



# 2017 YEAR-END REPORT

Benton County Public Safety Sales Tax



**BENTON COUNTY WA**

# Benton County Public Safety Sales Tax

## 2017 YEAR-END REPORT

At the request of the Benton County Law and Justice Council, on March 25, 2014, the Benton County Board of County Commissioners signed a resolution placing a public safety sales tax on the ballot in August 2014 for voter approval.

In August 2014, the voters of Benton County approved Proposition 14-5, a 0.3% sales and use tax pursuant to RCW 82.14.450 to fund criminal justice and public safety programs in Benton County. This Public Safety Sales Tax requires at least one-third of all revenues from the tax to be used for specific criminal justice purposes, with the County retaining sixty percent (60%) of revenues and the remaining forty percent (40%) of revenues being distributed to the cities based on relative population.

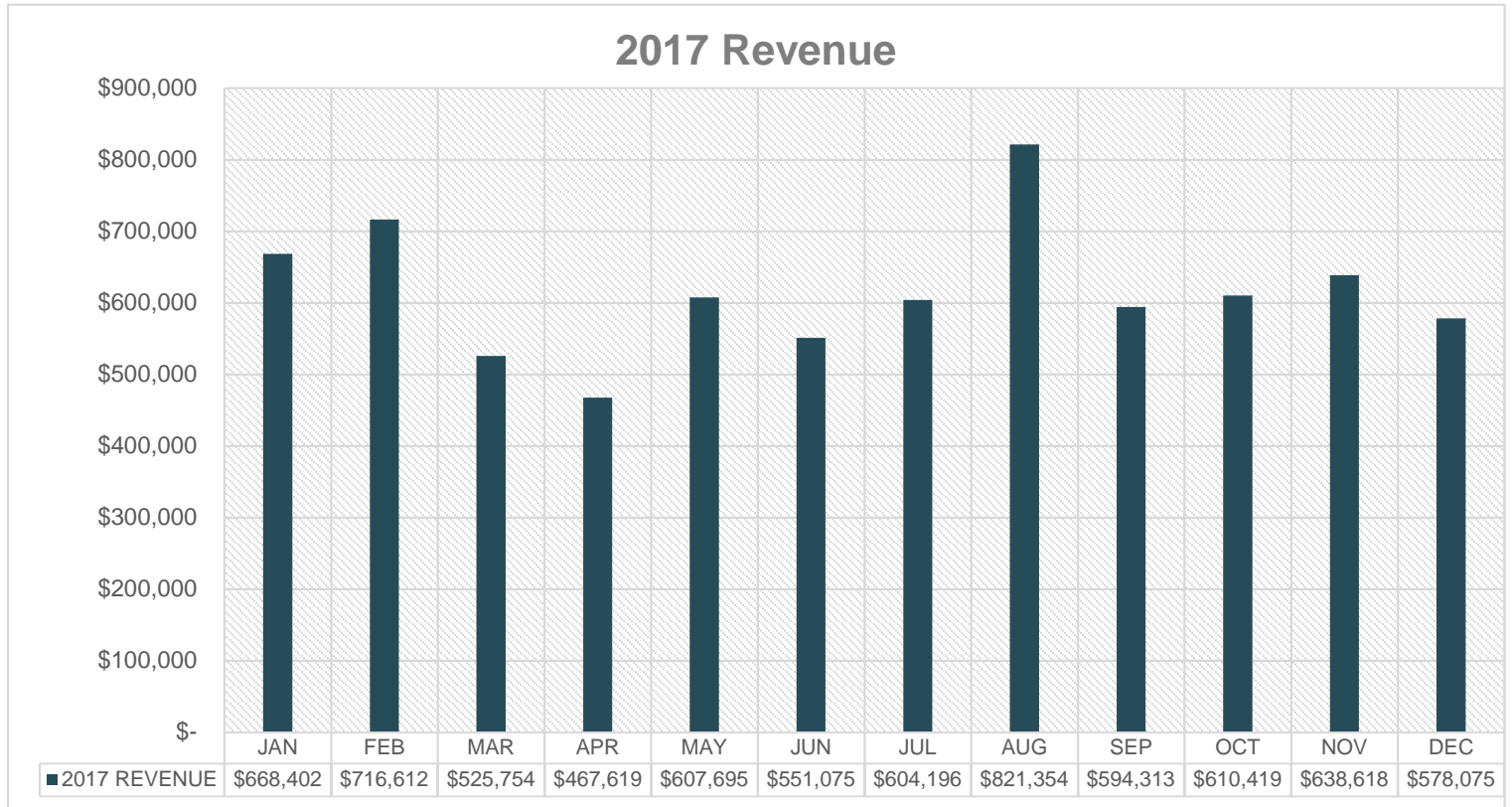
The purpose and goal of the Public Safety Sales Tax is to improve public safety, including combating criminal gangs. The tax funds the hiring of additional police officers, corrections officers, prosecutors, the Metro Drug Task Force, gang and crime prevention efforts, and court and clerk programs including drug and mental health courts. The tax is scheduled to expire December 31, 2024.

Details about the Public Safety Sales Tax can be found on the Benton County website at [www.co.benton.wa.us](http://www.co.benton.wa.us).

**Please note that throughout this report, the expenditures listed reflect only 2017, not the full 2017-2018 biennium. As such, expenditures will likely be approximately 50% of the allocated budget.**

# Revenues

## 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

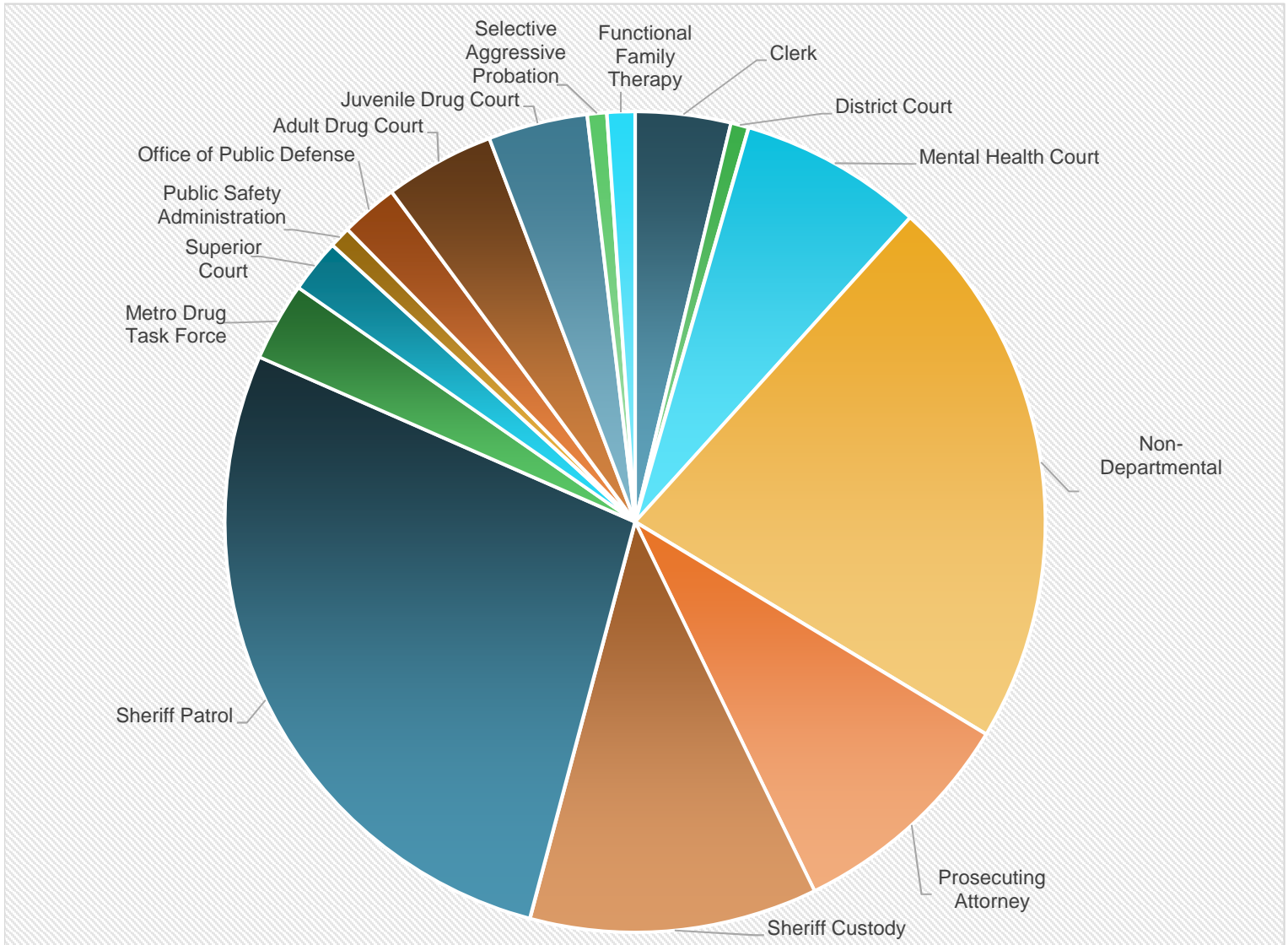


**TOTAL 2017 REVENUE \$ 7,384,131**

*\*Note: Revenues listed above do not include collected interest*

# Budget Allotment by Department

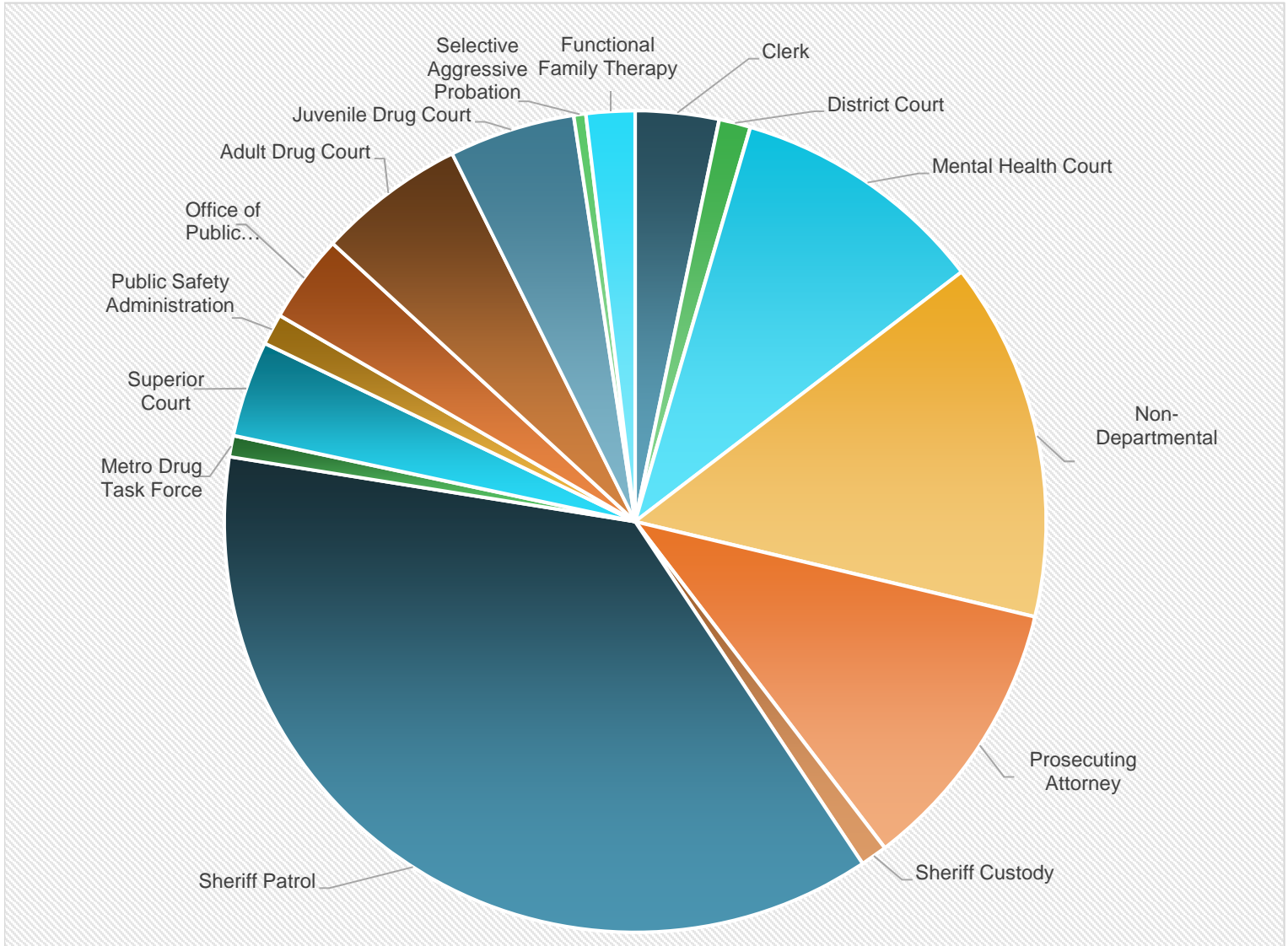
## 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



Department	Budget	Percentage
Clerk	\$ 414,297	3.75%
District Court	\$ 78,398	0.71%
Mental Health Court	\$ 797,746	7.23%
Non-Departmental	\$ 2,423,374	21.96%
Prosecuting Attorney	\$ 1,008,051	9.14%
Sheriff Custody	\$ 1,251,075	11.34%
Sheriff Patrol	\$ 3,028,145	27.44%
Metro Drug Task Force	\$ 341,630	3.10%
Superior Court	\$ 233,207	2.11%
Public Safety Administration	\$ 92,672	0.84%
Office of Public Defense	\$ 248,956	2.26%
Adult Drug Court	\$ 478,246	4.33%
Juvenile Drug Court	\$ 431,948	3.91%
Selective Aggressive Probation	\$ 85,000	0.77%
Functional Family Therapy	\$ 121,088	1.10%
<b>TOTAL 2017 - 2018 PUBLIC SAFETY TAX BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 11,033,833</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

# Expenditure Allotment by Department

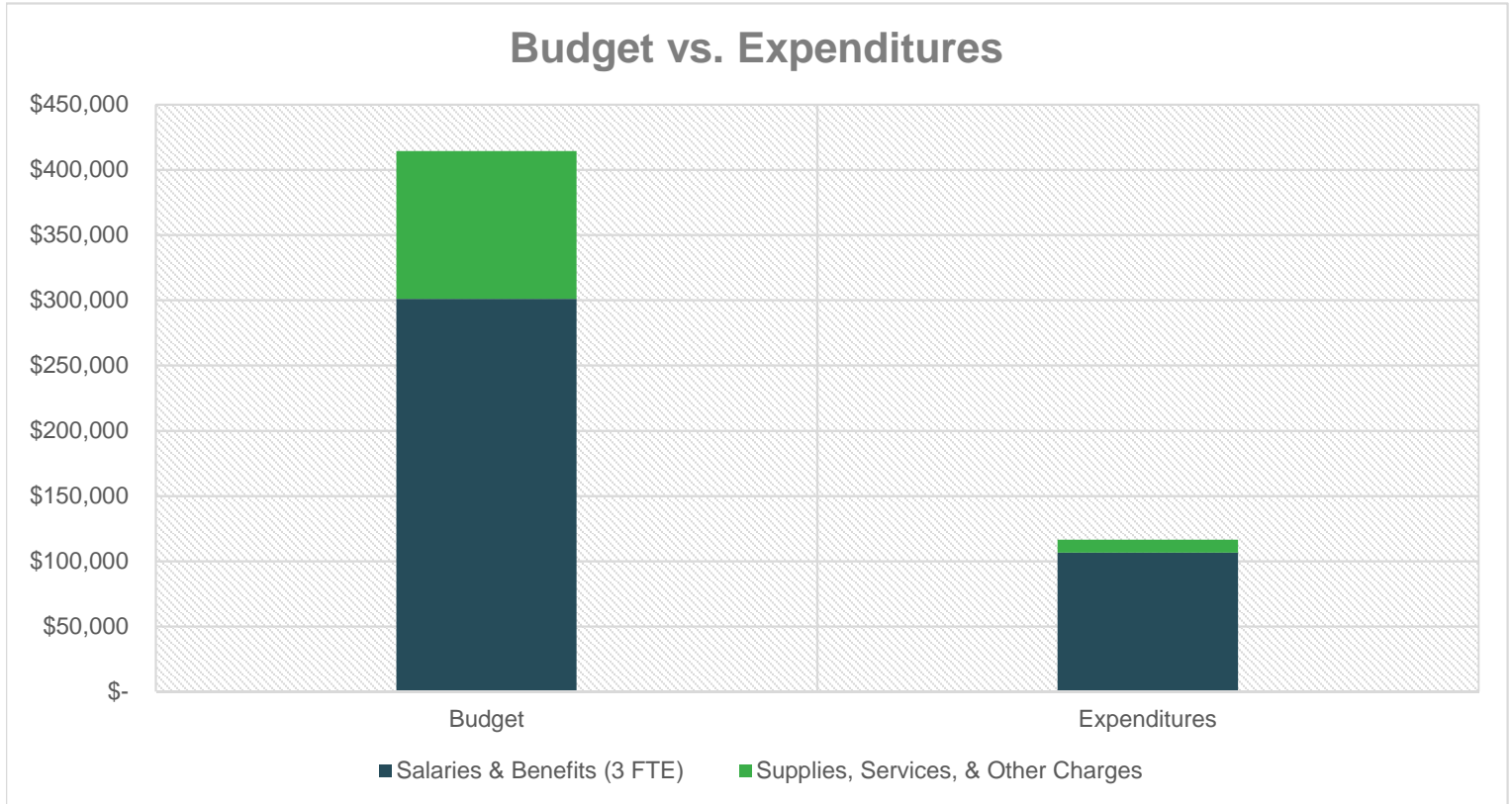
## 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



