

COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

Special Drug Prosecutor

DESCRIPTION

The General Assembly of Virginia passed legislation in 1983 establishing the Special Drug Prosecutor Program and creating multi-jurisdiction grand juries (MJGJs). A MJGJ, in contrast to a regular grand jury, is an investigative body with the statutory authority to issue statewide subpoenas for documents and other evidence, and to call for sworn testimony of persons with information related to specific criminal offenses. Henrico's Drug Prosecutor program was implemented in May of 1984. Police and prosecutors for the Counties of Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, and the City of Richmond work together to conduct multi-jurisdictional investigations and direct a special grand jury as authorized by state law. The grand jury is authorized to investigate various crimes committed in the metro area, including murder, maiming, robbery, abduction, financial and computer crimes, and drug trafficking.

OBJECTIVES

- Investigate and prosecute those involved in the illegal use or distribution of drugs, and drug paraphernalia.
- Provide assistance in any other provision of law when such condition is discovered in the course of an investigation, which a multi-jurisdiction drug prosecutor is otherwise authorized to undertake, and to investigate any condition that involves or tends to promote any attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to violate laws.
- Administer use of the grand jury by prosecutors from each of the member jurisdictions.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 SUMMARY

Annual Fiscal Plan

Description	FY22	FY23	FY24	Change
	Actual	Original	Approved	23 to 24
Personnel	\$ 182,108	\$ 187,954	\$ 234,397	24.7%
Operation	3,268	5,458	5,458	0.0%
Capital	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	<u>\$ 185,376</u>	<u>\$ 193,412</u>	<u>\$ 239,855</u>	<u>24.0%</u>

Personnel Complement* 1 1 1 0

* Special Drug Prosecutor maintains the budget for two positions but the 1 complement III position is excluded from this Personnel Count.

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PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY23</u>	<u>FY24</u>	<u>Change 23 to 24</u>
Workload Measures				
Subpoenas	1,634	1,650	1,675	25
Indictments	677	700	725	25
Defendants	227	250	275	25

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Special Drug Prosecutor budget for FY24 is \$239,855, an increase of \$46,443, or 24% over FY23. This increase is reflected in the personnel component and is the result of changes in compensation and benefits related to staff assigned to the Special Drug Prosecutor. The operating and capital components are unchanged.

The State Compensation Board and the county both contribute to the salaries and associated personnel costs for the two positions funded through the program. The budget includes projected General Fund support of \$82,230.

The table below presents a depiction of the State/County split of the spending for this program.

Fiscal Year	State Funding	County Funding	% County
FY15	135,258	52,570	28%
FY16	135,694	56,833	30%
FY17	134,790	81,887	38%
FY18	135,174	29,379	18%
FY19	135,926	42,415	24%
FY20	141,280	40,865	22%
FY21	138,714	22,189	14%
FY22	147,113	38,262	21%
FY23	127,104	66,308	34%
FY24	150,000	89,855	37%

* FY23 and FY24 reflect projections

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Special Drug Prosecutor Program provides a vital public safety function for the county by working with a multi-jurisdictional investigative grand jury comprised of the Counties of Henrico, Hanover, Chesterfield, and the City of Richmond. The Special Drug Prosecutor coordinates witnesses and subpoenas for tangible evidence ordered by the grand jury and handles a full caseload of criminal matters. The multi-jurisdictional grand jury plays an essential role in the investigation of drug and homicide cases in the metro area, including murder, maiming, robbery, abduction, financial and computer crimes, and drug trafficking.