

Report to the Vermont Legislature

Office of the Attorney General FY 2026 Criminal Justice Budget

Submitted to: Senate Judiciary Committee

Submitted by: Charity R. Clark, Attorney General

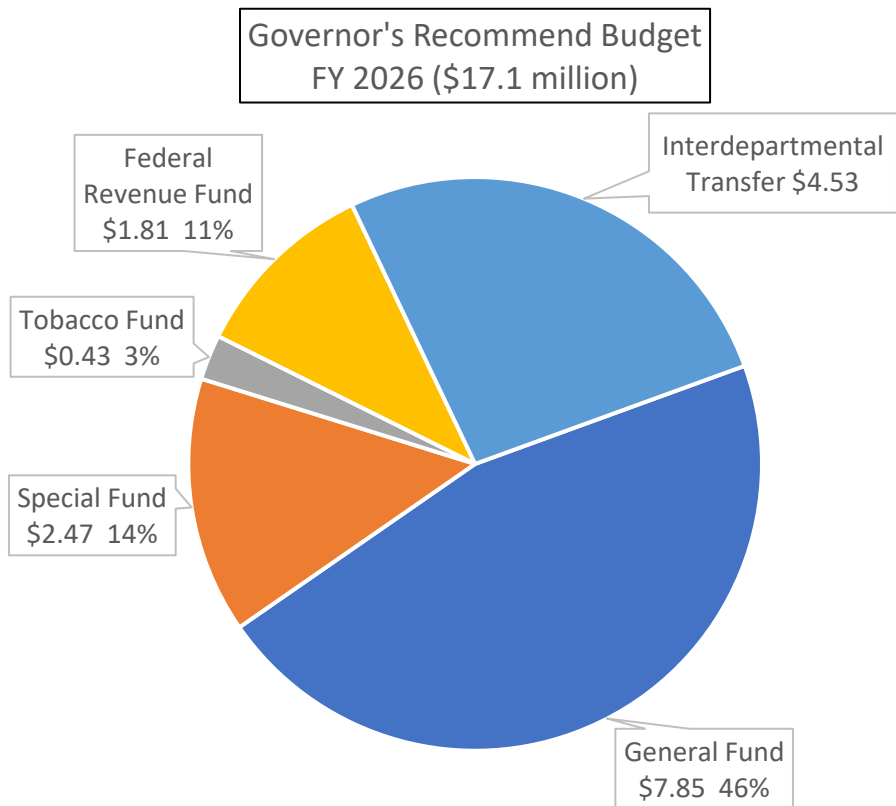
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Administrative Division

Report Date: April 9, 2025



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FY 2026 BUDGET REQUEST

MISSION: To use our authority and expertise as the State of Vermont's independent law office to represent state government, protect the public interest and the environment, and enforce the law with equal right and justice to all.



FY 2026 SUMMARY & OFFICE COMPILATION

- \$453,579, 6.1% GF increase over FY 2025
- 147 Positions Managed Statewide
 - 101 Exempts (97 AAGs), 46 Classifieds
 - 92 Positions on AGO Payroll
 - 55 Positions embedded in agencies & departments across state government
- The Office has two (2) appropriations:
 - Attorney General – Six (6) Divisions
 1. Administration
 2. Environmental & Public Protection
 3. Criminal
 4. General Counsel & Administrative Law
 5. Human Services
 6. Civil
 - Vermont Court Diversion



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FY 2026 BUDGET

Criminal Division

- Statewide prosecutorial agency for serious criminal offenses – prioritizing homicide, sexual assault, domestic violence, sexual exploitation of children, and other violent crimes
 - As of February 2025, currently prosecuting 120 cases – 116 felonies & 4 misdemeanors
 - As of October 2024, handled 35 extraditions for the State of Vermont
- Reviews all officer-involved shootings & other use-of-force incidents involving law enforcement
- Lead agency for the Vermont Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (VT-ICAC)

Performance Measure	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
# of cyber tips received for investigation of crimes against children	583	777	1105
# of investigations performed by VT-ICAC	270	266	189
# of search warrants crafted and executed by VT-ICAC	134	133	114
# of arrests pursuant to VT-ICAC investigations	40	32	41

Each cyber tip and investigation represents countless hours of detailed investigations and complex forensic examinations. In FY 2024, VT-ICAC examined 68,133 gigabytes of data. A gigabyte can hold a standard 1 ½ hour length movie.

