

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

Henrico’s Police Division fiscally manages and supervises the Metro Aviation Unit. The combined budget for Metro Aviation and Extradition totals \$602,500.

The FY25 budget includes \$105,000 for the extradition of prisoners. Extradition costs are fully reimbursable from the State Supreme Court. The balance of the budget, \$497,500, is divided equally between Chesterfield County, the City of Richmond, and Henrico County.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SUMMARY

Annual Fiscal Plan				
Description	FY23 Actual	FY24 Original	FY25 Approved	Change 24 to 25
Personnel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Operation	393,193	532,500	532,500	0.0%
Capital	79,017	70,000	70,000	0.0%
Total	<u>\$ 472,210</u>	<u>\$ 602,500</u>	<u>\$ 602,500</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Personnel Complement	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	<u>FY23</u>	<u>FY24</u>	<u>FY25</u>	<u>Change 24 to 25</u>
Workload Measures				
Number of Aerial Transports	24	26	28	2
Flight Hours for Aerial Transports	95	126	157	31
Extraditions (commercial carriers)	26	8	25	17

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Metro Aviation Unit continues to be a valuable and effective crime fighting tool to the participating localities and the region. A total of three pilots are assigned to the Metro Aviation Unit, with each locality providing a pilot.

The three participating jurisdictions own four aircraft:

- 2021 Cessna T206
- 2019 Piper M350
- 2006 Cessna 182
- 2000 Cessna 172

All aircraft, except for the transport plane, 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.

In FY24, Metro Aviation acquired a 2019 Piper M350 transport aircraft to replace the aged 1979 Cessna Transport. The Piper plane has a service ceiling of 25,000 feet, cruises around 200 knots, seats six, and is certified for flight into known icing. This allows the aircraft to climb higher to avoid weather / turbulence and complete extraditions and personnel transports quickly. The larger cabin space allows for multiple transports during a roundtrip flight, allowing for more efficient operations. This aircraft assists the participating agencies in completing extraditions in a timely manner.