

# COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

## DESCRIPTION

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

## 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.
- 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.

## FISCAL YEAR 2020 SUMMARY

### Annual Fiscal Plan

Description	FY18	FY19	FY20	Change
	Actual	Original	Approved	19 to 20
Personnel	\$ 4,628,184	\$ 4,861,390	\$ 5,246,639	7.9%
Operation	165,786	172,465	173,707	0.7%
Capital	592	3,800	6,680	75.8%
Total	<u>\$ 4,794,562</u>	<u>\$ 5,037,655</u>	<u>\$ 5,427,026</u>	<u>7.7%</u>
Personnel Complement	52 *	52 *	54 **	2

\*Restated from prior years budgets to only show Commonwealth's Attorney positions (Victim Witness narrative now includes the position count.)

\*\*Added Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney and Paralegal position

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>	<u>Change 19 to 20</u>
<b>Workload Measures</b>				
Circuit Court Defendants	1,497	1,400	1,500	100
Show Cause Hearings	820	750	800	50
Misdemeanor Appeals	888	900	900	0
General District Court Criminal Cases	45,284	43,000	46,500	3,500
General District Court Traffic Cases	77,622	80,000	80,000	0
Juvenile Court Misdemeanors	1,693	1,850	1,750	(100)
Juvenile Court Felonies	584	800	650	(150)
<b>Effectiveness Measure</b>				
Circuit Court Indictments	2,560	2,900	2,600	(300)

## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Commonwealth's Attorney's Office budget for FY2019-20 totals \$5,427,026, representing an overall increase of \$389,371 or 7.7 percent when compared to the FY2018-19 budget. The personnel component increased 7.9 percent and reflects salary increases, rising healthcare costs, and a paralegal and an attorney position addressing the increased workload of processing data captured by body-worn-cameras. The Compensation Board of the Commonwealth of Virginia provides staffing standards for Constitutional Officers including Commonwealth Attorney's. For Henrico County's Commonwealth Attorney's office, the recommended staffing is forty-one positions of which twenty are attorneys. The budget includes thirty-one attorneys and fifty-four total staff, including the two additional positions.

The recently amended State budget includes a provision mandating localities maintain one Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for every 75 body-worn-cameras used by law enforcement. The provision states, "(h)owever, with the consent of the Commonwealth's Attorney, a locality may provide their Commonwealth's Attorney's office with additional funding, using a different formula than stated above, as needed to accommodate the additional workload resulting from the requirement to review, redact and present footage from body worn cameras." Henrico County will ensure it provides the necessary resources to the Commonwealth's Attorney's office to support public safety needs.

The operating component of the budget reflects an increase of \$1,242 or 0.7 percent and the capital component increased \$2,880 or 75.8 percent, all for costs associated with the new positions.

In FY2019-20, 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 pursuing narcotic traffickers using two multi-jurisdictional grand juries. Additionally, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office will continue providing legal training to the Police Division in its basic academies and through regular in-service training. Special efforts will also continue to reduce domestic violence, human

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trafficking, and opioid overdoses. Enforcing Virginia's Exile laws will continue in FY2019-20 to reduce violent gun crimes.

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

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>State Funding</b>	<b>County Funding</b>	<b>% State</b>
2010-11	1,798,606	2,815,051	39%
2011-12	1,786,354	2,922,402	38%
2012-13	1,817,870	2,576,651	41%
2013-14	1,907,000	2,533,972	42%
2014-15	1,877,000	2,568,763	42%
2015-16	2,092,617	2,360,989	47%
2016-17	2,157,747	2,442,250	47%
2017-18	2,075,000	2,719,561	43%
2018-19	2,150,000	2,887,655	43%
2019-20	2,175,000	3,252,026	40%