

DEPARTMENT OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY



Presenter: Patricia W. Perlow,
District Attorney

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.

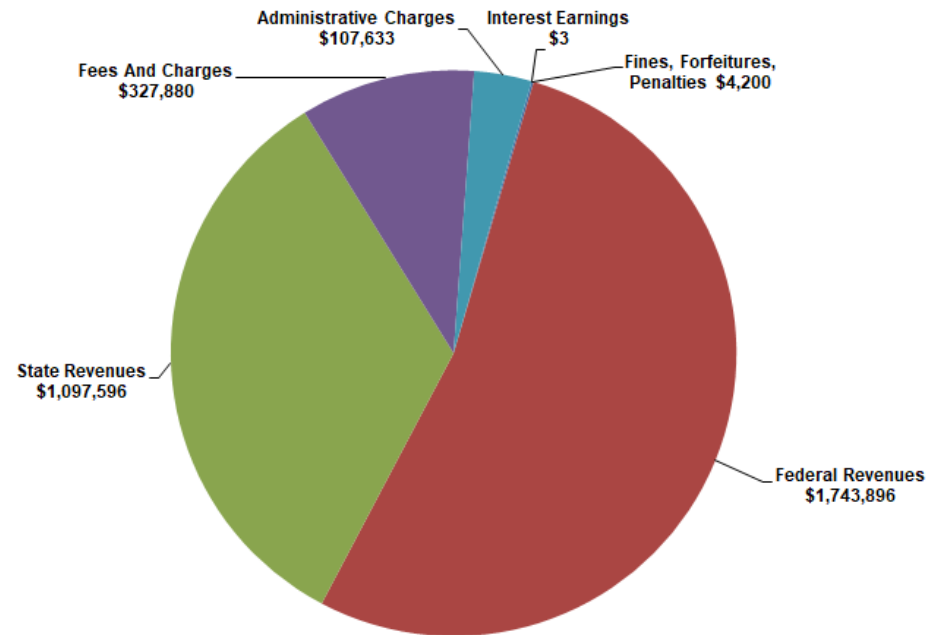
- Criminal Prosecution Division, including Juvenile
- Family Law Division
- Support Services Division, including Victim Services, Death Investigations, Prosecution Clerical Staff



FY 22-23 Budget Details

22-23 RESOURCES

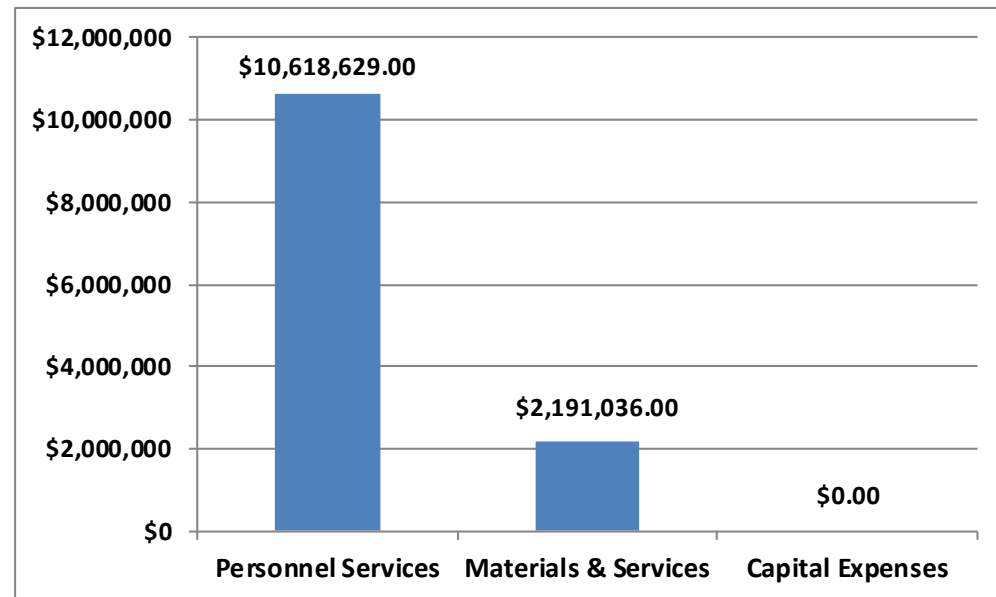
- County general fund
- Grants
 - Child Support Program
 - VAWA
 - VOCA/CFA
- 'Discovery' Fees



FY 22-23 Budget Details

22-23 EXPENDITURES

- Personnel Costs up
 - ▣ +2.0 FTE Paralegal
- Other costs holding steady



Criminal Division

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

- Teams: Major Crimes, Domestic Violence, 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.

FTE: 28.0

Proposed FY 22-23 Resources: \$600,357 Expenses: \$6,459,828



FY 22-23 Changes

- Recruiting continues to be a challenge while caseloads remain high. COVID backlog of over 600 cases awaiting trial.
- Complexity of cases and additional legislative/appellate changes adding to workload.



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: 15.00

Proposed FY 22-23 Resources: \$1,872,119 Expenses: \$2,530,494



FY 22-23 Changes

- Children require consistent financial support more than ever, but family financial resources are strained for many as a result of the pandemic.



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 four FTE investigators and extra help.
- Prosecution Clerical staff provide assistance with case management, dockets, court filings, discovery, and records management.

FTE: 33.0

Proposed FY 22-23 Resources: \$808,732 Expenses: \$3,819,343



FY 22-23 Changes

- Number of drug-related fatalities is expected to continue to increase.
- The increased workload described in the Criminal Division will have a direct impact on Prosecution Clerical Support, hence the addition of 2.0 FTE Paralegals.





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 & Organizational Health

- 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.




FY 22-23 Key Initiatives

Crime Victims served

Collection of Child Support

Cases resolved through alternatives: Specialty Courts and 416 (non-violent repeat offenders) Program

Measuring Performance

Performance Measures			FY 19-20 Actuals	FY 20-21 Actuals	FY 21-22 Projected	FY 22-23 Proposed
	1.a.	Collection of Child Support	\$19,000,000	\$21,000,000	\$19,500,000	\$20,000,000
	1.a.	Number of victims served by Victim/Witness program	2,446	2,649	2,574	2,300
	1.a.1	Resolve cases through increased utilization of Drug Court (DC), Veterans Court (Vets), Mental Health Treatment Court (MHC), and the 416 Program.	42-DC, 17-Vets, 2-MHC, 16-416	30-DC, 9-Vets, 11-MHC, 7-416	8-DC, 3-Vets, 9-MHC, 18-416	65-DC, 15-Vets, 15-MHC, 22-416



Future Challenges & Opportunities

Grant funding ended for the traffic investigator 9/30/21, however, the General Fund is paying for the remainder of FY21/22, for all of FY22-23, and ongoing. Grant funding ended for the SB 416 prosecutors on 6/30/20, and those two positions have been covered by the General Fund. Grant funding will end for the treatment court prosecutor 6/30/22 if Lane County's appeal to the Criminal Justice Commission is unsuccessful.

Due to legislative and appellate decisions and the vast amount of video in criminal cases, workload has increased in all areas and prosecuting cases has become more complex. More and better training is essential.

American Rescue Plan Act funds were approved for a 4th Deputy Medical Legal Death Investigator.

Our work area in the Courthouse is insufficient in size, inefficient, and out dated. There are many upgrades needed for example restroom updates, carpet replacement, painting, and various other upgrades. There is opportunity to move us out of this space with the loss of tenants in downtown offices, either permanently or to allow for repair to the Courthouse.



Questions?

- *Up Next: Sheriff's Office*

