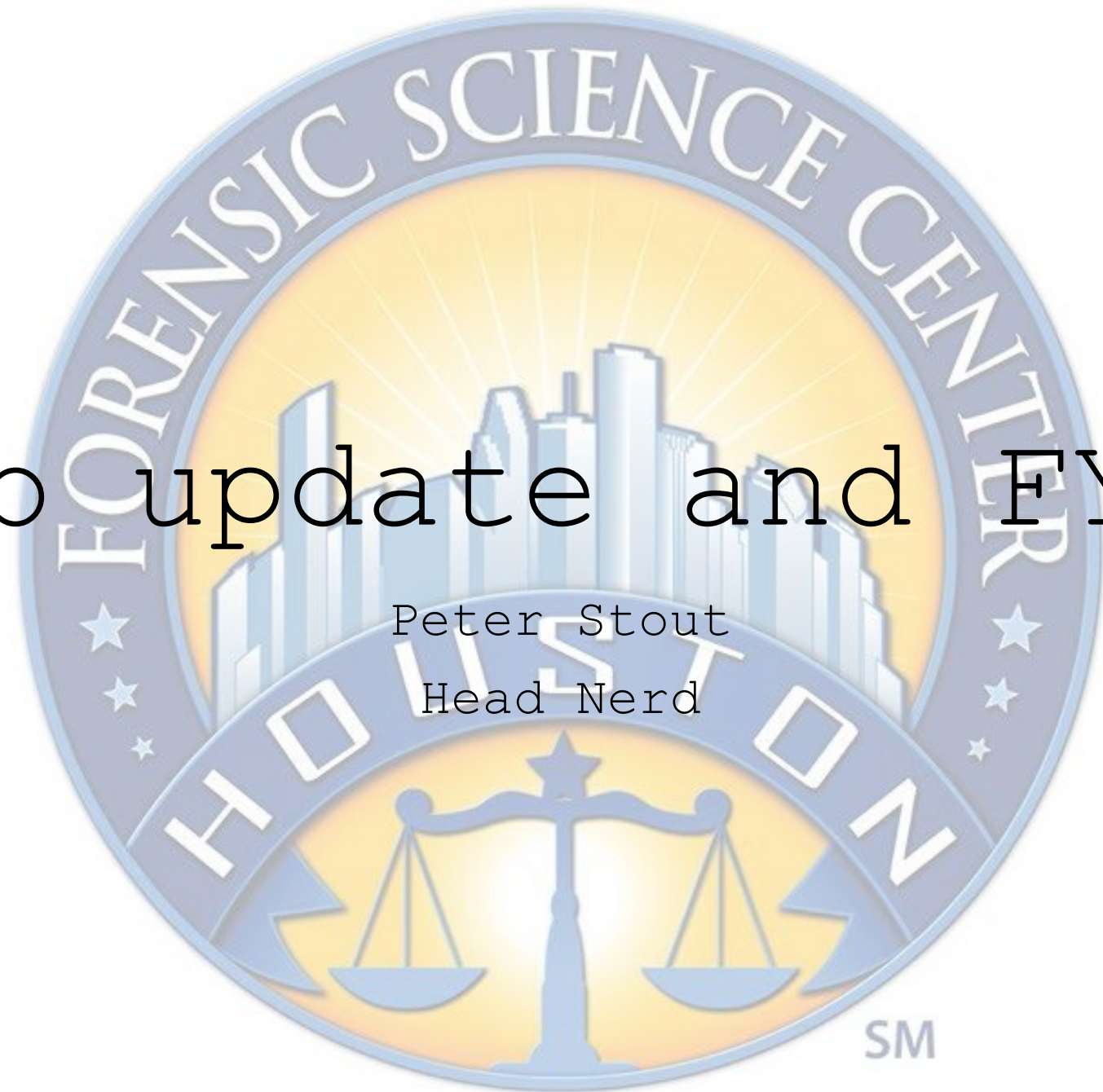


# Lab update and FY25

Peter Stout  
Head Nerd









# Cost of poor quality

## Cost of "wrong"

- The cost of one mistake = George Rodriguez ~\$9M
- 25,000 to 30,000 requests per CY
- Simple risk =  
**\$225B/year**

## The cost of "late"

- 4 homicides (~400 homicides/year)
- 70 sexual assaults (~1200 kits / year)  
**= FY25 proposed HFSC budget**

Murder by numbers: monetary costs imposed by a sample of homicide offenders, Matt DeLisi, Anna Kosloski, Molly Sween, Emily Hachmeister, Matt Moore and Alan Drury, *The Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology* Vol. 21, No. 4, August 2010, 501-513

