

# 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. As a part of this agreement, the Henrico Police Division is charged with housing the aircraft, supervision of the pilots, fiscal management, and planning the training for the Unit.

## OBJECTIVES

- The Unit will provide aerial observation and support for local area jurisdictions.
- The Unit will conduct patrols of identified high crime areas.
- The Unit will provide transportation of prisoners to and from other jurisdictions upon request.
- The Unit will provide aerial photographs of any location in the metropolitan area upon request.
- The Unit will provide routine and special aerial patrol within the tri-jurisdictional area.

## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The FY22 budget includes \$105,000 for the extradition of prisoners. Extradition costs are fully reimbursable from the State Supreme Court. The balance of the budget, \$382,000, is divided equally between Chesterfield County, the City of Richmond, and Henrico County. In FY23, Henrico’s share of the budget remains constant at \$127,332. Henrico’s Police Division fiscally manages and supervises the Metro Aviation Unit. The combined budget for Metro Aviation and Extradition totals \$487,000.

## FISCAL YEAR 2023 SUMMARY

### Annual Fiscal Plan

Description	FY21 Actual	FY22 Original	FY23 Approved	Change 22 to 23
Personnel	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0.0%
Operation	253,288	447,000	417,000	(6.7%)
Capital	130,961	40,000	70,000	75.0%
Total	\$ 384,249	\$ 487,000	\$ 487,000	0.0%
Personnel Complement	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	Performance Measures			Change
	FY21	FY22	FY23	22 to 23
<b>Workload Measures</b>				
Number of Aerial Transports	57	55	55	0
Flight Hours for Aerial Transports	256	220	220	0
Extraditions (commercial carriers)	9	15	15	0

## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Metro Aviation Unit continues to be a valuable and effective crime fighting tool to the participating localities and the region. The localities continue to increase their usage 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 for viewing at varying locations within the three jurisdictions.

During FY2020-21, the unit responded to 758 calls for service, conducted 101 surveillances, with a total of 1,061 flight hours. In addition, aircraft assisted with 84 apprehensions, 127 aerial pictures.

In September 2019, the Board of Supervisors approved an amendment totaling \$2,100,000 for 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.