Department	Expenditures	Percentage
Clerk	\$ 116,457	3.28%
District Court	\$ 44,101	1.24%
Mental Health Court	\$ 357,647	10.08%
Non-Departmental	\$ 500,957	14.12%
Prosecuting Attorney	\$ 386,212	10.89%
Sheriff Custody	\$ 37,212	1.05%
Sheriff Patrol	\$ 1,307,856	36.86%
Metro Drug Task Force	\$ 29,552	0.83%
Superior Court	\$ 134,183	3.78%
Public Safety Administration	\$ 43,565	1.23%
Office of Public Defense	\$ 123,057	3.47%
Adult Drug Court	\$ 206,624	5.82%
Juvenile Drug Court	\$ 175,563	4.95%
Selective Aggressive Probation	\$ 17,091	0.48%
Functional Family Therapy	\$ 67,917	1.91%
<b>TOTAL 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY TAX EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 3,547,994</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

# Benton County Clerk's Office

## 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits (3 FTE)	\$ 301,162	\$ 106,493	35%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 113,135	\$ 9,964	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 414,297</b>	<b>\$ 116,457</b>	<b>28%</b>

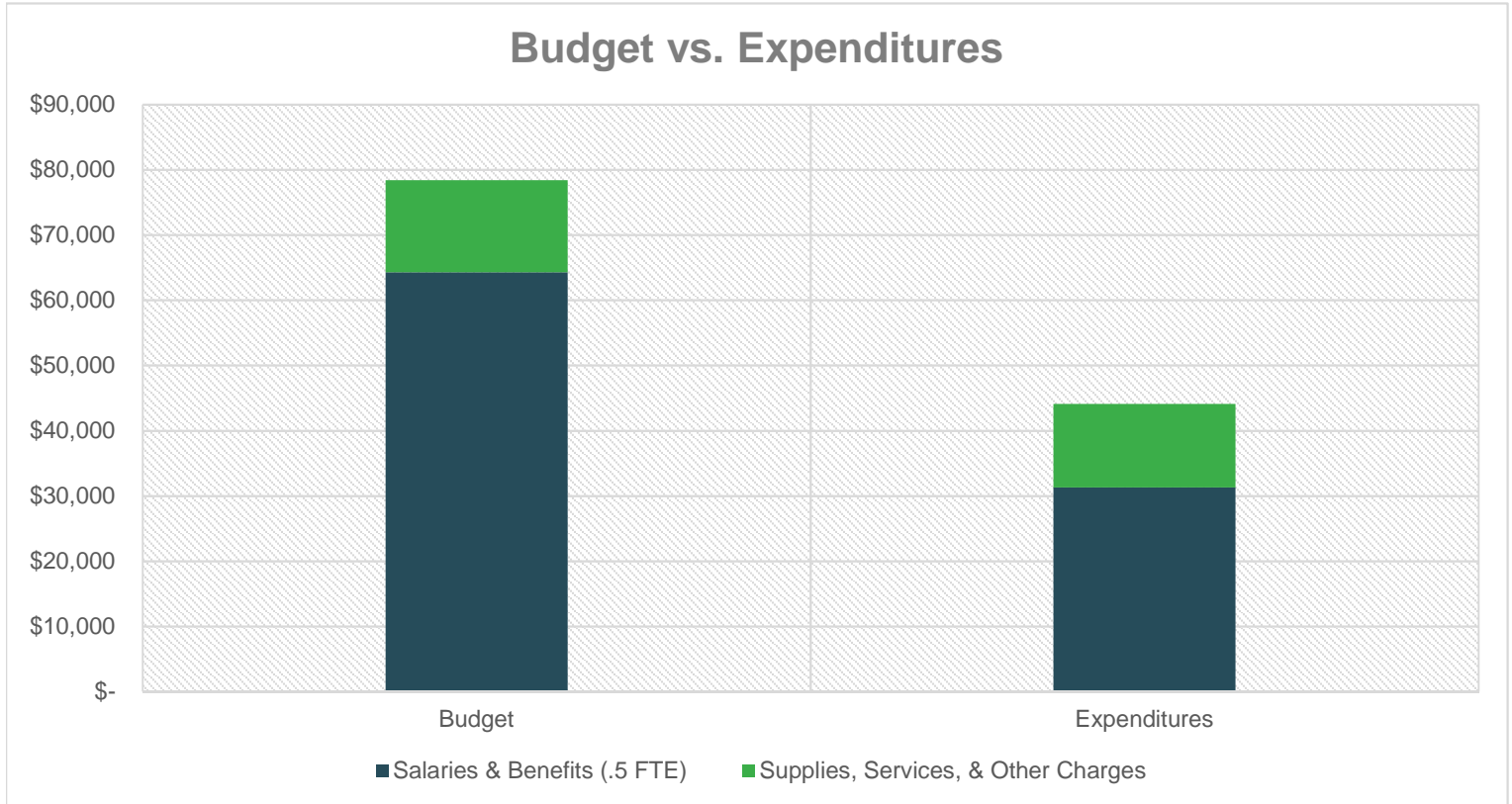
In 2016, the Clerk's Office hired one in-court clerk with Public Safety Tax funds. According to statute, the Clerk or his/her designee must be present in all court proceedings. The in-court clerk is one that can clerk for every department, take minutes, record proceedings and accept exhibits presented during court. This clerk has been instrumental in filling in at a moments notice when the court schedule changes. This clerk also can fill in on lengthy trials or hearings so that other staff can continue to perform their required duties.

In 2017, the Clerk's Office hired an ex parte clerk. The Superior Court began a new ex parte docket which requires a clerks presence. Ex parte is a Latin legal term meaning "from party." An ex parte decision is one decided by a judge without requiring all of the parties of the controversy to be present. This docket has alleviated long lines at the front counter so that we are better able to serve the public. The ex parte docket has improved efficiency in the Clerk's Office by allowing individuals to appear before a judicial officer. The ex parte clerk supports the judiciary during this docket by assuring that the judicial officer has all of the information that they request, such as pending cases or prior decisions.

*Expenditures reflect only 2017, and budget reflects 2017-2018 biennium.*

# Benton County District Court

## 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



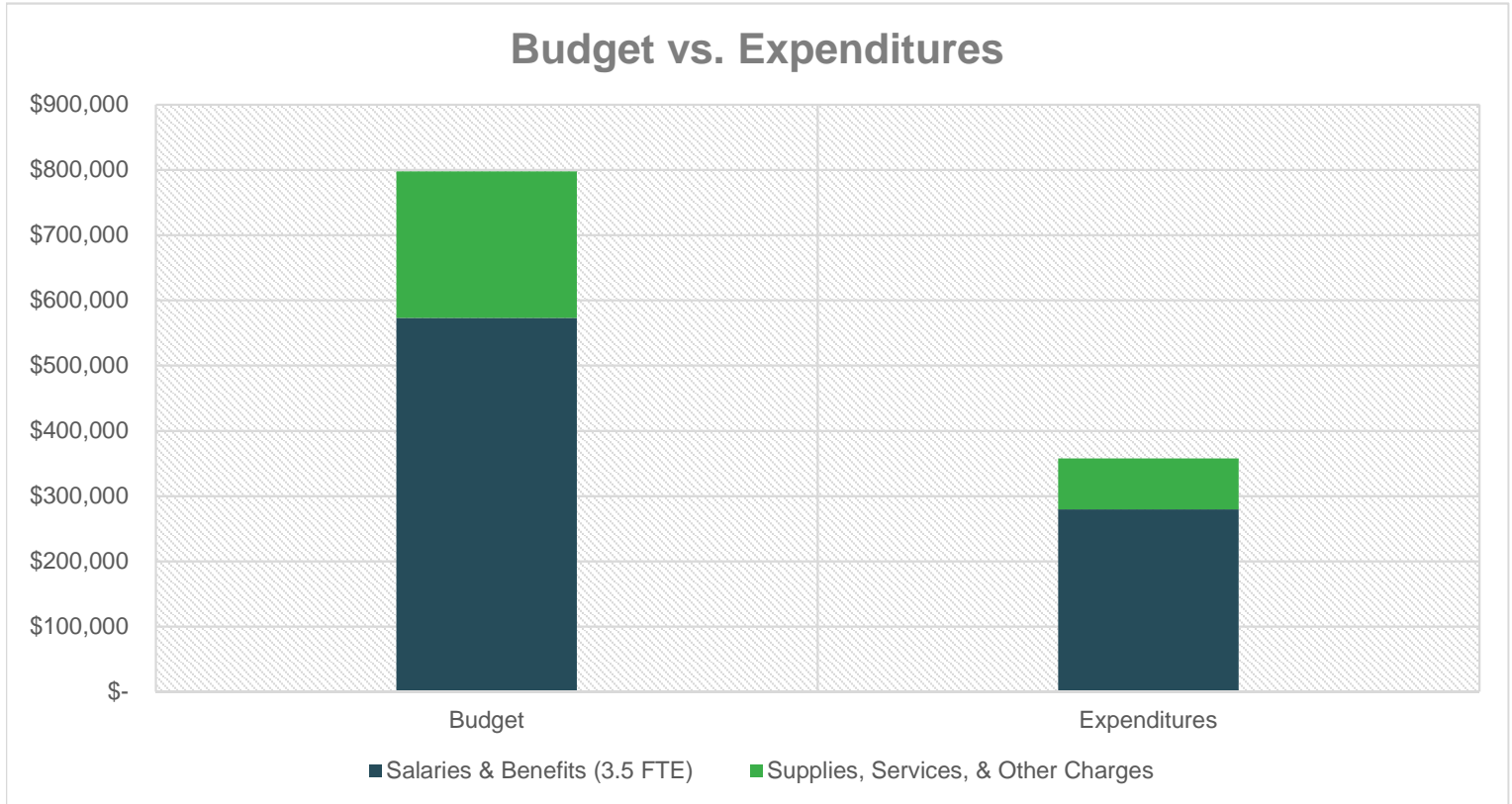
Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits (.5 FTE)	\$ 64,261	\$ 31,283	49%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 14,137	\$ 12,818	91%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 78,398</b>	<b>\$ 44,101</b>	<b>56%</b>

District Court utilizes the Public Safety Sales Tax to fund a part-time clerk's salary, benefits and supplies and also funds a portion of District Court's interpreter costs.

*Expenditures reflect only 2017, and budget reflects 2017-2018 biennium.*

# Mental Health Court

## 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits (3.5 FTE)	\$ 573,135	\$ 279,471	49%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 224,611	\$ 78,176	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 797,746</b>	<b>\$ 357,647</b>	<b>45%</b>

Mental Health Court is in its second year of operation and is going strong! Remodeled office space has resulted in increased efficiency while being more accessible to the public.

In 2017 the Mental Health Court team grew with the addition of a .5 FTE court clerk to the Mental Health Court team. It has been a significant benefit to the program to have someone dedicated to handling court recording, docket management, warrant processing and other essential clerical tasks.

Other expenditures include staff salaries/benefits, the cost of a defense attorney from the Office of Public Defense (OPD), staff training, supplies, forms and other necessary operational costs.

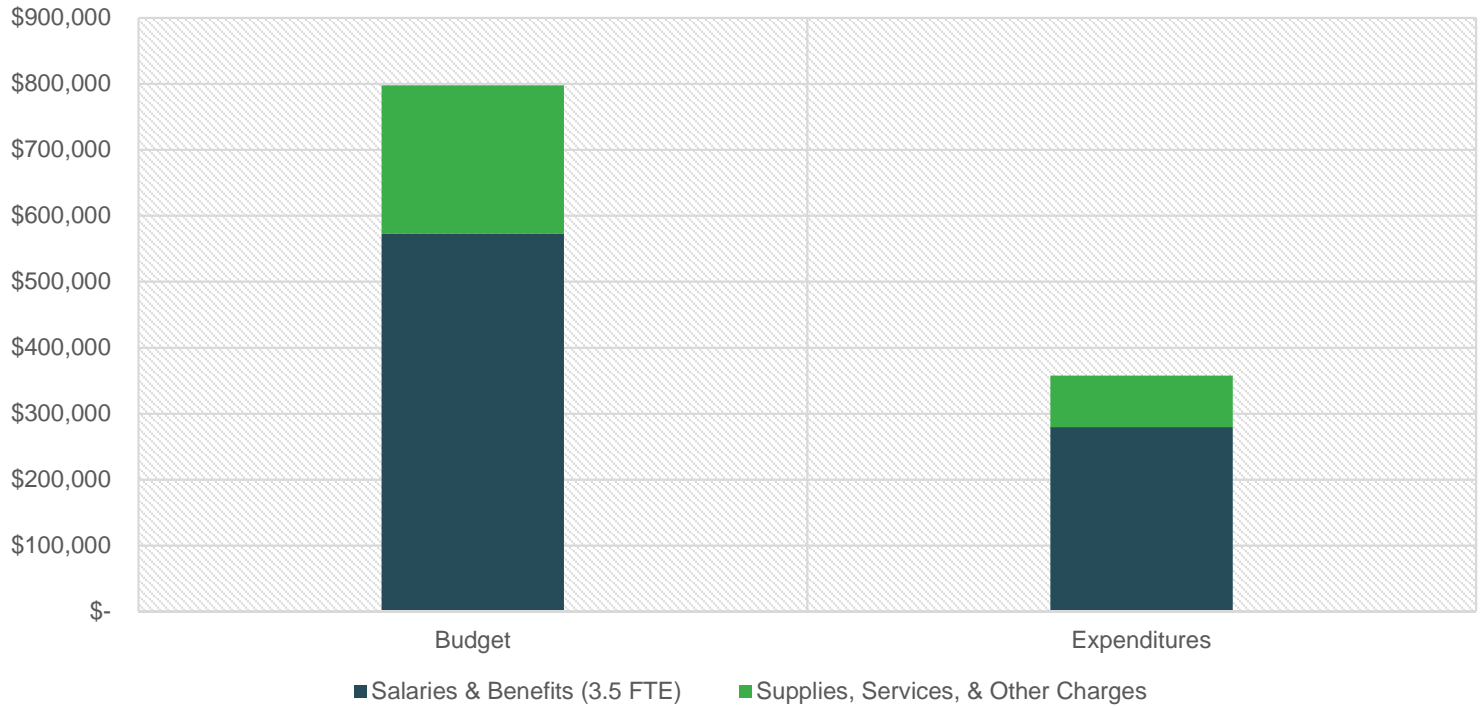
In 2017, Mental Health Court received 89 referrals and graduated 15 participants. There are currently 37 participants enrolled in the program. Participants have stabilized in mental health services, obtained jobs, enrolled in school, achieved sobriety, obtained housing, reunited with children and other family members, and completed more than one thousand hours of community service!

