

COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

Description

The Commonwealth's Attorney is a Constitutional Officer elected for a term of four years. The Commonwealth's Attorney is responsible for prosecuting criminal offenses that occur in Henrico County. Trials and hearings occur in the Circuit Courts, General District Courts and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts. Additionally, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office provides legal advice and training to the Division of Police as well as other law enforcement agencies, including the Virginia State Police and the Richmond Airport Police.

- To prosecute criminal cases.
- To work with other criminal justice agencies to strengthen juvenile prosecutions and crime prevention.
- To make the public aware of Virginia Exile laws and enforce them appropriately.
- To train local law enforcement agencies in criminal law and criminal procedures.

Objectives

- To enforce criminal laws in Henrico County.
- To operate the Victim/Witness program.
- To cooperate on behalf of Henrico County in the operation of two investigative multi-jurisdictional grand juries.
- To promote a better understanding of the criminal justice system among citizens.
- To proactively investigate and prosecute drug dealers with increased concentration/focus on the opioid epidemic and human trafficking.

Budget Highlights

The Commonwealth's Attorney's Office approved budget for FY2018-19 totals \$5,037,655, representing an overall increase of \$194,514 or 4.0 percent when compared to the FY2017-18 approved budget. The personnel component increased 3.1 percent and reflects salary increases as well as rising health care costs.

The operating component reflects an increase of \$50,180 or an increase of 41.0 percent. This is due to the addition of Education and Training expenses into the operating budget. It also includes increases to other accounts such as membership dues, medical

Annual Fiscal Plan

Description	FY17 Actual	FY18 Original	FY19 Approved	Change 18 to 19
Personnel	\$ 4,471,504	\$ 4,713,876	\$ 4,861,390	3.1%
Operation	124,740	122,285	172,465	41.0%
Capital	3,752	6,980	3,800	(45.6%)
Total	\$ 4,599,996	\$ 4,843,141	\$ 5,037,655	4.0%
 Personnel Complement	 56	 57	 57 *	 0

*This personnel count includes 52 positions in Commonwealth's Attorney's Office and 13 in Victim Witness. (1 Comp I, 4 Comp II and 8 Comp III positions). An Assistant Commonwealth Attorney I position added in the FY2017-18 budget in response to the increase in heroin related cases prosecuted by the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.

Performance Measures				
	FY17	FY18	FY19	Change 18 to 19
Workload Measures				
Circuit Court Defendants	1,397	1,375	1,400	25
Show Cause Hearings	786	700	750	50
Misdemeanor Appeals	842	1,000	900	(100)
General District Court Criminal Cases	45,037	41,500	43,000	1,500
General District Court Traffic Cases	76,134	88,000	80,000	(8,000)
Juvenile Court Misdemeanors	1,831	1,850	1,850	0
Juvenile Court Felonies	823	700	800	100
Effectiveness Measure				
Circuit Court Indictments	2,932	2,400	2,900	500

services, office supplies, books and subscriptions, and telecommunications to reflect actual expense trends. The capital component decreased by \$3,180 or 45.6 percent to help cover the additional funding for some of the previously mentioned operating accounts.

In FY2018-19, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office will continue to prosecute traffic and criminal cases in all the Henrico County Courts. Aggressive prosecution of those who commit violent crimes will remain the number one priority. The Office will continue to work closely with the Police Division to reduce crime, proactively as well as reactively, by ensuring that those who commit crimes are held accountable. The Commonwealth's Attorney's Office will continue to pursue narcotics traffickers through the utilization of two multi-jurisdictional grand juries. In addition, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office will continue to provide legal training to the Police Division in its basic academies as well as in continuing service training. Special efforts will also continue to be made to reduce domestic violence, human trafficking and opioid overdoses.

Enforcement of Virginia's Exile laws will continue in FY2018-19 to reduce violent gun crimes. Two provisions, a specialized prosecutor and a secretary, were funded with a Virginia Exile grant from FY2002-03 to FY2005-06. However, as this grant was discontinued, the County picked up the cost of these positions in the FY2006-07 budget due to the effectiveness of this program in reducing violent crimes.

As of December 27, 2017, the Commonwealth Attorney's personnel complement, including Special Drug and Victim Witness, consisted of 67 positions. This consists of 19 complement I positions; 37 complement II positions; 10 complement III positions, and 1 complement IV position (Attorney for the Commonwealth). The Office's complement reflects the complement I, II and IV positions, which total 56 positions.

The following table presents a historical depiction of State funding for the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office:

Fiscal Year	State Funding	% State
2009-10	1,715,708	38%
2010-11	1,798,606	39%
2011-12	1,786,354	38%
2012-13	1,817,870	41%
2013-14	1,907,000	42%
2014-15	1,877,000	42%
2015-16	2,092,617	47%
2016-17	2,157,747	47%
2017-18	2,075,000	43%
2018-19	2,150,000	43%
Note: FY2017-18 and FY2018-19 reflect budgeted revenues whereas all prior years reflect actuals.		