



# **City Attorney's Office Civil and Criminal Divisions**

## **FY 2021 Budget Presentation for the Billings City Mayor/Council May 12, 2020**



# Fifteen Professionals in the City Attorney's Office Serve the City of Billings



**City Attorney**  
*Civil / Criminal*

**Deputy City Attorney**  
*Criminal Prosecution*  
**(4)**

**Assistant City Attorney**  
**(1)**  
**Deputy City Attorney**  
*Civil Litigation / Advice*  
**(2)**

*DV Victim / Witness Specialist*  
**(2)**  
*Criminal Victim / Witness Specialist*  
**(1)**  
**Admin. Support I**  
**(1)**

**Senior Legal Secretary**  
*Office / Civil / Office Administration*  
**(1)**

**Administrative, Support II**  
*Municipal Court*  
**(2)**



# Criminal Statistics in Calendar Year 2019

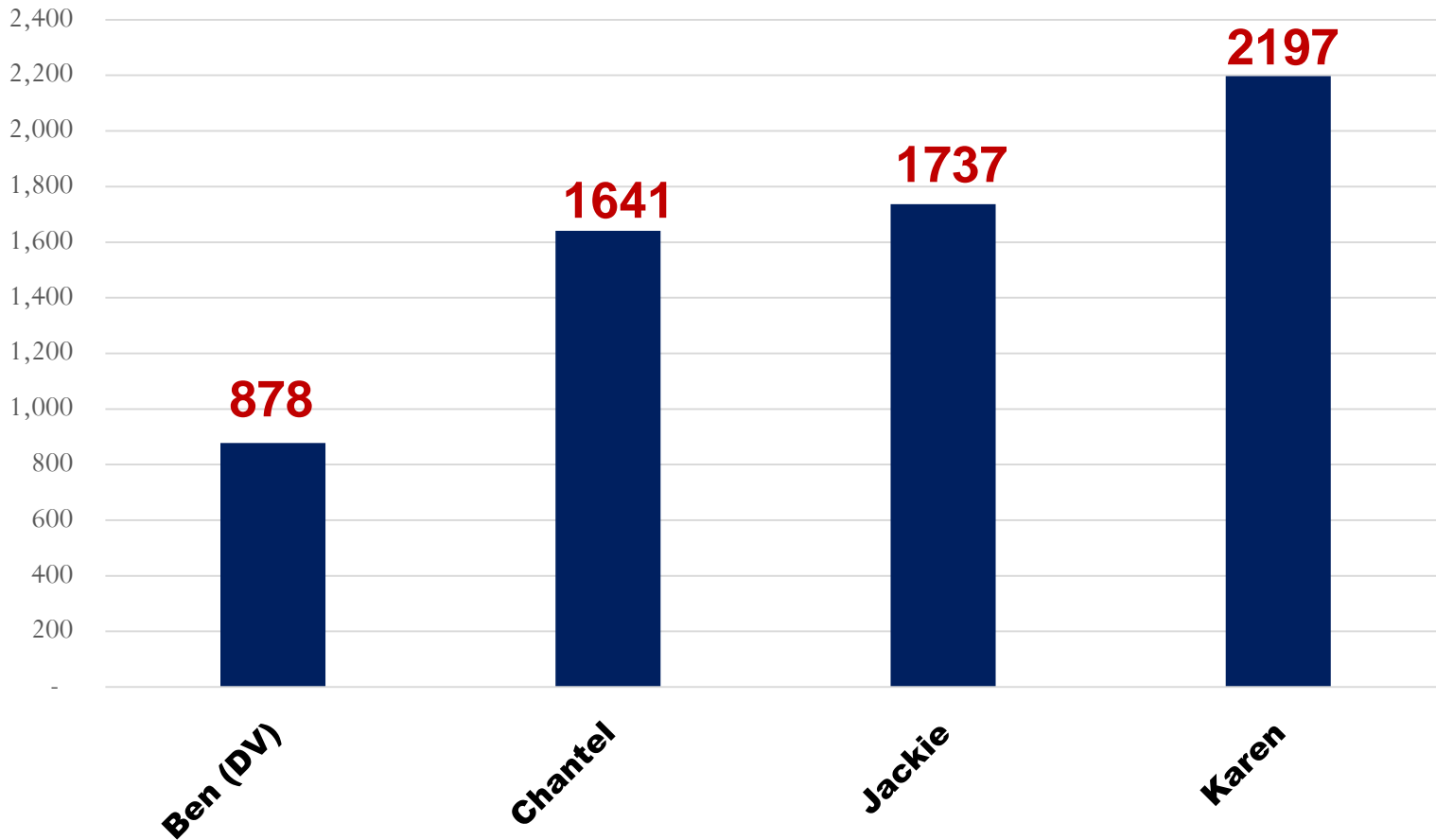


<b>New Cases Opened</b>	<b>6453</b>
<b>Cases Reviewed for Possible Warrants *</b>	<b>1476</b>
<b>Cases Reviewed for Revocation of Sentence</b>	<b>1958</b>

