

YEAR 3

Increase Staffing on Four Additional Suppression Units

YEAR 4

Increase Staffing on One Additional Suppression Unit

YEAR 5

Fully Staff Rescue Company

*

Assign Aide for Each Battalion Chief

*

Assign Full Time Driver to Air / Light Unit

Other Routley Report Recommendations:

Train EMS Personnel to Operate in Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health Environments

*

Revise Highrise SOPs for Incidents That Involve Multiple Floors

*

Consolidate Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax Communications Centers

*

Establish Regional Mutual Aid Coordination Center for Large Scale Incidents

*

Upgrade Alexandria CAD System to Correct Operational Limitations

*

Dispatch Command Vehicle to Major Incidents

Health and Safety Unit

- 1 Battalion Chief and 3 Shift Health and Safety Officers
- Acts as Incident Safety Officer (ISO)
- Provide care for injured/ill employees
- Infection Control
- Survey worksites for safety hazards

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Facilities Report Recommendations

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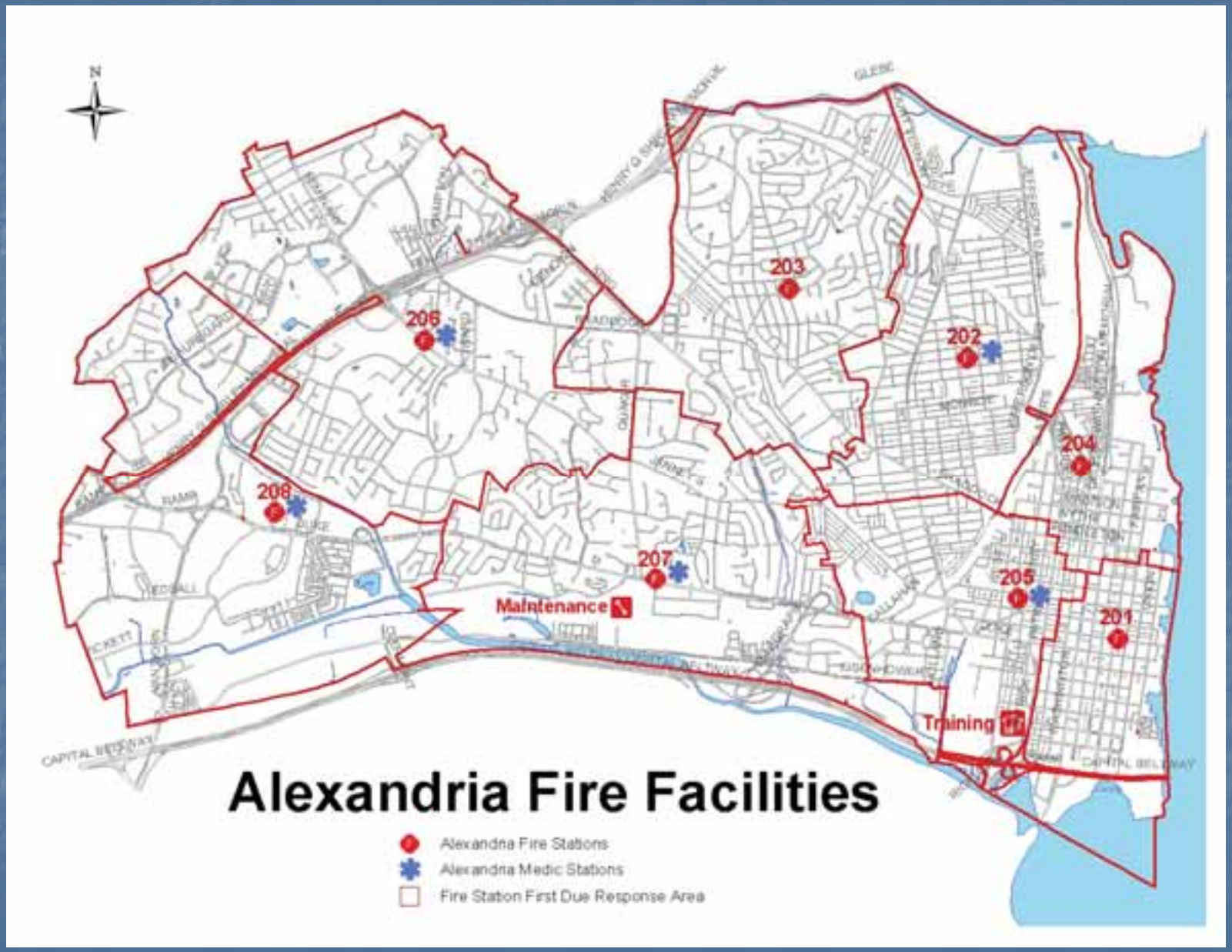
Fire-EMS Station Locations