Homicide = \$5M-\$14M

Rape = \$448K

Burglary = \$41K

# Balance of risk and cost

## How much to mitigate risk?

- 1:10,000 is ~3 failures/year
  - \$27M risk
- Statistically demonstrating a <1:5,000 error rate with blind testing
  - Would require >150,000 tests to have a 95% power
  - ~\$135M

## 1,000 blinds / year

- \$1M– \$2M
- 95% confidence that error rate is < 0.2%
- Currently we insert ~400/year

# ARPA summary

## Training and Technology Assistance

- ARPA funding has supported over **50,000 hours of analyst training** at HFSC
- ARPA is supporting two rounds of external firearms examiner training (**5 examiners will be trained** using this method)
- ARPA funds are supporting the **purchase of new technology (3D Scopes) in Firearms**
- ARPA supported the training needed to rebuild the HFSC latent print processing unit (**Backlog Cleared**)

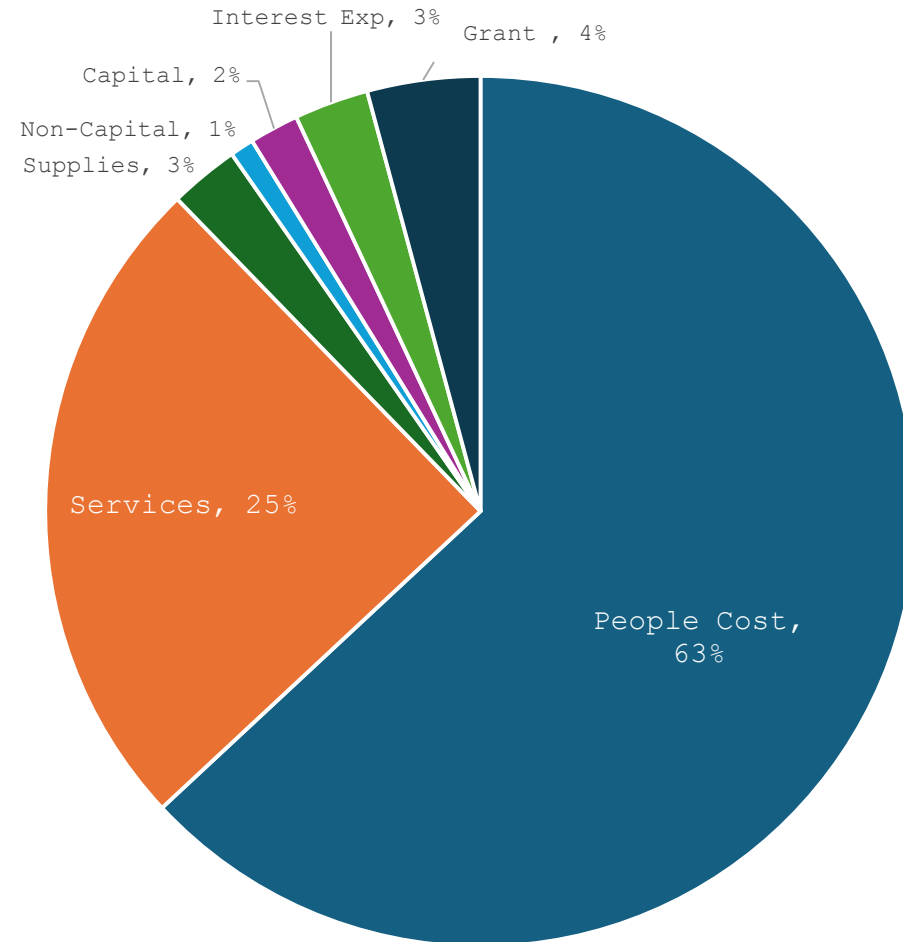
## Backlog Assistance

- ARPA supported Toxicology outsourcing (**Backlog reduced by 89%**)
- ARPA supported DME outsourcing and efficiency improvements (**Backlog Cleared**)

