

BENTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

# PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

2019 - 2020 BIENNIAL REPORT



[www.co.benton.wa.us](http://www.co.benton.wa.us)



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# **BENTON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX**

2019-2020 BIENNIAL 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.

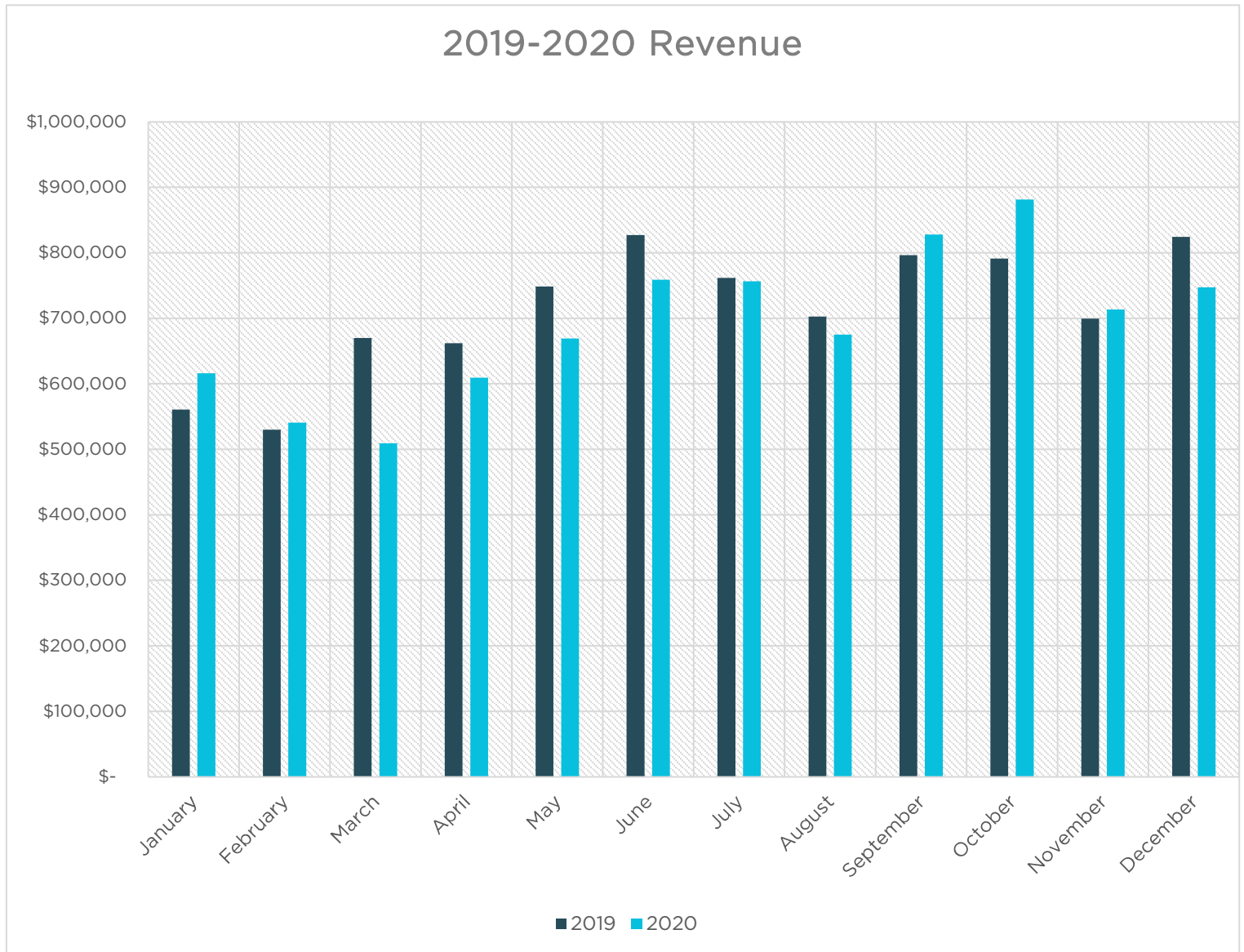
In August 2014, the voters of Benton County approved Proposition 14-5, a 0.3% sales and use tax pursuant to RCW 82.14.450 to fund criminal justice and public safety programs in Benton County. This Public Safety Sales Tax requires at least one-third of all revenues from the tax to be used for specific 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).

# MONTHLY REVENUE

2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

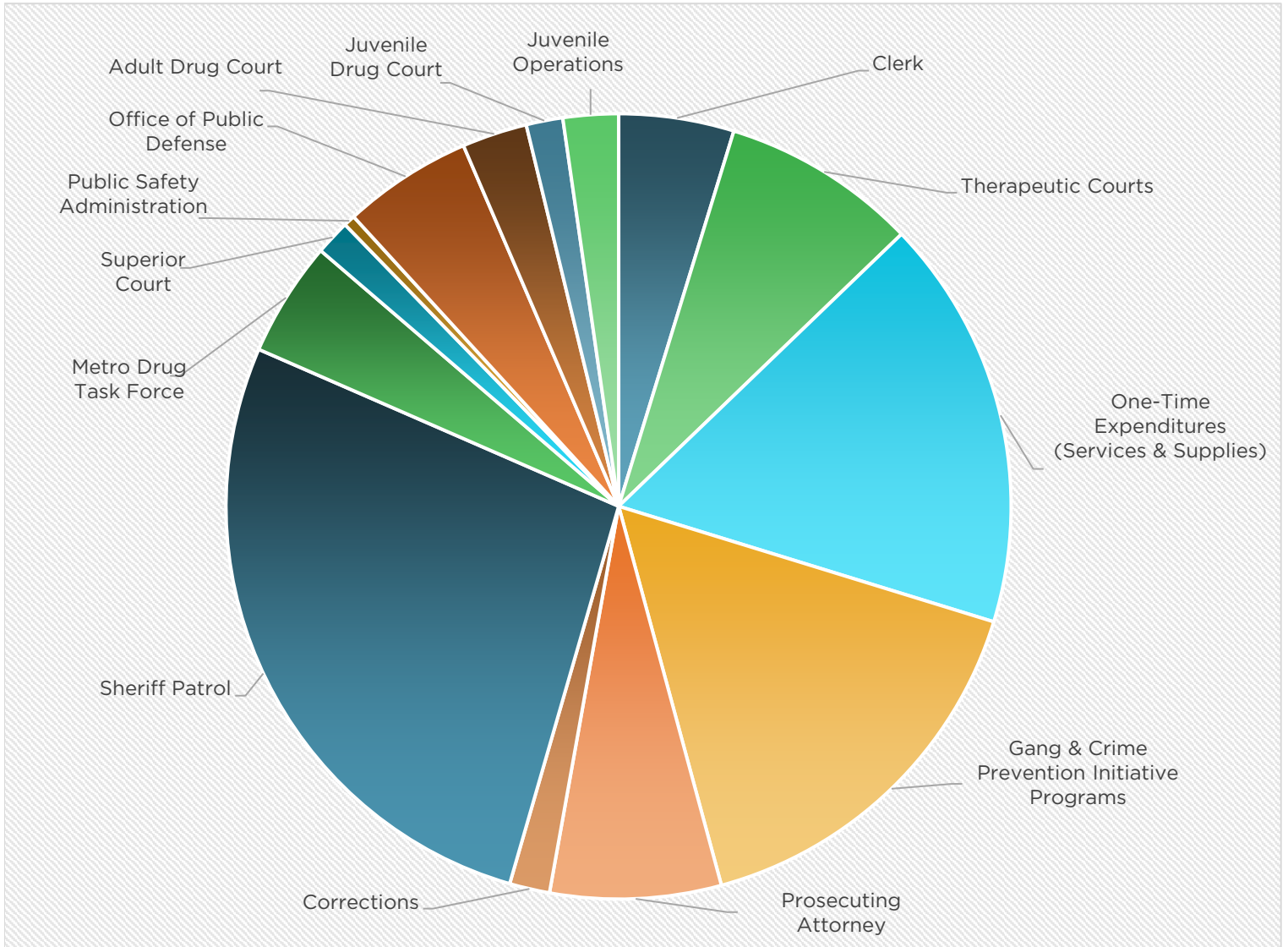


Month	2019	2020
January	\$ 560,498	\$ 616,096
February	\$ 529,994	\$ 540,608
March	\$ 669,899	\$ 509,138
April	\$ 662,146	\$ 609,342
May	\$ 748,583	\$ 669,196
June	\$ 826,940	\$ 758,795
July	\$ 761,528	\$ 756,380
August	\$ 702,796	\$ 675,016
September	\$ 796,236	\$ 828,004
October	\$ 791,292	\$ 881,387
November	\$ 699,579	\$ 713,557
December	\$ 824,196	\$ 747,237
<b>TOTAL 2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY TAX REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 8,573,688</b>	<b>\$ 8,304,755</b>

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

# BUDGET ALLOTMENT BY DEPARTMENT

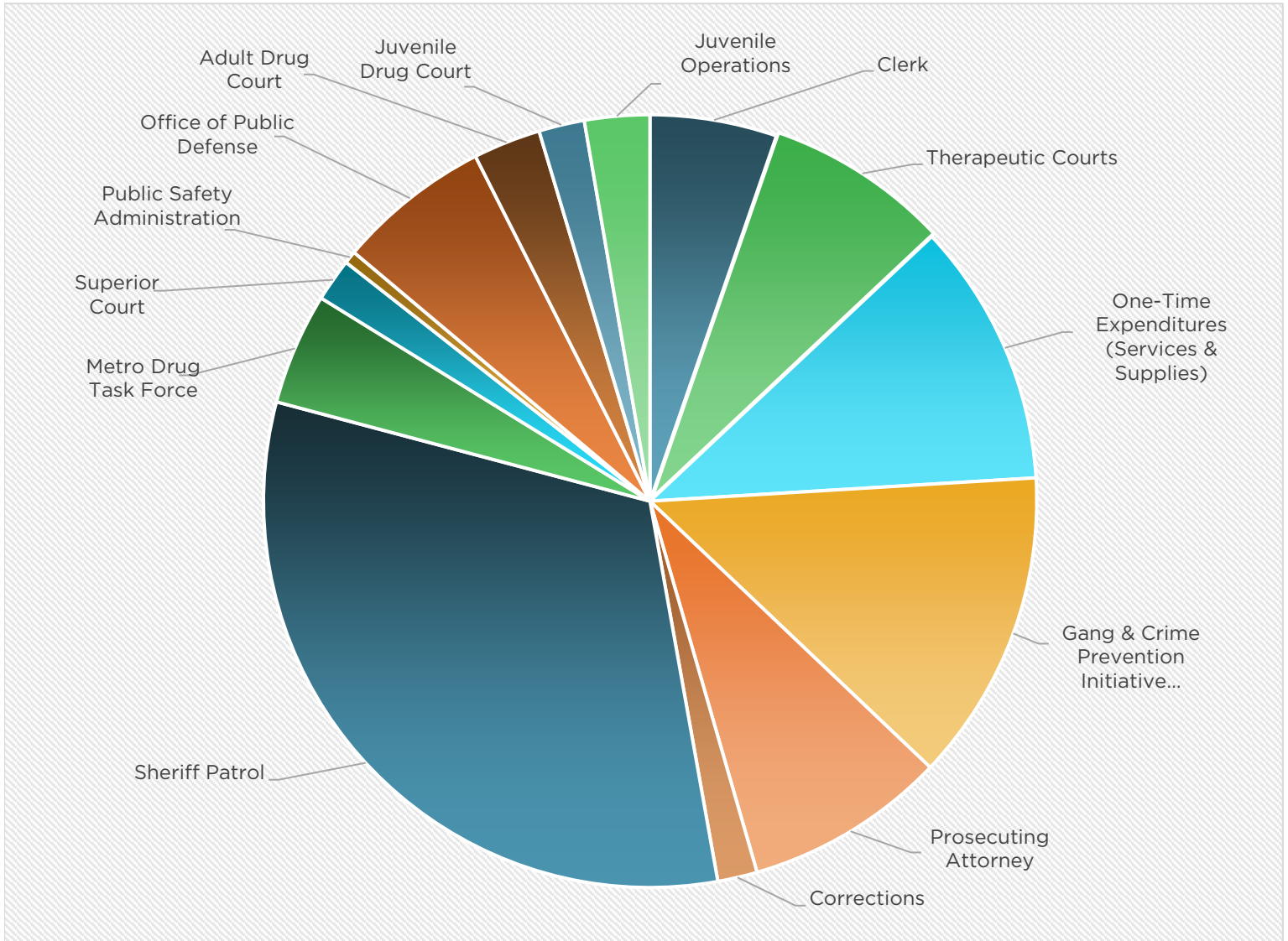
2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



Department	Budget	Percentage
Clerk	\$ 1,036,348	4.7%
Therapeutic Courts	\$ 1,757,994	8.1%
One-Time Expenditures (Services & Supplies)	\$ 3,699,841	16.9%
Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative Programs	\$ 3,500,000	16.0%
Prosecuting Attorney	\$ 1,535,651	7.0%
Corrections	\$ 360,414	1.7%
Sheriff Patrol	\$ 5,909,932	27.1%
Metro Drug Task Force	\$ 1,034,967	4.7%
Superior Court	\$ 314,633	1.4%
Public Safety Administration	\$ 103,117	0.5%
Office of Public Defense	\$ 1,163,293	5.3%
Adult Drug Court	\$ 585,210	2.7%
Juvenile Drug Court	\$ 330,565	1.5%
Juvenile Operations	\$ 496,585	2.3%
<b>TOTAL 2019 - 2020 PUBLIC SAFETY TAX BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 21,828,550</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

