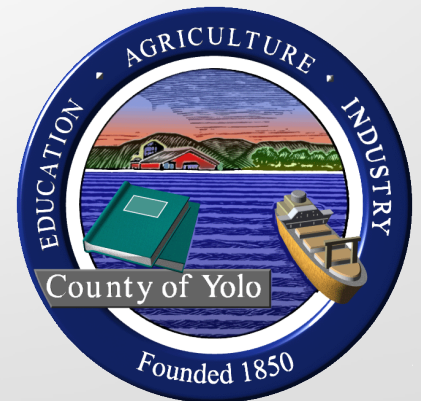


# 2023-24 Annual Update

Department of County Counsel



MARCH 2024

# 2023-24 Budget Summary

Operating Budget \$2,261,384

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Capital Budget \$0

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General Fund Contribution \$2,818,739 (includes Indigent Defense and Small Claims)

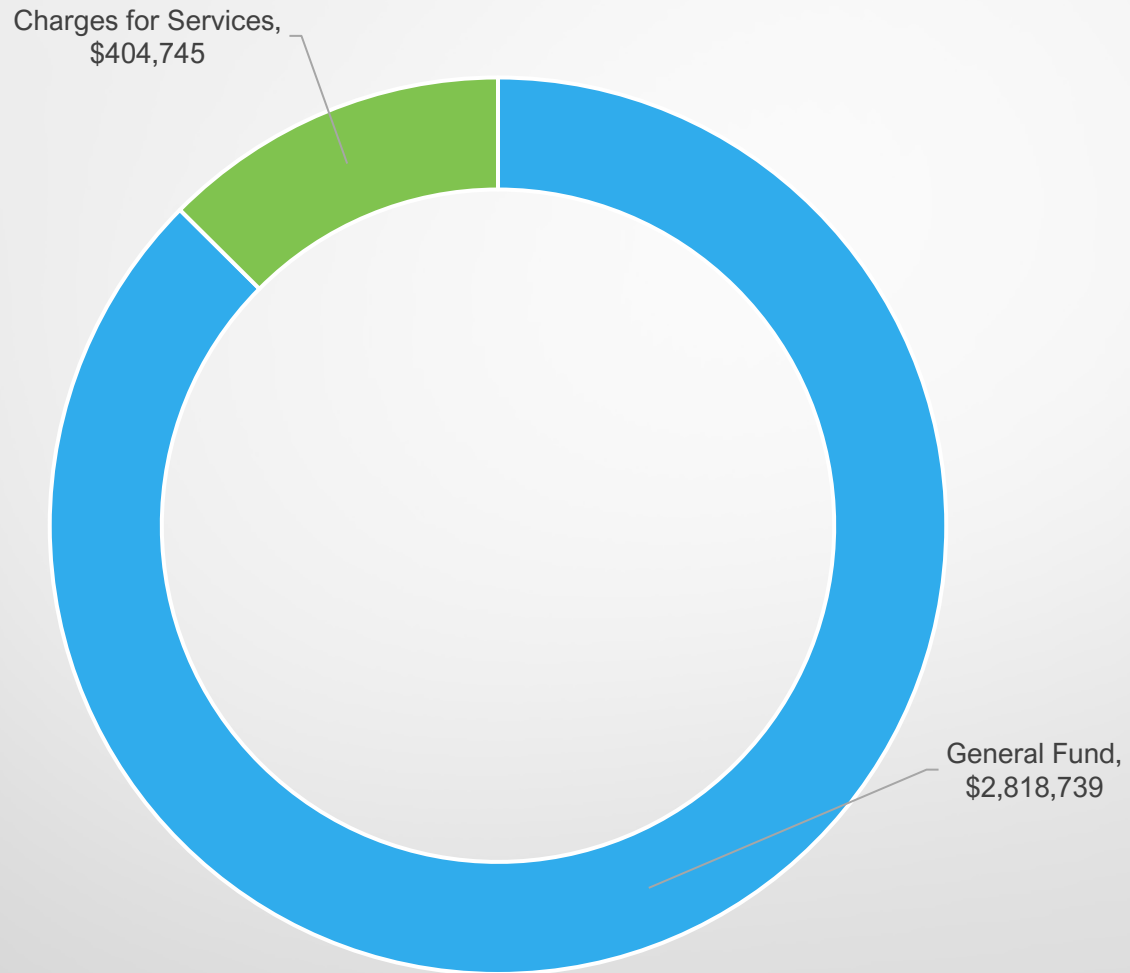
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Full-Time Equivalents 11.70

