

ARLINGTON COUNTY FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION
REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

FY2017 PROPOSED BUDGET

BUDGET AREA:	Sheriff's Department
FAAC REVIEWERS:	Patrick Bogenberger, Peter Robertson, Tenley Peterson
DATE OF FAAC ACTION:	Feb. 29, 2016

FAAC Opinion

The Sheriff's Department has received modest increases in funding and FTEs over several years. The Virginia Department of Corrections and the American Correctional Association give the county's Sheriff's Department high marks. Nevertheless, the department has had several incidents within the facility, has frequent lockdowns, and spends significant amounts on overtime beyond what is in the budget.

The sheriff has stated that in order to run her facility safely, she needs significantly more staff. She cites a staffing study by an outside consulting firm as confirming her assertion. Recently the detention facility had to go on lockdown on a weekday because there were fewer than the standard minimum required staff on shift — a situation the sheriff called "scary." The sheriff would like a multi-year plan to implement the findings of the aforementioned staffing study.

FAAC Recommendation #1			
The FAAC recommends that the County Board approve the county manager's FY 2017 proposed budget for the Sheriff's Department.			
Vote:	Yes: 12	No: 0	Abstain: 0
Comment:	The proposed budget provides a four percent increase in funding and five additional FTEs.		

FAAC Recommendation #2			
The FAAC recommends that the County Board direct the county manager to work with the sheriff to develop a multi-year plan to address the staffing concerns raised by the findings of the staffing study to evaluate other potential efficiencies.			
Vote:	Yes: 12	No: 0	Abstain: 0

FAAC Recommendation #2

Comment:

- This would allow for additional, out-year increases to the Sheriff's Department's budget to be done in the context of a thoughtful approach that the sheriff is aware of and can plan for.
- The plan should evaluate budgetary and other considerations regarding the trade off between the cost of more FTEs and the costs of overtime.
- This process should include an evaluation of facilities, i.e., whether we can reconfigure facilities to decrease staffing needs.

Future Considerations

During wrap up, FAAC will vote on a recommendation to add more sworn officers to the Sheriff's Department using one-time funds that in FY 2018 can be paid for with funds becoming available from the ending of the agreement with Peumansend. These one-time funds would speed up the hiring of additional staff.

FAAC recommends the County Board also look at funds at closeout, mid year, and third quarter to help the sheriff increase staffing levels, particularly once the multi-year plan is developed in collaboration with the sheriff.

FAAC recommends that the sheriff have reasonable over-strength hiring authority as the Fire Department and Police Department apparently have.

FAAC recommends the county manager, DMF, and sheriff's department, with the assistance of the new HR specialist, look at the proper balance between the number of authorized FTEs and the amount of overtime.

The sheriff posited that money could be saved by the police and judges considering diversion tactics and non-incarceration options for serving sentences, respectively.

The sheriff relayed that the staffing study also pointed out structural deficiencies and outdated features of the jail and courthouse that will require additional funds in out-years.