*Expenditures reflect only 2017, and budget reflects 2017-2018 biennium.*

# Non-Departmental

## 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

### Budget vs. Expenditures



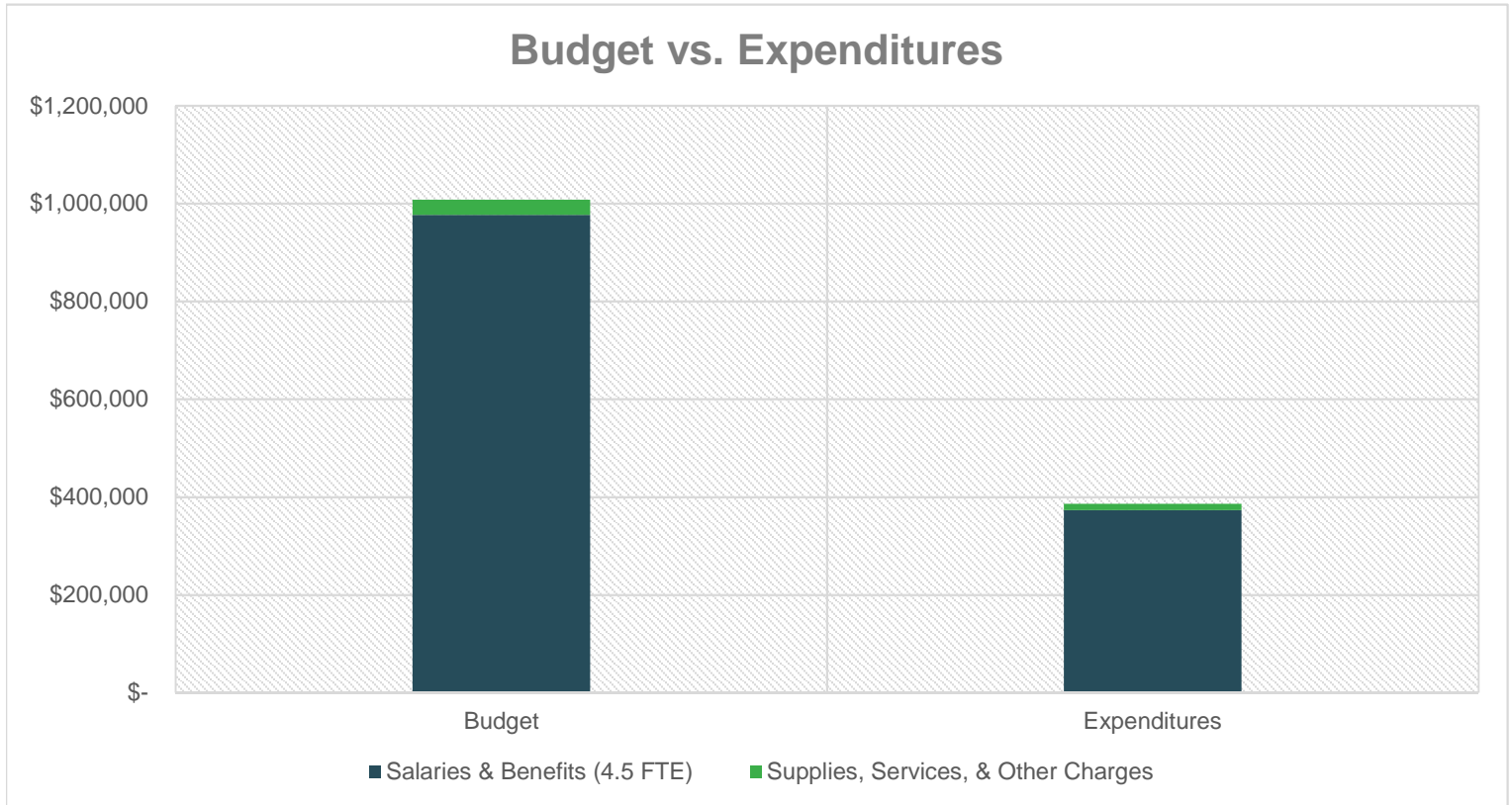
Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Contract & Professional Services	\$ 1,623,374	\$ -	0%
Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative	\$ 800,000	\$ 518,834	65%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,423,374</b>	<b>\$ 518,834</b>	<b>21%</b>

The Non-Departmental budget reflects budget allocation for the Benton County Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative (more detail on final page of this report) as well as additional contract services.

*Expenditures reflect only 2017, and budget reflects 2017-2018 biennium.*

# Benton County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

## 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits (4.5 FTE)	\$ 976,954	\$ 373,015	38%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	31,097	13,197	42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,008,051</b>	<b>\$ 386,212</b>	<b>38%</b>

The budget and expenditures for the Prosecuting Attorney's Office continue to reflect costs related to the addition of a felony prosecutor, appellate attorney and support staff in the felony criminal division. Since the last report, we had a deputy prosecutor in the criminal division leave the office and we transferred the appellate deputy to that position. We did not replace the appellate deputy at the time, as the office remodeling during the end of 2017 had left us short of office space for prosecutors.

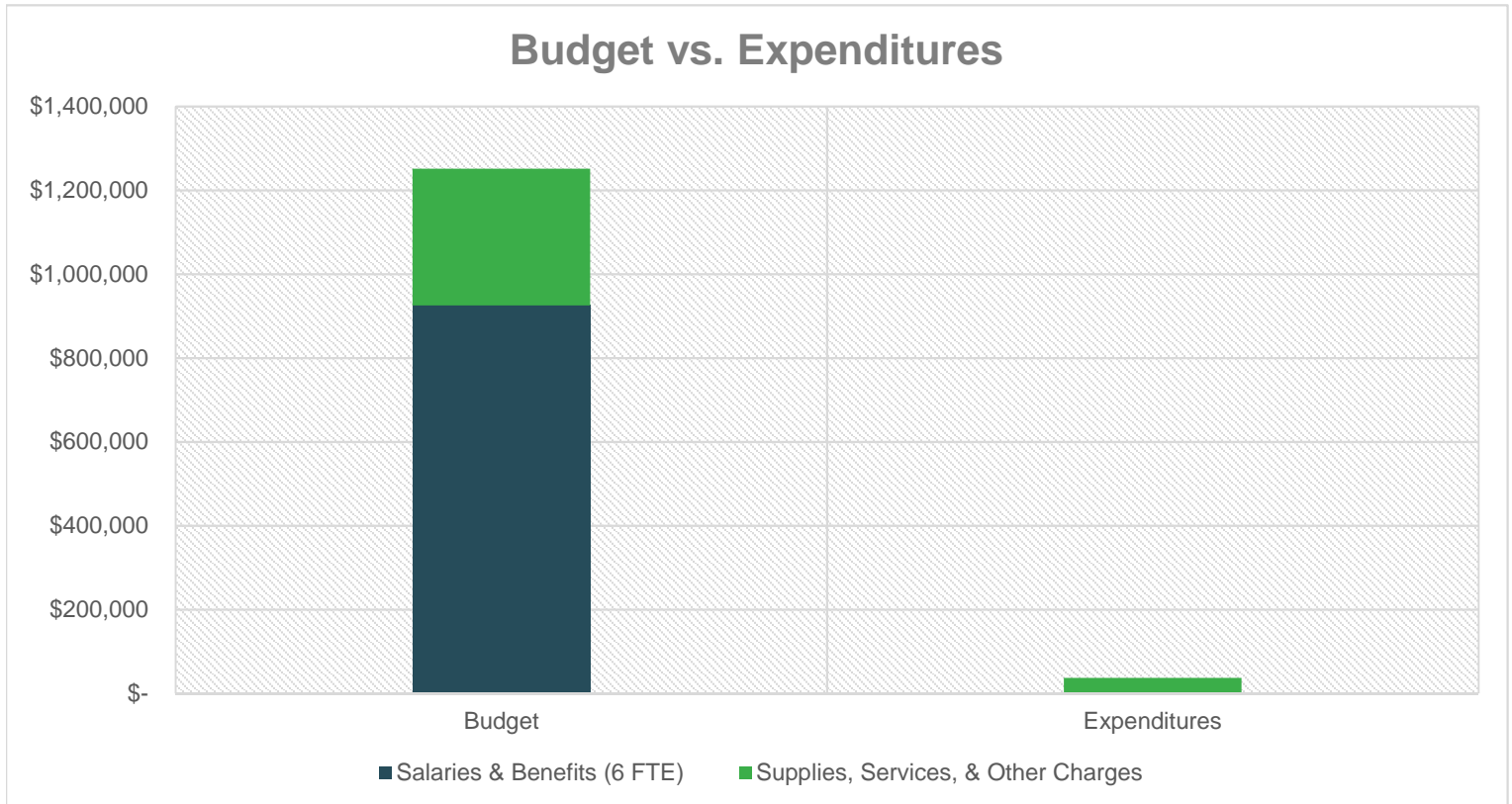
We met this challenge partially by the temporary employment of two legal interns, who worked on the briefs, and by assigning a number of briefs to senior-level prosecutors, which they did in addition to their current caseload. This included the Elected Prosecutor writing some of the briefs. Missing the appellate attorney during this time made the entire office appreciate having a full-time appellate prosecutor. We plan to fill the position in the near future when the office remodeling is completed.

The addition of the other deputy prosecutor and support staff continues to improve our adult felony division. It has especially helped us meet the deadlines of filing criminal cases within the 72 hour hold period when a person is arrested without a warrant and held in custody pursuant to a court's ruling on bail. We have continued to see a decrease in the average length of time it takes our office to screen cases where the defendant is not in custody. We have also been able to get cases to trial in a more timely fashion.

*Expenditures reflect only 2017, and budget reflects 2017-2018 biennium.*

# Benton County Sheriff's Office: Custody

## 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



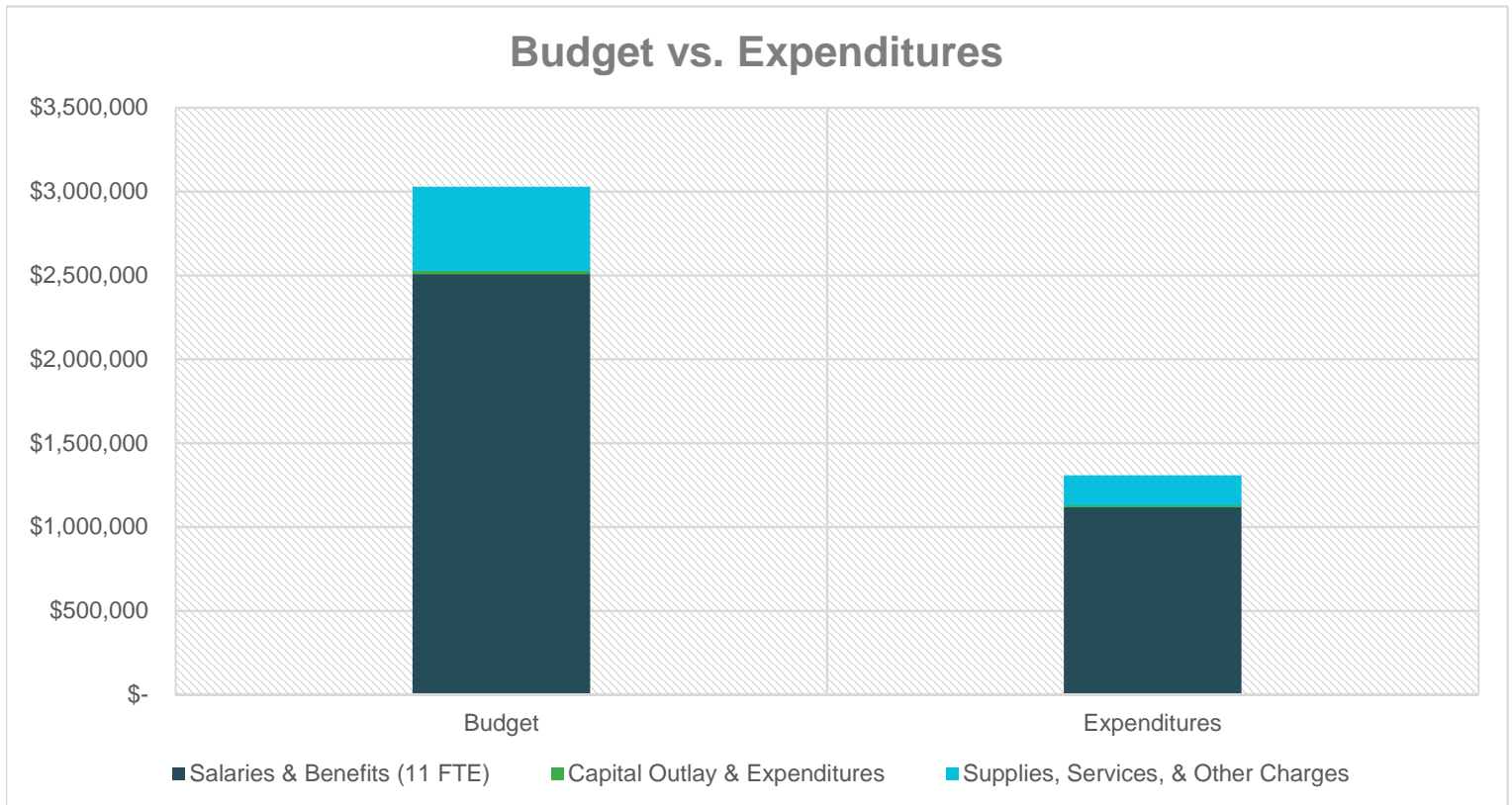
Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits (6 FTE)	\$ 925,249	\$ -	0%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 325,826	\$ 37,212	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,251,075</b>	<b>\$ 37,212</b>	<b>3%</b>

The Public Safety Tax has six (6) positions approved for the Benton County Jail; all of these positions have been left unfilled. Since the tax passed, the local jail population has stabilized in part due to a reduction in the number of inmates incarcerated for warrants related to failure to pay fines. This reduction is attributed to a change in the process by the courts for generating warrants related to this issue. There is a likelihood these positions will not be filled at the Benton County Jail, and the Sheriff will seek to reallocate this funding to the Law Enforcement Bureau to increase the safety of children, to enhance investigative capacity and to adversely impact organized crime. Some of the PST funds expended for the Benton County Jail were in the form of a one-time capital purchase. This purchase, the Guardian Inmate Tracking System, was purchased during the 2015-2016 biennium to document, track and validate inmate movement, medical care, and safety checks in electronic archivable form. This system is in place and has significantly improved inmate safety and security. The total amount of funds allocated for this system was \$131,216.00. Other tax funds were expended in September of 2017 when the Benton County Jail launched the "Inmate Redirection Pod." This program focused on providing inmates with life skills and resources to teach them how to "break the cycle" when released, and reduce recidivism. Public Safety Tax funds in the amount of \$37,229.00 were allocated for this program. In 2017, twenty (20) individuals became involved in the redirection program. The participants have been extremely successful and have shared their feelings on how beneficial they feel this program is, and how they value being provided the opportunity to obtain the skills this program offers. Personal testimony from nearly all participants, as well as the feedback from the instructors, has shown they feel it nothing less than extraordinary. Staff will continue to monitor and collect data to evaluate the program's effectiveness in reducing overall recidivism.