# EXPENDITURE ALLOTMENT BY DEPARTMENT

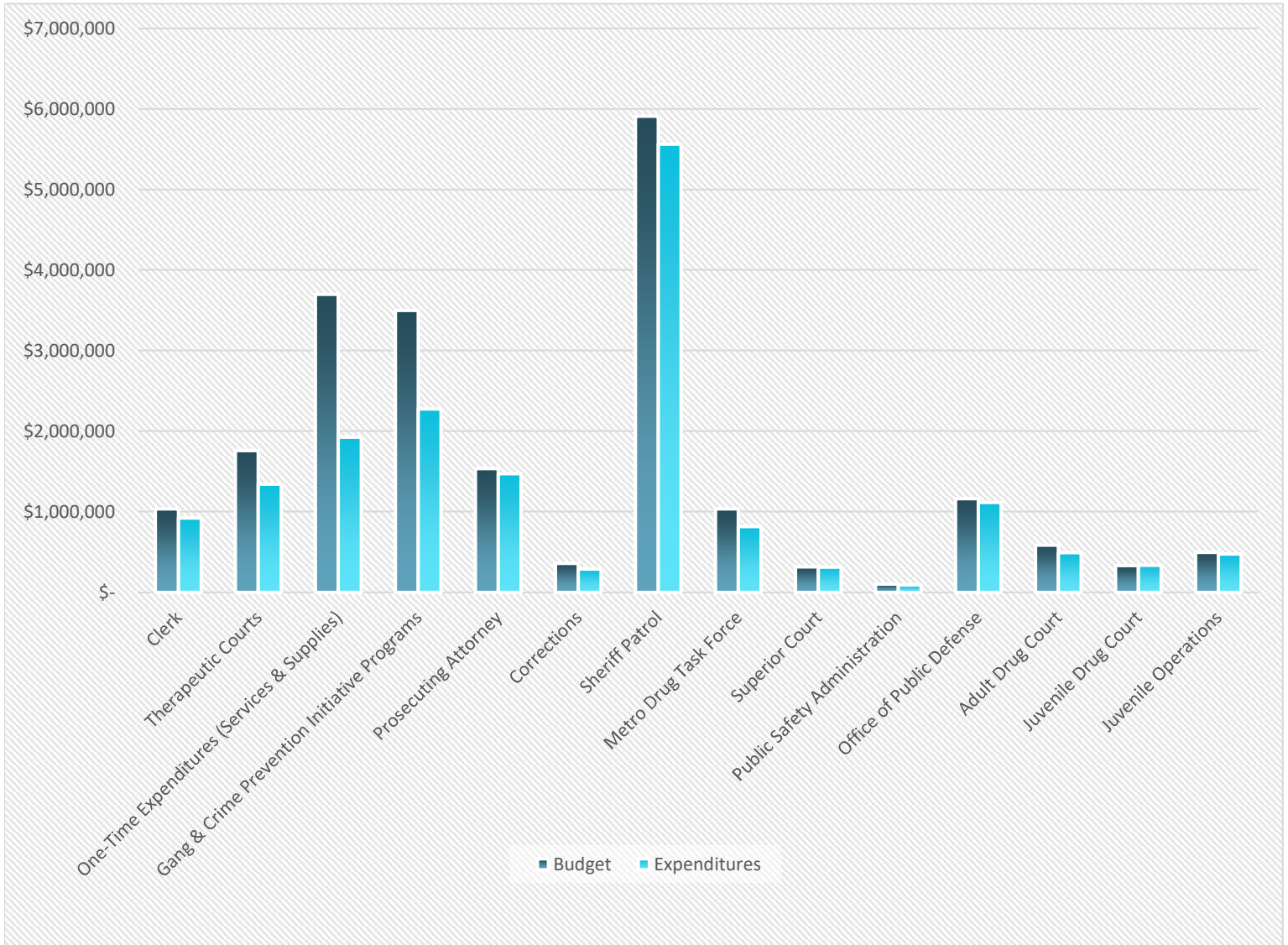
2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



Department	Expenditures	Percentage
Clerk	\$ 923,267	5.3%
Therapeutic Courts	\$ 1,340,854	7.7%
One-Time Expenditures (Services & Supplies)	\$ 1,925,020	11.0%
Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative Programs	\$ 2,274,530	13.1%
Prosecuting Attorney	\$ 1,471,298	8.4%
Corrections	\$ 288,082	1.7%
Sheriff Patrol	\$ 5,564,394	31.9%
Metro Drug Task Force	\$ 814,787	4.7%
Superior Court	\$ 313,379	1.8%
Public Safety Administration	\$ 91,441	0.5%
Office of Public Defense	\$ 1,117,280	6.4%
Adult Drug Court	\$ 491,306	2.8%
Juvenile Drug Court	\$ 333,897	1.9%
Juvenile Operations	\$ 474,667	2.7%
<b>TOTAL 2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY TAX EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 17,424,204</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

# BUDGET VS. EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT

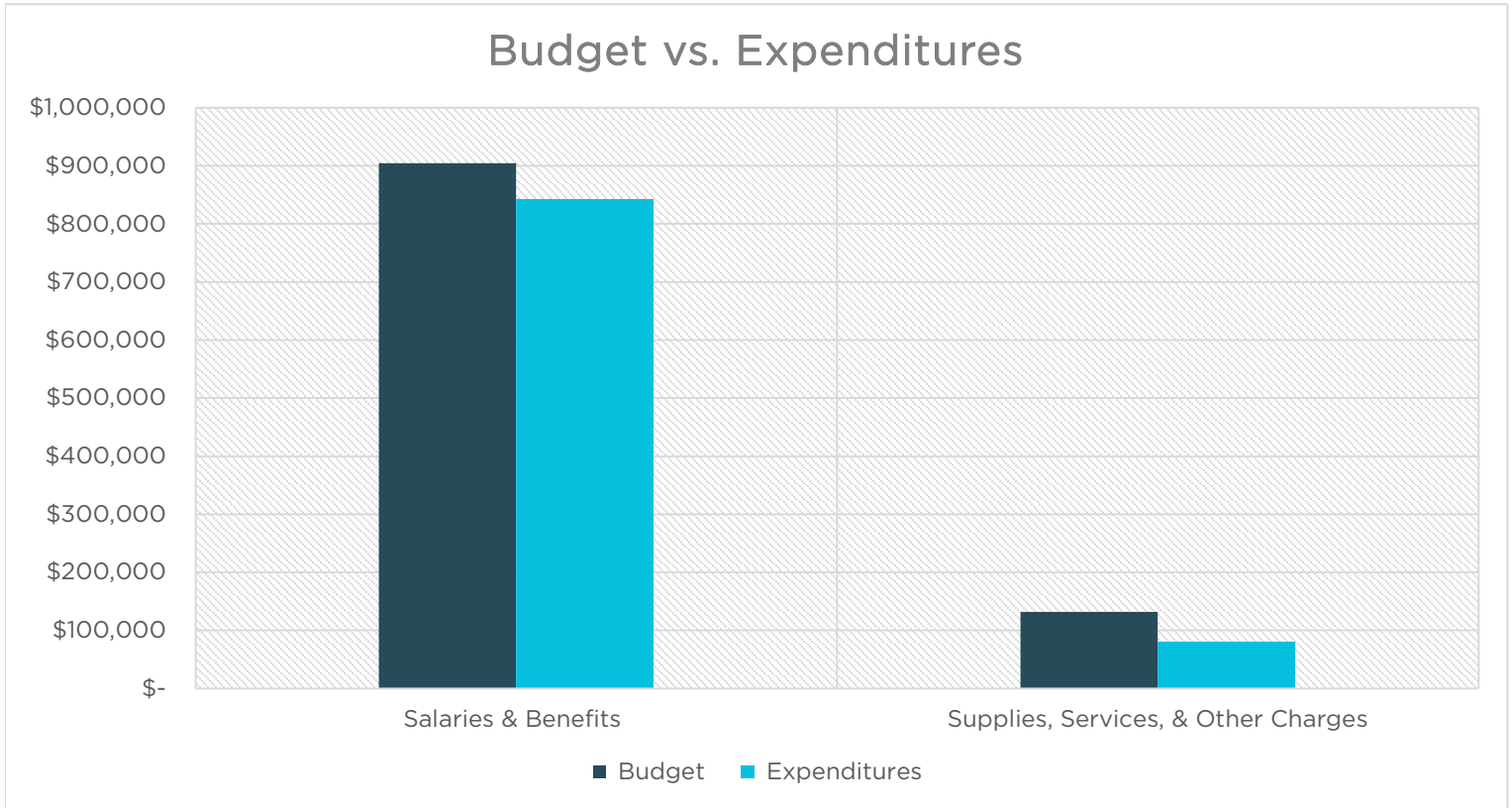
2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



Department	Budget	Expenditures
Clerk	\$ 1,036,348	\$ 923,267
Therapeutic Courts	\$ 1,757,994	\$ 1,340,854
One-Time Expenditures (Services & Supplies)	\$ 3,699,841	\$ 1,925,020
Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative Programs	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 2,274,530
Prosecuting Attorney	\$ 1,535,651	\$ 1,471,298
Corrections	\$ 360,414	\$ 288,082
Sheriff Patrol	\$ 5,909,932	\$ 5,564,394
Metro Drug Task Force	\$ 1,034,967	\$ 814,787
Superior Court	\$ 314,633	\$ 313,379
Public Safety Administration	\$ 103,117	\$ 91,441
Office of Public Defense	\$ 1,163,293	\$ 1,117,280
Adult Drug Court	\$ 585,210	\$ 491,306
Juvenile Drug Court	\$ 330,565	\$ 333,897
Juvenile Operations	\$ 496,585	\$ 474,667
<b>TOTAL 2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY TAX EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 21,828,550</b>	<b>\$ 17,424,204</b>

# BENTON COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 904,526	\$ 842,784	93.2%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 131,822	\$ 80,483	61.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,036,348</b>	<b>\$ 923,267</b>	<b>89.1%</b>

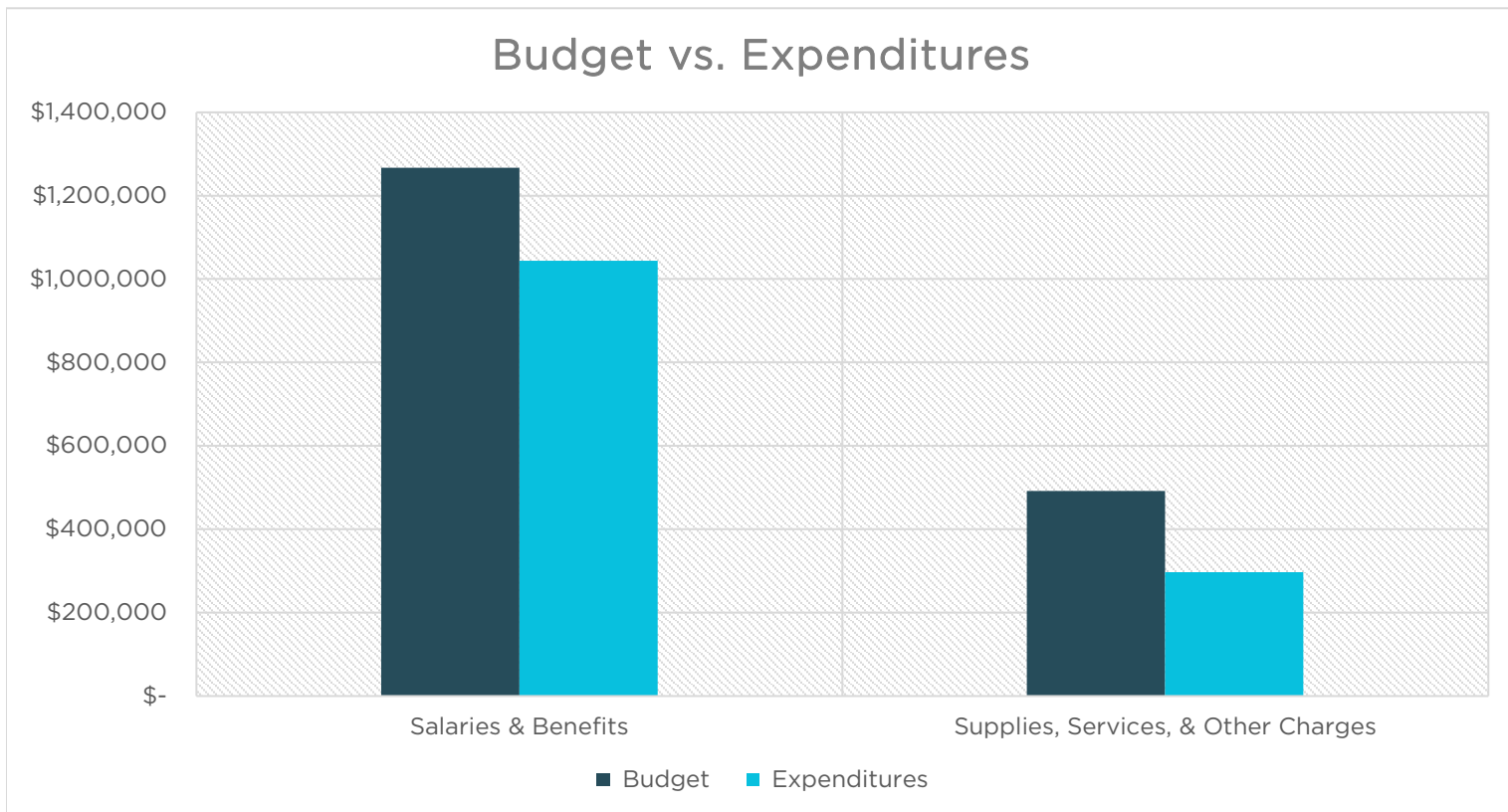
The 2019-2020 expenses for the Clerk’s office include the Legal Process Assistant (LPA) III for the ex-parte docket that continues daily. In 2017-2018 we were allocated funds to hire an additional LPA III clerk that is a “floater” type position. This position trains in each department for dockets and trials. This has allowed clerks in specific departments to keep current on the daily duties in the assigned department.

