

Office of the State's Attorney



MISSION AND SERVICES

The Office of the State’s Attorney (SAO) strives to secure justice for all residents through firm, fair and consistent prosecutions with the highest level of experience, integrity and professionalism. The Office will be responsive to the very diverse community of Prince George’s County, treating every person with dignity and respect.

CORE SERVICES

- Prosecution of violent and repeat violent offenders, while holistically prosecuting non-violent offenders, where appropriate
- Empower victims and witnesses to participate in the judicial process
- Provide continuous education and outreach programming to internal and external customers and residents of the County

FY 2024 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Formed two new units: the Firearms Enforcement Unit and the Narcotics Intelligence Unit. The Firearms Enforcement Unit is now exclusively dedicated to prosecuting illegal firearm possession cases. The Narcotics Intelligence Unit focuses on major drug offenses and firearm cases linked to the illegal drug trade. These restructured units have adopted a more investigatory approach, working closely with law enforcement on various legal matters that emerge before an individual is formally charged with a crime.
- Received a \$500,000 Congressional Grant to upgrade the SAO’s Digital Evidence System and to purchase equipment.
- Successfully advocated for the development of a salary scale for Assistant State’s Attorneys in order to provide a pathway of professional growth and attract new prosecutors to the Office.

- Reduced the backlog of pending criminal cases for both the Circuit and District Courts. The SAO combined the Strategic Investigations Unit (SIU) with the Homicide Unit under the supervision of the Homicide Unit’s Chief and Assistant Chief to create a system for developing skilled homicide prosecutors.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AND INITIATIVES IN FY 2025

The office’s top priorities in FY 2025 are:

- Increase the number of successful prosecutions of violent and non-violent repeat and chronic offenders.
- Continue to advocate for increased staffing and pay parity as a means of recruiting and retaining Assistant State’s Attorneys, Victim Witness Coordinators, Investigators and other critical administrative/support staff.
- Inform and support victims and witnesses throughout the criminal justice process by increasing engagement and communication with victims and next of kin.

FY 2025 BUDGET SUMMARY

The FY 2025 proposed budget for the Office of the State’s Attorney is \$28,576,500, an increase of \$818,600 or 2.9% over the FY 2024 approved budget.

Expenditures by Fund Type

Fund Types	FY 2023 Actual		FY 2024 Budget		FY 2024 Estimate		FY 2025 Proposed	
	Amount	% Total	Amount	% Total	Amount	% Total	Amount	% Total
General Fund	\$22,199,254	91.7%	\$25,306,500	91.2%	\$25,492,200	92.3%	\$26,034,100	91.1%
Grant Funds	1,997,248	8.3%	2,451,400	8.8%	2,135,600	7.7%	2,542,400	8.9%
Total	\$24,196,502	100.0%	\$27,757,900	100.0%	\$27,627,800	100.0%	\$28,576,500	100.0%

GENERAL FUND

The FY 2025 proposed General Fund budget for the Office of the State’s Attorney is \$26,034,100, an increase of \$727,600 or 2.9% over the FY 2024 approved budget.

Reconciliation from Prior Year

	Expenditures
FY 2024 Approved Budget	\$25,306,500
Increase Cost: Compensation - Mandated Salary Requirements — Increase due to the annualization of FY 2024 salary adjustments and funded vacancies offset by budgeted attrition	\$247,300
Increase Cost: Fringe Benefits — Increase in fringe benefits costs due to compensation adjustments; the fringe benefit rate increases from 34.5% to 35.0%	171,600
Increase Cost: Recovery Decrease — Removal of the Circuit Court Problem Solving and Police grant recoveries	158,000
Increase Cost: Technology Cost Allocation — Increase in OIT charges based on anticipated countywide costs for technology	78,700
Increase Cost: Operating — Increase to support interpreter fees to align with caseload translation needs	55,000
Increase Cost: Operating — Increase to support professional development and training needs of staff	52,200

Reconciliation from Prior Year *(continued)*

	Expenditures
Increase Cost: Operating — Increase for scheduled vehicle maintenance costs	12,700
Decrease Cost: Operating — Net decrease in printing, telephone, membership, mileage, contracts and supplies to align with historical spending	(47,900)
FY 2025 Proposed Budget	\$26,034,100

GRANT FUNDS

The FY 2025 proposed grant budget for the Office of the State’s Attorney is \$2,524,400, an increase of \$91,000 or 3.7% over the FY 2024 approved budget. Major sources of funds in the FY 2025 proposed budget include:

- Prince George’s Strategic Investigation and Charging Unit
- Victim Advocacy Grant (VOCA)

Reconciliation from Prior Year

	Expenditures
FY 2024 Approved Budget	\$2,451,400
Add: New Program — Office of Problem Solving Courts	\$57,700
Increase: Existing Program/Service — Vehicle Theft Prevention (VTPC)	48,000
Increase: Existing Program/Service — Special United States Attorney (SAUSA)	13,900
Increase: Existing Program/Service — Gun Violence Reduction Initiative (GVRG)	1,000
Reduce: Existing Program/Service — Stop the Violence Against Women (VAWA)	(29,600)
FY 2025 Proposed Budget	\$2,542,400

