

University of Vermont Payment for Services Annual Report Fiscal Year 2013



OVERVIEW

The University of Vermont and the City of Burlington have long enjoyed a relationship that is mutually beneficial. The University prospers because the attractiveness of the City assists in the recruitment of students, faculty, and staff; it provides a valuable setting for volunteer activities and for community-based research; and it enhances the quality of life for the UVM community. The University contributes to the vitality and sustainability of Burlington by enhancing its success as a thriving, sustainable, livable small city, providing talented and vibrant faculty, staff, and students; bringing cultural and intellectual opportunities and vigor to the community; educating successful graduates for the workforce; sharing the beauty of its historic campus; and contributing significantly to regional economic development.

Although the University had been making a voluntary payment for services to the city for 20 years, a discussion was initiated with City administrators about how to establish a voluntary payment for services plan that would alleviate the impact of UVM's real property tax exemptions on the City. The goal was to provide meaningful support to the city in its efforts to become sustainable and ensure that the University receives the level of services required by a major employer and research institution. In September of 2007 President Daniel Mark Fogel and Mayor Bob Kiss signed an agreement that has resulted in the University making an annual payment to the City that has escalated to over \$1.2 million for Fiscal Year 2013, four times what UVM previously paid. This year the University made additional payments to the City of \$876,687.54 (including real estate taxes, PILOT, storm water and permit fees, indirect payments made through lease arrangements, and funding for additional Burlington Police Department patrols). All told, **the University paid more than \$2.1 million to the City for Fiscal Year 2013.**

To assess a fair and fact-based level of financial support to the City, an assessment of impacts was undertaken, resulting in agreement that the University primarily impacts the City in two areas: fire services and public works. Therefore, the 2007 agreement focuses on these themes, as well as cooperative ventures such as the provision of police services. In recent years, the UVM and Burlington police have enhanced an already positive relationship by working collaboratively on quality of life issues in the city. The payment for services agreement solidifies this team approach

through mutual assistance agreements in such areas as non-emergency assistance and joint patrols of city neighborhoods adjacent to UVM.

To address quality of life issues in a meaningful way, the University made up to \$90,000, above and beyond the Payment for Services funding, available for additional patrols of Burlington Police officers (above and beyond the already-scheduled officers) to be present in neighborhoods where students are most likely to be and on nights where quality of life issues tend to happen. These new patrols are in addition to the joint patrols conducted by University Police officers and Burlington Police officers in the Fall and Spring semesters. All of the patrols, including those financed by UVM, enable officers to talk directly with students about municipal regulations and potential fines, and to enforce the regulations when appropriate.

This Payment for Services agreement between the City and the University is fair and forward-looking, allowing for growth and adjusting for inflation using a municipal index created by the US Department of Commerce. The agreement is based on an objective framework which provides a foundation for future discussions of the relationship between the City and the University. The result of the agreement is that the University provides essential financial support to the City which, in turn, provides a measure of sustainability to the community as a whole.

REPORT

The University complied with all requirements as laid out in the Payment for Services Agreement, as described below.

Omnibus and Fire Services Payments

The University calculated and made the annual Fire Services (\$966,875), Omnibus (\$202,887) and New World Systems (\$28,173) payments on July 1, 2013, a total payment of \$1,197,935.

Fire Services

The University paid fire fees as directed by statute or law, including radio call box installation fees, annual radio call box fees, malfunctioning fire alarm fees, and intentional false alarm fees. The amount paid for these fees was \$64,465.

The Burlington Fire Department and University of Vermont continue to, “consult actively regarding the implementation and effectiveness” of fire safety programs and response protocols at UVM, as required by the 2007 agreement between the parties. The response protocols are now well established and the focus of our active consultation has been on fire safety, training, and cooperative incident management.

FY2013 saw the retirement of Battalion Chief Terry Francis, the City Fire Marshal. UVM had a long and productive relationship with Chief Francis built on mutual respect. Chief Francis publicly praised the university at a Board of Trustees meeting after UVM completed a three-year \$10 million upgrade in fire alarm and carbon monoxide alarm systems. We expect to continue this relationship with the new City Fire Marshal, Battalion Chief Barry Simays.

The Burlington Fire Department continues to work cooperatively with the UVM Fire Marshal in the areas of planning, preparation and response, including:

- Joint fire prevention inspections in campus buildings
- Joint public education programs including target populations such as Greek housing
- Joint response with UVM Rescue to emergencies on campus
- Joint planning for significant events including UVM Commencement and concerts
- Join fire/evacuation drills for all residence halls and selected other buildings

UVM continues to reduce the risk and potential severity of fire and minimize impact on the Burlington Fire Department by:

- Continuing inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire protection and life safety systems by UVM staff and independent contractors, using state of the art technology to track these systems and quickly initiate necessary corrections
- Continuing education of faculty, staff, and students in fire prevention and the use of portable fire extinguishers, including hands-on training
- Implementation of a program to facilitate building evacuations in the event of emergencies and enhance communication between building occupants and the fire department
- Continuing to upgrade fire detection and suppression systems in buildings
- Conducting workshops for students moving off campus to help them identify fire safety risks and modify their behavior to minimize their impact on the larger Burlington community
- Providing fire safety information in “Welcome Bags” delivered to students living off-campus
- Providing buildings and grounds for the Burlington Fire Department to conduct training when possible
- Providing updated training on emergency response to laboratories, including the potential hazards of chemicals, radioactive materials, biological materials, and lasers



Police Services

The University's Police Services and the Burlington Police Department signed a memorandum of understanding regarding the operation and funding of the New World Systems computer-aided dispatch and records management system as of 10/8/07.

