

Role and Overview

The Attorney General (AGO) serves as the state's legal advisor, providing legal representation for the Governor, statewide elected officials, the legislature, and all state departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and state-support universities and colleges. The AGO also serves as the state's chief law enforcement officer, providing assistance to local and federal law enforcement agencies.

The Attorney General is a constitutional officer elected to a four-year term. The Attorney General has a staff of about 1,285 employees and an annual budget of approximately \$172 million. The office provides training and investigative and technical assistance to local law enforcement agencies through the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, and the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission. These sections constitute approximately one-third of the Attorney General's Office.

The Attorney General's staff also provides legal counsel and representation, either directly or through the appointment of special counsel, to all state agencies and officers. The Attorney General enforces consumer protection laws and regulations by advising businesses, resolving complaints, and providing consumer alerts. The office collects funds owed to the state through its revenue recovery program and from other activities such as Medicaid and workers' compensation fraud programs.

More information regarding the Attorney General is available at <http://www.ag.state.oh.us/index.asp>.

Executive Priorities for the Attorney General

- Serve as the state's chief lawyer.
- Protect the people and interests of the state by assisting local law enforcement and demanding accountability for tax dollars.
- Protect Ohio's most vulnerable citizens.
- Protect against fraud, waste, and abuse.

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Summary of Budget History and Recommendations

(In thousands) BUDGET FUND GROUP	FY 2002	ACTUAL		ESTIMATE FY 2005	% CHANGE FY 04-05	RECOMMENDED			
		FY 2003	FY 2004			FY 2006	% CHANGE	FY 2007	% CHANGE
General Revenue Fund	59,657	57,918	55,321	54,149	(2.1)	54,149	.0	54,149	.0
General Services Fund Group	28,136	34,728	36,034	38,880	7.9	40,105	3.2	40,105	.0
Fed Special Revenue Fund Group	21,910	23,164	22,433	35,690	59.1	27,452	(23.1)	27,452	.0
State Special Revenue Fund Group	37,620	37,446	41,542	46,133	11.1	49,699	7.7	49,699	.0
Holdng Acct Redist Fund Group	2,814	890	1,559	3,776	142.2	601	(84.1)	601	.0
TOTAL	150,137	154,145	156,889	178,627	13.9	172,007	(3.7)	172,007	.0

(In thousands) OBJECT OF EXPENSE	FY 2002	ACTUAL		ESTIMATE FY 2005	% CHANGE FY 04-05	RECOMMENDED			
		FY 2003	FY 2004			FY 2006	% CHANGE	FY 2007	% CHANGE
Personal Services	85,439	91,176	90,690	93,315	2.9	94,117	.9	96,337	2.4
Purchased Services	4,738	4,259	3,331	6,375	91.4	4,358	(31.6)	4,239	(2.7)
Maintenance	20,417	20,312	22,736	27,640	21.6	25,951	(6.1)	24,062	(7.3)
Equipment	3,883	3,587	5,432	9,406	73.1	5,664	(39.8)	5,583	(1.4)
Subsidy	20,777	21,965	20,749	25,323	22.0	26,046	2.9	26,083	.1
Capital Improvements	165	3	0	0	(100.0)	0	.0	0	.0
Transfer & Other	14,718	12,843	13,951	16,569	18.8	15,872	(4.2)	15,702	(1.1)
TOTAL	150,137	154,145	156,889	178,627	13.9	172,007	(3.7)	172,007	.0

PROGRAM SERIES 01: Criminal Justice

This program series includes the law enforcement activities and victims services, the Attorney General's highest priority programs. The services provided under these programs have the greatest impact on protecting and assisting citizens in Ohio when compared to any of the other programs within the Office of the Attorney General.

Program 01.01: Law Enforcement

The Law Enforcement Program encompasses all sections and functions of the office charged with providing services to the law enforcement community across the state, as well as those sections providing enforcement related activities. This is the largest segment of the Attorney General's Office and includes the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigations, the Peace Officer Training Academy, the Organized Crime Investigations Commission, and units for capital crimes and health care fraud.