# HFSC FY25 Budget

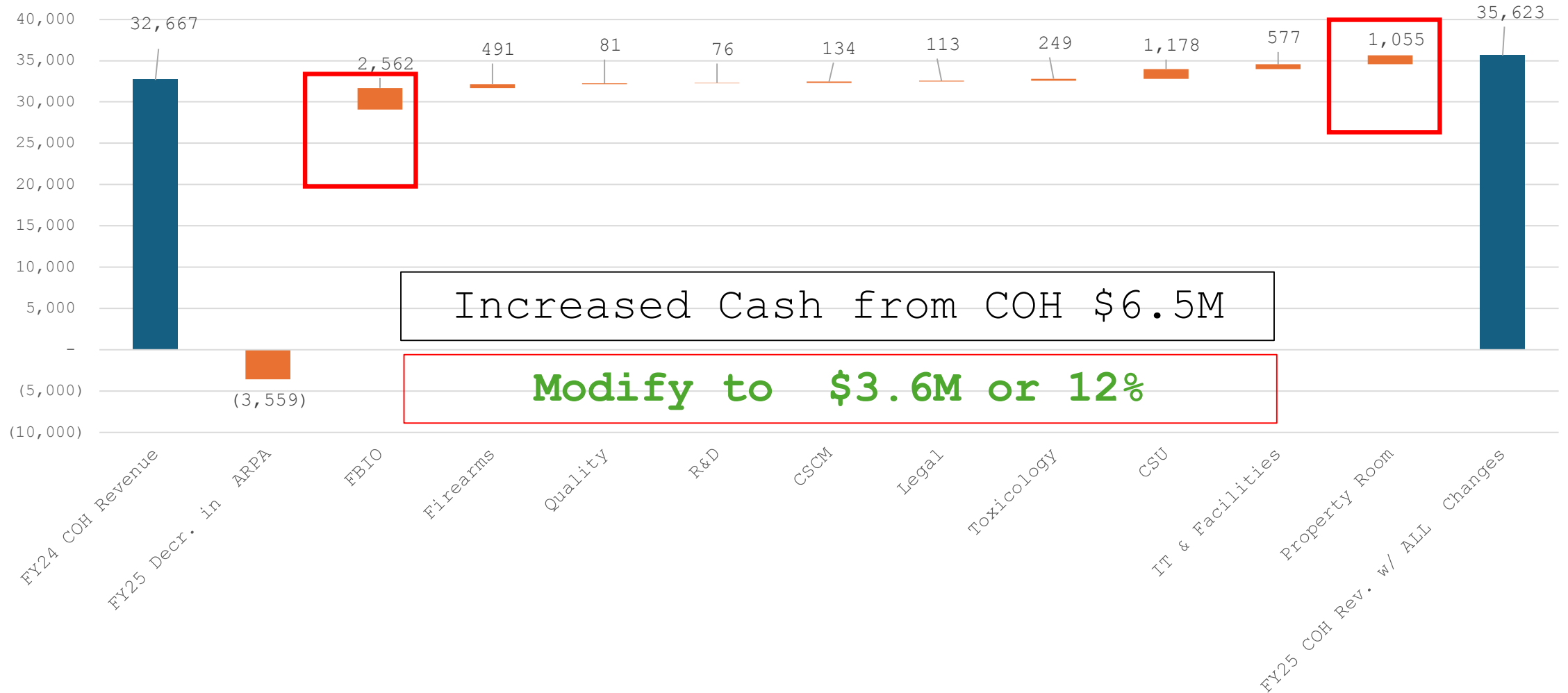
# HFSC FY25 Budget

## An Overview of our Spending





# HFSC FY25 BUDGET



# HFSC FY25 Growth Initiatives

	Headcount	Wages	Services	IT	Capital	Total
<b>FBIO</b>	7	533	2,004	27		2,563
<b>Firearms</b>	3	221	259	12	-	492
<b>CSU</b>	14	945	31	39	164	1,180
<b>Tox</b>	2	138	7	5	100	249
<b>CSCM</b>	2	123	4	8	-	135
<b>IT</b>	1	106	-	2	400	508
<b>Legal</b>	1	110	-	2	-	113
<b>HR</b>	1	74	-	3	-	76
<b>Quality</b>	1	77	1	2	-	81
<b>Facilities</b>	1	68	-	2	-	69
<b>R&amp;D</b>	1	74	-	2	-	76
<b>Property Room</b>			1,055			1,055
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2,468</b>	<b>3,361</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>6,596</b>

Public Safety

# Prosecutors, advocates concerned that backlogged crime lab is delaying murder trials

by Clare Amari / Staff Writer  
August 30, 2023



# AVERAGE NUMBER OF MONTHS VICTIMS' FAMILIES HAVE TO WAIT FROM FILING TO TRIAL



**2017**

- Firearms: <1 month
- Seized drug <0.3 month
- 2,500 subpoenas

**2023**

- Firearms: 9 month
- Seized drug 3.5 month
- 3,800 subpoenas
- At the END of 2023 more than 56% for cases 2021 or earlier

