

Judicial Administration



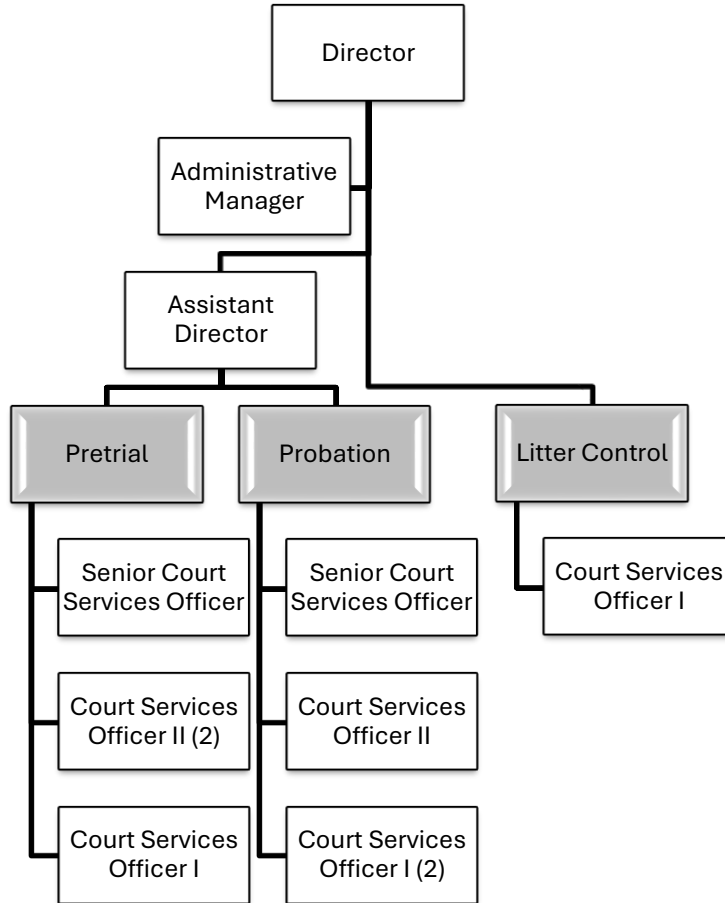
**Fauquier County General District Court
Warrenton, Virginia**

Department/Agency	Amount
Adult Court Services	\$ 1,389,952
Circuit Court	171,914
Clerk of the Circuit Court	1,879,173
Commissioner of Accounts	15,600
Commonwealth's Attorney	2,669,799
General District Court	51,362
Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court	47,070
Magistrates	91,107
Public Defender's Office	52,211
Total	\$6,368,188

Adult Court Services

ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSE:

Adult Court Services enhances public safety, reduces jail overcrowding, and increases accountability of criminal offenders by providing criminal justice services to the local courts and the community. These services include, but are not limited to, probation services, pretrial investigation and supervision services, litter control programming, criminal justice grant administration, staff support for the Board of Supervisors' Public Safety Committee, and collection and analysis of system data to assess the need for new programs and services, as well as the effectiveness of current services.



GOALS:

- Provide probation/pretrial services to more than 875 court-referred offenders.
- Investigate at least 375 pretrial detainees and supervise at least 375 offenders.
- Place and monitor at least 3,400 hours of free community service labor for the County.
- Continue programs to reduce Driving Under the Influence recidivism, mainly through the Victim Impact Panel.
- Reduce litter in the County by maintaining and expanding the litter control program and implement education programs that discourage littering.

Adult Court Services

KEY PROJECTS FOR FY 2026:

- Provide court-ordered probation to offenders in lieu of costly jail detention.
- Provide pretrial investigation services to the judiciary in order to ensure better informed bail-making decisions.
- Provide pretrial supervision and monitoring of defendants released to the custody of the department while awaiting trial, preserving bed space at the local jail which reduces jail costs.
- Place and monitor court-ordered community service labor in Fauquier and Rappahannock Counties.
- Manage the litter control program, utilizing community service workers.
- Expand litter control to pretrial population.
- Monitor court costs, fines, and restitution to the victims of crime.
- Act as lead staff and planner for respective committees such as Public Safety and Community Criminal Justice Board.
- Continue to serve as Chair for CPMT and DSS Advisory Boards.

BUDGET SUMMARY:

	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Adopted	FY 2026 Proposed
Expenditure Summary:				
Personnel	\$1,095,780	\$1,176,733	\$1,221,249	\$1,307,781
Operating	\$67,430	\$75,486	\$81,876	\$82,171
Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$1,163,210	\$1,252,219	\$1,303,125	\$1,389,952
Revenue	\$569,414	\$597,276	\$597,292	\$609,739
Net Local Revenue	\$593,796	\$654,943	\$705,833	\$780,213
Full Time Staff	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Part Time Staff	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Full-time Equivalent	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00

BUDGET ANALYSIS:

The FY 2026 Proposed Budget for Adult Court Services includes personnel expenditure adjustments related to the FY 2025 compensation increase. In addition, a 2.7% cost of living adjustment and an average of 2.0% merit increase is budgeted for Adult Court Services in Non-Departmental. Revenue for Adult Court Services include increases in State-shared expenditure allocations, in the amount of \$12,447 based on the Commonwealth’s approved budget.