*Expenditures reflect only 2017, and budget reflects 2017-2018 biennium.*

# Benton County Sheriff's Office: Patrol

## 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits (11 FTE)	\$ 2,508,425	\$ 1,117,178	45%
Capital Outlay & Expenditures	\$ 18,510	\$ 11,400	62%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 501,210	\$ 179,278	36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,028,145</b>	<b>\$ 1,307,856</b>	<b>43%</b>

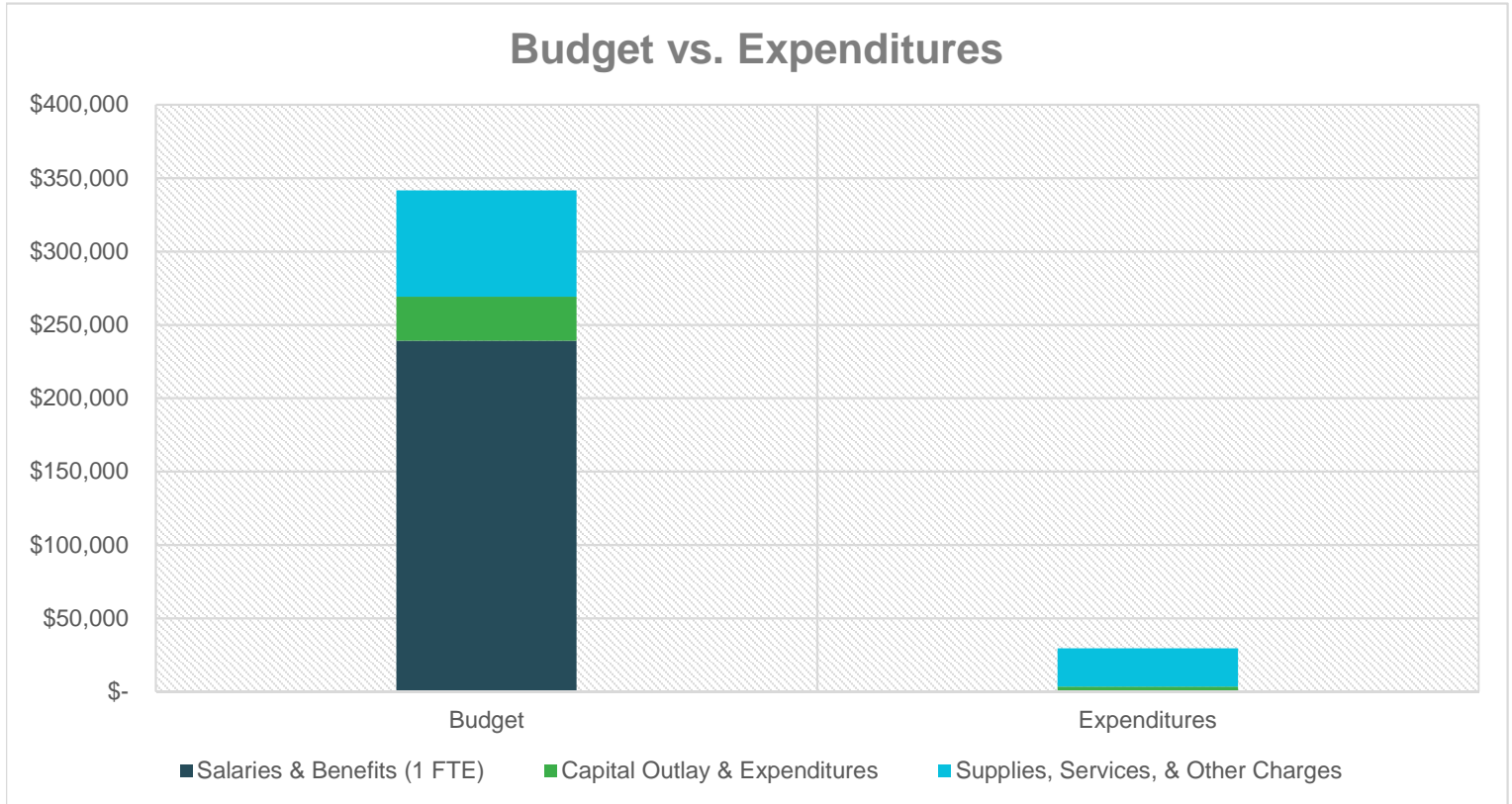
In 2017, we made considerable progress in hiring deputies to fill the additional positions authorized by the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST). However, it is a lengthy process to recruit, hire, equip and train new-hire deputies, with the typical process taking 18 months to get an individual up to speed working as an independent road deputy. That being said, our focus has been on attempting to recruit lateral hire deputies from other law enforcement agencies, as lateral hire deputies can easily shave 12 months off the new-hire timeframe. Although we have had some success, the lateral hire market is very competitive and we have had some struggles in this area as we continue to attempt to fill all our vacancies.

The PSST provided the Law Enforcement Bureau eleven (11) positions, including four (4) Gang Unit detectives and seven (7) other positions. The goal of these additional positions is to create a swing-shift patrol squad to help supplement the current patrol squads. This combination will be utilized in a manner that increases public safety, reduces response times to emergency 911 calls and to expedite the handling of normal calls for service. A comprehensive plan is in place to implement this program and track its effectiveness.

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# Metro Drug Task Force

## 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



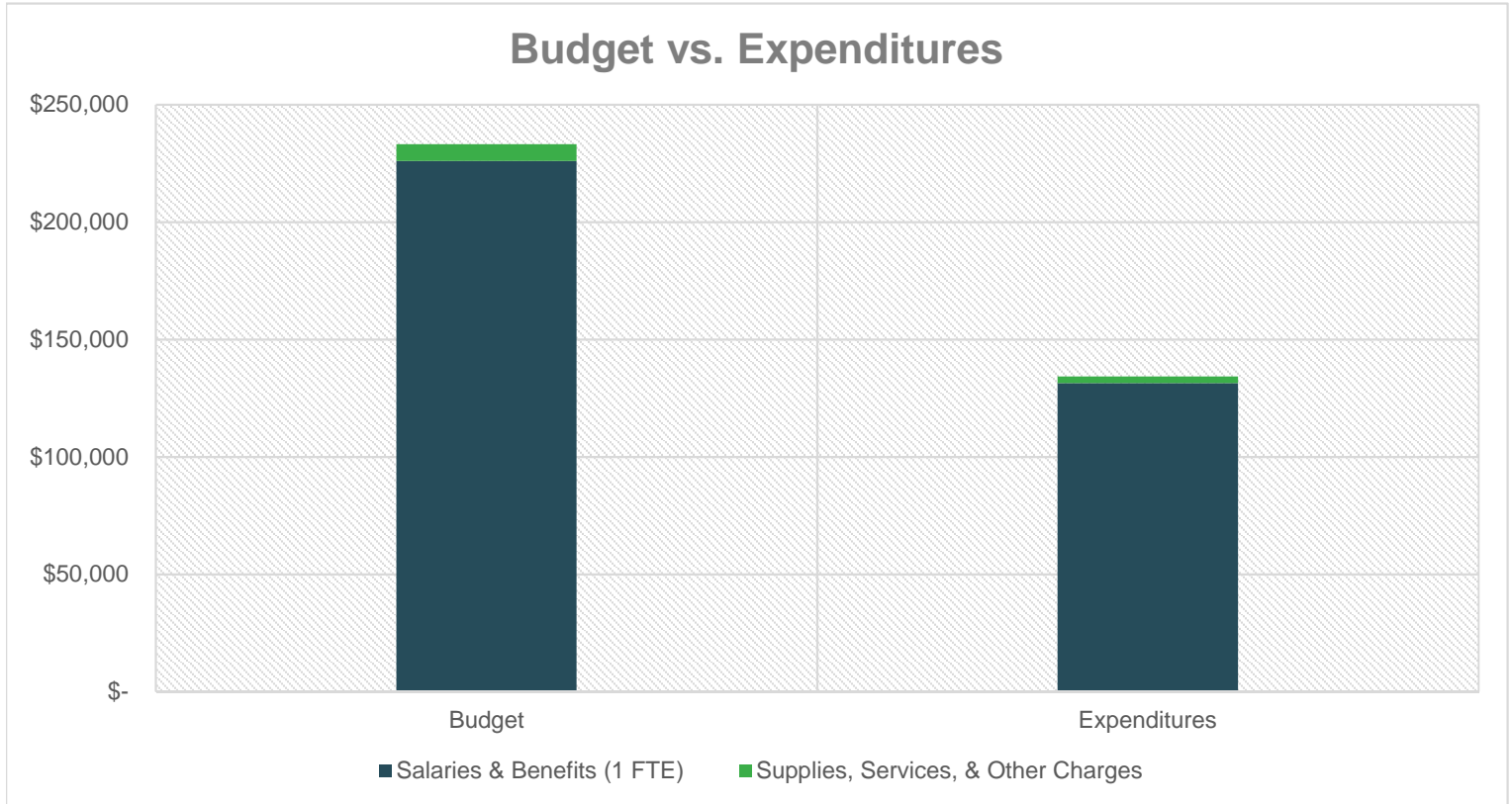
Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits (1 FTE)	\$ 239,053	\$ 43	0%
Capital Outlay & Expenditures	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 3,347	11%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 72,577	\$ 26,162	36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 341,630</b>	<b>\$ 29,552</b>	<b>9%</b>

The Metro Drug Task Force department has expenditures relating the start-up costs of the department for uniforms, supplies and services, and the purchase of one vehicle under capital outlay. A deputy has also been selected to fill a detective position with the Metro Drug Task Force using Public Safety Tax funds. This position will be filled in 2018 once patrol is back to full staff and the swing-shift patrol squad is operational.

*Expenditures reflect only 2017, and budget reflects 2017-2018 biennium.*

# Benton-Franklin Counties Superior Court

## 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits (1 FTE)	\$ 225,993	\$ 131,332	58%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 7,214	\$ 2,851	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 233,207</b>	<b>\$ 134,183</b>	<b>58%</b>

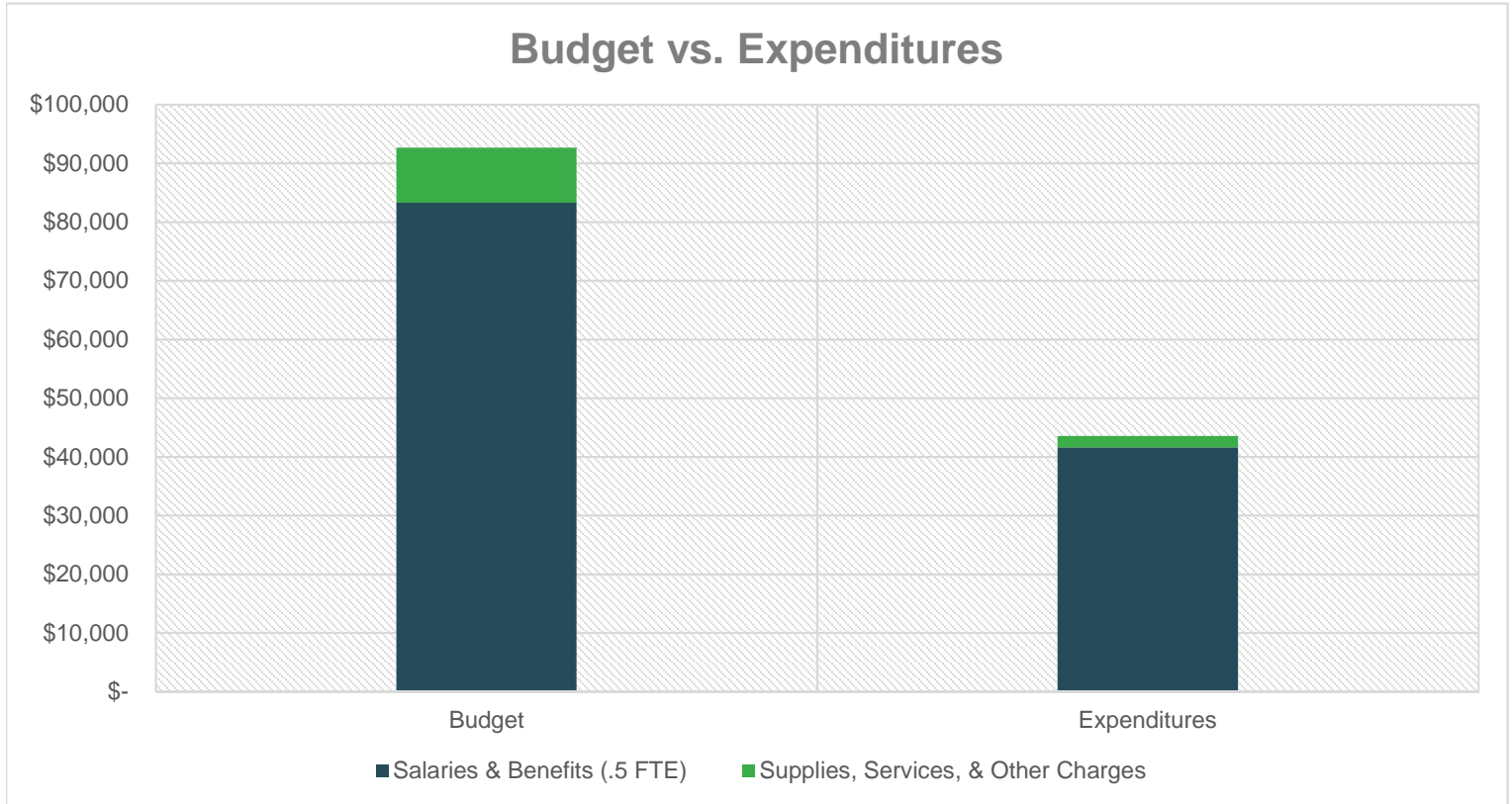
The Superior Court budget and expenditures reflect 2017 (12 months) salary and wages for the seventh Superior Court Judge and one-half time Court Commissioner, as well as the supplies and services needed to accommodate the additional positions. The Judicial position was filled in October 2015 and the one-half time Court Commissioner position was filled in January 2017. The Superior Court is a Bi-County Judicial District, but only Benton County costs are reflected under the Public Safety Tax Budget. Additionally, the counties are responsible for only one-half of the elected judicial officer's salary – the State of Washington is responsible for the other one-half of the salary and all benefits.

Note that this budget reflects only the Benton County costs for the Benton-Franklin Counties Superior Court, and do not include expenditures related to Franklin County.