**\* Most are Non-Traffic Misdemeanors**

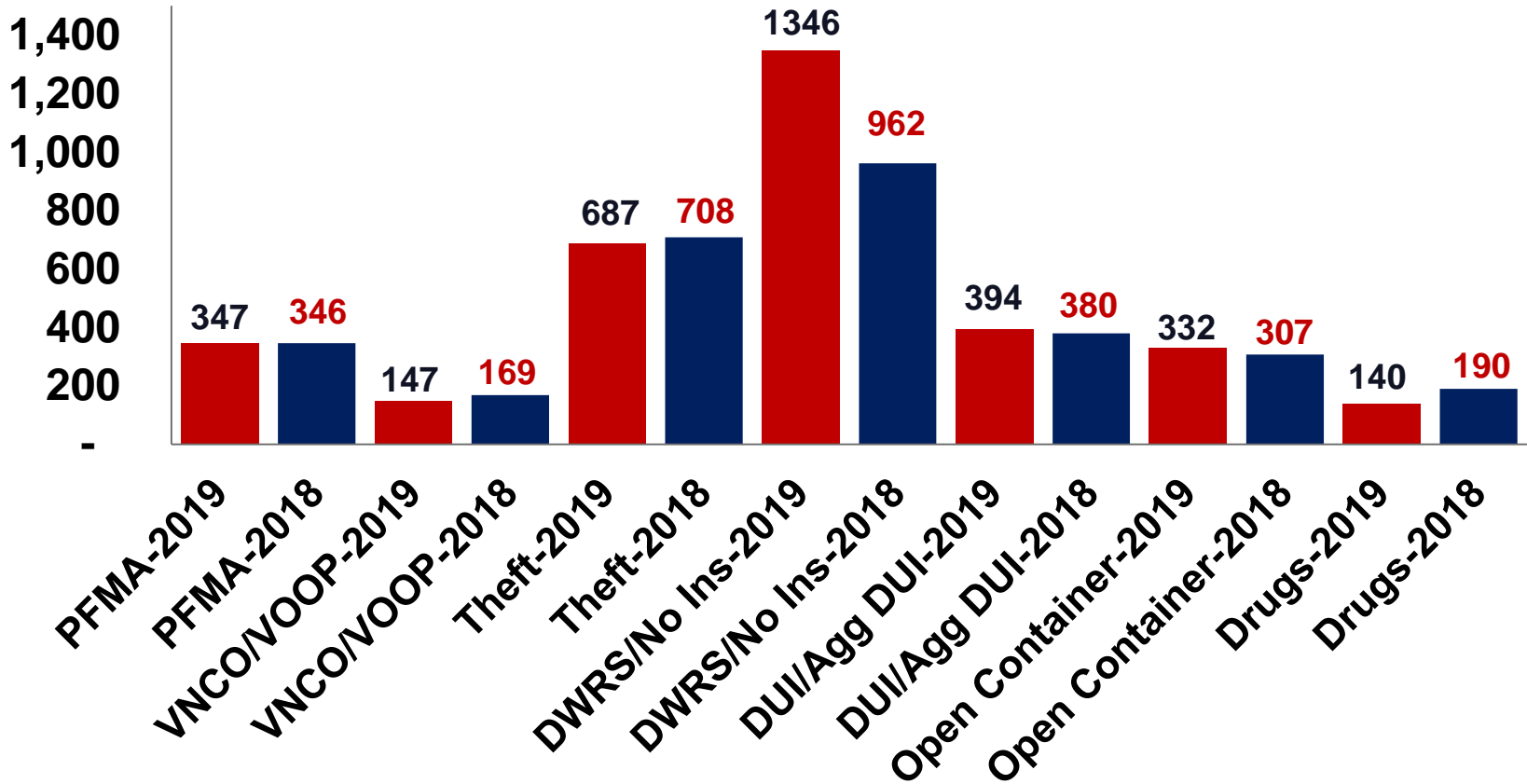


# Criminal Misdemeanor Cases Opened 2019





# Top Criminal Misdemeanor Cases Opened 2019 vs 2018

