
Prosecuting Attorney

Mission Statement:

Safety, security, and justice for the community through competent, ethical advocacy. Effective representation of county interests.

Functions:

- The Prosecuting Attorney prosecutes felonies and misdemeanors within county jurisdiction.
- The Prosecuting Attorney provides legal counsel to the Board of County Commissioners, defends the county in civil actions and advises department heads and law enforcement agencies.
- The Prosecuting Attorney provides child support enforcement for the state and victim/witness services.

Criminal Division: (eight attorneys, including the elected Prosecuting Attorney)

Prosecutes crimes committed by juveniles and adults from initial review and filing through the appellate process. Provides advice and training in support of law enforcement agencies. Handles related matters such as probation violations, restoration of firearm rights, etc. Participates in diversion programs such as the drug courts and mental health court. The highest priorities of this section are the prosecution of violent crime, sex offenses, traffic crimes impacting public safety, drug dealing, and property offenses.

Civil Division: (four attorneys, including the Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney)

Advises county personnel and provides opinions on legal issues and documentation. One position is for the Child Support Division which through a state contract enforces family financial support and related paternity actions and Interstate Compact cases for the D.S.H.S. Division of Child Support. One position is a land use and GMA deputy as well as code enforcement and one position is a Public Works roads deputy. The division has attorneys licensed in all federal and Washington courts and represents the county in all legal matters (except as assigned to outside insurance pool and employment law counsel.)

Administrative Division:(9.8 staff support equivalent)

Responsible for day to day operations essential to keeping the department running while providing all administrative and secretarial support to the three divisions. Included within this section is case management, personnel management and employee assistance, all financial matters (budget, grants, bills and payments) correspondence and office policy. This number includes the office manager, six and one-half assistants who support the criminal and civil division, one and one-half assistants as staff for support enforcement, and .8 FTE victim-witness liaison. The victim/witness liaison works with the victim/witness legal secretary to lend support to victims in crimes against the person and assists victims of all crimes seeking restitution or crime victims fund compensation; additionally she acts as liaison with the Bounceback Check Diversion program and the Friendship Diversion Program.

Long Term Goals:

- Effective prosecution of crime to provide for the safety of the community, seek justice and hold offenders accountable.
- Enhanced victim/witness program and establishment of crime victim assistance and intervention programs.
- Support alternative justice measures (e.g., juvenile drug court, teen court, prevention work, substance abuse treatment, bad check diversion, and felony diversion) as possible without impairment of the primary mission of the office.
- Train and develop competent, professional deputy prosecutors and staff; cross-train as feasible.
- Establishment of more cost-effective autopsy procedures.

Short Term Objectives:

- More effective civil and criminal prosecution.
- Continue balancing workload assignments and responsibilities with continued personnel turnover and staff-hour reductions.
- More rapid review of referrals from law enforcement.
- Reduce time-lines to complete case prosecution.

Accomplishments in 2008

- With the County Commissioners' support we hired an experienced governmental civil attorney with extensive land use experience which enabled us to bring litigation in-house that had previously been outsourced to private Seattle firms for savings to the County and taxpayers of hundreds of thousands of dollars in future billings.
- This hiring also provided the opportunity to increase oversight of employment counsel's representation on various County employment related matters.
- Additionally, the civil division continued emphasis on increasing government accountability by providing more thorough and more frequent legal representation to the County organization as well as responded to an ever-increasing number of public records requests. The civil division also initiated review and purging of archived civil legal documents in compliance with Secretary of State retention schedule requirements in order to reduce the document storage needs of the office.
- In the criminal division, attorney turnover slowed but did not cease in 2008 due to problems with the housing market and moves to be closer to family. Despite the turnover, staff attorneys continued aggressive prosecution of high criminal caseloads trying 34 cases in the first half of 2008 with 33 convictions. Should this rate continue for the entire year, it would represent a 50% increase in trials going out over 2007.
- We further refined guidelines for the bad check diversion program and worked with law enforcement so that guidelines for accepting checks for prosecution are now the same in three out of the four jurisdictions. We continued referring appropriate felonies and misdemeanors to the Friendship Diversion program for non-violent property offenders.
- Enhanced state funding allowed further enhancements to the victim/witness program.

