

General District Court Service Program Summary

Appropriation Summary

	FY 2003-04 Actual	FY 2004-05 Amended	FY 2005-06 Proposed	FY 2005-06 Adopted	% Change
Expenditures	39,617	41,036	45,646	45,646	11.23
FTE	-	-	-	-	0.00

Mission

The Portsmouth General District Court has the primary responsibility of hearing the criminal, traffic and civil cases within the Third Judicial District of Virginia. The General District Court does not conduct jury trials. A judge hears all cases in this court. Fines collected for violations of City ordinances are paid into the treasury of Portsmouth. All fines collected for violation of State law are paid in the State Treasury. The amount of court costs is set by the State Legislature. The court cannot suspend or waive costs.

Operational Summary

Goals and Objectives

To provide an independent, accessible, and responsive forum for the just resolution of disputes in order to preserve the rule of law and to protect all rights and liberties guaranteed by the United States and Virginia Constitutions.

Major Cases

- Civil case involves amounts of money up to \$10,000 and has exclusive jurisdiction for claims of under \$1,000.
- Criminal case is when a person is charged with a misdemeanor.
- Traffic cases are when a person is charged with a traffic offense. Most traffic offense is infractions, which have no jail time associated with the punishment.
- The Court also holds preliminary hearings are felony cases to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to justify holding the defendant for the grand jury.

Expenditures	FY 2003-04 Actual	FY 2004-05 Amended	FY 2005-06 Proposed	FY 2005-06 Adopted
<i>Contractual Services</i>	19,423	14,936	22,228	22,228
<i>Materials and Supplies</i>	3,825	9,189	6,657	6,657
<i>Other Operating Expenses</i>	7,834	8,297	7,976	7,976
<i>Internal Service Charges & Expenses</i>	8,535	8,614	8,785	8,785
Total Expenditures	39,617	41,036	45,646	45,646