

The image shows the exterior of a building with a light-colored stucco facade. A large section of the wall is covered in dense, dark green ivy. In the center, there is an arched glass entrance with a red frame. Above the entrance, the number '104' is visible. To the left of the entrance, there is a window with a white frame and a decorative ledge below it. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall scene is well-lit, suggesting daytime.

Public Defender Department Overview 2023

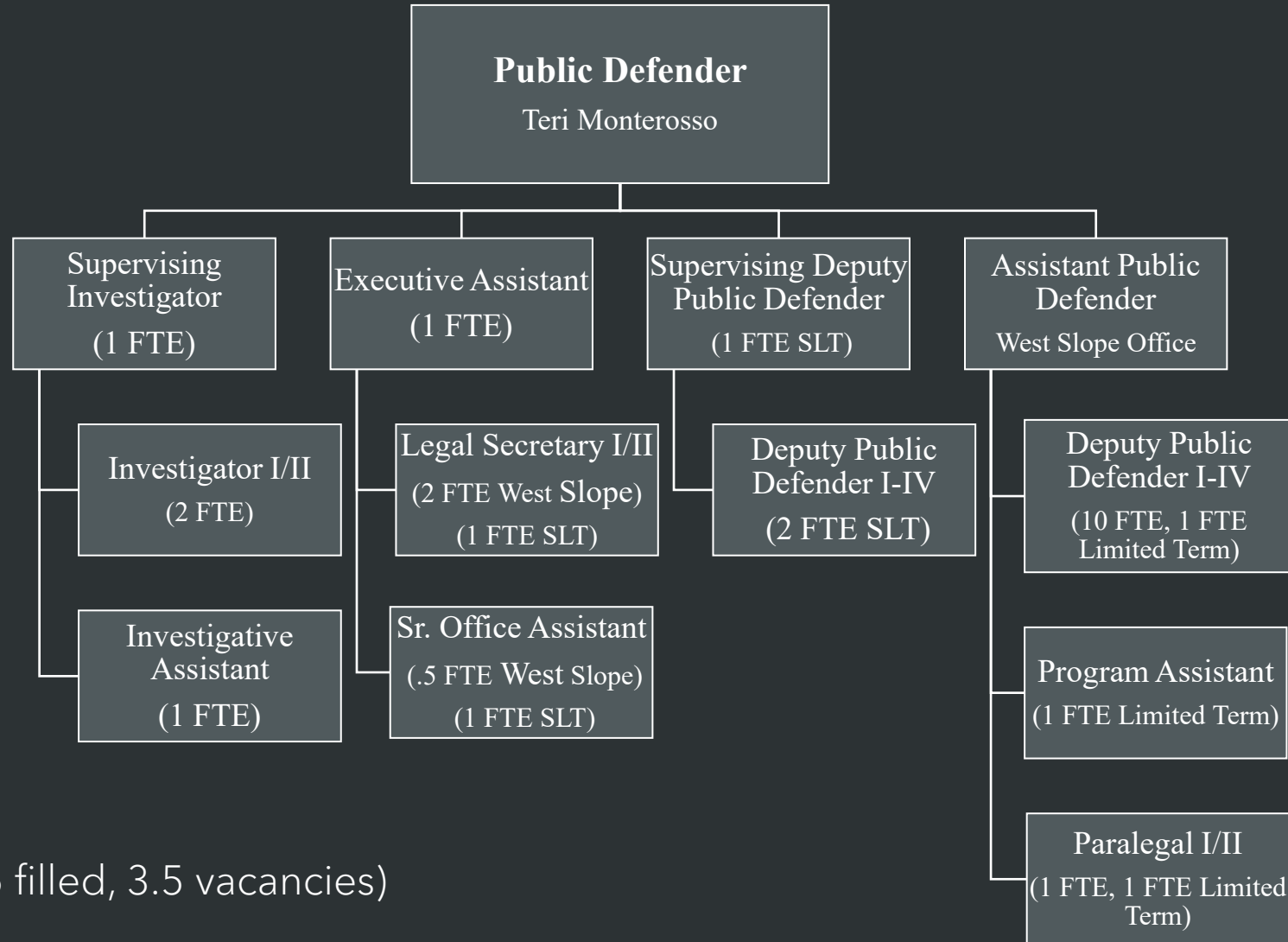
Presented to the Board of Supervisors on
January 31, 2023

Mission Statement

The mission of the El Dorado County Public Defender's Office is to provide quality legal representation for those people appointed to us who cannot afford private counsel.