- We continued participation in other existing programs such as Drug Court and the Mental Health docket of Superior Court without further reductions in service and continued supplying instructors to law enforcement for the Reserve Academy.
- Various office policies were written and adopted where none existed before. A Charging and Dispositions Policy for deputy prosecutor's and law enforcement's use is nearing completion and will be adopted by mid-August 2008 to be followed shortly by the revision of coroner policy which was last updated over a decade ago. Finally, with the assistance of the Human Resources Department, we continued our commitment to a better workplace by sending our management level employees to supervisory and leadership training.

Workload Indicators:

| | 2006 Actual | 2007 Actual | 6/30/08 Actual | 2009 Estimate |
|--|-------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| Felonies | | | | |
| Filed | 585 | 589 | 251 | 600 |
| Hearings | 10,508 | 10089 | 4577 | 11000 |
| Trials | 45 | 63 | 42 | 84 |
| Juvenile Offenses Filed | 352 | 326 | 176 | 352 |
| Offenses Referred | 683 | 552 | 310 | 620 |
| Hearings | 6,116 | 10,087 | 5,043 | 10,087 |
| Juvenile Truancy By school year (July/June) | | | | |
| Hearings | | | 1389 | 2778 |
| First Appearances | | | 501 | 1002 |
| Contempts | | | 591 | 1182 |
| Reviews | | | 297 | 594 |
| District Court Crimes Filed and Citations | 1,688 | 1771 | 759 | 1800 |
| Civil | | | | |
| Public Record Requests | | 34 | 79 | 241 |
| Legal Action Requests-excluding Road Dept, Parks and Maintenance | | 369 | 181 | 365 |
| Legal Action Requests-including Road Dept, Parks and Maintenance | | 25 | 13 | 26 |
| Forfeitures | | 12 | 19 | 40 |
| Support Enforcement Cases | 230 | 308 | 187 | 360 |

Staffing Level:

| | 2006 Actual | 2007 Actual | 6/30/08 Actual | 2009 Budget |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Full Time Equivalents | 18.69 | 19.8 | 21.8 | 22.36 |

Prosecuting Attorney Operations Budget

Revenues:

| | 2006 Actual | 2007 Actual | 6/30/08 Actual | 2009 Budget |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Taxes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Licenses and Permits | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Intergovernmental Revenues | 45,944 | 48,697 | 25,697 | 75,036 |
| Charges for Goods and Services | 37,103 | 57,712 | 1,609 | 83,170 |
| Fines and Forfeits | 0 | 122 | 313 | 600 |
| Miscellaneous Revenues | 4,894 | 2,050 | 330 | 75 |
| Nonrevenues | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Financing Sources | 190,000 | 229,228 | 378,000 | 150,000 |
| General Tax Support | 975,425 | 1,010,445 | 330,327 | 1,440,582 |
| TOTAL | \$1,253,366 | \$1,348,254 | \$736,276 | \$1,749,463 |

Expenditures:

| | 2006 Actual | 2007 Actual | 6/30/08 Actual | 2009 Budget |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Salaries and Wages | 914,975 | 952,867 | 533,614 | 1,259,152 |
| Personnel Benefits | 150,796 | 266,075 | 147,211 | 384,211 |
| Supplies | 32,298 | 36,427 | 29,297 | 35,100 |
| Other Services and Charges | 59,972 | 61,813 | 18,020 | 58,300 |
| Intergovernmental Services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Interfund Payments for Services | 95,325 | 1,072 | 2,494 | 800 |
| Capital Outlay | 0 | 30,000 | 5,640 | 11,900 |
| TOTAL | \$1,253,366 | \$1,348,254 | \$736,276 | \$1,749,463 |

