

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 an increasing 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; six criminal, youth and juvenile prosecutors, three 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

- Deputy County Attorney Erin Murphy and County Attorney Lambert received the DUI Task Force's "Swimming Upstream" award in 2012 and 2011 respectively.
- 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

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Department Budget

Object of Expenditure	Actual FY 2012	BUDGET FY 2013	Actual FY 2013	Request FY 2014	Preliminary FY 2014	Budget FY 2014
Personnel	\$ 1,174,978	\$ 1,195,928	\$ 1,069,861	\$ 1,173,692	\$ 1,179,261	\$ 1,181,223
Operations	194,335	242,003	310,483	264,866	284,797	284,797
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	-	13,852	7,903	-	-	1,793
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 1,369,313	\$ 1,451,783	\$ 1,388,247	\$ 1,438,558	\$ 1,464,058	\$ 1,467,813

Budget by Fund Group

General Fund	\$ 1,369,313	\$ 1,451,783	\$ 1,388,247	\$ 1,438,558	\$ 1,444,058	\$ 1,447,813
Special Revenue Funds	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
Debt Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Project Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enterprise Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trust & Agency Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 1,369,313	\$ 1,451,783	\$ 1,388,247	\$ 1,438,558	\$ 1,464,058	\$ 1,467,813

Funding Sources

Tax Revenues	\$ 684,993	\$ 702,273	\$ 695,251	\$ 719,850	\$ 720,806	\$ 743,160
Non-Tax Revenues	511,526	478,702	464,341	508,784	470,767	487,840
Cash Reappropriated	172,794	270,808	228,656	209,924	272,485	236,813
Total	\$ 1,369,313	\$ 1,451,783	\$ 1,388,247	\$ 1,438,558	\$ 1,464,058	\$ 1,467,813

Department Personnel

No. of Positions	FT/PT	Title	FTE 2012	FTE 2013	FTE 2014
1	Full-Time	County Attorney	1	1	1
2	Full-Time	Chief Deputy Co. Attorney	2	2	2
7	Full-Time	Deputy County Attorney	7	7	7
2	Full-Time	Legal Secretary III	2	2	2
2	Full-Time	Legal Assistant	2	2	2
2	Full-Time	Administrative Support	2	2	2
1	Full-Time	Property Witness Assistant	1	1	1
17		Total Program	17	17	17

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2014 Budget Highlights

Personnel

- Continuation of Reduction - FTE Deputy County Attorney through FY 2014

Operations

- The Hope House campus is a most welcome addition to Gallatin County's mental health community. As a result of the greater availability of services, the County Attorney Office currently is dealing with a record caseload of mental commitment cases. Additional money for the Hope House was added this year (\$20,000), for professional evaluations but additional will be needed in future years.

Capital

- Computer \$1,793

County Commission Goals/Department Response

The County Commission established goals for County government. Listed below are the goals, followed by the methods by which the County Attorney Office is striving to fulfill those goals.

Align community needs with budgetary decisions

- Continue working with state and local agencies to reduce costs and improve service delivery.

Adhere to long-term plans

- Continue to serve on numerous councils to advance the interests of Gallatin County.

Demonstrate exceptional Customer Service

- Continue work with the SART Team (Sexual Assault Response Team) towards certification of Hearts and Homes facility as Child Advocacy Center.
- Assist persons seeking civil temporary orders of protection, filling a gap in the provision of those services by non-governmental agencies.
- In 2011 the Civil Division opened 295 files on civil and litigation matters.

Serve as a Model for Excellence in Government

- Improve treatment of mentally-ill persons in the criminal justice system through the Virgil Project.
- Reduce recidivism of low-risk offenders through work with the Reducing Recidivism Sub-Committee of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Improve communication within county government, other jurisdictions and our public

- Conduct a series of training sessions to advise local law enforcement officers of the 2013 Legislature's changes to criminal law in Montana.

Be an Employer of Choice and improve employee retention

- Training and Staff meetings for improved communications.
- Maintain wages commensurate with other state and local prosecution offices, county attorney's offices, and the private sector.

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Workload Indicators / Performance Measures

Workload Indicators		Actual	May 2011-	Actual	Projected
Indicator		FY 2011	May, 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
1.	Misdemeanors	609	756	659	
2.	Felonies	364	385	437	
3.	Probation Violations-misdemeanor	37	99	81	
4.	Probation Violations-felony	75	99	87	
5.	Bad Checks	17	6	4	
6.	Juvenile cases	172	189	150	
7.	Involuntary Commitments	65	50	69	
8.	Civil proceedings-post conviction	62	42	38	
9.	Confidential criminal info requests	29	31	39	
10.	Department Health & Human Services-children	21	28	22	
11.	Department Health & Human Services – Adults	9	5	3	

Workload Indicators (Victim/Witness)		Actual	Actual	Thru May	Projected
Measure		FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
1.	New primary victims served	876	822	852	
2.	New secondary victims served	210	210	215	
3.	Ongoing victims served		589	600	

Comments

For FY12 the categories of the Workload Indicators were changed to reflect the statistics kept by Justware, the County Attorney’s computer case management system. By using the Justware-created categories a “real-time” count can be kept of all the caseload statistics and better estimates can be made regarding future workload indicators.