

POLICE – METRO AVIATION UNIT

DESCRIPTION

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

OBJECTIVES

- Provide aerial observation and support for local area jurisdictions.
- Conduct patrols of identified high crime areas.
- Provide prisoner transportation to and from other jurisdictions upon request.
- Take aerial photographs of any location in the metropolitan area upon request.
- Provide routine and special aerial patrol within the tri-jurisdictional area.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The combined FY2021-22 budget for Metro Aviation and extradition totals \$487,000. The Metro Aviation portion totals \$382,000, and is divided equally between Chesterfield County, the City of Richmond, and Henrico County, with each share remaining constant at \$127,333. The prisoner extradition budget totals \$105,000 and is reimbursable from the State Supreme Court.

FISCAL YEAR 2022 SUMMARY

Annual Fiscal Plan

Description	FY20	FY21	FY22	Change
	Actual	Original	Approved	21 to 22
Personnel	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0.0%
Operation	374,981	447,000	447,000	0.0%
Capital	36,909	40,000	40,000	0.0%
Total	<u>\$ 411,890</u>	<u>\$ 487,000</u>	<u>\$ 487,000</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Personnel Complement	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>	<u>Change 21 to 22</u>
Workload Measures				
Number of Aerial Transports	67	55	55	0
Flight Hours for Aerial Transports	280	230	230	0
Extraditions (commercial carriers)	44	20	46	26

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

The Metro Aviation Unit is a valuable and effective crime fighting tool for participating localities and the region. Localities continue to increase their use of the unit and each locality now assigns three pilots to the unit.

The three participating jurisdictions own three aircraft:

- 2006 Cessna 182
- 2000 Cessna 172
- 1979 Cessna 182RG (Transport Aircraft)

The 2006 Cessna 182 and 2000 Cessna 172 are equipped with a spotlight, a forward looking infra-red (FLIR) camera, and a video downlink that permits the aircraft to broadcast images while flying.

During FY2019-20, the unit responded to 825 calls for service, conducted 89 surveillances, with a total of 1,278 flight hours. In addition, aircraft assisted with 88 apprehensions, 67 aerial transports, and 129 aerial pictures.

While the number of extraditions in FY2019-20 decreased due to travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Metro Aviation unit provided 110.6 hours of coverage for the civil unrest in Richmond, Henrico, and Chesterfield.

In September 2019, the Henrico County Board of Supervisors approved an amendment totaling \$2,100,000 to purchase a third patrol aircraft which, along with its downlink system, is currently in the procurement process. The new aircraft will be added to the fleet assisting primarily with patrol and making the total complement four planes, three primarily for patrol and one primarily for transport. The cost of the plane was split equally among the regional partners with Henrico’s share totaling \$700,000. The plane will be available to the unit in 2022.