*Expenditures reflect only 2017, and budget reflects 2017-2018 biennium.*

# Public Safety Administration

## 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



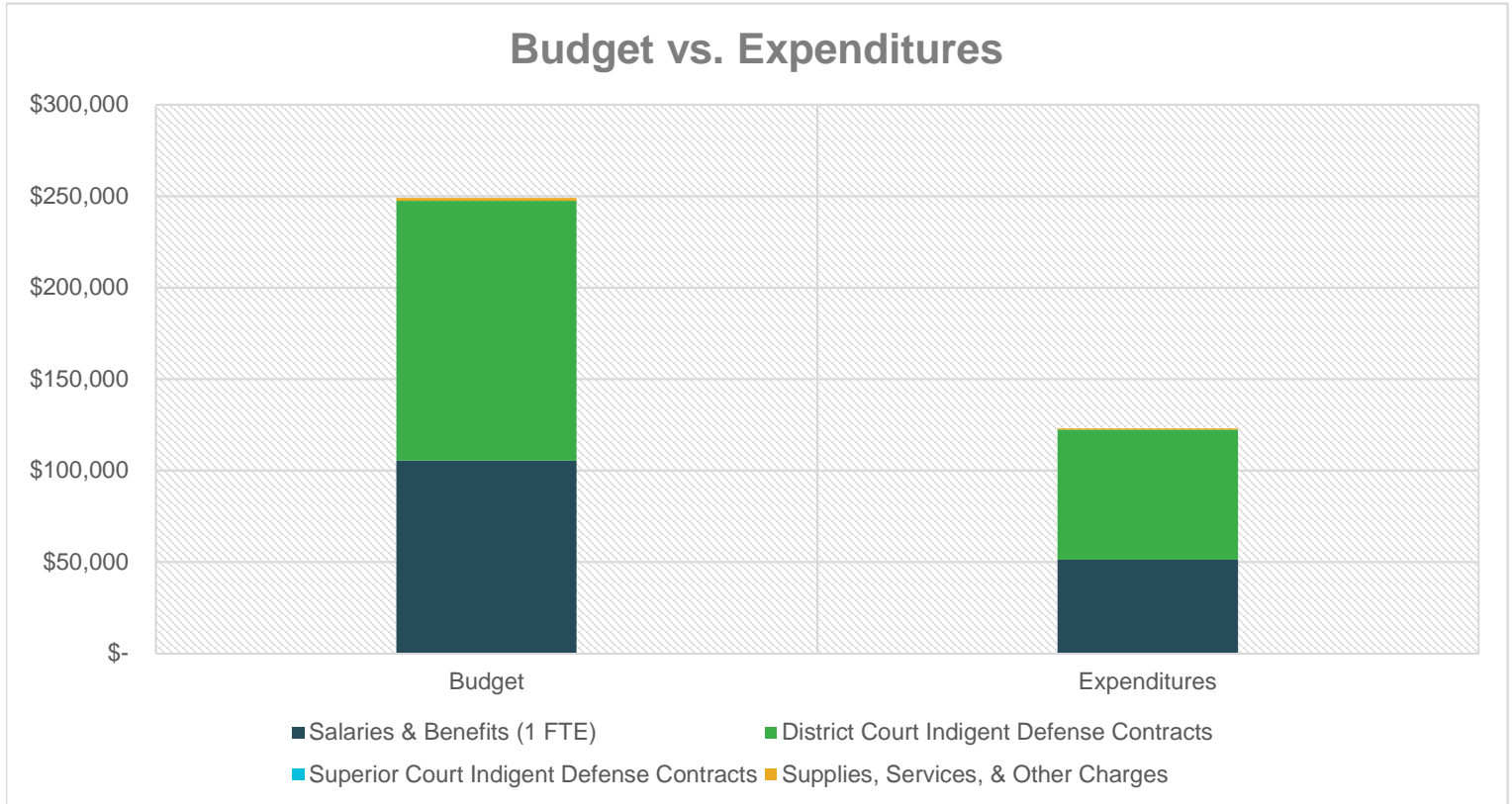
Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits (.5 FTE)	\$ 83,310	\$ 41,589	50%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 9,362	\$ 1,975	21%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 92,672</b>	<b>\$ 43,565</b>	<b>47%</b>

The Public Safety Administration budget and expenditures reflect twelve (12) months (2017) of salary, benefits, and supplies for 1/2 the cost of a full-time Community Programs & Public Relations Coordinator. The other 1/2 of that position is funded through the Sustainable Development Department.

*Expenditures reflect only 2017, and budget reflects 2017-2018 biennium.*

# Benton County Office of Public Defense

## 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



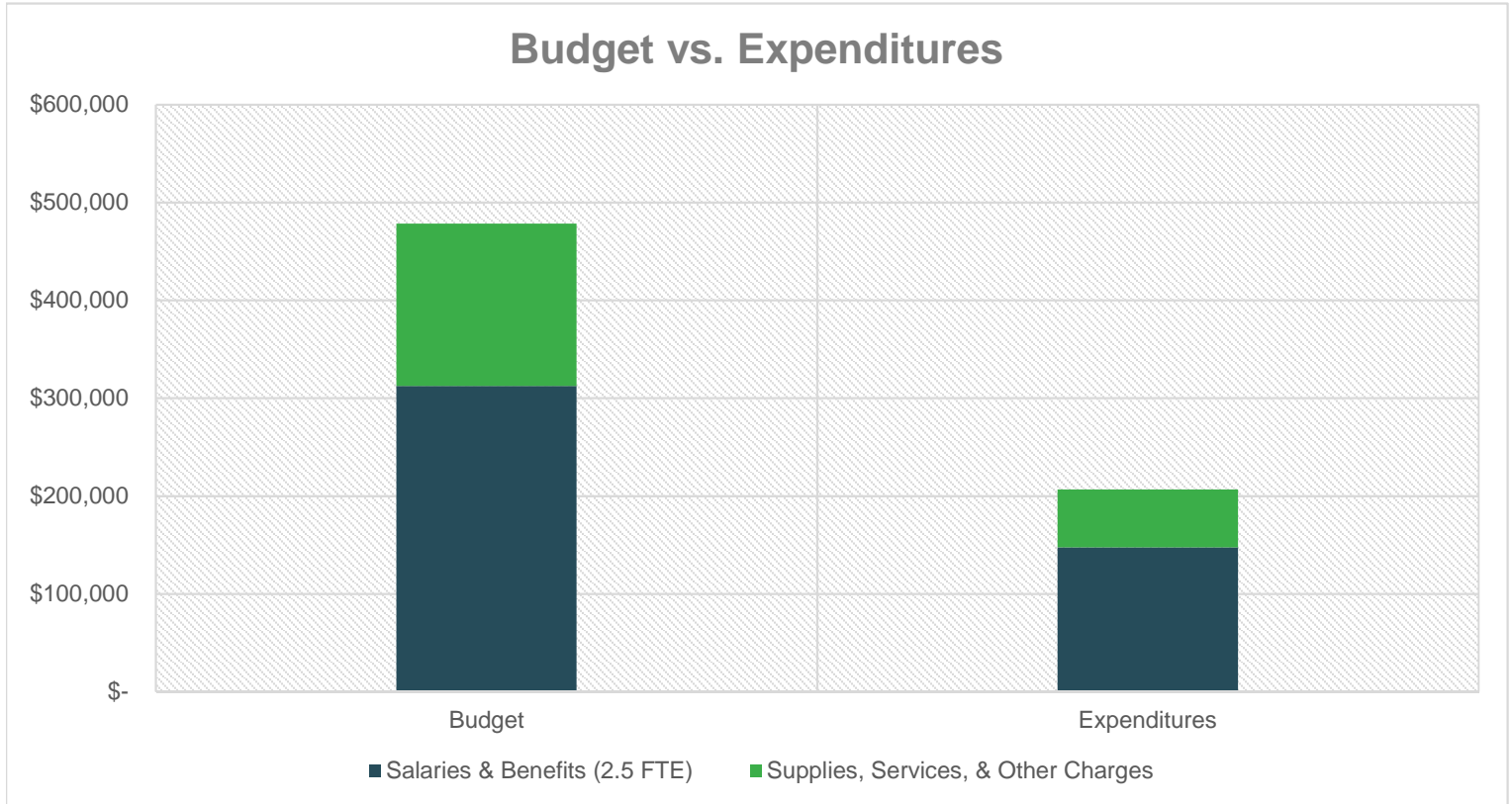
Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits (1 FTE)	\$ 105,416	\$ 51,307	49%
District Court Indigent Defense Contracts	\$ 142,000	\$ 70,980	50%
Superior Court Indigent Defense Contracts	\$ -	\$ -	-
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 1,540	\$ 770	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 248,956</b>	<b>\$ 123,057</b>	<b>49%</b>

This biennium, Public Safety Tax funds provided the Office of Public Defense with important key resources to help it achieve its Constitutionally-mandated mission of providing quality public defense services. We hired an Executive Assistant in Summer 2017 who came to us with considerable customer services and administrative experience, and have been able to cross-train her to provide paralegal-style support to our District Court staff defender. This support has allowed him to be more effective and able to meet required standards while handling a high volume caseload. At the same time, we've been able to shift a significant portion of the administrative functions of the office from our Office Manager to our Executive Assistant, thus freeing up our Office Manager to take on additional functions including developing training/administrative process reference materials, leading our Digital Defender Initiative, and to receive extensive training as a paralegal, which will allow her to take on a much more expanded role in directly supporting our Superior Court Staff Defenders. The balance of our funding has been utilized to continue to provide high quality public defense services in Benton County District Court. While filings have dropped noticeably in recent years, the actual number of cases assigned to public defenders has not followed this trend very closely. This can be best exemplified by the fact that, while in 2014, only 50% of cases filed were actually appointed to a public defender, that figure increased significantly to 60% in 2017. There also is some amount of uncertainty about future District Court caseload trends since all Tri-Cities law enforcement agencies seem to have now completed the significant hiring of new officers and deputies anticipated by the Sales Tax funding.

*Expenditures reflect only 2017, and budget reflects 2017-2018 biennium.*

# Adult Drug Court

## 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



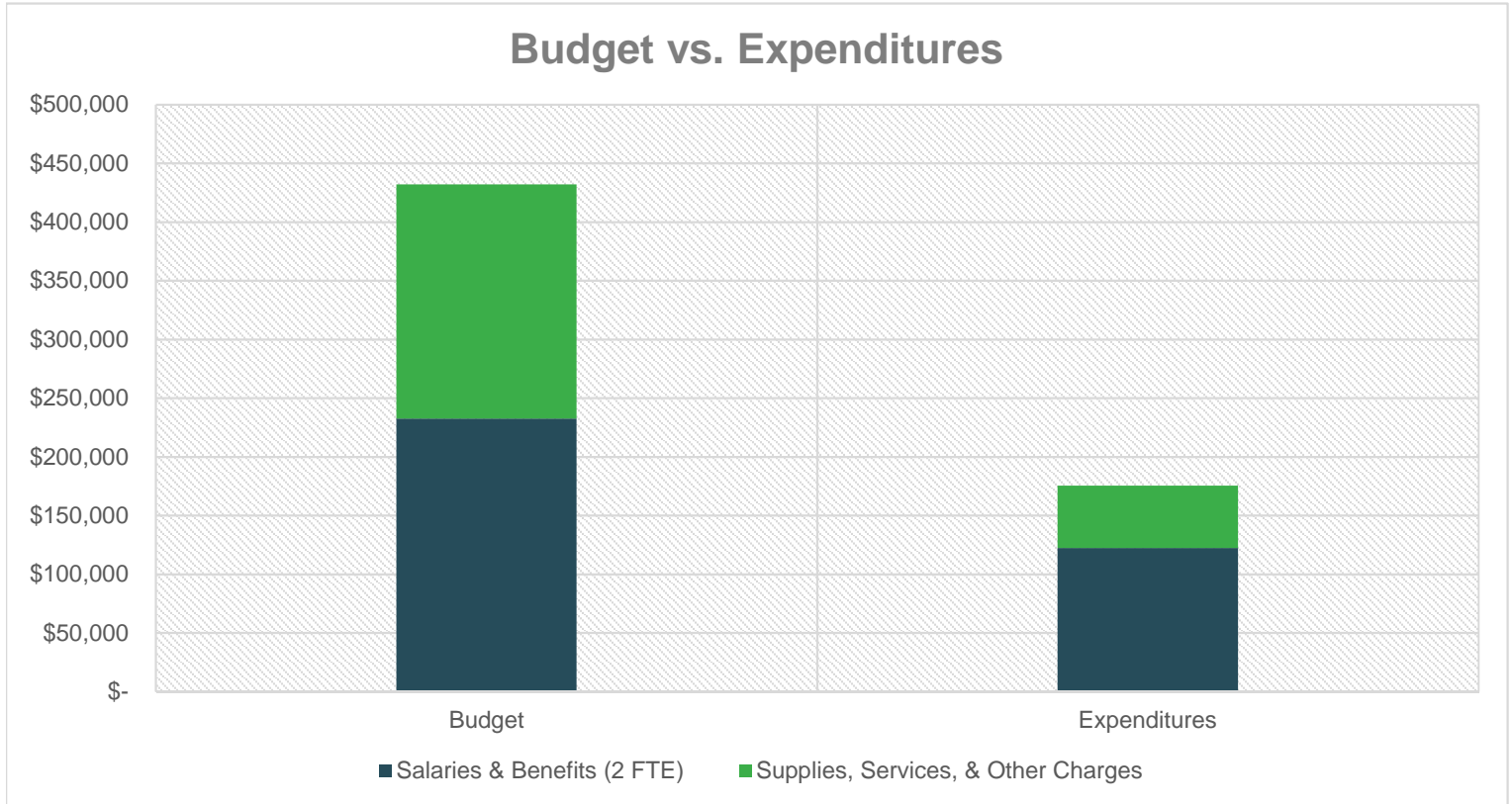
Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits (2.5 FTE)	\$ 312,304	\$ 147,557	47%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 165,942	\$ 59,067	36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 478,246</b>	<b>\$ 206,624</b>	<b>43%</b>

The Adult Drug Court was transferred to the Public Safety Tax Budget in 2016 and restored to the original Adult Drug court capacity of 45 participants in June of 2016. The Adult Drug Court budget and expenditures reflect 12 months (2017) of salary and benefits for a Drug Court Coordinator, Drug Court Case Manager and a part-time Secretary, as well as program-related supplies, contract services, and professional services (including indigent defense services). The Adult Drug Court celebrated 20 graduates in 2017. The Adult Drug Court is a Bi-County program, but only Benton County costs are reflected under the Public Safety Tax Budget.

*Expenditures reflect only 2017, and budget reflects 2017-2018 biennium.*

# Juvenile Drug Court

## 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



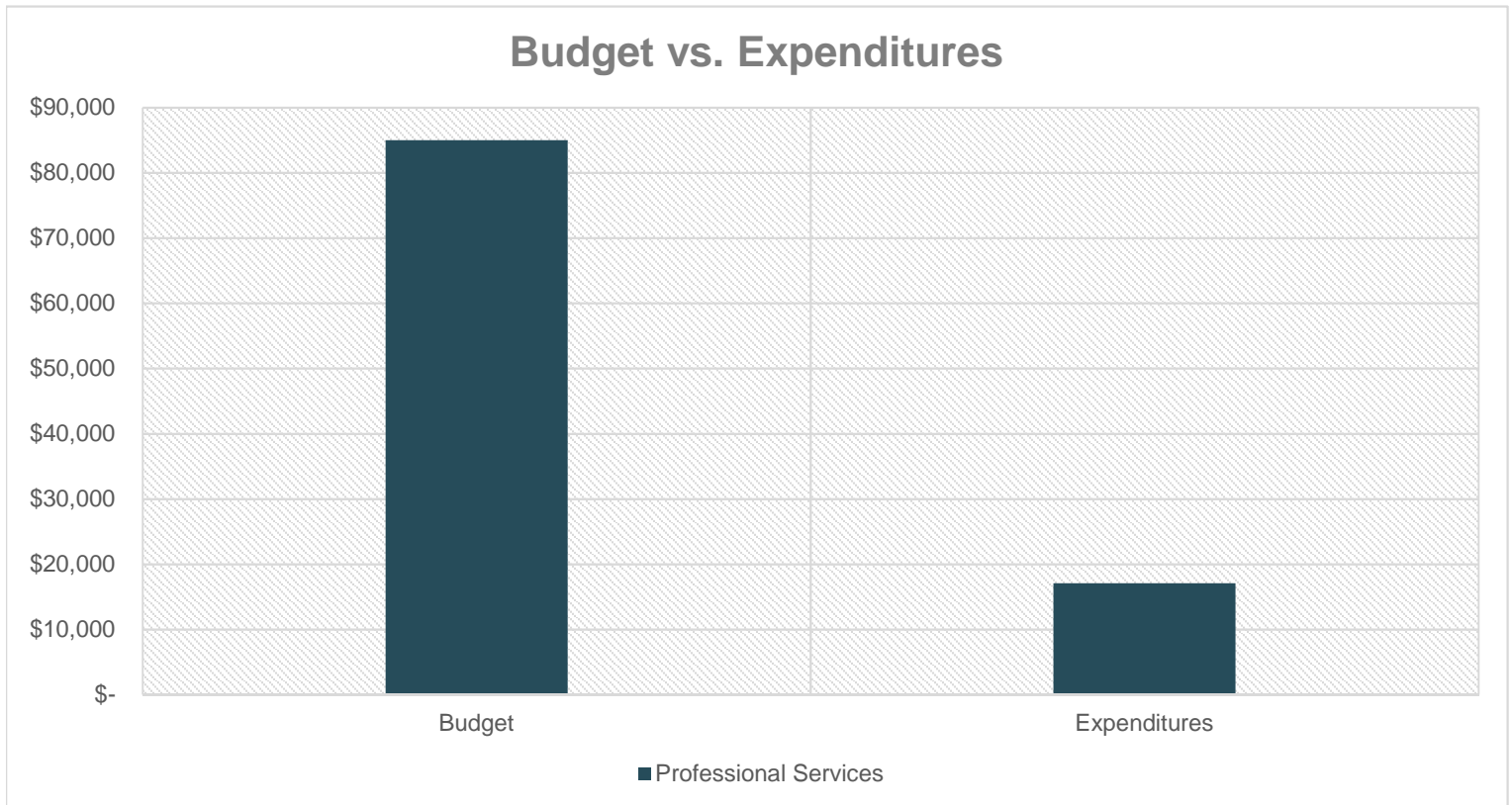
Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits (2 FTE)	\$ 232,508	\$ 122,428	53%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 199,440	\$ 53,135	27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 431,948</b>	<b>\$ 175,563</b>	<b>41%</b>

Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) is a program that targets youth charged with a non-violent criminal offense that have been diagnosed with a substance abuse, dependence or addiction problem. The program intervention involves intensive supervision, weekly monitoring at court appearances, participation in recovery services and involvement in strength based services that increases a youth positive involvement in their community. JDC is a pre-adjudication program that lasts approximately 10 to 18 months, to successfully complete the program a youth must complete their treatment requirements, maintain their sobriety, and be involved in an educational program or be employed. Upon successful completion, the prosecuting attorney will dismiss the underlying criminal charges. In 2017, the JDC served 35 youth and successfully graduated 13 youth.

