

County Counsel

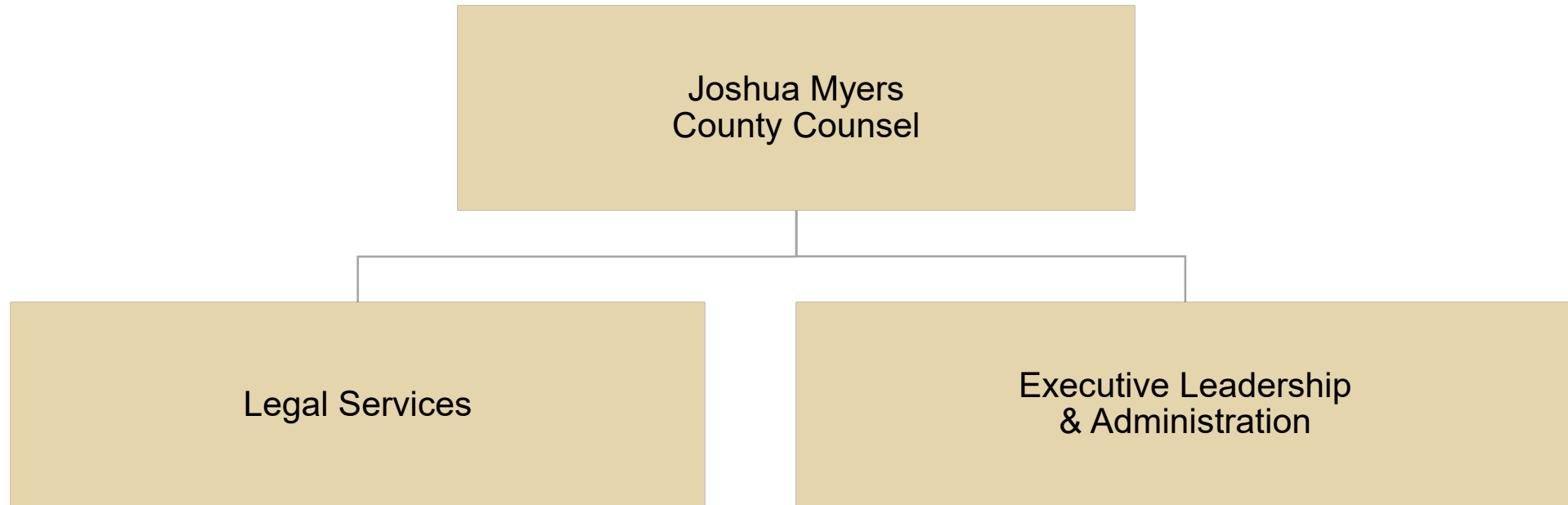
FY 2026-27 Preliminary Budget



Committed to providing the highest quality legal representation and advice

Department Overview

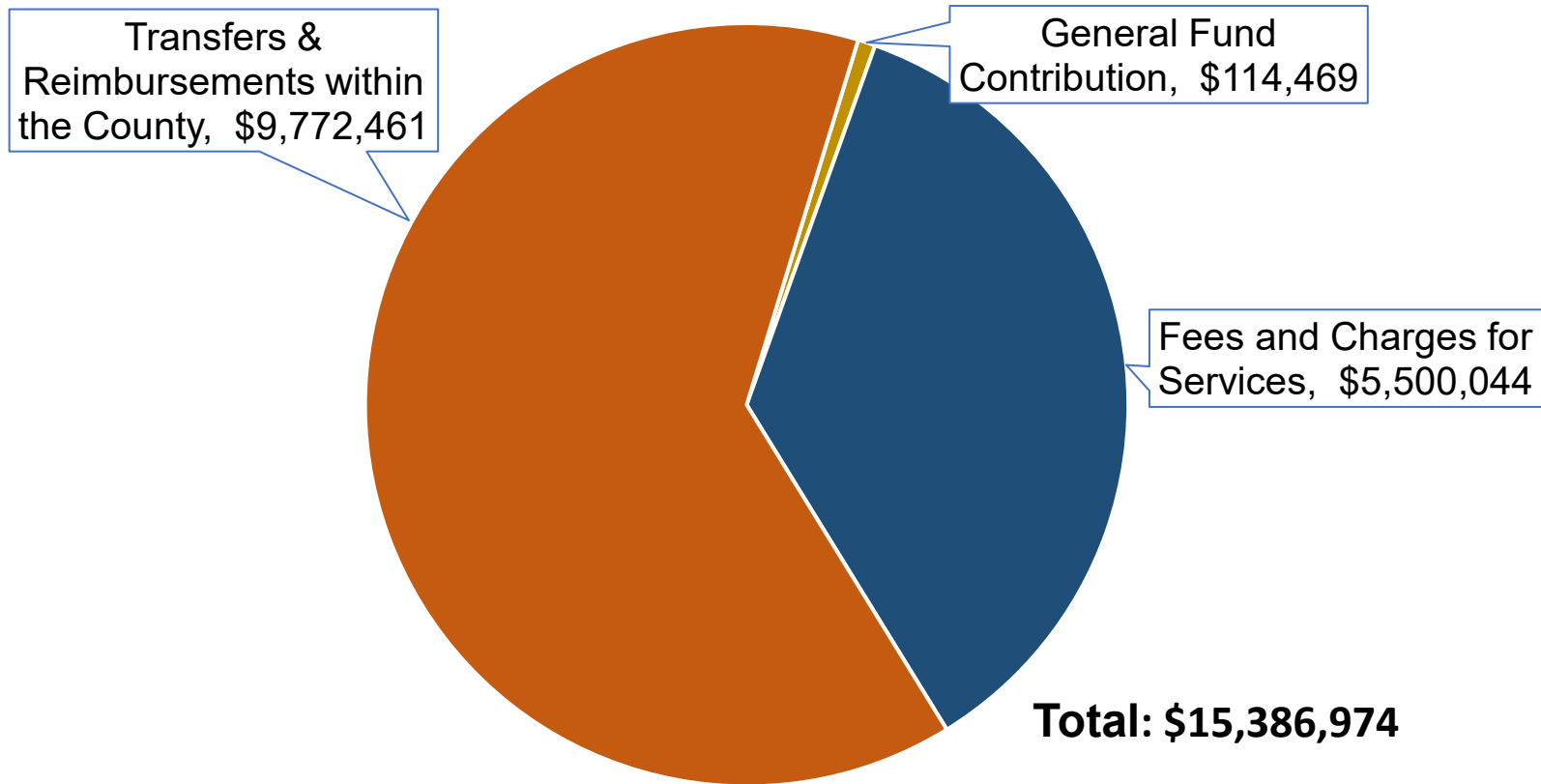
	Operating Expenditures	FTE
FY 2025-26 Adopted	13,745,030	41.25
FY 2026-27 Preliminary	13,756,376	41.25
Net Change	11,346	0.00



Departmental Expenditures

FY 2026-27 Service Area Expenditures	Preliminary Budget	FTE
Legal Services	\$13,721,018	36.25
Executive Leadership & Administration	\$1,665,956	5.00
Gross Departmental Expenditures	\$15,386,974	41.25
Less Internal Departmental Transfers	\$1,630,598	n/a
Departmental Operating Expenditures	\$13,756,376	0.00

Departmental Funding Sources



**Reimbursements within the County include \$8.25 million in payments from County client departments for legal services and \$1.66 million intra departmental reimbursement for Administration Services. Fees and Charges for Services are from County client departments, agencies, districts, and special districts.*

The County General Fund allocated \$4,077,121 in FY2026-27 to client departments supported by the General Fund for County Counsel legal services.

Key Accomplishments FY 2026-27

- Provided legal support on several high-profile County Projects, including the County Campus Master Plan, Tierra de Rosas, the Potter Valley Project, the Central Landfill Expansion, and the Great Redwood Trail Agency.
- Provided legal support and strategic counsel to advance the County's Land Use Planning Priorities, including the General Plan Update, the Housing Element, updates to the Cannabis Ordinance.
- Joined nationwide lawsuits to preserve federal grant funding.

State and Federal Budget/Policy Implications

- No anticipated impacts, other than possible increased workload to respond to federal or state funding reductions, including litigation, and possible reduction in client department legal work if federally funded projects are canceled or reduced.

Key Challenges

- Proactively engaging with clients at the outset of projects to identify legal issues and propose solutions before it becomes too late for corrective measures.
- Establishing a comprehensive succession planning and cross-training program to strengthen the department's talent pool and enhance its resilience, in preparation for anticipated workforce attrition due to retirements and unanticipated departures, while ensuring continuity in service delivery.
- Providing continued legal guidance to client departments regarding changes to federal funding of County services.

Key Operational Objectives

- Continue to provide legal support and strategic guidance to further important County projects, such as the County Government Center, Comprehensive Planning Priorities.
- Continue to provide litigation and grant term interpretation services to clients regarding federal funding changes.
- Explore technology solutions to increase office productivity and efficiency.

Program Change Requests

- None requested.