

## POLICE DIVISION

### Metro Aviation Unit

#### Description

In 1986 the Counties of Henrico and Chesterfield, and the City of Richmond entered into a multi-jurisdictional agreement, which facilitated the use of police aircraft in all three jurisdictions and created the Metro Aviation Unit. As a part of this agreement, the Henrico Police Division is charged with housing the aircraft; supervision of the pilots; fiscal management; and planning the training for the Unit.

#### Objectives

- The Unit will provide aerial observation and support for all jurisdictions.
- The Unit will conduct patrols of identified high crime areas.
- The Unit will provide transportation of prisoners to and from other jurisdictions upon request.
- The Unit will provide aerial photographs of any location in the metropolitan area upon request.
- The Unit will provide routine and special aerial patrol within the tri-jurisdictional area.

#### Budget Highlights

The FY2013-14 budget includes \$80,000 for the extradition of prisoners, which is fully reimbursable from the State Supreme Court. This amount increased by \$25,000 or 45.5 percent to more accurately reflect expenses in this area. The remaining balance of the budget, \$382,000, is divided equally between Chesterfield County, the City of Richmond, and Henrico County and reflects an overall decrease of \$24,687 or 6.1 percent from the previous approved budget. In FY2013-14, Henrico's share of the budget totals \$127,332, decreasing by \$8,229 from the FY2012-13 approved budget. It is important to note that the Metro Aviation unit moved to a new hangar with a fuel storage tank in December, 2012 and this decrease is driven by the reduced lease amount as well as fuel cost savings.

Henrico's Police Division manages the Metro Aviation Unit. This section of the Police Division also handles extradition of prisoners, which is entirely reimbursable from the State of Virginia. The combined budget for Metro Aviation and Extradition is \$462,000.

The Metro Aviation Unit continues to be a valuable and effective crime fighting tool to the participating localities and the region. The localities continue to

#### Annual Fiscal Plan

Description	FY12 Actual	FY13 Original	FY14 Approved	Change 13 to 14
Personnel	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0.0%
Operation	363,542	431,687	422,000	(2.2%)
Capital	10,500	30,000	40,000	33.3%
Total	\$ 374,042	\$ 461,687	\$ 462,000	0.1%
Personnel Complement	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Metro Aviation (cont'd)*

	Performance Measures			Change 13 to 14
	FY12	FY13	FY14	
<b>Workload Measures</b>				
Number of Aerial Transports	36	40	43	3
Flight Hours for Aerial Tranports	150	175	190	15
Extraditions (commercial carriers)	35	40	40	0

increase their usage of the unit and each locality now assigns three pilots to the unit.

The three participating jurisdictions approved the purchase of an additional patrol plane, a Cessna 182, and in July 2006, the Board of Supervisors approved a budget amendment to increase the Metro Aviation Unit's budget for the purchase of the new aircraft. The aircraft is equipped with the latest technology including an electronic instrument panel, an integrated spotlight, a forward looking infra-red (FLIR) system,

and a video downlink that permits the aircraft to broadcast images while flying for viewing at varying locations within the three jurisdictions. The Metro Aviation Unit's two other aircraft are of varying ages including a transport plane over twenty-five years old and an eleven year old patrol plane. With the purchase of the Cessna, the unit only uses the fourth plane, a Henrico County patrol plane over twenty-five years old, for training and as a reserve patrol plane during maintenance and repairs to the other two patrol planes.