Adult Court Services

PROGRAM 1: *Local Probation*

The Local Probation program provides probationary supervision of court-referred, convicted offenders in lieu of jail detention. This includes the preparation of court reports, court room testimony, and investigations as ordered. Local Probation also places and monitors court-ordered community service labor. Additional functions include drug screening offenders to ensure compliance with court-imposed conditions, as well as the monitoring of payment of fines, costs and restitution for the victims of crime. Offenders are also referred to the appropriate remedial resources such as drug treatment and other intervention programs.

SERVICE VOLUME	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Projected	FY 2026 Projected
Community service hours performed	3,386	3,371	3,400	3,400
Fines, costs, restitution monitored	\$34,700	\$43,000	\$45,000	\$45,000
Average daily caseload	194	185	225	200
Cases closed	475	494	525	500

OBJECTIVES:

- Maintain successful closure rate of probation cases.

OUTCOME MEASURES	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Goal	FY 2026 Goal
Rate of successful closure	85%	88%	80%	85%
Referrals to Probation	515	471	500	500

PROGRAM 2: *Pretrial Services*

The Pretrial Services program conducts pretrial investigations on defendants awaiting trial in the Courts. They also prepare pretrial reports and recommendations to the courts prior to arraignment. Supervision of pretrial defendants is provided to those who are released to the custody of the department. This supervision consists of monitoring the general and special conditions of bail and reporting any violations of such to the courts. In some cases, applying for arrest warrants is necessary if potential safety risk or flight risk from prosecution exists. Indigence verifications for court-appointed counsel are also conducted as part of the investigation process.

SERVICE VOLUME	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Projected	FY 2026 Projected
Pretrial investigations	388	392	350	375
Average daily caseload	108	115	125	125
Indigence verifications	215	210	215	215

Adult Court Services

OBJECTIVES:

- Maintain rate of successful pretrial placements.

OUTCOME MEASURES	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Goal	FY 2026 Goal
Pretrial placements	334	372	350	375
Successful pretrial placements	91%	88%	85%	85%

PROGRAM 3: *Litter Control*

This program utilizes court-ordered community service workers to reduce the amount of trash on the County’s roadways in a cost-effective manner. The Litter Control Program targets “problem” areas in the County that have increased litter control needs. It also implements education programs in local schools to deter future litter.

SERVICE VOLUME	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Projected	FY 2026 Projected
Community service workers utilized	50	80	75	75
Litter Control days in the field	118	79	125	120

OBJECTIVES:

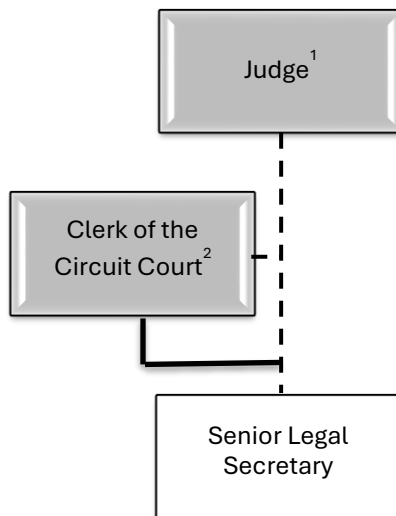
- Reduce litter in the County by increasing community service hours assigned and completed.

OUTCOME MEASURES	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Goal	FY 2026 Goal
Litter retrieved, tons	12	13	20	18
Community service hours completed	859	885	900	1,100

Circuit Court

ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSE:

The Circuit Court is the trial court with the broadest powers in Virginia. The Circuit Court handles all civil cases with claims exceeding \$25,000. In addition to adjudicating all felonies, the Circuit Court hears cases appealed from the General District Court, the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, administrative agencies, and the Board of Zoning Appeals. The Circuit Court handles family matters, including divorce, equity matters, and condemnations. The Circuit Court Judge supervises Grand Jury proceedings within the County. The Judges of the Circuit Court also make appointments to various Boards. This Court is part of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, which includes Loudoun, Rappahannock and Fauquier Counties and contains five judges, all of whom may sit in Fauquier County. The Chief Judge will also assign retired judges to assist with dockets as needed.



¹State-funded position.

²Position funded in the Clerk of Circuit Court budget.

