

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FY 2024 BUDGET

Gina Dahl, City Attorney

May 9, 2023

City Council Work Session



CIVIL DIVISION

- ▶ **Support and Advice**
- ▶ **Litigation support**
- ▶ **Legal opinions**
- ▶ **Risk management**
- ▶ **Draft & Review legal documents**
- ▶ **Ordinances & Resolutions**
- ▶ **Arbitration/Administrative Agency hearings**

CRIMINAL DIVISION

- ▶ **Prosecute misdemeanor offenses**
- ▶ **Appeals**
- ▶ **Probation Revocations**
- ▶ **Treatment Court**
- ▶ **Domestic Violence Unit**
- ▶ **Victims Services**
- ▶ **Periodic police training**

City Attorney

Assistant City Attorney

2 Deputy City Attorneys (Civil Division)

8 Deputy City Attorneys (Criminal Division)
– 2 vacant positions

5 Victim/Witness Specialists

5 Administrative Support – 1 vacant position

TOTAL CURRENT STAFFING LEVEL

- Prosecute criminal cases in a timely and efficient manner in the best interests of justice, the best interests of the citizens of Billings, and the interests of victims of crime.
- Work effectively with the Billings Police Department and other law enforcement agencies, including the Airport Police and MSU-Billings Police Department to enforce state laws and city ordinances related to misdemeanor offenses within the city.
- Work with other city personnel and officials in enforcing city ordinances including zoning, building code, fire code, etc.
- Practice preventative law by being an integral member of the city's departmental teams and by providing legal risk management services and proactive legal advice.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES



- ★ Prosecute criminal cases in a **timely** and **efficient manner in the best interests of victims** of crime, the citizens of Billings, and in the interests of justice

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

3 Deputy City Attorneys

- Hiring for 2 positions now (FY23-24)
- Wait until move to hire last position (FY25-26)

4 Support Staff

- Hired a Victim Witness Specialist (FY23)
- Wait until move to hire remaining positions (FY25-26)