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Alexandria Fire-EMS Stations

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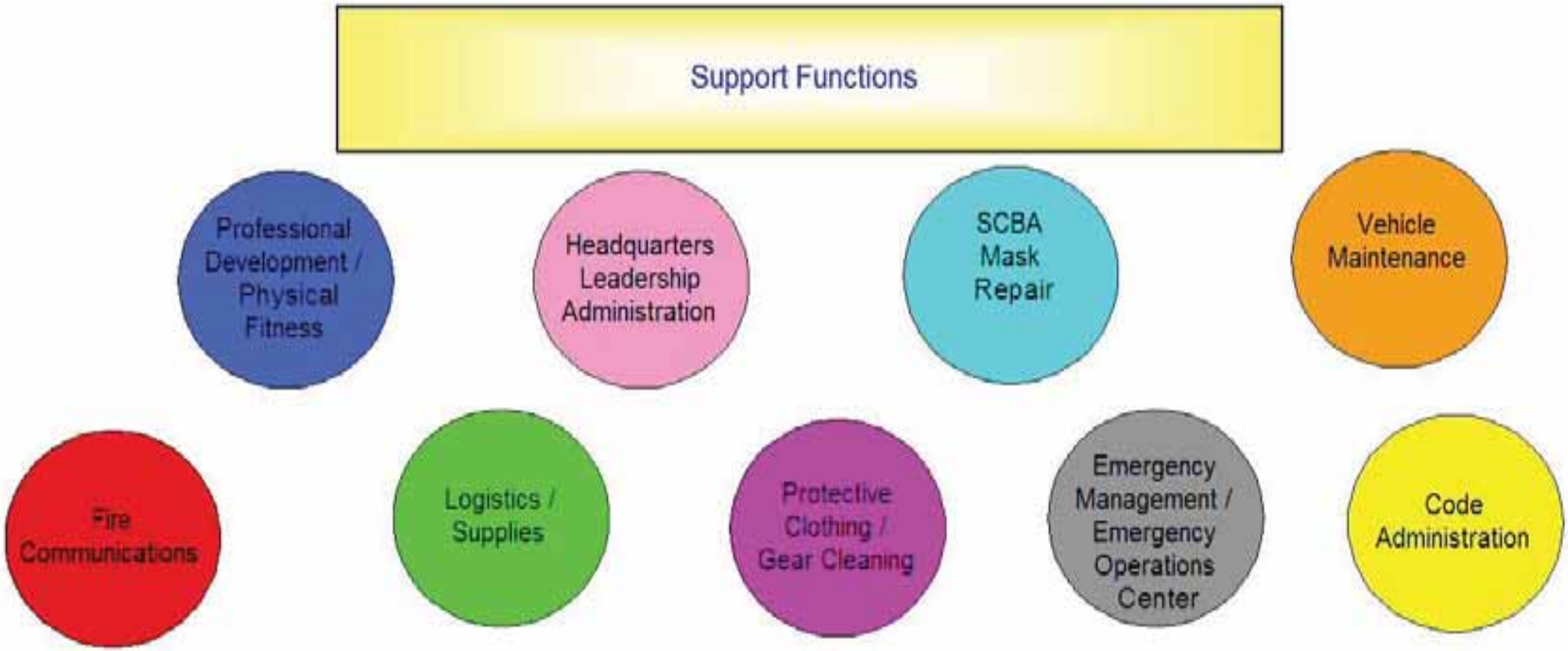
Alexandria Fire Department Facility Improvement Timeline