

## REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

**SUBJECT:** Discussion and possible action regarding proposed specialized vertical domestic violence prosecution and increased victim services model.

**SUMMARY:** In an effort to increase the level of services to victims of crime as well as increase the likelihood of successful prosecution of domestic violence and child abuse related cases, the City Attorney's Office, with the assistance and guidance from City management, has created a plan that will allow for a specialized Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) within the West Jordan City Attorney's Office. The DVU will focus on domestic violence and child abuse related cases through increased victim assistance services and specialized vertical prosecution of all domestic violence and child abuse cases.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** **Proposal A:** \$25,259.00 per year (\$2,300.00 one-time costs)  
**Proposal B:** \$9,924.00 per year

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff provides the above options based upon the outcome of the domestic violence related prosecution and domestic violence victim services section of the internal audit recently performed by City management.

### MOTION RECOMMENDED:

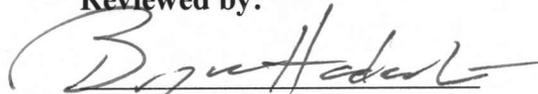
"I move to adopt Resolution No. 14-172, specifically proposal \_\_\_ (A or B), authorizing staff to proceed with the immediate implementation of proposal \_\_\_ (A or B) to create a specialized Domestic Violence Unit within the City Attorney's Office."

**Prepared by:**



Stuart E. Williams  
Deputy City Attorney

**Reviewed by:**



Bryce Haderlie  
Interim City Manager

## **DISCUSSION:**

With the recent resignation of the Victim Services Coordinator, and on the heels of the internal audit performed by the City that included a focus on domestic violence related prosecution and services, the City Attorney's Office, with the support of City management, presents the following proposed Domestic Violence Unit (DVU). The DVU is intended to (1) increase the level of services to victims of crime, (2) improve the level of customer service provided to victims as they proceed through the legal system or receive services specific to the needs as a victim, and (3) assist in the prosecution against those accused of a domestic violence related crime by providing for a specialized prosecutor that is attune to the needs of the victim and the City to better form the many difficult decisions that are made throughout a domestic violence related prosecution.

The DVU will allow for the City of West Jordan to become a leader in addressing and attacking what is a very serious and problematic issue within our City, State, and Country. The proposed DVU will include two areas of increased services, (a) Victim Services, and (b) Domestic Violence Related Prosecution. The anticipated immediate improvements are as follows:

- The DVU will result in an increase of 20 hours a week of true victim advocate services to be provided to victims of crime. This will be done by removing the supervision and grant management responsibilities from an advocate and assigning those responsibilities to a DVU Chief.
- The creation of the DVU will allow for vertical prosecution. This creates a more consistent handling of each kind of case, allowing for continuity for law enforcement, the Court, and victims and witnesses.
- Vertical prosecution will allow a victim a more meaningful opportunity to participate in the criminal justice system by having a prosecutor that is able to devote more time to each case and be more informed to the details of each case to ensure the needs of the victim are appropriately addressed.
- The specialized prosecutor will be able to participate in domestic violence and child abuse coalitions and/or committees throughout the valley and increase the presence of the City in working with outside agencies.
- The specialized prosecutor will stay up to speed on the latest investigative, courtroom, and collaborative strategies by participating in training throughout the state and the nation that is focused specifically to domestic violence cases. The specialized prosecutor will become an expert in domestic violence prosecution.

### **Increased Grant Qualification Possibilities**

In addition to the above benefits, the DVU reorganization and increased focus on victim services and domestic violence prosecution will be a significant change in the status quo approach taken in the past and will show a very substantial increase in the City's contribution to address the problem of domestic violence. As such, the City will be in greater standing to qualify for an increase in its existing grants, as well as be able to utilize the increase in matching contribution to apply for new governmental or private grants to supplement the program in the future.

