

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 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 publications, 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	<u>FY04</u>	<u>FY04</u>	<u>FY05</u>	<u>FY05</u>	<u>FY06</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Forecast</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Per capita cost of operating Courts	\$1.92	\$2.32	\$2.74		\$ 2.91

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

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.

FY06

Salaries and fringe benefits increased due to continued higher health insurance costs. The Circuit Court's increase in operating expenditures is due to funding for a new judge. The increase in the General District Court's operating expenditures is primarily due to an increase in small capital outlay for courtroom furniture.

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BUDGET SUMMARY

<u>Circuit Court</u>					
<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>FY04</u>	<u>FY04</u>	<u>FY05</u>	<u>FY06</u>	<u>Percent</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Change</u>
Circuit Court					
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ 97,160	\$ 103,491	\$ 98,588	\$ 108,286	9.8%
Operating Expenditures	40,300	41,003	42,050	63,650	51.4%
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Total Expenditures	\$ 137,460	\$ 144,494	\$ 140,638	\$ 171,936	22.3%
Revenue					
Courthouse Maintenance Fees	\$ 42,000	\$ 68,304	\$ 43,000	\$ 44,000	2.3%
Total Department Generated Revenue	\$ 42,000	\$ 68,304	\$ 43,000	\$ 44,000	2.3%
Generated Revenue Percent of Budget	30.6%	47.3%	30.6%	25.6%	
Other General Fund Revenue	\$ 95,460	\$ 76,190	\$ 97,638	\$ 127,936	31.0%
Other General Fund Percent of Budget	69.4%	52.7%	69.4%	74.4%	
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

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>FY07</u>	<u>FY08</u>	<u>FY09</u>	<u>FY10</u>
	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Plan</u>
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ 112,834	\$ 117,573	\$ 122,511	\$ 127,656
Operating Expenditures	65,400	67,199	69,047	70,946
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 178,234	\$ 184,771	\$ 191,557	\$ 198,602
Revenue				
Courthouse Maintenance Fees	\$ 45,000	\$ 46,000	\$ 47,000	\$ 48,000
Total Department Generated Revenue	\$ 45,000	\$ 46,000	\$ 47,000	\$ 48,000
Generated Revenue Percent of Budget	25.2%	24.9%	24.5%	24.2%
Other General Fund Revenue	\$ 133,234	\$ 138,771	\$ 144,557	\$ 150,602
Other General Fund Percent of Budget	74.8%	75.1%	75.5%	75.8%
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

	<u>FY04 Budget</u>	<u>FY04 Actual</u>	<u>FY05 Budget</u>	<u>FY06 Budget</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
General District Court					
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Operating Expenditures	17,287	57,070	74,309	87,760	18.1%
Capital Outlay	-	-	15,000	-	-100.0%
Total Expenditures	\$ 17,287	\$ 57,070	\$ 89,309	\$ 87,760	-1.7%

Revenue

Recovered Costs - Postage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,000	100.0%
Total Department Generated Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,000	100.0%
Generated Revenue Percent of Budget	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	

Other General Fund Revenue

Other General Fund Percent of Budget	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	90.9%	
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Full-time Positions	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Full-time Equivalents	-	-	-	-	0.0%

FUTURE FUNDING ISSUES

Expenditures

	<u>FY07 Plan</u>	<u>FY08 Plan</u>	<u>FY09 Plan</u>	<u>FY10 Plan</u>
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Expenditures	90,173	92,653	95,201	97,819
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 90,173	\$ 92,653	\$ 95,201	\$ 97,819

Revenue

Recovered Costs - Postage	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Total Department Generated Revenue	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Generated Revenue Percent of Budget	8.9%	8.6%	8.4%	8.2%

Other General Fund Revenue

Other General Fund Percent of Budget	91.1%	91.4%	91.6%	91.8%
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Full-time Positions	-	-	-	-
Full-time Equivalents	-	-	-	-

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BUDGET SUMMARY

<u>Magistrates</u>					
<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>FY04</u>	<u>FY04</u>	<u>FY05</u>	<u>FY06</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Magistrates	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Change</u>
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Operating Expenditures	2,700	1,601	2,700	2,700	0.0%
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,700	\$ 1,601	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,700	0.0%
<u>Revenue</u>					
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	\$ 1,601	\$ 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

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>FY07</u>	<u>FY08</u>	<u>FY09</u>	<u>FY10</u>
Magistrates	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Plan</u>
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Expenditures	2,774	2,851	2,929	3,009
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,774	\$ 2,851	\$ 2,929	\$ 3,009
<u>Revenue</u>				
Total Department Generated Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Generated Revenue Percent of Budget	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other General Fund Revenue	\$ 2,774	\$ 2,851	\$ 2,929	\$ 3,009
Other General Fund Percent of Budget	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Full-time Positions	-	-	-	-
Full-time Equivalents	-	-	-	-

Courts

BUDGET SUMMARY

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court

Expenditures

	<u>FY04 Budget</u>	<u>FY04 Actual</u>	<u>FY05 Budget</u>	<u>FY06 Budget</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court					
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Operating Expenditures	22,546	15,026	23,550	21,600	-8.3%
Capital Outlay	-	-	6,000	-	-100.0%
Total Expenditures	\$ 22,546	\$ 15,026	\$ 29,550	\$ 21,600	-26.9%

Revenue

Total Department Generated Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Generated Revenue Percent of Budget	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
Other General Fund Revenue	\$ 22,546	\$ 15,026	\$ 29,550	\$ 21,600	-26.9%
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

	<u>FY07 Plan</u>	<u>FY08 Plan</u>	<u>FY09 Plan</u>	<u>FY10 Plan</u>
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Expenditures	22,194	22,804	23,431	24,076
Capital Outlay	6,000	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 28,194	\$ 22,804	\$ 23,431	\$ 24,076

Revenue

Total Department Generated Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Generated Revenue Percent of Budget	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other General Fund Revenue	\$ 28,194	\$ 22,804	\$ 23,431	\$ 24,076
Other General Fund Percent of Budget	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Full-time Positions	-	-	-	-
Full-time Equivalents	-	-	-	-

Funding is provided for expansion of the front office in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. All of the Courts have maintenance level funding for fiscal years 2007 through 2010.