

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, 2014 the Virgil Project has 14 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 2013	Final FY 2014	Actual FY 2014	Request FY 2015	Preliminary FY 2015	Final FY 2015
Personnel	\$ 1,069,861	\$ 1,181,223	\$ 1,127,745	\$ 1,216,979	\$ 1,229,177	\$ 1,225,839
Operations	329,174	294,797	347,139	377,210	343,860	373,860
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	7,903	1,793	1,791	-	-	-
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 1,406,938	\$ 1,477,813	\$ 1,476,675	\$ 1,594,189	\$ 1,573,037	\$ 1,599,699

Budget by Fund Group

General Fund	\$ 1,406,938	\$ 1,457,813	\$ 1,476,675	\$ 1,574,189	\$ 1,553,037	\$ 1,579,699
Special Revenue Funds	-	20,000	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Debt Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Project Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enterprise Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trust & Agency Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 1,406,938	\$ 1,477,813	\$ 1,476,675	\$ 1,594,189	\$ 1,573,037	\$ 1,599,699

Funding Sources

Tax Revenues	\$ 695,251	\$ 742,970	\$ 728,111	\$ 771,692	\$ 794,087	\$ 765,848
Non-Tax Revenues	464,341	487,588	487,588	493,326	487,317	535,903
Cash Reappropriated	247,347	237,254	260,976	309,172	291,633	297,948
Total	\$ 1,406,939	\$ 1,467,812	\$ 1,476,675	\$ 1,574,189	\$ 1,573,037	\$ 1,599,699

Department Personnel

No. of Positions	FT/PT	Title	FTE 2013	FTE 2014	FTE 2015
1	Full-Time	County Attorney	1.00	1.00	1.00
2	Full-Time	Chief Deputy Co. Attorney	2.00	2.00	2.00
7	Full-Time	Deputy County Attorney	7.00	7.00	7.00
2	Full-Time	Legal Secretary III	2.00	2.00	2.00
2	Full-Time	Legal Assistant	2.00	2.00	2.00
2	Full-Time	Administrative Support	2.00	2.00	2.00
1	Full-Time	Property Witness Assistant	1.00	1.00	1.00
17		Total Program	17.00	17.00	17.00

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2015 Budget Highlights

Personnel

- Approval of Deputy County Attorney Pay Matrix as adopted by Commission.

Operations

- Victim Witness Transfer \$60,246, Training increase \$1,950

Capital

- No capital requests

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				
Indicator	Actual FY 2012	May 2011- May, 2013	Actual FY 2014	
1. Misdemeanors	756	659	648	
2. Felonies	385	437	493	
3. Probation Violations-misdemeanor	99	81	51	
4. Probation Violations-felony	99	87	93	
5. Bad Checks	6	4	1	
6. Juvenile cases	189	150	136	
7. Involuntary Commitments	50	69	71	
8. Civil proceedings-post conviction	42	38	57	
9. Confidential criminal info requests	31	39	37	
10. Department Health & Human Services-children	28	22	47	
11. Department Health & Human Services – Adults	5	3	5	

Workload Indicators (Victim/Witness)				
Measure	Actual FY 2012	Actual FY 2013	Actual FY 2014	
1. New primary victims served	822	852	878	
2. New secondary victims served	210	215	221	
3. Ongoing victims served	589	600	883	
4. Cases – Abuse/Neglect	52	45		
5. Cases – Commitment	63	87		
6. Cases – Criminal	485	580		
7. Cases – Juvenile	82	67		
8. Cases – Involving subpoena / search warrant	232	293		

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.