*Expenditures reflect only 2017, and budget reflects 2017-2018 biennium.*

# Selective Aggressive Probation (SAP)

## 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Professional Services	\$ 85,000	\$ 17,091	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 85,000</b>	<b>\$ 17,091</b>	<b>20%</b>

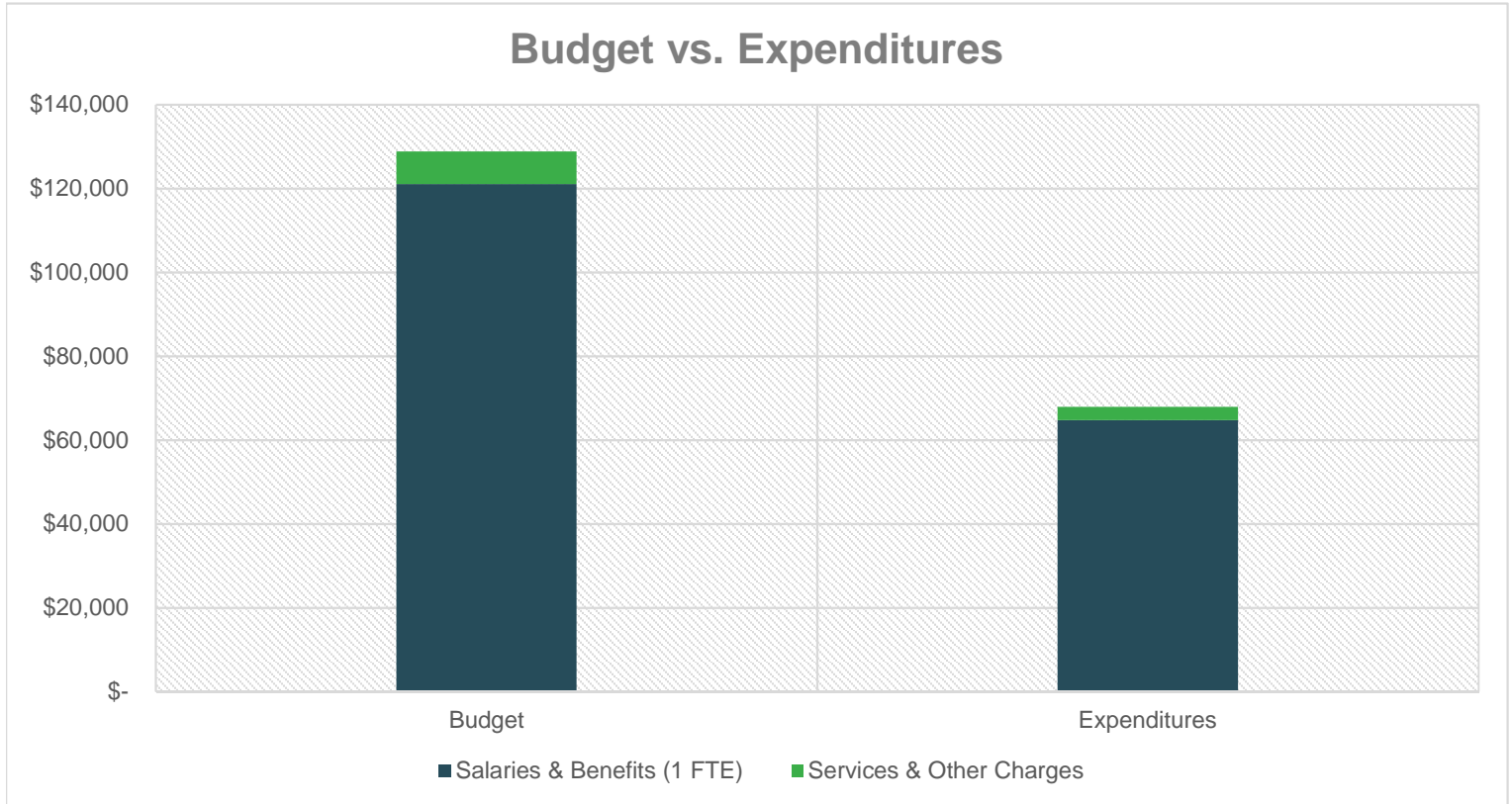
Selective Aggressive Probation Program (SAP) is a multi-agency, collaborative effort to impact the serious, violent, habitual juvenile offenders in Benton and Franklin Counties. The focus of SAP is to enhance community safety by working closely with law enforcement, county prosecutors, schools, and other community resources to increase the accountability of youthful offenders while providing opportunities for treatment and rehabilitation.

In 2017, 51 youth were served on SAP with 40 youth participating in the following evidenced based programming: 20 youth participated in Aggression Replacement Training (ART), 5 youth participated in Functional Family Therapy (FFT), and 15 youth participated in Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST). In addition, youth attended educational programming and/or were referred to employment programs. As an example, 15 youth attend the GED program at the juvenile center with 11 youth obtaining their GED and six youth participated in employment programming at Work Source.

*Expenditures reflect only 2017, and budget reflects 2017-2018 biennium.*

# Functional Family Therapy (FFT)

## 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits (1 FTE)	\$ 121,088	\$ 64,754	53%
Services & Other Charges	\$ 7,732	\$ 3,163	41%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 121,088</b>	<b>\$ 64,754</b>	<b>53%</b>

Functional Family Therapy (FFT) is a short-term evidence based family counseling program that has been proven through numerous research studies to have positive results with families involved in the juvenile justice system. FFT is a strength based model that last approximately three to five months with 12 to 14 sessions during that time. At its core, FFT focuses on assessment and intervention to address risk and protective factors within and outside of the family that impact the youth and his or her development. In 2017, the Benton-Franklin Counties Juvenile Justice Center provided 23 families with FFT services.

*Expenditures reflect only 2017, and budget reflects 2017-2018 biennium.*



# GANG & CRIME PREVENTION INITIATIVE

2017 Benton County Public Safety Sales Tax



# Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative

## 2017 BENTON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

The mission of the Benton County Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative is to improve the quality of life for the residents of Benton County by reducing the incidence of gang-related and other crime in Benton County. This Initiative will achieve its mission by providing resources to support the program efforts of third-party partners that have the reduction of gang-related and other criminal activity as a primary goal.

Resources provided through this initiative are primarily in the form of financial support through opportunities for in-kind, data-sharing, expertise, technical assistance, or administrative support resources as appropriate and allowed by law.

The Benton County Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative is open to the following applicants only during designated RFP process or as requested by the Board of County Commissioners:

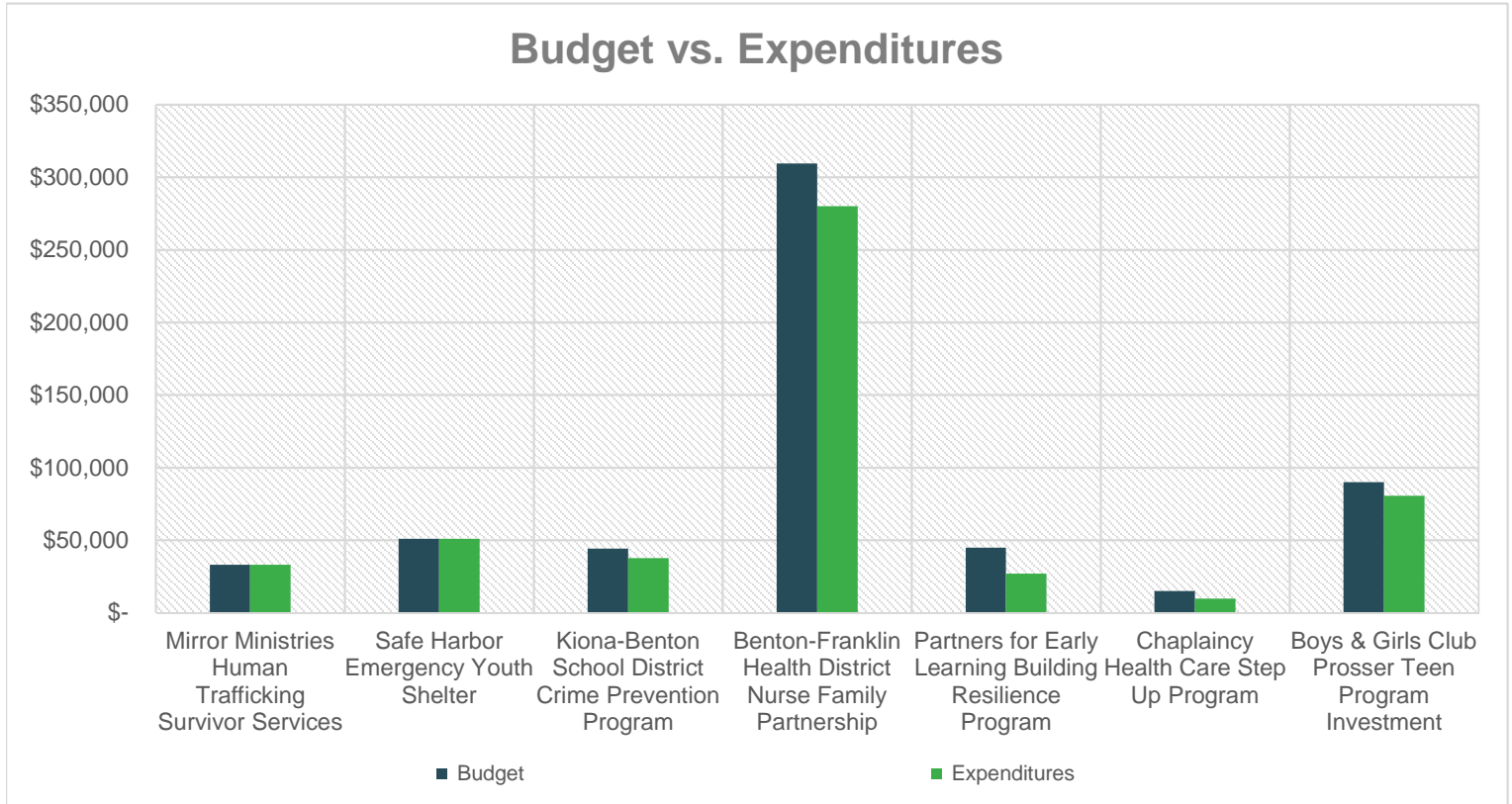
- Non-profit corporations or other entities registered as tax exempt with the IRS under IRC 501(c)3 or 501(c)4
- Churches and other tax-exempt organizations are welcome to apply but must have recognized 501(c)3 status to do so.
- Programs must have gang-related and other crime prevention as a central goal and must use an evidence-based approach to this goal (including specific, measurable, meaningful, and community-significant performance measures).
- Maximum contract period: 2 years
- Programs proposed must be new or expand preexisting services/programs by at least 125%

Details about the Public Safety Sales Tax and the Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative can be found on the Benton County website at [www.co.benton.wa.us](http://www.co.benton.wa.us).

**Please note that throughout this report, the expenditures listed reflect only 2017, not the full 2017-2018 biennium. However, for ease of understanding, only the 2017 budget numbers for the programs have been included despite each program being funded through 2018.**

# Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative

## 2017 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



Program Name	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Mirror Ministries Human Trafficking Survivor Services	\$ 33,000	\$ 33,000	100%
Safe Harbor Emergency Youth Shelter	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	100%
Kiona-Benton School District Crime Prevention Program	\$ 44,127	\$ 37,512	85%
Benton-Franklin Health District Nurse Family Partnership	\$ 309,557	\$ 280,099	90%
Partners for Early Learning Building Resilience Program	\$ 44,860	\$ 26,928	60%
Chaplaincy Health Care Step Up Program	\$ 15,000	\$ 9,647	64%
Boys & Girls Club Prosser Teen Program Investment	\$ 90,000	\$ 80,648	90%
<b>Total Program Allocated Budgets</b>	<b>\$ 587,544</b>		
<b>Remaining Available Fund Balance (Not Allocated)</b>	<b>\$ 212,456</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 800,000</b>	<b>\$ 518,834</b>	<b>65%</b>

The Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative was full-swing in 2017. The program added two (2) new programs and retained five (5) programs from the previous year. The total available budget for the year (2017) was \$800,000, with the allocated budget for all of the programs at \$587,544. Please note that this budget is ONLY for 2017, and does not reflect the biennial budget or project/program allocations. Each of the programs listed above will continue throughout 2018.

Detailed reports for each of these programs can be found on our County website, under Public Safety Sales Tax - Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative.

*Expenditures and budgets listed reflect only 2017, though all of these programs have contracts continuing through 2018.*

# Mirror Ministries

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVOR SERVICES

Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
2017 Human Trafficking Survivor Services	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

Mirror Ministries has seen a year of momentum and growth. We have hired two full time sex trafficking specialists as Advocates for local victims/survivors of trafficking. At the end of the year we moved into our new Mirror Ministries Outreach Center with plenty of space for our Survivor Support Group activities. We have Music and Art Therapy, Life Skills, Cooking, help with education and employment. We have private counselors that meet with our clients to offer the intensive therapeutic treatment they need. Sometimes, we just have fun. All with the goal of bringing hope and healing to local victims of sex trafficking in Benton County.

Thanks, in part, to the contract with Benton County, Mirror Ministries has provided much needed outreach, prevention, intervention, and restoration with at-risk populations, specifically those persons victimized, or at threat of being victimized by, domestic sex trafficking (Commercial Sexual Exploitation- CSE). These vital programs are being delivered through our Survivor Services Human Trafficking Advocates to increase public safety.

In 2017, 44 new victims and survivors (females and males) of sex trafficking had been identified and were being served by Mirror Ministries' advocates. More than a third of these victims were affiliated with or victimized by gangs. Mirror Ministries' Advocates have played a crucial role in the interruption of gang activity and violence through education, intervention and direct victim advocacy.

Mirror Ministries has brought human trafficking awareness training to 120 different local businesses, schools, agencies, and groups. We had two local showings of SOLD: The Human Trafficking Experience with about 300 attendees and Mirror's SUDS (Stop Underage Domestic Sex-trafficking) campaign reached all 47 hotels in the Tri-Cities. This community education allows for earlier identification and intervention for victims; as business owners, service providers, staff and students are made aware of the warning signs and the help available, more victims will be brought forward to receive services. As victims have earlier intervention, they are likely to commit less crime under coercion from the trafficker. Education of the greater population prevents more human trafficking. As people become aware of the tactics used by traffickers and gangs, new crimes/victims will be prevented.

Mirror Ministries operates a 24/7 hotline for sex trafficking victims. {1(509)212-9995} In 2017 we received 410 phone calls on that line. Some of those calls were current clients in crisis, but most were first time callers. We receive calls from the victims themselves, family members, CPS, Law Enforcement, Justice and Detention systems, schools, and community members.

