

COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

DESCRIPTION

The Commonwealth's Attorney is an elected Constitutional Officer responsible for prosecuting criminal offenses that occur in Henrico County, handling civil matters, and maintaining public safety in the community by way of prevention measures and community outreach. Trials and hearings are held in the Circuit, General District, and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts. Additionally, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office provides legal advice and training to the Division of Police, State Police, Richmond Airport Police, as well as other law enforcement agencies.

OBJECTIVES

- To enforce criminal laws in Henrico County.
- To operate the Victim Witness program.
- To cooperate on behalf of Henrico County in operating two investigative multi-jurisdictional grand juries.
- To promote a better understanding of the criminal justice system among citizens.
- To proactively investigate and prosecute drug dealers with increased concentration and focus on the opioid epidemic and human trafficking.
- To prosecute criminal cases and include using diversion programs when appropriate.
- To work with other agencies to strengthen crime prevention and train local law enforcement agencies in criminal law and criminal procedures.
- To reduce firearm crimes in schools and reduce truancy/chronic absenteeism.
- To work to combat increased weapons use and violent crimes county-wide.
- To be part of the creation of and participation in a Behavioral Health Docket.

ANNUAL FISCAL PLAN SUMMARY

Description	FY24 Actual	FY25 Original	FY26 Approved	Change 25-26
Personnel	\$ 7,253,161	\$ 7,558,470	\$ 8,316,928	10.0%
Operation	321,853	302,242	306,482	1.4%
Capital	219	-	-	0.0%
Total	<u>\$ 7,575,233</u>	<u>\$ 7,860,712</u>	<u>\$ 8,623,410</u>	<u>9.7%</u>

Personnel Complement 57 61 * 61 -
* Two Attorney, one Department Business Analyst, and one Legal Assistant added by Amendment in September 2024.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY24	FY25	FY26	Change 25-26
Workload Measures				
Circuit Court Indictments	2,170	2,225	2,200	(25)
Circuit Court Defendants	1,355	1,375	1,365	(10)
General District Court Criminal Cases	41,752	42,100	42,100	-
General District Court Traffic Cases	77,258	72,100	78,000	5,900
Juvenile Court Felonies	1,018	1,025	1,025	-
Juvenile Court Misdemeanors	2,592	2,750	2,700	(50)
Misdemeanor Appeals	158	400	200	(200)
Show Cause Hearings	963	1,025	1,050	25
Cases Opened in CATS	7,653	8,025	8,000	(25)
Discovery Motions	5,059	5,025	5,030	5
Asset Forfeitures	56	175	75	(100)

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Commonwealth's Attorney's office budget for FY26 totals \$8,623,410, which is an increase of \$762,698, or 9.7% from FY25. The personnel component comprises 96% of the budget totaling \$8,316,928, which is an increase of \$758,458 or 10.0% due to changes in compensation and benefits, and the addition of four positions approved in September 2024. The operating component increased by \$4,240 or 1.4% to account for operating needs to support the new positions.

This table presents a historical depiction of funding for the Commonwealth's Attorney's office. Since FY17, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office budget has grown by \$3,846,113, or 83.6%. Further, the County's contribution has increased from 53% in FY17 to an anticipated 66% in FY26. The personnel component of this budget remained consistent at 96%.

Fiscal Year	State Funding	County Funding	% County
FY17	2,157,727	2,442,270	53%
FY18	2,202,720	2,591,841	54%
FY19	2,207,444	2,988,046	58%
FY20	2,293,347	3,197,057	58%
FY21	2,293,876	3,500,222	60%
FY22	2,431,506	3,754,992	61%
FY23	2,663,308	4,234,475	61%
FY24	2,909,512	4,665,721	62%
FY25	2,710,000	5,150,712	66%
FY26	2,970,000	5,653,410	66%

*FY25 and FY26 reflect projections

DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Commonwealth's Attorney's Office prosecutes misdemeanor traffic, misdemeanor criminal, and felony cases in Henrico County Courts, with aggressive prosecution of those who commit violent crimes as its priority, and pursues narcotic traffickers using two multi-jurisdictional grand juries with the United States Attorney's Office – Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond Office to review and pursue cases that may be more suited for prosecution in federal court such as prohibited firearm possessors.

Work is being done with the Police Division to reduce crime proactively with communities, identifying areas of concern and working collaboratively on solutions. The Office works with Henrico's public safety agencies to combat crimes that particularly effect disadvantaged and vulnerable populations, including human trafficking, illegal gambling, and the sale of illegal smoking and vaping related cannabis, tobacco, nicotine, and synthetic products. Additional focus of the Commonwealth's Attorney's office includes:

- Providing legal training to the Police Division's basic academies and through regular in-service training.
- Concentrating on reducing truancy and violence in schools.
- Focusing on prosecuting domestic violence, opioid overdoses, and elder and child abuse.
- Collaborating with the Sheriff's Office to achieve alternative treatment and other diversion opportunities, keeping the jail population reserved for those who are serving active sentences or for those whose release may jeopardize public safety.
- Providing necessary resources working with other agencies concerning public safety.

Violent crime has increased in both youth and adult populations, and the number of jury trials has increased due to changes in the law. The Commonwealth's Attorney's Office has completed a competitive bid process to initiate a case tracking system, which will help organize and track cases, improving office efficiency.