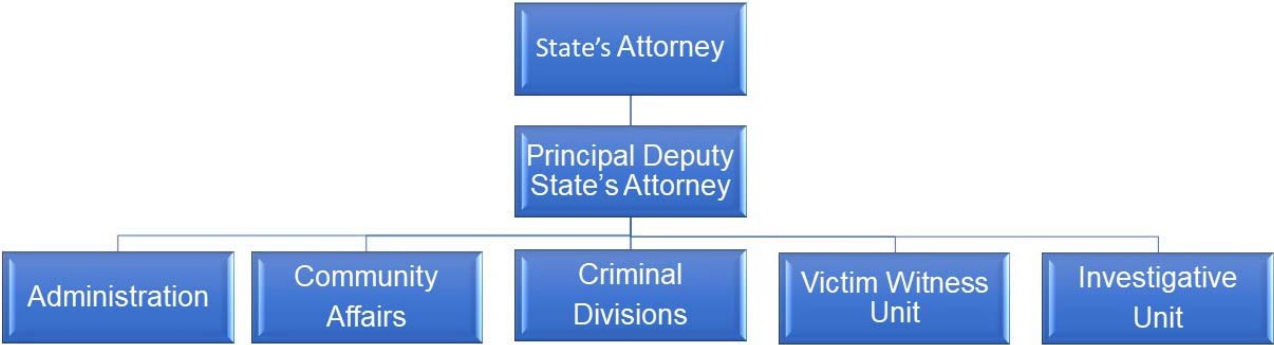


# Office of the State's Attorney



## 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 2023 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Returned to full operation after the COVID-19 imposed courthouse closures and reduced courthouse operations resulting in a backlog of over 1,800 jury trial cases. Assistant States Attorneys, Victim Witness Coordinators and other support staff have worked diligently to address this backlog while continuing to meet current demands.
- Initiated a new gun protocol which includes indicting all persons charged under Criminal Law Article § 4-203 Wearing, Carrying, Transporting a Handgun and under the Public Safety Article § 5-133(d). Traditionally, the cases were prosecuted in the District Court; however, indicting these cases provides greater time for in-depth investigations and the cases are assigned to more experienced attorneys.
- Implemented the Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) case management system. MDEC modernizes court processes and provides consistent case management for both the District and Circuit Courts across the state. With the implementation of MDEC, electronic filing is now mandatory for attorneys representing clients in civil and

criminal cases in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and in the District Court in Prince George's County, as well as for any appellate filings that originate in Prince George's County.

## STRATEGIC FOCUS AND INITIATIVES IN FY 2024

The office's top priorities in FY 2024 are:

- Increase the number of successful prosecutions of violent and non-violent repeat and chronic offenders.
- Recruit and retain Assistant State's Attorneys, Victim Witness Coordinators, Investigators and other critical administrative/support staff.
- Expand diversion, intervention, and re-entry programs for the District and Circuit Court Units, Emerging Adults, returning citizens and first-time juvenile offenders.
- Advocate for, inform and support victims and witnesses throughout the criminal justice process by increasing engagement and communication with victims and next of kin.

## FY 2024 BUDGET SUMMARY

The FY 2024 proposed budget for the Office of the State's Attorney is \$27,257,900, an increase of \$2,562,100 or 10.4% over the FY 2023 approved budget.

### Expenditures by Fund Type

Fund Types	FY 2022 Actual		FY 2023 Budget		FY 2023 Estimate		FY 2024 Proposed	
	Amount	% Total	Amount	% Total	Amount	% Total	Amount	% Total
General Fund	\$19,793,317	91.1%	\$22,267,300	90.2%	\$22,125,300	90.7%	\$24,806,500	91.0%
Grant Funds	1,921,883	8.9%	2,428,500	9.8%	2,278,200	9.3%	2,451,400	9.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,715,200</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$24,695,800</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$24,403,500</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$27,257,900</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## GENERAL FUND

The FY 2024 proposed General Fund budget for the Office of the State's Attorney is \$24,806,500, an increase of \$2,539,200 or 11.4% over the FY 2023 approved budget.

