

## Department of the Attorney General

Expenditures by Program	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Enacted	FY2021 Governor	Change from Enacted		FY2022 Governor	Change from Enacted	
General Division	\$3.9	\$4.3	\$4.3	\$0.0	0.3%	\$4.3	\$0.0	0.6%
Criminal Division	21.5	20.9	21.0	0.1	0.3%	20.5	(0.4)	-1.8%
Civil Division	5.9	6.8	6.9	0.1	1.9%	6.9	0.1	0.8%
Bureau of Criminal Identification	3.4	1.8	4.0	2.2	119.7%	2.8	1.0	56.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34.6</b>	<b>\$33.8</b>	<b>\$36.2</b>	<b>\$2.4</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>\$34.5</b>	<b>\$0.7</b>	<b>2.2%</b>

### Expenditures by Source

General Revenue	\$28.0	\$29.6	\$29.7	\$0.1	0.3%	\$29.9	\$0.3	1.0%
Federal Funds	4.2	2.9	3.9	1.0	33.9%	2.5	(0.4)	-12.7%
Restricted Receipts	2.4	1.1	2.5	1.3	113.9%	2.0	0.8	72.5%
Other Funds	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0%	0.2	(0.0)	-15.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34.6</b>	<b>\$33.8</b>	<b>\$36.2</b>	<b>\$2.4</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>\$34.5</b>	<b>\$0.7</b>	<b>2.2%</b>

Authorized FTE Levels 239.1 239.1 239.1 - - 243.12 4.0 1.7%

*\$ in millions. Totals may vary due to rounding.*

The Department of the Attorney General is the central legal agency of the State. The Department is responsible for the prosecution of all felony criminal cases and misdemeanor, appeals as well as prosecution of misdemeanor cases brought by state law enforcement in the various district courts. Additionally, as chief legal officer of the State, the Attorney General acts to protect consumers against fraudulent business practices; investigates Opens Meetings Act and Access to Public Records compliance; and, acts as the central repository for criminal history and information in the State. The Department is divided into four budget programs: General, Criminal, Civil, and Bureau of Criminal Identification.

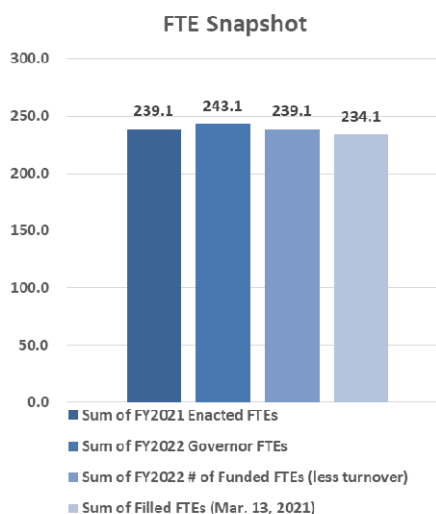
### MAJOR ISSUES AND TRENDS

The Budget includes \$34.5 million in total funding for the Department, an increase of \$740,451 from the FY2021 Budget as Enacted. General revenues increased by \$303,067, or 1.0 percent, from the FY2021 Budget as Enacted, to \$29.9 million. The increase in general revenue is primarily related to the addition of 4.0 FTE positions, 2.0 Staff Attorneys and 2.0 Paralegals. The Budget also includes an additional \$227,672 for the Department-wide replacement of computer servers and storage hardware.

The decrease in federal funds is related to funding for the Rhode Island Victims Outreach Integrated Community Environment (VOICE) project. The Department anticipated completing this project in FY2021, however, there have been setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department will have to shift funding from FY2021 to FY2022 that is expected to be included in a revised budget submission.

The increase in restricted receipts is mainly within the Bureau of Criminal Identification to bring funding for fingerprinting services in line with FY2020 actual levels.

The Budget includes 243.1 FTE positions in FY2022, an increase of 4.0 FTE positions over the FY2021 Enacted level. New positions include 1.0 new Staff Attorney and 1.0 Paralegal within the Special Victims Unit and 1.0 Staff Attorney and 1.0 Paralegals within the Civil Division.



## GENERAL DIVISION

The General Division is responsible for the overall operations of the Department. It consists of the following units: Executive, Fiscal, Personnel, Operations, Management Information Systems, and Public Information/Legislation. The Division oversees the finances of the Department, prepares and submits the Department's annual budget, and lobbies for the resources necessary for the efficient operation of the Department.