The Public Defender's office provides competent, effective, and ethical legal services in a compassionate and professional manner, providing constitutional balance to the El Dorado County legal system.

Organizational Chart



Total FTE: 28.5 (25 filled, 3.5 vacancies)

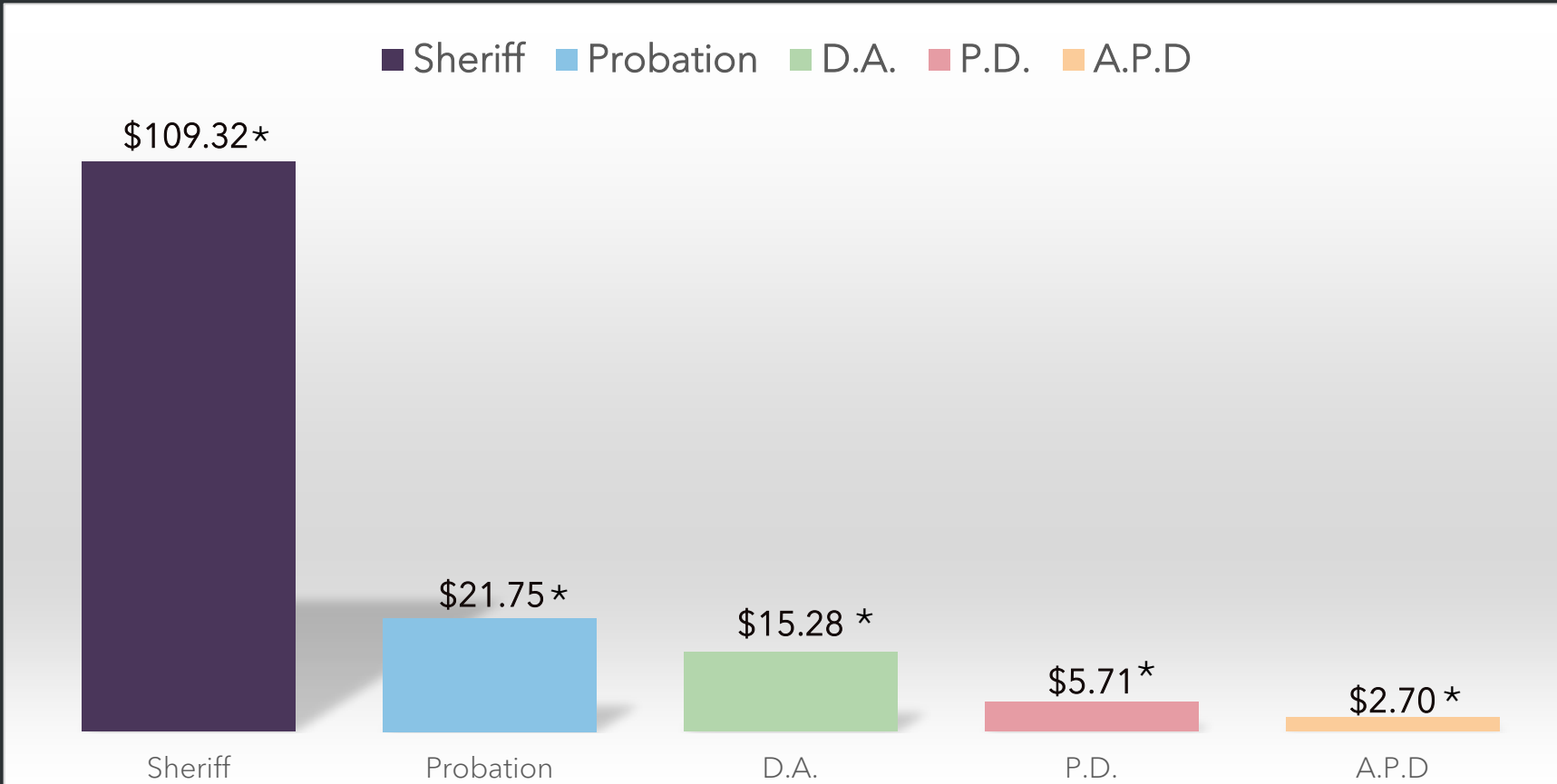
What do we do?