STAFF AND BUDGET RESOURCES

Authorized Positions	FY 2023 Budget	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2025 Proposed	Change FY24-FY25
General Fund				
Full Time - Civilian	182	193	193	0
Full Time - Sworn	0	0	0	0
Subtotal - FT	182	193	193	0
Part Time	5	5	5	0
Limited Term	0	0	0	0
Grant Program Funds				
Full Time - Civilian	0	0	0	0
Full Time - Sworn	0	0	0	0
Subtotal - FT	0	0	0	0
Part Time	0	0	0	0
Limited Term	34	32	29	(3)
TOTAL				
Full Time - Civilian	182	193	193	0
Full Time - Sworn	0	0	0	0
Subtotal - FT	182	193	193	0
Part Time	5	5	5	0
Limited Term	34	32	29	(3)

Positions By Classification	FY 2025		
	Full Time	Part Time	Limited Term
Administrative Aide	27	0	0
Administrative Assistant	5	0	0
Administrative Specialist	2	0	0
Assistant States Attorney	96	0	12
Audio Visual Specialist	1	0	0
Budget Management Analyst	2	0	0
Budget Assistant	0	1	0
Community Developer	15	0	9
Community Development Aide	0	1	0
Deputy States Attorney	2	0	0
Executive Administrative Aide	1	0	0
General Clerk	2	1	0
Human Resources Analyst	1	0	0
Information Technology Project Coordinator	2	0	0
Investigator	11	0	2
Law Clerk	0	0	1
Legal Assistant	21	2	5
Paralegal	3	0	0
Principal Deputy States Attorney	1	0	0
States Attorney	1	0	0
TOTAL	193	5	29

Expenditures by Category - General Fund

Category	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2024 Estimate	FY 2025 Proposed	Change FY24-FY25	
					Amount (\$)	Percent (%)
Compensation	\$15,541,354	\$17,039,500	\$17,208,000	\$17,286,800	\$247,300	1.5%
Fringe Benefits	4,075,812	5,878,800	5,850,700	6,050,400	171,600	2.9%
Operating	2,636,341	2,604,000	2,649,300	2,754,700	150,700	5.8%
Capital Outlay	—	—	—	—	—	
SubTotal	\$22,253,507	\$25,522,300	\$25,708,000	\$26,091,900	\$569,600	2.2%
Recoveries	(54,253)	(215,800)	(215,800)	(57,800)	158,000	-73.2%
Total	\$22,199,254	\$25,306,500	\$25,492,200	\$26,034,100	\$727,600	2.9%

In FY 2025, compensation expenditures increase 1.5% over the FY 2024 budget to align with the annualization of FY 2024 increases, offset by an increase in budgeted attrition and salary lapse. Compensation costs include funding for 191 of 193 full time and five part time positions. Fringe benefit expenditures increase 2.9% over the FY 2024 budget to align with projected costs.

Operating expenditures increase 5.8% over the FY 2024 budget due to countywide technology costs and interpreter fees to align with the rise in court cases.

Recoveries decrease -73.2% under the FY 2024 budget due to the elimination of funding from the Drug Enforcement and Education Fund, the Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN) and the Circuit Court’s Office of Problem Solving Courts recoveries. Cost allocation will be made through direct charge.

GRANT FUNDS SUMMARY

Expenditures by Category - Grant Funds

Category	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2024 Estimate	FY 2025 Proposed	Change FY24-FY25	
					Amount (\$)	Percent (%)
Compensation	\$1,303,299	\$1,897,200	\$1,428,400	\$1,948,800	\$51,600	2.7%
Fringe Benefits	132,048	206,900	129,700	240,500	33,600	16.2%
Operating	611,071	423,500	653,700	429,300	5,800	1.4%
Capital Outlay	—	—	—	—	—	—
SubTotal	\$2,046,418	\$2,527,600	\$2,211,800	\$2,618,600	\$91,000	3.6%
Recoveries	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	\$2,046,418	\$2,527,600	\$2,211,800	\$2,618,600	\$91,000	3.6%

The FY 2025 proposed grant budget is \$2,618,600, an increase of \$91,000 or 3.6% over the FY 2024 approved budget. This increase is mainly due to additional funding for the Office of Problem Solving Courts grant.

Staff Summary by Division - Grant Funds

Staff Summary by Division & Grant Program	FY 2024			FY 2025		
	FT	PT	LTGF	FT	PT	LTGF
SAO Prosecution						
Gun Violence Reduction Grant	—	—	1	—	—	1
Gun Violence Reduction Grant II	—	—	1	—	—	1
Maryland Crime Intelligence Network	—	—	1	—	—	—
Office of Problem Solving Courts	—	—	1	—	—	1
Prince George's Strategic Investigation and Charging Unit	—	—	16	—	—	15
Project Safe Neighborhoods	—	—	1	—	—	—
Special United States Attorney	—	—	1	—	—	1
Stop the Violence Against Women	—	—	2	—	—	2
Vehicle Theft Prevention Program	—	—	2	—	—	2
Victim Advocacy Grant	—	—	6	—	—	6
Total SAO Prosecution	—	—	32	—	—	29
Total	—	—	32	—	—	29

In FY 2025, funding is provided for 29 limited term grant funded (LTGF) positions.

