QUICK FACTS

- To fund its services, FPS relies entirely on security charges paid by the federal agencies it protects.
- Basic Security Charge: $0.78 per square foot
- Building-Specific Oversight Charge: 8%
- Agency-Specific Oversight Charge: 8%

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Security Charges

The Federal Protective Service is responsible for protecting more than 9,000 federal facilities and for safeguarding the millions of employees, contractors, and visitors who pass through those facilities every day. From screening visitors to investigating suspicious packages, FPS delivers comprehensive physical security and law enforcement services to federal agencies residing in spaces leased or owned by the General Services Administration.

Protective Services for Federal Agencies

FPS works with its “tenant customers” – federal agencies in GSA facilities – to conduct security assessments and design countermeasures to mitigate risks. FPS also oversees contract protective security officers, performs criminal investigations, monitors security alarms, and provides many more services to federal agencies. While customers may not use the entire range of FPS services every day, FPS provides peace of mind that they are always protected and can be called upon on a moment’s notice.

Security is not a one-size-fits-all solution. Not every building is the same, and every agency faces different risks. FPS recognizes the diversity across federal facilities, and works with its customers to tailor a solution to meet their security needs. Additionally, FPS always seeks to improve security services for its federal customers, and communicates regularly with the agencies it protects.

Security Charges

FPS does not receive congressional appropriations. To fund its operations, employees, and services to its customers, FPS relies entirely on offsetting collections for all expenses it incurs. FPS recovers the cost of the security it provides via monthly security charges, which are paid by the federal agencies it protects. Federal agencies set aside a portion of their annual budget to pay for security charges, based on an FPS cost estimate of what security services will cost that year. FPS recovers those costs by charging agencies in monthly increments via the DHS monthly security bill.

FPS revenue comes from three categories of security charges:

- **Basic Security Charge**: protection services, risk mitigation, and threat management
- **Building-Specific Charges**: countermeasures benefiting all building occupants
- **Agency-Specific Charges**: countermeasures benefiting an individual agency

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Basic Security Charge

The basic security charge pays for services such as facility security assessments, risk management, preliminary investigations, the detention of suspects, 24-hour security alarm monitoring, response to emergency calls, and awareness training for employees.

This fee is charged to all federal agencies occupying a GSA-controlled space. Each tenant is charged based on the square footage it occupies. Currently, the basic security fee is $0.78 per square foot.

Building-Specific Security Charge

The building-specific security charge pays for the unique security requirements of a specific facility. This includes the contract protective security officers who provide visitor screening, access control, and patrolling. This also pays for the purchase and maintenance of technical countermeasures, such as x-ray machines and camera systems.

This fee is charged to all tenants in a building. Since the benefits are shared, the cost of building security is jointly funded by tenants based on the percentage of space they occupy within the building. Tenants are charged the estimated direct costs of these building-specific services, plus an oversight fee of 8 percent of the overall cost to cover oversight and overhead costs.

Agency-Specific Security Charge

Often times, individual federal agencies request additional security services to meet specific mission needs. For example, an agency may want card readers with intrusion detection systems, or an agency-specific protective security officer.

If an agency desires security measures beyond what FPS has recommended as part of its facility security assessment, that federal agency must submit a Security Work Authorization form and negotiate an agreement with FPS. Agencies are charged the estimated direct cost of these security services, plus an oversight fee of 8 percent of the overall cost to cover the oversight and overhead costs.

Changes to Charging Rates

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget sets the rates for FPS security services annually. OMB will approve any changes to security rates, and will notify agencies in its annual budget guidance. FPS also distributes an annual rate letter to agency Chief Financial Officers.

*The Federal Protective Service is a component of the National Protection and Programs Directorate.*