

Public Defender

The Public Defender's office provides legal advice, counsel, and defense services to needy and financially indigent citizens accused of crimes, as required by Florida law. The County portion of the budget funds the Public Defender's technology requirements, as required by Article V of the State Constitution, as well as optional programs such as Jail Diversion, Incompetent to Proceed, Juvenile Crossover, Ready for Life, and Road to Success.

Budget Summary

	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budget	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Request	Budget to Budget Change	Budget to Budget % Change
Operating Expenses	\$1,095,396	\$1,311,103	\$1,434,075	\$1,895,370	\$1,895,370	\$1,968,860	\$73,490	3.9%
Capital Outlay	\$4,564	\$4,190	\$-	\$26,970	\$26,970	\$31,620	\$4,650	17.2%
Total	\$1,099,960	\$1,315,294	\$1,434,075	\$1,922,340	\$1,922,340	\$2,000,480	\$78,140	4.1%

	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budget	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Request	Budget to Budget Change	Budget to Budget % Change
Document Recording Fee	\$101,195	\$152,205	\$192,147	\$123,130	\$183,730	\$207,070	\$83,940	68.2%
Grant Funding	\$60,000	\$133,550	\$200,017	\$579,320	\$579,320	\$584,840	\$5,520	1.0%
General Fund Support	\$998,765	\$1,029,539	\$1,041,911	\$1,219,890	\$1,159,290	\$1,208,570	\$(11,320)	-0.9%
Total Public Defender Budget	\$1,159,960	\$1,315,294	\$1,434,075	\$1,922,340	\$1,922,340	\$2,000,480	\$78,140	4.1%
Docu. Recording Fee %	8.7%	11.6%	13.4%	6.4%	9.6%	10.4%		
Grant Funding %	5.2%	10.2%	13.9%	30.1%	30.1%	29.2%		
GF Support %	86.1%	78.3%	72.7%	63.5%	60.3%	60.4%		

The County's portion of the Public Defender's budget is used to maintain and replace various technology according to planned replacement schedule, as well as various programs. A portion of General Fund support is derived from the Document Recording Fee which is applied to Article V court technology expenses, while the other programs are funded through grants and other General Fund revenues.

- **Jail Diversion** is a collaborative effort of the Public Defender, State Attorney, Pinellas County Sheriff, the Judiciary, and local service providers to reduce the incidence and length of incarceration of individuals diagnosed with mental illness or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorder. This discretionary program is fund with non-dedicated General Fund revenue.
- **Chronic Inebriate** program aims to lower jail population and reduce recidivism by assisting offenders with mental health therapy to address alcohol and drug use. This discretionary program is fund with non-dedicated General Fund revenue.
- **Ready for Life** assist youth who are aging out of the foster care system to find employment, housing, and other vital skills which can help them become

successful and achieve independence. This discretionary program is fund with non-dedicated General Fund revenue.

- **Juvenile Crossover Case Managers** support juvenile offenders, between 12 – 19 years of age, who are transitioning out of foster care. This discretionary program is fund with non-dedicated General Fund revenue.
 - **Incompetent to Proceed** provides case management assistance to non-violent criminal misdemeanor offenders who have mental health issues. This discretionary program is fund with non-dedicated General Fund revenue.
 - **Road to Success** provides an intensive diversion services program to juvenile and young adults ages 14 – 21 who have mental illness, substance use disorder, or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, and who are in, or at risk of entering, the delinquency and dependency systems. This program is grant funded.
 - **Assisted Outpatient Treatment** increases capacity of services among individuals in Pinellas County with serious mental illness through court-ordered outpatient treatment services. The County partners with several organizations to provide these services which will increase short-term treatment adherence, promote long-term voluntary compliance, and reduces incidents and/or duration of hospitalization, homelessness, arrests, and incarcerations. This program is grant funded.
- Total FY22 Budget Request is a \$78,140 (4.1%) increase to \$2.0M.
 - **Operating** expenses increase \$73,490 (3.9%) to \$2.0M.
 - Includes communications, office supplies, and computer monitor replacements.
 - Also includes funding for the Jail Diversion (\$486,360) and Chronic Inebriate (\$250,000) programs, as well as expenditures related to the SAMHSA Assisted Outpatient Treatment grant (\$184,840) for an Attorney, and the CJMHS Road to Success grant (\$400,000).
 - The County also funds a ‘Ready for Life’ therapist (\$82,820), two Juvenile Crossover Case Managers (\$154,860) and two ‘Incompetent to Proceed’ therapists (\$196,410).
 - **Capital Outlay** increase by \$4,650 (17.2%) to \$31,620.
 - Replacing 14 computers and accessories according to BTS replacement schedule.
 - Each year, Public Defender is given a **Target** for their non-Article V budget.
 - FY22 Request is \$1.8M, \$23,990 **below** Target.
 - The **Public Defender** and **State Attorney** have both submitted information requesting funding for a new case management system. Public Defender is requesting \$65,000 for yearly maintenance fee and license, while the State Attorney is requesting \$308,260 for initial set-up and installation, and \$152,410 for yearly maintenance fee and license. The Public Defender submitted their initial

invoices for both STACWeb and Portal to the State for reimbursement, which was approved. Ongoing costs are considered part of Article V requirements. Total cost of the systems and licenses are shared between Pinellas County and Pasco County.

- If approved, this funding would be added to the BTS budget as part of their Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) budget.
- The percentage of General Fund Support decreases from 63.5% in FY21 Budget to 60.4% in FY22 Request.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Budget by Program
- Attachment 2 – Decision Package
- Attachment 3 – Organizational Chart