



AMHERST COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



School Safety Program

“Protecting our future”

Significant Events

- 1992-2012
 - Approx. 530 violent deaths in America's schools
 - Approx. 221 injured in school shootings

- Well known events:
 - Columbine – 1999
 - Virginia Tech – 2007
 - Sandy Hook – 2012



Proposal Overview

- Add 11 School Resource Officer (SRO) positions
- Improvements to security measures of public school facilities (i.e. door locks, video monitoring, security doors, etc...)
- Improvement to communications within public school facilities

**School
Resource
Officers**

School Resource Officers

- History in Amherst County
 - First SRO placed at ACHS in 1996
 - At its peak there were (5) SRO's in the school system
- Current Status
 - (1) SRO at ACHS
 - Reduced as a result of multiple budget cuts in recent years

Costs of SRO's

- Total cost to hire, train, equip, and pay:
 - First year = \$1,045,990 (approx. \$95,090 per)
 - Subsequent years = \$638,946



SRO's vs. Security Guards

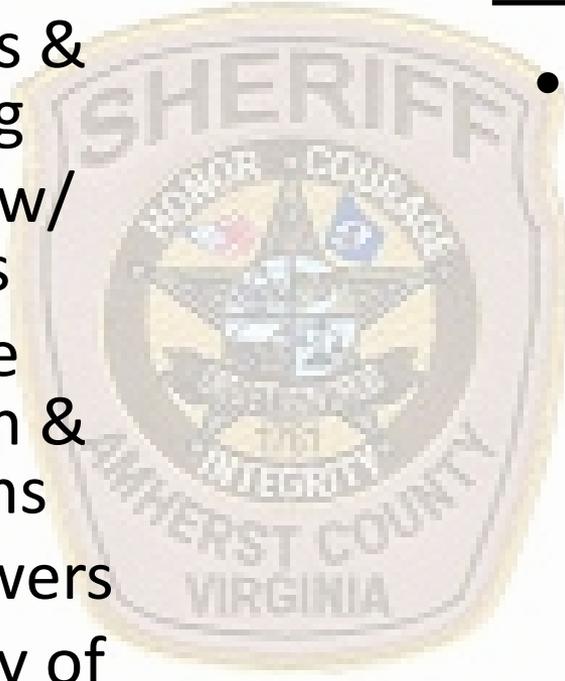
SRO's

Advantage

- Standards & Training
- Rapport w/ Students
 - Provide education & programs
- Arrest powers
- Uniformity of School Safety/Security Programs

