

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Ninth Judicial District
Serving Garfield, Pitkin, and Rio Blanco Counties

Sherry A. Caloia
District Attorney

109 Eighth Street
Suite 308
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

Telephone: 970-945-8635
Facsimile: 970-945-1304
www.9daco.org

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Board of County Commissioners
Garfield County, Colorado
108 8th Street
Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601

Re: District Attorney 2016 Proposed Budget

Honorable Members of the Board:

Enclosed please find the proposed budget for the operation of the Office of the District Attorney for the 9th Judicial District for 2016. I am pleased to announce that Garfield County's overall portion of the budget is estimated to increase by only 4.87%. The overall total budget for the three counties for the year 2016 is estimated to increase by 5.76%. The total contribution by the three counties in the district is estimated to be \$3,092,609.00 or an increase in the total amount of \$164,384.00 over 2015.

Based upon our communications with Garfield County and Rio Blanco representatives, we know that the revenue for these two counties revenue is still down overall. Garfield and Rio Blanco counties have asked that we hold the line on the budget. However it has been my goal to continue to examine staffing needs and to make sure that all counties are adequately staffed with the best people. We are seeing a significant rise in the number of arrests and ultimately cases that are being filed in Garfield County. This puts more demands on staff and causes our expenses to increase.

The counties' contribution to the Victim/Witness Program budget is proposed to increase to \$100,000. This is approximately a \$10,000 increase. That line item has not increased for several years and we are trying to be realistic in budgeting for those expenses. The Victim/Witness Program is also funded through grants from the Victim and Law Enforcement Assistance Fund (VALE), through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), and through administrative revenues generated through court assessments. As it does every year, the Victim/Witness Program assisted thousands of victims in the judicial district last year.

The percentage of the District Attorney's budget each county pays is determined by statute, to wit, §20-1-302 of the Colorado Revised Statutes. Each county in a multi-county judicial district such as ours is responsible to bear the necessary expenses of maintaining the office for the transaction of official business. Those expenses are

statutorily required to be borne by the various counties in the proportion that the population of each county bears to the population of the entire judicial district according to the last preceding population estimate. Pursuant to this directive, the respective percentages of the three participating counties are as follows:

Garfield County	70.35%
Pitkin County	21.57%
Rio Blanco County	8.08%

Garfield County's population and thus share of expenses stayed even with that amount set for 2015, Pitkin County's portion increased by a small amount of about .03%, and Rio Blanco County's share decreased by about .03%.

Garfield County continues to carry the highest caseload in the district. These cases numbers are approximately 430 felony and 110 juvenile cases through September 30 of this year. The number of cases filed in Pitkin County is approximately 67 felony and 10 juvenile cases for the same time period. The number of felony cases filed in Rio Blanco County is approximately 30 with juvenile cases at 11. These numbers do not include traffic and misdemeanor cases. This results in a distribution of Rio Blanco 6% of all cases, Pitkin County at 12% and Garfield County at 82%. The number of cases in Garfield County has risen substantially this year and by the end of the year we expect that there may be up to an 18% increase in the number of felony and juvenile cases that were filed.

In addition to new cases, there are ongoing cases, probation revocation cases, and cases involving a variety of post-conviction motions. There are many sexual assault cases in various stages of investigation, filing, or active cases, many of which involve child victims. We have drug cases at all stages of litigation in all three counties.

Garfield County is estimating a merit based salary increase for employees. Rio Blanco County does not envision an increase. Pitkin County has told us that they will be looking at an increase amount of about 4%. My staff is professional and dedicated to the mission of the office, to the pursuit of justice, to the victims of crime, and to serving the people of this district. I am asking for up to a 10% increase in salary for the attorneys that have been with the office for some time and are experienced. The attorneys in the office are underpaid when compared with other government attorneys in this and other jurisdictions. While they do receive very good benefits I continue to lose good attorneys to other offices that pay substantially higher wages. I hope to be able to keep these experienced attorneys to provide good services to the counties. With this increase the budget portion for Garfield County will increase by approximately 4.87%. I am hoping to raise the wages for the balance of the staff by about 5%. Once again the staff is excellent and they are also underpaid. With this increase the budget portion for Garfield County will increase by approximately 4.87%.

I hope that this budget is acceptable as set forth in the proposal attached hereto and as described in this letter.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments about the proposed budget.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherry A Calcia
District Attorney
Ninth Judicial District

