

**City of Alexandria, Virginia**  
**FY 2027 Proposed Operating Budget & CIP**  
**Budget Questions & Answers**

**April 7, 2026**

**Question:**

What would it cost for staff to hire a consultant to conduct a jail operations study?

**Response:**

The cost of hiring a consultant to conduct a jail operations study (or analyze other cost-benefit questions) would be determined through competitive bidding. If City Council would like to fund this option in the budget, staff recommends an estimated range between \$200,000 and \$250,000 in one-time funding. This estimate is dependent on several variables, including the scope of work, the size and complexity of the jail, community engagement and the depth of analysis required. Staff notes that a study narrower in scope could be accomplished for approximately \$100,000 in one-time funding.