**THE CITY OF WEST JORDAN, UTAH**  
A Municipal Corporation

RESOLUTION NO. 14-172

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REORGANIZATION OF THE WEST JORDAN CITY VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM AND WEST JORDAN CITY PROSECUTION PROGRAM, TO CREATE A SPECIALIZED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT WITHIN THE WEST JORDAN CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Whereas, the City Council has reviewed and considered the Request for Council Action, Agenda Item No. 86; and

Whereas, the City Council has determined the proposed Specialized Domestic Violence Unit to be in the best interest of the City; and

Whereas, the City Council of the City of West Jordan desires that the reorganization of the West Jordan City Victim Services Program and West Jordan City Prosecution Program to create Specialized Domestic Violence Unit; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST JORDAN, UTAH, THAT:

Section 1. The Mayor is authorized and instructed to direct the necessary staff to immediately implement \_\_\_\_\_ (proposal A and the necessary increase in budget of \$25,259.00 or proposal B and the necessary increase in budget of \$9,924.00) for the Specialized Domestic Violence Unit within the West Jordan City Attorney's Office.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately, subject to any necessary public hearing and required budget amendment process.

Adopted by the City Council of West Jordan, Utah, this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

CITY OF WEST JORDAN

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Kim Rolfe

\_\_\_\_\_  
MELANIE BRIGGS, City Clerk

Voting by the City Council

"AYE"

"NAY"

Jeff Haaga

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Judy Hansen

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Chris McConnehey

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Chad Nichols

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Ben Southworth

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Justin D. Stoker

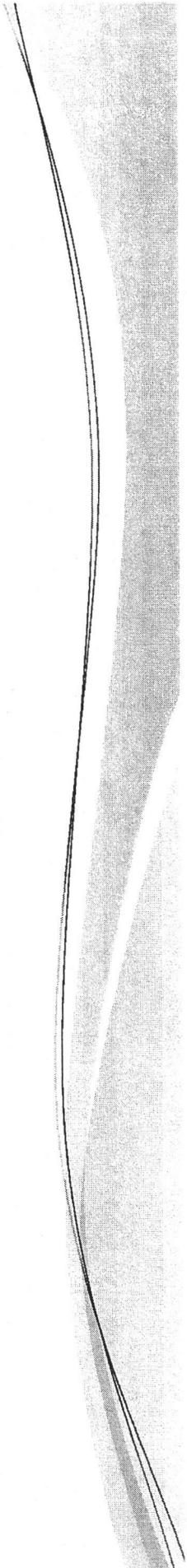
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Mayor Kim Rolfe

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**West Jordan's Domestic  
Violence Victim Assistance &  
Prosecution Programs**

Proposed Specialized Vertical Prosecution  
Domestic Violence Unit

# Historical Perspective-Victim

## Assistance

- 1993:
  - Program began with 1 full-time advocate.
  - West Jordan population was approximately 45,000 residents
- 1996:
  - A second advocate was hired
  - West Jordan population was approximately 49,000 residents



