

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 2022 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Decreased intimate partner homicides from 12 in 2020 to five in 2021. The SAO Family Violence and Special Victims Unit worked to change legislation to make strangulation a felony assault. Also, the Family Violence and Special Victims Unit incorporated a lethality assessment protocol to identify the most violent domestic offenders and prosecute them accordingly.
- Assisted in the reduction of the juvenile crime rate in Prince George's County. Promoted policies and practices that reduced the county's recidivism rate, making it the lowest in the State.
- Completed the SAO's first cohort for the Emerging Adults Program, which provides young men and women between the ages of 18 and 26 the opportunity to change their lives after becoming involved in the criminal justice system.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AND INITIATIVES IN FY 2023

The office's top priorities in FY 2023 are:

- Increase the number of successful prosecutions of violent, repeat and chronic offenders while holistically prosecuting non-violent offenders, where appropriate.
- Expand the Evidence Review/Digital Discovery Unit, which is responsible for handling all evidence, most importantly all forms of video media footage, provided from numerous law enforcement partners such as the State Police, Prince George's County Police Department and local and municipal law enforcement agencies within the County.
- Continue to work with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM) on the implementation of pay equity for Assistant State's Attorneys (ASA).

FY 2023 BUDGET SUMMARY

The FY 2023 proposed budget for the Office of the State's Attorney is \$24,418,200, an increase of \$1,204,900 or 13.5%, over the FY 2022 approved budget.

Expenditures by Fund Type

| Fund Types | FY 2021 Actual | | FY 2022 Budget | | FY 2022 Estimate | | FY 2023 Proposed | |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | Amount | % Total | Amount | % Total | Amount | % Total | Amount | % Total |
| General Fund | \$19,003,845 | 90.4% | \$19,902,400 | 88.5% | \$20,378,500 | 87.8% | \$21,989,700 | 90.1% |
| Grant Funds | 2,021,332 | 9.6% | 2,585,400 | 11.5% | 2,834,800 | 12.2% | 2,428,500 | 9.9% |
| Total | \$21,025,176 | 100.0% | \$22,487,800 | 100.0% | \$23,213,300 | 100.0% | \$24,418,200 | 100.0% |

GENERAL FUND

The FY 2023 proposed budget for the Office of the State's Attorney is \$21,989,700, an increase of \$2,087,300 or 10.5% over the FY 2022 approved budget.

Reconciliation from Prior Year

| | Expenditures |
|---|---------------------|
| FY 2022 Approved Budget | \$19,902,400 |
| Increase Cost: Fringe Benefits — Increase in the fringe benefit rate from 31.9 % to 35.6% to align with projected costs as well as compensation adjustments | \$861,400 |
| Add: Compensation — Funding for parity salary increases for Assistant State's Attorneys | 405,000 |
| Increase Cost: Compensation - Mandated Salary Requirements — Annualization of FY 2022 salary adjustments | 339,100 |
| Add: Compensation — Funding for five previously unfunded positions for the Digital Discovery Unit | 288,400 |
| Increase Cost: Recovery Reduction — Recoveries are decreasing from the prior budget year to align with the anticipated funding available through the Drug Enforcement and Education fund and the Circuit Court's Office of Problem Solving Courts. | 100,200 |
| Increase Cost: Operating - Technology Cost Allocation — Increase in OIT charges based on anticipated countywide costs for technology | 74,800 |

Reconciliation from Prior Year *(continued)*

| | Expenditures |
|---|---------------------|
| Increase Cost: Operating — Increase in printing costs to align with historical spending; the vehicle equipment repair budget increases to align with anticipated costs | 33,800 |
| Decrease Cost: Operating — Net operating adjustment in training, other equipment maintenance and equipment lease expenses to align with anticipated costs | (15,400) |
| FY 2023 Proposed Budget | \$21,989,700 |

GRANT FUNDS

The FY 2023 proposed grant budget for the Office of the State’s Attorney is \$2,428,500, a decrease of \$156,900 or -6.1% under the FY 2022 approved budget. Major sources of funds in the FY 2023 proposed budget include:

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

Reconciliation from Prior Year

| | Expenditures |
|--|---------------------|
| FY 2022 Approved Budget | \$2,585,400 |
| Increase: Existing Program/Service — Victim Advocacy Grant (VOCA) | \$363,000 |
| Add: New Grant — Gun Violence Reduction Grant (GVR II) | 100,000 |
| Reduce: Existing Program/Service — Paralegal Support - Gun Violence Reduction Grant (GVR) | (18,900) |
| Reduce: Existing Program/Service — Conviction Integrity Unit Grant | (131,000) |
| Reduce: Existing Program/Service — Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA | (470,000) |
| FY 2023 Proposed Budget | \$2,428,500 |