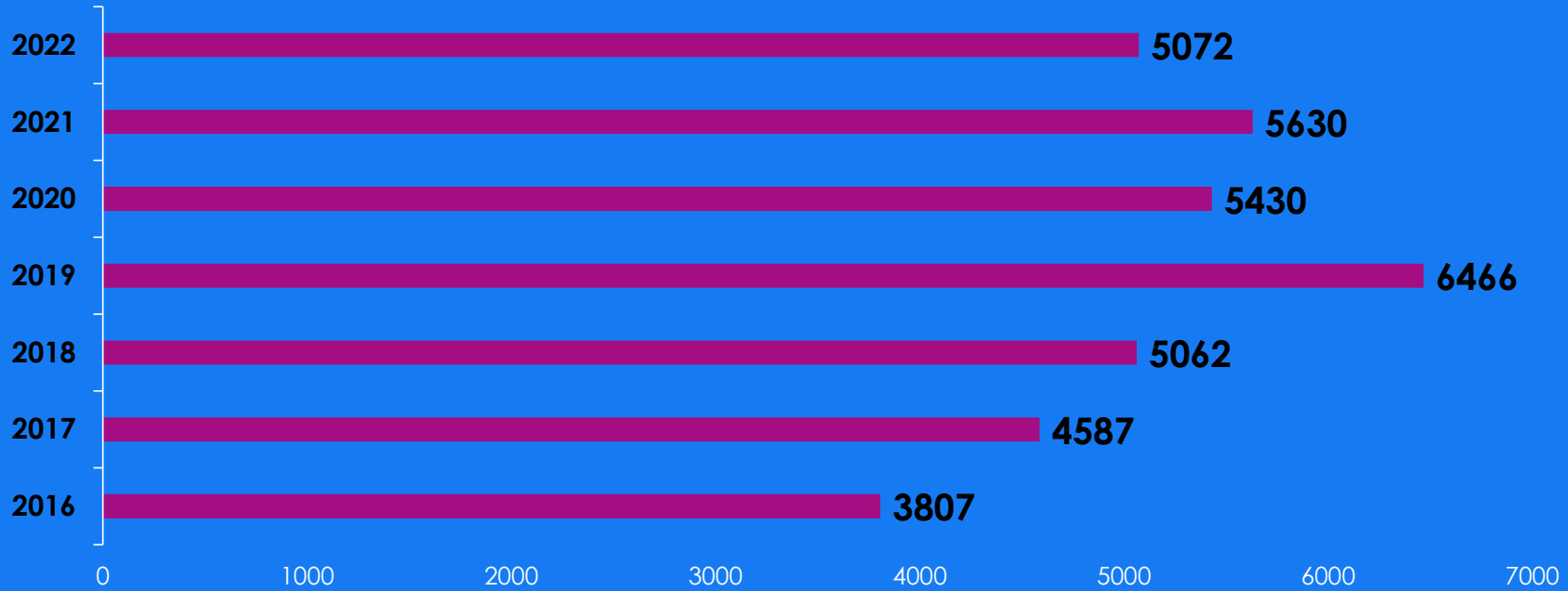
Code Enforcement component - paralegal

NEW POSITIONS – PSML FUNDING

	2020	2021	2022
New Cases Opened	5430	5630	5072
Cases Reviewed for Charges/Warrants	1579	2367	1841
Cases Reviewed for Revocation of Sentence	2181	2311	3177