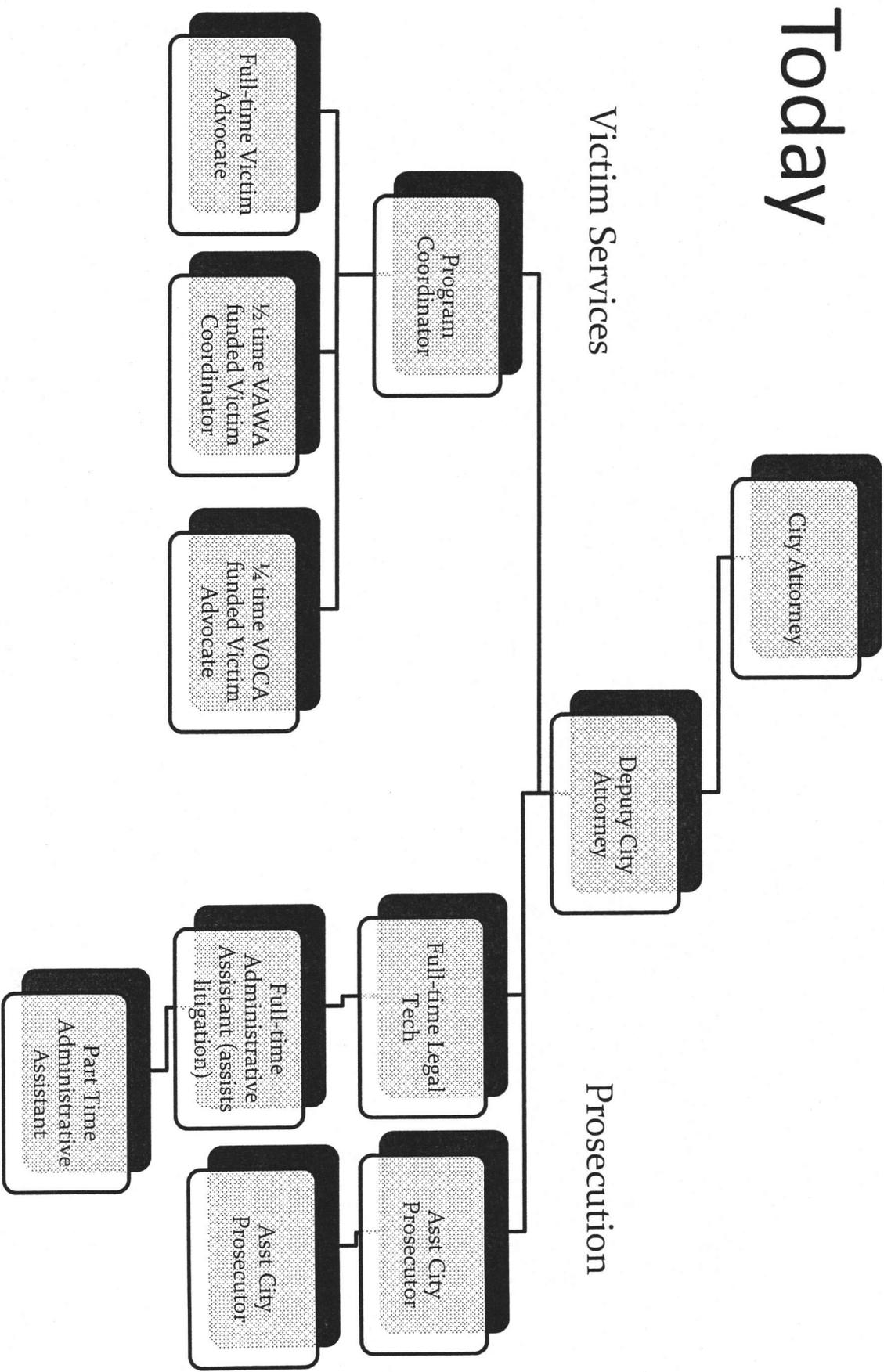
# Historical Perspective-Victim

## Assistance

- 1996-2012:
  - City's population increased to approximately 110,000 residents
  - No increase in victim advocates to meet growing need during that time
- Recent Growth in victim assistance program:
  - 2012-City obtained grant funding for a ½ time Victim/Witness Coordinator
  - 2013-City obtained grant funding for ¼ time Victim Advocate