**2015**

- Firearms: <1 month
- Seized drug <0.3 month
- 2,000 subpoenas

**2018**

- Firearms: <1 month
- Seized drug <0.3 month
- 2,500 subpoenas

**2020**

- Firearms: ~1.5 month
- Seized drug <0.3 month
- 1,300 subpoenas
- Pitched an increased budget

**2022**

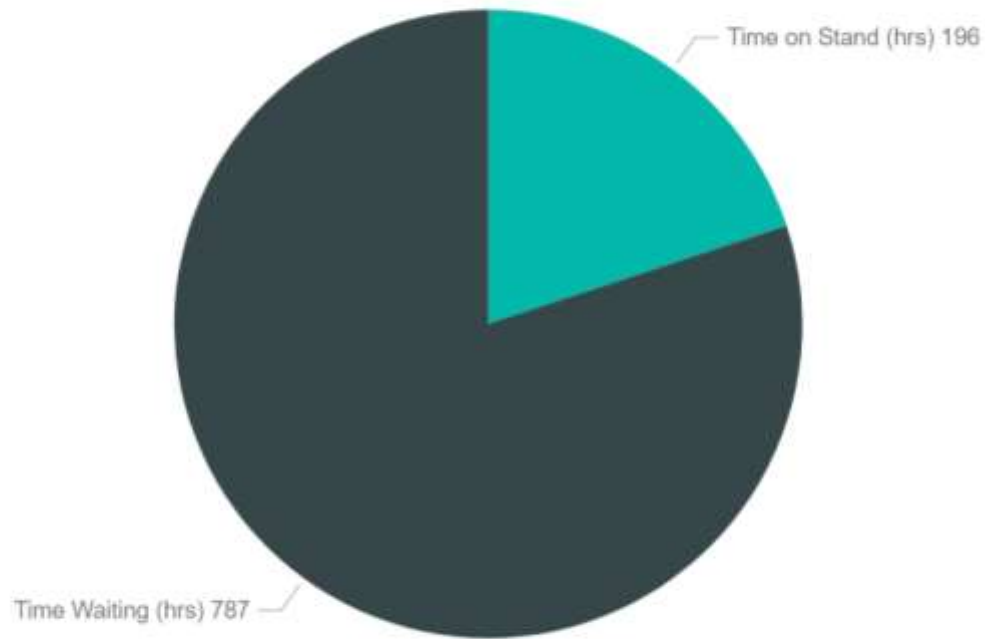
- Firearms: 3.2 month
- Seized drug 2 month
- 4,500 subpoenas