GOALS:

- Administer justice in Fauquier County in a fair, efficient, and timely manner to all litigants, according to law.
- Conduct court hearings openly, except as provided by statute.
- Schedule the trial of cases and close cases in accordance with the timelines set out by the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Circuit Court

KEY PROJECTS FOR FY 2026:

- Continue to allocate judges as needed to handle scheduled hearings and manage docket.
- Oversee selection of the jury pool for the trial of civil and criminal cases and maintain a list of grand jurors to consider indictments.
- Issue legal opinions for a variety of matters before the Court based upon the review of legal precedents.
- Schedule the trial of cases and close cases in accordance with the timelines set out by the Supreme Court of Virginia.
- Submit requests for payment of judges designated to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

BUDGET SUMMARY:

	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Adopted	FY 2026 Proposed
Expenditure Summary:				
Personnel	\$67,636	\$72,276	\$100,598	\$101,894
Operating	\$44,936	\$52,851	\$66,383	\$70,020
Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$112,572	\$125,127	\$166,981	\$171,914
Revenue	\$22,381	\$35,525	\$31,500	\$31,500
Net Local Revenue	\$90,191	\$89,602	\$135,481	\$140,414
Full Time Staff	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Part Time Staff	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Full-time Equivalent s	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

BUDGET ANALYSIS:

The FY 2026 Proposed Budget for the Circuit Court includes personnel expenditure adjustments related to the FY 2025 compensation increase. In addition, a 2.7% cost of living adjustment and an average of 2.0% merit increase is budgeted for the Circuit Court in Non-Departmental. Lastly, the FY 2026 Proposed Budget includes an increase in operating expenditures in the amount of \$3,637 for subscriptions based on current operations.

PROGRAM 1: *Circuit Court*

The Circuit Court enters orders for all civil and criminal cases. The Court must review petitions and evidence to make various types of judicial determinations. Cases are heard by the Court before the Judge or before a jury. The Court meets with counsel to review the

Circuit Court

issues of the cases to be tried and to assist with reaching settlements without trial, when possible.

SERVICE VOLUME	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Projected	FY 2026 Projected
Civil cases completed	579	551	710	731
Miscellaneous petitions / applications reviewed	810	782	993	1,022
Criminal cases completed	776	976	951	979
Criminal Defendants	450	500	552	568
Jury days	40	43	49	50
Concealed Handgun Permits	1,814	1,396	2,225	2,291

OBJECTIVES:

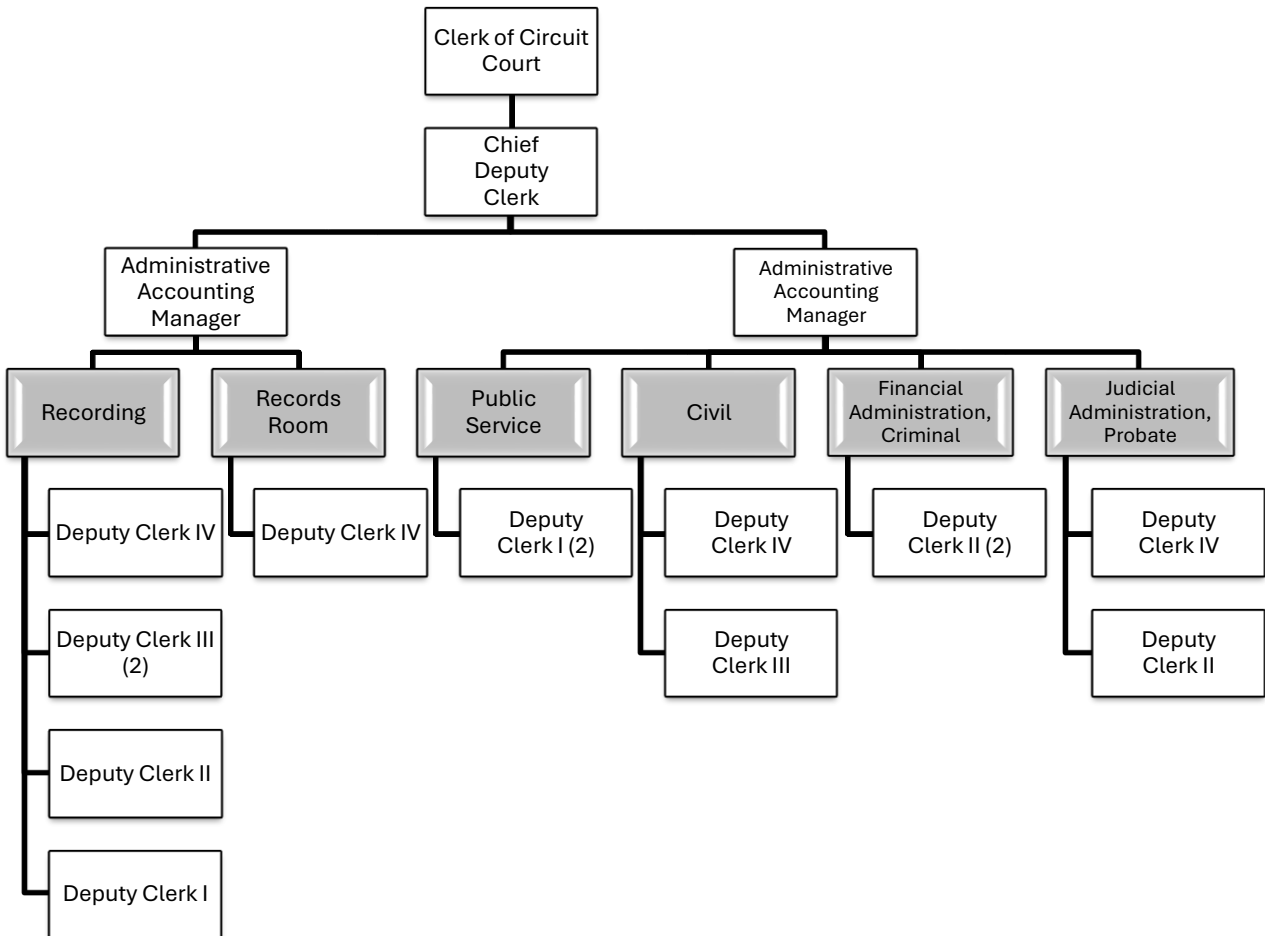
- Continue to conduct jury trials in a timely manner.

