

0324 – PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION

FISCAL YEAR 2026

As Enacted by Act 1016 of 2025

The Public Defender Commission was created to address a variety of concerns relating to the representation of indigent criminal defendants in Arkansas.

TOTAL APPROPRIATION

| Appropriation | | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 | 2025-2026 |
|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | Actual | Authorized | Legislative |
| 1VA | Ombudsman Program | \$75,509 | \$77,351 | \$80,491 |
| 337 | Public Defender-Operations | \$3,576,400 | \$3,799,753 | \$3,973,857 |
| 530 | Public Defender - Trial Office | \$27,127,620 | \$30,294,936 | \$35,596,803 |
| X66 | Commission for Parent Counsel | \$4,199,720 | \$4,780,776 | \$4,780,925 |
| Total | | \$34,979,249 | \$38,952,816 | \$44,432,076 |

FUNDING SOURCES

| Funding Sources | | 2023-2024 | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------------|
| | | Actual | % |
| Fund Balance | 4000005 | \$4,134,463 | 10.04 |
| Federal Revenue | 4000020 | \$2,572,150 | 6.25 |
| Special Revenue | 4000030 | \$11,620 | 0.03 |
| State Central Services | 4000035 | \$27,921,500 | 67.81 |
| Cash Fund | 4000045 | \$107 | 0.00 |
| Bail Bond Fees | 4000115 | \$847,040 | 2.06 |
| Inter-agency Fund Transfer | 4000316 | \$1,732 | 0.00 |
| Miscellaneous Adjustments | 4000345 | \$300 | 0.00 |
| Other | 4000370 | \$43 | 0.00 |
| Rebates | 4000412 | \$1,088 | 0.00 |
| Transfer from DHS | 4000510 | \$1,013,848 | 2.46 |
| Transfer from DHS-DYS | 4000515 | \$83,424 | 0.20 |
| Transfer State Admn of Justice | 4000570 | \$3,108,612 | 7.55 |
| User / Attorney Fees | 4000725 | \$1,479,906 | 3.59 |
| Total Funds | | \$41,175,833 | 100.00 |
| Excess Appropriation/(Funding) | | (\$3,610,208) | |
| Grand Total | | \$37,565,625 | |

Change Level Requests

Trial Public Defender Office

| Commitment Item | | 2025-2026 | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Legislative | Change Level |
| 5010000 | Regular Salaries | \$21,935,305 | \$2,800,000 |

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 5010003 | Personal Services Matching | \$7,158,242 | \$1,200,000 |
| Total | | \$29,093,547 | \$4,000,000 |

POSITIONS

Total Authorized Positions FY20226: 346

Total Authorized Positions FY2025: 289

Increase / (Decrease): 57

Extra Help Positions FY2026: 20

SPECIAL LANGUAGE REVISIONS

No Changes.