We provide legal representation to people accused of crimes who can't afford a private attorney, as well as clients in "specialty courts," juvenile clients, and civil clients in conservatorship cases, family support contempt cases, and PHF hearings.

We are appointed by order of the El Dorado Superior Court:

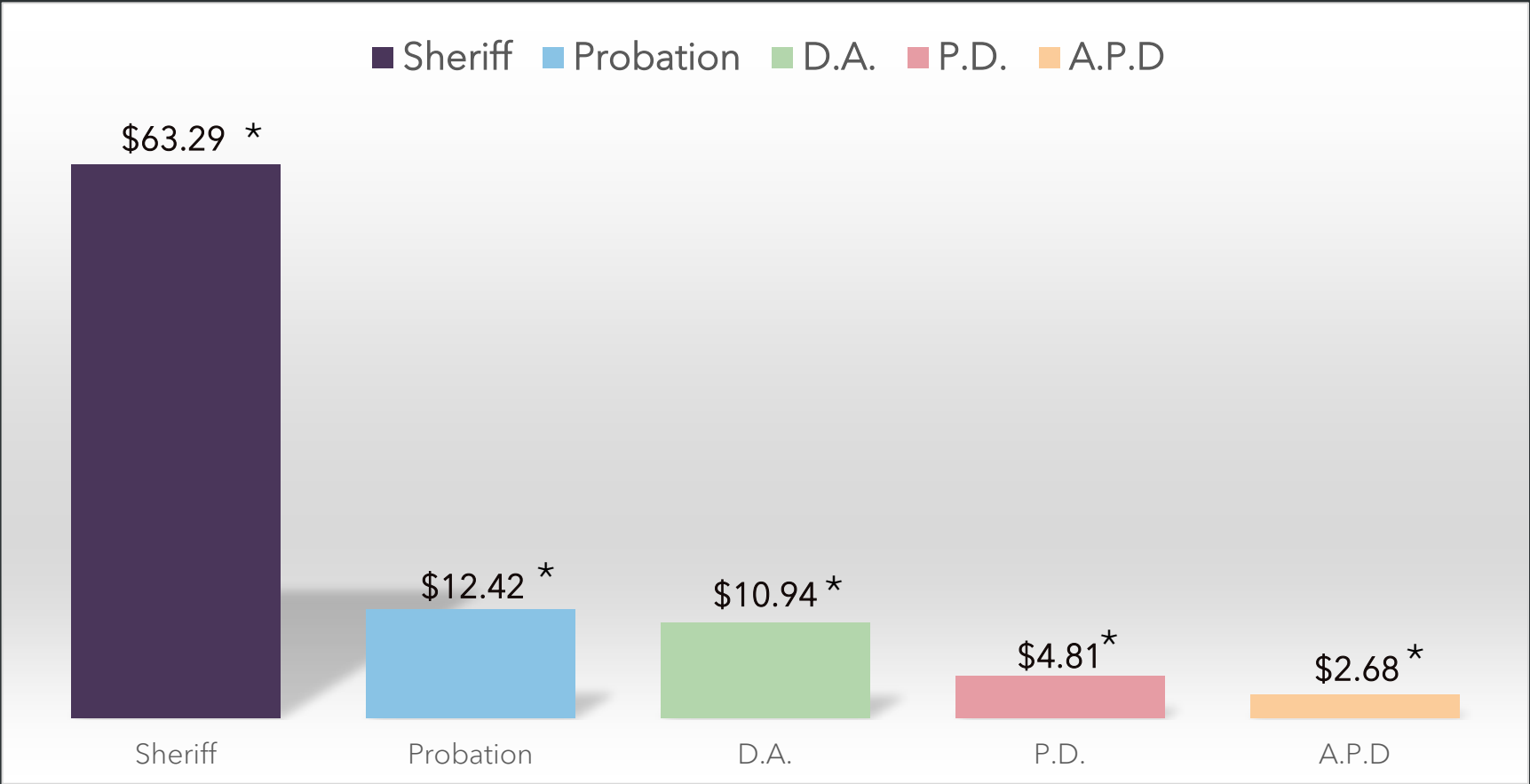
- Felonies and misdemeanors
- Behavioral Health Court
- Mental Health Court
- Veteran's Court
- Misdemeanor Diversion
- Juvenile Clients
- Civil Clients (conservatees, family support contempt clients, PHF hearings)



