



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2024.** Please include this submission form with the electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).


PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Scott
Program Title: S.C.O.T.T Service Program
Program Category: Community & Economic Development; Organizational Development;

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jessica Keith
Title: Director - S.C.O.T.T. Service
Department: Scott County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office
Telephone: 276-386-2576 Website: _____
Email: cwa169@scottcountyva.com

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Freda R. Starnes
Title: County Administrator
Signature: 

PROGRAM CATEGORY

Community & Economic Development

Organizational Development

PROBLEM/CHALLENGE/SITUATION

The Southwest Virginia Regional Jail - Duffield Facility is the primary housing location for inmates from the Counties of Scott, Lee, Wise, and the City of Norton. Housing inmates at the facility is a cost incurred to the county each year, based on average daily population (ADP). In 2019-2020, Scott County's jail cost exceeded \$1.9 million, in 2020-2021, the cost exceeded \$3.4 million. With these rising costs, Scott County needed an avenue to reduce the strain of the jail cost.

AWARD CRITERIA

Scott County was fortunate to have an **innovative**, forward thinking Commonwealth's Attorney who recognized the burden on the county and developed a program to offset the rising jail costs through a structured, supportive empowerment program. S.C.O.T.T. (Scott Occupational Training and Treatment) Service Program was established on July 1, 2019 and designed to provide the locality with an alternative sentencing option and pre-trial diversion program. S.C.O.T.T. Service envisions bridging the gap between probation and incarceration. Participants receive guided support while committed to the boundaries outlined in the program handbook and court sentencing documents. These individuals are identified through a rigorous process; most often needing more than state supervised probation can offer but from a sentencing perspective may not necessarily require the confines of incarceration. Program enrollment fundamentals include a review of the current charges, a thorough assessment into the individual's prior criminal history, and a willingness to commit to restrictions set forth by the court. A punitive obligation is also required. Program participants on average complete their obligation to the program within 12 months. During this time, they have multiple court appearances to review progress and address any barriers to success. While offsetting jail costs, the true heart of the program is tailored to the individual; creating work experience, developing a sober living skillset and encouraging

productivity. Participants are required to follow stringent requirements for the duration of their time in the program.

S.C.O.T.T. Service generates a major cost savings to the county not only through jail cost savings but further creates an opportunity for participation in county capital improvement projects and **partnerships** with local agencies that VDOT, Scott County Litter Control, Scott County Public Schools, and Scott County local government offices. The program encourages participants to use their skillsets to promote self-confidence and increased self-esteem. This platform enables individuals identified through the court system to develop their marketable skills, encourage mental health treatment, if necessary, and provides continual support to maintain a sober lifestyle. Participants are required to engage in community service, practical workforce instruction, meet educational milestones, and gain self-confidence to ensure success and decrease recidivism.

Program Coordinators are assigned participants and work with each participant to develop and meet personal and professional goals. Participants have the opportunity to obtain their General Education Diploma while in the program, receive on the job skills training, and commit to mental and substance abuse therapies while being actively held accountable under the direction of these coordinators.

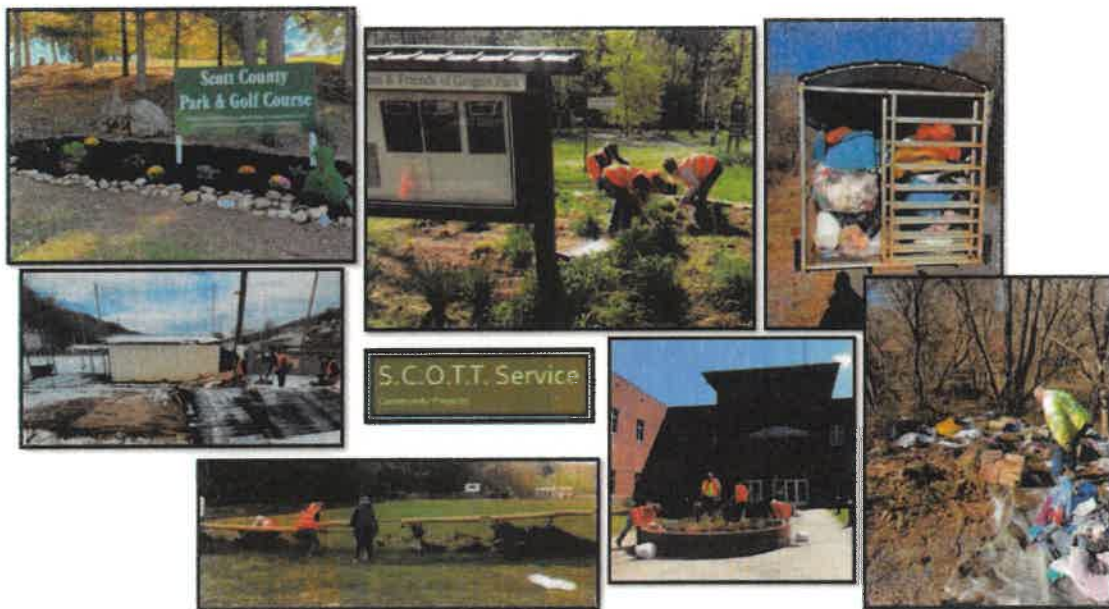
Random drug screenings and the monitoring of cellular GPS tracking devices are another way participants are held accountable and monitored by coordinators to increase said accountability.

Funding for the SCOTT Service program was allocated by the Board of Supervisors in 2019, and included salaries for a program administrator, a dedicated attorney and two coordinators to work directly with the participants. A **collaborative** partnership between the Board of Supervisors and the Commonwealth Attorney's office was established. The goal was common and is still shared today – reduce the county's regional jail cost by allowing SCOTT Service to act as liaisons between justice involved individuals and the court system. The SCOTT Service Program could serve as a **model for other localities** who are

proactively looking to reduce regional jail costs and implement an alternative sentencing structure for individuals that qualify in the regional jail system.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The SCOTT Service Program was established in 2019 as an alternative to incarceration of inmates at the newly established Duffield Regional Jail. The program helps inmates to establish personal accountability and work responsibilities. Selected inmates become program participants and must pay a monthly fee once enrollment into the program has been accepted. They must submit to random drug/alcohol screenings and agree to work responsibilities assigned. Assignments can include litter pick-up along county highways, park revitalization projects, and maintenance projects for schools or county, mowing grass, among many more. The assignments are made by the coordinators who oversee the participants. In the five years that the program has been in place, Scott County has seen a 30% decrease in Regional Jail Costs (approximately \$2.0M). This savings includes the program administrative fees such as the administrator, attorney and coordinator salaries. Alternative sentencing may have been the fundamental reason for the program, but the heart of the program is in those who work with the participants. They have helped participants obtain General Education Diplomas, learn new skillsets, build confidence, apply for jobs and turn to a sober lifestyle.



BREIF OVERVIEW

Scott County's S.C.O.T.T. Service Program is a collaborative effort between Scott County and Duffield Regional Jail. The program serves as an alternative to incarceration, by removing the inmate from the jail and placing them in the work program. The participants are identified through a rigorous process, including a review of their current charges, a thorough assessment into their prior criminal history and a willingness to commit to restrictions set forth by the court along with a punitive obligation. The program has been in place since 2019 when the first participant entered the program. The program coordinators oversee the participants by coordinating their community service, helping them meet educational milestones and gain practical workforce instruction. This encourages the participants to gain self-confidence, decrease recidivism and develop sober living skillsets. Not only is the program successful on a personal basis, the county is able to realize the program value based on the jail costs to the county each year. Over the course of the program, the county has seen a 30% decrease in costs.