

COUNTY ATTORNEY OFFICE

Department Director: Jewel White

727-464-3354

<https://www.pinellascounty.org/attorney/>

Department Purpose

The Office of the County Attorney is responsible for the representation of the Board of County Commissioners, Constitutional Officers, and all of the departments, divisions, regulatory boards, and advisory boards of county government in all legal matters relating to their official responsibilities. The Office of the County Attorney is also responsible for the prosecution and defense of all civil actions for and on behalf of county government and reviews all ordinances, resolutions, contracts, bonds, and other written instruments.

Topics for Discussion

The following threats have the potential to significantly impact this Budget:

- Bills passed by the state legislature and pending gubernatorial approval regarding ordinances that impact businesses and the need to perform research/studies to determine how pending ordinances will impact local businesses. Senate Bill 620 (Local Business Protection Act) has the potential to increase litigation and potential financial consequences for local governments that cause harm to the local business through ordinances enacted after the effective date of the bill.
- Should substantial additional litigation materialize as a result of this bill, the concerns that are not addressed in the budget could require the hiring of additional staff to handle the increase in litigation against the County.

Budget Summary

The FY23 Budget for County Attorney is increasing by \$514,170, or 9.41%, over the FY22 Budget. Personnel Services are increasing by \$478,720, or 9.46%. This is attributed to double encumbrance of two high level positions for six weeks, leave payout (over \$60,000), multiple promotions and positions reclassifications. A request for an increase in the Outside Legal Counsel budget is being made due to a current construction issue that is nearing litigation and several looming construction litigation lawsuits that are anticipated to be filed. Historically, this program's budget was reduced based on the prior year trends. Capital Outlay is decreasing by over \$22,000 due to decrease in computer replacements.

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Budget Summary, cont.

2022				2023		
Major Object	General Fund	Non- General Fund	Total	General Fund	Non- General Fund	Total
Personal Services	\$5,059,950		\$5,059,950	\$5,538,670		\$5,538,670
Operating Expenses	\$382,400		\$382,400	\$440,110		\$440,110
Capital Outlay	\$22,260		\$22,260			
Total	\$5,464,610		\$5,464,610	\$5,978,780		\$5,978,780
FTE	33.0			33.3		33.3

Budget Summary by Program and Fund

County Attorney Program

Represents the BCC, Constitutional Officers, and all departments, divisions, regulatory boards, and advisory boards of County government in all legal matters relating to their official responsibilities. Conducts the prosecution and defense of all civil actions for County government and reviews all ordinances, resolutions, contracts, bonds, and other written instruments.

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Program	Fund	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budget	FY23 Budget
1201-County Attorney Program	0001 - General Fund	\$5,064,566	\$5,056,038	5,264,610	\$5,728,780
	Total	\$5,064,566	\$5,056,038	\$5,264,610	\$5,728,780

