The Alquerian Infrastructure

Local taxes are non-existent in Alqueria. Which is just as well as the chance of anyone actually paying is extremely remote. The services required to protect and keep the Village operating are paid for from the Remitroot Surplus Fund. Many prominent financial institutions have tried to unravel the intricacies of this fund but none have succeeded. It operates on the principle that the Remitroot Surplus Fund gives A a loan, A pays B for services rendered. B then pays C for goods and services who then pays A for its utility bills. A then repays the Remitroot Surplus Fund. All outstanding bills are paid and the Remitroot Surplus Fund isn't out of pocket. There must be a flaw somewhere but the system works so well no-one in Alqueria has looked too closely. It is advisable not to try this at home though.

Of all of the Alquerian public services perhaps the Fire and Rescue Service is the hardest worked. With the Alquerian liking for civil disorder fires and collapsed masonry are common place. One drawback with this fire service is that in true Alquerian tradition it is inept. It is necessary to have two fire engines, one to put out the fire and the second to put out the firemen. If the fire is any distance from the station it has been known for them to stop for lunch.

José Cabrasilbido, Alqueria's policeman has a difficult task. As there are no laws in the Village republic he has nothing to enforce. He can't even manage traffic or issue parking tickets All the road markings have worn off long ago. He spends a great deal of time posting notices that announce the cancellation of road closures that were never scheduled in the first place. He struts the Village, holster open so his side-arm can be brought into play at a moments notice. He lets his right hand hover just above the grip. José isn't going to be surprised. If one looks closely at this weapon one can make out the legend etched on the barrel, 'Dirty Harry Special-Recommended for children over five.'

Alqueria has one ambulance and Enzo Matanzamas the local doctor has four beds in the Village's cottage hospital. Not that the populace has any faith in either the good Doctor or his method of transporting his would-be patients. In fact it is a common sight to see the paramedic chasing some poor causality who has hobbled off in the hope of avoiding both the ambulance and one of Dr. Enzo Matanzamas's beds.

To survive for any length of time in Alqueria it is necessary to avoid playing with matches and to eat the proverbial daily apple.