

County Counsel Proposed Budget



Dennis A. Marshall
County Counsel
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Mandated Legal Services

- **The county counsel is the legal adviser of the board of supervisors. The county counsel shall attend its meetings when required, and shall attend and oppose all claims and accounts against the county he or she deems unjust and illegal. GC 26526**
- **The county counsel shall defend or prosecute all civil actions and proceedings in which the county or any of its officers is concerned or is a party in his or her official capacity... the county counsel shall defend any action or proceeding brought against an officer, employee, or servant of the county. GC 26529**

Service Mandates

County Counsel is mandated to provide additional services including:

- **Represent the Public Administrator (GC § 27643)**
- **Prosecute actions brought under the Welfare & Institutions Code (W & I) relating to mental health commitments (GC § 27646)**
- **Represent Child Welfare Services in actions relating to W & I 300 actions (W & I § 318.5)**
- **Represent special districts on which Board of Supervisors sit (SBCAG, LAFCO) (GC § 27645)**

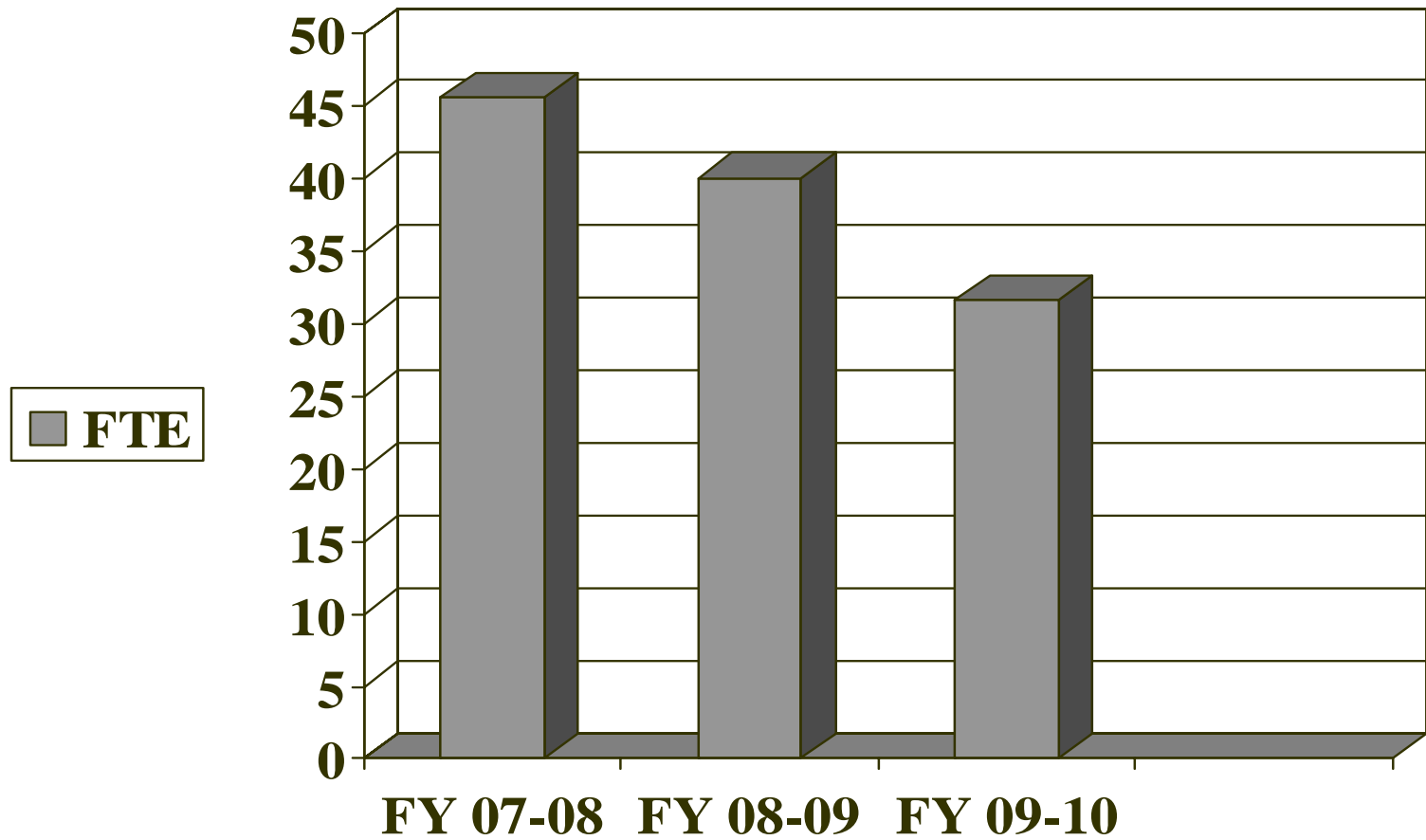
Budget Shortfall

- **\$1.259 Million Reduction from FY 08-09**
 - **Less \$226,000 = 10% General Fund Target**
 - **Less \$598,000 = Lost cost allocation**
 - **Less \$249,895 = Loss of one-time General Fund Contributions**
 - **Less \$185,105 = Risk Revenue Loss (service reduction), increased salary costs**

Staff Impact

- **45.5 FTE – FY 07-08**
- **40.0 FTE – FY 08-09**
 - **5.425 Vacant and Unfunded**
- **31.6 FTE – Proposed FY 09-10**
 - **Approx. 14 FTE reduction from FY 07-08 levels**
 - **31% staff reduction from FY 07-08 levels**
 - 10 FTE Attorney Staff
 - 4 FTE Support Staff

Staff Impact



Service Impacts

- **No impact on revenue-generating functions**
- **Major impact on General Fund functions**
 - **30-50% Service Level reductions to:**
 - Land Use
 - Transactional matters – General Fund Advisory Departments
 - **Shift to reactive vs. preventative legal practice**