

County Manager's Proposed
FY 2025 Budget

Office of the Magistrate



County Board Work Session

March 5, 2024 | 3:00 p.m.

Department Mission

To protect and preserve the rights and liberties of all the people, as guaranteed by the laws and the constitutions of the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Virginia and the ordinances of the County of Arlington and the City of Falls Church, by providing a fair, independent, and accessible forum to the resolution of their legal rights.



Department Overview

- Only Judicial Officers in Arlington County that operate 365/24/7; we are always on duty
- Comprised of 8.5 state-funded positions with County supplement for some staff
- Issues warrants for the arrest of violators of state law and County ordinances
- Issues Emergency Protective Orders, mental health and medical Emergency Custody Orders, and Temporary Detention Orders
- Admits to bail or commits to jail all persons charged with offenses
- Administers oaths, takes acknowledgements, and acts as conservators for the peace

Focus on Equity

- By being the only judicial officers that operate 365/24/7, the Office ensures that all people have access to the legal system at all times.
- 365/24/7 coverage also ensures a prompt review process of the circumstances of the arrest of defendants and detaining of persons in mental health crisis to determine if and under what circumstances their right to liberty may be returned to them.
- The Office serves a diverse population including stakeholders dealing with mental health and criminal matters in particular.



Summary of Proposed Changes

	FY 2024 Adopted	FY 2025 Proposed	Change	% Change
Expenses	\$30,832	\$30,832	-	-
Revenue	\$1,686	\$1,707	+21	+1.2%
Staff	-	-		

- Fee revenue increases due to higher projections in Falls Church reimbursements based on the FY 2025 budget and reconciliation of prior year payments with actual expenditures (\$21).

Key Measures

Critical Measures	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimate	FY 2025 Estimate
Bond hearings initially determined	7,863	8,183	8,618	9,857	9,750	9,750
Miscellaneous processes	5,992	5,109	5,589	6,156	6,250	6,250
Probable cause hearings	8,472	8,797	8,218	9,315	9,150	9,150

Key Budget Considerations

- In addition to pay supplement, Arlington County funds operating costs that include office supplies, which are not always consumed in a linear fashion along with operating equipment that can sometimes become nonfunctional and needs replacing without warning.
- We are in the process of getting estimates to replace the carpeting in our office that is approximately fifteen to twenty years old.
- The office needs to be painted either in whole or part as it has not been repainted in decades.

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