### Reconciliation from Prior Year

	Expenditures
<b>FY 2023 Approved Budget</b>	<b>\$22,267,300</b>
<b>Increase Cost: Compensation - Mandated Salary Requirements</b> — Annualization of FY 2023 and FY 2024 planned salary adjustments	\$1,229,600
<b>Add: Compensation - New Positions</b> — Funding for six additional Assistant State's Attorneys to help combat the rise in violent crimes	648,700
<b>Increase Cost: Fringe Benefits</b> — Increase in fringe benefit costs due to compensation adjustments as well as to align with projected costs; the fringe benefit rate decreases from 35.8% to 34.5%	286,600
<b>Add: Compensation</b> — Salary adjustments related to compensation studies for Assistant State's Attorneys	250,000
<b>Increase Cost: Operating - Technology Cost Allocation</b> — Increase in OIT charges based on anticipated countywide costs for technology	177,200
<b>Add: Compensation</b> — Overtime costs due to staff shortages and the backlog of cases	25,000

**Reconciliation from Prior Year** *(continued)*

	Expenditures
<b>Increase Cost: Operating</b> — Increase in printing, telephone and contract costs to align with historical spending	23,000
<b>Decrease Cost: Recovery Increase</b> — Recoveries are increasing from the prior budget year to align with the anticipated funding available through the Drug Enforcement and Education fund, the Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network grant, and the Circuit Court's Office of Problem Solving Courts.	(100,900)
<b>FY 2024 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$24,806,500</b>

**GRANT FUNDS**

The FY 2024 proposed grant budget for the Office of the State's Attorney is \$2,451,400, an increase of \$22,900 or 0.9% over the FY 2023 approved budget. Major sources of funds in the FY 2024 proposed budget include:

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

**Reconciliation from Prior Year**

	Expenditures
<b>FY 2023 Approved Budget</b>	<b>\$2,428,500</b>
<b>Increase: Existing Program/Service</b> — Stop the Violence Against Women (VAWA)	\$22,900
<b>FY 2024 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$2,451,400</b>

## STAFF AND BUDGET RESOURCES

Authorized Positions	FY 2022 Budget	FY 2023 Budget	FY 2024 Proposed	Change FY23-FY24
<b>General Fund</b>				
Full Time - Civilian	182	182	188	6
Full Time - Sworn	0	0	0	0
Subtotal - FT	182	182	188	6
Part Time	5	5	5	0
Limited Term	0	0	0	0
<b>Grant Program Funds</b>				
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	33	34	32	(2)
<b>TOTAL</b>				
Full Time - Civilian	182	182	188	6
Full Time - Sworn	0	0	0	0
Subtotal - FT	182	182	188	6
Part Time	5	5	5	0
Limited Term	33	34	32	(2)

Positions By Classification	FY 2024		
	Full Time	Part Time	Limited Term
Administrative Aide	28	0	0
Administrative Assistant	4	0	0
Administrative Specialist	2	0	0
Assistant States Attorney	97	0	12
Audio Visual Specialist	1	0	0
Budget Management Analyst	2	0	0
Budget Assistant	0	1	0
Community Developer	15	0	11
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	15	2	6
Paralegal	3	0	0
Principal Deputy States Attorney	1	0	0
States Attorney	1	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>32</b>

**Expenditures by Category - General Fund**

Category	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Budget	FY 2023 Estimate	FY 2024 Proposed	Change FY23-FY24	
					Amount (\$)	Percent (%)
Compensation	\$13,348,437	\$14,712,400	\$14,714,700	\$16,663,100	\$1,950,700	13.3%
Fringe Benefits	4,139,640	5,266,000	4,821,000	5,755,200	489,200	9.3%
Operating	2,305,240	2,403,800	2,669,600	2,604,000	200,200	8.3%
Capital Outlay	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%
<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>\$19,793,317</b>	<b>\$22,382,200</b>	<b>\$22,205,300</b>	<b>\$25,022,300</b>	<b>\$2,640,100</b>	<b>11.8%</b>
Recoveries	—	(114,900)	(80,000)	(215,800)	(100,900)	87.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,793,317</b>	<b>\$22,267,300</b>	<b>\$22,125,300</b>	<b>\$24,806,500</b>	<b>\$2,539,200</b>	<b>11.4%</b>

In FY 2024, compensation expenditures increase 13.3% over the FY 2023 budget to align with the annualization of FY 2023 and 66FY 2024 planned salary adjustments, staff attrition and six additional Assistant State's Attorneys. Compensation costs includes funding for 188 full time and five part time positions. Fringe benefit expenditures increase 9.3% over the FY 2023 budget due to an increase in the compensation adjustments.

Operating expenditures increase 8.3% over the FY 2023 budget primarily due to an increase in the technology cost allocation countywide and interpreter fees to align with the rise in court cases. Funding is also provided for transcription services and expert witness consulting.

Recoveries increase 87.8% over the FY 2023 budget to align with the anticipated funding available through the Drug Enforcement and Education Fund, the Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN) and the Circuit Court's Office of Problem Solving Courts.

