

GENERAL DISTRICT COURT

Magistrate

Description

The principal function of the Magistrate’s office is to provide independent review of complaints from police officers, sheriff’s deputies, and residents. These complaints provide the magistrate with facts needed to determine whether a warrant of arrest should be issued. In addition to issuing warrants of arrest, magistrates conduct bail hearings, commit offenders to jail, and release prisoners from jail. The Magistrate’s office operates under the supervision of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

- To cooperate with the Sheriff’s department to try to develop a more efficient means of committing defendants and releasing those who have posted bonds.

Budget Highlights

This is the nineteenth year that the Magistrate's operation will be budgeted separately from the Clerk of the General District Court. This change has allowed for better flexibility in meeting the operational needs of each office. Funding in FY2017-18 continues to support the daily operation for thirteen Magistrates. There are no County paid positions assigned to this office, as the thirteen magistrates are State employees. The County does provide space, furnishings, and operating expenses for the Magistrate’s office.

Objectives

- To provide efficient, unbiased, and professional services to law enforcement officers, mental health professionals, and citizens including the issuance of Emergency Protective and Custody Orders and Temporary Detention Orders.

Annual Fiscal Plan

Description	FY16 Actual	FY17 Original	FY18 Approved	Change 17 to 18
Personnel	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0.0%
Operation	5,885	6,286	6,286	0.0%
Capital	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	\$ 5,885	\$ 6,286	\$ 6,286	0.0%
Personnel Complement *	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Personnel Expenses are paid by the Commonwealth of Virginia.