The University made the \$28,173 annual payment to the City for the use of New World Systems as of 7/1/11. The University's Police Services and the Burlington Police Department continue to participate in a mutual assistance agreement.

As mentioned above, in addition to the Payment for Services funding, the University made up to \$90,000 available for additional patrols of Burlington Police officers to be present in neighborhoods where students are most likely to be and on nights when quality of life issues are likely to occur. The purpose of these new patrols is to enable officers to educate students about municipal regulations and potential fines and to enforce those regulations when warranted by the situation.

TOTAL FY 13 PAYMENTS BY THE UNIVERSITY TO THE CITY – INCLUDES THOSE RELATED TO THE PAYMENT FOR SERVICES AGREEMENT & OTHER RELATED PAYMENTS

The amount paid by the University to the City of Burlington for Fiscal Year 2013 under the Payment for Services Agreement totaled **\$1,262,391** as follows:

Description of Expense	FY 08 Payment	FY 09 Payment	FY 10 Payment	FY 11 Payment	FY 12 Payment	FY 13 Payment
<i>City of Burlington:</i>						
Omnibus *	\$180,040	\$185,981	\$191,374	\$195,584	\$198,714	\$202,887
Fire Services *	\$456,006	\$684,008	\$912,011	\$932,075	\$946,988	\$966,875
Fire Department nuisance and false alarms +	\$125,010	\$30,795	\$54,329	\$43,859	\$64,013 (see note 1)	\$64,456
New World Systems *	\$25,000	\$25,825	\$26,574	\$27,159	\$27,593	\$28,173
Payment for Services Agreement Total:	FY 08: \$786,056	FY 09: \$926,609	FY 10: \$1,184,288	FY 11: \$1,198, 677	FY 12: \$1,237,308	FY 13: \$1,262,391

* Increased by terms of the agreement and the US, State and Local Government NIPA Chain Weighted Deflator Index for the relevant year.

+ Figure includes fees paid by Residential Life, Physical Plant, Davis Center, and Campus

Planning Services.

Note 1: Figure includes fees paid by Residential Life, Physical Plant & Davis Center thru June 6, 2012 and includes the new rate structure of \$500/call for malfunction false alarms as of 7/1/11. Annual Radio Call Box fees are \$32,512.50 of the total charge.

Additional payments to the City during Fiscal Year 2013 by the University totaled **\$876,687.54** for the following:

Description of Expense	FY 13 Payment
Payment for additional patrols by Burlington Police officers in neighborhoods most affected by University students (a new initiative funded by the University this year)	\$27,132*
Real estate taxes paid directly by the University	\$23,574.60
Real estate taxes paid indirectly – indirect payments reflect those locations where the University pays all or a portion of the tax liability through an existing lease arrangement	\$750,045.60 (includes the Redstone Lofts)
Code enforcement, permitting, recording, and vacant building fees paid by the University	\$34,263.82 (amount reflects permit, recording, DRB, temp and zoning cert. of occupancy fees, and vacant building fees)
Burlington stormwater fee	\$41,671.52 (5 sites on campus)

Additional Payments to City in FY 13	\$876,687.54
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*UVM made \$90,000 available to the City for this use. BPD utilized the funding as officers were available and interested in working the extra patrols.

Payments by the University to the City for the Payment for Services Agreement as well as additional payments in Fiscal Year 2013 totaled **\$2,139,078.54**.

ONLINE INFORMATION – PAYMENT FOR SERVICES AGREEMENT

The agreement is available on the University Relations website at: www.uvm.edu/universityrelations in the Local Relations section.

ONLINE INFORMATION - UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Visit the University Relations website at www.uvm.edu/universityrelations for more information about partnerships between the University and the City and resources available to the community and state.



**UVM-BURLINGTON FEE FOR SERVICES AGREEMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY13**

BACKGROUND

The City of Burlington and University of Vermont entered into an agreement dated September 26, 2007 which provided for, among other things, “fee for services” payments to be made by UVM to the City. Payments made under the five-year agreement fall under two categories: (1) Fire services, and (2) an “omnibus” payment intended to cover “any and all impact UVM personnel, students, and operations may have upon the City and for any associated services or resources the City or its agents render to UVM and its community.” In addition, the agreement included annual payment by UVM to the City for access to and use of the New World Systems Computer-Aided Dispatch and Records Management System.

