

## Carol DeSoto

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**From:** Crystal Hunt  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 6:54 PM  
**To:** Carol DeSoto  
**Subject:** Fw: Comments on FY 2021 Budget

Carol:

See below email statement for inclusion in the official record for the FY21 Budget.

Crystal

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**From:** Lynn Gilroy <lynngilroy@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 3:45 PM  
**To:** Reuben B. Collins, II <CollinsR@charlescountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Comments on FY 2021 Budget

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From: Lynn Gilroy <lynngilroy@verizon.net>  
To: gilbertbowling79@yahoo.com <gilbertbowling79@yahoo.com>; coatesT@charlescountymd.gov <coatesT@charlescountymd.gov>; ruccib@charlescountymd.gov <ruccib@charlescountymd.gov>; collinsR@charlescounty.gov <collinsR@charlescounty.gov>; StewartA@charlescountymd.gov <StewartA@charlescountymd.gov>; bowlingG@charlescounty.gov <bowlingG@charlescounty.gov>  
Sent: Tue, May 5, 2020 3:25 pm  
Subject: Comments on FY 2021 Budget

Commissioners, my name is Lynn Gilroy and I am submitting my comments on the proposed 2021 budget specifically for the Department of Emergency Services. As I have prepared these comments I am appalled at the 7.8 percent increase valued at \$1,381,300, for this one part of the county operations. In looking at the numbers of calls they state they respond to I believe they are extremely over inflated by as much as 5,000 calls. I am privy to this information as a volunteer firefighter and past president of the Charles County Volunteer Firemens Association and a participant in the budgetary process of the fire and EMS Associations and within the La Plata VFD.

I am confused by the supporting documentation for this increase inasmuch as one document shows 10 new positions for EMS crews in Waldorf but then another document states in the "Operating Budget Requests Greater than Proposed" for ALS crews for Bel Alton VFD in the amount of \$416,500 and a BLS crew at Potomac Heights of \$349,100. Is this added in the \$1,381,300? That would increase their budget to over \$2 million. In this same document they are asking for Training Coordinator, Fleet Maintenance Technician, Special Operations Captain and 10 Special Operations Technicians that adds another \$363,200 at a minimum which pushes their total requests to almost \$2,500,000. And this is not all, there is also requests for vehicles, radios, support services and the like. There is nothing in any documentation to support this request that has expanded by over 30% in the last 8 years. The request have stated they operate a Training Academy and then they ask for additional funding for independent Training Academy status. Which way is it? Either you operate an academy or you do not. Who approves this independent authority?

The costs of these positions are not supported by what value they will bring to the citizens of Charles County. The Captains and Paramedic Supervisors do not transport any patients and are frequently not available for calls. The Special Operations is no more than the Hazardous Materials Response Team and they barely respond to 20 calls a year.

In looking at the Capital Improvement Program I notice there is a proposal for a Pinefield EMS Station and a Newburg EMS Station. Recently there was a joint study of Fire/EMS by Mission Critical Partners (MCP) that the county and the Fire and EMS Association paid for. Within that document there was several suggestions for additional stations. Independent EMS Stations at Pinefield and Newburg were not suggested. If the CIP is going to support and fund these projects then the Pinefield Station should be a joint Fire and EMS facility that would require 3-5 acres to support it and approximately 18,000 square foot and the Waldorf VFD should be included to see if they support this. The Newburg Station should not be included inasmuch as there is a fire and EMS station in Newburg and as recommended in the MCP plan the ALS unit should be relocated to that station from the Cobb Island VFD and RS.

I hope you will take these comments in serious consideration during this budget process.