Disadvantage

- Cost



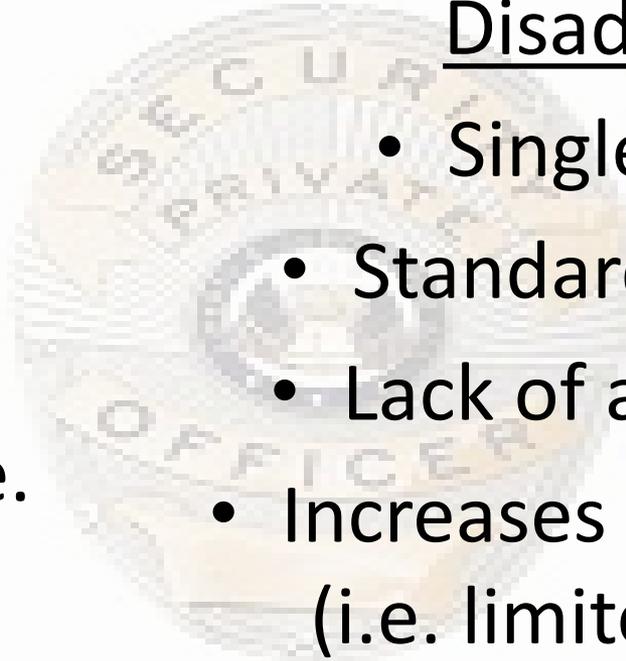
Security Guards

Advantage

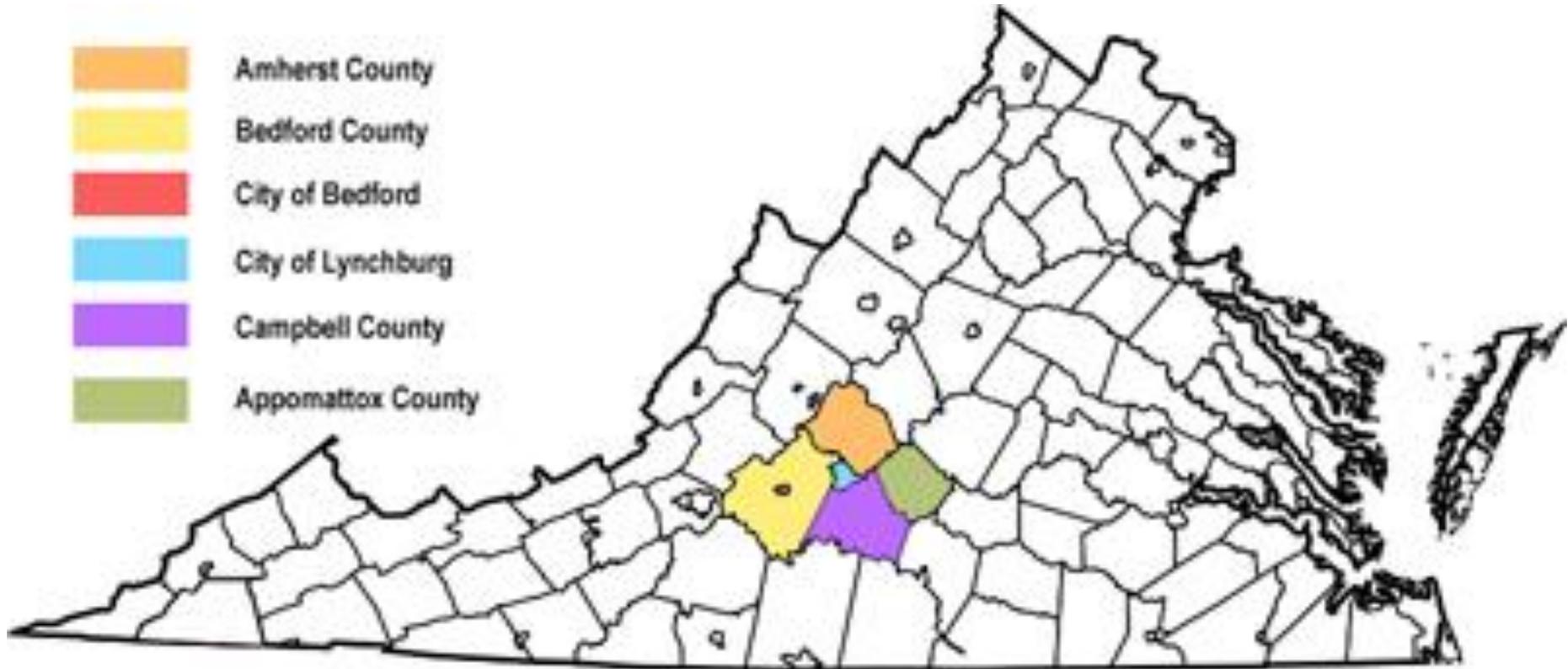
- Cost
- Reduces some liabilities (i.e. Worker's Comp)

Disadvantage

- Single Function
- Standards & Training
- Lack of arrest powers
- Increases some liabilities (i.e. limited immunities using non-sworn personnel)



What are other localities doing?



What are other localities doing?

