

State's Attorneys

FY24 Budget

FY24 GF \$15,079,997 5.0% increase in State GF – primarily in wage adjustment (union contract), health insurance, retirement

Notable Issues and Budget Pressures

Significant workload increases on all SA Offices' staff: attorneys, victim advocates, administrative support

Restarting trials – significant increases in required expert witness testimony, transcripts, mileage, transportation, lodging for witnesses

Vacancy Savings required to meet budget \$231,869

Implementation Costs of Union Contract – will require full funding in the Pay Act

Criminal Case Management System Implementation - \$1.7M ARPA; project management costs required to be paid from SA Budget

- The Department is requesting the following for operational support and staffing:
- Budget language allowing conversion of already authorized temps to two-yr. limited-service positions utilizing existing funding (ARPA-converted-to-GF) to clear the case backlog.
- Permanent positions: 9 Deputy State's Attorneys (Bennington, Chittenden (includes conflict counsel to Addison), Franklin, Lamoille, Orleans, Washington (2), Windham, Windsor);
- 9 Legal Assts (Bennington, Chittenden, Franklin, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Washington, Windham, Windsor);
- \$2,046,000

Special Investigations Unit

FY24 Budget

FY24 Recommend: \$2,228,629– 3% increase
– all funds are State GF

- Costs include:
- SIU Grant Manager: \$62,817
- Law Enforcement Grants: \$793,000
- SIU Program Supports: \$1,347,047
- Program support includes SIU local program staff and NCA Crimes tracking system

FY24 Pressures

- Difficulty in law enforcement agencies' ability to dedicate staff due to their own staff leaving law enforcement positions, and nationwide difficulty in recruiting new staff to LEO positions.
- Identified needs include training for forensic interviewing; board training for oversight role.
- Examining consolidation of SIU programs if savings and efficiency can be achieved.

Sheriffs

FY24 Budget

FY24: \$5,089,314 4.8% increase - All funds are State General Fund

- **Notable Issues and Budget Pressures**
- Increases in wage, benefits, training and unionization of State Transport Deputies
- Duties: Transports, Extraditions, Assistance to Judiciary, DOC, AHS, Post Release Transportation;
- Civil Process; general law enforcement
- Impact of Courts reopening;
- Impact of remote hearings;
- Civil Process; Warrants; special projects for State government.
- Other duties as approved by SAS
- Requests for Sheriffs assistance in many areas of State government: Judiciary Courthouse Security and Transports; DOC transports; OCS civil process; other state civil process; AHS with juveniles' supervision;
- FY24 anticipated costs of unionization
- Pressure on per diem & mileage lines which were reduced in prior years to meet budget targets
- Increase to mileage and per diem lines may be needed to enable State Deputies to assist with other security and law enforcement duties for the State.

SAS Victim Advocate Program

FY24 Budget

FY24 Recommend: \$2,571,497 All funds are State GF - increase 0.3%

- Costs include:
- Salary and benefits (96%); Operating 4%
- Funding for FY24 will not cover costs of union contract provisions or increased costs for benefits (health and retirement, in particular) for the Victim Advocates

Programmatic and Funding Needs:

Additional Victim Advocates and dedicated administrative support staff

Funding for additional trainings, supplies (postage, brochures)

VA Program Manager: currently Limited Service, 1 year reauthorization of LS position; paid under ARPA converted funding.

7 Victim Advocates (under the VA budget) Caledonia, Franklin, Lamoille, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windsor: \$764,000