Payment Table

	Year 1 FY08	Year 2 FY09	Year 3 FY10	Year 4 FY11	Year 5 FY12	Year 6 FY13
Fire Services Fee:	\$ 456,006	684,008	912,011	932,075	946,988	966,876
Omnibus Fee:	\$ 180,040	185,981	191,374	195,585	198,714	202,887
New World System:	\$ 25,000	25,825	26,573	27,159	27,593	28,172

The agreement also includes provisions related to cooperative activities between the Burlington and UVM Police Departments, and Burlington Fire Department and UVM Fire Prevention staff. The agreement further provides that “each party will issue to the other once annually, within 30 days of the end of the City FY, a report inclusive of budget or financial accounting demonstrating its compliance with the obligations assumed hereunder.”

The 2007 agreement supplements and, in some cases, supersedes prior agreements between the City and UVM. UVM has been making voluntary payments to the City for approximately 20 years; however, the 2007 agreement called for a significant increase in the amount of those payments. In addition to financial payments, the agreement contemplates a strong cooperative relationship between UVM and City police and fire personnel. Increased cooperation results in greater safety, enhanced quality of life, and increased efficiency in police and fire services.

Both the City and UVM recognize the mutual benefits of their cooperative relationship which encompasses several areas, including UVM’s contribution to the intellectual life, cultural and

economic vitality and welfare of Burlington – and the City’s provision of an array of public health, safety, and welfare services necessary for the operation and success of UVM as well as the entire community.

FIRE SERVICES FEE

The University paid the City a fee of \$966,876 in Fiscal Year 2013 to address the impact the University has on the City’s fire services readiness and emergency services capacity. This payment was essential to enable the City to maintain the extent, quality and scope of such services in FY13.

The final unaudited, net of direct expenses after revenues of the Fire Department for Fiscal Year 2013 was

\$5,289,118. Based on the increasing costs of providing Fire services, the fee paid by the University provided significant support to the City’s ability to fund and sustain the quality, extent and scope of fire and emergency response services generally, and particularly with regard to the University.

FIRE PROTOCOLS AND COOPERATION

The Burlington Fire Department and University of Vermont continue to, “consult actively regarding the implementation and effectiveness” of fire safety programs and response protocols at UVM, as required by the 2007 agreement between the parties.

Programs and procedures which are continuing include assistance to UVM from the Burlington Fire Department with:

- Joint fire prevention inspections in campus buildings.
- Joint public education programs including target populations such as Greek housing.
- Joint response with UVM Rescue to medical emergencies on campus.
- Joint planning for significant events including UVM Commencement and President Obama’s visit.
- Joint fire/evacuation drills for all residence halls and selected other buildings.

UVM continues to reduce the risk and potential severity of fire and minimize impact on the Burlington Fire Department by:

- Continuing inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire protection and life safety systems by UVM staff and independent contractors, using state of the art technology to track these systems and quickly initiate necessary corrections
- Continuing education of faculty, staff, and students in fire prevention and the use of portable fire extinguishers, including hands-on training
- Implementation of a program to facilitate building evacuations in the event of emergencies
- Continuing to add and upgrade fire detection and suppression systems in buildings
- Conducting workshops for students moving off campus to help them identify fire safety risks and modify their behavior
- Initiating an effort to reduce fire alarms caused by excessive smoke from cooking with a combination of education and additional mechanical ventilation in identified areas.

UVM has provided additional support and material resources to the Burlington Fire Department to help them improve their response capabilities, including:

- Training for safe response to biological materials which may be found at UVM or the community at large, with UVM's BioSafety Program Coordinator and Office of Animal Care Management.
- Providing specialized training to the Burlington Fire Department regarding response to emergencies involving chemicals, lasers, radioactive materials, and biological hazards
- Internet access and electronic tools to manage emergency responses to UVM laboratories.

POLICE SERVICES

- New World Systems Computer-Aided Dispatch and Records Management System. Burlington and UVM police departments operate under an MOU memorializing their respective rights and responsibilities relating to the New World System. UVM made payment to the City of \$28,172 for FY13 as outlined under the fee for services agreement. The New World System is no longer the primary system for Computer-Aided Dispatch and Records Management but contains records that require maintenance and access for years to come. Both departments now utilize a system hosted by BPD, Valcour, which provides a 21st century, thin client CAD/RMS and mobile computing solution for law enforcement agencies in Vermont.
- Burlington and UVM police departments continued to participate in a county-wide cooperative mutual-aid agreement.
- Burlington and UVM police departments worked together to address quality of life issues in neighborhoods, with stepped up enforcement and joint patrols during the fall and spring in particular. The departments will continue to communicate and work together on mutual assistance issues and other coordination as outlined in the agreement.
- Burlington and UVM police departments worked together with the Chittenden Unit for Special Investigation on enhancing the response to violence against women.
- The departments have begun working even more closely to combat the opiate epidemic facing Vermont, utilizing Community Impact Teams made up of local, State, and Federal law enforcement partners targeting drug traffickers in the area.

OMNIBUS PAYMENT

The omnibus fee payment of \$202,887 in FY13 by the University to the City was utilized to partially fund the overall general increase in the costs of non-safety services programs by the City.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For questions about this report, please contact:

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