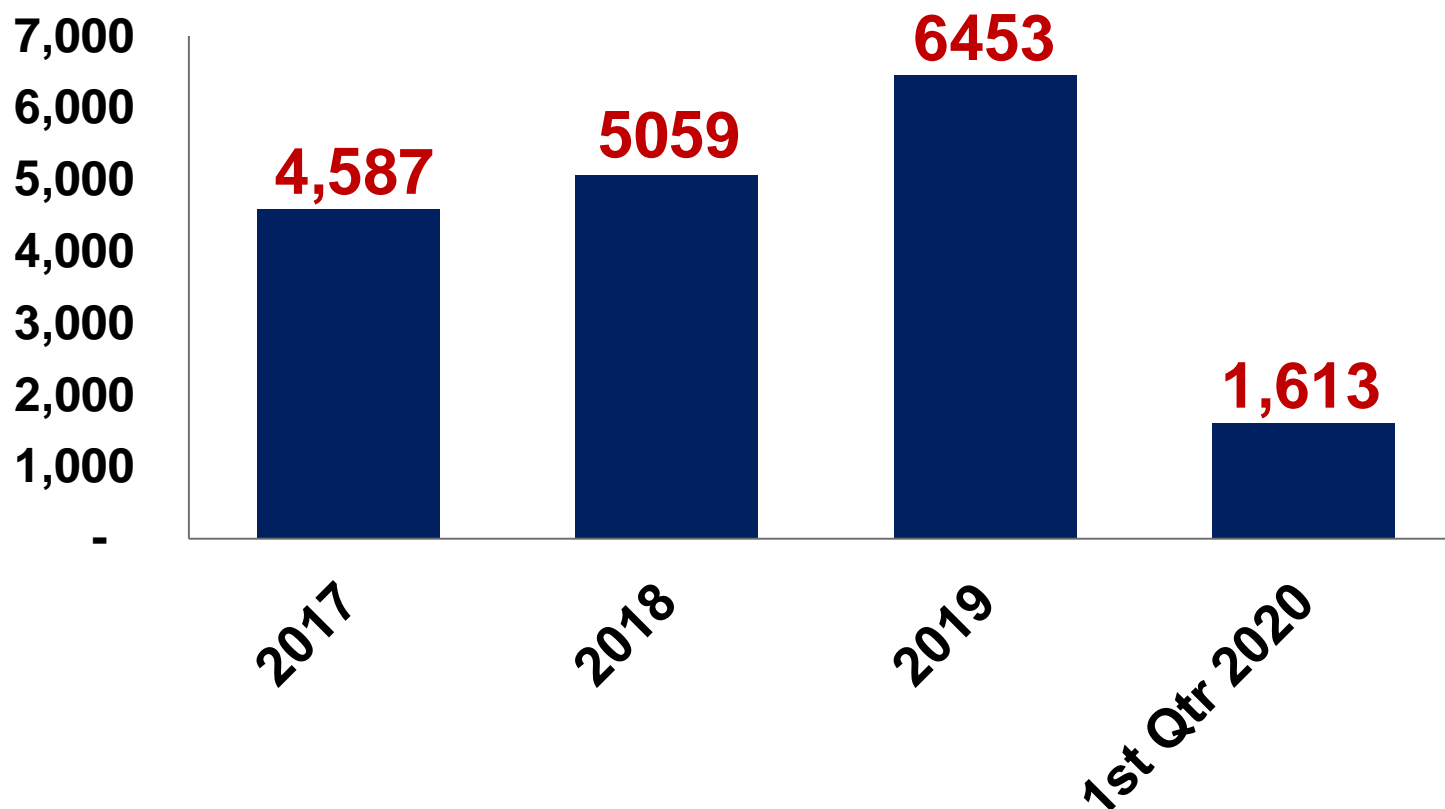




# Criminal Cases Opened 2017 – 2020

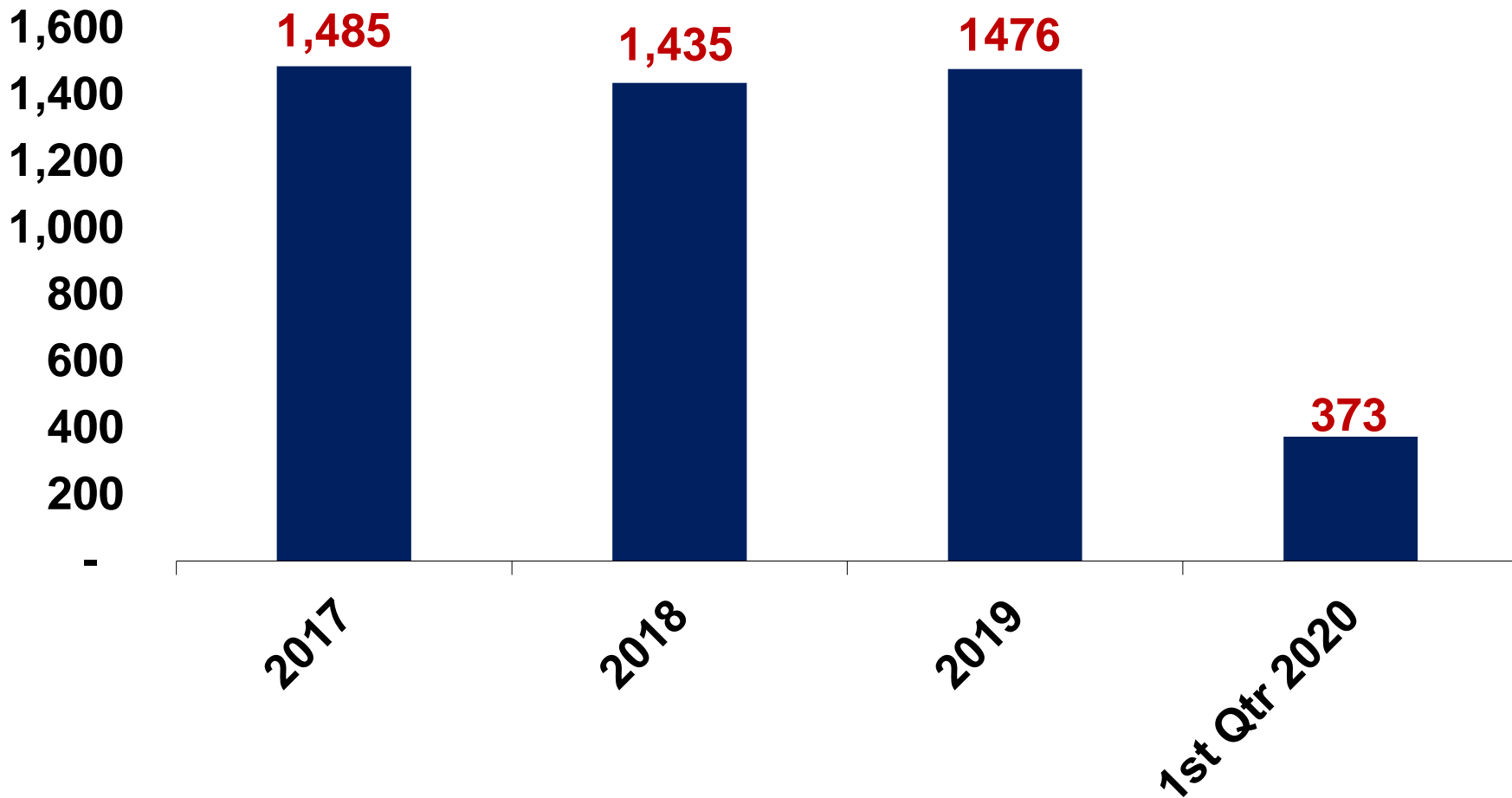


## Cases Opened: Misdemeanor Non-traffic & Traffic



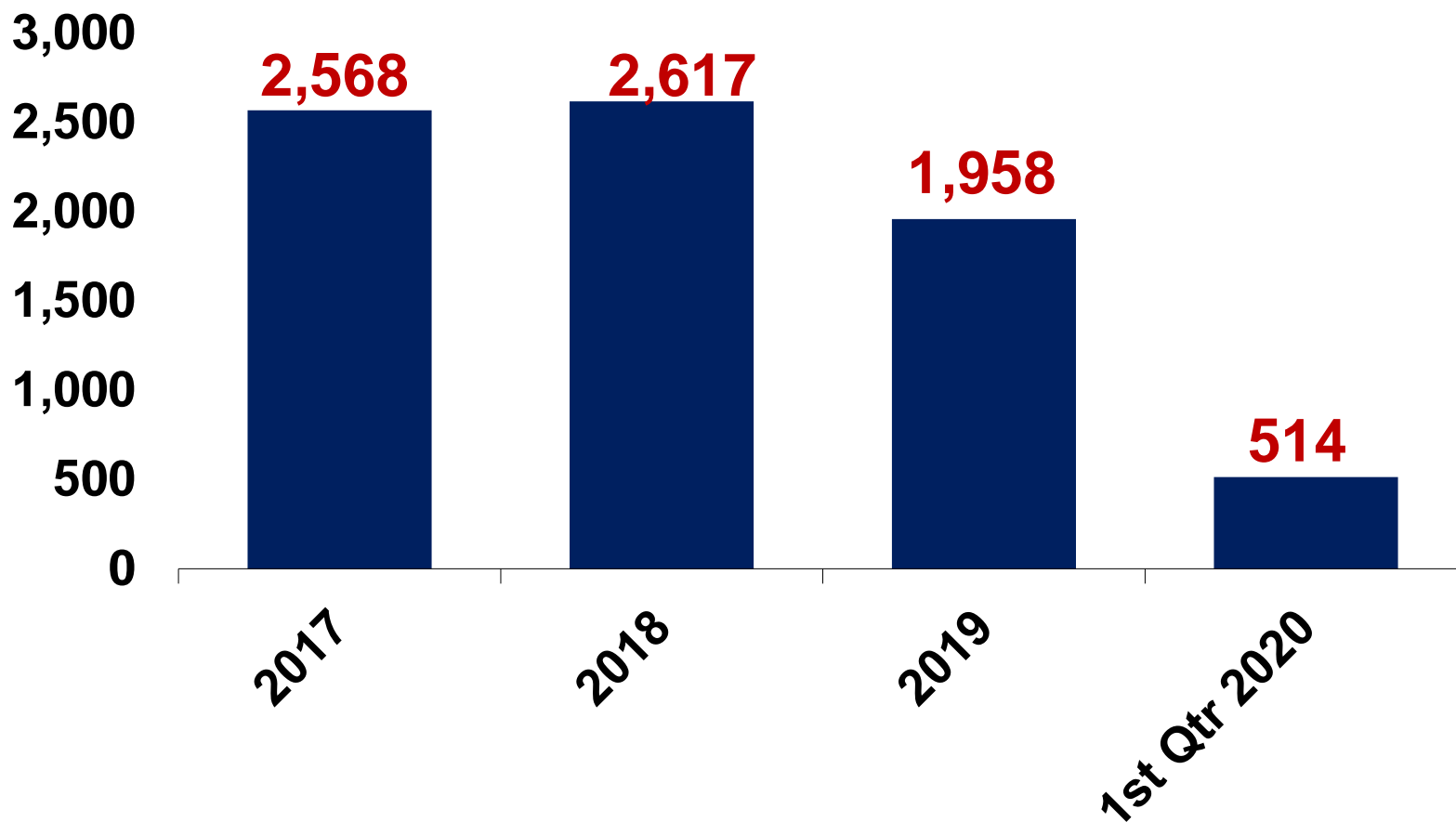


