





April 15, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wala Blegay, Chair
Health, Human Services and Public Safety (HHSPS) Committee

THRU: Joseph R. Hamlin 
Director of Budget and Policy Analysis

FROM: David Williams 
Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

RE: Office of the State's Attorney
Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Review

Budget Overview

- The FY 2026 Proposed Budget for the Office of the State's Attorney is \$30,855,700. This is an increase of \$2,253,800, or 7.9%, above the FY 2025 approved budget.
- The FY 2026 General Fund budget is \$28,304,500, an increase of \$2,270,400, or 8.7%, over the FY 2025 approved budget.
- The primary causes for the increase are mandated salary adjustments and funded vacancies, increases in fringe benefits, and OIT charges.
- The primary fund sources for the grant-based portion are the Prince George's Strategic Investigation and Charging Unit and the Victim Advocacy Grant. Grant fund increases came from the Vehicle Theft Prevention Program, the Special United States Attorney's Office, and the Gun Violence Reduction Initiative.

Actual FY 2024 Budget to Proposed 2026 Budget

Fund	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Approved	FY 2025 Estimate	% Change - Est vs App	FY 2026 Proposed	Change Amount	% Change
General Fund	\$25,932,128	\$26,034,100	\$ 28,587,100	9.8%	\$ 28,304,500	\$ 2,270,400	8.7%
Grant Funds	2,185,693	2,567,800	2,735,900	6.5%	2,551,200	(16,600)	-0.6%
Total	\$ 28,117,821	\$ 28,601,900	\$ 31,323,000	9.5%	\$ 30,855,700	\$ 2,253,800	7.9%

Authorized Staffing - All Classifications				
	FY 2025 Approved	FY 2026 Proposed	Amount Change	% Change
General Fund	199	199	0	0.0%
Grant Funds	27	28	1	3.7%
Total	226	227	1	0.4%

Budget Comparison-General Fund

Category	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Approved	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Proposed	Change Amount	Percentage Change
Compensation	\$ 17,684,929	\$ 17,286,800	\$ 19,100,000	\$ 18,791,300	\$ 1,504,500	8.7%
Fringe Benefits	5,496,872	6,050,400	6,685,000	6,709,500	658,100	10.9%
Operating Expenses	2,908,427	2,754,700	2,859,900	2,962,800	208,100	7.6%
Sub-Total	\$ 26,090,228	\$ 26,091,900	\$ 28,644,900	\$ 28,463,600	\$ 2,370,700	9.1%
Recoveries	(158,100)	(57,800)	(57,800)	(158,100)	(100,300)	173.5%
Total	\$ 25,932,128	\$ 26,034,100	\$ 28,587,100	\$ 28,305,500	\$ 2,270,400	8.7%

Authorized Staffing - General Fund				
	FY 2025 Approved	FY 2026 Proposed	Amount Change	% Change
Full-Time	194	194	0	0.0%
Part-Time	5	5	0	0%
Total	199	199	0	0.0%

Staffing Changes and Compensation-General Fund

- FY 2026 compensation is proposed at \$18,791,300, an increase of \$1,504,500, or 8.7%, above the FY 2025 approved level. The increase is due to the annualization of FY 2025 salary adjustments and funded vacancies offset by budgeted attrition.
- The Proposed FY 2026 General Fund Budget authorized staffing level is 194 full-time and five (5) part-time positions, representing zero change since FY 2025.
- There are no new support staff positions proposed, and the Office does not plan to make any organizational changes or modifications in FY 2025.
- As of April 1, 2025, there were 18 full-time vacancies and one (1) limited-term vacancies.

Fringe Benefits – General Fund

- The FY 2026 fringe benefits are proposed at \$6,708,500, an increase of \$658,100, or 10.9%, above the FY 2025 budget due to an increase in compensation adjustments.
- A five-year trend analysis of fringe benefit expenditures is included below:

	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Proposed
Fringe Benefit Expenditures	\$ 4,139,640	\$ 4,075,812	\$ 5,496,872	\$ 6,685,000	\$ 6,708,500
As a % of Compensation	31.0%	26.2%	31.1%	35.0%	35.7%
Compensation	\$ 13,348,437	\$15,541,354	\$ 17,684,929	\$ 19,100,000	\$ 18,791,300
Annual % Change		-1.5%	34.9%	21.6%	0.4%

Operating Expenses

In FY 2026, the operating expenses are proposed at \$2,962,800 and consist of the following major items:

- ❖ Office Automation: \$1,724,600
- ❖ Miscellaneous: \$ 325,000
- ❖ Operating Contracts: \$ 200,000
- ❖ General and Administrative Contracts: \$ 154,300

- Operating expenses are expected to increase by \$208,100, or 7.6%, above the FY 2025 approved budget.
- The accompanying table compares the FY 2026. In two (2) of the categories, the FY 2026 Proposed Budget level increases compared to the FY 2025 approved level.