The pilot project of Indigent Financial Screeners was still in operation during the 2019-2020 budget. These positions worked with District Court as well as Superior Court defendants, gathering financial information. This information was verified and given to the respective judicial officers who made the determination of appointment of counsel at public expense.

We also paid a portion of the Archive Records Specialist from this fund. This position oversees the “record management team” that has been instrumental in digitizing records for: Office of Public Defense, District Court, Prosecutor’s office as well as Superior Court records held by the Benton County Clerk.

# THERAPEUTIC COURTS

2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 1,266,608	\$ 1,043,833	82.4%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 491,386	\$ 297,022	60.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,757,994</b>	<b>\$ 1,340,854</b>	<b>76.3%</b>

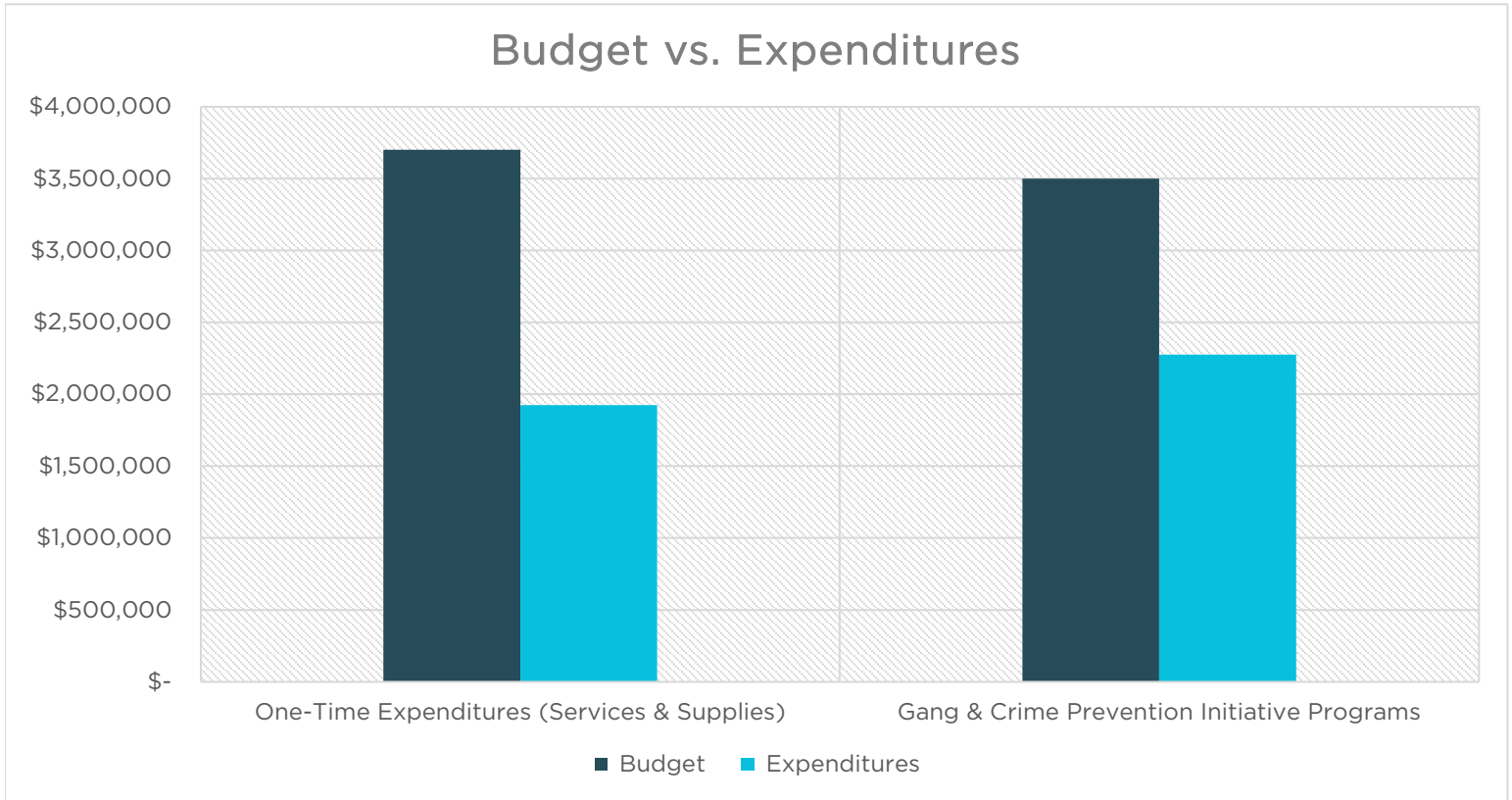
While COVID created some unique challenges, our therapeutic courts are going strong! We have made program adjustments to ensure we are still connecting with our participants while remaining safe. Court appearances and case management have been held virtually, and we have developed creative options for community service.

Mental Health Court has been operating for five years and has seen tremendous success. The program continues to have exceptional support from citizens, treatment providers, law enforcement, and community leaders. There have been 86 graduates from Mental Health Court, with a current case load of 54. Veterans Court began operating in June 2019, and continues to grow, necessitating the recent hiring of a second Case Manager. Veterans Court has been supported by the Columbia Basin Veterans Center, which runs the court’s mentor program. Participants in Veterans Court have become a tight-knit group and have been very successful. We recently celebrated our 16 Veterans Court graduates at a ceremony coordinated by the Veteran’s Center.

Participants in both programs have given hundreds of volunteer hours to various community programs. Recidivism among graduates is very low. Many families have been able to heal because their loved one received the intense treatment and supervision which takes place in these specialty programs. Mental Health Court and Veterans Court have changed many lives in our community and truly are a unique asset to the citizens of Benton County.

# ONE-TIME EXPENDITURES, GANG & CRIME PREVENTION

2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
One-Time Expenditures (Services & Supplies)	\$ 3,699,841	\$ 1,925,020	52.0%
Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative Programs	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 2,274,530	65.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,199,841</b>	<b>\$ 4,199,550</b>	<b>58.3%</b>

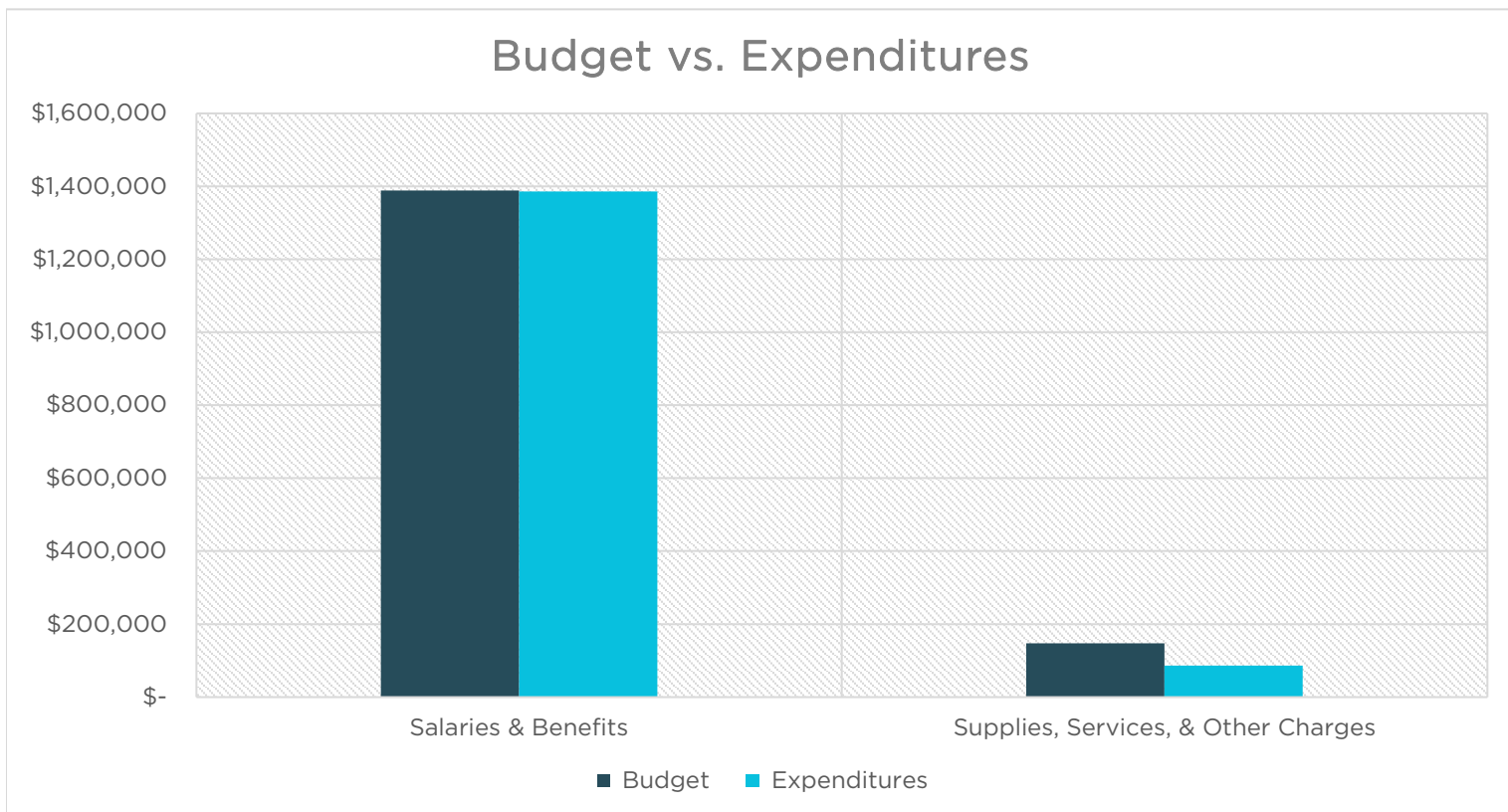
The Non-Departmental budget reflects budget allocation for the Benton County Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative (more detail on final page of this report) as well as additional contract services.

One-time expenditures purchased in 2019-2020 using the Non-Departmental budget include:

- Radio Tower (\$1 million of estimated total \$5 million project)
- Bearcat Armored Vehicle
- Sheriff's Office Utility Task Vehicle (UTV)
- Sheriff's Office Canine
- Regional Bomb Squad Equipment
- Sheriff's Office Vehicles + Upfitting

# BENTON COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 1,388,470	\$ 1,385,469	99.8%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	147,181	85,829	58.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,535,651</b>	<b>\$ 1,471,298</b>	<b>95.8%</b>