OUTCOME MEASURES	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Goal	FY 2026 Goal
Number of jurors summoned	1,400	1,123	1,123	1,123
Number of juror excuses for exclusion	330	245	245	245
Number of juror appearances	659	790	790	790

Clerk of the Circuit Court

ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSE:

The Clerk’s Office is the custodian of Fauquier County land records dating from 1759, when the County was formed, and the Circuit Court records. The Clerk of the Circuit Court (The Clerk) is a Constitutional Officer elected by the voters of Fauquier County for a term of eight years. The Clerk performs roles in the areas of public safety, court administration, land records, public service, and records preservation. The Clerk collects various State and County taxes set by law and transfers revenue to the State and other localities. The Clerk has authority to issue marriage licenses, probate wills, grant administrations of estates, and appoint guardians for a minor’s personal estate.



GOALS:

- Record, index, and maintain various kinds of land records filings, including deeds, deeds of trust, certificates of satisfaction, plats, covenants, and easements.
- Probate wills and record various estate documents, such as lists of heirs, inventories, and accounts; prepare various legal documents.
- Collect recordation taxes and fees for deeds and wills.
- Issue marriage licenses and prepare orders of appointment for marriage celebrants.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

- Maintain complete and accurate court records, civil and criminal, in an electronic format, trial records.
- Collect fees for filing many types of civil cases.
- Issue initial process for new civil cases; issue civil process for records and for witnesses.
- Schedule court hearings and summon jurors and witnesses to provide earliest possible resolution of cases.
- File new criminal cases transferred from the lower court or received from the grand jury.
- Maintain trial records and retain exhibits for appeals or other civil action.
- Provide support to the judge in the courtroom to track jurors, exhibits, pleadings, and witnesses.
- Maintain jury pools for regular trial juries and for grand jury, and for special grand jury and multi-jurisdictional grand jury, as required, and select jurors for service.
- Promote public safety by issuing warrants of arrest for defendants on new indictments from grand jury, for defendants in violation of the terms of their recognizance or for probationers who have serious violations of the terms of their release.
- Prepare court orders for criminal cases; enter data for electronic transmission to Virginia State Police, Department of Motor Vehicles, Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission, and the Department of Corrections to convey information regarding convictions, incarceration, probation, and suspension of operator's licenses.
- Provide support to the Circuit Court by coordinating the roles of law enforcement and prosecutors in criminal cases.
- Communicate with prosecutors, public defenders, probation officers, court security, the detention center, interpreters, and court reporters regarding daily court dockets for receipt of required reports and appearance of probationers and transport of prisoners.
- Accept, review and issue concealed handgun permits in coordination with Sheriff's Office investigation.
- Communicate with lower courts and appeals courts regarding the transmission of records between courts for hearing.
- Docket judgments for collection actions.
- Provide web access to case information and hearings.
- Scan older court files to improve access to records.
- Maintain court deposits of bonds, garnishments, escrow funds, tax sales, condemnation funds, and restitution and distribution according to court order.
- Calculate criminal costs and collect fines, costs, and restitution for distribution to victims; set up payment plans for new criminal accounts.
- Transmit list of unpaid criminal accounts to Treasurer and Commonwealth's Attorney for collection action.
- Provide Virginia Department of Taxation updated records for the attachment of unpaid cost to possible tax returns and awards for defendants.
- Provide remote access to land records.
- Provide public service to County residents by responding promptly to customer inquiries and requests.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

- Preserve permanent records in an appropriate environment for current and future use.
- Maintain close contact with many agencies, both State and local, and work together to receive and provide better services.
- Accept post-election materials for safekeeping and coordinate administration of oaths to elected officials for the County and towns.