STAFF AND BUDGET RESOURCES

| Authorized Positions | FY 2021 Budget | FY 2022 Budget | FY 2023 Proposed | Change FY22-FY23 |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| General Fund | | | | |
| Full Time - Civilian | 177 | 182 | 182 | 0 |
| Full Time - Sworn | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Subtotal - FT | 177 | 182 | 182 | 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 | 33 | 34 | 1 |
| TOTAL | | | | |
| Full Time - Civilian | 177 | 182 | 182 | 0 |
| Full Time - Sworn | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Subtotal - FT | 177 | 182 | 182 | 0 |
| Part Time | 5 | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Limited Term | 34 | 33 | 34 | 1 |

| Positions By Classification | FY 2023 | | |
|--|------------|-----------|--------------|
| | Full Time | Part Time | Limited Term |
| Administrative Aide | 28 | 0 | 0 |
| Administrative Assistant | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Administrative Specialist | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Assistant State's Attorney | 90 | 0 | 12 |
| Audio Visual Specialist | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Budget Management Analyst | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Budget Assistant | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Community Developer | 16 | 0 | 11 |
| Community Development Aide | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Deputy State's Attorney | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Executive Administrative Aide | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| General Clerk | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Information Technology Project Coordinator | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Investigator | 11 | 0 | 3 |
| Law Clerk | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Legal Assistant | 19 | 2 | 7 |
| Human Resources Analyst | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Principal Deputy State's Attorney | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| State's Attorney | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 182 | 5 | 34 |

Expenditures by Category - General Fund

| Category | FY 2021 Actual | FY 2022 Budget | FY 2022 Estimate | FY 2023 Proposed | Change FY22-FY23 | |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| | | | | | Amount (\$) | Percent (%) |
| Compensation | \$12,910,471 | \$13,500,300 | \$13,774,100 | \$14,532,800 | \$1,032,500 | 7.6% |
| Fringe Benefits | 4,274,064 | 4,306,600 | 4,531,900 | 5,168,000 | 861,400 | 20.0% |
| Operating | 1,887,110 | 2,310,600 | 2,140,300 | 2,403,800 | 93,200 | 4.0% |
| Capital Outlay | — | — | — | — | — | |
| SubTotal | \$19,071,645 | \$20,117,500 | \$20,446,300 | \$22,104,600 | \$1,987,100 | 9.9% |
| Recoveries | (67,800) | (215,100) | (67,800) | (114,900) | 100,200 | -46.6% |
| Total | \$19,003,845 | \$19,902,400 | \$20,378,500 | \$21,989,700 | \$2,087,300 | 10.5% |

In FY 2023, compensation expenditures increase 7.6% over the FY 2022 budget to align with the annualization of FY 2022 salary adjustments, staff attrition, an allocation of funding for parity salary increases for Assistant State’s Attorneys and funding for five previously unfunded positions for the Digital Discovery Unit. Compensation costs includes funding for 182 full time and five part time positions. Fringe benefit expenditures increase 20.0% over the FY 2022 budget due to an increase in the fringe benefit rate from 31.9% to 35.6% to align with projected costs and compensation adjustments.

Operating expenditures increase 4.0% over the FY 2022 budget primarily due to an increase in the technology cost allocation and vehicle equipment repair costs based on countywide costs. These increases are offset by a reduction in other equipment maintenance & repairs, training and equipment lease budgets to align with anticipated costs.

Recoveries decrease -46.6% under the FY 2022 budget to align with the anticipated funding available through the Drug Enforcement and Education Fund and the Circuit Court’s Office of Problem Solving Courts.

GRANT FUNDS SUMMARY

Expenditures by Category - Grant Funds

| Category | FY 2021 Actual | FY 2022 Budget | FY 2022 Estimate | FY 2023 Proposed | Change FY22-FY23 | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| | | | | | Amount (\$) | Percent (%) |
| Compensation | \$1,673,513 | \$1,903,400 | \$1,866,400 | \$1,824,800 | \$(78,600) | -4.1% |
| Fringe Benefits | 158,279 | 221,100 | 207,600 | 207,500 | (13,600) | -6.2% |
| Operating | 272,786 | 596,300 | 816,900 | 455,000 | (141,300) | -23.7% |
| Capital Outlay | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| SubTotal | \$2,104,577 | \$2,720,800 | \$2,890,900 | \$2,487,300 | \$(233,500) | -8.6% |
| Recoveries | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | \$2,104,577 | \$2,720,800 | \$2,890,900 | \$2,487,300 | \$(233,500) | -8.6% |

The FY 2023 proposed grant budget is \$2,487,300, a decrease of \$233,500 or -8.6% under the FY 2022 approved budget. This decrease is primarily due to reductions in the Prince George's Strategic Investigation and Charging Unit, Paralegal Support - Gun Violence Reduction, Conviction Integrity Unit, and Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA grants. The agency will add the Gun Violence Reduction (GVR II) grant in FY 2023.