Source: Harris County District Attorney's Office

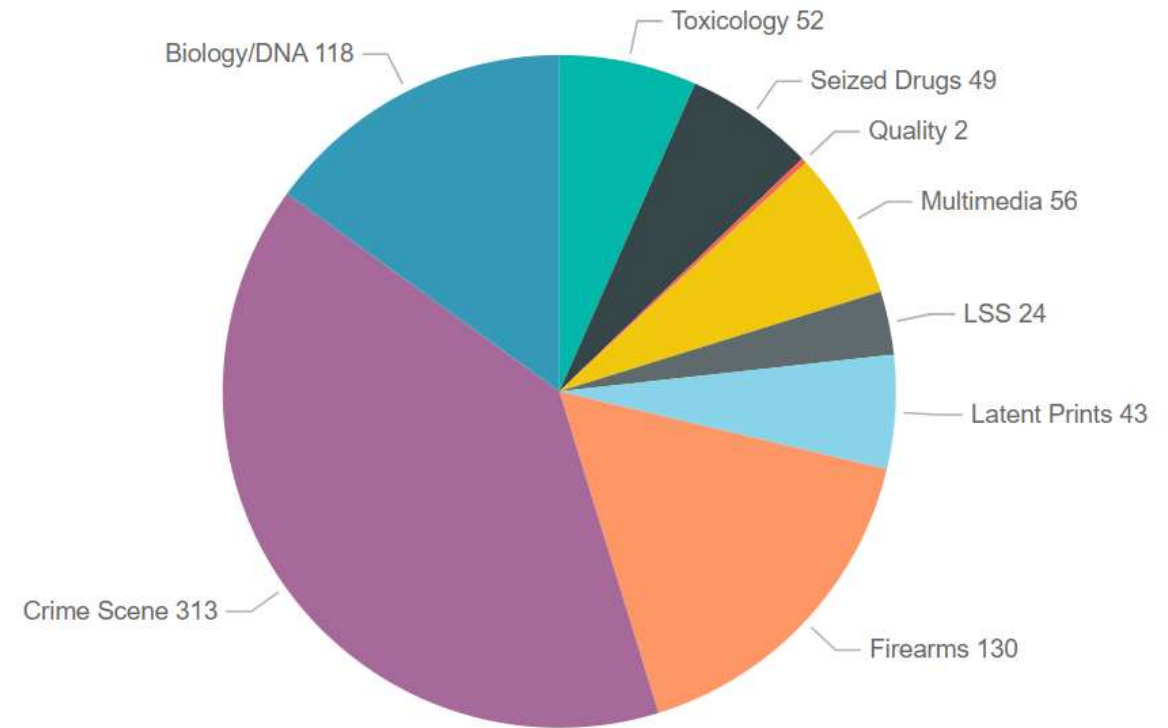
Data as of Aug

# Last 12 months Testimony

TIME ON STAND VS. TIME WAITING (HRS)