KEY PROJECTS FOR FY 2026:

- Continue training and cross training of new and experienced staff.
- Schedule court cases and accommodate rotation of assignments of judges and judge designates with Loudoun and Rappahannock Counties.
- Continue plan to facilitate increased number of civil trials and jury trials to deal with backlog of hearings created during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Continue to process and reduce the backlog of wills and probate records created during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Continue to provide remote access to land records and to court records by paid subscriptions.
- Coordinate review of pending court cases to meet case processing guidelines.
- Continue archival records preservation plan.
- Execute plan for storage needs for court and fiduciary files.
- Purge records as dictated by retention schedules set out by Library of Virginia.
- Participate in the planning of the renovation process of the 29 Ashby Street building to include more storage, work and courtroom space for the Clerk’s Office and records as the current space is extremely inadequate.
- Plan and utilize space dedicated to the Clerk’s Office through renovations efficiently.

BUDGET SUMMARY:

	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Adopted	FY 2026 Proposed
Expenditure Summary:				
Personnel	\$1,478,662	\$1,575,664	\$1,689,660	\$1,758,699
Operating	\$158,206	\$185,401	\$120,474	\$120,474
Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$1,636,868	\$1,761,065	\$1,810,134	\$1,879,173
Revenue	\$2,379,015	\$2,934,170	\$2,446,648	\$2,395,398
Net Local Revenue	(\$742,147)	(\$1,173,105)	(\$636,514)	(\$516,225)
Full Time Staff	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00
Part Time Staff	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Full-time Equivalents	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00

Clerk of the Circuit Court

BUDGET ANALYSIS:

The FY 2026 Proposed Budget for the Clerk of the Court includes personnel expenditure adjustments related to the FY 2025 compensation increase. In addition, a 2.7% cost of living adjustment and an average of 2.0% merit increase is budgeted for the Clerk of the Court in Non-Departmental. Lastly, revenue has been decreased by \$51,250 to more accurately reflect current revenue projections and historical collections.

PROGRAM 1: Clerk of the Circuit Court

The Clerk’s Office is responsible for recording documents in the deed books, probating wills and recording related estate filings. The Clerk’s Office issues marriage licenses and docket judgments, and records financing statements. The Clerk reviews applications for concealed handgun permits and issues permits for individuals meeting the statutory requirements. The Clerk receives and retains civil and criminal court cases and issues legal notices and copies of court orders.

SERVICE VOLUME	CY 2023 Actual	CY 2024 Actual	CY 2025 Projected	CY 2026 Projected
Deed Book recording	9,153	9,000	9,500	10,000
Wills and fiduciary filings	346	350	400	450
Marriages	329	350	350	350
Financing statements	175	160	175	200
Judgments	828	950	950	1,000
Civil cases filed	652	925	950	1,000
Criminal cases filed	485	900	925	950
Concealed handgun permits	1,621	1,500	1,700	1,750
Notary Public	357	250	100 ¹	100 ¹

¹Effective July 1, 2024 Senate Bill 8 was adopted making personal oaths, performed at the Clerk’s Office, unnecessary for recommissioning notaries.

OBJECTIVES:

- Maintain revenue stream to maintain computer hardware and software.
- Provide access to land records through remote access subscriptions.
- Provide access to court records to lawyers through remote access subscriptions.
- Provide access to information about Clerk’s Office procedures by posting forms, calendars, and procedures on the County website.
- Provide docket information for court records online at www.vacourts.gov (Circuit Court Case Information).

Clerk of the Circuit Court

- Convert microfilm and paper images to digital images to improve access to records and to reduce storage requirements.

OUTCOME MEASURES	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Goal	FY 2026 Goal
Paid subscriptions for remote access to land records	200	245	260	275
Paid subscriptions to remote access for court records	44	35	45	50

Commissioner of Accounts

ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSE:

The Commissioner of Accounts oversees the certification of wills by administrators and executors before being released for their qualifications, as courteously and expeditiously as possible.

GOALS:

- Monitor and assist, as necessary, to facilitate the certification process.

BUDGET SUMMARY:

	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Adopted	FY 2026 Proposed
Expenditure Summary:				
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating	\$15,600	\$15,600	\$15,600	\$15,600
Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$15,600	\$15,600	\$15,600	\$15,600
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Local Revenue	\$15,600	\$15,600	\$15,600	\$15,600

BUDGET ANALYSIS:

The FY 2026 Proposed Budget for the Commissioner of Accounts includes no budgetary adjustments in comparison to prior years.

