

Commonwealth Attorney Resource Summary

Appropriation Summary

	FY 2003-04 Actual	FY 2004-05 Amended	FY 2005-06 Proposed	FY 2005-06 Adopted	% Change
Expenditures	1,663,898	1,781,546	1,887,772	1,882,781	5.68
FTE	26	26	27	27	3.85

Department Mission

In affiliation with the City of Portsmouth, the Commonwealth Attorney's Office mission is to courageously and aggressively challenge individual criminal activity; to oppose crime and promote justice without fear of personal, professional, or political consequences; to execute justice without regard to race, religion, gender, political affiliation or socio-economic status; to employ all the department's resources objectively fostering a crime free community while nurturing strong moral development and personal responsibility; and finally to earn the citizenry's trust and respect in which we are honored to serve within Portsmouth and throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Department Budget in Brief

Our department has recently received news from the State Compensation Board that we will receive funding during FY 06 to add at least one and up to a potential four new positions to our staff. Based on our current caseload the State estimates that our office is undermanned by 10 attorneys and 5 support staff. The State has committed to phasing in these positions over the next three years. The Compensation Board has also recently approved a one-time budget increase for our department to purchase a new network server and to update our case management system. These improvements will allow us be more productive and should result in lower information technology costs in the future.

Department Operational Summary

Article VII, Section 4 of the Constitution of Virginia, establishes the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney. As a constitutional officer, the Commonwealth's Attorney is elected to serve a four-year term, and the Commonwealth's Attorney exercises discretion and judgment independent of any other city, state agency, or official. Within the City of Portsmouth, all Office of the Commonwealth Attorney's personnel are appointed and serve at the Commonwealth Attorney's pleasure.

For the City of Portsmouth, the Commonwealth's Attorney, Earle C. Mobley, is served by a Chief Deputy Commonwealth Attorney, two Deputy Commonwealth Attorneys, and twelve Assistant Commonwealth Attorneys. The Office Administrator supervises one paralegal, one investigator, one public information officer, nine secretaries and eight grant related appointees.

The Commonwealth's Attorney also administers three grant programs. They are the Exile Grant, Victim Witness, and V-Stop. To provide direct services for criminal victims and witnesses, the Victim Witness Grant provides funding for seven full time appointees. Dedicated to the prosecution of violence against women, the V-Stop Grant provides funding for an attorney and a legal secretary. Dedicated to prosecuting those illegally possessing firearms, the Exile Grant provides funding for an attorney.

Commonwealth Attorney Resource Summary

The Commonwealth Attorney Office's primary goal is to effectively, aggressively, and expeditiously prosecute the City of Portsmouth's criminal purveyors ultimately fostering a crime free community conducive to nurturing strong moral development and personal responsibility. Other goals include stemming the rising tide of violent crime in the City of Portsmouth by building solid relationships with the police department and other law enforcement agencies; reaching out to the Portsmouth citizens through civic leagues and other community outreach programs such as the Victim Witness Program and STEP; counseling citizens about the department's activities and cooperative citizenry efforts to reduce violent crime in their community; and continuing to build Federal Authority relationships in an effort to more aggressively fight the City's ever pervasive drug problem.

Department Service Trends

From January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004, the Commonwealth Attorney's Office opened 6,200 cases. The trends in crime continue to show crimes involving narcotics are on the rise, while violent crime has continued its decline. Our efforts, along with the Portsmouth Police Department and federal authorities continue to focus on reducing the distribution of drugs in our City. This year our department will take the lead in reducing our City of blighted properties used in the drug trade, by utilizing asset forfeiture laws to seize such properties. The tough stance our office has taken on crime under this administration is having positive effects as the crime rate has dropped for the second year in a row.

Departmental Performance Measures

This office's performance, under the current Commonwealth Attorney's supervision, is one of unparalleled success. The department has tried 25 murder cases and received 25 convictions. Uniquely, the Portsmouth Commonwealth Attorney's Office is the only local jurisdiction prosecuting misdemeanors.

The Victim Witness Program, the first one in the state, continues to grow. In 2004, the Program provided information and direct services to over 4,500 crime victims and witnesses.

Expenditures	FY 2003-04	FY 2004-05	FY 2005-06	FY 2005-06
	Actual	Amended	Proposed	Adopted
<i>Salaries</i>	1,282,003	1,323,855	1,378,796	1,374,517
<i>Benefits</i>	272,763	337,649	367,040	366,328
<i>Contractual Services</i>	9,656	15,160	15,312	15,312
<i>Materials and Supplies</i>	29,493	31,332	31,645	31,645
<i>Other Operating Expenses</i>	25,959	32,823	37,191	37,191
<i>Internal Service Charges & Expenses</i>	44,024	40,727	57,788	57,788
Total Expenditures	1,663,898	1,781,546	1,887,772	1,882,781