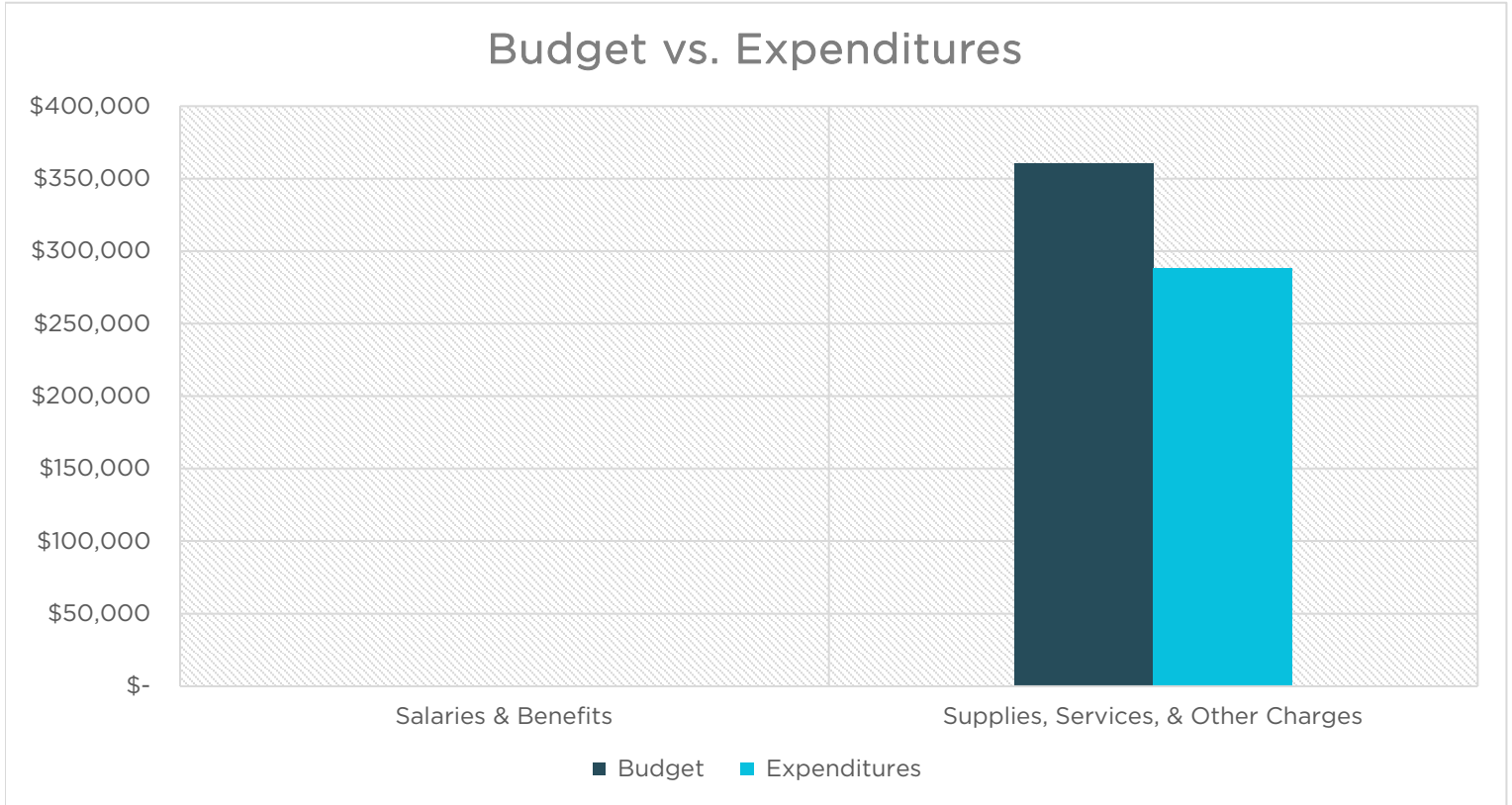
The funding for the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office from the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) continues to make a substantial difference. The appellate deputy prosecutor position not only has helped alleviate the caseload of the felony deputy prosecutors, but has also improved the overall quality of the office’s appellate briefs in meeting the technical rules and deadlines of appellate courts. The additional felony deputy prosecutor and additional support staff position continue to make a substantial difference; they are what allows our office to meet the 72-hour deadline in filing cases on violent and serious offenders who need to be kept in custody pending trial. The addition of these two positions also allowed for specialization of a prosecutor to be assigned gang and firearm cases which involve a high degree of preparation.

In 2019-2020, PSST provided help in three additional areas: Continuation of the existing victim witness program, development and implementation of a new database, and an additional deputy prosecutor to specialize in child sexual exploitation cases. In addition, the Prosecutor’s Office oversees the contract with Columbia Basin Veterans Center for the Veterans Forum mentorship program (an important piece of the Veterans Court).

COVID-19 challenged the Prosecutor’s Office, like all other departments, with a backlog of cases and trials that will continue to be felt into the 2021-2022 budget.

# BENTON COUNTY CORRECTIONS

2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

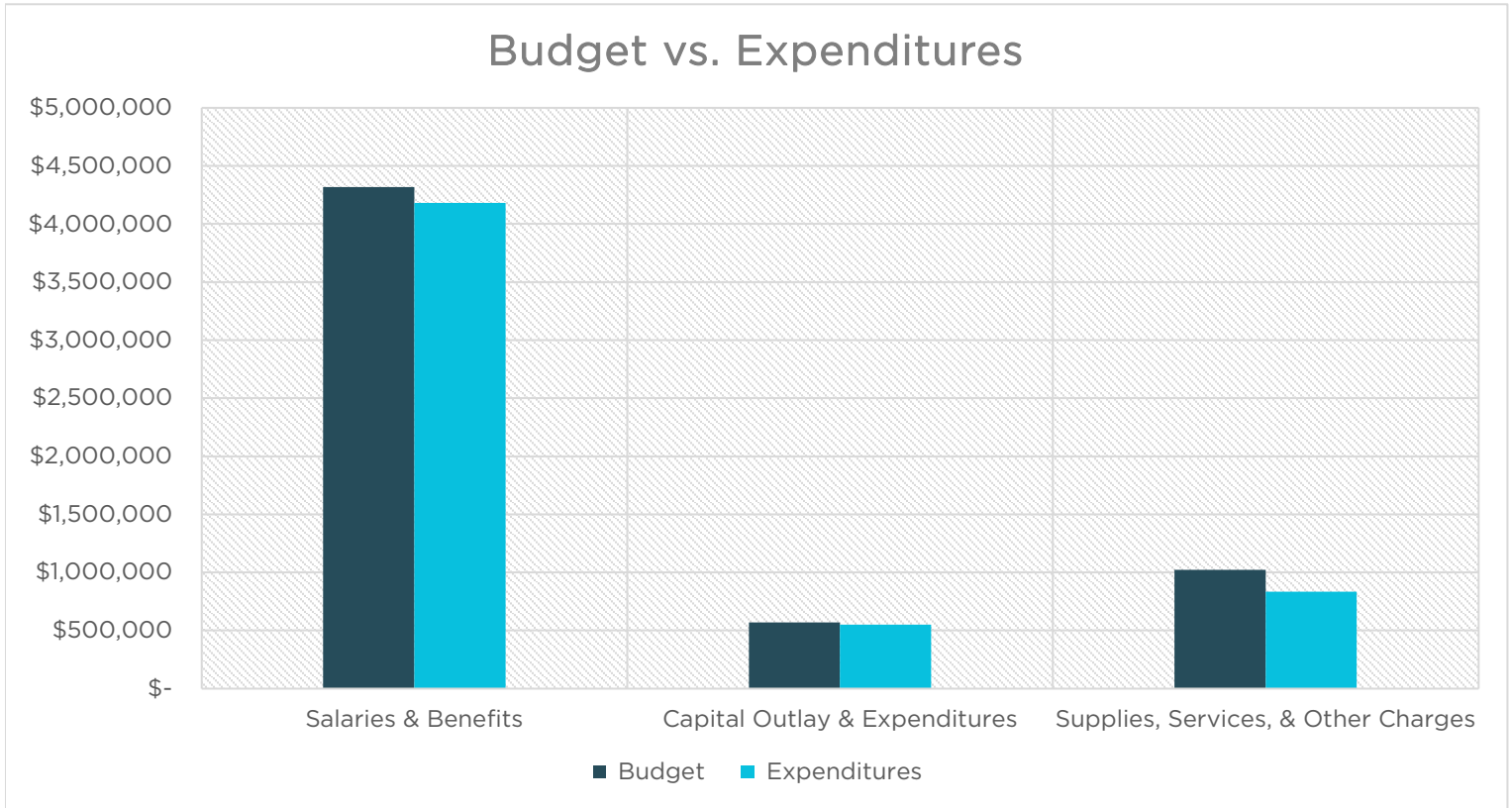


Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 360,414	\$ 288,082	79.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 360,414</b>	<b>\$ 288,082</b>	<b>79.9%</b>

The Corrections Department utilizes its Public Safety Sales Tax funds to provide mental health services to inmates in the Benton County jail, through various professional services contracts.

# BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE: PATROL

2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

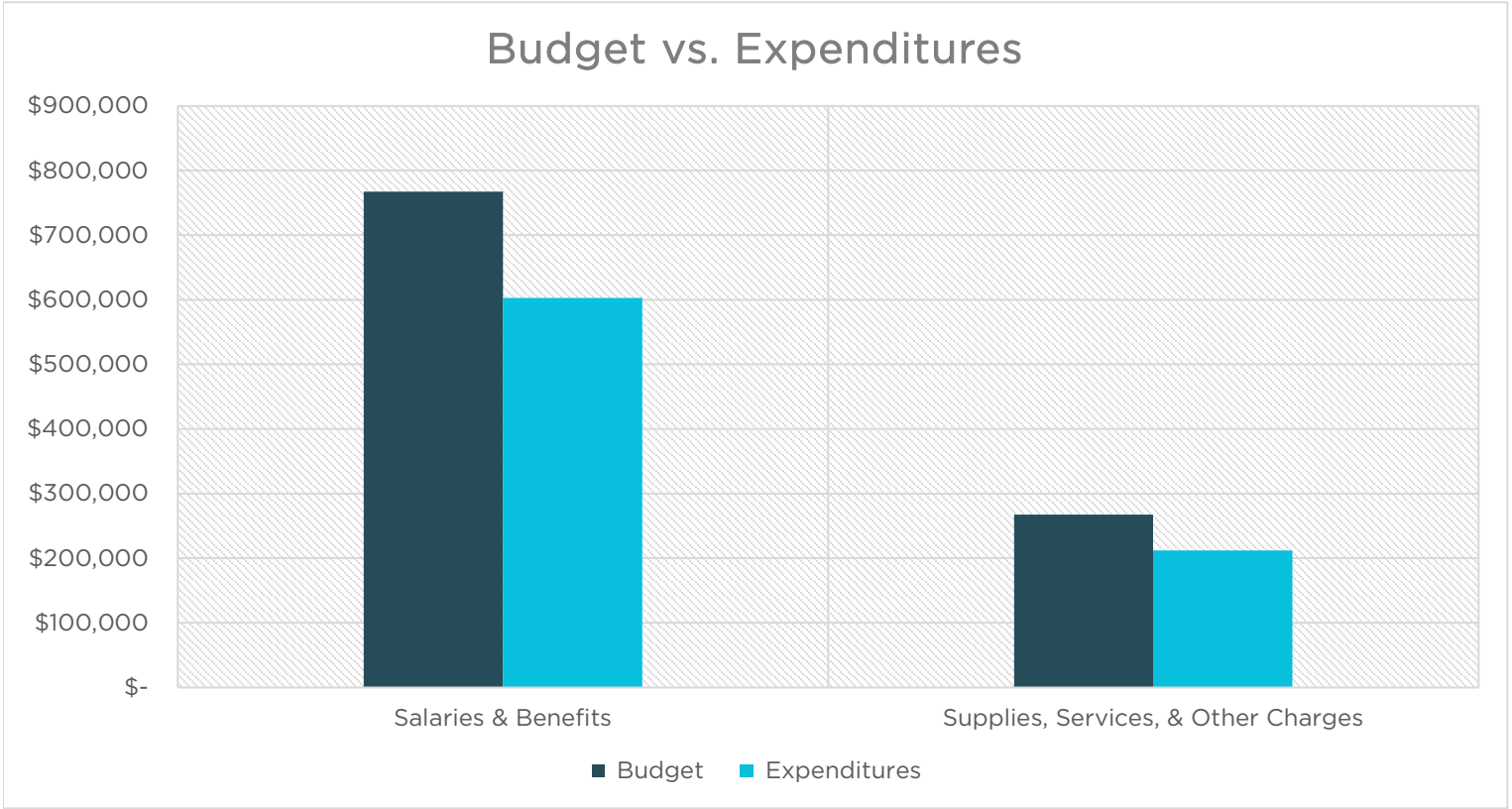


Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 4,317,434	\$ 4,180,223	97%
Capital Outlay & Expenditures	\$ 569,647	\$ 551,353	97%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 1,022,851	\$ 832,818	81%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,909,932</b>	<b>\$ 5,564,394</b>	<b>94%</b>

The 2019-2020 Public Safety Tax Sheriff Patrol budget and expenditures reflect two (2) years of salaries, benefits, services, and supplies for fourteen (14) deputy sheriffs, one (1) Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Detective, four (4) Gang Task force positions, and two (2) Metro Detectives. At the beginning of the 2019-2020 biennium, one (1) School Resource Officer (SRO) position and one (1) deputy sheriff position was newly established under PSST. Of the 14 deputy sheriff's, twelve (12) provide public safety on the road and two (2) support the only two high schools located in Benton County's jurisdiction, Benton City and the Finley, to help prevent violence in the high schools. The four (4) deputy positions that make up the Gang Task force work in a collaborative fashion with other law enforcement related agencies such as probation, parole, prosecution, schools, task forces, and community resources to find effective solutions to the gang problem. The detective assigned to the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) is specially trained in this field. ICAC is a national network of 61 coordinated task forces dedicated to investigating, prosecuting, and developing effective responses to internet crimes affecting children. In 2019-2020, The Sheriff's Office was awarded funds from Public Safety Tax for one-time purchases. These purchases include a Bearcat armored vehicle and its upfitting, one (1) UTV to be used for search and rescue, one canine for the K-9 unit and gang team and 14 deputy sheriff's vehicles.

