

Attorney

Department Overview

The Office of County Attorney prosecutes all felony crimes committed in the County, as well as all misdemeanor crimes committed outside of the limits of the incorporated cities and towns. The office handles all cases of abuse and neglect of children, and cases involving delinquent juveniles. The office ensures that crime victims are treated fairly and are kept up-to-date regarding the status of their case, both before and after sentencing. The County Attorney promotes public safety and ensures offender accountability by handling criminal caseload; advocating for victims and victim's rights; facilitating financial restitution for victims; creating and refining processes to deal with criminal justice issues; providing sound legal advice to all offices, departments, and local government entities; and providing good representation for the County in all civil cases.

Staffing for the office includes: six administrative support positions; eight criminal, youth and juvenile prosecutors; two civil attorneys; the County Attorney; and one victim/witness support position. The department also reviews, monitors, and bills third party insurance for payment of mental evaluations within the County.

Department Goals

- To protect public safety and ensure offender accountability.
- To advocate for victims and victim's rights.
- To facilitate financial restitution for victims.
- To create and refine processes to deal with criminal justice issues.
- To provide sound legal advice to all County offices, departments and local government entities.
- To provide good representation for the County in all civil cases.

Recent Accomplishments

- County Attorney Lambert and Regional Public Defender Peter Ohman started the Virgil Project, a team of criminal justice professionals dedicated to dealing with mentally-ill persons in Gallatin County's criminal justice system. As of June 30, 2013 the Virgil Project has 16 active participants.
- Working in conjunction with state and local mental health providers, the District Courts, Sheriff's Office, and the State Public Defender's Office, the County attorney implemented a new process for dealing with seriously mentally ill persons, saving transportation costs, streamlining the process for the District Courts, and providing greater certainty and stability to the respondents.
- County Attorney Lambert is the co-chair of the Successful Re-entry and Reducing Recidivism subcommittee of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. The Subcommittee works with community providers of essentials such as job referrals and training, housing, mental health, and substance abuse counseling, to reduce criminal recidivism in Gallatin County. Reducing recidivism is the number one priority of the County's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.
- County Attorney Lambert serves on the Family Justice Coordinating Council. The Chair of the Council is District Judge Holly Brown. County Attorney Lambert drafted changes to the Court's orders for protective custody and temporary investigative authority which were adopted by the district judges. The changes served to protect the rights of the parents or supervising adults while meeting the needs of DPHHS to protect and provide services to the children involved in abuse and neglect cases.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Attorney

Department Budget

Object of Expenditure	Actual FY 2015	Budget FY 2016	Actual FY 2016	Request FY 2017	Preliminary FY 2017	Final FY 2017
Personnel	\$ 1,173,899	\$ 1,333,231	\$ 1,308,726	\$ 1,408,598	\$ 1,322,100	\$ 1,373,696
Operations	331,122	415,986	403,983	462,118	467,118	497,694
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	7,970	10,000
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 1,505,021	\$ 1,749,217	\$ 1,712,709	\$ 1,870,716	\$ 1,797,188	\$ 1,881,390

Budget by Fund Group

General Fund	\$ 1,505,021	\$ 1,729,217	\$ 1,712,709	\$ 1,870,716	\$ 1,769,218	\$ 1,851,390
Special Revenue Funds	-	20,000	-	15,000	27,970	30,000
Debt Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Project Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enterprise Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trust & Agency Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 1,505,021	\$ 1,749,217	\$ 1,712,709	\$ 1,885,716	\$ 1,797,188	\$ 1,881,390

Funding Sources

Tax Revenues	\$ 765,076	\$ 769,253	\$ 789,402	\$ 895,002	\$ 761,920	\$ 804,016
Non-Tax Revenues	737,000	568,397	892,105	627,739	581,103	622,901
Cash Reappropriated	2,945	411,567	31,201	362,975	454,166	454,473
Total	\$ 1,505,021	\$ 1,749,217	\$ 1,712,709	\$ 1,885,716	\$ 1,797,188	\$ 1,881,390

Department Personnel

No. of Positions	FT/PT	Title	FTE 2015	FTE 2016	FTE 2017
1	Full-Time	County Attorney	1.00	1.00	1.00
2	Full-Time	Chief Deputy Co. Attorney	2.00	2.00	2.00
8	Full-Time	Deputy County Attorney	7.00	8.00	8.00
3	Full-Time	Legal Assistant	3.00	3.00	3.00
1	Full-Time	Administrative Assistant	1.00	1.00	1.00
2	Full-Time	Admin Assistant/Reception	2.00	2.00	2.00
1	Full-Time	Property Witness Assistant	1.00	1.00	1.00
18		Total Program	17.00	18.00	18.00