<b>General Division</b>	<b>General Revenue</b>
FY2021 Enacted	\$4,106,493
<i>Targets and Other Adjustments</i>	<i>(11,526)</i>
Personnel	58,761
Desktop Computer and Hardware Replacement	7,845
<b>FY2022 Governor</b>	<b>\$4,161,573</b>

### **Personnel** **\$58,761**

The Budget provides an additional \$58,761 in general revenue for personnel costs. This increase is due to anticipated additional expenses including an increase in employee retirement and health care cost. This also includes \$15,215 to restore funding that was saved in FY2021 due to the Department's participation in the WorkShare program.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State began an Employee WorkShare Program which allowed eligible state employees to claim federal WorkShare benefits while working 60.0 percent of their regular weekly hours. Employees participated for a total of twelve weeks.

### **Desktop Computer and Hardware Replacement** **\$7,845**

The Budget includes an additional \$7,845 in general revenue (\$35,118 total) to replace all laptop and desktop computers as well as upgrade all computer hardware within the General Division. This is a Department-wide initiative to replace and upgrade all computers and laptops. The Department's current operating system uses Windows 7, which is no longer supported by Microsoft as of January 2020. The Department has obtained an extended security package that will allow continued operation on the current computers while they are transitioning to new computers.

## CRIMINAL DIVISION

The Criminal Division is charged with the prosecution of felony cases and misdemeanor appeals. The Division assists the Attorney General in carrying out the constitutional responsibility to prosecute all felony criminal offenses occurring in the State, as well as all misdemeanor criminal cases brought by State law enforcement agencies or appealed to the Superior Court. Specialized units focus on white-collar crime, narcotics and organized crime, firearms offenses, juvenile offenders, domestic violence and sexual assault, Medicaid fraud, and District Court offenses.

<b>Criminal Division</b>	<b>General Revenue</b>
FY2021 Enacted	\$17,629,585
<i>Targets and Other Adjustments</i>	<i>(5,439)</i>
Personnel	371,328
Operating Expenses	(153,453)
Protection of State Witnesses	(37,491)
Expert Witness Funding - Medical Professionals	(18,576)
<b>FY2022 Governor</b>	<b>\$17,785,954</b>

<b>Criminal Division</b>	<b>Other Fund Changes</b>
RI VOICE (federal funds)	(\$324,000)

**Personnel** **\$371,328**

The Budget includes an additional \$371,328 in general revenue for personnel. The Budget adds \$203,163 in funding for two additional FTE positions, 1.0 FTE Attorney and 1.0 FTE Paralegal within the Criminal Division's Special Victims Unit. The Budget also adds an additional \$168,165 for adjustments to personnel expenses including employee retirement and healthcare costs. This also includes \$53,113 to restore funding that was saved in FY2021 due to the Department's participation in the WorkShare program.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State began an Employee WorkShare Program which allowed eligible state employees to claim federal WorkShare benefits while working 60.0 percent of their regular weekly hours. Employees participated for a total of twelve weeks.

**Operating Expenses** **(\$153,453)**

The Budget includes a decrease of \$153,453 in operating expenses compare to the FY2021 Budget as Enacted. The majority of the decreases bring costs back in line with FY2019 and FY2020 actual costs including decreases of \$46,758 for postage and postal services, \$36,856 for office supplies and equipment, \$36,063 for electricity, \$22,810 for rental and leases of equipment, \$18,904 for the rental of outside property, and \$16,072 for overhead costs for the record center. The Budget also includes a decrease of \$69,448 for information technology and software maintenance costs, offset by an increase of \$93,347 for computer supplies.

**Protection of State Witnesses** **(\$37,491)**

The Budget includes \$58,648 for the protection of state witnesses, a decrease of \$37,491 from the FY2021 Enacted level. This increase brings the Budget back in line with FY2020 actual expenditures. State witnesses include victims of crimes, material witnesses, or any person who is able to provide relevant testimony or information. The witnesses are required to be protected from wrongful actions against them or their family.

The amount of funding needed for the protection of state witnesses can vary each year, but the Department notes that the cost of food, lodging, transportation and other miscellaneous expenses continues to increase.

