

Circuit Court Judiciary

COUNTY MANAGER'S
PROPOSED FY 2022 BUDGET

County Board Work Session

March 18, 2021, 3 – 6 p.m.



Our Mission: To provide an independent, accessible, responsible forum for 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.



Department Overview

- The Circuit Court is the trial court of general jurisdiction, and the highest court in Arlington County for both civil and criminal cases.
- The Circuit Court has appellate jurisdiction over all cases from the General District Court and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.
- The four judges preside over criminal and civil matters, including motions, evidentiary hearings, non-jury trials, jury trials, criminal dispositions, and sentencings.
- Staff are responsible for reviewing and approving court orders, maintaining daily court dockets, conducting legal research, preparing legal memoranda as required by the judges, reviewing and recording statistical information, and administering court programs.



Department Overview

- The **Drug Treatment Court** services adult defendants in the Circuit Court. All participants attend weekly substance abuse treatment sessions and are held accountable through intense supervision and monitoring as well as weekly court appearances.
- Reduced incarceration provides direct savings to the County in jail days saved.
- Effective supervision in the community and improved coordination between agencies have reduced duplication of effort, provided great efficiencies and resulted in overall costs savings for all stakeholders.



Circuit Court Judiciary in the COVID-19 Pandemic

- The Court instituted measures to protect personnel, attorneys, litigants, and citizens coming to the the courthouse, including ordering the wearing of face coverings, ensuring social distancing within the courtrooms, and utilizing staggered dockets.
- The Court continued its shift to automated workflows that enhanced the productivity of staff working remotely.
- The Court implemented remote hearings in most civil cases and, where appropriate, in select criminal cases.
- The Court, working in conjunction with other key stakeholders, drafted a plan to safely resume jury trials in Arlington County Circuit Court. The plan was approved by the Virginia Supreme Court on October 21, 2020.

FY 2022 Budget Summary

	FY 2021 Adopted	FY 2022 Proposed	Change	% Change
Expenses	\$1,253,184	\$1,265,345	+\$12,161	+1.0%
Revenue	\$47,305	\$44,708	-\$2,597	-5.0%
Funded FTEs	10.30 FTEs	10.30 FTEs	+0.0 FTEs	+0.0%

Key Budget Considerations

- Ensuring ongoing funding for annual judicial and staff trainings.
- Maintaining sufficient staffing levels to comply with Virginia Supreme Court Model Standards
- Ensuring ongoing funding for equipment upgrades to support automated workflows, including enhancing courtroom technology
- Continue working to identify appropriate candidates and increase total capacity in the Drug Court Program.

Key Budget Considerations

- Continue seeking out ways to provide services to those individuals involved with the Arlington County Circuit Court who are not residents of the County.

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