Grant Funds by Division

Grant Name	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2024 Estimate	FY 2025 Proposed	Change FY24-FY25	
					Amount (\$)	Percent (%)
SAO Prosecution						
Conviction and Sentencing Integrity	\$23,580	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	
Gun Violence Reduction Grant (GVRG)	34,804	35,000	35,000	36,000	1,000	2.9%
Gun Violence Reduction Grant (GVRG II)	—	100,000	—	100,000	—	0.0%
Housing Assistance Grant	11,816	—	—	—	—	
Office of Problem Solving Courts (OPSC)	—	—	57,700	57,700	57,700	
Prince George's Strategic Investigation and Charging Unit (PGSI)	851,104	1,145,600	930,000	1,145,600	—	0.0%
Special United State's Attorney (SAUSA)	61,147	94,100	54,000	108,000	13,900	14.8%
Prosecuting Cold Case DNA	23,945	—	—	—	—	
Saturday Family Justice Academy	—	—	356,300	—	—	
Stop the Violence Against Women (VAWA)	93,983	112,900	85,500	83,300	(29,600)	-26.2%
Veterans Court Treatment Discretionary Grant	32,483	—	—	—	—	
Vehicle Theft Prevention Program (VTPC)	16,725	141,000	—	189,000	48,000	34.0%
Victim Advocacy Grant (VOCA)	847,661	822,800	617,100	822,800	—	0.0%
Total SAO Prosecution	\$1,997,248	\$2,451,400	\$2,135,600	\$2,542,400	\$91,000	3.7%
Subtotal	\$1,997,248	\$2,451,400	\$2,135,600	\$2,542,400	\$91,000	3.7%
Total Transfer from General Fund - (County Contribution/Cash Match)	49,170	76,200	76,200	76,200	—	0.0%
Total	\$2,046,418	\$2,527,600	\$2,211,800	\$2,618,600	\$91,000	3.6%

Grant Descriptions

PARALEGAL SUPPORT – GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION INITIATIVE -- \$36,000

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victims Services provides funding to support the agency's effort to reduce gun violence in the County by funding one part time Legal Assistant position. The position assists the Guns and Drugs Unit with diversion screening and program eligibility for first-time gun offenders charged with wear, carry and transport charges.

GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION GRANT (GVRG II) -- \$100,000

As the number of gun cases have spiked, attorneys assigned to the SAO's Guns & Drugs Unit have experienced a sharp increase in their caseload. The grant funds will be used to hire a prosecutor who will be assigned to the Guns & Drugs Unit and will be assigned primarily gun cases. This will allow for the reduction in caseload for each prosecutor in the unit and will allow for more focus and resources to be directed to criminal cases involving violent repeat offenders and prohibited persons charged with illegal possession of a firearm.

OFFICE OF PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS (OPSC) -- \$57,700

The Maryland Judiciary provides funding to support direct client services focused on program development in substance abuse cases.

PRINCE GEORGE'S STRATEGIC INVESTIGATION AND CHARGING UNIT (PGSI) -- \$1,145,600

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services provides funding for the existing Strategic Investigation Unit which aims to prosecute and imprison violent, repeat and chronic offenders.

SPECIAL ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY (SAUSA) -- \$108,000

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services provides funding in support of the investigation and prosecution of violent crime in Prince George's County through an assistant state's attorney cross-designated as an Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Attorney's Office (USAO). This position will work to address violent repeat offenders and criminal organizations involved in illegal drugs and firearms trafficking.

STOP THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAWA) -- \$83,300

The Department of Justice provides funding to support the prosecution of cases resulting from domestic violence and sexual assault. Funding supports two limited term grant funded positions: (1) District Court Assistant State's Attorney and (1) Part-Time Victim Witness Advocate.

VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM (VTPC) -- \$189,000

The Maryland Department of State Police Vehicle Theft Prevention Council provides support to the agency's effort to focus on auto theft cases from the initial apprehension of suspects by police, through pre-trial preparation, victim contact and screening cases for the Circuit Court, to trial and sentencing. Funding supports two limited term grant funded positions: (1) Assistant State's Attorney and (1) Legal Assistant.

VICTIM ADVOCACY GRANT (VOCA) -- \$822,800

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services provides funding to assist in developing and implementing strategies specifically intended to aid domestic violence victims in Prince George's County. The program focuses on providing Supportive Assistance and Financial Empowerment (SAFE) solutions to battered individuals and victims of crime. Victims are linked with advocates/coordinators that advise them of their rights and provide supportive assistance throughout the legal process.