## GRANT FUNDS SUMMARY

### Expenditures by Category - Grant Funds

Category	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Budget	FY 2023 Estimate	FY 2024 Proposed	Change FY23-FY24	
					Amount (\$)	Percent (%)
Compensation	\$1,525,723	\$1,824,800	\$1,646,100	\$1,897,200	\$72,400	4.0%
Fringe Benefits	134,286	207,500	174,100	206,900	(600)	-0.3%
Operating	317,301	455,000	514,100	423,500	(31,500)	-6.9%
Capital Outlay	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%
<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>\$1,977,310</b>	<b>\$2,487,300</b>	<b>\$2,334,300</b>	<b>\$2,527,600</b>	<b>\$40,300</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
Recoveries	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,977,310</b>	<b>\$2,487,300</b>	<b>\$2,334,300</b>	<b>\$2,527,600</b>	<b>\$40,300</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

The FY 2024 proposed grant budget is \$2,527,600, an increase of \$40,300 or 1.6% over the FY 2023 approved budget. This increase is due to additional funding for the Stop the Violence Against Women (VAWA) grant.

### Staff Summary by Division - Grant Funds

Staff Summary by Division & Grant Program	FY 2023			FY 2024		
	FT	PT	LTGF	FT	PT	LTGF
<b>SAO Prosecution</b>						
Combat Human Trafficking Grant	—	—	—	—	—	—
Conviction Integrity Unit	—	—	2	—	—	—
Paralegal Support - Gun Violence Reduction	—	—	1	—	—	1
Gun Violence Reduction	—	—	1	—	—	1
Maryland Crime Intelligence Network	—	—	1	—	—	1
Office of Problem Solving Courts	—	—	1	—	—	1
Prince George's Strategic Investigation and Charging Unit	—	—	16	—	—	16
Project Safe Neighborhoods	—	—	1	—	—	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
<b>Total SAO Prosecution</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>32</b>

In FY 2024, funding is provided for 32 limited term grant funded (LTGF) positions. The staffing level will decrease by two positions to support anticipated costs.

## Grant Funds by Division

Grant Name	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Budget	FY 2023 Estimate	FY 2024 Proposed	Change FY23-FY24	
					Amount (\$)	Percent (%)
SAO Prosecution						
FY 2019/2020 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Local	\$10,000	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	0.0%
FY 2020 Conviction and Sentencing Integrity Unit (CSIU) - Wrongful Convictions	11,955	—	—	—	—	0.0%
FY21 Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Adult Drug	5,999	—	—	—	—	0.0%
FY 2021 Prince George's Strategic Investigation and Charging Unit (PGSI)	(3,599)	—	—	—	—	0.0%
FY 2021 Stop the Violence Against Women (VAWA)	21,645	—	—	—	—	0.0%
FY 2021 Vehicle Theft Program	8,223	—	—	—	—	0.0%
FY 2021 Victim Advocacy Grant (VOCA)	116,376	—	—	—	—	0.0%
FY22 American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act	81,763	—	—	—	—	0.0%
Gun Violence Reduction (GVRG II)	(258)	100,000	—	100,000	—	0.0%
Housing Assistance Grant	102,584	—	—	—	—	0.0%
Human Trafficking Task Force	5,642	—	—	—	—	0.0%
Paralegal Support - Gun Violence Reduction (GVRG)	33,636	35,000	35,000	35,000	—	0.0%
Prince George's Strategic Investigation and Charging Unit	915,877	1,145,600	1,145,600	1,145,600	—	0.0%
Special United State's Attorney (SAUSA)	68,680	94,100	94,100	94,100	—	0.0%
Stop the Violence Against Women (VAWA)	52,141	90,000	97,400	112,900	22,900	25.4%
Vehicle Theft Prevention Program (VTPC)	118,087	141,000	83,300	141,000	—	0.0%
Victim Advocacy Grant (VOCA)	373,132	822,800	822,800	822,800	—	0.0%
Total SAO Prosecution	\$1,921,883	\$2,428,500	\$2,278,200	\$2,451,400	\$22,900	0.9%
Subtotal	\$1,921,883	\$2,428,500	\$2,278,200	\$2,451,400	\$22,900	0.9%
Total Transfer from General Fund - (County Contribution/Cash Match)	55,427	58,800	56,100	76,200	17,400	29.6%
Total	\$1,977,310	\$2,487,300	\$2,334,300	\$2,527,600	\$40,300	1.6%

## 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) -- \$112,900**

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) -- \$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 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, 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.