

Commonwealth  
Attorney  
Program  
Summary

**Appropriation Summary**

	FY 2002-03 Actual	FY 2003-04 Adopted	FY 2003-04 Adjusted	FY 2004-05 Proposed	% Change
Expenditures	\$1,637,602	1,629,699	1,629,699	1,793,236	10.04%
FTE	25	25	26	26	4.00%

**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**

While the Commonwealth Attorney's office has received, in FY 2005, a small operating budget increase, the last two years' budget cuts, resulting in the elimination of three support staff positions, continues to have detrimental departmental effects. While the departmental operating budget has increased, the primary factor driving this has been rising retirement and health insurance rates; however, we are pleased to announce some additional staffing. To enable full time front desk staffing, the former City Manager approved an additional FTE. Technologically, the department continues direly to need a new network server and case management software updates. Through the Commonwealth's Attorney Services Council observations and communications, the department has the oldest and most out of date case management system in the State of Virginia. In FY2004, this was the department's major budgetary concern, and while the department made it through one more year with the current system, the department desperately needs the funding.

**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.

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.

**DEPARTMENTAL TRENDS**

From January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003, the Commonwealth Attorney's Office opened 5,851 cases. For the period beginning January 1, 2004 through July 31, 2004, the department has opened 3,355 files with more than 25% representing narcotic cases. While narcotic crimes continue to rise, violent crime rates are down. The department's relationship with Federal Authorities and the hard work of Portsmouth Police Department's Narcotics Division continues to diminish the City's illegal drug trade. The Commonwealth Attorney's Office has cross-designated a prosecutor to enable the prosecution of defendants facing more severe penalties in the Federal system.

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**PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

This office's performance, under the current Commonwealth Attorney's supervision, is one of unparalleled success. The department has tried 22 murder cases and received 22 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 2003, the Program provided information and direct services to over 4,000 crime victims and witnesses.

	<b>FY 2002-03 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2003-04 Adopted</b>	<b>FY 2003-04 Adjusted</b>	<b>FY 2004-05 Proposed</b>
<i>Expenditures</i>				
Salaries	\$ 1,017,414	982,187	982,187	1,025,438
Other Salary Expenditures	218,768	265,061	265,061	294,417
Benefits	290,642	255,106	255,106	349,339
Contractual Services	13,906	15,160	15,160	15,160
Materials and Supplies	35,333	31,332	31,332	31,332
Other Operating Expenses	31,846	36,823	36,823	36,823
Internal Service Charges and Expenses	29,693	44,030	44,030	40,727
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 1,637,602</b>	<b>1,629,699</b>	<b>1,629,699</b>	<b>1,793,236</b>

*Personnel Summary*

Commonwealths Atty Administrator	1	1	1	1
Commonwealths Attorney	1	1	1	1
Assistant Commonwealths Atty I	5	5	6	6
Assistant Commonwealths Atty II	4	4	4	4
Assistant Commonwealths Atty III	4	4	4	4
Paralegal	1	1	1	1
Investigator(City)CI Funds	1	1	1	1
Legal Secretary	3	3	3	3
Legal Secretary	3	3	3	3
Secretary To The Commonwealths	1	1	1	1
Legal Secretary - CI Funds	1	1	1	1
<b>Total Positions</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>

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