

*Our Mission: To administer justice in a fair, timely and efficient manner*

The Circuit Court is the trial court of general jurisdiction, and the highest court in the County for both civil and criminal cases. The Circuit Court, which is comprised of the Judges' Office and the Clerk's Office, also has appellate jurisdiction over all cases from the General District Court and from the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

**FY 2007 PRIORITIES**

The FY 2007 priorities of the Circuit Court are:

- To continue to automate and maintain the recording, preservation and information retrieval systems using electronic scanning and other innovations to permit off-site information access first for land records, and ultimately for most court records.
- To continue to administer the Court's docket in an efficient and fair manner.

**DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

|                           | <b>FY 2005<br/>Actual</b> | <b>FY 2006<br/>Adopted</b> | <b>FY 2007<br/>Adopted</b> | <b>% Change<br/>'06 to '07</b> |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Personnel                 | \$2,051,990               | \$2,191,833                | \$2,302,258                | 5%                             |
| Non-Personnel             | 521,786                   | 506,535                    | 519,045                    | 2%                             |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b> | <b>2,573,776</b>          | <b>2,698,368</b>           | <b>2,821,303</b>           | <b>5%</b>                      |
| Fees                      | 9,452,510                 | 8,967,313                  | 9,606,648                  | 7%                             |
| Grants                    | 2,033,552                 | 1,600,000                  | 1,600,000                  | -                              |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>     | <b>11,486,062</b>         | <b>10,567,313</b>          | <b>11,206,648</b>          | <b>6%</b>                      |
| <b>Net Tax Support</b>    | <b>(\$8,912,286)</b>      | <b>(\$7,868,945)</b>       | <b>(\$8,385,345)</b>       | <b>-7%</b>                     |
| <b>Authorized FTEs</b>    | <b>33.8</b>               | <b>33.8</b>                | <b>33.8</b>                |                                |
| <b>Funded FTEs</b>        | <b>33.8</b>               | <b>33.8</b>                | <b>33.8</b>                |                                |

**SIGNIFICANT BUDGET CHANGES**

The FY 2007 adopted budget for the Circuit Court is \$2,821,303, a five percent increase over the FY 2006 adopted budget.

- ↑ The County Board added funding of \$25,000 for the Walter T. McCarthy Law Library for material collection and computer equipment for public access to online database. This increase in non-personnel is partially offset by a drop in DTS telephone charges (\$12,490).
- ↑ The FY 2007 adopted budget reflects a two percent market pay line adjustment, a 10% increase in employer health insurance costs, and an increase in employer retirement contributions to maintain full funding of the retirement fund.

- ↑ Revenues increased mainly due to increases in Recordation Tax (\$326,703) and Court Fees (\$321,695), partially offset by a decrease in Falls Church reimbursements calculated based on prior year actual expenditures and the FY 2007 budget.
- Most functions performed by the Clerk carry a fee. A portion of that fee goes to the Clerk for salaries and expenses (for example the fee for a marriage license is \$30.00, \$10.00 of which is "Clerk's fee"). These fees fund the Compensation Board salary and expense budget for the office. Arlington is a big and busy office and collects fees in excess of expenditures. Two thirds of this amount is sent back to Arlington County by the state (by statute).