# METRO DRUG TASK FORCE

2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

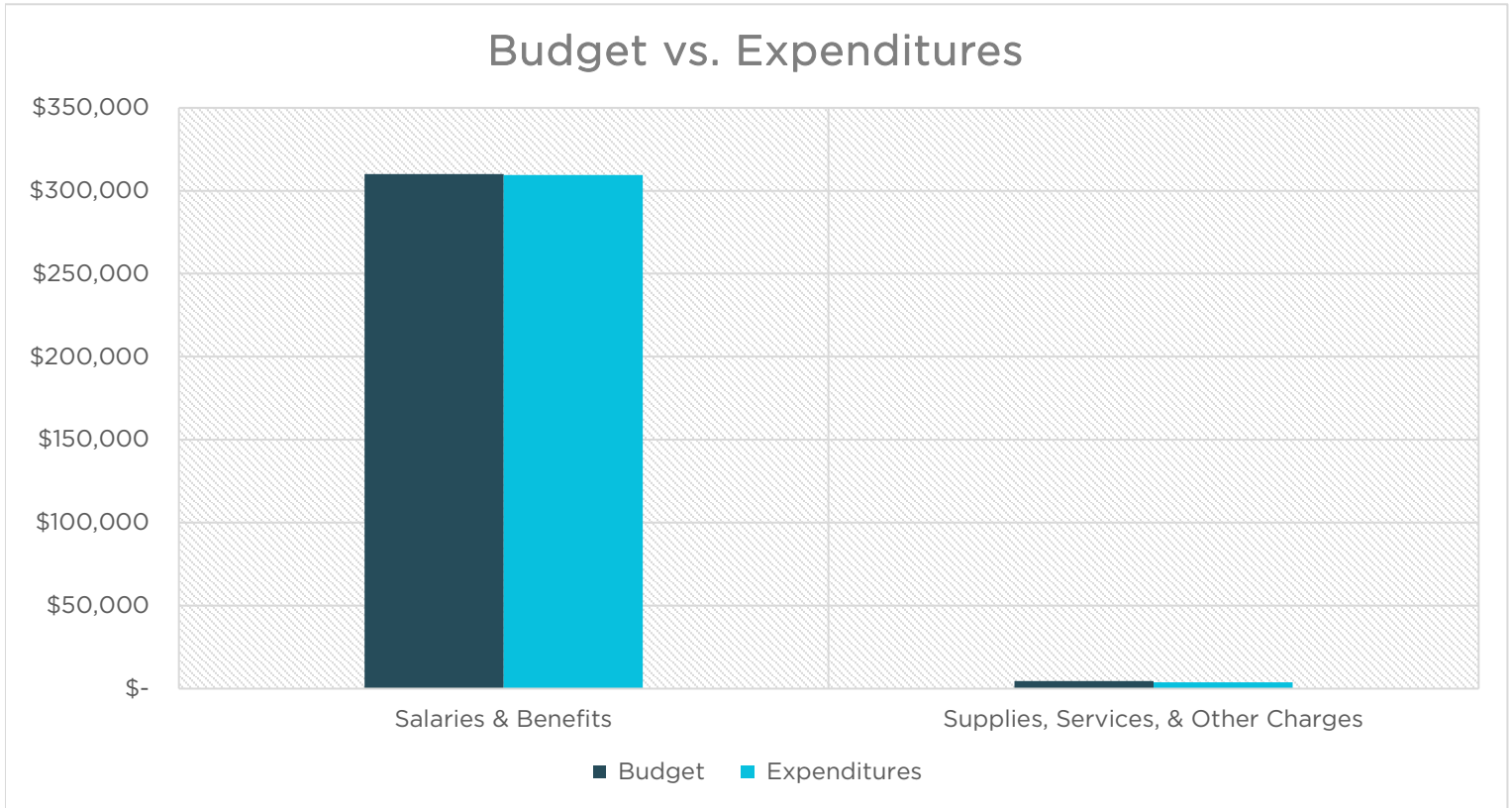


Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 767,431	\$ 602,908	78.6%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 267,536	\$ 211,879	79.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,034,967</b>	<b>\$ 814,787</b>	<b>78.7%</b>

Two (2) detective positions are funded under the Metro Drug Task Force, with only one (1) position currently filled. This position is part of a coordinated state-wide narcotics control program that is designed to combat violations of controlled substance laws within the jurisdiction.

# BENTON-FRANKLIN COUNTIES SUPERIOR COURT

2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



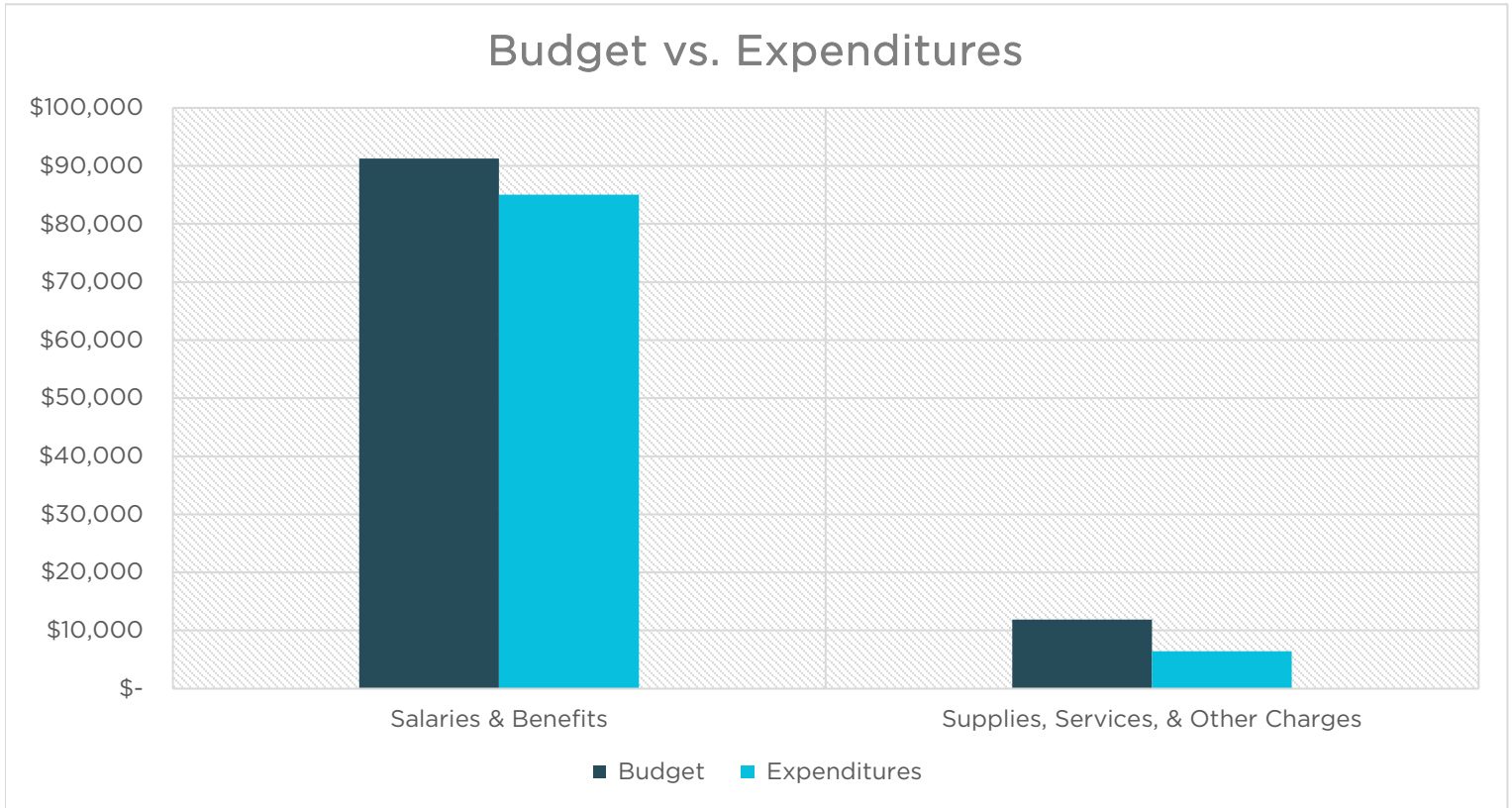
Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 310,030	\$ 309,538	99.8%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 4,603	\$ 3,841	83.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 314,633</b>	<b>\$ 313,379</b>	<b>99.6%</b>

Benton & Franklin Counties share seven fulltime Superior Court judges and three Court Commissioners who hear all cases involving: adult felonies, juvenile matters, divorce, child custody and support matters, probate, guardianships, adoptions, civil disputes in excess of \$50,000, paternity actions, mental competency, and abused and/or neglected children. PST funds 1 FTE Judge and .50 FTE Court Commissioner.

The Court has a statutory obligation to monitor guardianship cases. The Guardianship Monitoring Program Case Manager completes standardized reviews of all guardianship cases to ensure compliance with state and local rules. Assists judicial officers in review of guardianship cases scheduled for hearing or reviewed through the Guardianship Monitoring Program, including review of proposed Orders. Implements program changes in conjunction with the supervising judicial officers and the Court Administrator

# PUBLIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

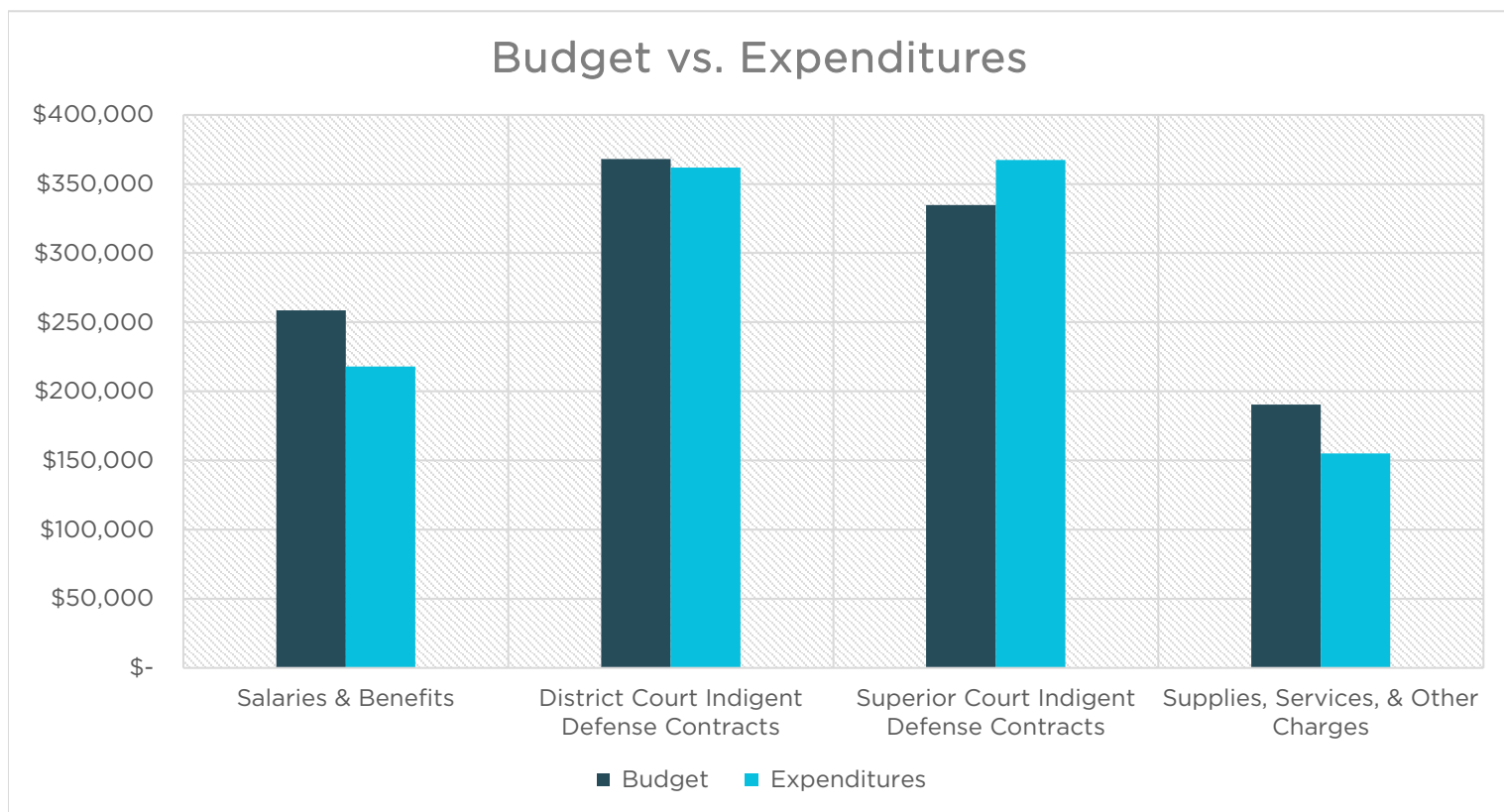


Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 91,242	\$ 85,027	93.2%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 11,875	\$ 6,413	54.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 103,117</b>	<b>\$ 91,441</b>	<b>88.7%</b>

The Public Safety Administration budget and expenditures reflect two (2) years (2019-2020) of salary, benefits, and supplies for 1/2 the cost of a full-time Communications Coordinator. This position manages and monitors all contracts with outside agencies funded through the Benton County Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative, as well as providing communications, public relations, and outreach support. The other 1/2 of that position is funded through the Sustainable Development Department.

