

Commonwealth's Attorney

DESCRIPTION

The Commonwealth's Attorney is an elected Constitutional Officer serving a four year term of office. This Office is responsible for providing Hanover County and the Commonwealth of Virginia with legal representation in the prosecution of criminal and traffic violations in the Circuit, General District, and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts. The Commonwealth's Attorney is also charged with prosecuting asset forfeiture matters and collecting delinquent fines and court costs. Legal advice is provided to all local and State law enforcement agencies and their officers investigating matters in Hanover County.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue to successfully prosecute criminal and traffic matters in all courts through the increased use of technology;
- Provide extensive training and advice to local law enforcement departments, including annual legal legislative updates, academy instruction, and in service training;
- Participate with County departments, schools, citizens groups and other organizations to conduct education on issues related to public safety and courts;
- Supervise and monitor the aggressive collection of delinquent fines and court costs for all courts;
- Maximize funding, technology, and programs designed to increase professionalism, job performance, and efficiency;
- Continue to increase the office's ability to quickly respond to law enforcement, bring the ratio of attorneys to law enforcement from the current ratio of 1:32 to the regional average of 1:20.

SERVICE LEVELS

	FY05	FY05	FY06	FY06	FY07
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Forecast</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Per capita cost of operating department	\$12.06	\$12.01	\$13.01	\$	14.49
Population served per 1 attorney	18,000	15,000	14,000	13,700	14,000
Law enforcement served per 1 attorney	33	33	34	32	31

The following table is illustrative of the dramatic increase in work load experienced by this office over the last four years:

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Average attorney hours in court per week	75	89	105	120
Average staff hours in court preparation per week	83	93	130	145
Number of misdemeanor appeals per month	50	60	45	58

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

FY06

Salaries and fringe benefits increased due to continued higher health insurance costs, the addition of a Legal Assistant position, and the reclassification of three positions. The increase in operating expenditures is primarily due to computer replacement. Capital outlay is for a file server replacement.

FY07

Salaries and fringe benefits increased due to the addition of an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney. Operating expenditures decreased, in part, due to fewer funds budgeted for repair and maintenance.

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BUDGET SUMMARY

Expenditures

	FY05 <u>Budget</u>	FY05 <u>Actual</u>	FY06 <u>Budget</u>	FY07 <u>Budget</u>	Percent <u>Change</u>
Commonwealth's Attorney					
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ 1,049,681	\$ 1,046,823	\$ 1,144,672	\$ 1,323,558	15.6%
Operating Expenditures	82,208	80,421	95,117	90,543	-4.8%
Capital Outlay	-	-	6,700	-	-100.0%
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,131,889	\$ 1,127,244	\$ 1,246,489	\$ 1,414,101	13.4%

Revenue

State Share of Local Offices	\$ 448,000	\$ 472,068	\$ 582,000	\$ 669,000	14.9%
State Asset Forfeiture	-	2,334	-	-	0.0%
Categorical State Aid: Victim Witness	90,000	86,808	90,000	81,000	-10.0%
Categorical Federal Aid: Justice Department	-	-	-	\$ 246,000	0.0%
Total Department Generated Revenue	\$ 538,000	\$ 561,210	\$ 672,000	\$ 996,000	48.2%

Generated Revenue Percent of Budget 47.5% 49.8% 53.9% 70.4%

Other General Fund Revenue **\$ 593,889** **\$ 566,034** **\$ 574,489** **\$ 418,101** **-27.2%**

Other General Fund Percent of Budget 52.5% 50.2% 46.1% 29.6%

Total Revenue **\$ 1,131,889** **\$ 1,127,244** **\$ 1,246,489** **\$ 1,414,101** **13.4%**

Full-time Positions	14	14	15	16	6.7%
Part-time Positions	4	4	4	4	0.0%
Full-time Equivalents	16.5	16.5	17.5	18.5	5.7%

FUTURE FUNDING ISSUES

	FY08 <u>Plan</u>	FY09 <u>Plan</u>	FY10 <u>Plan</u>	FY11 <u>Plan</u>
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ 1,413,695	\$ 1,469,008	\$ 1,635,909	\$ 1,699,917
Operating Expenditures	87,959	90,598	96,266	99,154
Capital Outlay	3,200	23,200	8,900	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,504,854	\$ 1,582,806	\$ 1,741,075	\$ 1,799,070

Revenue

State Share of Local Offices	\$ 686,000	\$ 703,000	\$ 721,000	\$ 739,000
Categorical State Aid: Victim Witness	81,000	81,000	81,000	81,000
Total Department Generated Revenue	\$ 767,000	\$ 784,000	\$ 802,000	\$ 820,000

Generated Revenue Percent of Budget 51.0% 49.5% 46.1% 45.6%

Other General Fund Revenue **\$ 737,854** **\$ 798,806** **\$ 939,075** **\$ 979,070**

Other General Fund Percent of Budget 49.0% 50.5% 53.9% 54.4%

Total Revenue **\$ 1,504,854** **\$ 1,582,806** **\$ 1,741,075** **\$ 1,799,070**

Full-time Positions	17	17	19	19
Part-time Positions	4	4	4	4
Full-time Equivalents	19.5	19.5	21.5	21.5

The plan includes funding for a Legal Assistant in FY08 and a Commonwealth's Attorney and Legal Assistant in FY10, pending funding from the Compensation Board.