Staff Summary by Division - Grant Funds

| Staff Summary by Division & Grant Program | FY 2022 | | | FY 2023 | | |
|--|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| | FT | PT | LTGF | FT | PT | LTGF |
| SAO Prosecution | | | | | | |
| Combat Human Trafficking Grant | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Conviction Integrity Unit | — | — | 1 | — | — | 2 |
| Paralegal Support - Gun Violence Reduction | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Gun Violence Reduction | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Maryland Crime Intelligence Network | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Office of Problem Solving Courts | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Prince George's Strategic Investigation and Charging Unit | — | — | 17 | — | — | 16 |
| Project Safe Neighborhoods | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Special United States Attorney | — | — | 2 | — | — | 1 |
| Stop the Violence Against Women | — | — | 2 | — | — | 2 |
| Vehicle Theft Prevention Program | — | — | 1 | — | — | 2 |
| Victim Advocacy Grant | — | — | 6 | — | — | 6 |
| Total SAO Prosecution | — | — | 33 | — | — | 34 |
| Total | — | — | 33 | — | — | 34 |

In FY 2023, funding is provided for 34 limited term grant funded (LTGF) positions. The staffing level will increase by one position to support anticipated costs.

Grant Funds by Division

| Grant Name | FY 2021 Actual | FY 2022 Budget | FY 2022 Estimate | FY 2023 Proposed | Change FY22-FY23 | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| | | | | | Amount (\$) | Percent (%) |
| SAO Prosecution | | | | | | |
| FY 2017/2018 JAG Local | \$8,900 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | |
| FY 2018/2019 JAG Local | 47,936 | — | — | — | — | |
| FY 2020 Paralegal Support (GVRG) | 233 | — | — | — | — | |
| FY 2020 Prince George's Strategic Investigation and Charging Unit (PGSI) | 14,313 | — | — | — | — | |
| FY 2020 Stop the Violence Against Women (VAWA) | 18,098 | — | — | — | — | |
| FY 2020 Vehicle Theft Program | (41) | — | — | — | — | |
| FY 2020 Victim Advocacy Grant (VOCA) | 190,089 | — | — | — | — | |
| Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) | — | 131,000 | 131,000 | — | (131,000) | -100.0% |
| Gun Violence Reduction (GVR II) | — | — | — | 100,000 | 100,000 | |
| Housing Assistance Grant | 45,551 | — | 160,000 | — | — | |
| Human Trafficking Task Force | 65,239 | — | — | — | — | |
| Maryland Crime Intelligence Network (MCIN) | — | — | 39,700 | — | — | |
| Office of Problem Solving Courts | — | — | 57,100 | — | — | |
| Paralegal Support - Gun Violence Reduction (GVR) | 36,629 | 53,900 | 35,000 | 35,000 | (18,900) | -35.1% |
| Prince George's Strategic Investigation and Charging Unit | 1,070,247 | 1,145,600 | 1,107,800 | 1,145,600 | — | 0.0% |
| Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA | — | 470,000 | 156,000 | — | (470,000) | -100.0% |
| Special United State's Attorney (SAUSA) | — | 94,100 | 94,100 | 94,100 | — | 0.0% |
| Stop the Violence Against Women (VAWA) | 67,474 | 90,000 | 90,000 | 90,000 | — | 0.0% |
| Vehicle Theft Prevention Program (VTPC) | 118,760 | 141,000 | 141,300 | 141,000 | — | 0.0% |
| Victim Advocacy Grant (VOCA) | 337,905 | 459,800 | 822,800 | 822,800 | 363,000 | 78.9% |
| Total SAO Prosecution | \$2,021,332 | \$2,585,400 | \$2,834,800 | \$2,428,500 | \$(156,900) | -6.1% |
| Subtotal | \$2,021,332 | \$2,585,400 | \$2,834,800 | \$2,428,500 | \$(156,900) | -6.1% |
| Total Transfer from General Fund - (County Contribution/Cash Match) | 83,246 | 135,400 | 56,100 | 58,800 | (76,600) | -56.6% |
| Total | \$2,104,577 | \$2,720,800 | \$2,890,900 | \$2,487,300 | \$(233,500) | -8.6% |

Grant Descriptions

GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION (GVR 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.

PARALEGAL SUPPORT – GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION (GVR) -- \$35,000

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.

PRINCE GEORGE'S STRATEGIC INVESTIGATION AND CHARGING UNIT -- \$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) -- \$94,100

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) -- \$90,000

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

VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM (VTPC) -- \$141,000

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 grants 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, Maryland. 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.