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What the Budget Buys:

- Maintains existing levels of services;
- Supports the current 414 staff positions assigned to law enforcement activities;
- Focuses on activities in the area of reducing turnaround time and reducing backlogs for various crime scene and laboratory operations;
- Develops and expands the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway, a secure Web site designed to provide law enforcement agencies and prosecutors access to a host of crime-fighting databases and to encourage sharing information between jurisdictions; and
- Increases emphasis on programs administered by the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, ranging from DNA and crime lab analysis to undercover narcotics investigations and detection of methamphetamine labs.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GRF	GRF	055-321	Operating Expenses	23,053,400	22,929,554
GSF	106	055-612	General Reimbursement	11,808,428	11,678,872
GSF	4Z2	055-609	BCI Asset Forfeiture/Cost Reimbursement	1,332,109	1,332,109
GSF	421	055-617	Police Officers' Training Academy Fee	1,693,213	1,693,213
GSF	590	055-633	Peace Officer Private Security Fund	98,370	98,370
GSF	629	055-636	Corrupt Activity Invest/Prosecution	15,000	15,000
FED	3E5	055-638	Anti-Drug Abuse	1,981,102	1,981,102
FED	3R6	055-613	Attorney General Federal Funds	3,842,097	3,842,097
FED	306	055-620	Medicaid Fraud Control	2,799,000	2,799,000
SSR	659	055-641	Sol/Hazardous Waste Background Investigations	621,159	621,159
090	R42	055-601	Organized Crime Comm Account	25,025	25,025
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				47,268,903	47,015,501

Program 01.02: Victims Services

This program encompasses all functions of the office charged with protecting or assisting victims of crime and with protecting children and the elderly. Crime Victims' Services administers the Ohio Crime Victims Compensation Fund, which awards compensation to eligible victims of violent crime for their un-reimbursed economic losses; the Victims Assistance Program, which provides funding to rape crisis centers and domestic violence shelters; the Missing Children's Clearinghouse; and the Identity Theft Passport Program, which is aimed at assisting victims of stolen identities. In addition, the program supports the Child and Elder Protection program by having experienced criminal prosecutors and investigators assist local prosecutors in child support, physical and sexual abuse cases, internet and computer crime investigations, and elder abuse cases.

What the Budget Buys:

- Enables the AGO to meet the requirements included in H.B. 95 regarding the Crime Victims Compensation Law, which expanded both the allowable benefits and participation in the program; and
- Enables the department to meet the DNA collection and testing requirements in H.B. 427.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
FED	383	055-634	Crime Victims Assistance	18,439,313	18,439,313
SSR	402	055-616	Victims of Crime	30,000,000	30,000,000
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				48,439,313	48,439,313

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PROGRAM SERIES 02: Legal Services

This program series provides legal services to protect the rights of citizens and businesses in Ohio and provides legal representation to the various state officials and state agencies.

Program 02.01: Citizen Protection

This program includes consumer protection, charitable law, environmental enforcement, and antitrust. As a result of H.B. 512, the AGO has been assigned the duty of establishing and maintaining instant bingo licenses for all gaming establishments along with regulatory, investigatory, and audit responsibilities. Beginning in fiscal year 2005, the AGO, in conjunction with the Ohio Lottery Commission, plans to use licensing resources of both state agencies to perform these responsibilities and to establish a Web-based system for the management of charitable gaming.

What the Budget Buys:

- Provides for the current level of services; and
- Establishes and maintains instant bingo licenses per House Bill 512. Funding from Fund 418, Charitable Foundations, is provided to meet these requirements with revenue coming from instant bingo license fees and the license fees for manufacturers and distributors of bingo supplies.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GRF	GRF	055-321	Operating Expenses	7,063,311	7,165,464
GSF	4Y7	055-608	Title Defect Recision	250,000	250,000
GSF	418	055-615	Charitable Foundations	4,899,066	4,899,066
GSF	420	055-603	Attorney General Antitrust	446,449	446,449
GSF	5A9	055-618	Telemarketing Fraud Enforcement	7,500	7,500
GSF	631	055-637	Consumer Protection Enforcement	1,373,832	1,373,832
090	R05	055-632	Antitrust Settlements	1,000	1,000
090	R18	055-630	Consumer Frauds	300,000	300,000
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				14,341,158	14,443,311

Program 02.02: State Agencies

This program provides legal representation to state officials and state agencies, which is the core function of the AGO. The State Agencies program consists of 14 sections: executive agencies, health and human services, special counsel, business counsel, corrections litigation, court of claims, employment law, taxation, transportation, workers compensation, education, opinions, and civil rights.

