

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 approved budget for the Office of the State’s Attorney is \$24,695,800, an increase of \$2,208,800 or 9.8% over the FY 2022 approved budget.

Expenditures by Fund Type

Fund Types	FY 2021 Actual		FY 2022 Budget		FY 2022 Estimate		FY 2023 Approved	
	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%	\$22,267,300	90.2%
Grant Funds	2,021,332	9.6%	2,585,400	11.5%	2,834,800	12.2%	2,428,500	9.8%
Total	\$21,025,176	100.0%	\$22,487,800	100.0%	\$23,213,300	100.0%	\$24,695,800	100.0%

GENERAL FUND

The FY 2023 approved General Fund budget for the Office of the State’s Attorney is \$22,267,300, an increase of \$2,364,900 or 11.9% 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 35.8% to align with projected workers compensation, healthcare and pension costs	\$959,400
Add: Compensation — Funding for parity salary increases for Assistant State's Attorneys	405,000
Increase Cost: Compensation - Mandated Salary Requirements — Annualization of FY 2022 and FY 2023 planned salary adjustments	339,100
Add: Compensation — Funding for five previously unfunded positions for the Digital Discovery Unit	468,000
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 Approved Budget	\$22,267,300

GRANT FUNDS

The FY 2023 approved 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 approved 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 Approved Budget	\$2,428,500

STAFF AND BUDGET RESOURCES

Authorized Positions	FY 2021 Budget	FY 2022 Budget	FY 2023 Approved	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	29	0	0
Administrative Assistant	3	0	0
Administrative Specialist	1	0	0
Assistant States Attorney	90	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
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 States Attorney	1	0	0
States 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 Approved	Change FY22-FY23	
					Amount (\$)	Percent (%)
Compensation	\$12,910,471	\$13,500,300	\$13,774,100	\$14,712,400	\$1,212,100	9.0%
Fringe Benefits	4,274,064	4,306,600	4,531,900	5,266,000	959,400	22.3%
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	\$22,382,200	\$2,264,700	11.3%
Recoveries	(67,800)	(215,100)	(67,800)	(114,900)	100,200	-46.6%
Total	\$19,003,845	\$19,902,400	\$20,378,500	\$22,267,300	\$2,364,900	11.9%

In FY 2023, compensation expenditures increase 9.0% over the FY 2022 budget to align with the annualization of FY 2022 and FY 2023 planned salary adjustments, staff attrition, an allocation of funding for parity salary increases for Assistant States 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 22.3% over the FY 2022 budget due to an increase in the fringe benefit rate from 31.9% to 35.8% to align with projected worker compensation , healthcare and pension costs.

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 and repairs, training and the equipment lease budget 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 Approved	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 approved 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 Approved	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 (GVRG 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 (GVRG)	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 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.