

# 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 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.
- To prosecute criminal cases.

## Budget Highlights

The Commonwealth's Attorney's Office approved budget for FY2017-18 totals \$4,843,141, representing an overall increase of \$239,138 or 5.2 percent when compared to the FY2016-17 approved budget. This increase is entirely driven by the personnel component and reflects a 2.5 percent salary increase for FY2017-18, the addition of an Assistant Commonwealth Attorney I position, and rising health care costs. The FY2017-18 approved budget includes an additional Assistant Commonwealth Attorney I position to address the increase in heroin related cases, both in number and complexity.

The operating and capital outlay components reflect the movement of \$15 from the operating budget into capital outlay. In addition, the operating component reflects the movement of \$3,260 from several line

## Annual Fiscal Plan

Description	FY16 Actual	FY17 Original	FY18 Approved	Change 17 to 18
Personnel	\$ 4,324,573	\$ 4,474,738	\$ 4,713,876	5.3%
Operation	121,355	122,300	122,285	(0.0%)
Capital	7,680	6,965	6,980	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,453,608</b>	<b>\$ 4,604,003</b>	<b>\$ 4,843,141</b>	<b>5.2%</b>

Personnel Complement	56	56	57 *	1
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\*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.

<b>Performance Measures</b>				
	<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>	<b>FY18</b>	<b>Change 17 to 18</b>
<b>Workload Measures</b>				
Circuit Court Defendants	1,404	1,375	1,400	25
Show Cause Hearings	620	750	750	0
Misdemeanor Appeals	873	1,100	1,000	(100)
General District Court Criminal Cases	41,890	41,500	41,750	250
General District Court Traffic Cases	79,778	92,000	90,000	(2,000)
Juvenile Court Misdemeanors	1,786	1,900	1,850	(50)
Juvenile Court Felonies	661	700	700	0
<b>Effectiveness Measure</b>				
Circuit Court Indictments	2,328	2,400	2,400	0

items within the operating budget into Computer Software. This budget adjustment was made to more accurately reflect planned expenditures in FY2017-18.

In FY2017-18, 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 Division of Police 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 Division of Police in its basic academies as well as in continuing service training. Special efforts will also continue to be made to reduce domestic violence.

Enforcement of Virginia's Exile laws will continue in FY2017-18 in an effort 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 February 2, 2016, the Commonwealth Attorney's personnel complement, including Special Drug and Victim Witness, consisted of 65 positions. This consists of 18 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:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>State Funding</b>	<b>% State</b>
FY2008-09	1,993,720	44%
FY2009-10	1,715,708	38%
FY2010-11	1,798,606	39%
FY2011-12	1,786,354	38%
FY2012-13	1,817,870	41%
FY2013-14	1,861,682	42%
FY2014-15	2,041,649	46%
FY2015-16	2,092,617	47%
FY2016-17	2,050,000	45%
FY2017-18	2,075,000	44%

Note: FY2016-17 and FY2017-18 reflect budgeted revenues whereas all prior years reflect actuals.