

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 for determining 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

	FY07 Actual	FY08 Budget	FY09 Budget	FY08 to FY09	FY10 Plan
Expenditures					
Personnel	\$ 113,337	\$ 118,816	\$ 121,626	2.4%	\$ 126,629
Operating	61,039	89,430	70,695	(20.9%)	72,816
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 174,376</u>	<u>\$ 208,246</u>	<u>\$ 192,321</u>	<u>(7.6%)</u>	<u>\$ 199,445</u>
Revenues					
Other Revenue	\$ 51,991	\$ 50,000	\$ 52,000	4.0%	\$ 54,000
General Fund Revenue	122,385	158,246	140,321	(11.3%)	145,445
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 174,376</u>	<u>\$ 208,246</u>	<u>\$ 192,321</u>	<u>(7.6%)</u>	<u>\$ 199,445</u>
Full-time Positions	2	2	2	0.0%	2
Full-time Equivalents	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0%	2.0

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General District Court

	FY07 Actual	FY08 Budget	FY09 Budget	FY08 to FY09	FY10 Plan
Expenditures					
Operating	\$ 76,453	\$ 92,311	\$ 92,585	0.3%	\$ 95,363
Capital	22,624	-	-	0.0%	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 99,077	\$ 92,311	\$ 92,585	0.3%	\$ 95,363
Revenues					
Other Revenue	\$ 7,719	\$ 9,000	\$ 12,900	43.3%	\$ 13,000
General Fund Revenue	91,359	83,311	79,685	(4.4%)	82,363
Total Revenue	\$ 99,077	\$ 92,311	\$ 92,585	0.3%	\$ 95,363

Magistrates

	FY07 Actual	FY08 Budget	FY09 Budget	FY08 to FY09	FY10 Plan
Expenditures					
Operating	\$ 3,728	\$ 3,725	\$ 3,653	(1.9%)	\$ 3,763
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,728	\$ 3,725	\$ 3,653	(1.9%)	\$ 3,763
Revenues					
General Fund Revenue	\$ 3,728	\$ 3,725	\$ 3,653	(1.9%)	\$ 3,763
Total Revenue	\$ 3,728	\$ 3,725	\$ 3,653	(1.9%)	\$ 3,763

Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court

	FY07 Actual	FY08 Budget	FY09 Budget	FY08 to FY09	FY10 Plan
Expenditures					
Operating	\$ 42,927	\$ 26,625	\$ 29,948	12.5%	\$ 30,846
Capital	-	9,000	10,000	11.1%	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 42,927	\$ 35,625	\$ 39,948	12.1%	\$ 30,846
Revenues					
General Fund Revenue	\$ 42,927	\$ 35,625	\$ 39,948	12.1%	\$ 30,846
Total Revenue	\$ 42,927	\$ 35,625	\$ 39,948	12.1%	\$ 30,846

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BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The following divisions of judicial administration (totaling \$329,000 in funding) represent the County's contributions to these State-related functions, with expenditures primarily representing operating expenditures and two full-time positions.

Circuit Court – The FY08 budget included one-time funding for security enhancements resulting in a decrease in funding in FY09.

General District Court – This is a maintenance level budget.

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court – The increase in the FY09 operating budget is for the purchase of rolling file cabinets. The budgeted capital expenditure is for the installation of a panic button.

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

	<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 Courts	\$3.23	\$3.37	\$3.37	\$3.21