# Warrant Requests 2017 – 2020



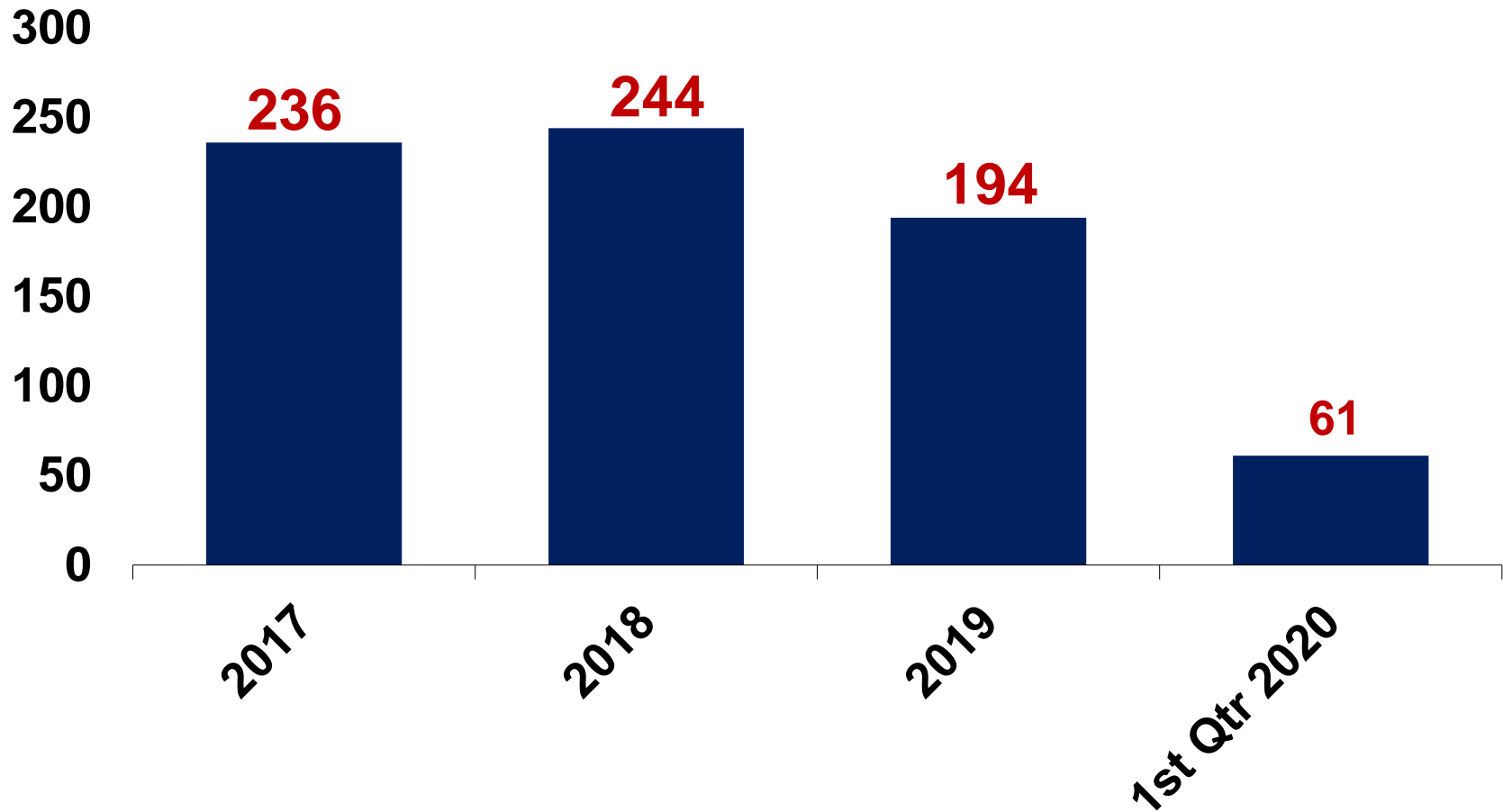


# Revocation Requests 2017 – 2020





# Public Record Requests 2017 – 2020





# Four Funding Sources