

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

| | FY07 Actual | FY08 Budget | FY09 Budget | FY08 to FY09 | FY10 Plan |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Expenditures | | | | | |
| Personnel | \$ 1,260,540 | \$ 1,404,922 | \$ 1,513,090 | 7.7% | \$ 1,575,335 |
| Operating | 75,477 | 93,789 | 103,866 | 10.7% | 106,982 |
| Total Expenditures | <u>\$ 1,336,017</u> | <u>\$ 1,498,711</u> | <u>\$ 1,616,956</u> | <u>7.9%</u> | <u>\$ 1,682,317</u> |
| Revenues | | | | | |
| Intergovernmental Revenue | \$ 790,226 | \$ 793,000 | \$ 866,000 | 9.2% | \$ 885,000 |
| Other Revenue | 5,798 | - | - | 0.0% | - |
| General Fund Revenue | 539,993 | 705,711 | 750,956 | 6.4% | 797,317 |
| Total Revenue | <u>\$ 1,336,017</u> | <u>\$ 1,498,711</u> | <u>\$ 1,616,956</u> | <u>7.9%</u> | <u>\$ 1,682,317</u> |
| Generated Revenue Percent | 59.6% | 52.9% | 53.6% | | 52.6% |
| General Fund Percent | 40.4% | 47.1% | 46.4% | | 47.4% |
| Full-time Positions | 16 | 17 | 18 | 5.9% | 18 |
| Part-time Positions | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0.0% | 4 |
| Full-time Equivalents | 17.5 | 18.5 | 19.5 | 5.4% | 19.5 |

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. In FY08 the Compensation Board provided funds for an additional Assistant

Commonwealth Attorney. The addition of this position is reflected in the FY09 budget increase in personnel expenditures. The increase in operating expenses is a result of the cyclical replacement of computers and enhancements to the computer network.

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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>FY07</u> <u>Actual</u> | <u>FY08</u> <u>Budget</u> | <u>FY08</u> <u>Forecast</u> | <u>FY09</u> <u>Budget</u> |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Per capita cost of operating department | \$13.47 | \$14.88 | \$14.88 | \$15.82 |
| Population served per attorney | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 13,000 |
| Law enforcement served per attorney | 32 | 32 | 32 | 33 |