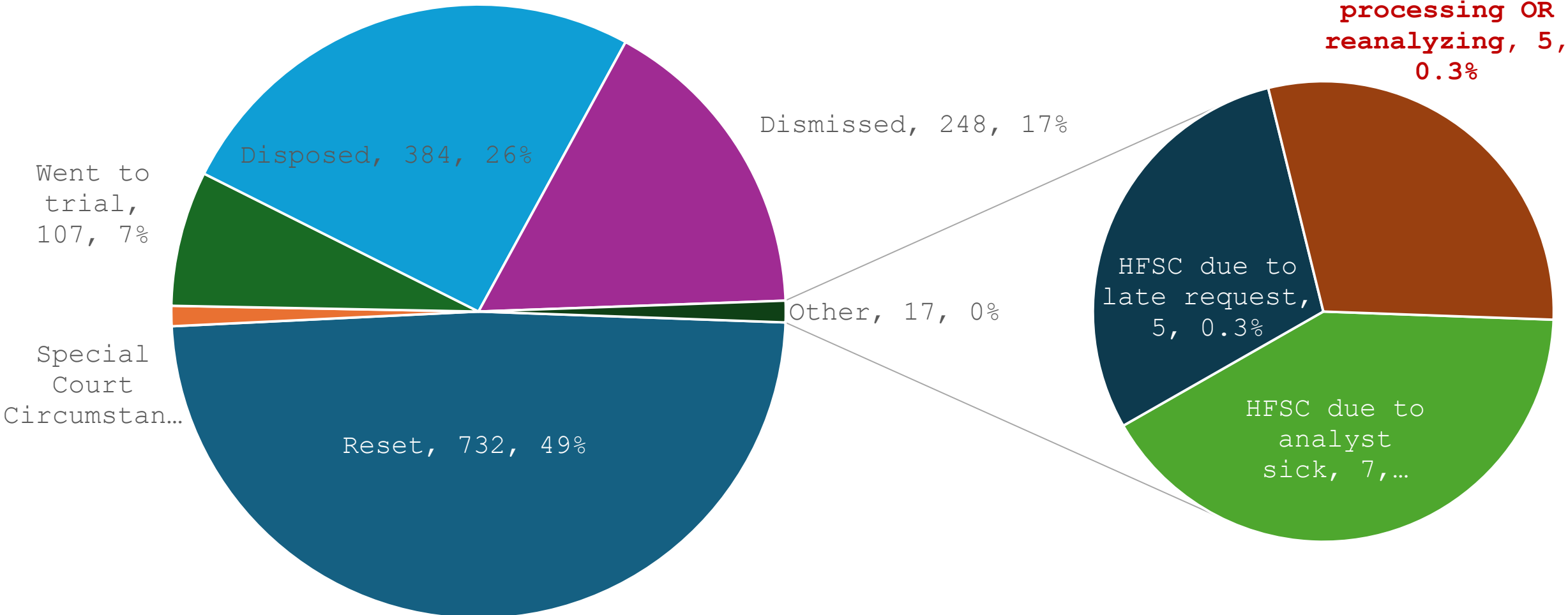
TIME WAITING (HRS) BY SECTION



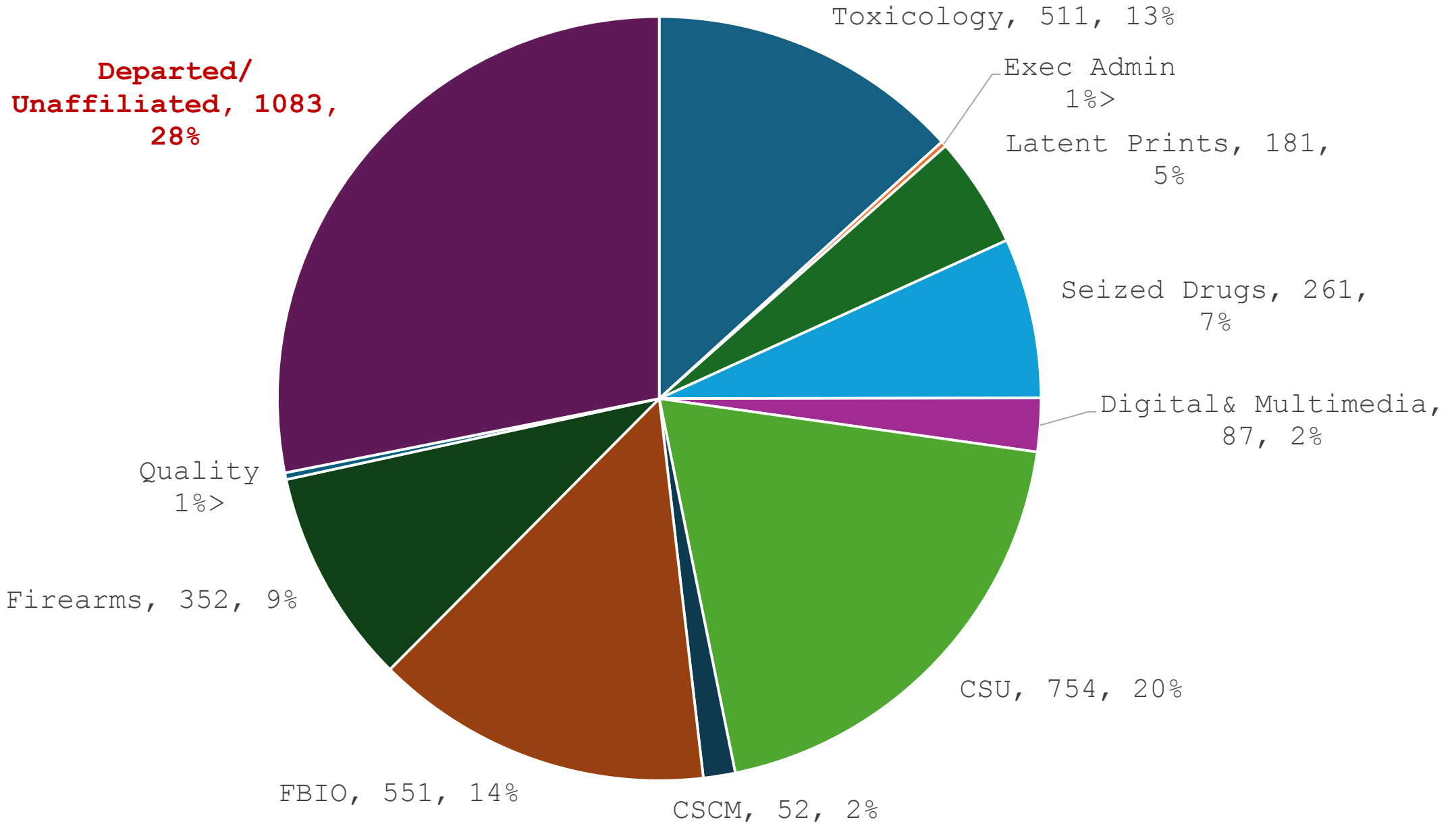


# 3,852 subpoenas for 1,491 cases with court dates

**HFSC due to slow processing OR reanalyzing, 5, 0.3%**




# Disciplines Subpoenaed (Percentages)



**Public Safety**

# Houston forensic crime lab seeks funding boost to help tackle evidence backlog

 by Monroe Trombly  
March 22, 2024

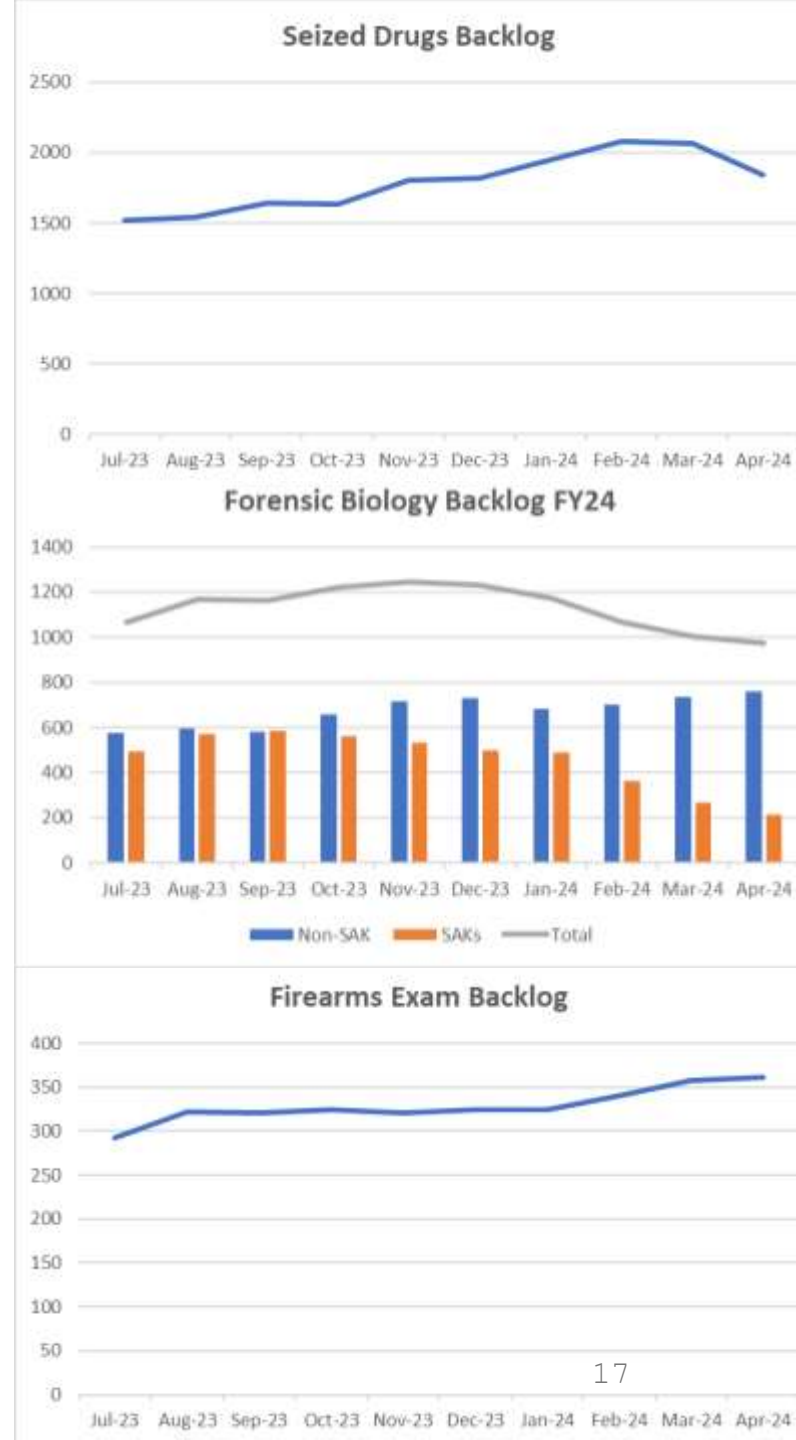
"I still have the opinion that he's the wrong man for the job," Griffith said. "But again, that's a city issue, that's a mayor issue outside my realm of expertise. I will just say that if someone is running a company the way Dr. Stout has run that, they would be gone. I'm hoping he can turn that

# Current backlog trends

In all areas except Forensic Biology, Seized Drugs, and Firearms backlogs have been reduced or eliminated.

The Forensic Biology Backlog held steady in total in FY24, with outsourcing the **SAK backlog decreased**. The backlog of in-house work increased.

The Seized Drugs and Firearms backlog continued to increase in FY24.



