

COUNTY LOCAL LAWS

equipping and operating the departments or squads, provided that the County Council shall not levy such tax at a rate which would produce less than the amount so certified by any fire department or squad, as necessary to maintain, equip and operate the fire department or squad, without a previous public hearing to determine the necessity of any proposed reduction of the amount so certified by the fire department or squad. All budgets shall be subject to public hearings as provided under Section 304 of the Charter of Montgomery County, Maryland. The tax shall be levied and shall be collected in the manner that county taxes are presently levied and collected or may hereafter be levied and collected and shall have the same priority rights, bear the same interest and penalties and in every respect be treated the same as county taxes. The taxes so levied for the ensuing year shall be collected by the tax collecting authorities of the County. Funds provided for by the tax levies shall be on a total basis but reflect the categories of Salaries, Operating, and Capital Finance; and shall be paid at least on a monthly basis by the County Director of Finance to the respective treasurers of the departments or squads within each Individual Fire Tax District in accordance with a projected monthly schedule submitted by each individual department and squad to the Director of Finance prior to the start of the fiscal year. The treasurers, upon authorization by their departments or squads, shall pay all proper costs, expenses, claims and demands necessary for the maintenance, equipment and operation of their fire departments and squads. Any moneys which are retained by the Director of Finance on behalf of the fire departments or rescue squads shall be invested in the County's Investment Fund. The proceeds from such investments shall be credited to the funds to be provided for each department or squad for the ensuing fiscal year following the year in which the funds were invested. Proceeds shall be credited to each department or squad in proportion to the amount of any moneys retained and invested by the Director of Finance on behalf of each department or squad.

In the Consolidated Fire Tax District, as described in Section 27-3(a) (1) of this Code, the County Council shall appropriate funds not later than May 1 of each year for the following fiscal year in the amount requested by the Fire Board for the Consolidated District unless the Council proposes to