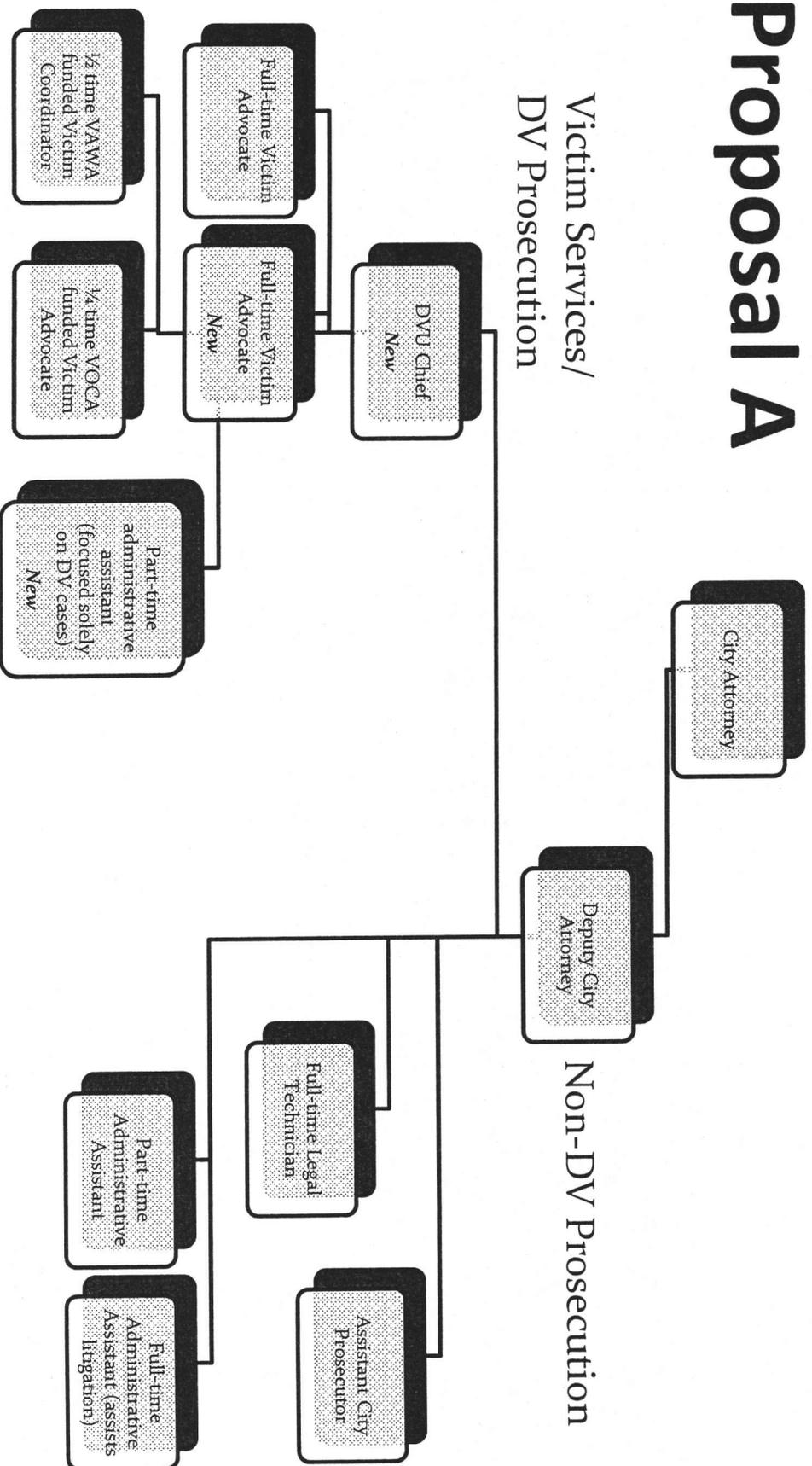
# Victim Services and Prosecution

## Today



# Victim Services/Prosecution

## Proposal A



# Increased Cost to City of

## Proposal A

- Increased cost to City
- One-time cost = \$2,300
- Ongoing cost = \$25,259/year

