

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.

The Special Drug Prosecutor coordinates witnesses and subpoenas for tangible evidence ordered by the grand jury and handles a full caseload of criminal matters.

OBJECTIVES

- Investigate and prosecute those involved in the illegal use or distribution of drugs, and drug paraphernalia.
- Administer use of the grand jury by prosecutors from each of the member jurisdictions.

ANNUAL FISCAL PLAN SUMMARY

Description	FY25 Actual	FY26 Original	FY27 Approved	% Change
Personnel	\$284,548	\$291,483	\$317,859	9.0%
Operation	3,662	5,458	5,458	0.0%
Capital	0	0	0	0.0%
Subtotal	\$288,210	\$296,941	\$323,317	8.9%
Recommended Adjustment	0	0	-8,908	100.0%
Total	\$288,210	\$296,941	\$314,409	5.9%
Personnel Complement	1	1	1	0

**The Special Drug Prosecutor maintains the budget for two positions. There is one complement III position excluded from this personnel count.*

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PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY25	FY26	FY27	26-27 Change
Workload Measures				
Subpoenas	2,269	2,400	2,300	-100
Defendants	222	225	225	0
Indictments	744	750	750	0

OBJECTIVES (CONTINUED)

- Assist in any other provision of law when such condition is discovered during 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.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Special Drug Prosecutor budget for FY27 is \$314,409, an increase of \$17,468, or 5.9% compared to FY26. 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 component is unchanged. As part of an exercise in fiscal prudence, this budget includes an operating decrease equivalent to 3% of the department's FY26 approved budget.

Fiscal Year	State Funding	County Funding	% County
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	153,112	81,045	35%
FY24	168,800	39,807	19%
FY25	183,134	105,075	36%
FY26	180,000	116,941	39%
FY27	187,600	126,809	40%

The State Compensation Board and the County both contribute to the salaries and associated personnel costs for the positions funded through the program. The budget includes projected General Fund support of \$126,809.

The table shown presents a historic depiction of state funding for the Special Drug Prosecutor. Both FY26 and FY27 reflect projections of the budget and FY18 through FY25 reflect actual funding.