

GENERAL DISTRICT COURT

Magistrate

Description

The principal function of the Magistrate’s office is to provide independent review of complaints from police officers, sheriff’s deputies, and residents. These complaints provide the magistrate with facts needed to determine whether a warrant of arrest should be issued. In addition to issuing warrants of arrest, magistrates conduct bail hearings, commit offenders to jail, and release prisoners from jail. The Magistrate’s office operates under the supervision of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Budget Highlights

This is the eleventh year that the Magistrate's operation will be budgeted separately from the Clerk of the General District Court. This change has allowed for better flexibility in meeting the operational needs of each office. The FY2009-10 approved budget equals \$7,884, the same amount that has been budgeted to this office for the past six fiscal years. Funding in FY2009-10 will continue to support the daily operation for nine Magistrates. There are no County paid positions assigned to this office, as the nine magistrates are State employees. The County does provide space, furnishings, and operating expenses for the Magistrate’s office.

Objectives

- To provide efficient, unbiased, and professional services to law enforcement officers, mental health professionals, and citizens.
- To cooperate with the Sheriff’s department to try to develop a more efficient means of committing defendants and releasing those who have posted bonds.

Annual Fiscal Plan

<u>Description</u>	<u>FY08 Actual</u>	<u>FY09 Original</u>	<u>FY10 Approved</u>	<u>Change 09 to 10</u>
Personnel	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0.0%
Operation	6,952	7,884	7,884	0.0%
Capital	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	<u>\$ 6,952</u>	<u>\$ 7,884</u>	<u>\$ 7,884</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Personnel Complement*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Personnel Expenses are paid by the Commonwealth of Virginia