

Response to Questions on the FY 2018 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Herrity

Question: Please provide information on whether any savings from lower jail populations is available that could potentially be applied to Diversion First.

Response: The jail's Average Daily Population (ADP) has declined significantly in recent years. The chart below summarizes the year-end ADP from FY 2010 through FY 2017:

Average ADP From FY 2010 thru FY 2017	
Fiscal Year	Average ADP
FY 2010	1,279
FY 2011	1,226
FY 2012	1,257
FY 2013	1,220
FY 2014	1,233
FY 2015	1,108
FY 2016	1,038
FY 2017 ¹	1,032

¹ FY 2017 numbers are through February

As noted in the chart, the current ADP is lower than it has been in the recent past. This is consistent with national trends; however, ADP is influenced by several factors and these make predicting ADP difficult and drawing conclusions from a review of ADP figures challenging. For example, the Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC) leaves its state-remanded inmates in the Fairfax Adult Detention Center (ADC) if there are insufficient or inappropriate beds for their inmates. Historically, these numbers add about 100-125 to the ADP. In recent years, the number has varied considerably and unpredictably. Using FY 2016 as an example, DOC inmates (out-of-compliance inmates) ranged from a high of 179 to a low of 119. The out-of-compliance inmates peaked in FY 2014 at 246, but in January of this year, they are back down to 114. These numbers, which are part of the ADP, are erratic and often mask trends in the ADP. In addition, ADP trends can reverse suddenly and rapidly.

As 85% of the Sheriff's budget made up of personnel costs, any substantive savings needs to come from the personnel side of the budget. It is important to note that since FY 2010, approximately \$7.5 million in personnel budget cuts have been made, including a \$250,000 reduction in the FY 2018 Advertised Budget Plan. These reductions have been the result of several factors, such as significant reductions in overtime and through eliminating the vast majority of non-mandated programs. Cost savings as a result of the declining ADP have also been recognized.

With regards to the Diversion First program specifically, it is too early to determine the specific impact the program is having on the jail population. Of note, the ADP in June 2016, just prior to the formal start of the Diversion First program, was 992. The average FY 2017 ADP (from July 2016 through February 2017) has been 1032. As noted above, there are several distinct factors, which influence ADP; however, given that ADP has actually gone up slightly since the program's inception, identifying budget savings in the Office of the Sheriff budget directly attributable to Diversion First is not possible at this time.

What follows is some additional background on the Office of the Sheriff budget, provided to give additional context on why achieving savings is difficult. In the FY 2017 budget, non-personnel expenses are less than 15% of the total Office of the Sheriff budget. Within that amount, only 19% (or 3% of the total budget) of the expenses are directly determined by the number of inmates. While the unit costs for these non-personnel expenses have been rising, no budget increases for these expenses have been requested or funded since FY 2009. For example, by far the greatest expense directly related to the number of inmates is meals. In FY 2010 there were (on average) 1,279 inmates compared to 1,038 inmates in FY 2016; however, because the contracted unit price has increased, the annual expense is about the same.

Another example is the cost of inmate health care, which has gone up dramatically. Based on a study completed for the Commonwealth this past year, pharmacy costs per inmate for non-psychotropic drugs have increased 92% between FY 2010 and FY 2016. Although the ADP decreased from 1,279 in FY 2010 to 1,038 by the end of FY 2016, annual pharmacy costs have risen by \$233,000, an amount that has been managed within the existing Office the Sheriff budget.

In sum, the ADP is unpredictable, and susceptible to many different factors. The Office of the Sheriff cannot predict in budget preparation that the population is going to continue to go down, especially now that ADP is at the lowest level seen since FY 2001. The trend can reverse suddenly and rapidly as evidenced by the period of significant growth from FY 2001 through FY 2008 followed by recent year trends that have shown a decrease. To keep from overspending, at least a modest increase must always be assumed. The Sheriff's Office will continue to monitor the ADP and the non-personnel expenses on a monthly basis and allocate resources accordingly.