CRIMINAL DIVISION – CASES OPENED

Total Criminal and Traffic Cases

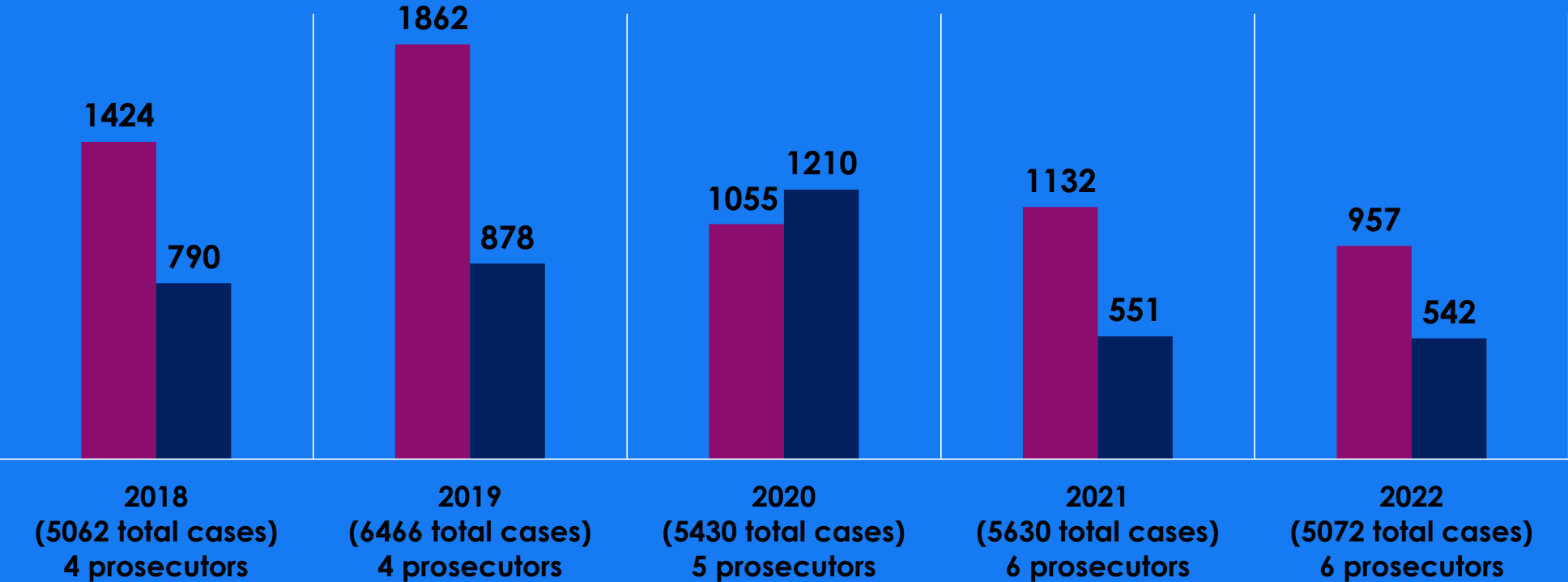


CRIMINAL CASES OPENED 2016 - 2022



■ Non-DV cases

■ DV cases



CASELOAD PER PROSECUTOR

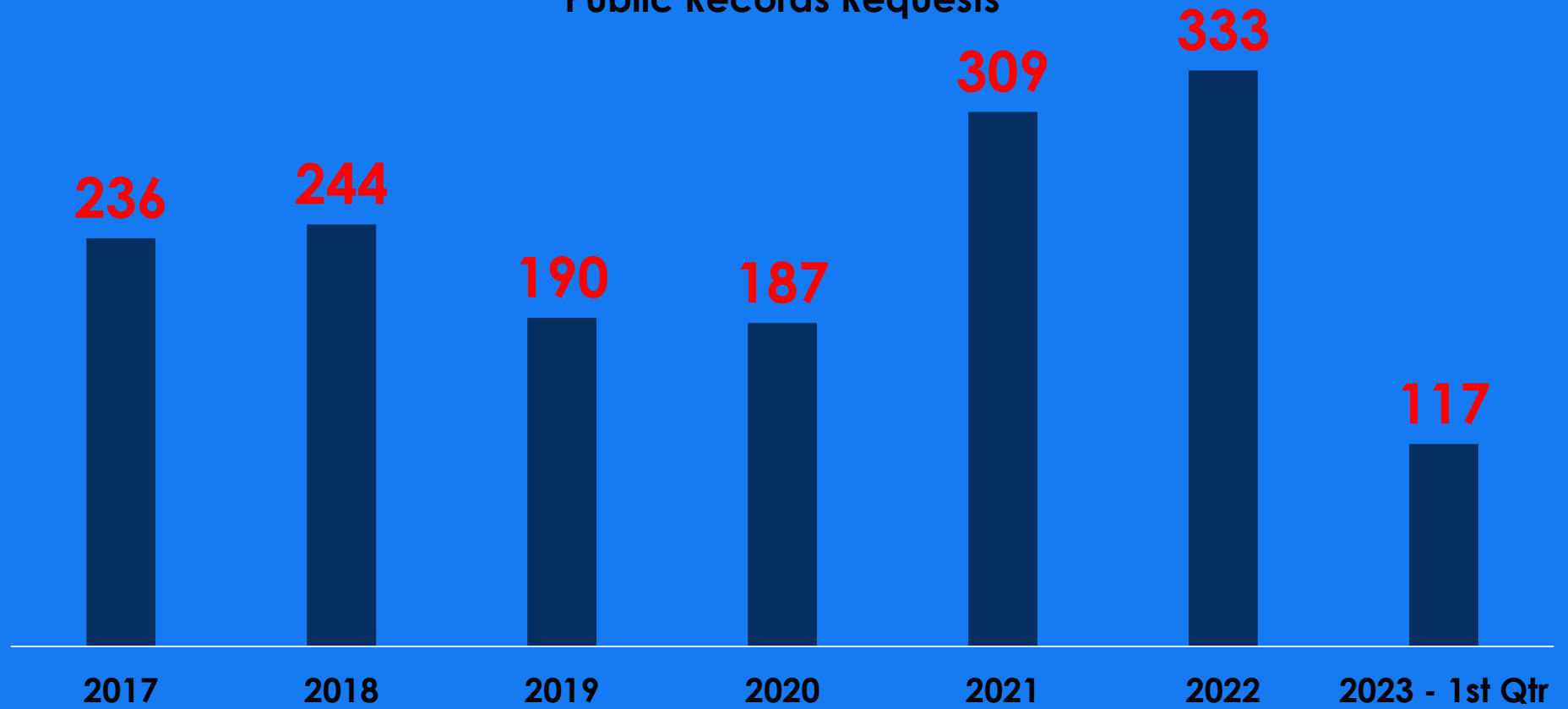


Year	Total DV Cases Received	Total DV Cases Filed	% of Referred DV Cases Filed
2016	824	583	70.70%
2017	875	575	65.70%
2018	790	490	62.02%
2019	878	500	56.90%
2020	1,210	565	46.69%
2021	1,101	786	71.38%
2022	1,084	490	45.20%