Commonwealth's Attorney

ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSE:

The Commonwealth's Attorney is a County-wide elected official whose Office is created by the Constitution of Virginia. The Commonwealth's Attorney is charged by State law with the duty of prosecuting all felonies on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia which are committed within the geographic confines of Fauquier County, including the incorporated municipalities therein. The Commonwealth's Attorney may prosecute misdemeanors and traffic infractions on a discretionary basis. All the above enumerated matters originate in three separate trial court systems where final orders are potentially appealed to two different appellate courts in Virginia. The Commonwealth's Attorney represents the Commonwealth in limited statutory appeals to the Virginia appellate courts. In addition, the Commonwealth's Attorney is empowered to sue civilly for drug asset forfeiture in appropriate cases.

There are over 400 additional statutorily mandated duties imposed upon the Commonwealth's Attorney. Among these are a variety of sundry matters such as advising and representing the local Registrar and Board of Elections, giving binding Conflicts of Interest opinions to local officials, reviewing autopsy reports of all unattended deaths in the County for irregularities, and many other matters.

The core duty of the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office is the pursuit of justice to achieve safety in the community, and as the services of public safety evolve, so do the functions of the Commonwealth's Attorney. Four key areas of focus are policy and administration, professional ethics, case and trial management, and community relations.

Prosecutors study legislation and prepare office policies in accordance with state regulations. As members of the Virginia State Bar, attorneys must complete 12 hours of continuing legal education, including 2 hours of ethics/professionalism credit, and 4 hours of live-interactive credit by October 31 each year.

Through continuous training, such as mock trial exercises and seminars, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office keeps law enforcement personnel informed of relevant legal and legal ethics issues and developments. Prosecutors advise, teach, and support the practice of ethical and professional conduct while maintaining a *Brady* list for police witnesses.

The Commonwealth's Attorney adheres to the broadened rules governing discovery, including securely obtaining, storing, analyzing, preserving, redacting, and disseminating the growing amount of digital, audio-visual evidence.

Prosecutors work to raise public awareness of important criminal justice issues, such as domestic violence, child abuse, and other forms of violence. Crime victims in Virginia have protections under the Virginia Constitution, and prosecutors play an important role in protecting victims' rights and ensuring that victims remain at the center of the criminal

Commonwealth's Attorney

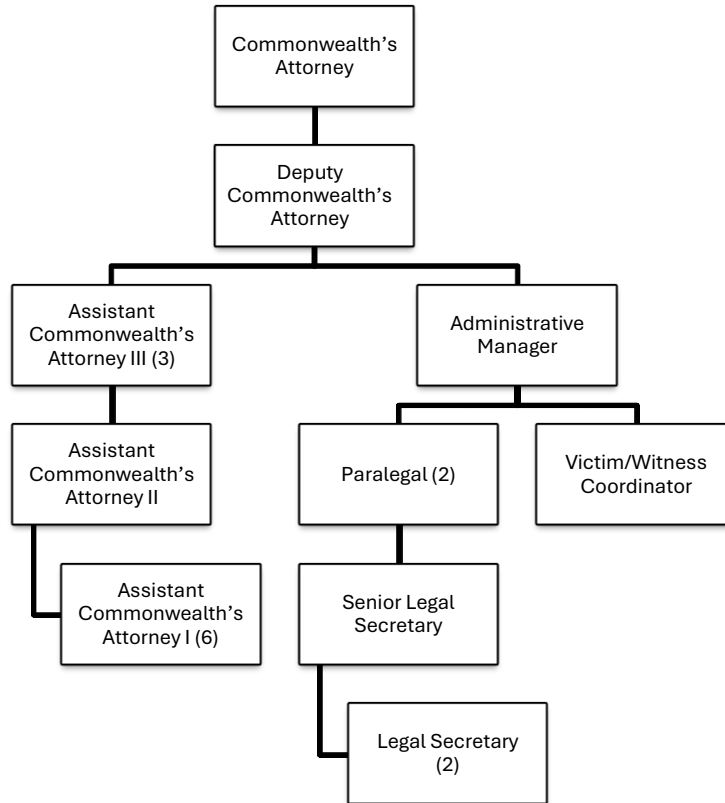
justice system. The Crime Victim/Witness Program in the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office works to ensure that victims' rights are protected throughout the criminal justice process, including their right to be heard and informed of important developments in the case.

The Commonwealth's Attorney meets regularly with community partners and constituents and collaborates with other law enforcement agencies in providing public information to prevent crime and respond to community concerns. The Office prepares press releases, manages social media, and provides annual reports to State and local agencies. The Commonwealth's Attorney's Office responds to requests for public records by residents of Virginia.