- Similar plan proposed in Pittsylvania County

Amherst County

Bedford County

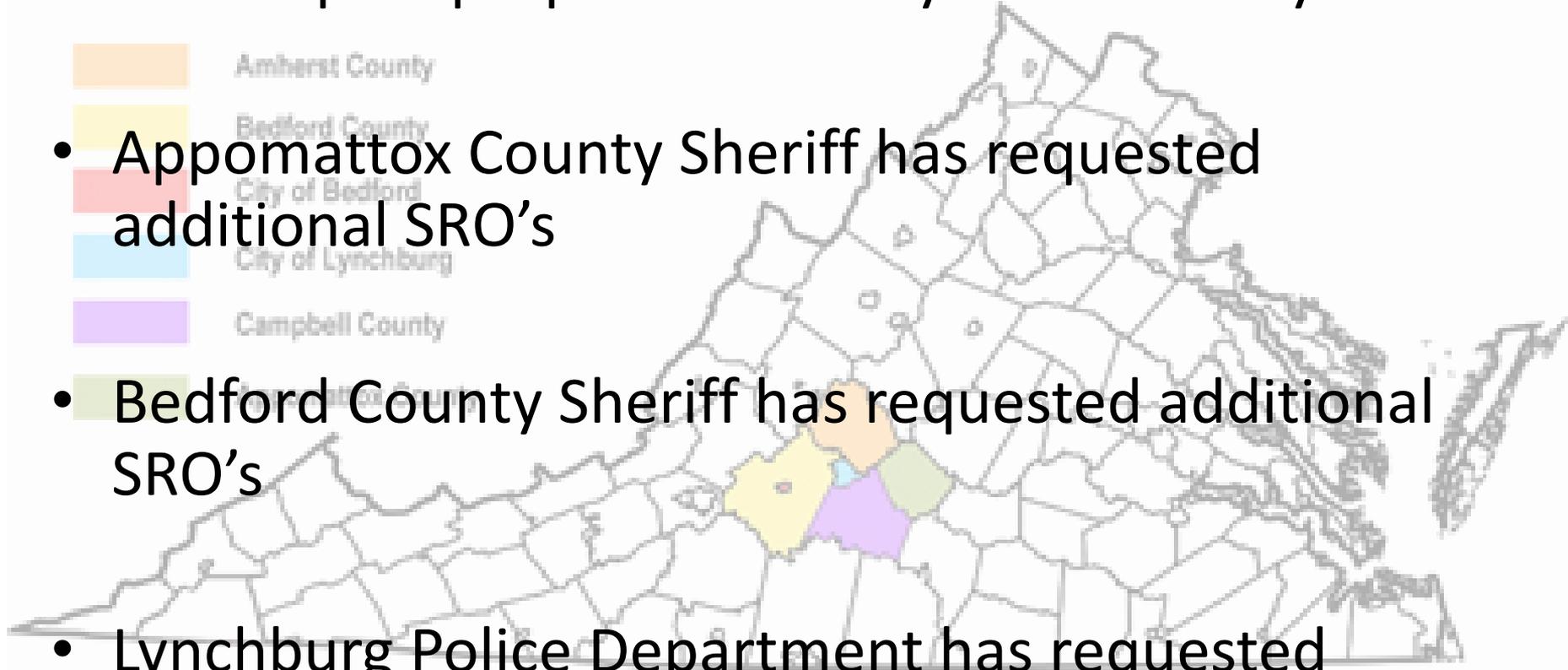
City of Bedford

City of Lynchburg

Campbell County

- Appomattox County Sheriff has requested additional SRO's
- Bedford County Sheriff has requested additional SRO's

- Lynchburg Police Department has requested additional SRO's



Facilities Improvement

Facilities Improvements

- From School CIP (results from previous security survey)
- Total cost of \$2,072,469
- Includes:
 - Door Upgrades
 - Security Vestibules
 - Key System
 - Security Cameras
 - Traffic Bollards



Communications

Communications

- Identified need to have a uniform system of communication
- No selected system or cost estimates



Plan Logistics

Funding

- Proposed real estate tax rate increase of .05 would generate approximately \$1,170,000
- First Year –
 - Expand SRO Program
 - Provide some facility security improvements
 - Provide some communications solution

Funding

- Subsequent Years –
 - Sustain SRO Salaries
 - Provide and maintain facility security improvements
 - Provide and maintain communications solution

Program Management

- Funding placed in a “lock box”
 - Separate from School’s or Sheriff’s Budgets
- Appropriations made through requests to Board of Supervisors



It is my desire that one of these never be erected near one of our schools.

“It takes an entire village to raise a child”

We must do our part to provide a school environment that is as safe and secure as possible for our children.