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES REFERRED VS. CASES FILED



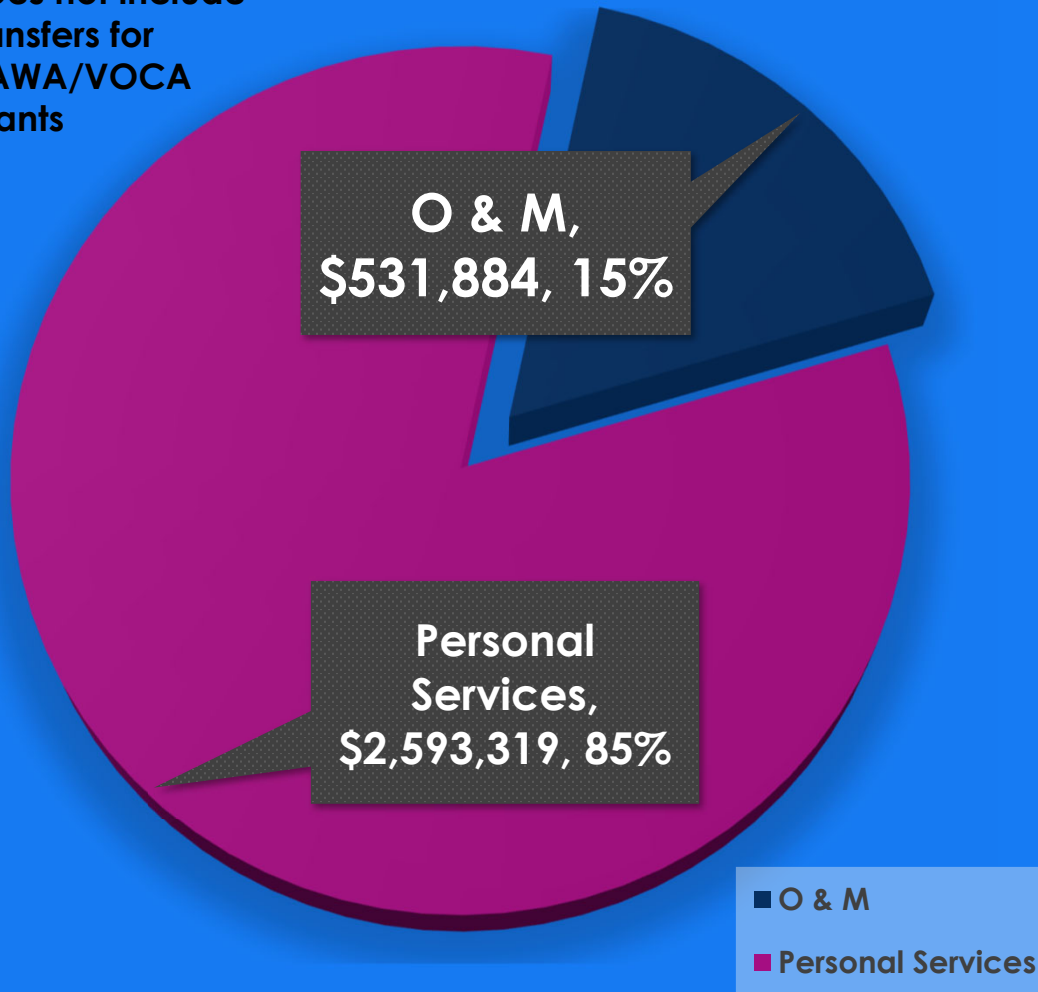
Public Records Requests



PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS



Does not include transfers for VAWA/VOCA grants



PROPOSED BUDGETED EXPENDITURES FY 2024

Overall increase of \$223,740 compared to Adopted FY 2023 Budget

Additional Funding Sources:

- Grant Revenue - \$160,000
- Fines/Forfeitures - \$46,000

Challenges:

- Office space
- Workforce shortage



QUESTIONS?