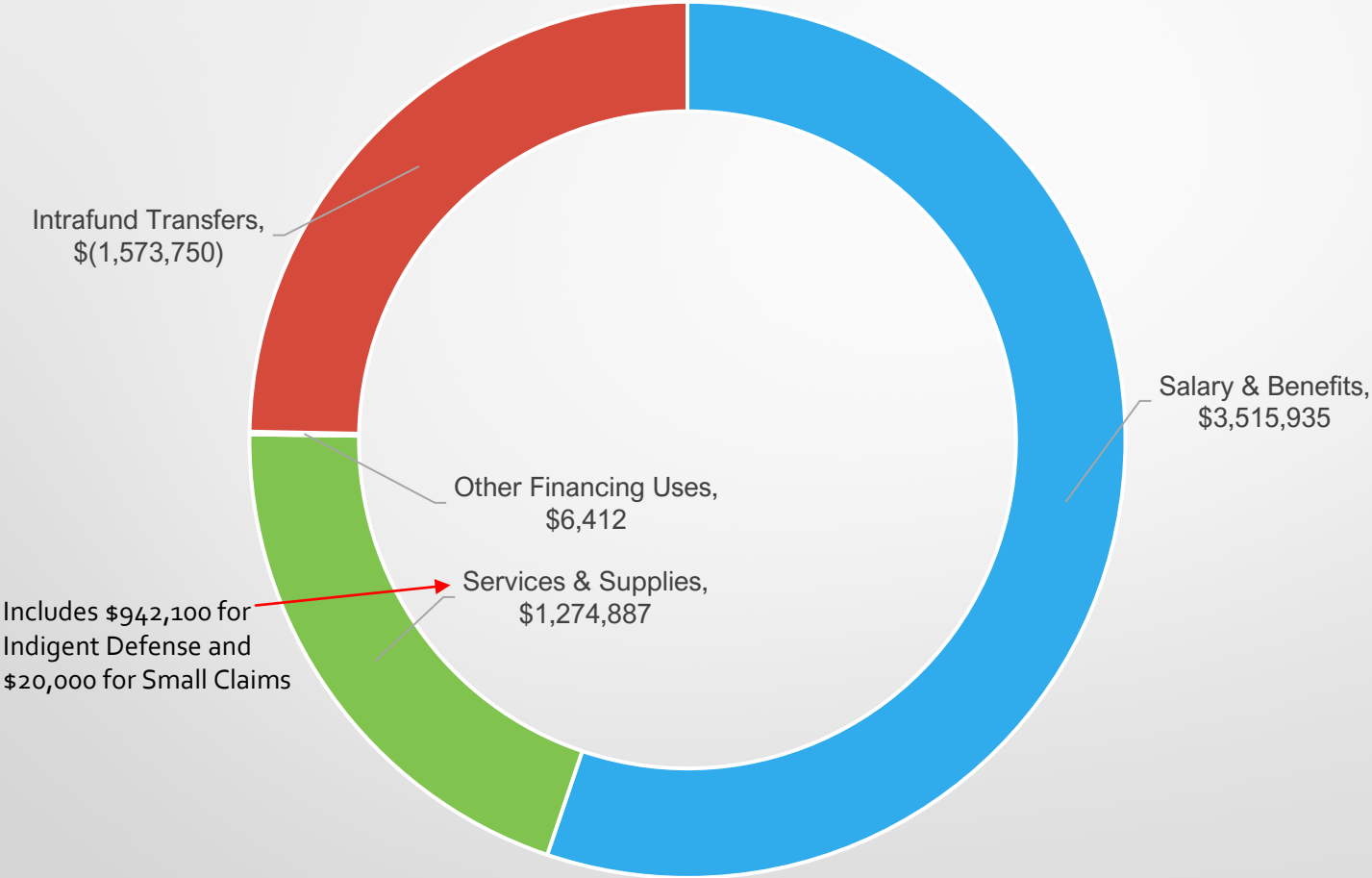
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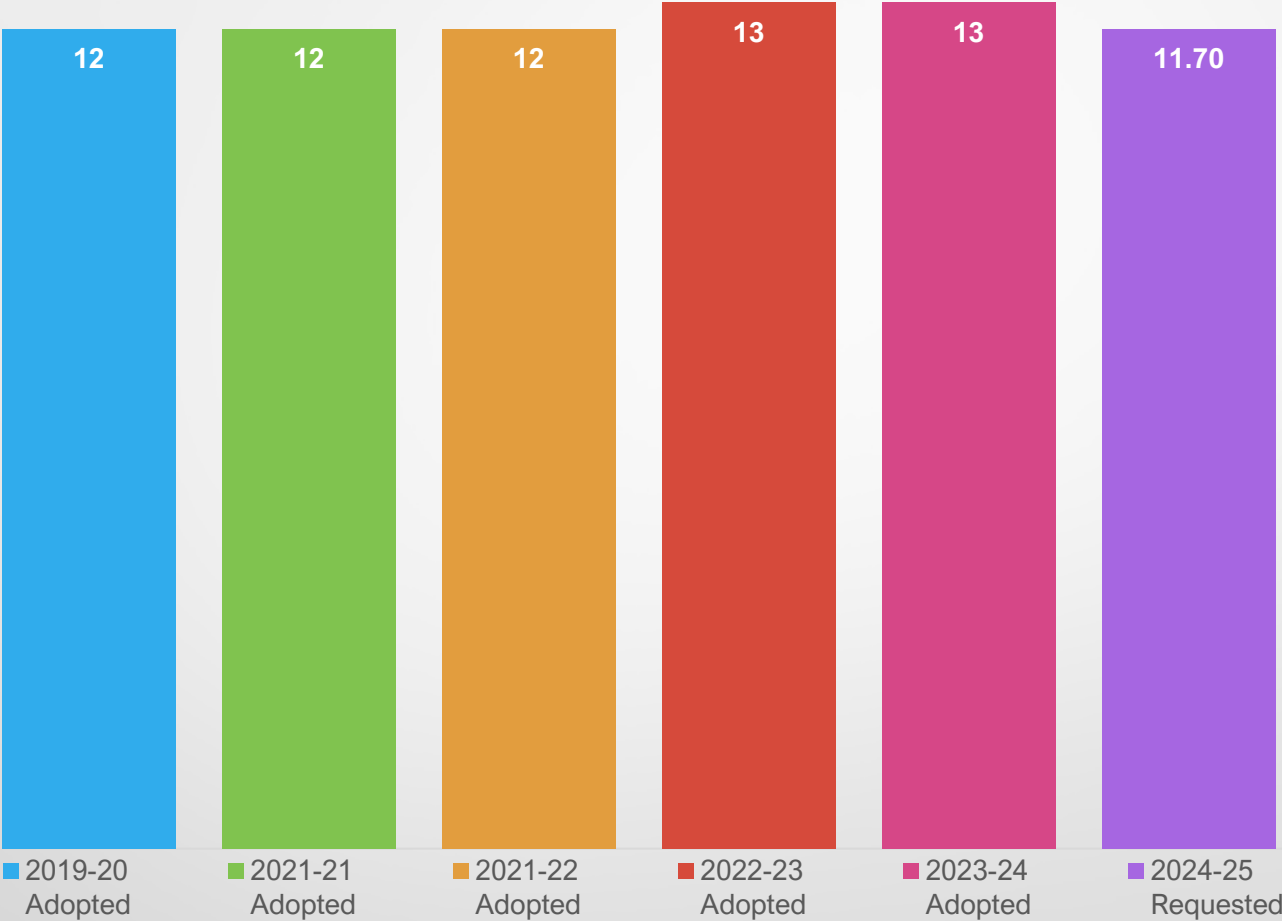
# Source of Funds