**Expert Witness Funding – Medical Professionals** **(\$18,576)**

The Budget includes a decrease of \$18,576 for expert witness testimony funding, specifically for medical professionals. The Budget includes a total of \$45,424 for medical professional expert witness testimony. The Department uses expert witnesses in case testimonies. These costs can be unpredictable and difficult to plan for.

The Department spent \$34,000 in FY2019 and \$37,850 in FY2020 for expert medical witness testimony. The FY2021 Budget as Enacted included \$64,000 in funding for expert medical witness testimony.

**RI VOICE (federal funds)****(\$324,000)**

The Budget includes a federal funds decrease of \$324,000 for the Rhode Island Victims Outreach Integrated Community Environment (VOICE) project. The VOICE project is a secure portal that will provide real time access to cases, offender status, and other information to victims of crimes, advocates, and state agencies. The VOICE project began in FY2020 and was scheduled to be completed in FY2021, however, the Department has experienced setbacks related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department does not anticipate expending all funding in FY2021 and will carry some funding over to FY2022. This will be included in a revised budget submission.

**CIVIL DIVISION**

The Civil Division is charged with conducting the State's legal affairs and representing the State in legal proceedings. By law, the Attorney General initiates and defends actions in state and federal courts whenever warranted; ensures that representation is provided to state officers, employees, and agencies in all courts; advises state officers and agencies on legal issues; and, issues written opinions on legal issues when requested by governmental officers.

<b>Civil Division</b>	<b>General Revenue</b>
FY2021 Enacted	\$6,031,523
<i>Targets and Other Adjustments</i>	<i>(48,200)</i>
Personnel	311,317
Expert Witness Funding	(194,160)
<b>FY2022 Governor</b>	<b>\$6,100,480</b>

**Personnel****\$311,317**

The Budget increases general revenue funding by \$311,317 related to personnel expenses. The Budget includes an additional \$203,163 for 2.0 FTE positions, 1.0 FTE Staff Attorney and 1.0 FTE Paralegal. The remaining \$108,514 is for adjustments to personnel expenses including employee retirement and healthcare costs. This also includes \$15,419 to restore funding that was saved in FY2021 due to the Department's participation in the WorkShare program.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State began an Employee WorkShare Program which allowed eligible state employees to claim federal WorkShare benefits while working 60.0 percent of their regular weekly hours. Employees participated for a total of twelve weeks.

**Expert Witness Funding****(\$194,160)**

The Budget includes \$278,400 for expert witness testimony, a decrease of \$194,160 from FY2021. Prior to FY2020, the Department did not include funding within the Civil Department for expert witness testimony; however, recently the Department has pursued additional cases resulting in the need for funding. The Department uses expert witnesses in case testimonies. These costs can be unpredictable and difficult to plan for. The Department spent \$86,959 in FY2020 for expert witness testimony.

**BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION**

The Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI) is the state entity charged with maintaining criminal history information for crimes committed in Rhode Island. The BCI responds to criminal history records requests, analyzes and records fingerprint information, maintains pistol permits, issues security guard licenses, and conducts employee background checks. The BCI is open 24-hours per day, 7-days per week to respond to requests from law enforcement agencies throughout the country. In FY2019, the BCI moved to the Department's new facility located at the Pastore complex. The new facility was completed in 2018 using Google forfeiture federal funds.

<b>Bureau of Criminal Identification</b>	<b>General Revenue</b>
FY2021 Enacted	\$1,814,266
<i>Targets and Other Adjustments</i>	<i>(995)</i>
Personnel	23,656
<b>FY2022 Governor</b>	<b>\$1,836,927</b>

**Personnel** **\$23,656**

The Budget includes an additional \$23,656 for personnel costs within the BCI. This increase is related to employee step increases as well as additional funding for medical insurance and employee retirement costs. This also includes \$10,688 to restore funding that was saved in FY2021 due to the Department's participation in the WorkShare program.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State began an Employee WorkShare Program which allowed eligible state employees to claim federal WorkShare benefits while working 60.0 percent of their regular weekly hours. Employees participated for a total of twelve weeks.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS**

The Budget includes \$177,791 in Rhode Island Capital (RICAP) funding for FY2021 and \$150,000 in FY2022. Funding in FY2021 will be used for construction close-out costs for projects at the Department's 150 South Main Street location, as well as the new BCI building on the Pastore campus. The \$150,000 in funding in FY2022 will be used to support architectural and engineering services for the roof replacement at 150 South Main Street. The roof was last replaced in 1997.