Outside Legal Counsel Program

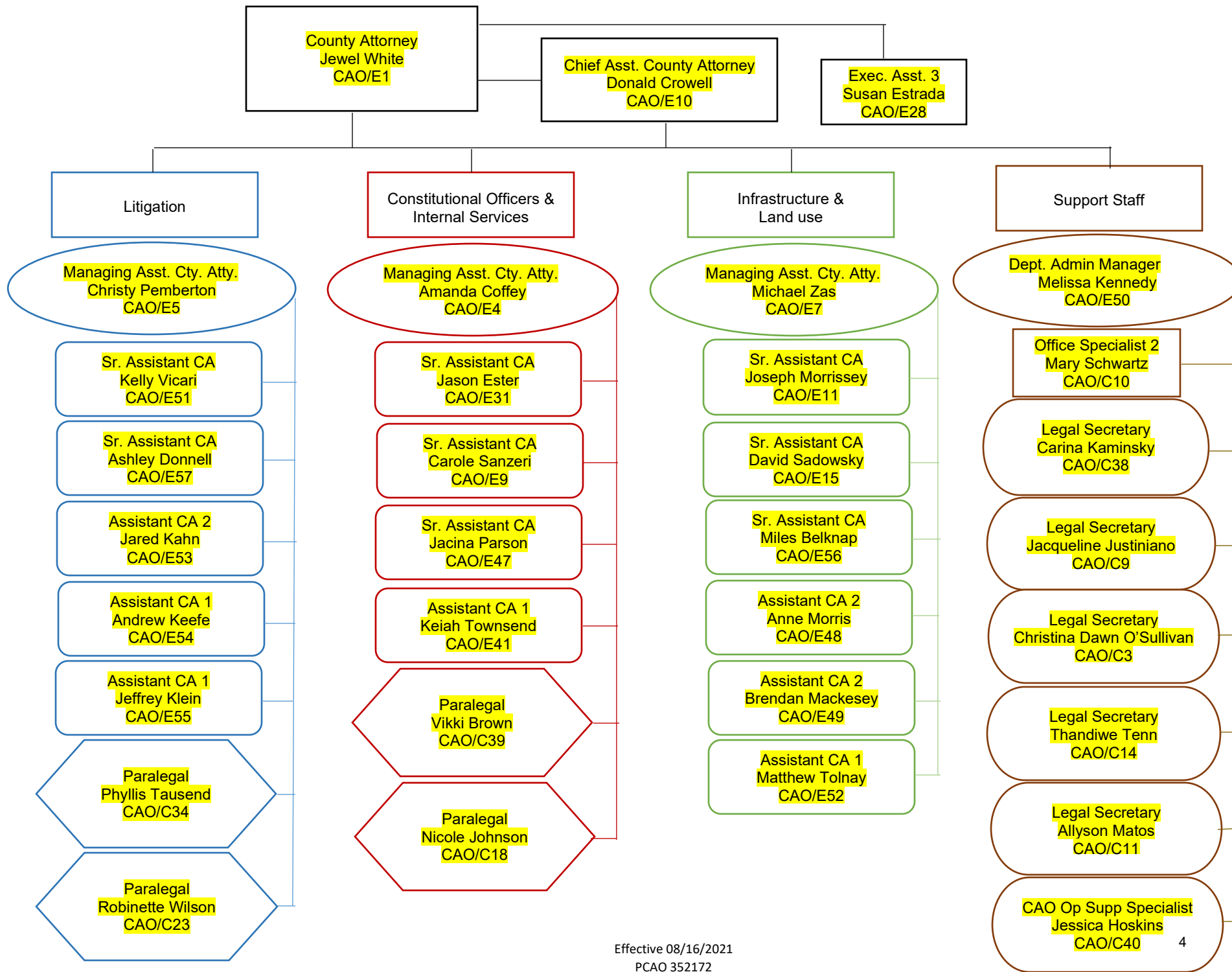
Outside legal counsel for matters involving a conflict or unsupported legal specialty areas.

Program	Fund	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budget	FY23 Budget
1202-Outside Legal Counsel Program	0001 - General Fund	\$235,395	\$96,256	200,000	\$250,000
	Total	\$235,395	\$96,256	\$200,000	\$250,000

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Attachments:

1. Organizational Chart (page 4)
2. Budget Report (page 5)



Pinellas County
Standard Detail
Fund: 0001 - General Fund
Version: County Admin Review

Expenditures

Major Object	FY19 Actual	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budget	FY22 Estimate	FY23 Request	Budget to Budget Change	Budget to Budget % Change
Personal Services	4,589,883	4,878,220	4,859,890	5,059,950	4,926,170	5,538,670	478,720	9.46%
Operating Expenses	336,869	412,351	287,002	382,400	388,260	440,110	57,710	15.09%
Capital Outlay	4,018	16,395	0	22,260	0	0	(22,260)	-100.00%
Expenditures Total	4,930,770	5,306,966	5,146,892	5,464,610	5,314,430	5,978,780	514,170	9.41%
	(4,930,770)	(5,306,966)	(5,146,892)	(5,464,610)	(5,314,430)	(5,978,780)	(514,170)	-9.41%