

Our Mission: To administer justice in a fair, timely and efficient manner in the areas of criminal, traffic, civil, small claims and involuntary civil commitment

The General District Court is the court with the greatest public contact. It has the largest and most varied caseload of the three courts in Arlington County. The General District Court has five divisions: criminal, traffic, civil, small claims, and involuntary civil commitment.

The Court's responsibilities in criminal matters include arraignment of criminal defendants, bond hearings, trials of defendants charged with misdemeanors, preliminary hearings of defendants charged with felonies and probation violations. In addition, the Court issues protective orders to provide safety to victims of crime. The Court hears all traffic cases involving individuals eighteen years of age or older. The Court's civil jurisdiction is generally limited to matters when the amount in dispute is \$15,000 or less. The Court has jurisdiction for commercial landlord-tenant matters, regardless of the amount. The Court is responsible for conducting involuntary mental commitment hearings.

In fulfilling its responsibilities, the General District Court strives to assure courtesy, fairness, and efficiency, and to fulfill its responsibility to dispense justice appropriately in each case. The Court recognizes the challenges presented by its high case volume and continues to monitor its success in these goals.

FY 2007 PRIORITIES

- To continue to review court procedures to assure the needs of all parties with business before the court are met in the best way possible.
- To continue to provide the highest quality service from the Clerk's Office and the Magistrate's Office, processing criminal warrants, traffic summonses, fine payments, records, case filings and inquiries.
- To review expansion of the use of mediation as appropriate.
- To continue to improve access to services for non-English speaking clientele.
- To continue cooperation with County and non-profit agencies to serve the Court's constituency.

DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Adopted	FY 2007 Adopted	% Change '06 to '07
Personnel	\$73,016	\$92,386	\$174,696	89%
Non-Personnel	136,182	188,009	181,865	-3%
Total Expenditures	209,198	280,395	356,561	27%
Fees	2,265,316	1,989,705	1,996,217	-
Grants	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	2,265,316	1,989,705	1,996,217	-
Net Tax Support	(\$2,056,118)	(\$1,709,310)	(\$1,639,656)	-4%
Authorized FTEs	1.5	1.5	1.5	
Funded FTEs	1.5	1.5	1.5	

SIGNIFICANT BUDGET CHANGES

The FY 2007 adopted budget for General District Court is \$356,561, a twenty-seven percent increase over FY 2006. The 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. It also reflects County supplements to Magistrates' salaries approved in FY 2006 (\$71,921) after the budget was adopted.
- ↓ Decrease in non-personnel is due to an adjustment of telephone charges by DTS based on FY 2005 actual costs (\$6,144).
- ↑ Increase in revenue is due to Falls Church reimbursement calculated based on prior year actual and the Court's FY 2007 budget (\$6,512).