

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 independent review of complaints from Sheriff's Deputies and citizens of the County. These complaints are 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 is responsible for the law library which provides a source of reference for local lawyers and judges.

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 law library (at the request of the Hanover Bar) contains legal information which may be of interest to local lawyers. The legal assistant to the Circuit Court Judge maintains the Law Library by daily updating, including pocket parts to publication and shelving new and replacement volumes.

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.

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

	FY03	FY03	FY04	FY04	FY05
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Forecast</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Per capita cost of operating Courts	\$ 2.36	\$ 2.03	\$ 1.87		\$ 2.66

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

FY04

All Courts have maintenance level funding.

FY05

Salaries and fringe benefits increased due to higher VRS contributions and health insurance costs. The large increase in the General District Court's budget is due to an accounting change in the handling of court appointed attorneys. Funding is provided in capital outlay for modular furniture in the general district court and an expansion of the front office in the juvenile and domestic relations court.

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BUDGET SUMMARY

Circuit Court

Expenditures

	FY03 Budget	FY03 Actual	FY04 Budget	FY05 Budget	Percent Change
Circuit Court					
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ 108,436	\$ 98,788	\$ 97,160	\$ 98,588	1.5%
Operating Expenditures	53,571	21,319	40,300	42,050	4.3%
Capital Outlay	-	1,327	-	-	0.0%
Total Expenditures	\$ 162,007	\$ 121,434	\$ 137,460	\$ 140,638	2.3%

Revenue

Courthouse Maintenance Fees	\$ 41,000	\$ 40,618	\$ 42,000	\$ 43,000	2.4%
Total Department Generated Revenue	\$ 41,000	\$ 40,618	\$ 42,000	\$ 43,000	2.4%
Generated Revenue Percent of Budget	25.3%	33.4%	30.6%	30.6%	

Other General Fund Revenue	\$ 121,007	\$ 80,816	\$ 95,460	\$ 97,638	2.3%
Other General Fund Percent of Budget	74.7%	66.6%	69.4%	69.4%	

Full-time Positions	2	2	2	2	0.0%
Full-time Equivalents	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0%

FUTURE FUNDING ISSUES

	FY06 Plan	FY07 Plan	FY08 Plan	FY09 Plan
Expenditures				
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ 102,729	\$ 107,044	\$ 111,539	\$ 116,224
Operating Expenditures	42,092	43,229	44,396	45,594
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 144,821	\$ 150,272	\$ 155,935	\$ 161,818

Revenue

Courthouse Maintenance Fees	\$ 44,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 46,000	\$ 47,000
Total Department Generated Revenue	\$ 44,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 46,000	\$ 47,000
Generated Revenue Percent of Budget	30.4%	29.9%	29.5%	29.0%

Other General Fund Revenue	\$ 100,821	\$ 105,272	\$ 109,935	\$ 114,818
Other General Fund Percent of Budget	69.6%	70.1%	70.5%	71.0%

Full-time Positions	2	2	2	2
Full-time Equivalents	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0

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BUDGET SUMMARY

General District Court

Expenditures

	FY03 Budget	FY03 Actual	FY04 Budget	FY05 Budget	Percent Change
General District Court					
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Operating Expenditures	17,325	29,562	17,287	74,309	329.9%
Capital Outlay	10,000	12,017	-	15,000	100.0%
Total Expenditures	\$ 27,325	\$ 41,579	\$ 17,287	\$ 89,309	416.6%

Revenue

Total Department Generated Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Generated Revenue Percent of Budget	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
Other General Fund Revenue	\$ 27,325	\$ 41,579	\$ 17,287	\$ 89,309	416.6%
Other General Fund Percent of Budget	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
Full-time Positions	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Full-time Equivalents	-	-	-	-	0.0%

FUTURE FUNDING ISSUES

	FY06 Plan	FY07 Plan	FY08 Plan	FY09 Plan
Expenditures				
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Expenditures	74,383	76,392	78,454	80,572
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 74,383	\$ 76,392	\$ 78,454	\$ 80,572

Revenue

Total Department Generated Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Generated Revenue Percent of Budget	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other General Fund Revenue	\$ 74,383	\$ 76,392	\$ 78,454	\$ 80,572
Other General Fund Percent of Budget	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Full-time Positions	-	-	-	-
Full-time Equivalents	-	-	-	-

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BUDGET SUMMARY

Magistrates

Expenditures

	FY03 Budget	FY03 Actual	FY04 Budget	FY05 Budget	Percent Change
Magistrates					
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Operating Expenditures	2,700	1,322	2,700	2,700	0.0%
Capital Outlay	-	179	-	-	0.0%
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,700	\$ 1,501	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,700	0.0%

Revenue

Total Department Generated Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Generated Revenue Percent of Budget	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
Other General Fund Revenue	\$ 2,700	\$ 1,501	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,700	0.0%
Other General Fund Percent of Budget	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
Full-time Positions	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Full-time Equivalents	-	-	-	-	0.0%

FUTURE FUNDING ISSUES

Expenditures

	FY06 Plan	FY07 Plan	FY08 Plan	FY09 Plan
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Expenditures	2,703	2,776	2,851	2,928
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,703	\$ 2,776	\$ 2,851	\$ 2,928

Revenue

Total Department Generated Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Generated Revenue Percent of Budget	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other General Fund Revenue	\$ 2,703	\$ 2,776	\$ 2,851	\$ 2,928
Other General Fund Percent of Budget	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Full-time Positions	-	-	-	-
Full-time Equivalents	-	-	-	-

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BUDGET SUMMARY

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court

Expenditures

	FY03 Budget	FY03 Actual	FY04 Budget	FY05 Budget	Percent Change
Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court					
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Operating Expenditures	23,000	21,100	22,546	23,550	4.5%
Capital Outlay	6,500	5,255	-	6,000	100.0%
Total Expenditures	\$ 29,500	\$ 26,355	\$ 22,546	\$ 29,550	31.1%

Revenue

Total Department Generated Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Generated Revenue Percent of Budget	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
Other General Fund Revenue	\$ 29,500	\$ 26,355	\$ 22,546	\$ 29,550	31.1%
Other General Fund Percent of Budget	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
Full-time Positions	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Full-time Equivalents	-	-	-	-	0.0%

FUTURE FUNDING ISSUES

	FY06 Plan	FY07 Plan	FY08 Plan	FY09 Plan
Expenditures				
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Expenditures	23,574	24,210	24,864	25,535
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 23,574	\$ 24,210	\$ 24,864	\$ 25,535

Revenue

Total Department Generated Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Generated Revenue Percent of Budget	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other General Fund Revenue	\$ 23,574	\$ 24,210	\$ 24,864	\$ 25,535
Other General Fund Percent of Budget	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Full-time Positions	-	-	-	-
Full-time Equivalents	-	-	-	-

All of the Courts have maintenance level funding for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.