

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

DESCRIPTION

The Code of Virginia requires all local governments to enforce the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC). The Department of Building Construction and Inspections fulfills this role for Henrico County by reviewing and inspecting the structural, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems of buildings and structures in Henrico County to ensure the safety, health, and welfare of the County’s citizens. The reviews and inspections are based on criteria that are consistent with nationally recognized codes and standards at reasonable cost levels.

The Department also enforces the maintenance and unsafe provisions of the USBC and the Drug Blight, Bawdy Places, and Derelict Buildings ordinances to further the objectives of the County's Community Maintenance Program. In addition, the Department administers the graffiti ordinance to remove graffiti in the County.

OBJECTIVES

- To ensure the public health, safety, and welfare affected by the design and construction of buildings and structures in Henrico County.
- To ensure the quality of inspections by field staff through education and certification to State standards.
- To provide services that equal customer expectations for professionalism and accountability.
- To establish policies and procedures that are consistent, practical, workable, and enforceable.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 SUMMARY

Annual Fiscal Plan

Description	FY21 Actual	FY22 Original	FY23 Approved	Change 22 to 23
Personnel	\$ 4,400,536	\$ 4,870,725	\$ 5,170,158	6.1%
Operation	456,343	405,920	405,920	0.0%
Capital	569	300	300	0.0%
Sub-Total	\$ 4,857,448	\$ 5,276,945	\$ 5,576,378	5.7%
Interdepartmental Billings	(142,072)	(149,742)	(156,158)	4.3%
Total Budget	\$ 4,715,376	\$ 5,127,203	\$ 5,420,220	5.7%
Personnel Complement	58	58	58	0

Building Inspections

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	Performance Measures			Change
	FY21	FY22	FY23	22 to 23
Workload Measures				
Building Inspections	33,794	33,000	33,500	500
Electrical Inspections	20,691	20,500	21,000	500
Mechanical Inspections	14,114	14,000	14,500	500
Plumbing Inspections	18,150	18,000	18,500	500
Fire Protection Inspections	3,444	3,500	4,000	500
Elevator Inspections	243	250	300	50
Sign Inspections	721	750	800	50
Total Inspections	91,157	90,000	92,600	2,600
Total Permits Issued	16,546	16,500	16,500	0
Single Family Permits Issued	825	800	800	0
Existing Structure Inspections	3,016	4,000	4,500	500
FOG Inspections	71	150	200	50
Efficiency Measures				
Residential Inspections/Inspector/Day	14	15	16	1
Mech./Plumbing Inspections/Inspector/Day	16	18	20	2
Electrical Inspections/Inspector/Day	15	16	17	1
Fire Protection Inspections/Inspector/Day	6	6	7	1
Commercial Inspections/Inspector/Day	10	10	11	1
Avg. # of Inspections/Single Family w/ Fire Spklrs	35	35	35	0
Avg. # of Inspections/Single Family Dwelling No Fire Spklrs	40	40	40	0

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Department of Building Construction and Inspections budget is divided into two sections: Building Inspections and Community Maintenance.

The total FY23 proposed budget is \$5,420,220 representing an increase of \$293,017, or 5.7%, when compared to the FY22 approved budget. This increase is reflected in the personnel component including benefit rate changes and a merit-based salary increase. Operating and capital remain at FY22 levels.

The Building Inspections section is responsible for assuring that structural stability, fire safety, and electrical safety is provided in newly constructed buildings throughout the County through compliance with nationally recognized building codes and standards. This section also inspects structures for compliance with accessibility, sanitation, light and ventilation, and energy and water conservation standards as referenced in the building code.

The Building Inspections section's budget for FY23 totals \$4,899,694. This reflects an increase of \$262,265 in personnel expenses when compared to the FY22 approved budget primarily reflecting increases in benefit rates. The operating budget is unchanged from the previous fiscal year with funds shifted between accounts to address operational requirements. Capital outlay remains flat for FY23.

Building Inspections

The Community Maintenance Division within the Building Inspections Department is responsible for resolving violations of the building code and graffiti ordinance for existing structures. This Division's budget totals \$520,526, which is an increase of \$30,752 when compared to the prior fiscal year. The increase is entirely reflected in the personnel component as operating expenses match funding in the prior fiscal year.

Also included in the Community Maintenance Division are the costs for two positions that are part of an initiative to ensure that restaurants have the proper equipment to prevent oil and grease from entering the sewer system. The ongoing cost for these two positions total \$156,158. The entirety of this cost will be reimbursed by the Department of Public Utilities. As such, an interdepartmental billing account has been budgeted to reflect the reimbursement of these ongoing costs.

The Community Maintenance Division will continue to work closely with the Department of Community Revitalization, as they also provide community maintenance services. Community Revitalization's services include those related to identifying the needs of established communities and aiding improving the properties in these areas.