for the City Attorney Office



**General Fund + PW:**  
**93.5%**

**DV Grant from Montana Board of Crime Control:**  
**4%**



**City Attorney Funding Sources**

**Statutory Surcharges MCA 46-18-236(7):**  
**2.5%**



# New Prosecutor FTE Request/Recommendation



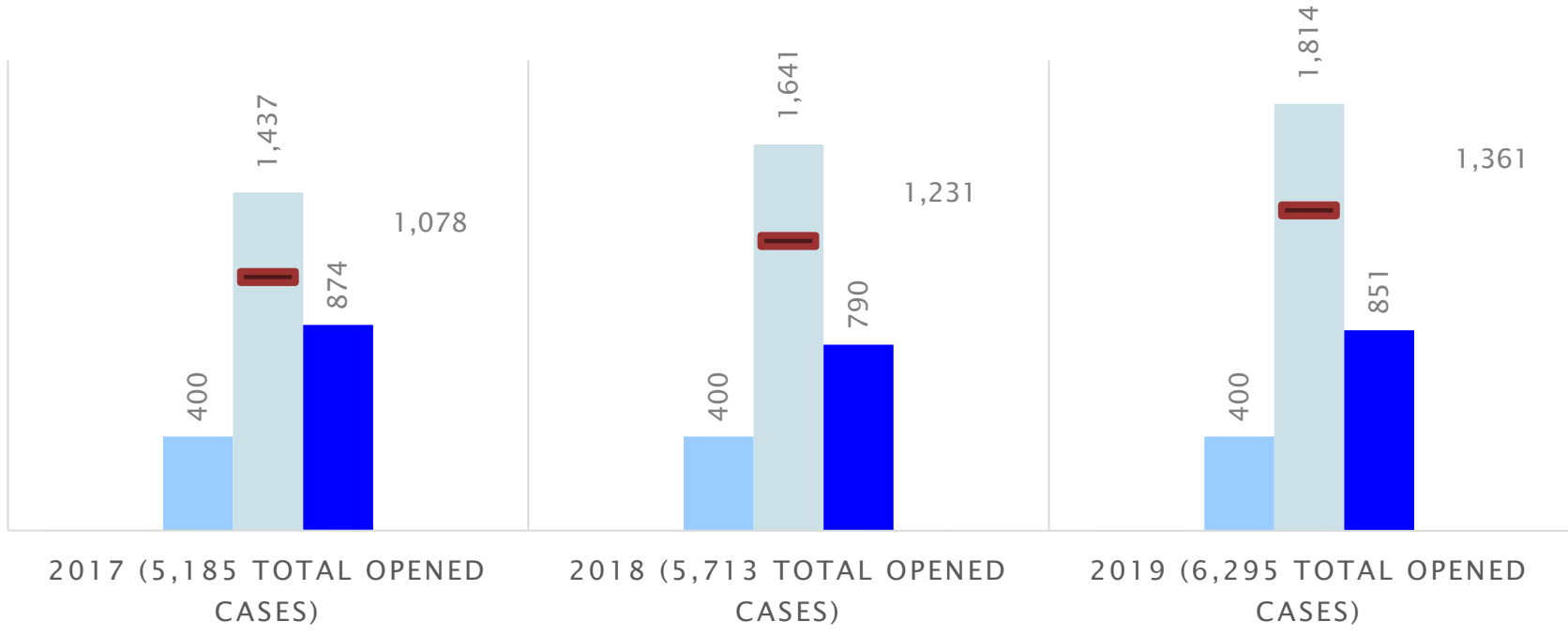
- ▶ Additional Municipal Court prosecutor recommended in FY 2021 budget
- ▶ Total costs of position + Equip/Lease Space: \$147,500
- ▶ Reduces current unsustainable caseload per prosecutor
- ▶ Doesn't reduce to ABA informal recommendations but greatly helps—see next slide