# BENTON COUNTY OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENSE

2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 258,486	\$ 217,862	84.3%
District Court Indigent Defense Contracts	\$ 368,000	\$ 361,721	98.3%
Superior Court Indigent Defense Contracts	\$ 334,860	\$ 367,450	109.7%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 190,365	\$ 154,954	81.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,151,711</b>	<b>\$ 1,101,987</b>	<b>95.7%</b>

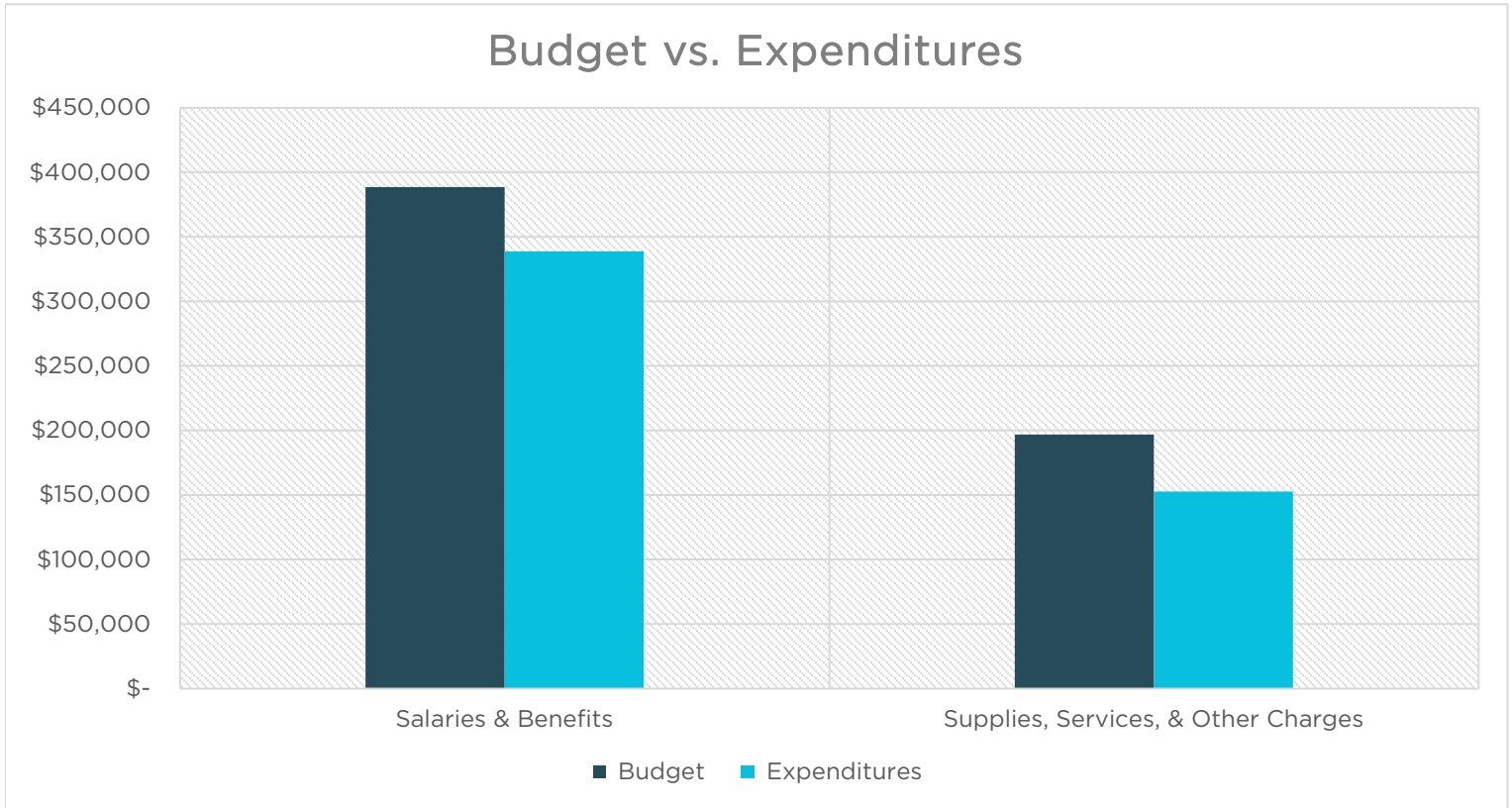
In 2019-2020, Public Safety Tax funds continued to provide the Office of Public Defense with important key resources to help it achieve its Constitutionally-mandated mission of providing quality public defense services.

We continued to fund the Executive Assistant who was hired in Summer 2017 to augment our support staff and added an additional full time Executive Assistant position in 2019. This new position has been instrumental in supporting not only the administrative, but also the case support aspects of our operations. The latter role has been particularly important since we have increased our number of staff attorneys from three to five in 2019 (and now six in mid-2021).

The balance of our funding has been utilized to continue to provide high quality public defense services in Benton County District and Superior Courts. Both court jurisdictions had been trending up in caseload prior to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic and even while the pandemic caused District Court's case numbers to drop sharply, even with filing restrictions in place, the caseload in Superior Court actual increased. As such, the funding received through Public Safety Tax funds have been much needed and very welcome.

# ADULT DRUG COURT

2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

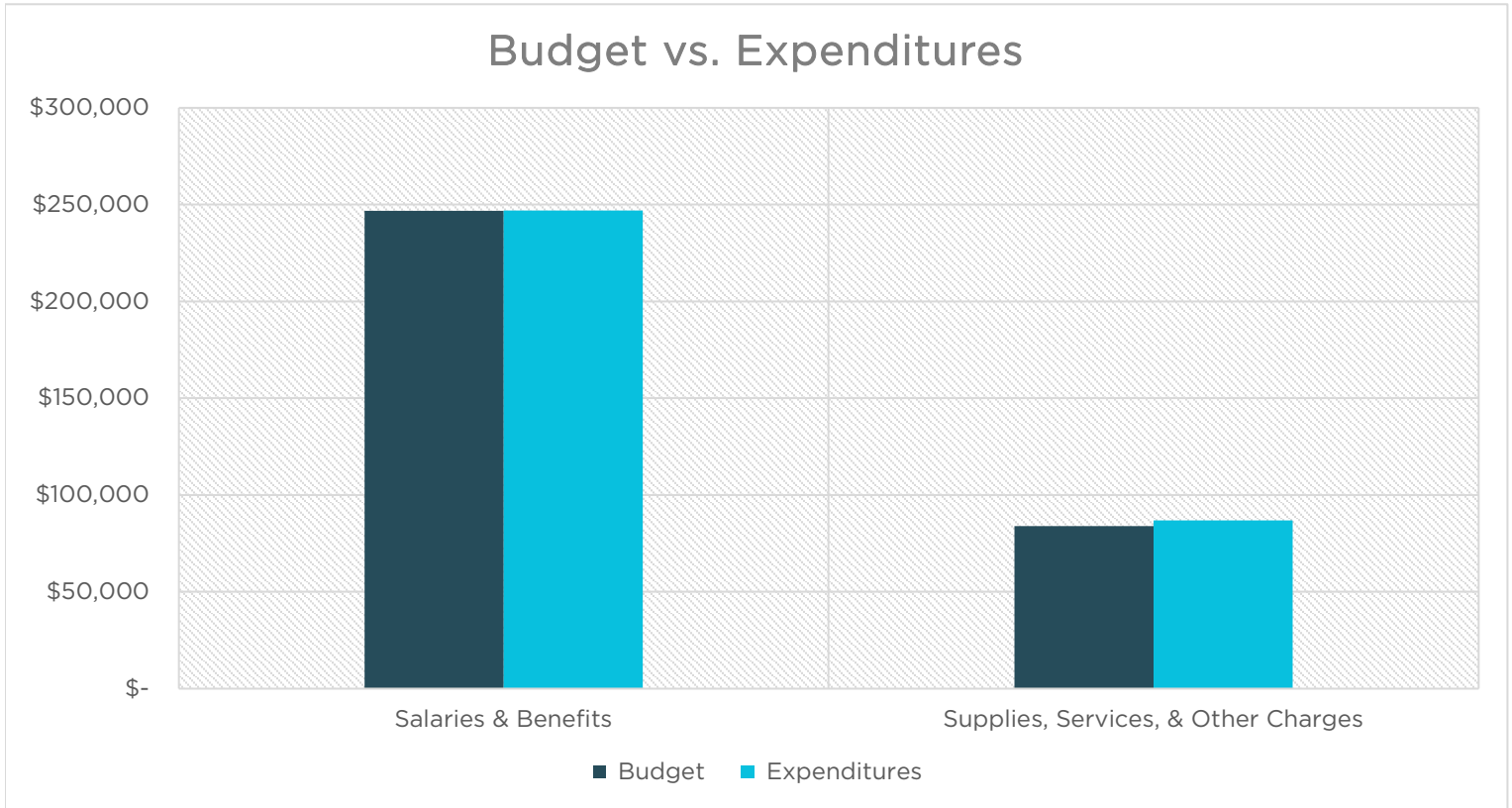


Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 388,429	\$ 338,629	87.2%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 196,781	\$ 152,676	77.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 585,210</b>	<b>\$ 491,306</b>	<b>84.0%</b>

In 2019, the Adult Drug Court increased from a 45-person program to a 70-person Program and increased their one-half time Secretary to full-time. The Benton/Franklin Counties Adult Drug Court program is a voluntary, individualized, six-phase intervention program for adults who have been charged with one or more qualifying felony offenses and who have been unable to stay clean and sober. It is a collaborative effort of the Benton and Franklin Counties Superior Court, Benton and Franklin Counties Prosecuting Attorney's Offices, Benton and Franklin Counties Public Defender's Panels, Benton and Franklin Counties Human Services Department, Benton and Franklin Counties Sheriff's Departments, Washington State Department of Corrections, other police agencies and case management and treatment programs. The Adult Drug Court program seeks to provide a variety of programs and consistent supervision geared toward supporting and helping participants maintain a drug-free life.

# JUVENILE DRUG COURT

2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 246,708	\$ 246,983	100.1%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 83,857	\$ 86,915	103.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 330,565</b>	<b>\$ 333,897</b>	<b>101.0%</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.

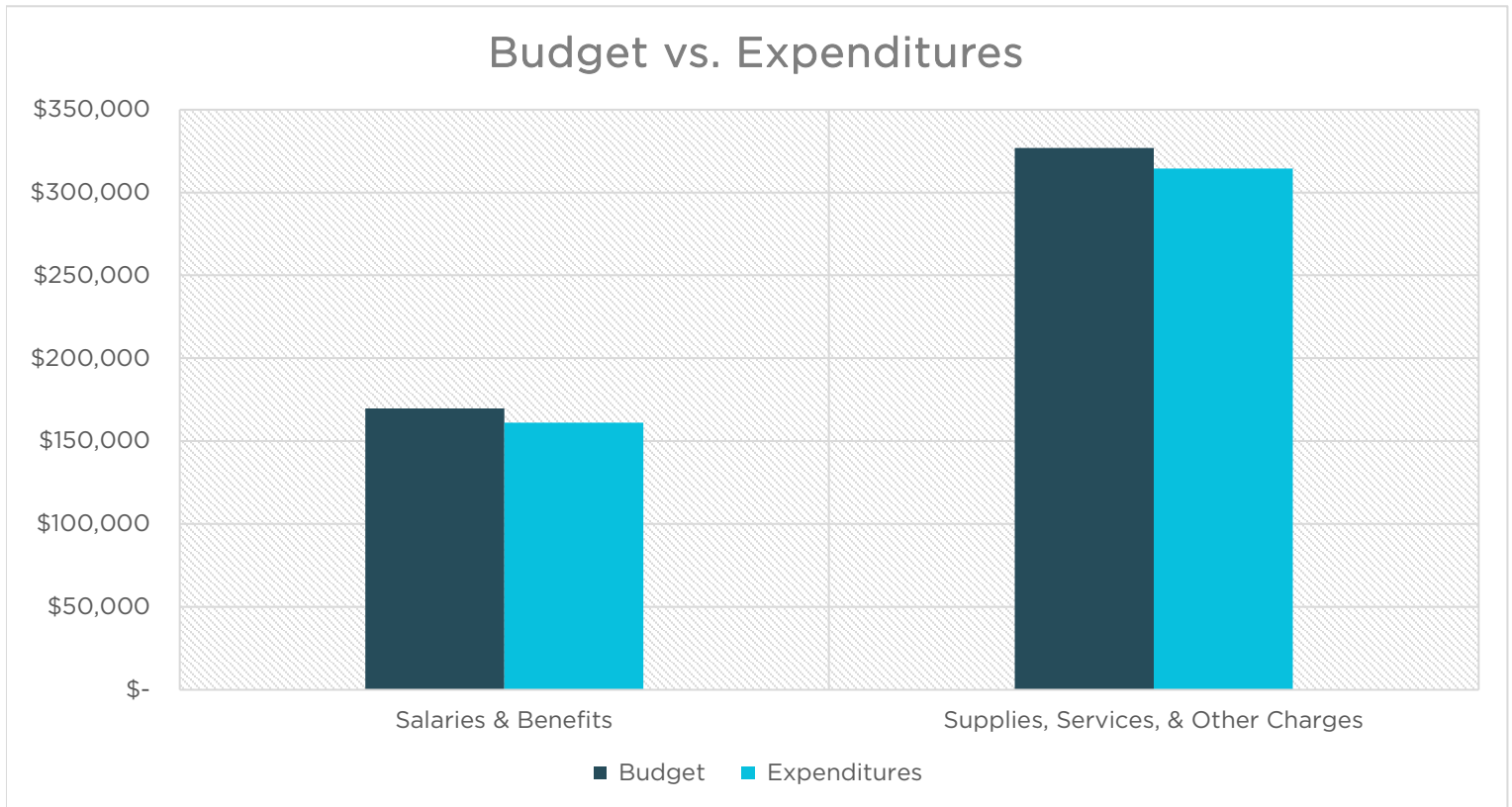
In 2019, the JDC served 26 youth and successfully graduated 4 youth.

