

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.

BUDGET SUMMARY

	FY06 Actual	FY07 Budget	FY08 Budget	FY07 to FY08	FY09 Plan
Expenditures					
Personnel	\$ 1,147,340	\$ 1,323,558	\$ 1,404,922	6.1%	\$ 1,456,764
Operating	82,421	90,543	93,789	3.6%	96,603
Capital	-	-	-	0.0%	5,200
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,229,761	\$ 1,414,101	\$ 1,498,711	6.0%	\$ 1,558,566
Revenues					
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 712,805	\$ 750,000	\$ 793,000	5.7%	\$ 811,000
Other Revenue	2,141	-	-	0.0%	-
General Fund Revenue	514,814	664,101	705,711	6.3%	747,566
Total Revenue	\$ 1,229,761	\$ 1,414,101	\$ 1,498,711	6.0%	\$ 1,558,566
Generated Revenue Percent	58.1%	53.0%	52.9%		52.0%
General Fund Percent	41.9%	47.0%	47.1%		48.0%
Full-time Positions	15	16	17	6.3%	17
Part-time Positions	4	4	4	0.0%	4
Full-time Equivalents	16.5	17.5	18.5	5.7%	18.5

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The services of the Commonwealth's Attorney are needed almost in direct proportion to law enforcement personnel deployed arresting and/or charging people with crimes, traffic violations and/or referral needs for legal counsel. The Commonwealth's Attorney's Office will initiate several outreach programs in FY08, including a program to bring

awareness to young people of the devastating effects of drugs and alcohol use when driving, and a prosecutors academy. With additional funding from the Compensation Board, a new legal assistant position was added during FY07. The FY08 Budget includes the benchmarking of two positions. The FY09 Plan provides funds for a HUB switch.

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GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Augment successfully prosecution of all matters in courts through the increased use of technology;
- Seek appropriate punishment to deter criminal activity;
- Sustain conviction rate of 98 percent;
- Aggressively prosecute crimes victimizing children, including internet predators and cases involving sexual assault;
- 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; and
- Continue the office's ability to respond quickly to law enforcement, while maintaining our current ratio of attorneys to law enforcement at 1:31.

SERVICE LEVELS

	<u>FY06</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY07</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>FY07</u> <u>Forecast</u>	<u>FY08</u> <u>Budget</u>
Per capita cost of operating department	\$12.61	\$14.26	\$14.26	\$14.89
Population served per attorney	13,700	14,000	12,000	12,000
Law enforcement served per attorney	32	31	31	32