

# Public Safety

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

	1999-2001 Actuals	2001-03 Legislatively Adopted at Close of Session	2001-03 Legislatively Approved through Fifth Special Session	2003-05 Governor's Balanced
General Fund	\$13,215,584	\$23,948,669	\$23,642,847	\$36,907,073
Lottery Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	159,706,501	177,395,734	184,008,115	129,360,554
Federal Funds	12,727,345	14,384,415	14,464,397	98,846,278
Other Funds (Nonlimited)	0	5,160,000	10,444,921	8,115,689
Federal Funds (Nonlimited)	0	0	0	0
Total Funds	\$185,649,430	\$220,888,818	\$232,560,280	\$273,229,594
Positions	1,140	1186	1,196	1,215
Full-time Equivalent	1,124.07	1,173.04	1180.64	1205.58

### Overview

Under the leadership of the Attorney General, the Department of Justice (DOJ) is responsible for providing legal counsel to state officials and agencies. It also:

- Represents the state in court actions, appeals, and legal proceedings.
- Assists the district attorneys in the investigation and prosecution of crimes.
- Establishes and enforces child support obligations.
- Enforces antitrust, racketeering, and other laws.
- Coordinates consumer protection services.
- Works with law enforcement to investigate and prosecute organized crime.
- Protects the state's interest in continued receipt of funds from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.
- Administers victims assistance programs.
- Investigates and prosecutes fraud in Oregon's Medicaid program.
- Regulates charitable corporations and conduct of charitable solicitations and nonprofit gaming.

The Department is organized into functional divisions as a law firm.

### Balanced Budget

The Governor's balanced budget for the Department of Justice is \$273.2 million total funds. This is a 17 percent increase from the Legislatively Approved Budget through the Fifth Special Session. General Fund increases by 56 percent, Federal Funds increase by over 600 percent, while Other Funds decrease by 30 percent. These significant

## Public Safety

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changes in the budget are primarily due to the Child Support program transfer from the Department of Human Services to DOJ. DOJ will now be directly accountable for this federal-state cooperative program in Oregon and \$112.5 million total funds. In the past, the Department of Human Services was responsible to the federal government for program compliance, while DOJ, through an inter-agency agreement, administered the child support collection activities.

The balanced budget continues reductions approved by the Third and Fifth special sessions that required a \$1.2 million transfer from DOJ operating account to the General Fund. It also reduces by seven percent, or about \$1.9 million, General Fund support to criminal appeals, district attorney assistance, Medicaid fraud, and domestic violence grants to counties.

The budget adds capacity for information technology. DOJ will self-finance two new positions, continuation of two limited-duration positions, and reclassification upward of four positions to meet program requirements and need for better accessibility and response time. Two additional positions are established with mostly increased federal funding.

Support for enforcement of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement will continue with establishment of three positions financed from proceeds from this agreement. Two positions are established to meet a rising number of consumer complaints in the Consumer Protection program. These positions are financed with recovered funds in the Consumer Protection Revolving Account.

DOJ will self-finance from gained efficiencies the establishment of one position to screen and organize legal advice and research material for entry into the research database. Four positions are established to work on increased condemnation and contract litigation workload in the Oregon Department of Transportation. Two positions are established to work with the Secretary of State on election fraud investigation using federal grant funds.

The balanced budget reduces funding to counties by about 25 percent for coordination and support of victims of child abuse and other victim compensation. These programs are financed from the Criminal Fines and Assessment Account revenues, which are declining significantly due to a slowing economy and legislative actions.

### Revenue

General Fund supports the state match for federal child support enforcement funds. It also finances public safety programs and services in the areas of criminal and capital appeals, district attorney assistance, organized crime and criminal intelligence, consumer protection, Medicaid fraud, and corrections litigation.

The major source of Other Funds is from billings to agencies for legal services. Billings are based on hourly rates for attorneys and certain other personnel. The budget relies on an increase in hourly rates as follows:

- Attorneys from \$97 to \$109.
- Investigators from \$69 to \$76.
- Paralegals stay at \$69.
- Law clerks stay at \$46.
- Clerical support stay at \$44.

## Public Safety

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There are a variety of other types of Other Fund revenues that help support specific parts of the Department. This includes registration and filing fees charged to charitable organizations. Criminal Fines and Assessment Account revenues support coordination and support of victims of child abuse and the Crime Victims Assistance Program. Federal High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area funds, from the Oregon State Police, support drug enforcement activities. Federal Western State Information Network funds, from the State of California, support narcotic intelligence sharing.

Child Support collections costs received federal (Title IV-D of the Social Security Act) matching funds that pay 66 percent of all program costs, as well as incentives based on the program performance. Federal Funds also support Medicaid fraud investigations and crime victims' compensation. Medicaid fraud grants are based upon a 75 percent federal and 25 percent state matching funds ratio.