

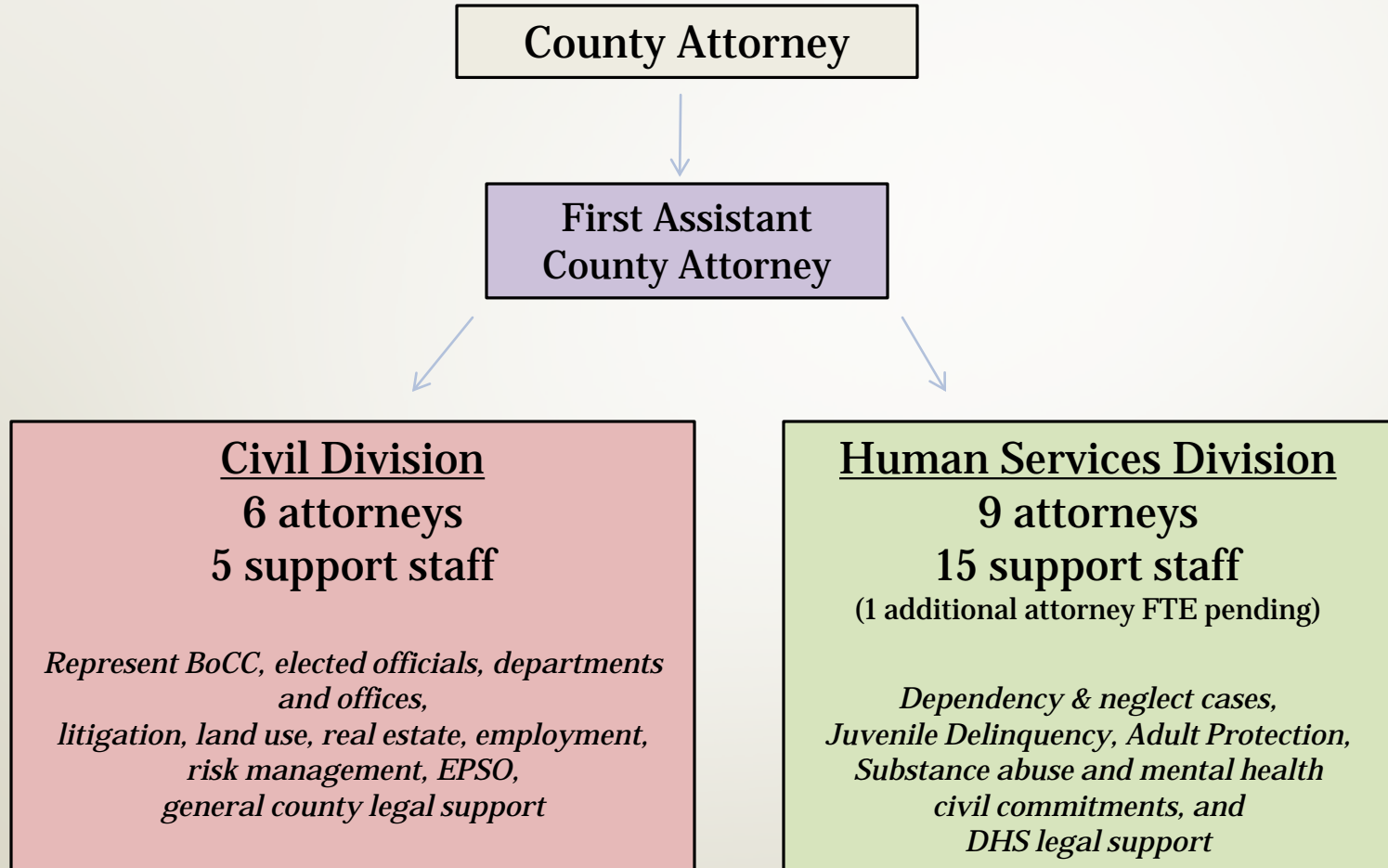


2018 Budget Presentation Office of the County Attorney

Amy Folsom, County Attorney

November 14, 2017

Organizational Chart – County Attorney



Operations – Civil Division

- Represents the interests of the Board of County Commissioners, administrative departments, and appointed advisory boards
- Represents the interests of other elected or appointed officials when those interests are compatible with those of the County
- Represents the County in all public liability and tort actions as a result of the County being self-insured
- Represents the County, its departments or other elected officials in a variety of other civil matters