In 2020, the JDC served 19 youth and successfully graduated 3 youth.

The Juvenile Drug Court is a Bi-County program, but only Benton County costs are reflected under the Public Safety Sales Tax budget.

# JUVENILE OPERATIONS

2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



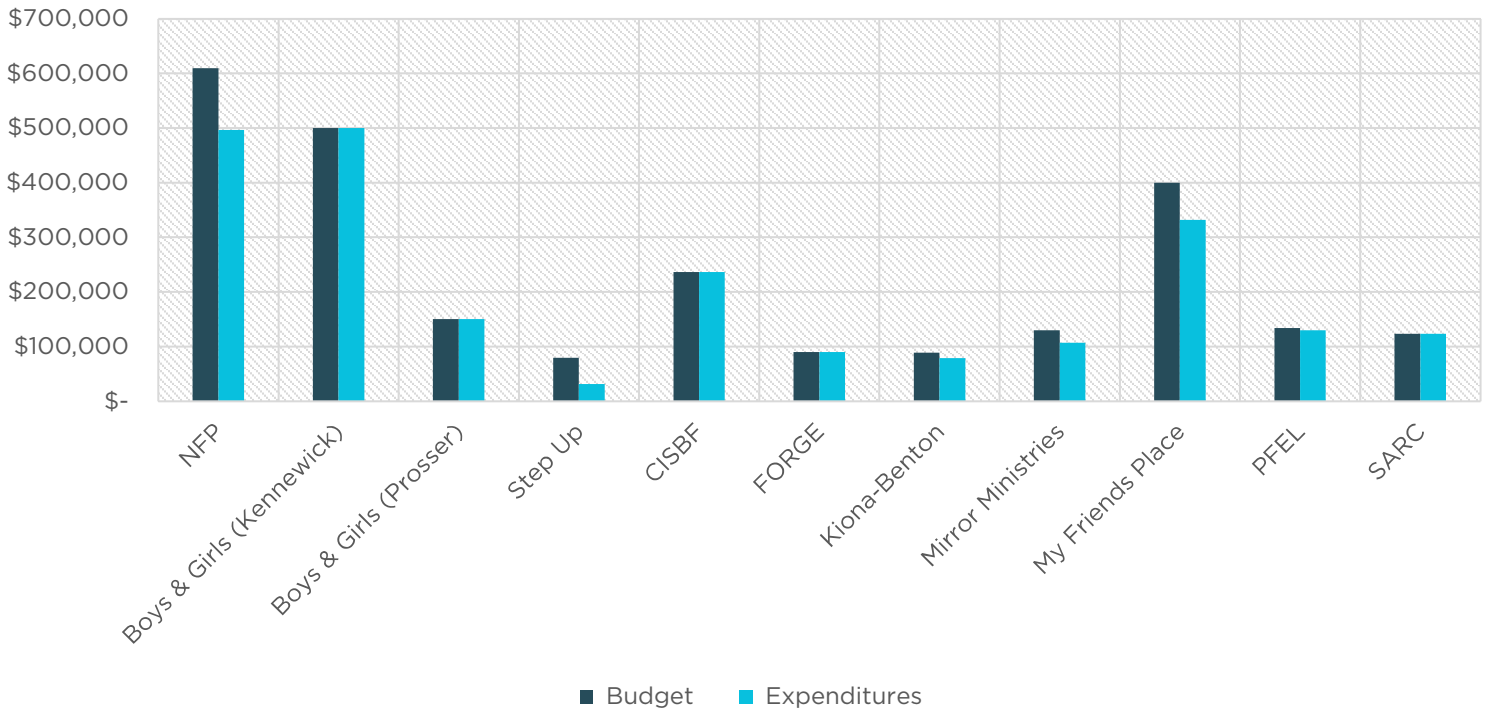
Description	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 169,696	\$ 161,175	95.0%
Supplies, Services, & Other Charges	\$ 326,889	\$ 314,493	96.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 496,585</b>	<b>\$ 314,493</b>	<b>63.3%</b>

The Juvenile Operations Budget includes funds for the Selective Aggressive Probation (SAP) program, Functional Family Therapy (FFT), Education Employment Training (EET), and mental health services for youth served by the Benton-Franklin Counties Juvenile Justice Center. Selective Aggressive Probation (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 youth offenders while providing opportunities for treatment and rehabilitation. SAP served 29 youth in 2019 and 38 youth in 2020. 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. FFT services were provided to 36 families in 2019 and 24 families in 2020. The Education Employment Training (EET) program provides youth with job readiness, development and placement services, and GED services to provide paid work experience and service-learning opportunities to youth. In 2019, the program served 131 youth with 13 completing a work experience placement, 14 applying for higher education, and 40 obtaining their GED. In January and February 2020 (prior to a pause due to COVID-19) 18 youth were served with one (1) completing a work placement and 15 obtaining their GED. In addition, mental health and behavioral support services are provided, upon screening, for youth as needed via individual and/or group therapy.

# GANG & CRIME PREVENTION INITIATIVE

2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

## Budget vs. Expenditures



Program Name	Budget	Expenditures	% Used
BFHD Nurse Family Partnership	\$ 609,338	\$ 496,587	81.5%
Boys & Girls Club Kennewick	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	100.0%
Boys & Girls Club Prosser	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	100.0%
Chaplaincy Health Care Step Up Program	\$ 79,340	\$ 31,220	39.4%
Communities in Schools of Benton Franklin	\$ 236,156	\$ 236,156	100.0%
FORGE Youth Mentoring	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	100.0%
Kiona-Benton Crime Prevention Program	\$ 88,888	\$ 78,798	88.6%
Mirror Ministries Human Trafficking Survivor Services	\$ 130,000	\$ 107,147	82.4%
Safe Harbor My Friends Place Youth Shelter	\$ 400,000	\$ 332,065	83.0%
Partners for Early Learning	\$ 133,814	\$ 129,525	96.8%
Support, Advocacy, & Resource Center (SARC)	\$ 123,560	\$ 123,560	100.0%
<b>Total Program Allocated Budgets</b>	<b>\$ 966,262</b>		

The Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative was full-swing in 2019 and 2020. A total of 11 programs, operated by local organizations, were funded through the Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative, with a total cumulative budget of nearly \$1 million for the biennium (2019-2020). 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. 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. Details about the Public Safety Sales Tax and the Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative, including current programs, can be found on the Benton County website at [www.co.benton.wa.us](http://www.co.benton.wa.us).

# NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

BENTON-FRANKLIN HEALTH DISTRICT  
2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) is an evidence-based, community health program that serves first-time mothers and their families living in poverty. By awakening the caretaker within each mother, we can improve healthy brain development and school readiness in children, prevent child abuse and neglect, strengthen and empower families and break the cycle of poverty. 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. 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, emotional support and a good laugh when she needs it most, throughout her pregnancy and until her baby is 2 years old.

The first client enrolled in the Benton County program graduated in February of 2019 after spending two and a half years with her Nurse Home Visitor. A total of 17 clients have completed the program so far. In 2019, a new nurse was hired to fill the second Nurse Home Visitor position. She fits the demographics of the client population for which NFP serves. Because of this, she brought a unique perspective to the team, often contributing valuable information to case conferences and informal discussions.

BFHD was mobilized for the COVID-19 response in March of 2020 for several months. As nurses, the NFP team was called upon to do contract tracing, care coordination, and outbreak mitigation. This required them to spend 30 hours per week in the response, leaving 10 hours to keep up with their NFP clients. Because of this temporary activation to support COVID-19 efforts, expenditures billed to this grant were under budget. Despite the limited time in the program, they remained passionate about helping their clients and meeting their needs.

When the Washington State Stay Home, Stay Healthy order went into effect, visits were completed using telehealth methods instead of in person. Phone and Zoom visits became the norm and texting became the lifeline between clients and their nurses as they dealt with new challenges of transitioning to parenthood during a pandemic. The relationship that clients had with their nurses was very valuable. The nurses provided education about what was known about the virus, signs and symptoms to watch for, how it could affect both mom and baby, testing resources, and when it became available, information on vaccines.

These supports were provided in addition to the regular NFP content including assessments for depression, anxiety and interpersonal violence for the mom and developmental screenings for the child. During this time, the NFP team continued to meet in person (masked and distanced) for the weekly team meetings and case conferences. In person meetings were very important to the team because it helped them support one another and deal with the stress of pandemic work in addition to their NFP responsibilities.

# **KENNEWICK CLUBHOUSE**

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BENTON AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES  
2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

With the help of the Benton County Safety Sales tax, the Boys & Girls Club's Kennewick and Clubhouse was able to serve more youth with greater impact that ever before at the end of 2019.

At the Boys & Girls Clubs - Kennewick Clubhouse, we doubled our membership goal serving over 360 teens and 530 grade school youth. A high percentage of grade school age youth reside in the neighborhood surrounding this Clubhouse and while we anticipated being at full capacity right after our doors opened in February of 2019, enrollment was initially slow. The refugee families, as well as families experiencing severe financial challenges, did not understand that the Clubhouse was a resource to them, providing a safe place for children, teens, and community. After trust was built in within this community, membership exploded. The area in Kennewick where this Clubhouse is located has one of the highest crime and gang rates in our community. For this purpose, we knew it was crucial to engage teens. We are proud to report this Clubhouse hosted more teens each week than any other Club location, averaging 55-65 teens attending per weekday by the end of 2019.

We expected to see even greater outcomes in 2020 in at this location after being in operation for a year. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and proceeding lockdowns closed this Club to in-person services temporarily. However, the Kennewick Clubhouse quickly transitioned to serve children, teens, families, and community in critical ways during the pandemic. The Clubhouse in particular es served as a community center and opened to community needs, hosting food pantries and essential delivery services, critical academic services for school districts, and safe spaces for other various community needs.

Throughout the pandemic, Boys & Girls Club staff members continued to engage youth members in creative ways, from weekly home deliveries of resources to socially distanced brief outdoor visits, to text and virtual check ins. As restrictions lifted, the Kennewick Club was able to offer safe, socially distanced academic support services indoors as well as mentoring. Both Kennewick and Prosser Clubhouses were able to support members in virtual school and provide mental health supports through mentoring and accountability check ins. During this time of sudden community emergency, the Boys & Girls Club was able to step up to meet the needs of our most vulnerable community members due to the support of the Benton County Public Safety Sales Tax.

# PROSSER CLUBHOUSE

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BENTON AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES  
2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

The Boys & Girls Club Prosser Teen Program sought to maintain attendance and impact, having expanded to due to historic Public Safety Sales Tax funding. Though the Prosser Teen program's goal was to maintain a membership of 75 teen, the program ended 2019 with over 100 active teen members. Of significant note is that Prosser Teen Club members consistently volunteered in the community, engaging in community service projects 10 out of 12 months in 2019. Volunteering and being active community members who exhibit good character and citizenship continues to be one of our teens' favorite activities.

In 2020, the Public Safety Sales Tax funding was supporting not only teen programs in Prosser, but grade school aged youth as well. Safety restriction and guidelines because of COVID-19 pandemic and proceeding lockdowns meant that portions of the Prosser Clubhouse closed to in-person services temporarily. However, the Prosser Clubhouse quickly stepped up to serve as the partner to the Prosser School District and provide emergency childcare to essential workers. The Prosser Club was open 12 hours a day to assist youth in need of care, working beside them as they engaged in virtual school programs. The Prosser Clubhouse also served a community outreach center, providing food, critical resources, and academic supplies to hundreds of families in need of assistance.

The teen program was not fully open for daily services until after the holidays. However, teens remained active in outreach and volunteer opportunities that allowed for safe, social distancing. While attendance and membership reduced because of the pandemic, we were able to maintain our goals and even greater confidence and trust from our local public as we proved our commitment in doing whatever it takes to build great futures for kids, families, and communities. Funding and support from the Benton County Public Safety Sales Tax allowed us fulfill this commitment.

# STEP UP PROGRAM

CHAPLAINCY HEALTH CARE  
2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

The 2019-2020 Step Up program, operated by Chaplaincy Health Care, is the ongoing program to serve adolescents ages 12 to 17 that are currently incarcerated or at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

Step Up operates in collaboration with the Benton Franklin Counties Juvenile Justice Center probation staff, judges, and prosecutors to serve as an alternative to charges, trials, and incarceration. The program provides specialized services, outreach and community education, and counseling to youth and their family members.

Each program is comprised of on-going, 11-week sessions (units) and each group serves 2-12 youth and their parents. Groups meet weekly and are offered in both English and Spanish. Each session is 2 hours long and follows a structured format: mindfulness meditation/self-awareness exercises, check in, lesson from the Step Up manual, behavioral goal for the week, and a closing exercise.

Step Up provides a full mental health assessment, covering a range of concerns including: anti-social and criminal behaviors resulting in police contact/arrest/incarceration, family disruption, school failure, peer relationships and friends, exposure to trauma, substance abuse, chronic mental health issues, history of psychological treatment, medications, primary care, and parent assessment for parenting skills and family stressors.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the ability of staff to conduct and youth and families to participate in the Step Up program, since it is a group format held in-person. Virtual services were attempted, but were not as successful as in-person counseling and services in prior years.

