

Public Defender
RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2021-22

MISSION

The mission of the Department is to provide legal representation for people charged with criminal offenses who cannot afford to hire private counsel. The Public Defender’s Office provides quality legal services in a compassionate and professional manner, providing constitutional balance to the El Dorado County legal system.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET SUMMARY

DEPT : 23 PUBLIC DEFENDER

Description	Prior Year Actual	Current Year Adopted	CAO Recommended	Difference from Adopted
IG Rev - State	342,550	267,147	497,170	230,023
Service Charges	0	45,000	20,000	(25,000)
Other Fin Sources	46,250	188,759	53,000	(135,759)
Total Revenue	388,800	500,906	570,170	69,264
Salaries & Benefits	3,318,741	4,037,886	4,011,071	(26,815)
Services & Supplies	375,731	410,015	696,330	286,315
Fixed Assets	40,250	0	0	0
Other Fin Uses	58,137	8,000	0	(8,000)
Intrafund Transfers	62,493	51,736	58,614	6,878
Total Appropriations	3,855,352	4,507,637	4,766,015	258,378
FUND 1000 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	3,466,553	4,006,731	4,195,845	189,114

MAJOR BUDGET CHANGES

Revenues

State Revenue

\$230,023 Increase in revenue from the State, due to anticipated growth in Public Safety Sales Tax of \$75,403 and receipt of grant funding awarded by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) in FY 2020-21 in the amount of \$154,620.

Service Charges

(\$25,000) Decrease in charges for services due to the passage of legislation prohibiting cost recovery from clients in criminal cases.

Other Financing Sources

(\$135,759) Decrease in the use of the Public Safety Realignment District Attorney/Public Defender subaccount. Additional funding from this account was included in the FY 2020-21 Adopted Budget in response to the CAO’s request for departments to find ways to

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reduce General Fund use, with little or no impact to services, in anticipation of potential negative fiscal impacts related to the coronavirus pandemic.

Appropriations

Salaries and Benefits

(\$26,815) Decreases in the Workers' Compensation charge (\$14,918), to bring the program funding level to an acceptable confidence level as provided by the Risk Management Division, health benefits (\$63,883), due to employee elections, and long term disability insurance, Medicare and retiree health costs (\$5,395) are offset by increases in salaries (\$5,530), CalPERS retirement costs (\$50,553), and unemployment insurance and deferred compensation (\$1,298).

Services and Supplies

\$286,315 Increase is due mainly to General Liability Insurance Premium expense, as departmental charges are resuming after a rate holiday in Fiscal Year 2020-21 (\$270,500). The remainder of the increase (\$15,815) is due to the restoration of the staff development and travel budget in anticipation of reduced travel restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

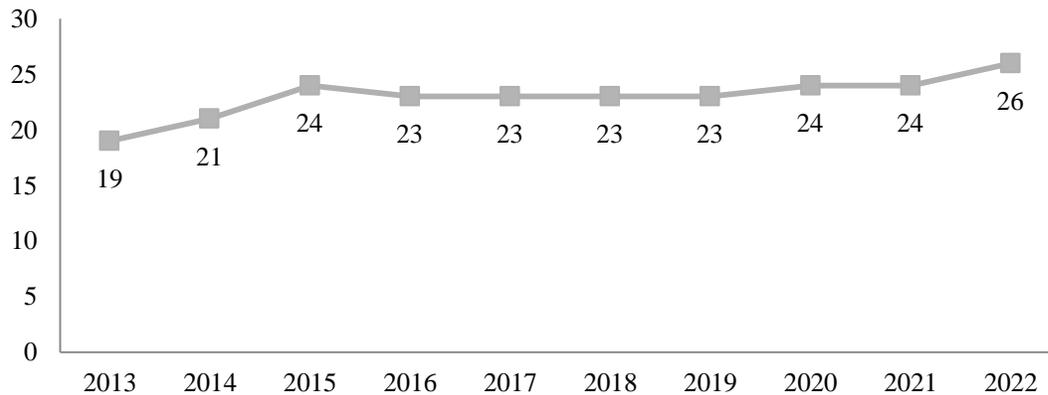
The functions of the Public Defender's Office are defined by California state law and the County Charter. The Public Defender provides legal representation, including investigative services, to adults and juveniles charged with criminal offenses who cannot afford to retain the services of a private attorney. The Department also represents those who require conservatorship, as they are unable to care for themselves and/or manage their financial affairs. The Department is a partner in several specialty courts, such as Veterans' Court, Behavioral Health Court, Proposition 36/Drug Court, and the Family Wellness Court with the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians. The Department also participates in standing committees, such as the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), and the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP). Clients of the Department include:

- Adults accused of felonies or misdemeanors who cannot afford private counsel, including both new cases and violations of probation (VOP), and those requiring mandatory community supervision (MCS) or post-release community supervision (PRCS);
- Juveniles accused of felonies or misdemeanors whose parents cannot afford private counsel, including both new cases and VOP;
- Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) conservatees (mentally ill persons who are gravely disabled) on petitions to establish or re-establish conservatorship, on petitions for involuntary psychotropic medication, and on writs for involuntary psychiatric hospitalization;
- Probate conservatees (seniors and developmentally delayed persons who are unable to care for themselves) on petitions to establish the initial conservatorship and/or on petitions to renew the conservatorship; and

- Clients in specialty courts, such as Behavioral Health Court, Veterans’ Court, Proposition 36/Drug Court, and Family Wellness Court, when accepted into those programs as part of the overall justice mandate to reduce recidivism and facilitate re-entry into the community.

STAFFING TREND

Staffing for the Public Defender’s Office has changed little over the last ten years. The recommended staff allocation for FY 2021-22 is 26 FTEs, which includes an increase of 2.0 Limited Term FTEs from the FY 2020-21 Adopted Budget. These allocations were added in April, 2021, to provide services funded through a grant from the BSCC. No changes have been requested in the Recommended Budget.



RECOMMENDED BUDGET

This Budget is recommended at \$4,766,015, which is an increase of \$258,378 (5.7%) when compared to the FY 2020-21 Adopted Budget. The General Fund provides 88% of the funding for the Department, and total General Fund support is increased by \$189,114 (4.7%) when compared to the FY 2020-21 Adopted Budget.

Sources & Uses of Funds

The Department is primarily funded with discretionary General Fund revenue; however, the Department does receive a share of the Public Safety sales tax (\$342,550), as well as funding from Public Safety Realignment (\$53,000). The Public Safety Realignment funding will be used as matching funds for the BSCC grant (\$47,000) and for staff training (\$6,000).