Mirror Ministries is available and has been utilized as a resource to law enforcement in Benton County and each city therein. Victims tend to respond better to an advocate that they can trust; that trust takes time to build. This benefits the victim, as well as, Law Enforcement. In 2017 we have seen 8 of our clients make reports to Law Enforcement. Each victim's written statement, achieved through the relationship with the advocate, usually points to multiple traffickers who are trafficking multiple victims each. This evidence can be crucial for Prosecutors to build strong cases against an otherwise hidden crime. This can result in more cases prosecuted and fewer criminals on our streets. Five of our clients have seen their cases go on to prosecution of the trafficker.

# Mirror Ministries

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVOR SERVICES

Mirror is working closely with My Friend's Place, Juvenile Justice Center, TC-UGM's Women's Shelter, You Medical, DSHS, Catholic Family, local schools, and dozens of other agencies to identify human trafficking victims among their clients and provide advocacy services. This extends the reach of their organizations and our outreach as we work together towards education, intervention, and restoration. Mirror partners with Center for Children and Youth Justice (CCYJ) for a CSE data collection resource for our community. Mirror Ministries is an active member of Tri-Cities Coalition Against Trafficking, a local coalition consisting of law enforcement, legal system, and social service agencies. We are successfully connecting trafficking victims to local services to address their needs for housing, counseling, drug rehab, education, and parenting skills.

As we seek to empower these victims to find their way to healing physically, mentally, and spiritually, we find the measure of success when we see them living as fully engaged, thriving members of our community. This measurement is best taken in small steps as this healing can take many years, so we will measure the day-to-day victories. At the end of 2017 we are celebrating clients making healthy choices for their future, many Birthday cakes, some Baby Showers and first-apartment House Warmings, statements given to police and charges being pressed, 12 clients that were previously habitual runaways were stable for 2 months, 8 of them more than 4-6 months, and one even more than a year now. This is a record of stability for each of these clients. We coordinated 6 out-of-area placements for victims that needed to leave for their safety. We had several successful "Safe Home" placements in town with local volunteer hosts for other victims. We celebrated one young lady who finished her first full year of school in almost 7 years! Many of our clients come with drug addictions, but 11 of them celebrated their longest sobriety ever this year. We have seen Music and Art Therapy groups formed, victims supporting one another at Survivor Support Groups, and even a 'Moms of trafficking victims Support Group'. We hear our clients talk about Hope, Healing, and Dreams of their future! We are pleased with what 2017 has brought, and we are looking forward to even more momentum and growth in 2018.



*Above: Church Training. Below: Training for Educators.*



*Above: Music Room. Below: Outreach Bags.*



# Safe Harbor/My Friends Place

## EMERGENCY OVERNIGHT YOUTH SHELTER

Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
2017 Emergency Overnight Youth Shelter	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 51,000</b>	<b>\$ 51,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

2017 marked the successful five-year anniversary of My Friends Place homeless teen shelter and drop in center and the community has come to recognize our program as a staple of Tri Cities human services. My Friends Place housed 68 youth this past year, an increase of 33% over 2015, in which we served a larger age range of youth (13-21).

My Friends Place also provided drop in/outreach services to 172 youth, an increase of 86%. This sharp rise in numbers shows the continued need for this vital service. Through constant outreach we have reached all area middle and high schools and have forged a strong relationship with our community's educators to identify at-risk and homeless youth for services. We have also forged a strong relationship with Benton County Juvenile Justice Center, Pasco Police Department, Kennewick Police Department, Richland Police Department, Benton County Sheriff Dept., Franklin County Sheriff Dept., Domestic Violence Services, SARC, Department of Children and Family Services, 2nd Harvest, and Lutheran Social Services to name a few. We are constantly partnering with our community's businesses to promote the awareness of homeless teens and to educate the public on the plight of the homeless in our community and how we can assist those in need. My Friends Place also works in partnership with Columbia Basin College and WSU Tri Cities to train and educate social service and nursing students in the culture of homeless teens. These same students volunteer at our shelter and assist with community outreach.

During this year, we have assisted 44 street youth, 14 of whom were openly gang affiliated, to leave the streets and enter our program. These same teenagers re-entered school, sought employment, learned valuable life skills, and most were reunified with their parents through our comprehensive case management services. We did return several run-away children home, located one missing child when he entered our shelter, and we worked with officials in Walla Walla, Yakima, Spokane, and Idaho. Management is involved state wide in the fight of homelessness through active memberships in WACHYA & WLIHA and work to put Benton & Franklin County on the state map of needed service providers.

In 2017 we provided 12,820 hot meals and doubled the number of hours of tutoring to 208. In November we held a month long homeless awareness event for youth and community members. We continue with monthly outreach to schools during the school year. In addition, our outreach included Sommerset, Benton/Franklin County Fair, Barnes and Noble Paul Mitchell, Dresses for Hope, Emerge, Tri-city channel cats, Goodwill, Work source, First Lutheran, Heritage College, Alternative Gift Fair, WSU.

62% of youth served this past year were female. 3% of our population identified as LGBTQ youth and 97% were American citizens. 41% self-identified as Caucasian, 24% Hispanic, 13% African American, with 1 El Salvadorian National, 1 Guadeloupean National and 1 Arabic youth.

In 2016 we served 2 affiliated gang members and this past year (2017) we served 14. That is a significant increase in our numbers. While we suspect the numbers are much higher than that we only count those who acknowledge their affiliation. Our case managers who do street outreach have proven effective in getting the word out. Of the 68 youth who stayed with us all had exposure to gangs on the street before coming to the shelter. We removed 30 street kids, those who have had substantial time on the streets. Case managers were able to engage these gang members and get them back into school with provided services. Case managers worked quickly to locate community support and family options for these gang affiliated youth.

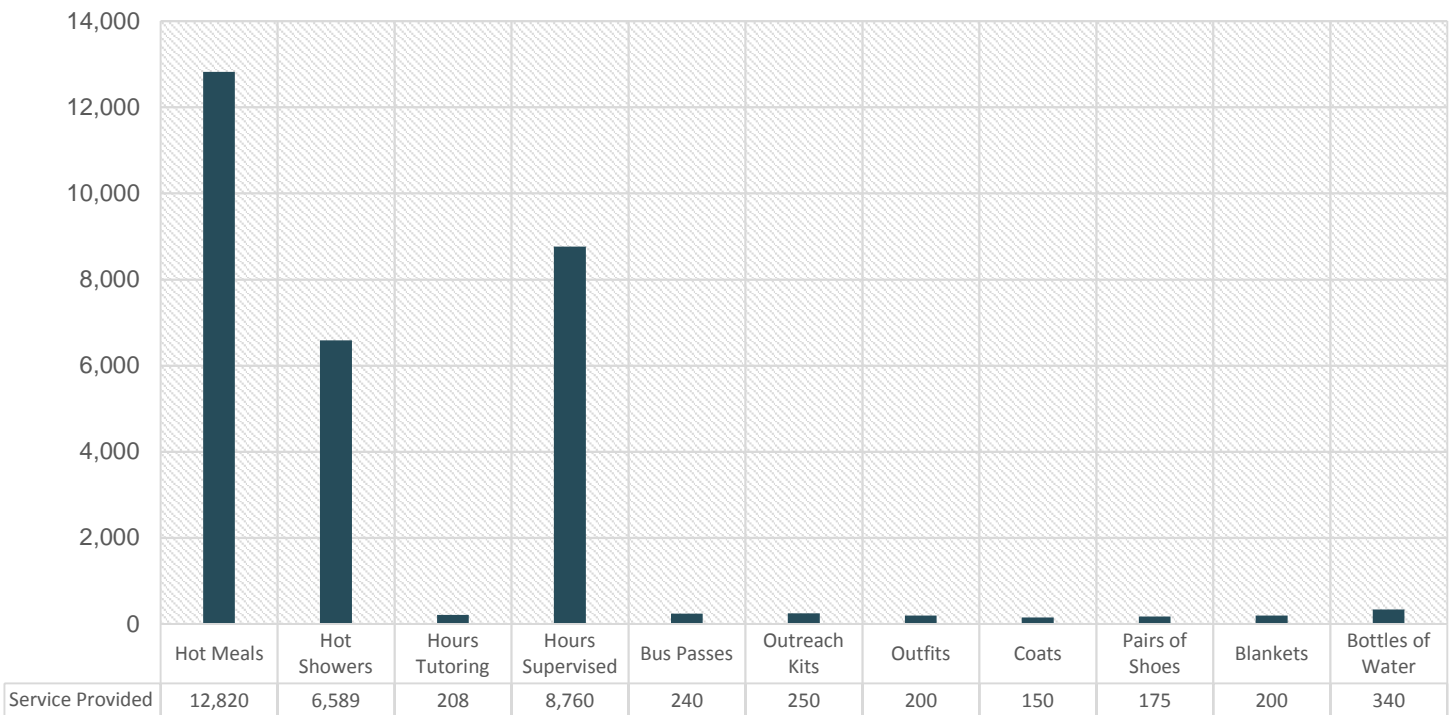
# Safe Harbor/My Friends Place

## EMERGENCY OVERNIGHT YOUTH SHELTER

32 of the youth were not engaged in school when they entered the shelter, and all were placed in schools in Benton or Franklin County. 64 of the 68 youth were in traditional classrooms and the others were placed in GED programs. In 2017 we had 1 graduate, 2 were in Middle School, 1 entered job corp. 2 entered College.

Every parent is notified if their child has been located and brought into our shelter. Out of the entire population of homeless youth at our shelter, 33 youth were reunited with their parents, eventually. Intensive case management services were used to get these families reconnected. 14 of these youths located individual housing after turning 18 and being required to leave our facility. 12 of the homeless youth located jobs as well as attending school. 2 youth entered drug treatment facilities and 1 entered job corp.

### 2017 Services Provided by Emergency Youth Shelter



# Kiona-Benton City School District

## CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM

Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
2017 Kiona-Benton Crime Prevention Program	\$ 44,127	\$ 37,512	85%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 44,127</b>	<b>\$ 37,512</b>	<b>85%</b>

2017 has been an extraordinary year of progress for the Kiona-Benton Crime Prevention Program as we seek to reduce and eventually eliminate gang and other criminal activity for young people in the Benton City area of Benton County. We have continued to intervene in the lives of young people who have or may soon drop out of school and help them get the community resources that they need to become a productive adult. What is especially exciting is the programmatic “echoes” that are occurring in our elementary and middle schools. The success of this program at Kiona-Benton City High School has prompted the middle and elementary schools in Benton City to adopt similar models for their struggling students. In addition, the efforts of this grant have been magnified by other community efforts in reaching out to the youth of Benton City such as ESD 123’s Open Doors program, Heather’s Pantry, and the newly established after-school CRE8 makerspace program.

We had a transition this year in the student support specialist position with the resignation of Alyse Pivovarnik. She was hired to be the new Kiona-Benton City High School counselor. We subsequently hired Esmeralda Fernandez to take her place this past fall and she has been performing admirably in her duties. We were also excited to fulfill the intent of the Kiona-Benton Crime Prevention Program Grant by identifying new reliable funding sources for this program. We anticipate that during 2018, we will only need a modest amount of grant moneys to support this program until we can completely make it self-sustaining. We are forever grateful for the startup funding that Benton County provided for this program that has impacted so many lives for the better in Benton City.

The Kiona-Benton Crime Prevention Program has intervened in the lives of approximately 75 high school students through mentoring and linking appropriate community services and has re-enrolled 13 students who had previously dropped out and placed them in the ESD123’s Open Doors GED program. In addition, the program has sponsored the Strong Families Parenting Class (September – November 2017) to assist parents of students who are struggling. Over 50 different students who have been identified as homeless have been given food items for weekends, transportation, clothing, and other necessary support to stay in school through Heather’s Pantry and the Kiona-Benton City Title I Part A federal program. Finally, an after school program for our struggling female students called Girl’s Circle – a gender specific program for adolescent girls to promote resiliency and self-esteem was established with about 20 girls. All of these activities are now coordinated through a new administrative director of student support.

As mentioned before, the middle school and elementary school have established programs that have some of the same components as the high school’s student support program has established including a room with a staff member to assist student who normally would have received out of school suspension as a consequence of their behaviors. This type of intervention allows us to provide non-academic supports for students who start to have problems early-on so that they do not develop into major concerns by the high school years. The Kiona-Benton City School District is extremely grateful for the opportunity to participate in Benton County’s violence prevention grant program because it has given us the chance to make a difference in the lives of young people that we quite frankly did not have the resources to address. While we might have eventually come up with the resources to establish programs like we have now, numerous students would have been missed that we have now served because of this grant. We are pleasantly surprised that this program has had a synergistic effect on bringing other programs that bless the lives of underserved youth in Benton City. We express our sincere appreciation to the Benton County Commissioners and other officials and officers of Benton County in making this happen.

# Benton-Franklin Health District

## NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
2017 Nurse Family Partnership Program	\$ 309,557	\$ 280,099	90%
	<b>Total \$ 309,557</b>	<b>\$ 280,099</b>	<b>90%</b>

Beginning with trust, ending with extraordinary outcomes, the Benton County Nurse-Family Partnership® program is a community health program that truly changes lives – for generations to come.

Nurse Family Partnership® provides new moms with their own personal nurse, who can help them navigate those exhausting first few months and provide ongoing and medically accurate education. The nurse works with the family to improve pregnancy outcomes, improve child health and development and to improve their economic self-Sufficiency.

First-time moms who are pregnant 28 weeks or less, meet income requirements, and live in an applicable service area are eligible for free help from a personal nurse who will come to her home to offer advice, support and a good laugh when she needs it most, throughout her pregnancy and until her baby is 2 years old.

Nurse Family Partnership® can change the future for the most vulnerable babies born into poverty by equipping the BEST person for the job, MOM, to become a competent confident parent. This intensive and scientifically proven program is delivered at the most critical time for mom and baby, by a specially trained clinical expert. Given 1000 days from early pregnancy to baby's second birthday, Nurse Family Partnership® will deliver a self-assured, capable first-time mother, a thriving baby poised for a bright future, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in societal benefits.