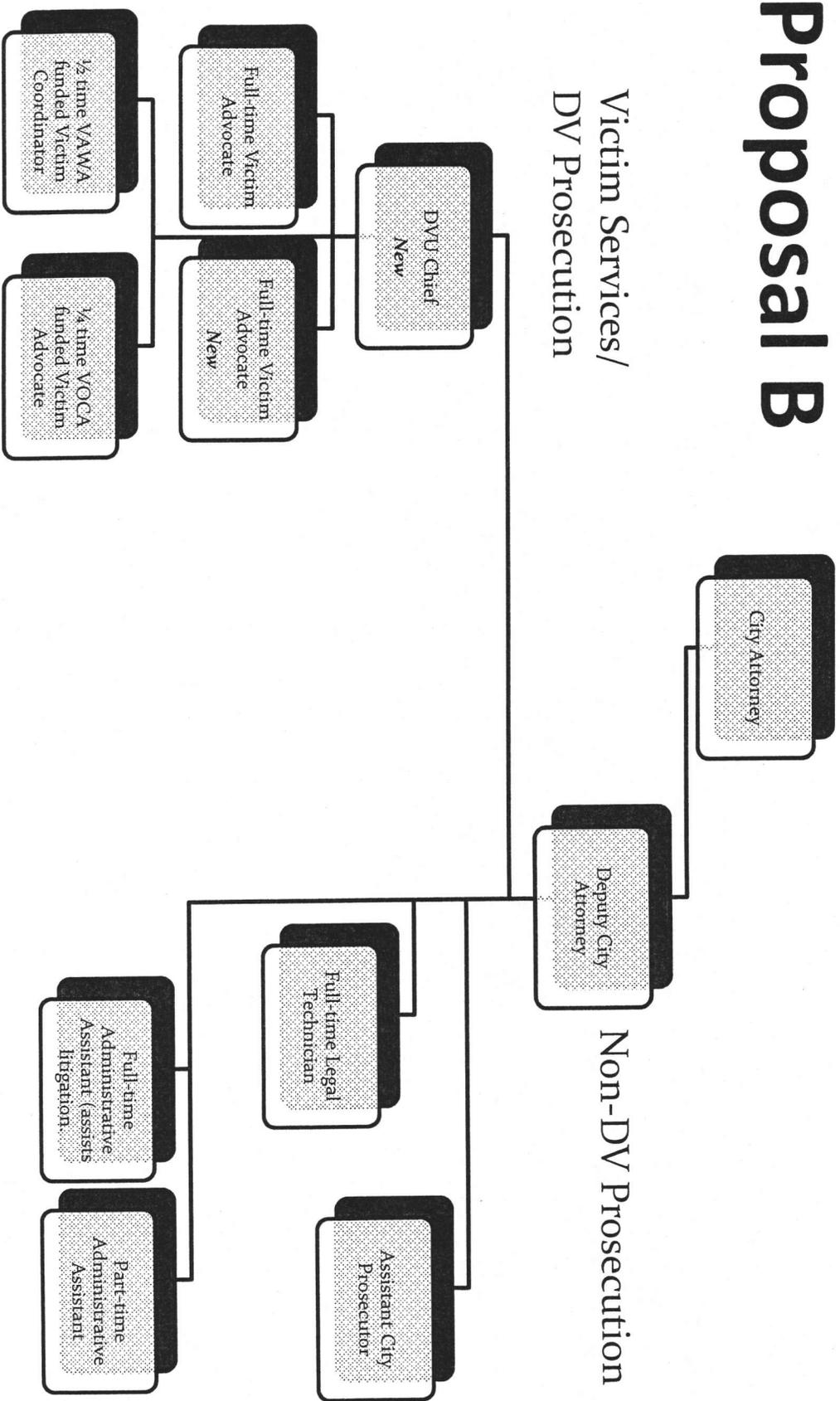
# Costs of Proposal A

Position	Adjusted Costs	Ongoing Cost increase	One-time Costs	
DVU Chief	\$17,111*	\$1000 – Training	0	
FT Advocate	(\$52,124)**	0	0	
PT Admin Assistant	\$15,335	0	Computer and phone \$1500 Office Furnishings \$800	
Increased Costs	\$24,259	\$1,000	One-time Total: \$2,300	Ongoing Total: \$25,259

\*Difference between Assistant City Prosecutor salary/benefits and new DVU Chief salary/benefits  
 \*\*Program Coordinator position currently costs city \$60,311, so this is an actual savings of \$8,187 for the city as that position will be eliminated and replaced with a full-time advocate position.

# Victim Services/Prosecution

## Proposal B



# Increased Cost to City of

## Proposal B

- Increased cost to City
- One-time cost = \$0
- Ongoing cost = \$9,924/year

# Costs of Proposal B

Position	Adjusted Costs	Ongoing Cost increase	One-time Costs	Ongoing Increase:
DVU Chief	\$17,111*	\$1,000 – Training	0	
FT Advocate	(\$52,124)**	0	0	
Increased Costs	\$8,924	\$1,000	One-Time Total: \$0	Ongoing Increase: \$9,924

\*Difference between Assistant City Prosecutor salary/benefits and new DVU Chief salary/benefits  
 \*\*Program Coordinator position currently costs the city \$60,311, so this is an actual savings of \$8,187 for the city as that position will be eliminated and replaced with a full-time advocate position.