Prosecutors work closely with members of federal law enforcement, Virginia State Police, the Fauquier County Sheriff's Department, and the Town of Warrenton Police Department to provide 24-hour legal advice and assistance to those agencies. Additional partnering, such as involvement in national, State, regional, and local programs and services, includes active membership in the following:

- FBI Washington Field Office: Crisis Victim Assistance
- Virginia Victims Assistance Network
- Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys: Board of Directors, Jurisprudence Committee, ACA Recruitment and Retention Committee
- Virginia Association of Local Elected Constitutional Officers
- Blue Ridge Narcotics and Gang Task Force
- Fauquier County Criminal Justice Committee
- Fauquier County Public Safety Committee
- Fauquier Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court: Juvenile Justice Committee, Domestic Violence Committee, Fauquier County Bar Association Liaison Committee
- Fauquier County Sexual Assault Response Team

Commonwealth's Attorney



GOALS:

- Maintain a high degree of professional competence, training, and mission dedication of Assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys and a similarly competent support staff for such attorneys.
- Continually enhance the administration of justice.
- Continually promote enhanced law enforcement by partnering with policing agencies, including the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, and the Town of Warrenton.
- Bring new and innovative procedures, policies, training, and techniques to case investigations which increase the likelihood of constitutionally correct apprehension, prosecution, and conviction of criminal suspects who have violated Virginia or local law.

KEY PROJECTS FOR FY 2026:

- Implementing New Legislative Mandates:
 - Develop and execute procedures to comply with Virginia's complex record-sealing laws for certain criminal charges and convictions going into effect July 1, 2025.
 - Coordinate with law enforcement and court agencies to ensure proper implementation and compliance.

Commonwealth's Attorney

- Integrating the Town of Warrenton Docket:
 - Adjust staffing and resource allocation to manage a new caseload from the Town of Warrenton and ensure efficient handling of the additional dockets.
 - Establish streamlined case intake, prosecution, and coordination with law enforcement agencies.
- Advancing Digital Transformation for e-Discovery:
 - Transition case records to a digital (cloud) format to support the implementation of a new e-Discovery and archival program.
 - Train attorneys and staff on e-Discovery best practices and secure data management.

BUDGET SUMMARY:

	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Adopted	FY 2026 Proposed
Expenditure Summary:				
Personnel	\$1,746,423	\$1,818,662	\$2,196,848	\$2,521,152
Operating	\$97,340	\$85,871	\$149,508	\$148,647
Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$1,843,763	\$1,904,533	\$2,346,356	\$2,669,799
Revenue	\$621,922	\$693,180	\$724,095	\$724,095
Net Local Revenue	\$1,221,841	\$1,211,353	\$1,622,261	\$1,945,704
Full Time Staff	16.00	16.00	19.00	19.00
Part Time Staff	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Full-time Equivalents	16.00	16.00	19.00	19.00

BUDGET ANALYSIS:

The FY 2026 Proposed Budget for the Commonwealth's Attorney includes personnel expenditure adjustments related to the FY 2025 compensation increase. In addition, a 2.7% cost of living adjustment and an average of 2.0% merit increase is budgeted for the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office in Non-Departmental. Operating expenditures have been adjusted to more accurately reflect current operations which includes a decrease of \$861 due to General Fund fleet adjustments.

PROGRAM 1: *Court Appearances*

The Commonwealth's Attorney prepares for and appears in the General District Court, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, and Circuit Court on all criminal matters. There also are some civil matters reflected in these numbers.

Commonwealth's Attorney

SERVICE VOLUME	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Projected	FY 2026 Projected
Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court (JDRDC) cases heard	1,050	1,201	1,150	1,400
General District Court (GDC) cases heard	15,095	20,935	16,100	22,000
Circuit Court appearances including bench trials, jury trials, withdrawals, or misdemeanor appeals	4,162	4,429	4,200	4,600

OBJECTIVES:

- To employ a qualified and appropriately sized team of attorneys and staff members to effectively administer justice in Fauquier County respective to the amount of court cases.

OUTCOME MEASURES	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Goal	FY 2026 Goal
Effectively handled hearing volume	23,165	26,565	23,300	28,000

General District Court

ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSE:

The Fauquier County General District Court presides over all legal proceedings and assures that the public is treated fairly and impartially in all of these proceedings before the court. There are three divisions that comprise the functions held in the court: civil, traffic and criminal.

GOALS:

- Provide adequate space, safety, and professional help for the public at all times.

BUDGET SUMMARY:

	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Adopted	FY 2026 Proposed
Expenditure Summary:				
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating	\$38,764	\$36,458	\$43,526	\$46,362
Capital	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total	\$38,764	\$36,458	\$48,526	\$51,362
Revenue	\$4,368	\$5,131	\$8,500	\$8,500
Net Local Revenue	\$34,396	\$31,327	\$40,026	\$42,862

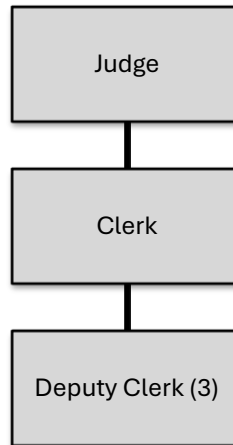
BUDGET ANALYSIS:

The FY 2026 Proposed Budget for the General District Court includes increases in the amount of \$2,836 in accordance with the organization's jurisdictional funding formula.