What the Budget Buys:

- Supports the current level of activities and the current staffing level of 402 employees.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GRF	GRF	055-321	Operating Expenses	15,844,170	15,986,743
GSF	106	055-612	General Reimbursement	6,356,397	6,424,828
GSF	107	055-624	Employment Services	850,000	850,000
GSF	195	055-660	Workers' Compensation Section	7,769,628	7,769,628
FED	381	055-611	Civil Rights Legal Service	390,815	390,815
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				31,211,010	31,422,014

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PROGRAM SERIES 03: Program Management

This program series provides support operations of the AGO and unique programs including county sheriff and county prosecutor pay supplements and the D.A.R.E. program.

Program 03.01: Program Management

This program provides funding for the support operations of the AGO including information technology, finance, human resources, office services, training, communications, and collections enforcement. This program supports 250 employees and primarily benefits the other programs in the department. The Collections Enforcement section is responsible for collecting all delinquent debt owed Ohio on behalf of agencies, institutions, universities, and other government entities for taxes, fines, penalties, service fees, loans, and any other debt due. The AGO's concentrated investment in the collections department during the past two years includes section restructuring, training, teamwork incentives, and technology upgrades. These investments have resulted in collection rates that are at an all-time high. The increase is reflected in \$1.0 million per week in collections and record collections of \$22 million in June 2004.

What the Budget Buys:

- Continues the progress made in the area of collections resulting in increased revenue to the state.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GRF	GRF	055-321	Operating Expenses	6,686,807	6,528,395
GSF	106	055-612	General Reimbursement	3,205,371	3,266,496
SSR	419	055-623	Claims Section	15,149,954	15,149,954
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				25,042,132	24,944,845

Program 03.02: Programs

This program supports three activities: county sheriff pay supplements, county prosecutor supplements, and the D.A.R.E. program. Both pay supplements are mandated in the Ohio Revised Code and are funded from the General Revenue Fund. The D.A.R.E. program provides grants to local law enforcement agencies to establish and implement drug abuse resistance programs in public schools. The D.A.R.E. program is funded by \$75 of the \$425 driver's license reinstatement fee.

What the Budget Buys:

- Establishes and continues programs in schools by local law enforcement to inform and educate students of issues surrounding drug use and abuse; and
- Provides more interaction at the local level between school-age children and the law enforcement community to develop positive relationships.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GRF	GRF	055-411	County Sheriffs	760,495	779,509
GRF	GRF	055-415	County Prosecutors	740,704	759,222
SSR	4L6	055-606	DARE	3,927,962	3,927,962
090	R04	055-631	General Holding Account	275,000	275,000
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				5,704,161	5,741,693

