

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The General Government category consists of appropriations for the legislative and judicial branches of state government, for the offices of state elected officials, and for the executive branch agencies responsible for financial management, tax administration, and general administration.

Legislature

The recommended General Fund appropriations for the legislative branch total \$31.5 million in FY 2004 and \$34.6 million in FY 2005. The recommendation includes a 2.6% increase over the current appropriations to cover increased operating costs.

Judiciary

The recommended General Fund appropriations for the judicial branch total \$115.1 million in FY 2004 and \$116.3 million in FY 2005. These appropriations support the operations of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the Tax Court, the Clerk of the Supreme and Appeals Courts, the State Public Defender, the Indiana Judicial Center, the Public Defender Council, the Prosecuting Attorneys Council, and salaries and pensions of local judges and prosecutors. In addition to funding its own operations, the Supreme Court's appropriation funds the operations of the Division of State Court Administration, which include the state Guardian Ad Litem program, the Public Defender Commission, the Indiana Conference for Legal Education Opportunity, and the Civil Legal Aid Program. Recommended appropriations for the judicial branch also include:

- Increases to cover administrative staff pay plans for the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the State Public Defender, and the Indiana Judicial Center;
- Funding for two new staff positions for the Supreme Court;
- Funding for new Supreme Court drug court and court interpreter programs;
- Funding for an expansion of the Supreme Court's family court program;
- Funding for additional office space for the Court of Appeals;
- Funding for training conference cost increases for the Indiana Judicial Center.

Attorney General

Recommended General Fund appropriations for the Attorney General total \$13 million for FY 2004 and \$13 million for FY 2005. The recommendation includes the transfer of responsibility for the welfare fraud unit from the Attorney General to the Family and Social Services Administration. The recommendation also includes an increase in funding for the Medicaid fraud unit, which will leverage additional federal funds and increase the number of Medicaid fraud investigations.

Department of Revenue

The Department of Revenue's mission is to administer the state's tax laws in a fair, equitable, timely, and courteous manner. This includes the collection of all applicable taxes due the state, encouragement of voluntary compliance through taxpayer education and enforcement procedures, maintenance of prudent fiscal control, timely deposits of revenue, and the provision of essential public information and quality service in a manner that promotes the highest degree of public trust and confidence. The Department of Revenue receives the largest general government share of general fund dollars; its recommended General Fund appropriation totals \$54.5 million each for FY 2004 and FY 2005. For the Current Year Estimate and Base budget, an adjustment in the Collections & Administration account is recommended to include funding for continued maintenance and support of the Department's critical Returns Processing System. Additionally, the Department will complete work in FY 2003 on the replacement of its obsolete Tartan data entry system. Lastly, the recommendations include funds for FY 2004 and FY 2005 to continue support of 27 field auditor positions.

Department of Administration

The Department of Administration receives the executive branch's second largest general government operating appropriation. The recommended General Fund appropriations total \$20.6 million for each year of the biennium. The Department provides central management support to the operating agencies of state government, including management of a system of process controls that protect the integrity and advance the efficient operation of the state's business operations. The Department's appropriation reflects the transfer of the Capitol Police operation to the Indiana State Police; and the additional costs for the utilities of the newly completed Indiana State Museum.

Other Executive Agencies

The Budget Agency has several contingency funds designated to pay for expenditures that are difficult to predict or estimate. These contingency funds, and their recommended appropriations, are:

- The Departmental and Institutional Emergency Contingency Fund, with a recommended appropriation of \$9.6 million for the biennium;
- The Personal Services/Fringe Benefits Contingency Fund, with a biennial recommendation of \$89.0 million. This fund is used to cover changes in the compensation and benefits of General Fund state employees. The actual amount needed for any increases in compensation and benefits depends on several factors, including the outcome of negotiations between the state and elected employee representatives and the actual costs of providing state employee health insurance. The recommended amount is expected to be sufficient for continued pay plan increases for state employees and allow for a limited redesign of the state's health care plans;

Recommended appropriations for most agencies in the general government category are at or below the amounts budgeted for the fiscal year 2003.