Law & Justice FY 22/23 TOTALS

**dollar amount in millions*

Public Defender Total Operating Appropriations: \$5,714,591

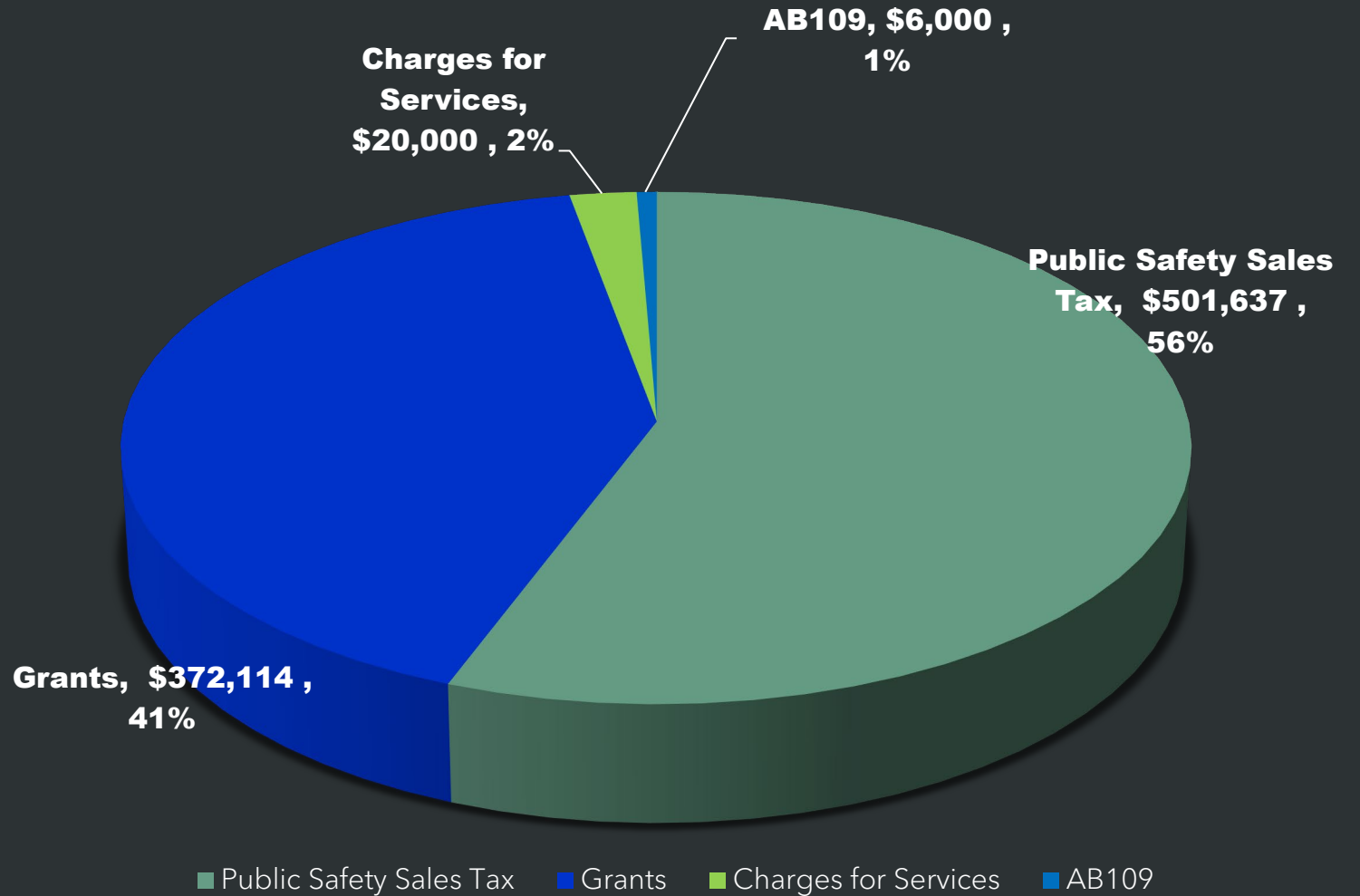


Net County Cost per Law & Justice department **dollar amount in millions*

Public Defender Net County Cost: \$4,814,840

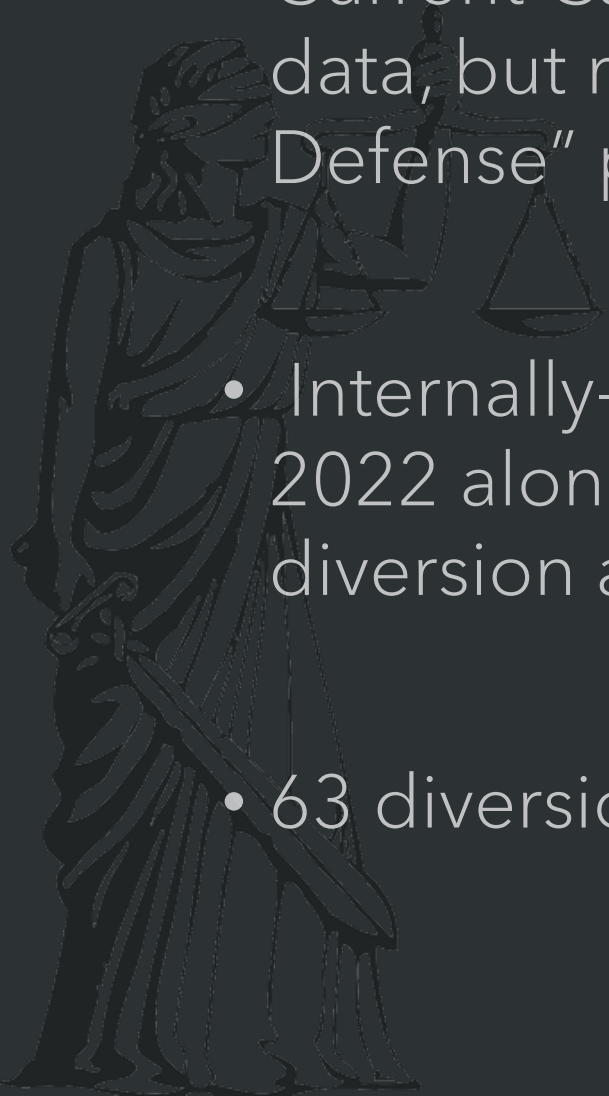
Revenue Sources

- Public Safety Sales Tax
 - Description of Funding Source
- Grants
 - BSCC Indigent Defense Grant and Public Defense Pilot Program Grant
- Charges for Services
 - Conservatorship Cases
- AB109
 - CCP Training and Implementation



Service and Performance Indicators

- Current Case Management System (CMS) unable to pull robust data, but raw numbers don't capture the work done in "Holistic Defense" practice (evaluating other systems for FY23/24).
- Internally-collected data is that we handled 3,950 new cases in 2022 alone; approximately 389 of whom were evaluated for diversion at the arraignment stage.
- 63 diversion successes



Role in the Strategic Plan

- **Good Governance** - Obtained two BSCC grants, designed to improve the delivery of defense services and to increase our services; maintained all mandated services, despite COVID and historically high vacancy rates, without declaring "unavailable."
- **Healthy communities** -Expanded access for clients needing diversion opportunities; expanded services for Mental Health Diversion on West Slope and into South Lake Tahoe.
- **Public Safety** -Obtained two BSCC grants, to hire two Limited Term positions, to increase support and resources for diversion opportunities and post-conviction relief, to reduce recidivism and to increase the likelihood of long-term success; applied for a third grant (pending) to fund a full-time Social Worker.

Upcoming Policy and Programmatic Changes

Continuing changes in the law

- Increased workloads
- Increased ethical duties

Vacancies and recruitment

- COVID-related vacancies
- Shortage of applicants

Technology challenges

- Body Worn Cameras
- Case management system
- Integrating court system