

Courts

DESCRIPTION

The Courts system is made up of the Circuit Court, General District Court, Magistrate, and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. The Circuit Court of Hanover is a trial court of general jurisdiction which has authority to try both civil and criminal cases. The Supreme Court of Virginia establishes the rules of practice and procedures for the Circuit Court. The Circuit Court Judge is appointed to an eight year term by the General Assembly. The Circuit Court has appellate jurisdiction over all appeals from the General District Court and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. These cases are heard from the beginning as though there had been no prior trial. A final judgment of the Circuit Court may be appealed to the Virginia Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court of Virginia, depending on the nature of the case.

One of the principal functions of the Magistrate is to provide an independent review of complaints from Sheriff's Deputies and citizens of the County. These complaints form the basis for determining whether a

warrant of arrest should be issued. In addition, the Magistrate conducts bail bond hearings, commits offenders to jail, and releases prisoners from jail.

The Circuit Court appoints the following: jury commissioners, grand jurors, special policemen, Board of Zoning Appeals, Electoral Board, Courthouse Committee, Commissioner of Chancery, Marriage Commissioners, and others as provided by the Code of Virginia.

The Circuit Court is responsible for the law library. The law library (at the request of the Hanover Bar) contains legal information which may be of interest to local lawyers.

The Courts receive direct funding from the Commonwealth, in addition to funds appropriated by the County. Revenues recorded in the General Fund from the Courts represent fines, forfeitures, and excess fees from the Circuit Court.

Budget Summary

	<u>Circuit Court</u>				
	FY10 Actual	FY11 Budget	FY12 Budget	FY11 to FY12	FY13 Plan
Expenditures					
Personnel	\$ 53,500	\$ 51,519	\$ 53,249	3.4%	\$ 54,039
Operating	37,840	41,370	24,546	(40.7%)	24,546
Total Expenditures	\$ 91,340	\$ 92,889	\$ 77,795	(16.2%)	\$ 78,585
Revenues					
General Fund Revenue	\$ 91,340	\$ 92,889	\$ 77,795	(16.2%)	\$ 78,585
Total Revenue	\$ 91,340	\$ 92,889	\$ 77,795	(16.2%)	\$ 78,585
General Fund Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		100.0%
Full-time Positions	1	1	1	0.0%	1
Full-time Equivalents	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0%	1.0

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General District Court

	FY10 Actual	FY11 Budget	FY12 Budget	FY11 to FY12	FY13 Plan
Expenditures					
Operating	\$ 100,146	\$ 112,303	\$ 103,938	(7.4%)	\$ 103,938
Total Expenditures	\$ 100,146	\$ 112,303	\$ 103,938	(7.4%)	\$ 103,938
Revenues					
Other Revenue	\$ 14,339	\$ 14,099	\$ 15,000	6.4%	\$ 15,000
General Fund Revenue	85,807	98,204	88,938	(9.4%)	88,938
Total Revenue	\$ 100,146	\$ 112,303	\$ 103,938	(7.4%)	\$ 103,938
Generated Revenue Percent	14.3%	12.6%	14.4%		14.4%
General Fund Percent	85.7%	87.4%	85.6%		85.6%

Magistrates

	FY10 Actual	FY11 Budget	FY12 Budget	FY11 to FY12	FY13 Plan
Expenditures					
Operating	\$ 2,967	\$ 2,991	\$ 3,002	0.4%	\$ 3,002
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,967	\$ 2,991	\$ 3,002	0.4%	\$ 3,002
Revenues					
General Fund Revenue	\$ 2,967	\$ 2,991	\$ 3,002	0.4%	\$ 3,002
Total Revenue	\$ 2,967	\$ 2,991	\$ 3,002	0.4%	\$ 3,002
General Fund Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		100.0%

Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court

	FY10 Actual	FY11 Budget	FY12 Budget	FY11 to FY12	FY13 Plan
Expenditures					
Operating	\$ 25,568	\$ 22,367	\$ 22,398	0.1%	\$ 22,398
Total Expenditures	\$ 25,568	\$ 22,367	\$ 22,398	0.1%	\$ 22,398
Revenues					
General Fund Revenue	\$ 25,568	\$ 22,367	\$ 22,398	0.1%	\$ 22,398
Total Revenue	\$ 25,568	\$ 22,367	\$ 22,398	0.1%	\$ 22,398

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BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The County has contributed \$207,000 to these state related functions within the judicial administration division, with expenditures primarily representing operating expenditures and two full-time positions.

Circuit Court – Decreases can be attributed to operational adjustments, implemented as cost savings measures through collaboration between the Judge and County.

General District Court – The decrease seen in the departmental budget is directly linked to

the trends in court appointed attorneys fees that the County has been incurring.

Magistrates – The overall increase can be attributed to inflationary adjustments made by the County.

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court – The increase in the budget can be attributed to inflationary operational costs, otherwise the Judge and County have worked together to present a flat operational budget.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Maintain file of drug offenders with suspended licenses;
- Maintain collections percentage at 75%;
- Set up receivables for cases within 24 hours; and
- Send out payment request notices within two days of court.

SERVICE LEVELS

	<u>FY10 Actual</u>	<u>FY11 Budget</u>	<u>FY11 Forecast</u>	<u>FY12 Budget</u>
Per capita cost of operating Courts	\$2.57	\$2.32	\$2.32	\$2.22