LINE ITEM SUMMARY - Attorney General

FUND	ALI	ALI TITLE	FY 2002 ACTUAL	FY 2003 ACTUAL	FY 2004 ACTUAL	FY 2005 ESTIMATE	FY 2006 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE	FY 2007 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE
GRF	055-321	Operating Expenses	55,986,212	54,388,845	52,583,487	52,688,468	52,647,688	(.1)	52,610,156	(.1)
GRF	055-405	Law Related Education	196,793	189,610	0	0	0	.0	0	.0
GRF	055-406	Community Police Match/Assistance	2,350,495	2,256,620	1,310,209	0	0	.0	0	.0
GRF	055-411	County Sheriffs	611,198	588,890	721,468	736,929	760,495	3.2	779,509	2.5
GRF	055-415	County Prosecutors	512,283	493,585	705,701	723,490	740,704	2.4	759,222	2.5
TOTAL General Revenue Fund			59,656,981	57,917,550	55,320,865	54,148,887	54,148,887	.0	54,148,887	.0
106	055-612	General Reimbursement	15,685,238	21,170,681	18,676,980	18,870,196	21,370,196	13.2	21,370,196	.0
107	055-624	Employment Services	763,874	728,906	720,813	850,000	850,000	.0	850,000	.0
195	055-660	Workers' Compensation Section	6,900,975	7,215,468	7,338,982	7,769,628	7,769,628	.0	7,769,628	.0
4Y7	055-608	Title Defect Recision	165,527	601,682	235,148	570,623	250,000	(56.2)	250,000	.0
4Z2	055-609	BCI Asset Forfeiture/Cost Reimb	434,452	764,130	1,497,284	1,332,108	1,332,109	.0	1,332,109	.0
418	055-615	Charitable Foundations	1,514,826	2,158,643	4,393,682	5,399,066	4,899,066	(9.3)	4,899,066	.0
420	055-603	Attorney General Antitrust	206,259	256,126	381,238	1,000,000	446,449	(55.4)	446,449	.0
421	055-617	Police Officers' Trng Academy Fee	1,086,580	1,122,769	1,609,417	1,593,212	1,693,213	6.3	1,693,213	.0
5A9	055-618	Telemarketing Fraud Enforcement	0	0	0	7,500	7,500	.0	7,500	.0
590	055-633	Peace Officer Private Security Fund	50,710	46,306	95,961	98,370	98,370	.0	98,370	.0
629	055-636	Corrupt Activity Invest/Prosecution	482,655	20,332	0	15,000	15,000	.0	15,000	.0
631	055-637	Consumer Protection Enforcement	844,575	642,979	1,084,552	1,373,832	1,373,832	.0	1,373,832	.0
TOTAL General Services Fund Group			28,135,671	34,728,022	36,034,057	38,879,535	40,105,363	3.2	40,105,363	.0
3E5	055-638	Anti-Drug Abuse	1,959,837	1,948,796	1,896,466	5,486,007	1,981,102	(63.9)	1,981,102	.0
3R6	055-613	Attorney General Federal Funds	3,088,262	3,472,897	3,029,163	8,574,973	3,842,097	(55.2)	3,842,097	.0
306	055-620	Medicaid Fraud Control	2,269,012	2,250,943	2,595,631	2,799,000	2,799,000	.0	2,799,000	.0
381	055-611	Civil Rights Legal Service	347,853	311,521	372,491	390,815	390,815	.0	390,815	.0
383	055-634	Crime Victims Assistance	14,245,338	15,179,429	14,539,053	18,439,313	18,439,313	.0	18,439,313	.0
TOTAL Fed Special Revenue Fund Group			21,910,302	23,163,586	22,432,804	35,690,108	27,452,327	(23.1)	27,452,327	.0
4L6	055-606	DARE	3,399,848	3,336,129	3,409,912	3,927,962	3,927,962	.0	3,927,962	.0
402	055-616	Victims of Crime	21,988,957	22,932,548	23,928,216	27,933,893	30,000,000	7.4	30,000,000	.0
419	055-623	Claims Section	11,705,241	10,567,345	13,760,778	13,649,954	15,149,954	11.0	15,149,954	.0
659	055-641	Sol/Haz Waste Bkgrnd Investigations	525,779	609,807	443,490	621,159	621,159	.0	621,159	.0
TOTAL State Special Revenue Fund Group			37,619,825	37,445,829	41,542,396	46,132,968	49,699,075	7.7	49,699,075	.0
R03	055-629	Bingo License Refunds	775	650	525	0	0	.0	0	.0
R04	055-631	General Holding Account	2,474,500	579,794	1,346,307	3,275,000	275,000	(91.6)	275,000	.0
R05	055-632	Antitrust Settlements	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	.0	1,000	.0

LINE ITEM SUMMARY - Attorney General

FUND	ALI	ALI TITLE	FY 2002 ACTUAL	FY 2003 ACTUAL	FY 2004 ACTUAL	FY 2005 ESTIMATE	FY 2006 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE	FY 2007 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE
R18	055-630	Consumer Frauds	238,810	309,674	189,967	300,000	300,000	.0	300,000	.0
R42	055-601	Organized Crime Comm Account	99,794	0	22,166	200,000	25,025	(87.5)	25,025	.0
TOTAL Holdng Acct Redist Fund Group			2,813,879	890,118	1,558,965	3,776,000	601,025	(84.1)	601,025	.0
TOTAL Attorney General			150,136,658	154,145,105	156,889,087	178,627,498	172,006,677	(3.7)	172,006,677	.0