Based on the research, out of the 41 moms who enrolled during 2017, there will be:

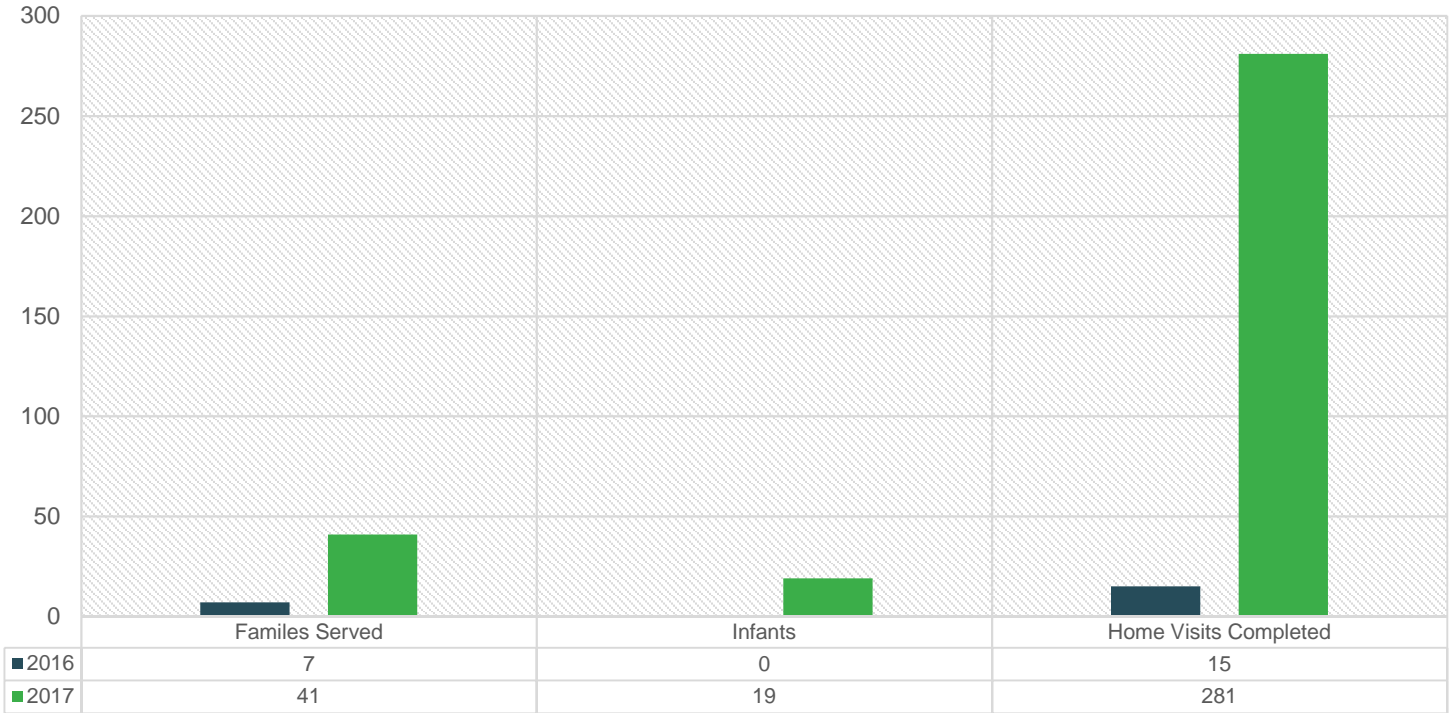
- 24 less child arrests by age 15
- 25 less moms being arrested
- 30 fewer convictions of the mother
- 20 fewer children who experience child abuse and neglect
- 16 fewer injuries among children
- 23 less emergency room visits for accidents and poisonings
- 21 fewer children with language delays at 21 months
- 27 fewer children with behavioral/intellectual problems by age six
- 13 more women able to plan their families and space out pregnancies
- 34 more moms working
- 8 moms off welfare
- 28 more households with a father's presence

The current nursing shortage in Washington has made filling the second Nurse Home Visitor position a challenge. Public Health Nurses are the backbone of Nurse-Family Partnership's success: it is important to find the right nurse that will embrace the program and stay long-term. Since the program's beginning, nurses have been instrumental in shaping and delivering evidence-based, community health programs. Because of their specialized knowledge, the Public Health Nurses who deliver the Nurse-Family Partnership® program in their communities establish trusting relationships with young, at-risk mothers during home visits, providing guidance for the emotional, social and physical challenges these first-time moms face as they prepare to become parents. But most importantly, Nurse-Family Partnership® Nurse Home Visitors make a measurable, long-lasting difference in the lives of their clients.

# Benton-Franklin Health District

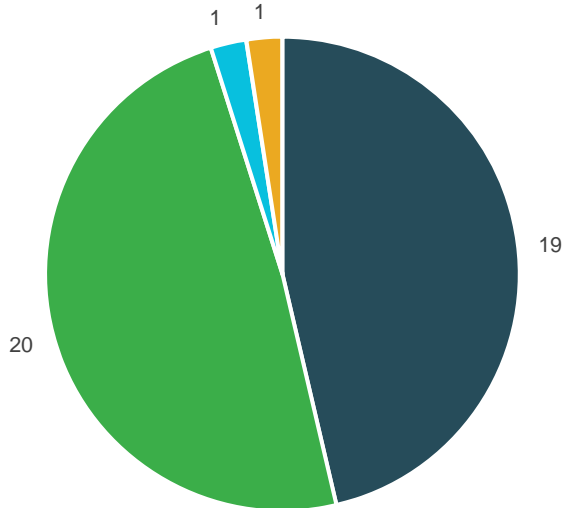
## NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

### 2016 vs. 2017 Families Served in Nurse Family Partnership



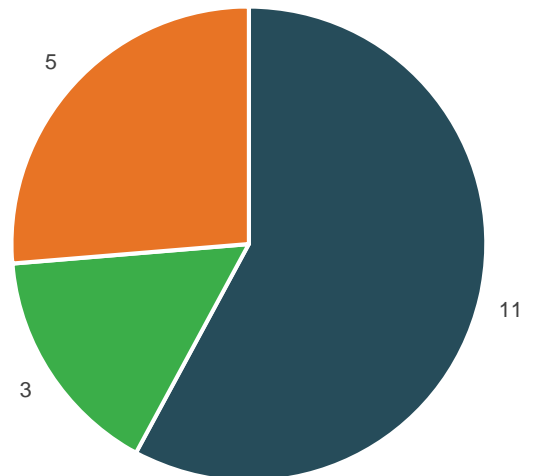
In the Benton County Nurse Family Partnership Program, the ages of mothers ranged from 15 to 32, with the average mother's age being 19 years old. In 2017, there were three (3) monolingual Spanish clients, and the oldest infant currently in the program is 11 months old.

#### Mother's Race



- Hispanic
- White
- African American
- Native American or Alaskan
- Multi-Race

#### Infant's Race



- Hispanic
- White
- African American
- Native American or Alaskan
- Multi-Race

# Partners for Early Learning

## BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
2017 Building Resilience Program	\$ 44,860	\$ 26,928	60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 44,860</b>	<b>\$ 26,928</b>	<b>60%</b>

Building Resilience Through Family Support is an approach that builds on the understanding that parents are their children's most powerful teachers. In the first five years of life, when brain growth is more profound than at any other time of life, it is imperative that young children learn skills that will promote resilience to counteract the adverse childhood experiences that are often part of their daily lives. Resilient children are more likely to participate in positive school and community activities and avoid gang involvement and criminal activities. However, when parents themselves are struggling with their own abilities to navigate difficult experiences, they have little reserve left to demonstrate the ability to "bounce back" to their children. This is where one-to-one family intervention is key.

Believing that we are better together, Partners for Early Learning (PFEL) enlisted the partnership of key community agencies to serve 16 families in a home visit model for a period of 2 years. This maximized the use of all funds and demonstrated to our community the effectiveness of collaborative partnerships. Richland Schools offered key services of their school counselors and administrative staff to strengthen communication with and between selected families and the Home Visitor. The Communities in Schools liaison works closely to ensure these families basic needs are fulfilled. The National Office of the Children's Reading Foundation offered the READY! for Kindergarten materials at a reduced rate, and the Children's Reading Foundation of the Mid-Columbia provided books at no charge for families. PFEL hired a local independent contractor with a background in early learning to serve as the Home Visitor. As time went on, it was clear that additional funds were needed for learning materials and administrative costs. United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties quickly jumped in to provide needed funds for materials, and funding for interpreters to facilitate involvement of non-English speaking families.

Families were invited to participate from two high-poverty schools in Richland (Marcus Whitman and Jefferson Elementary) and had one or more children in the birth-5 age range. Participants were referred by school staff or the Communities in Schools liaison as needing extra support for one of several reasons: attendance issues of school age siblings, behavioral support, a need for better home/school communication, or the child/children were English Language Learners. Families were offered 3-4 home visits per month, with the Home Visitor utilizing the READY! for Kindergarten curriculum to strengthen school readiness skills, and the well-respected Love & Logic© Parenting education materials already offered throughout the Richland School District.

The most difficult part of any home visit program is getting invited into the home. The program began recruiting families in February of 2017, with 16 families fully enrolled by April 2017. Of those original 16 families, 2 had children who "aged out" of the program by August 2017, and 2 had discontinued services. These families were replaced as soon as possible, with the Home Visitor maintaining a caseload of 16 families at any given time. The visit length is approximately 1-1.5 hours in length, but is dependent upon the individual needs/concerns of each family. The Home Visitor often acts as a sounding board for families and offers resource information as requested. The Home Visitor strives to empower the family with information and confidence to solve their own problems, utilizing both school and community partner resources.

Each visit, the Home Visitor spends some time listening to family updates and sharing events important to the family. Children are often excited to show their own learning or tell about a special family activity. The Home Visitor then demonstrates the new learning activity to the parent and child, the parent tries the activity on his/her own with support, and the Home Visitor gives additional tips to expand the learning. Families are encouraged to read 20 minutes a day to their children, and books are provided.

# Partners for Early Learning

## BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

As children continue activities, parent education topics are discussed such as structuring choices, giving positive feedback or setting appropriate limits. The visit concludes with sharing of resource information as requested to meet individual family needs and a plan is made for the next visit.

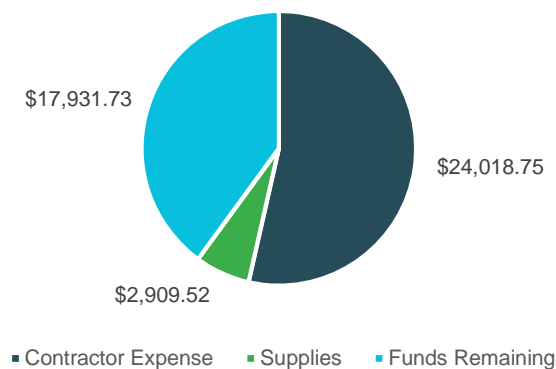
Part of ensuring that children are off to a good start in school demands that each child receive regular universal developmental screenings and early intervention for unmet learning needs. Research tells us that school failure is high among students affiliated with gangs and that this failure often begins in early childhood. To support the young child's development, the Ages & Stages Screening is administered at least every 6 months to enrolled children, or more often with infants and toddlers, as appropriate. This helps the parent be aware of skills his/her child should be developing and be connected immediately with early intervention systems to mitigate possible learning delays.

As of December 2017, a total of 21 unique family units have been served, representing 28 children ages birth-5, and 36 school-aged siblings in these same families. Although the school-agers are not the target of the intervention, building resilience within a family involves all members of the family, and often the family's stressors are brought on by school issues of older siblings. Families "age out" of the program when they no longer have a child in the birth-5 age range. Twelve of the original 16 families are still with the program. Since August 2017, (5 month period), these 12 families have maintained an attendance rate of 94%, keeping appointments as scheduled with the Home Visitor. This indicates that families value this learning time and feel that their family is benefitting from the intervention provided.

As with all interventions to young children and their families, the impact is not seen for many years. Anecdotally, our school partners report that communication is improved with families and that some of the school agers impacted are beginning to participate in school events. A narrative survey of parents after the first 6 months of participation (July 2017) from The Survey of Parenting Practices © U of Idaho, 2001, showed parents were satisfied with the services offered and that the home visits had a preliminary impact on their positive parenting behaviors.

In February 2018, after one year in program, families will complete a standardized parenting behavior rating tool from the same author reflecting on their growth as parents over the past year. This will give us more specific information about the areas of growth for each family. As we move into year 2 of this project, Partners for Early Learning will be engaged in continuous evaluation of this model and explore opportunities for continued funding and expansion of services. It is our belief that young children and their families can be made stronger through targeted interventions focusing on parenting education.

### 2017 Building Resilience Program Financials



# Chaplaincy Health Care

## STEP UP PROGRAM

Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
2017 Step Up Program	\$ 15,000	\$ 9,647	64%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>	<b>\$ 9,647</b>	<b>64%</b>

This year Chaplaincy Behavioral Health, in collaboration with the Juvenile Center, launched Step-Up, a nationally recognized adolescent-family violence intervention program originally developed and implemented in King County, Washington. Step-Up is designed to address youth violence and controlling behavior toward family members and to be an instrument for crime prevention. Violent behavior includes threats, intimidation, property destruction, degrading language and physical violence.

The parents of kids referred to Step-Up have lost parental authority, and cannot positively direct their child's behavior. Unable to manage their child's life, the families relinquish authority of to the streets, the gangs, and the courts. This results in a huge social cost to the community, puts stress on social service agencies, schools, and criminal justice systems. Family life is characterized by chaos including frequent police interactions, school truancy, violence and criminal behavior.

The goal of Step-Up is for adolescents and their families to be reconnected in mutually respectful and secure ways so that the youth are able to function as responsible community citizens and complete their developmental and educational goals.

Referrals came from the Juvenile Courts and probation officers. A community liaison reached out to alternative schools, Community in Schools, Safe Harbor, My Friends Place, shelters, and churches. The curriculum was condensed from 25 sessions to 11 in order to make the program accessible to working families, and family systems unused to planning more than a day in advance.

In the final 6 months of 2017, we were able to intake 14 of 17 referrals. 10 of 14 participants were able to reduce incidents of domestic violence and disrespect from daily to 1x month. Three families graduated and two surveys were completed at the four-month mark. The outcome surveys returned at 4-months demonstrated that among those families that completed the 11-week program, 100% of the goals were met and sustained. There had been a total suspension of gang involvement. There had been no further police intervention. School attendance was restored and both adolescents were on their way to graduating from high school on time.



*Step Up Wheels of Respect and Disrespect*



*Step Up Group Meeting Room*

# Boys & Girls Club

## PROSSER TEEN PROGRAM INVESTMENT

Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
2017 Prosser Teen Program	\$ 90,000	\$ 80,648	90%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 90,000</b>	<b>\$ 80,648</b>	<b>90%</b>

The Prosser Boys & Girls Club has been able to provide another year of impactful and exciting programming to local teens thanks to the Benton County Public Safety Tax award. The Boys & Girls Club continues to serve more teens, more often and we know that being a consistent and positive part of these kids' lives will ensure that they become productive, caring, responsible citizens.

At the end of 2016, we had 66 teen members enrolled at the Prosser Boys & Girls Club. We ended 2017 with 98 teen members enrolled! Our teen membership increased 48% from the end of 2016 to 2017! We also saw a significant increase in average daily attendance (ADA) which means that daily average of teens attending two or more days a week. At the end of 2016, our ADA was 20 youth. We ended 2017 with an ADA of 31 teens per day!

We know that this increase is due to the Public Safety Tax award and the additional opportunities we have been able to offer due to these funds. Each month the Prosser Boys & Girls Club is able to host a teen night with extended hours and exciting activities. Some months, we have been able to host two. Our teens look forward to these fun events and often bring friends who become members. Teens in the Prosser are always excited about attending late night events we host that include video game competitions, evening pool parties, neon races and more.

While hosting events has been beneficial to increasing membership, what our teens have come to enjoy even more is community involvement and volunteerism. The Public Safety Tax award has allowed us to take our teens on 20 field trips this past year, many of which included volunteering. The teens really enjoy being active in the Prosser community by doing things like visiting nursing homes, cleaning yards and properties of those unable to maintain their own, helping at town Holiday celebrations, and working at fundraising events.

Our teens also enjoyed some exciting out of town field trips. A yearly favorite for our members is college tours. We were able to take eight Prosser teens to tour WSU, UofI, Lewis & Clark State, Boise State, College of Western Idaho and Eastern Oregon University. Many of our kids started out thinking that college "was going to be too much money, too hard, too far from home". By the end of the week, members were excited about the many opportunities and began making plans for their future beyond high school. These teens were able to share the experience with other members at the Club that were unable to come. Another fun field trip was a day of skiing and snowboarding at Bluewood. We took a charter bus full of teens from Prosser and the Tri-Cities to Bluewood that otherwise would have never had the opportunity to go. The teens were provided with clothing, ski equipment and food for the day.

Our 2016 Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year for Washington State, Sebastian Castilleja, is now an alumni and is beginning to fulfill his dream that he spoke of when attending Prosser Boys & Girls Club. His dream is to be the Chief of Police. This past year, he asked our Executive Director, Brian Ace, to pin his badge as he was hired as one of the first ever Cadets for the Kennewick Police Department. Sebastian continues to mentor Prosser teens and be an active volunteer at Boys & Girls Clubs.

# Boys & Girls Club

## PROSSER TEEN PROGRAM INVESTMENT

His brother, Zane Castilleja a sophomore at Prosser High School, was just chosen as the 2018 Youth of the Year for Prosser Boys & Girls Club and will be competing for the title of Benton and Franklin Counties Youth of the Year. Sebastian and Zane are examples of the difference we can make if we invest in our teens. The Public Safety Sales tax award is allowing us to make a positive impact on our future community leaders! While we are excited about the significant growth seen in teen membership, we are even more grateful for the opportunity to provide life changing youth programming to kids in desperate need.



*Prosser Youth Volunteering*



*Sebastian Pinning Ceremony*



*Prosser Teens on College Tour at Washington State University*