

DEPARTMENT OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY



Presenter: Patty Perlow

Department Overview

Mission: Strive to improve public safety and quality of life by prosecuting the guilty, protecting the innocent, securing appropriate support for children and families, and determining cause and manner of death in all cases of traumatic or unattended death.

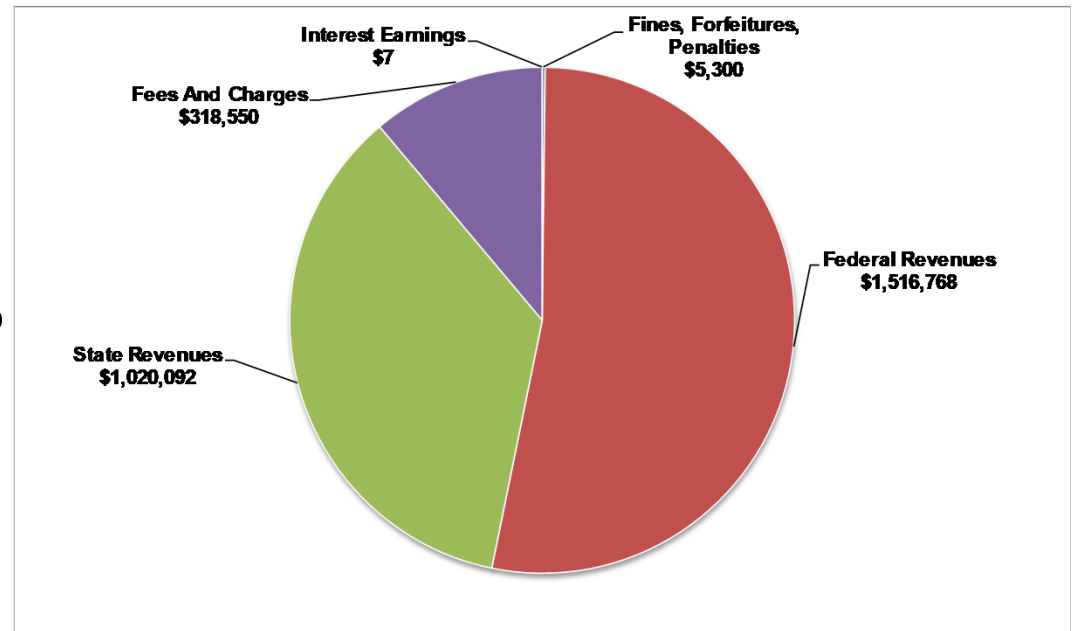
- Criminal Prosecution Division, including Juvenile
- Family Law Division
- Support Services Division, including Victim Services, Death Investigations, Prosecution Clerical Staff



FY 21-22 Budget Details

21-22 RESOURCES

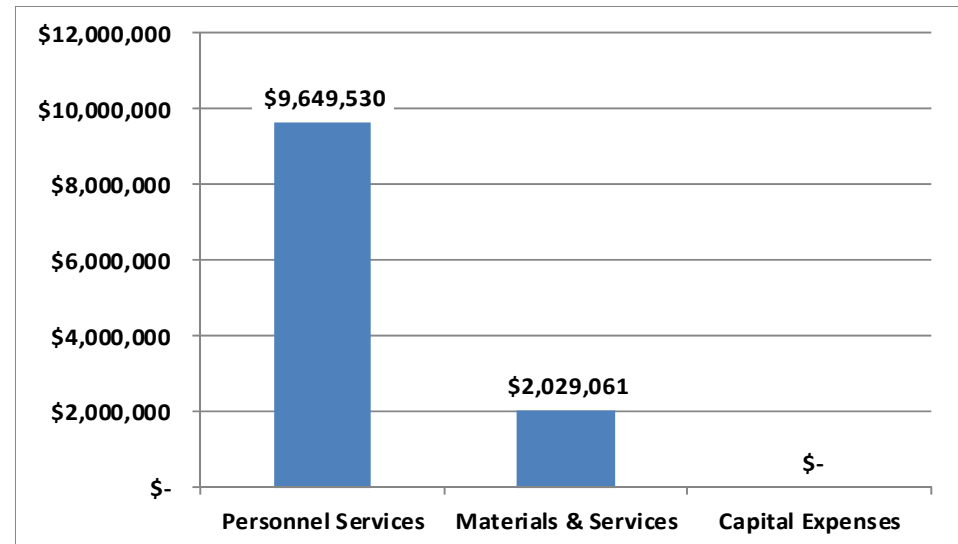
- Victim Services Grants – expected 10% reduction
- ODOT Grant ending, DUII Investigator moving to 100% GF
- Total Department GF usage \$8,805,357