# Caseload Per Prosecuting Attorney



■ ABA best practices standard   ■ Non-DV cases   ■ DV cases   ■ w/ additional prosecutor





# Personal Services Comparison FY 20 & FY 21



	<b>Adopted Fiscal Year 2020</b>	<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2021</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Salary and Benefits</b>	<b>\$1,302,579</b>	<b>\$1,468,356</b>	<b>\$165,777</b>
<b>Domestic Violence Grants Salary &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 305,374</b>	<b>\$315,285</b>	<b>\$9,911</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,607,953</b>	<b>\$1,783,641</b>	<b>\$175,688</b>



# O & M Comparison FY 20 & FY 21



	<b>Adopted Fiscal Year 2020</b>	<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2021</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>O &amp; M</b>	<b>\$421,846</b>	<b>\$449,174</b>	<b>\$27,328</b>
<b>Domestic Violence Grants O &amp; M</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 421,846</b>	<b>\$449,174</b>	<b>\$27,328</b>

# Domestic Violence Grants Operating Revenues Comparison FY 20 & FY 21



	<b>Adopted Fiscal Year 2020</b>	<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2021</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Grant Funds</b>	<b>\$ 88,000</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Fines &amp; Forfeitures</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>City Match</b>	<b>\$ 167,374</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,626</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 305,374</b>	<b>\$315,000</b>	<b>\$9,626</b>



# Accomplishments



- Legislative Interim Committee Attendance/Support
- Noise Ordinance Amendments
- Code Enforcement-assigned civil atty-cooperative team progress with non-compliant properties
- Pretrial Risk Assessment Pilot Program
- DV Unit Grant Renewal-MBCC
- Municipal Court E-filing “Go Live” May 2019
- Substantial PSML Research



# Future Goals/Challenges



## Civil Division:

- Continued liability insurance/risk mgmt vigilance
- City Code Review/Revisions – substantial completion  
Target Date-end of calendar year 2020
- Spa Ordinance – Target Date for First reading/Public hearing mid- 2020
- Noise Ordinance Amendments of 2019 Implementation
- Annually increasing records requests/atty time/fees to charge
- COVID-19 Substantial Research/Support



# Future Challenges (Cont.)



## Criminal Division:

- Volume/fast pace of Misdemeanor cases
- ORCA – Retail Merchant Task Force
- Code Enforcement –Nuisance Properties/incremental progress in 2019
- Treatment Court Program/MAAP/Homeless
- Staffing: No Attys added since July 1 2007:
  - 2020: **Blgs**: 4 crim. attys **Msla**: 6 crim. Attys **Boz**: 4 crim. Attys ;  
**OPD** 6 attys
- Physical Location/Office Space
- JustWare case management software support ending in calendar 2021



# Thank you! Questions