<https://helpdeskgeek.com/networking/memory-sizes-gigabytes-terabytes-and-petabytes-explained/>



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FY 2026 BUDGET

Criminal Division

- Medicaid Fraud and Residential Abuse Unit (MFRAU)
 - Required of all states with a Medicaid program – responsible for investigating & prosecuting:
 - fraud by healthcare providers in the VT Medicaid program;
 - fraud in the administration of the VT Medicaid program;
 - the abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of individuals who live in skilled nursing facilities and board-and-care facilities in VT, regardless of payor; and
 - the abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of all Medicaid beneficiaries, when the conduct is connected to the provision of Medicaid services.
 - FY 2024 statistics:
 - Filed 8 new criminal cases
 - Successfully prosecuted 11 criminal cases
 - Filed two civil enforcement actions
 - Settled one civil action



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FY 2026 BUDGET

Criminal Division Budget

Staffing:

Internet Crimes Against Children			Federal	General	Total		Federal	General	Total
	1 - ICAC Commander (P/T Temp)		\$ 68,272			Contracts	\$ 22,100		
	4 - AGO Criminal Investigators			\$ 548,689		Operating	\$140,826		
	Budgeted Investigator Overtime		\$ 88,242			Grants	\$ 20,000		
			\$ 156,514	\$ 548,689	\$ 705,203		\$182,926	\$ -	\$ 182,926
	4.5 FTEs						Total ICAC		\$ 888,129
Medicaid Fraud & Residential Abuse			Federal	Special			Federal	Special	
	1 - Sr Asst Atty General - Director		\$ 151,634	\$ 50,543		Contracts	\$ 15,485	\$ 5,162	
	2 - AAGs		\$ 249,914	\$ 83,304		Operating	\$128,111	\$ 42,704	
	2 - AGO Criminal Investigators		\$ 247,023	\$ 82,341					
	2 - Medicaid Reg & Fiscal Analysts		\$ 231,773	\$ 77,256					
	1 - AGO Civil Fraud Investigator		\$ 72,521	\$ 24,172					
	1 - AGO Paralegal		\$ 91,515	\$ 30,505					
			\$1,044,380	\$ 348,121	\$1,392,501		\$143,595	\$ 47,865	\$ 191,460
	9 FTEs						Total MFRAU		\$1,583,961
Criminal Litigation				General				General	
	1 - Legal Division Chief			\$ 209,865		Contracts		\$ 21,090	
	6 - AAGs			\$ 908,672		Operating		\$127,303	
	1 - Victim's Advocate			\$ 141,255					
	1 - AGO Paralegal			\$ 104,092					
				\$1,363,884	\$1,363,884			\$148,393	\$ 148,393
	9 FTEs					Total Criminal Litigation			\$1,512,277
22.5 FTEs			Total Staffing		\$3,461,588	Total Non-Staffing		\$ 522,779	
			Budgeted Vacancy Savings		\$ (140,005)				
			Net Total Staffing		\$3,321,583	TOTAL CRIMINAL BUDGET			\$3,844,362

*The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force also has two electronic device detection K-9's – Mojo & Kaia.



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FY 2026 BUDGET

Programmatic Performance Measure Report Court Diversion & Pretrial Services

Measure Name	Measure Type	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
YSASP – Successful Completion	Better Off?	80%	82%	81%
Pretrial Services – Court Orders Issued	How Much?	832	1,176	1,022
Diversion – Victim Restitution Paid	How Well?	100%	100%	100%
Diversion – Successful Completion	Better Off?	73%	73%	72%

MISSION STATEMENT

Programs within Court Diversion share a common goal of diverting offenders out of the standard judicial system to community-based providers where they are held accountable, respond to the needs of victims, and address underlying reasons for their actions. The programs are Court Diversion, Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program (YSASP), and the DLS (Driver License Suspension) Program.

Pretrial Services' goal is to address defendants' substance use and mental health treatment needs and thereby limit future adverse involvement with the criminal justice system. Pretrial Services encompass risk assessment and needs screening, court-ordered pretrial services, and the Tamarack Program.



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FY 2026 BUDGET

Funding Requested in **Addition** to Governor's Recommend

➤ **\$1,696,177 – GRANTS TO IMPLEMENT PRE-CHARGE SERVICES STATEWIDE – ACT 180 (2024):**

This figure is based on information supplied by providers and State's Attorneys throughout the State, as well as FY 2024 statistics related to the pre-charge program funded by the Department of Corrections through FY 2025.

CALCULATION METHODOLOGY:

- \$1,105,989 – Continued funding of existing pre-charge services. Calculated as a portion of the FY 2024 DOC base grants to eight organizations which have significant pre-charge referrals. Some of these organizations are not current AGO grantees. The pre-charge referrals to these organizations range from 25% to 89% of all referrals based on the three-year average of DOC data. The respective percentage was used to calculate the “pre-charge” portion of DOC funding plus a 6% inflationary increase over FY 2024 base funding.
- \$590,188 – Funding to expand pre-charge services statewide. There are eight organizations that currently provide no or minimal pre-charge services. All these organizations provide post-charge Diversion and are current AGO grantees. This amount is the estimated funding needed for additional FTE per organization.