FY 21-22 Budget Details

21-22 EXPENDITURES

- Personnel – in negotiations for our represented employees
- Death Investigations:
 - ▣ Cost of transportation for autopsy increasing
 - ▣ PeaceHealth back to billing for imaging & lab work
- Specific, unpredictable expenses: Expert witness fees, out of state witness travel, fees charged for records and transcripts, increasing costs of technical training and membership fees, Grand Jury recordation.



FY 20-21 In Review

COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts

- As of this writing, Lane County Circuit Court has not returned to pre-pandemic operations. We have over 2,500 pending cases from 2019 to present.
- The Death Investigations division was impacted financially due to the increase of supplies required as well as cost. For suspected COVID deaths outside of the hospital, jurisdiction was assumed in order to perform a postmortem COVID swab. In turn that increased the number of deaths under our jurisdiction, requiring a more lengthy investigation process. The impact of investigating additional deaths created a backlog of work, and many more hours worked than the expected 40 hour week by investigators.
- COVID-19 restrictions required modifications to the restraining order clinic and services provided by the Victim/Witness program. While paid staff continued to provide all mandated services, volunteers were sent home March 23, 2020 and returned mid-April 2021, resulting in a loss of over 4,500 volunteer hours in the office providing services to crime victims.



FY 20-21 In Review

COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts

- Family Law, despite court hearings that were limited or unavailable during most of 2020, collected almost \$21 million in child support payments to Lane County families. Court limitations on the issuance of bench warrants required investigator time to serve an increased number of citations for court proceedings.
- Prosecution Clerical Support was impacted by the physical limitations of the workplace, and the inability to safely practice social distancing. Staff were placed on an alternating schedule to reduce staff in the workplace and those whose job duties allowed, were set up for teleworking. Modifications were made to workstations to provide physical distancing and once the County moved to moderate risk, all staff returned to the office. Work slowed to an unacceptable level.
- Office lobbies in all divisions were closed at noon during High and Extreme Risk conditions, remaining accessible to the public by telephone.



FY 20-21 In Review

Holiday Farm Fire Impacts

- The Holiday Farm Fire impacted Death Investigations in an abrupt and intense way. While continuing to work through the challenges of the pandemic, the fire immediately required a full-time investigator to be removed from the schedule and assigned to work directly with the Lane County Sheriff's Office and Search & Rescue. The Lead Investigator and Search and Rescue Coordinator created a county wide system of the recovery of remains. This assignment lasted two weeks and significantly impacted the workload of the other investigators.



Criminal Division

Mission: Investigate and prosecute violations of Oregon criminal statutes, and assist the Juvenile court.

- Teams: Major Crimes, Domestic Violence, 2 General Felony & Misdemeanor; one attorney assigned to juvenile; one attorney assigned to treatment courts (Drug, Veteran, Mental Health).
- Three investigators and six attorneys on call to assist law enforcement.
- Other statutorily required tasks outside of prosecution include public records appeals, expungements, and motions regarding sex offender registration requirements and license reinstatement.
- Mandated recording of Grand Jury proceedings began July 1, 2019, with no reimbursement from the State for attorney time to review transcripts in preparation of trial, protective orders, or paralegal time to process recordings and provide discovery. The State will cover the cost of transcripts with a contracted service.