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court

ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSE:

The Fauquier County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court strives to be constantly aware of and address the ever-changing needs of the residents of Fauquier County, especially at-risk juveniles, troubled adults, and their families.



All Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court positions are State-funded positions.

GOALS:

- To protect and enhance the welfare of children and families.
- To provide judicial procedures through which the law is executed and enforced.
- To protect the safety of the community and rights of victims.

KEY PROJECTS FOR FY 2026:

- Create a state-of-the-art conference room designed for seamless collaboration, equipped with the latest technology to support meetings and presentation. Features include:
 - High-definition video conferencing to engage remote participants with crystal-clear audio and video.
 - Interactive smart boards to facilitate dynamic brainstorming sessions and presentations.
 - Integrated sound system to ensure clear audio for all participants.
 - High-speed Wi-Fi to stay connected with fast and reliable internet access.
 - When the meeting is over, the room effortlessly transitions into a break area.
- Design and implement a dedicated operating space for the staff interpreter(s). This space will enhance their ability to perform effectively and efficiently, providing the necessary resources and technology to support their work.

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court

BUDGET SUMMARY:

	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Adopted	FY 2026 Proposed
Expenditure Summary:				
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,918
Operating	\$16,679	\$27,157	\$27,058	\$34,152
Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$16,679	\$27,157	\$27,058	\$47,070
Revenue	\$73	\$73	\$250	\$500
Net Local Revenue	\$16,606	\$27,084	\$26,808	\$46,570

BUDGET ANALYSIS:

The FY 2026 Proposed Budget for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court includes personnel expenditure increases related to the establishment of temporary labor. In addition, the FY 2026 Proposed Budget includes an increase in operating expenditures in the amount of \$7,094 for the purpose of updating a conference room. Revenue has been adjusted to more accurately reflect current revenue projections.

Magistrates

ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSE:

Magistrates are appointed by the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia without a term limit but at the pleasure of the Executive Secretary. The number of magistrates in each district is authorized by the Committee on District Courts. While magistrates do not possess trial jurisdiction, they are an integral part of the judicial system and are judicial officers of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The principal function of the magistrate is to provide an independent, unbiased review of complaints brought by police officers, Sheriff’s Deputies, and residents. Magistrates are not police officers, nor do they provide law enforcement; Magistrates are issuing officers who serve as a buffer between law enforcement and society. Magistrates may assist the public by providing information on the judicial processes and procedures. Magistrates have no authority except that which has been expressly conferred by statute.

GOALS:

- Provide services as required by the Supreme Court of Virginia to serve the residents of Fauquier County.

KEY PROJECTS FOR FY 2026:

- Continue to provide services as required by the Supreme Court of Virginia to serve the residents of Fauquier County.

BUDGET SUMMARY:

	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Adopted	FY 2026 Proposed
Expenditure Summary:				
Personnel	\$15,745	\$3,921	\$77,280	\$77,280
Operating	\$6,280	\$10,642	\$13,827	\$13,827
Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$22,025	\$14,563	\$91,107	\$91,107
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Local Revenue	\$22,025	\$14,563	\$91,107	\$91,107

BUDGET ANALYSIS:

The FY 2026 Proposed Budget for the Magistrates includes no budgetary adjustments in comparison to prior years.

Public Defender’s Office

ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSE:

The Public Defender’s Office protects the Constitutional right to counsel for residents of Fauquier and Rappahannock Counties who cannot afford to hire their own lawyer. The Public Defender’s Office represents defendants in circuit, general district and juvenile and domestic relations courts and strives to provide each client with high quality indigent defense services, a necessary component of a fair and reliable criminal justice system. The Public Defender’s Office is directed by the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission (VDIC), established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2004.

GOALS:

- Continually improve criminal defense representation to vulnerable residents of Fauquier and Rappahannock County who are not able to hire an attorney of their choosing.
- Comply with the Standards and Rules of Professional Conduct as set by the Virginia Indigent Defense Counsel.
- Administer resources efficiently in all office operations so that each client receives the services to which they are entitled by the Constitution of the United States.

BUDGET SUMMARY:

	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Adopted	FY 2026 Proposed
Expenditure Summary:				
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating	\$2,951	\$2,476	\$29,573	\$52,211
Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$2,951	\$2,476	\$29,573	\$52,211
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Local Revenue	\$2,951	\$2,476	\$29,573	\$52,211

BUDGET ANALYSIS:

The FY 2026 Proposed Budget for the Public Defender’s Office includes increases in the amount of \$22,638 in accordance with the organization’s jurisdictional funding formula.