

Department Mission



- The mission of the Klamath County Counsel's office is to provide Klamath County with the best legal support possible to achieve Klamath County's goals and objectives and to preserve and protect Klamath County resources.

Mandated Services



- County Counsel services are not mandated by state law but by the client, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).
- Having a Contract Specialist is not mandated by law, but is a required position in the County's Contracting Policies and Procedures.

Self Imposed Services



- Assertive litigation, such as code enforcement & dog control
- Advice to individual departments
- Proactive training

Department Overview



- County Counsel's office consists of one attorney, one paralegal and one half-time contract specialist. Our office strives to provide the best legal advice not only to the Board of Commissioners, but each County department on a wide variety of issues thereby limiting the possibility of litigation and the costs associated with it.

Successes and Challenges



A series of internal investigations and human resource related issues have demanded significant legal attention in the last 6 months; budget-related issues have increased projects across the board.

As a practical matter, the overload of legal issues means we have been too often reactive on our legal advice, rather than proactive.

Budget constraints do not allow for additional assistant counsel, and the major challenge next year will be efficiently prioritizing appropriate legal matters and – unfortunately – declining to provide service on others.

Budget Overview

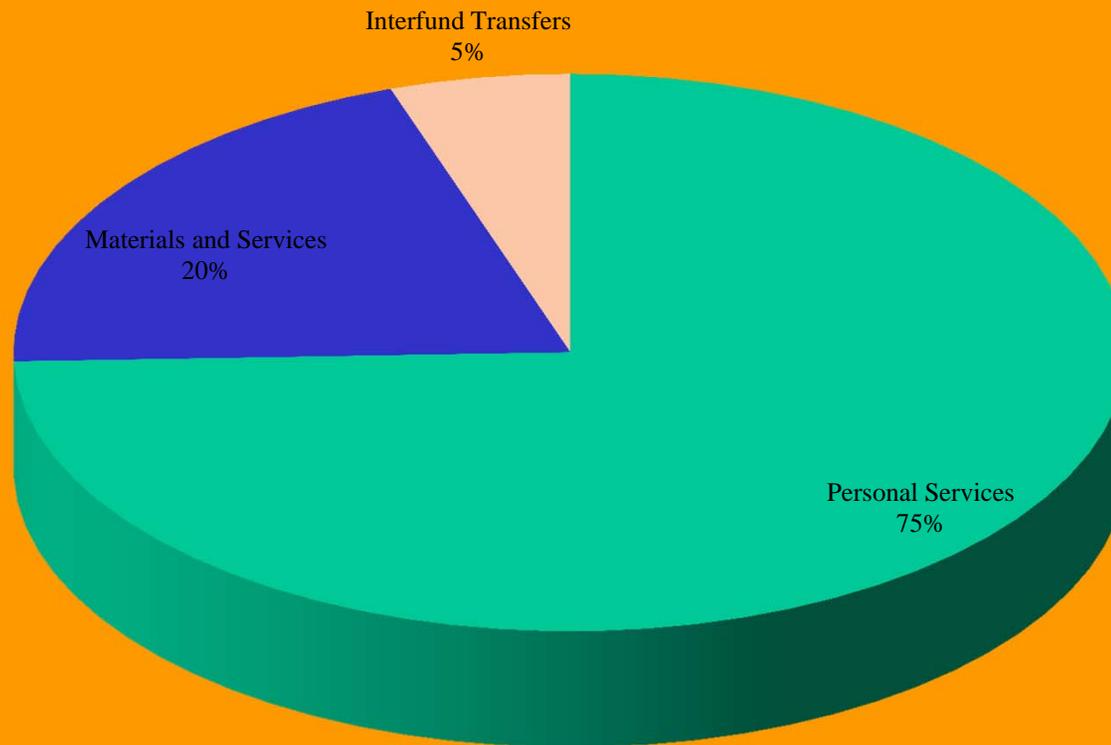


- County Counsel's office is funded through administrative costs and does not receive outside revenue.

Financial Presentation



2011-12 Budget
Requirements by Category





Significant Changes

- **Personal Services:**

Current Budget \$200,619

Requested Budget \$223,755

- **Materials and Services:**

Current Budget \$70,705

Requested Budget \$60,927

- **Interfund Transfers:**

Current Budget \$ 9,125

Requested Budget \$15,745

Significant Changes



- Reduction in legal fees for outside counsel may limit certain departments on legal representation.
- Westlaw provided us with the means to research case law.



Key issues

Long-term challenges are an extension of next year's short-term challenges. Klamath County's legal demands are growing, and there is no capacity for expansion. Costs for outside counsel on limited matters can be efficient, especially when an area of expertise is required. But for general matters, paying hourly rates to private attorneys is far more costly than in-house advice.