FTE: 28.00

Proposed FY 21-22 Resources: \$607,140 Expenses: \$6,169,289



Family Law Division

Mission: Enforce child support and health care coverage orders, establish paternity, establish new child support and health care coverage orders, and modify existing support orders in conformance with the Oregon Child Support Guidelines. The Division provides these services in compliance with Federal and State statutes and regulations.

- Secures appropriate support for children and families.
- Works to increase parent compliance with health care coverage orders for children.
- Funded by a Federal grant passed to us by the Oregon Department of Justice, which reimburses 66% of the costs of providing Child Support Enforcement

FTE: 14.00

Proposed FY 21-22 Resources: \$1,647,652 Expenses: \$2,234,139



Support Services Division

- *Mission: Provide comprehensive services to crime victims in order to guarantee that victims' constitutional and statutory rights are upheld; investigate unattended or non-natural deaths that are required by ORS Chapter 146; and provide clerical support to criminal division attorneys.*
- Victim/Witness Program provides victim notification; restitution investigation and documentation; assisting victims filing for protective orders; referring victims to other community agencies; counseling referral as appropriate; assisting victims with filing claims with the State of Oregon Crime Victims' Compensation program, and providing culturally appropriate support through the criminal justice process.
- Death Investigations include apparent homicides, suicides, accidents, unattended deaths or those under suspicious or unknown circumstances; determining the cause and manner of death. The division also investigates found bones; determining if they are human versus non-human, determining identity and establishing the cause and manner of death with three FTE investigators and extra help.
- Prosecution Clerical staff provide assistance with case management, dockets, court filings, discovery, and records management.

FTE: 14.00

Proposed FY 21-22 Resources: \$1,647,652 Expenses: \$2,234,139



Highlights of FY 20-21 Outcomes

\$21,000,000/3,900:

Child support collected
/cases handled by Family
Law

12,829/2,649:

Services provided/crime
victims served by Victim
Services

6,587

Referrals to the Criminal
Division from Lane
County Law Enforcement

1,200:

Unattended or suspicious
deaths investigated

1440:

Petitioners assisted with
Protective Orders

13/8:

Veterans Court
Graduates in 2019/2020

44/27:

Drug Court Graduates in
2019/2020

5/7:

Mental Health Court
Graduates in 2019/2020



Future Challenges & Opportunities

Budget is status quo; no changes in services or FTE.

At some point in the near future, it will be necessary to reinstate the Chief Deputy position.

Investment in updated technology needed for trial and Grand Jury presentations.





Lane County Strategic Plan

Safe, Healthy County

- Holding offenders accountable.
- Utilizing DUII/fatality investigator
- Working to initiate a DUII court.
- Watching for disease trends in cause of death.
- Enforcing support, medical care and education for children.

Vibrant Communities

- Ensuring all victims in our community have access to services regardless of language or other barriers.
- Participating in programs designed to empower people that commit crimes due to alcohol, drugs, or mental illness to obtain tools to address the disease and move out of the criminal justice system fully engaged in the community.

Robust Infrastructure

- Taking care of our aging and inadequate facility.
- Working for improved security of existing facilities.

Our People & Partnerships

- Recruiting, hiring, and retaining employees who actively work to support our department and countywide missions.
- Partnering with agencies to improve outcomes for those who come in contact with our department.



Measuring Performance

The District Attorney's Office has chosen the following Performance Measures:

- Collection of Child Support (Safe, Healthy, County), enforcing support, medical care and education for children.
- Attempt to contact 100% of victims to offer service by Victim/Witness program (Vibrant Communities), ensuring all victims in our community have access to services regardless of language or other barriers.
- Resolve cases through increased utilization of Drug Court, Mental Health Treatment Court, Veterans Court, and the 416 Program (Vibrant Communities), participating in programs designed to empower people that commit crimes due to alcohol, drugs, or mental illness to obtain tools to address the disease and move out of the criminal justice system and engage in the community.

Performance measures can be found on page 167 of the Proposed Budget Document



Questions?

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□ *Up Next: Sheriff's Office*



FY 21-22 Proposed Budget Presentation