
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
Washington, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

**Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of The
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**January 27, 2010
Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)**

CAPITAL ONE FINANCIAL CORPORATION
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its chapter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

1-13300
(Commission
File Number)

54-1719854
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

**1680 Capital One Drive,
McLean, Virginia**
(Address of principal executive offices)

22102
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (703) 720-1000

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

On January 27, 2010, the Compensation Committee (the “Committee”) and the independent members of the Board of Directors (the “Independent Directors”) of Capital One Financial Corporation (the “Company”) approved compensation plans for Mr. Richard D. Fairbank, its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, and the Company’s other named executive officers. Consistent with the Company’s long-standing practice, the compensation plans take effect immediately and are designed to directly link Mr. Fairbank’s and the other named executive officers’ compensation with the Company’s performance over multiple time horizons and to align their interests with the interests of the Company’s shareholders.

Chief Executive Officer’s Compensation Plan

Mr. Fairbank’s compensation plan is substantially the same as his 2009 compensation plan, is equity-based, consists of several types of equity grants, and is completely at-risk based on the Company’s and Mr. Fairbank’s performance, with all payout opportunities deferred for three years. As in prior years, Mr. Fairbank will not receive any salary or bonus.

Under the plan, Mr. Fairbank was awarded an opportunity to receive from 0 to 200% of the target number of 88,920 shares of the Company’s common stock based on the Company’s performance over the three-year period beginning on January 1, 2010. The Company’s performance will be assessed on the basis of relative cash return on average tangible assets against a peer group consisting of companies in the KBW Philadelphia Bank index, excluding custody banks. After the end of the three year performance period, the Committee will certify the Company’s performance and issue the appropriate number of shares of the Company’s common stock, if any.

Mr. Fairbank also received a grant of 559,333 nonstatutory stock options at an exercise price of \$36.55 per share (which was the fair market value of the Company’s common stock on the grant date). The options will become fully exercisable three years from the grant date and expire ten years from the grant date. Mr. Fairbank can only realize value from the stock options if and to the extent the Company’s stock price increases after the grant date and the market value of the stock exceeds the exercise price at the time the options are exercised.

Mr. Fairbank also has an opportunity to be awarded restricted stock units in late 2010 or early 2011 based on actual performance in 2010. Any such award will vest in full in three years and settle in cash based on the Company’s average stock price over the twenty trading days preceding the vesting date. The Independent Directors’ determination regarding whether to make this grant, as well as the value of the grant relative to the target amount of \$3.25 million, will be based on a qualitative evaluation of multiple factors.

Other Named Executive Officers’ Compensation Plan

Beginning in 2010, the other named executive officers’ (the “Named Executive Officers”) total compensation is expected to be between \$4.38 million and \$6.48 million. Approximately 35% of each Named Executive Officer’s total compensation will be paid as base salary, with approximately 20% of such total compensation paid as regular cash salary throughout the performance year and 15% of such total compensation paid in the form of restricted stock units granted on January 27, 2010. The restricted stock units will vest on December 31, 2010 and settle in cash based on the Company’s average stock price for the twenty trading days preceding the vesting date.

Approximately 15% of each Named Executive Officer’s total compensation is expected to be delivered in the form of restricted stock units that would vest over a period of three years and settle in cash based on the Company’s stock price for the twenty trading days preceding the vesting date. The units, if any, would be awarded in late 2010 or early 2011 at the discretion of the Independent Directors based on a variety of company performance factors assessing the Company’s actual performance in 2010.

The remaining 50% of the Named Executive Officers’ total compensation is expected to consist of long-term incentive awards that would be granted to the Named Executive Officers in late 2010 or early 2011 and would vest in full three years following the grant date. These equity awards, if any, will be granted to the Named Executive Officers solely in the discretion of the Independent Directors and will be completely at-risk based on the individual executive’s performance in 2010.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Company has duly caused this Current Report on Form 8-K to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, hereunto duly authorized.

CAPITAL ONE FINANCIAL CORPORATION

Dated: January 29, 2010

By: /s/ JOHN G. FINNERAN, JR.

John G. Finneran, Jr.
General Counsel & Corporate Secretary