Operations – Human Services

- Provides legal advice, opinions, and representation to the El Paso County Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Provides representation in dependency and neglect cases, to include: temporary shelter hearings, dispositional hearings, permanency planning and permanent custody hearings, parental rights termination trials, emergency protective hearings and jury trials
- Provides representation in adult protective matters, involuntary mental health commitment proceedings, and alcohol and substance abuse commitment matters
- Provides on-going training to DHS in matters relating to courtroom procedure, presentation of evidence, and substantive areas of the Children's Code



Mandates/State Statutes Required

- Civil Division

Article XIV § 8 of the Colorado Constitution requires election or appointment of a County Attorney

Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) § 30-111-118, provides that Board may employ a County Attorney

- Human Services Division

Children's Code – C.R.S. Title 19

Probate Code – C.R.S. Title 15 (Guardianships and Conservatorships)

Mental Health – C.R.S. Title 27 (Care and Treatment of Persons with Mental Health Disorders and Involuntary Commitment for alcohol/substance abuse disorder)



County Strategic Plan Goals

Civil and Human Services Divisions

- The Office of the County Attorney is involved in supporting the County's Strategic Plan Goals **at almost every level**
 - Goal 1 – Maintain and Promote a Financially Sustainable County Government that is Transparent and Effective
 - Goal 2 – Continue to Enhance the Understanding of Civic Services and Promote Participation, Engagement, and Confidence in County Government
 - Goal 3 – Maintain and Improve the County's Transportation System, Facilities, Infrastructure, and Technology
 - Goal 4 – Consistently Support Regional Economic Strength
 - Goal 5 – Strive to Ensure a Safe, Secure, Resilient, and Healthy Community



Operating Indicators

Civil Litigation Division

- **Litigation/Notices of Claim/Settlements**
 - Litigation cases:
 - 27 new cases in 2017
 - Up from 17 new cases in 2016
 - Since 2015– 64 lawsuits filed– 37 closed—32 by dismissal
 - Notice of Claims:
 - 50 in 2017 (to date)
 - 67 in 2016
 - Settlements: 2017 (to date) - \$81,438
 - 2016 - \$87,700

Office of the County Attorney



Operating Indicators

Civil Division—Risk Management

- Risk Management
 - Cases triaged and managed from event through lawsuit
 - Enhanced coordination between Risk Management and County Attorney's Office even in low level claims
 - Proactivity in managing risk by County Attorneys
 - Educating hiring authorities and supervisors daily
 - Building solid attorney/client relationships
 - Maintaining accessibility



Operating Indicators

Civil Division—Employment

- Employment

- Updated employment manual on yearly basis
- CAT conducting Title VII investigations for EPSO
- Streamlined due process for all employees
- EEOC cases – 5 in 2017 – steady from 2016
- CAT created and conducted Harassment Training for law enforcement– civilian and sworn
- For 2018– CAT conducted Supervisor Training for law enforcement
- CAT training for all County Departments in 2018



Operating Indicators

Civil Division—Land Use/Real Estate

- Land Use
 - 5th year of providing on site legal help
 - Land Development Code and Code Enforcement Ordinances pending updates to enhance administrative processes
 - 4 significant code-enforcement rubbish clean-ups through Administrative Entry Warrant or contempt litigation
 - County Attorney's Office involved in new Water Master Planning
 - Acquisition of Elephant Rock open space – including conservation easement with Palmer Land Trust



Operating Indicators

Civil Division

- Sheriff's Office
 - Third year with CAT on site at EPSO
 - New Title VII investigatory process ensures neutrality and confidentiality
 - Enhanced legal support with full-time, on-site paralegal
 - 2018 Supervisory training to be conducted by CAT
 - CAT at Training Academy