Family Services/Child Support Budget

Revenues:

| | 2006 Actual | 2007 Actual | 6/30/08 Actual | 2009 Budget |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Taxes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Licenses and Permits | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Intergovernmental Revenues | 157,472 | 212,332 | 31,878 | 255,410 |
| Charges for Goods and Services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fines and Forfeits | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Miscellaneous Revenues | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nonrevenues | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Financing Sources | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| General Tax Support | 40,625 | -30,141 | 68,657 | -36,910 |
| TOTAL | \$198,097 | \$182,191 | \$100,535 | \$218,500 |

Expenditures:

| | 2006 Actual | 2007 Actual | 6/30/08 Actual | 2009 Budget |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Salaries and Wages | 129,095 | 112,676 | 58,386 | 122,598 |
| Personnel Benefits | 23,704 | 35,713 | 18,671 | 46,016 |
| Supplies | 2,366 | 5,455 | 2,124 | 6,300 |
| Other Services and Charges | 25,634 | 27,057 | 20,088 | 30,621 |
| Intergovernmental Services | 431 | 68 | 0 | 300 |
| Interfund Payments for Services | 16867 | 1,222 | 1,267 | 3,100 |
| Capital Outlay | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9,565 |
| TOTAL | \$198,097 | \$182,191 | \$100,535 | \$218,500 |

Coroner Budget**Revenues:**

| | 2006 Actual | 2007 Actual | 6/30/08 Actual | 2009 Budget |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Intergovernmental Revenues | 14,969 | 25,271 | 17,452 | 50,400 |
| General Tax Support | 52,529 | 81,425 | 23,346 | 68,261 |
| TOTAL | \$67,498 | \$106,696 | \$40,798 | \$118,661 |

Expenditures:

| | 2006 Actual | 2007 Actual | 6/30/08 Actual | 2009 Budget |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Other Services and Charges | 67,498 | 106,696 | 40,798 | 118,661 |
| TOTAL | \$67,498 | \$106,696 | \$40,798 | \$118,661 |

Local Crime Victim Compensation Budget**Revenues:**

| | 2006 Actual | 2007 Actual | 6/30/08 Actual | 2009 Budget |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Fund Balance | 246,823 | 247,694 | 225,654 | 209,776 |
| Taxes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Licenses and Permits | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Intergovernmental Revenues | 18,256 | 0 | 18,256 | 42,968 |
| Charges for Goods and Services | 53,777 | 52,360 | 25,619 | 51,000 |
| Fines and Forfeits | 2 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Miscellaneous Revenues | -4,701 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nonrevenues | 0 | 101 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Financing Sources | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | \$314,155 | \$300,155 | \$269,529 | \$303,744 |

Expenditures:

| | 2006 Actual | 2007 Actual | 6/30/08 Actual | 2009 Budget |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Salaries and Wages | 28,048 | 45,741 | 19,321 | 44,513 |
| Personnel Benefits | 5,618 | 13,831 | 6,951 | 15,015 |
| Supplies | 1,990 | 917 | 0 | 1,150 |
| Other Services and Charges | 7,896 | 684 | 175 | 2,100 |
| Intergovernmental Services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Interfund Payments for Services | 26,435 | 13,328 | 11,786 | 43,593 |
| Capital Outlay | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ending Fund Balance | 244,168 | 225,654 | 231,296 | 197,373 |
| TOTAL | \$314,155 | \$300,155 | \$269,529 | \$303,744 |

Agency Structure:

Prosecuting Attorney

Administration

Criminal Division

Civil Division

Administrative Assistant

Chief Criminal Deputy
Prosecuting Attorney
(Unfilled)

Chief Deputy Prosecuting
Attorney also acting as Chief
Civil

Legal Assistant

Deputy Prosecutor III

Deputy Prosecutor III

Legal Assistant

Deputy Prosecutor III

Deputy Prosecutor III
(Roads)

Legal Assistant

Deputy Prosecutor III

Deputy Prosecutor II
(Family/Child Support)

Legal Assistant

Deputy Prosecutor II

Legal Assistant

Deputy Prosecutor II

Sr. Legal Secretary

Deputy Prosecutor II

Legal Secretary

Deputy Prosecutor I

Legal Secretary

Victim/ Witness Assistant