Operating Expenses	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2026 Proposed	FY 2025 - FY 2026	
			\$ Change	% Change
Miscellaneous	\$ 325,000	\$ 325,000	\$ -	0.0%
Office Automation	1,524,200	1,724,600	200,400	13.1%
Printing	16,300	16,300	-	0.0%
Vehicle Equipment Repair/Maintenance	102,700	110,400	7,700	7.5%
Gas and Oil	40,000	40,000	-	0.0%
General Office Supplies	74,000	74,000	-	0%
Membership Fees	20,000	20,000	-	0.0%
Mileage Reimbursement	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
Office and Operating Equipment Non-Capital	56,000	56,000	-	0%
Periodicals	44,900	44,900	-	0%
Telephone	78,500	78,500	-	0.0%
Travel: Non-Training	30,000	30,000	-	0%
Advertisements	-	-	-	0.0%
Training	82,700	82,700	-	0%
Equipment Lease	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
Operating Contracts	200,100	200,100	-	0.0%
Operating		-	-	100%
General & Administrative Contracts	154,300	154,300	-	0%
TOTAL	\$ 2,754,700	\$2,962,800	\$ 208,100	7.6%

The most significant increase between the FY 2026 Proposed Budget and the FY 2025 Approved Budget is in the Office Automation, which will be increased by \$200,400, or 13.1%. This is the result of a Countywide technology costs.

Recoveries

In FY 2026, recoveries are proposed at \$158,100, which is an increase of 173.5% below the FY 2025 Approved Budget level. The origins of the increase are due to recoverable costs from the Drug Enforcement and Education Special Revenue Fund.

Recoveries, FY 2023, FY 2024 and FY 2025				
Description	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Proposed
Asset Forfeiture Fund	\$ (158,100)	\$ (158,100)	\$ (158,100)	\$ (158,100)
Office of Problem Solving Court (OPSC)				-
Maryland Crime Intelligence Network (MCIN)				-
TOTAL	\$ (158,100)	\$ (158,100)	\$ (158,100)	\$ (158,100)

Highlights

Workload/Performance Trends

- The key workload indicator for the Office is the number of cases assigned to prosecutors. This number varies depending on staffing, crime trends, and budgetary realities.
- Assistant States Attorneys (ASAs) are assigned criminal and incarcerable traffic dockets based upon scheduling by the District Court. In January 2025, 314 defendants were charged with alcohol-related driving citations. There were 1,047 defendants scheduled for criminal cases, 65 defendants scheduled in the Circuit Court after an appeal from a District Court guilty finding or a jury demand filed in a District Court case, and more than 650 miscellaneous cases scheduled – violations of probation in both District Court and Circuit Court, citations, and reconsiderations in both Circuit Court and District Court.
- **The Major Crimes Unit** has nine (9) Assistant State’s Attorneys (“ASA”) currently servicing 226 indicted cases. The Unit is comprised of a Unit Chief, Assistant Chief, and seven (7) line attorneys. The standard case load is 30 cases per ASA. Currently, the line ASAs on average are carrying approximately 30 cases with the Chief and Assistant Chief carrying approximately nine (9) cases each. In 2024 the Major Crimes Unit was assigned a total of 802 cases.
- **The Narcotics Intelligence Unit** has 3 Assistant State’s Attorneys (“ASA”) currently servicing 110 indicted cases. The Unit is comprised of a Unit Chief, and 2 line attorneys. The standard case load is 30 cases per ASA. Currently, the 2 line ASAs on average are carrying approximately 55 cases. This is 83% more cases than standard. In 2024 the Narcotics Intelligence Unit was assigned a total of 292 cases.
- **Firearms Enforcement Unit** has four (4) Assistant State’s Attorneys (“ASA”) currently servicing 224 indicted cases. The Unit is comprised of a Unit Chief, and three (3) line attorneys. The standard case load is 30 cases per ASA. Currently, the line ASAs on average are carrying approximately 56 cases. This is 87% more cases than standard. In 2024 the Firearms Enforcement Unit was assigned a total of 688 cases.
- **The Post Trial Unit** has six (6) Assistant State’s Attorney’s (ASAs) divided into four (4) violation of probation (VOP) ASAs and two (2) post-conviction ASAs. The two (2) Post Conviction ASAs are currently servicing 74 petitions for post-conviction relief. The VOP case load is more defined by hearings than cases *per se* (because VOP attorneys handle any incoming case set for a VOP, motion for modification of sentence, or other post-trial hearing they are not tracked by cases assigned but by hearings held). In 2024 the VOP ASAs handled approximately 1,400 VOP hearings, 186 hearings on motions for modification of sentence, and 208 other post-trial hearings. The VOP unit also handles daily bond hearings (numbers are not tracked but usually between 2-10 every business day). The VOP unit is primarily responsible for all Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) requests.