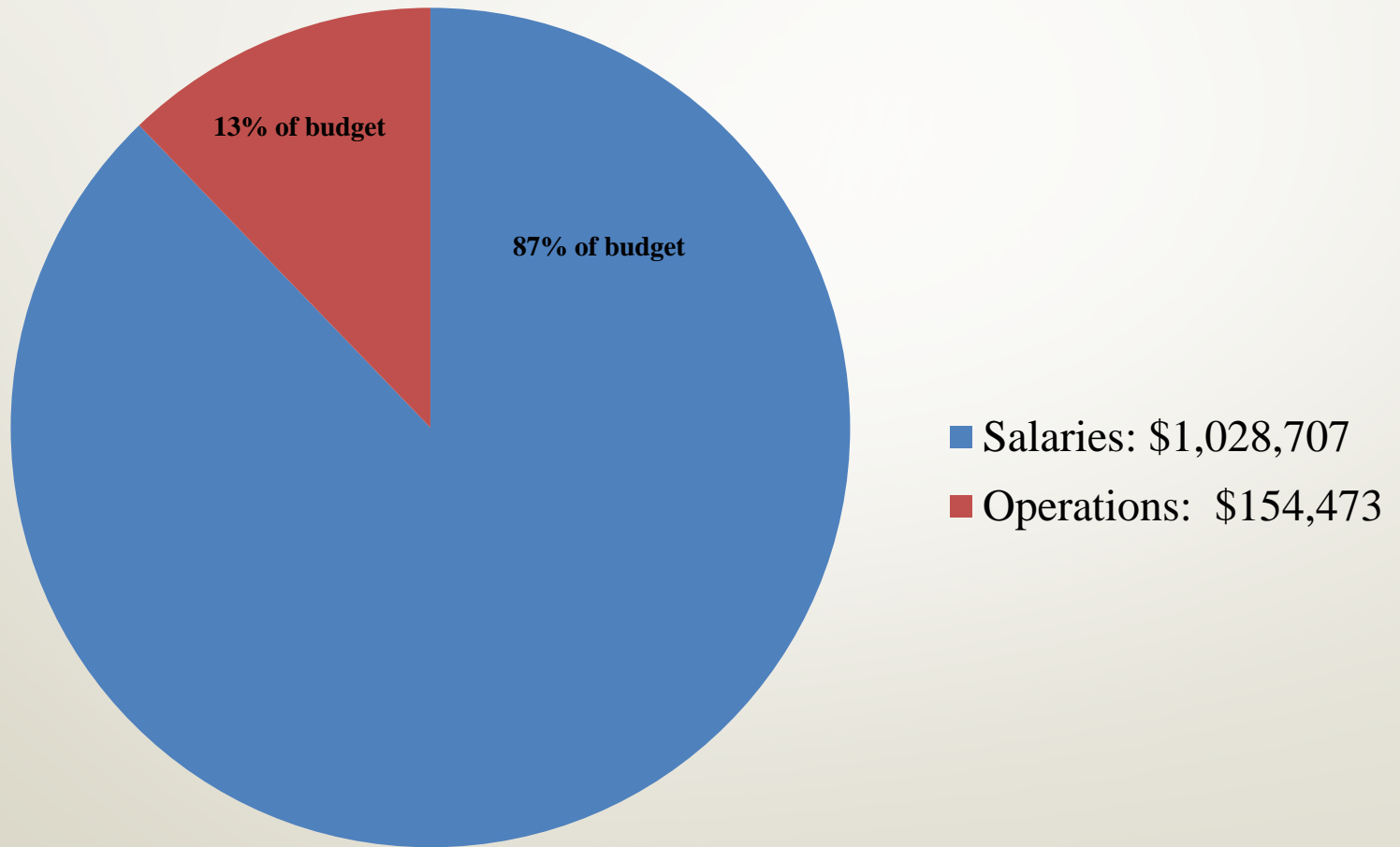
Operating Indicators

Human Services Division

- Effectively managed even larger caseload in 2017
 - 2017 caseload higher than ever– 922 open cases in September staffed by 9 attorneys
 - One new civil attorney and one paralegal position funded by DHS
- Expansion of juvenile delinquency representation
 - New attorney and paralegal position dedicated to juvenile delinquency dockets
- Successful Jury Trials
- Appeals increased - 14 in 2016; 23 YTD
- Recent excellent argument at Court of Appeals



Civil Division General Fund Budget Breakdown



2018 High Level Goals

- Maintain and Improve Client Relationships and Service
 - Team approach
 - Effective cross training/succession planning
- Hire, Train and Retain the Best
 - No turnover in CAT Civil for 5 years
 - 2018 Focus on CAT DHS
- Reactive to Proactive Risk Management



Questions?



Office of the County Attorney