HPD Property Division  
Transition to HFSC



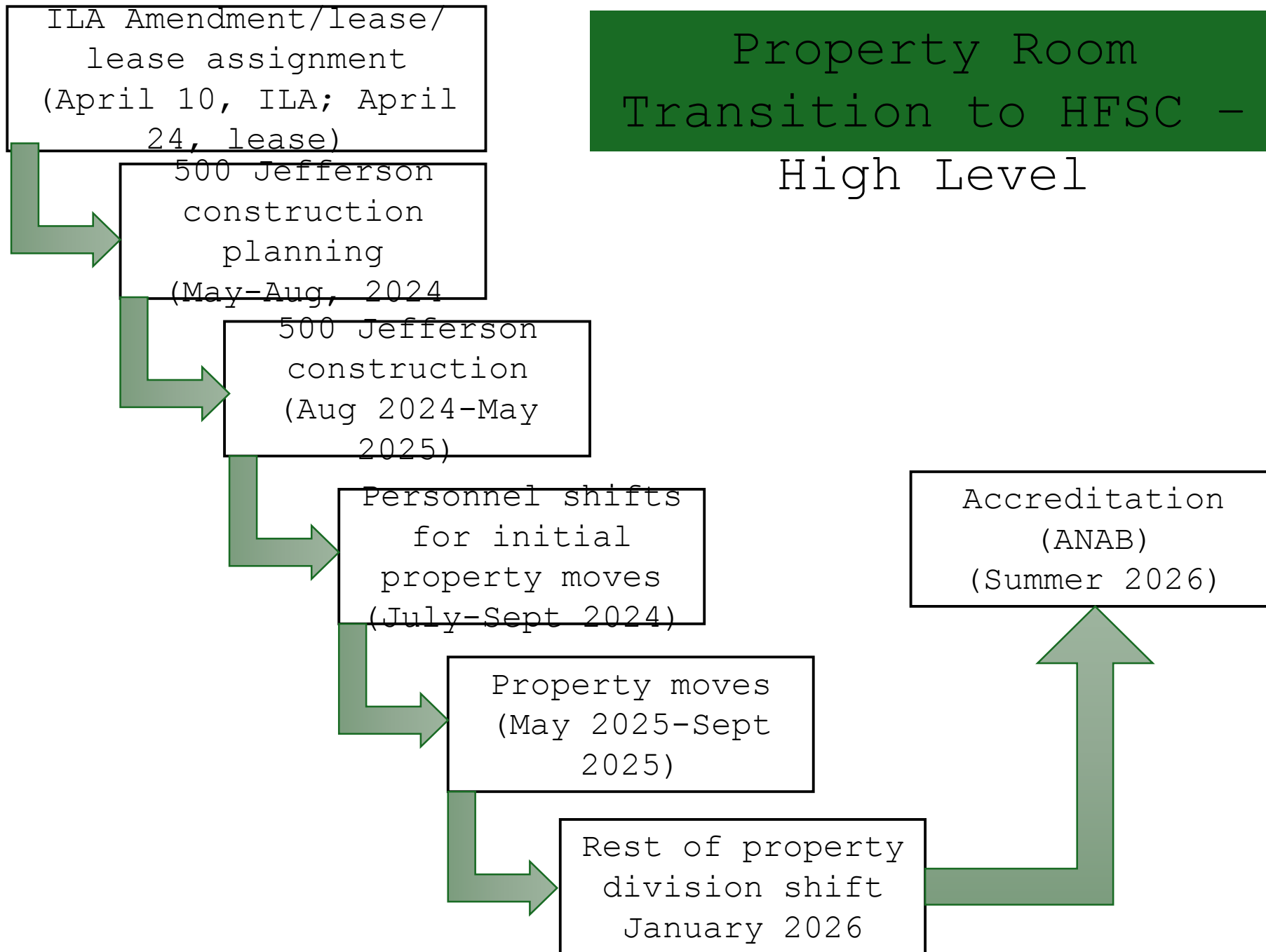
# Concept

- Ultimately, consolidation of property and evidence management as a core service city/county wide
  - Standardize evidence collection
  - Optimize collection for officer ease
  - Increase efficiency for labs, LEAs and for courts
- Start with moving HPD property division to HFSC
  - Move bulk drug storage out of 1200 Travis to 500 Jefferson
  - Move freezer/refrigerated storage from 1201 Washington to 500 Jefferson
  - Staff shift in two parts, drug/frozen staff initially
  - 1201 Washington property facility, balance of property division staff shift next
  - Property management costs (personnel etc) shift via fund

# Lease amendments

- Add basement space and construction to safely store evidence (~28,000 sqft)
- Adds the 12<sup>th</sup> floor for anticipated personnel shifts
- Turnkey solution. Design, construction, freezer equipment are amortized into the lease
- Retains the same per sqft rent and OpEx of the original lease (costs from 6 years ago)

# Property Room Transition to HFSC – High Level





# CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

**The ANSI National Accreditation Board**

Hereby attests that

**Houston Forensic Science Center**  
500 Jefferson Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 USA

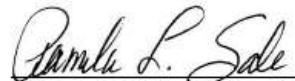
Fulfills the requirements of

**Accreditation Requirements for the Management and  
Operation of Property and Evidence Control Units:2023**

In the field of

**Property and Evidence Control**

This certificate is valid only when accompanied by a current scope of accreditation document.  
The current scope of accreditation can be verified at [www.anab.org](http://www.anab.org).

  
Pamela L. Sale, Vice President, Forensics

Expiry Date: 30 April 2026  
Certificate Number: PE-0001