Diversions Programs

- The Office provided the following information regarding participation in diversion programs:

“The SAO continues to use diversion and re-entry programs as useful tools for those nonviolent individuals who can benefit from an interventions of this type. For Back on Track, the Coordinator continues to work closely with the Firearms Enforcement and Narcotics Intelligence Units for referrals, as well as working closely with private and public defenders to inform them of the criteria for referral and participation in the program.

To increase the use of diversion programs in District Court, the Diversion Coordinator has once again begun training new ASAs on our program offerings/partnerships, as well as the diversion referral processes. The Diversion Coordinator also has a process for adding notes to Judicial Dialog to flag those cases that may be good candidates. Lastly, monitoring the diversion progress works best when the individual(s) are enrolled in a program that we are currently partnered with: Community Service (Dept of Corrections), Anger Management/Batterer’s Intervention (Calm Walk Oasis & Compassion Power), Alternative Resolution (FJC), & Mediation (PGCCRC)”.

Information Technology

- The vendor NICE was paid by DOJ grant funds in February 2025. The SAO is undergoing the implementation process for the new NICE digital evidence software. The office is currently undergoing the process in coordination with OIT.
- The Office received a Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy grant in March 2025 in the amount of \$100,000 to upgrade the Judicial Dialog which is the current Digital Dashboard.

Facilities

- The SAO has not acquired or relocated to any new facilities in FY 2025. There are no plans to acquire or relocate in FY26.
- The Hyattsville Office is used by District Court ASAs when they have court business at the Hyattsville Courthouse.
- The Grand Jury Unit, comprised of eight (8) ASAs and two (2) support staff, along with the entire complement of eleven (11) Investigators, are housed in the CAB (Upper Marlboro space).

Budget Comparison-Grants

Approved FY 2024 to Proposed FY 2026 – Grants

Category	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Approved	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Proposed	Change Amount	Percentage Change
Compensation	\$ 1,167,380	\$ 1,973,300	\$ 1,433,300	\$1,933,300	\$ (40,000)	-2.0%
Fringe Benefits	129,572	241,400	151,800	222,500	(18,900)	-7.8%
Operating Expenses	88,741	429,300	1,205,400	450,000	20,700	4.8%
Total	\$ 1,385,693	\$ 2,644,000	\$ 2,790,500	\$2,605,800	\$ (38,200)	-1.4%

Authorized Staffing Count - Grants				
	FY 2025 Approved	FY 2026 Proposed	Change Amount	Percentage Change
Limited Term	27	28	1	3.7%
Total	27	28	1	3.7%

Grant Highlights

- In FY 2026, the proposed Grant Fund is \$2,605,800, a decrease of \$38,200 or -1.4% above the FY 2025 Approved Budget. This decrease is caused by a reduction in funding from the Victims Advocacy Grant (VOCA)
- The Office’s FY 2026 proposed grant-funded staffing includes 28 limited-term positions, which is one (1) more than in FY 2025.
- The Office’s proposed major grants for FY 2026 are as follows:
 - 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.
 - Victim Advocacy Grant (\$670,700)- 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.
 - Vehicle Theft Prevention Program (\$164,500)- 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.

- Saturday Family Justice Academy - \$150,000- The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy provides coordinated advocacy, government, civil legal services and social services for victims of domestic violence and their children.
- Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA)- \$114,500- 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.