

Courts

DESCRIPTION

The Courts system is made up of the Circuit Court, General District Court, Magistrate, and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. The Circuit Court of Hanover is a trial court of general jurisdiction which has authority to try both civil and criminal cases. The Supreme Court of Virginia establishes the rules of practice and procedures for the Circuit Court. The Circuit Court Judge is appointed to an eight year term by the General Assembly. The Circuit Court has appellate jurisdiction over all appeals from the General District Court and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. These cases are heard from the beginning as though there had been no prior trial. A final judgment of the Circuit Court may be appealed to the Virginia Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court of Virginia, depending on the nature of the case.

One of the principal functions of the Magistrate is to provide an independent review of complaints from Sheriff's Deputies and citizens of the County. These complaints form the basis used to determine whether a

warrant of arrest should be issued. In addition, the Magistrate conducts bail bond hearings, commits offenders to jail, and releases prisoners from jail.

The Circuit Court appoints the following: jury commissioners, grand jurors, special policemen, Board of Zoning Appeals, Electoral Board, Courthouse Committee, Commissioner of Chancery, Marriage Commissioners, and others as provided by the Code of Virginia.

The Circuit Court is responsible for the law library. The law library (at the request of the Hanover Bar) contains legal information which may be of interest to local lawyers.

The Courts receive direct funding from the Commonwealth, in addition to funds appropriated by the County. Revenues recorded in the General Fund from the Courts represent fines, forfeitures, and excess fees from the Circuit Court.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Circuit Court

	FY06 Actual	FY07 Budget	FY08 Budget	FY07 to FY08	FY09 Plan
Expenditures					
Personnel	\$ 109,758	\$ 114,933	\$ 118,816	3.4%	\$ 123,200
Operating	100,418	65,792	59,430	(9.7%)	61,213
Capital	(21,488)	33,200	30,000	(9.6%)	-
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 188,688</u>	<u>\$ 213,925</u>	<u>\$ 208,246</u>	<u>(2.7%)</u>	<u>\$ 184,413</u>
Revenues					
Other Revenue	\$ 50,469	\$ 49,000	\$ 50,000	2.0%	\$ 52,000
General Fund Revenue	138,218	164,925	158,246	(4.0%)	132,413
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 188,688</u>	<u>\$ 213,925</u>	<u>\$ 208,246</u>	<u>(2.7%)</u>	<u>\$ 184,413</u>
Full-time Positions	2	2	2	0.0%	2
Full-time Equivalents	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0%	2.0

Courts

General District Court

	FY06 Actual	FY07 Budget	FY08 Budget	FY07 to FY08	FY09 Plan
Expenditures					
Personnel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
Operating	79,464	89,045	92,311	3.7%	95,080
Capital	176	12,600	-	(100.0%)	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 79,639	\$ 101,645	\$ 92,311	(9.2%)	\$ 95,080
Revenues					
Other Revenue	\$ 7,459	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	0.0%	\$ 9,000
General Fund Revenue	72,180	92,645	83,311	(10.1%)	86,080
Total Revenue	\$ 79,639	\$ 101,645	\$ 92,311	(9.2%)	\$ 95,080

Magistrates

	FY06 Actual	FY07 Budget	FY08 Budget	FY07 to FY08	FY09 Plan
Expenditures					
Personnel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
Operating	4,233	3,725	3,725	0.0%	3,837
Capital	-	-	-	0.0%	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 4,233	\$ 3,725	\$ 3,725	0.0%	\$ 3,837
Revenues					
General Fund Revenue	\$ 4,233	\$ 3,725	\$ 3,725	0.0%	\$ 3,837
Total Revenue	\$ 4,233	\$ 3,725	\$ 3,725	0.0%	\$ 3,837

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court

	FY06 Actual	FY07 Budget	FY08 Budget	FY07 to FY08	FY09 Plan
Expenditures					
Personnel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
Operating	19,163	40,298	26,625	(33.9%)	27,424
Capital	-	20,000	9,000	(55.0%)	5,000
Total Expenditures	\$ 19,163	\$ 60,298	\$ 35,625	(40.9%)	\$ 32,424
Revenues					
General Fund Revenue	\$ 19,163	\$ 60,298	\$ 35,625	(40.9%)	\$ 32,424
Total Revenue	\$ 19,163	\$ 60,298	\$ 35,625	(40.9%)	\$ 32,424

Courts

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The following divisions of judicial administration (totaling \$340,000 in funding) represent the County's contributions to these State-related functions, with expenditures primarily representing operating expenditures and only 2 full-time positions.

Circuit Court – The FY08 Budget includes funding for security enhancements.

General District Court – The FY07 budget included \$13,000 for office improvements resulting in a decrease in funding for FY08.

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court – The FY07 budget included \$36,000 for office improvements, whereas the FY08 budget only funds \$9,000 in capital expenses for improved lighting in the courtroom. The difference between these two project costs results in an overall budget decrease. The FY09 Plan funds improvements in security.

Magistrates - Funding for this service remains level.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Maintain file of drug offenders with suspended licenses;
- Maintain collections percentage at 75%;
- Set up receivables for cases within 24 hours; and
- Send out payment request notices within two days of court.

SERVICE LEVELS

	FY06 <u>Actual</u>	FY07 <u>Budget</u>	FY07 <u>Forecast</u>	FY08 <u>Budget</u>
Per capita cost of operating Courts	\$2.99	\$3.83	\$3.83	\$3.38