# ALL IN FOR KIDS PROGRAM

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF BENTON-FRANKLIN  
2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

Communities In Schools of Benton-Franklin (CISBF) has served K-12 students and families in the bi-county region since 2014. Site Coordinators work in schools, addressing barriers and connecting students to the critical resources they need to be successful in school and in life. In the 2019-2020 school year they case managed 872 students, 18,378 students received school-wide services and 7,021 parents were engaged in services. The percentage and risk factors of students served: 96% were economically disadvantaged, 89% were exposed to trauma, 33% were English Language Learners, 22% had special education, 17% were homeless and 11% had incarcerated parents. Of the high school students served, 97% were promoted or graduated and 98% stayed in school! While it's difficult to capture the full scope of service a Site Coordinator can provide, the outcomes listed above were achieved through the supports listed below:

Case Management Support	Schoolwide Services	Basic Needs Assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual Student Support Plan</li> <li>Goal Setting</li> <li>Academic Assistance</li> <li>Social Emotional Support</li> <li>College/Career Planning</li> <li>Employment Assistance</li> <li>Advocacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Support Plan</li> <li>Whole School Attendance Initiatives</li> <li>Small Group Supports</li> <li>Safe, Inclusive Spaces for LGBTQ+ Youth</li> <li>Community Resource Center</li> <li>College and Career Fairs</li> <li>FAFSA/Scholarship Support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food Support</li> <li>Access to Physical/Mental Healthcare</li> <li>Clothing Closet</li> <li>School Supplies</li> <li>Housing Assistance</li> <li>Digital Equity Support</li> <li>Migrant/Refugee Support</li> </ul>

The investment provided demonstrates the value Benton County has on serving the whole child through the Communities In Schools evidence-based model of Integrated Student Supports as they continue to re-engage students and families in the aftermath of COVID-19 and through the compounding trauma it has exacerbated.



Elementary CIS & School Family Meeting



CIS Virtual Office - Student/Family Access



Socially Distant Graduation Ceremony

# FORGE TRI-CITIES YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM

FORGE YOUTH MENTORING

2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

FORGE Youth Mentoring is grateful to Benton County for the support given with the PSST contract. Our mission is to connect generations to restore hope in communities and help young people discover their God-given potential. Because of this contract, we were able to fully establish our program here in Benton County to serve kids here and in the greater Tri-Cities region.

FORGE was able to start up our program and establish a firm foundation to serve the county for decades to come. Additionally, because of the work being done here and the great results, we were able to establish three more chapters (Yakima, WA; Hermiston, OR; Maui, HI), with many more to come.

The PSST funds specifically allowed us to establish an office and purchase needed equipment, hire program and support staff, create and distribute promotional materials, and build strong partnerships with school districts, youth-serving agencies, businesses, and more than a dozen churches. We added significant elements to our website, developed social media pages and material, and translated all documents into Spanish.

These led to us training more than 100 adults about mentoring and securing 40 individuals who served as either a volunteer or mentor. We created and supported 22 mentor matches, including providing match resources, group activities and idea lists, materials to strengthen their match, and ongoing training for parents and mentors.

Each young person in our program showed growth in attitudes, behaviors, schooling, and developmental assets. Parents have reported significant positive changes in their children and are grateful for the support FORGE has provided them and their child.

In developing our program, we completed all infrastructure of our model and developed all elements needed for program completion, efficiency, and effectiveness. In addition to development and application, we've added other community support elements to strengthen young people. These include our Experience Partners program that inspires all adults to share their hobbies, skills, and careers with kids in our program a few times a year in small but powerful meet ups, as well as our community class, How to Effectively Engage Young People.

Finally, thanks to PSST funds, we were able to hire the Christian Association of Youth Mentoring to conduct a Quality Assurance Review of our program, concluding that we were adhering to the Elements of Effective Practice, the national gold standard of evidence-based best mentoring program practices.

Thank you for allowing us to serve the kids and families of Benton County and even beyond. We work hard to carry out preventive work that keeps young people from destructive and criminal behaviors. FORGE is proud to partner with Benton County in connecting generations to bring lasting change and stronger communities!

# **KIONA-BENTON CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM**

KIONA-BENTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

The Kiona-Benton Crime Prevention Program has intervened in the lives of approximately 80 high school students through mentoring and linking appropriate community services and has re-enrolled 6 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 to assist parents of students who are struggling.

Several 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. We continue to have Girl's Circle - a gender specific program for adolescent girls to promote resiliency and self-esteem. Mr. Tovar also does Boy's Circle to help support students with real life issues and provide a platform to talk about what they are going through, giving them a safe place to share what is going on in their lives.

The success of this program has provided our other buildings with the opportunity to also do similar interventions as mentioned earlier. These programs help students who may otherwise have been suspended by giving them a space to continue to learn during the school day, while also giving them the behavioral and emotional supports they need.

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 funding. 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.

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING OUTREACH & INTERVENTION

MIRROR MINISTRIES

2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

Working through Benton County Public Safety Sales Tax, Mirror Ministries has been able to bring education and intervention to thousands of Benton County residents. Our advocates do street outreach throughout the community looking for the vulnerable and connecting them for services to strengthen their resilience.

Mirror Ministries has brought awareness and intervention education to local schools and youth groups, training staff, parents, volunteers, and students. In 2019 we were able to bring that training and education to 182 groups. While we had to adjust to online trainings for most of 2020 we were still able to reach 84 groups during the pandemic. This online outreach was essential as we saw a 97.5% increase in online grooming and exploitation in 2020 with the seclusion, anxiety, and additional social time online for local kids.

We were also already set up, through Safety Tax funds, with Project Intercept online outreach to local ads that list people for sale. The software scans the ads and gives us the numbers to text options for help to escape the life of exploitation.

Through this program, we reached out to 3,694 local ads on two websites in that two-year time period. The pandemic made outreach much more difficult but we found safe ways to continue to reach out to those hidden victims and continue therapeutic services for the survivors we serve.

Through 2019-2020 contract season MM saw 131 new victims come to freedom through our outreach and intervention. These are people of all ages, genders, backgrounds, races, and every socio-economic class. We saw 17 children, 31 youth, and 83 adults in those assessments.

In addition to those we were able to directly intervene with, there were many more kids who were diverted from predators that had tried to start the grooming process with them - but the child recognized the signs from our training and reported the contacts to their parents or teachers for help.

Victims and concerned citizens are able to reach out for help via our local sex-trafficking hotline at 1(509)212-9995.

# MY FRIENDS PLACE

SAFE HARBOR SUPPORT CENTER  
2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

During 2019, My Friends Place continued to provide long-term shelter to homeless teens, provide short-stay services for teens involved in family conflict, and operated as a 24-hour drop-in center for teens in our community. Our drop-in center was utilized daily, with food, showers, and toiletries being our most requested service.

The shelter saw another increase in 2019 as we housed 77 youth, an almost 50% increase from the previous year, and our drop-in center remained active serving over 300 teens. Our state-licensed shelter houses males and females and saw an increase in our LGBTQ+ community which made up 26% of our population.

My Friends Place continues to make education and employment a high priority and we saw 91% of our teens enrolled in and attending school, with several graduating or earning a GED. Due to our comprehensive case management services, we were able to reunify 70% of our teens back into their family homes and saw 20% of our teens turn 18 and become stable housed.

Our comprehensive case management consists of one full-time Case Manager who provides services to all teens in need. These services include acquiring employment, housing, accessing needed services, life skill development, medical and dental care, and referrals and transportation to mental health care.

2020 brought some huge changes for the shelter as we worked to survive the worldwide pandemic. Even in the face of danger, our staff remained dedicated to our teens and our shelter remained open 24/7/365. We continued to house 34 teens full time and saw 101 drop-ins. We also offered delivery services to drop-ins who could not make it to the shelter due to the virus.

My Friends Place opened the only quarantine bed for teens in the Benton-Franklin County area for any teen exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19. Even in the midst of an epidemic, we still were able to safely return 24 teens to their family homes and 6 of our teens were stably housed at the age of 18.

During this year we made some big changes to our comprehensive case management services and added to our team. Our team now includes one full-time Case Manager and two full-time Peer Mentors. The addition of the peer mentors has added another layer of safety to our teens, as they work closely with each youth, provide mentorship, and assist with strengthening needed life skills.

We always strive to strengthen our bond with the community as we provide outreach services for teens in need, and we continue to foster strong relationships with others. Our partnerships have grown, and we are proud to offer year-round internships to college and university students. These students attend an array of schools including UW, WSU, EWU, Brandman, Heritage, and CBC. We also provide presentations to spread the word about the shelter and the benefits we offer the community.

# **BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH FAMILY SUPPORT**

PARTNERS FOR EARLY LEARNING

2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

Building Resilience through Family Support is a direct service program to economically and emotionally challenged families with children birth through kindergarten in the Richland School District. Families received a weekly visit tailored to their needs from a trained Family Support Coach. During 2019, 517 home visits took place with families, and 942 home visits occurred in 2020. Families were recommended by school and community agencies.

Funds were mainly spent on hiring staff, training them, materials for parent training, games, toys, books, and educational materials. The one overhead expense that was billed to the County was Liability insurance.

## **COVID-19 Innovations and Involvement**

In March of 2020, the Family Support Coaches and the Coordinator quickly and ably moved to a virtual model. During COVID-19 coaching sessions, we found that parents needed support in wrangling and organizing in positive ways their whole family. Our support helped them navigate discipline, family dynamics, and learning support for all their children.

Each week, the staff planned lessons aimed at the developmental and social-emotional needs of the families in the program. A bag of learning and parenting materials, designed for each family and their needs, were delivered with no physical contact with the families. A virtual home visit then happened each week, focusing on the materials delivered. The response of parents and their families has been amazing. They found a friendly ear to listen and welcome support for their whole families. This program had become a safe harbor in the overwhelming catastrophe. Since the future impact of COVID-19 is still in question, the program is prepared to stand in the gap to support for families in Benton County.

## **Client Satisfaction and Success**

The families have made clear their increased levels of competence and confidence in parenting. Our enrollment continued to grow, even throughout COVID-19, as the clients have recommended the program to their friends and family members.

Our greatest success has been seeing parents who are more confident in the skills and practices that make them more capable to raise children who are ready for school and life. We have also received lots of reports of time spent playing with and supporting children to increase growth, in the four domains: Physical, Social, Learning, and Communication. Increased parent understanding in the area of social emotional learning and quality parenting skills is helping to mitigate stress for parents and kids.

# ADVOCACY FOR SURVIVORS OF SEX TRAFFICKING

SUPPORT, ADVOCACY, AND RESOURCE CENTER (SARC)

2019-2020 PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

The Support, Advocacy & Resource Center's (SARC) mission is to provide crisis services, support, and advocacy to victims, non-offending family members, and others who are impacted by crime. We strive to create and maintain a community without violence through prevention-based education. SARC is an accredited Community Sexual Assault Program, an accredited Children's Advocacy Center, and has a Crime Victim Service Center grant through the Office of Crime Victim's Advocacy.

The 2019-2020 Public Safety Tax allowed SARC to increase their Human Trafficking program to include a full time Engagement Specialist position housed halftime at the Benton Franklin Counties Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) and halftime at SARC. The Engagement Specialist utilizes a screening tool with youth that enter JJC to assess for sex trafficking risk factors. The Engagement Specialist spends time with the youth in an effort to build trust and develop relationships, which can be a slow and difficult process. Through this relationship building, youth are more comfortable disclosing their victimization, allowing the Engagement Specialist to assist in making police/CPS reports, and provide services both while they are housed at JJC and after they are released. Interrupting the victimization of youth reduces such long term impacts such as: truancy, mental health disorders, violence, running away, and criminal activity. Assisting victims in their healing process is true prevention and intervention work.

During the 2019-2020 Biennial Reporting period, the Engagement Specialist worked with 229 individuals that identified as victims of crime both at JJC and the SARC Office. This person provided 2,126.50 hours of advocacy and crisis intervention doing activities such as providing support during court, medical exams, connecting to mental health, school, and substance abuse/treatment resources, and engaging in individual and group psychoeducational sessions to help the individuals learn about important topics like boundaries, consent, goal setting, and positive coping mechanisms. The Engagement Specialist chose to have individual youth help plan and run these sessions, to provide them with leadership experiences and assist in navigating the dialogue to be more beneficial for the participants. While at JJC, the Engagement Specialist screened 95 youth. Of these individuals, 7 were confirmed CSEC, 21 were suspected of CSEC. Several youths were suspected of being victims of other types of abuse. The screenings resulted in 12 initial reports to law enforcement and 7 reports to CPS. A new report to law enforcement or CPS may not have been needed if there was already a current investigation upon the youth's arrival at JJC. After rapport building from the Engagement Specialist occurred, an additional 17 reports were made to law enforcement and CPS specific to CSEC behaviors.

In addition to advocacy services, the Engagement Specialist position took part in 472 outreach and awareness activities, totaling 293 hours and reaching 3,167 participants. Outreach and awareness includes presentations, community panels and booths, multi-disciplinary team coordination, and direct service work with community members or potential victims of crime. The goal is to teach the community we serve, red-flag indicators and what resources are available locally for them.