

OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL



Presenter(s):
Steve Dingle

Department Overview

Mission: To provide quality services within sound fiscal practices

- Legal Services
- Risk Management
 - General Liability, Insurance
 - Workers' Compensation

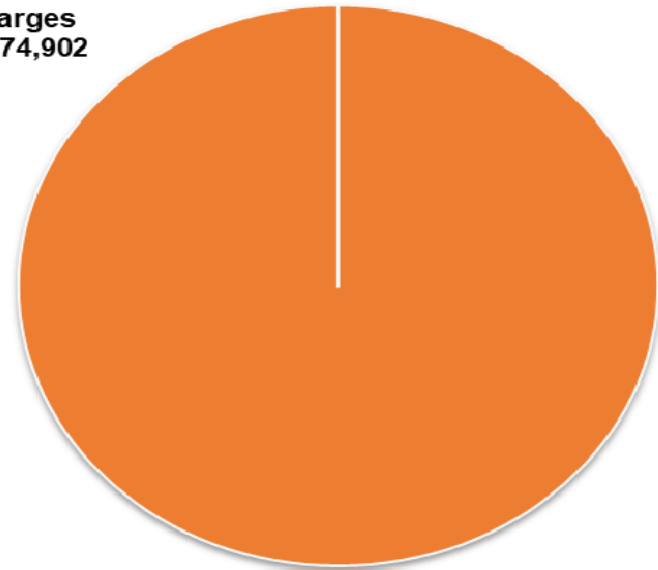


FY 21-22 Budget Details

21-22 RESOURCES

- The Indirect Plan is County Counsel's Sole Revenue Source

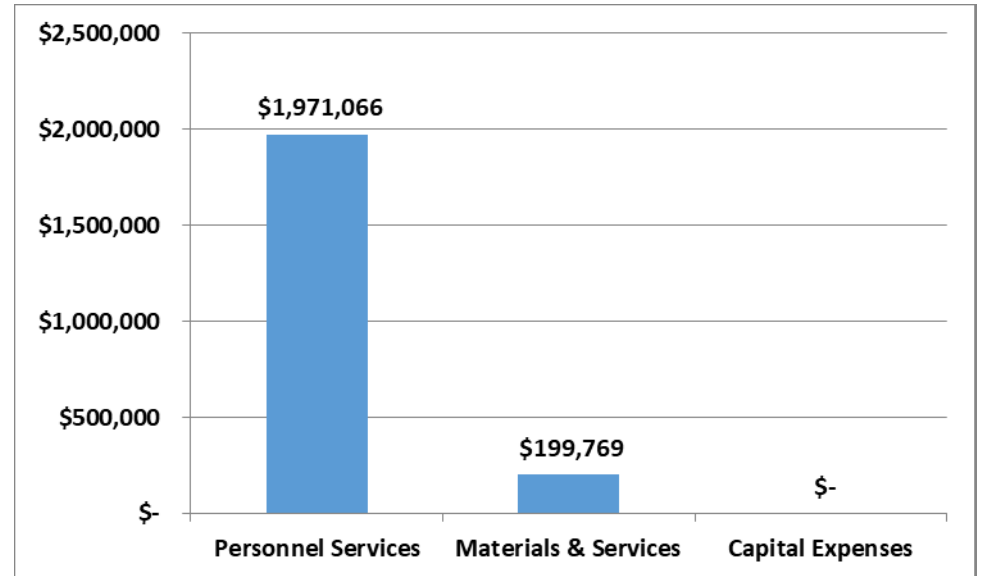
Administrative
Charges
\$1,874,902



FY 21-22 Budget Details

21-22 EXPENDITURES

Legal Services has added an Assistant County Counsel 2 position (one FTE) beginning in FY22. The associated expenses have increased the program budget accordingly.



FY 20-21 In Review

COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts

The COVID-19 Pandemic response required the department's workload to be redirected. Duties included:

- Providing legal advice regarding emergencies and planning;
- Assisting with contracts for emergency procurements;
- Increased OSHA complaint investigation and response.



FY 20-21 In Review

Holiday Farm Fire Impacts

The Holiday Farm Fire response required the department's workload to be further redirected. Duties included:

- Providing legal advice regarding emergencies and planning;
- Assisting with contracts for emergency procurements;
- Providing legal advice regarding district formation question and land use planning issues.



Department Programs

- *Legal Services* provides quality legal advice to County departments in almost all legal matters. This program currently consists of six attorneys (increasing to seven in FY22) and three support staff.
- *Risk Management* resolves third party claims, seeks recovery for damaged County property, procures property and excess insurance coverages, and administers the Workers' Compensation program. This program consists of one program manager and one management analyst.

FTE: 12.00

Proposed FY 21-22 Resources: \$1,874,902 Expenses: \$2,170,835



Highlights of FY 20-21 Outcomes

Partnered with ODOT and local entities to have approximately 7 miles of London Road declared a safety corridor, which doubles traffic fines in an effort to increase safety.

Responded to:
27 union grievances
7 demands to bargain
3 BOLI/EEOC complaints

Received **\$28,437** from the State of Oregon as reimbursement for WC modified duty wages

Received **255**
Public Records Requests

Authority **Written** **RULES** **Implied**
LAW **State**
STATUTES
Federal **Code** **Government**
Regulations **Land Use** **Policies** **Safety**

Recovered over **\$83,994**
for damages to
County-owned property

Investigated and responded to **10** COVID-19 OSHA complaints. The County was found in compliance and no penalties were imposed.

Implemented electronic bid documents and bidding for Public Works construction projects.

Strategized and Implemented notification and recording requirements for properties on Local Access Roads.



Future Challenges & Opportunities

- Several attorneys in the office are eligible to retire; one challenge facing the office is continuing to provide exemplary services to our clients while undertaking the succession planning process.
- Successfully manage the risk and liability challenges associated with important new mental health/criminal justice initiatives.
- Negotiate contract terms in our agreements with the state that are fair to both parties and fairly and fully compensate the County for its services.
- Continue Lane Code and Lane Manual conversion to web-based format with current staffing level.





Lane County Strategic Plan

Safe, Healthy County

- Provide training to employees to reduce litigation exposures and preserve County funds.

Vibrant Communities

- Provide fast, accurate service and advice to County personnel to assist staff in improving services provided to the community.

Robust Infrastructure

- Protect County resources to ensure funds are used to protect the infrastructure and provide services to the community.

Our People & Partnerships

- Partner with local law schools to identify law student interns, which provides experience to the student and maximizes County resources by providing research assistance to County attorneys.



Measuring Performance

- ❑ *Percentage of Public Records Request's acknowledged within 5 calendar days.* This measurement is important because the County is required by law to respond within a specified timeframe, as well as providing good customer service to citizens by responding quickly. This measurement contributes to the Strategic Plan's Vibrant Communities category.
- ❑ *Percentage of cost savings for in house legal services compared to outside counsel.* This measurement falls under the Strategic Plan category of Robust Infrastructure by focusing on good stewardship of public funds. In house counsel provides fiscally conservative service with a much faster response time than outside counsel could provide.
- ❑ *Number of trainings conducted each year focused on reducing potential litigation exposures.* This measurement falls under the Safe, Healthy County category; employees who are adequately trained are less likely to suffer on-the-job injuries and/or cause damage to third party property and county equipment.

Performance measures can be found on page 153 of the Proposed Budget Document



Questions?

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- *Up Next: 5 min. Break then Public Works*



FY 21-22 Proposed Budget Presentation