# Use of Operating Funds (by Budget Program)



# Staffing Summary



# Key Challenges & Emerging Issues

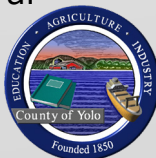
- **HR/Personnel** matters increasing in frequency and complexity
  - Labor negotiations
  - Disciplinary matters
  - Other advice to departments and outside agencies on personnel matters
- **Maintaining alignment** between office and needs of the County, external clients
  - Capacity, expertise, evolving needs
- **The State** and challenges presented by the Levine Act, CARE Court, and other legislative and budgetary actions
  - Also, State water law and policy actions, including Delta Conveyance Project, Bay-Delta Plan amendment (and voluntary agreements), and other matters impacting County agriculture
- **Property and Infrastructure**, including real property acquisitions, leases of County property, and capital projects



# Anticipated Major Accomplishments

## FY 2023-24

- **Effectively supported work to address Board priorities**
  - S. Davis Library project, apprenticeship and Project Labor Agreement efforts, ARPA contracting, Levine Act implementation
- **Represented County interests in affirmative litigation:**
  - Opioid litigation
  - Challenges to new Delta conveyance
  - CEQA litigation concerning Yolo Bypass salmonid habitat restoration
  - Code enforcement litigation
- **Supported CLUO implementation**
  - Provided legal support on site-specific permitting issues, including cultural resources
  - Addressed illegal cultivation in coordination with program staff
- **Continued robust support for HHSA programs, including child welfare**
  - Acted as interim ombudsman for child welfare program
  - Supported efforts to address ICWA concerns raised by regional Indian tribes
  - Aided negotiation of new agreements for ambulance services and medical/behavioral health services in County detention facilities



# Department Major Goals & Objectives

## FY 2024-25

- Maintain focus on the fundamental work of the office:
  - Support effective County administration
  - Minimize litigation and liability risk, including in employment and land use matters
  - Provide effective advocacy and support to Child Welfare Services
  - Align Office capacity and expertise with client expectations, including projects and issues that develop into County priorities
- If possible, successfully resolve pending litigation (CLUO, Delta actions, Opioids) in a manner consistent with County interests
- Through solution-oriented advice and services, contribute to broader efforts to address ongoing Board priorities and projects
- Sustain an Office culture that promotes the retention of highly capable attorneys and staff



# Long Range Goals

Consistent with the prior slide:

- Continuously ensure that the Office's work reflects and advances Board priorities and County department needs
- Provide effective legal advocacy in litigation and other contested proceedings
- Support County stewardship of public resources and compliance with the law
- Maintain a talented, high-performing Office team by prioritizing staff development, retention, and job satisfaction

