



**OKLAHOMA**  
Indigent Defense  
System

# Oklahoma Indigent Defense System

**FY 2025 Budget Hearing Presentation**

Submitted by: Charles "Tim" Laughlin, Executive Director

# Charles “Tim” Laughlin

Executive Director



The **Oklahoma Indigent Defense System** implements the Indigent Defense Act by providing trial, appellate, and post-conviction criminal defense services to persons who have been judicially determined to be entitled to legal counsel at State expense. The mission of the System is to provide indigents with legal representation comparable to that obtainable by those who can afford counsel and to do so in the most cost-effective manner possible.

Founded in **1991**, this agency now encompasses the following divisions:

- Trial Program
  - Non-Capital Trial
  - Capital Trial Norman
  - Capital Trial Tulsa
- Appellate Program
  - Appellate West
  - Appellate East
- General Operations
  - Executive

# Agency Vision, Mission and Core Values

**Vision:** As a critical component of the Oklahoma criminal justice system, we carry out its constitutional and statutory responsibilities with diligence and integrity. We will deliver quality legal services to our court-appointed clients and always maintain the confidence and respect of the judiciary. We will be recognized as leaders in and a valuable resource to the legal profession. We will set an example in cost-effective State agency management.

**Mission:** To provide indigents with legal representation comparable to that obtained by those who can afford counsel and to do so in the most cost-effective manner possible.

**Core Values:** Integrity, Accountability, Teamwork, Responsiveness, and Respect.



# Accomplishments

## Top accomplishments for FY 2023 – FY 2024

- 1) Opened non-capital trial satellite office in El Reno July 2023 and incorporated four (4) additional counties into our non-capital trial satellite office service areas.
- 2) Significantly increased training opportunities for attorneys, investigators, and support staff.
- 3) Implemented an internship program to providing paid positions for up to 18 law students. The internship program has proven to be an effective recruiting tool.
- 4) Implemented a client services program designed to improve the disposition of our clients' cases by pairing clients with service providers.
- 5) Revised salary schedules to improve recruitment and retention of highly qualified and talented attorneys, investigators, and support staff.



# Challenges

## Top Challenges (current & upcoming years)

- 1) The agency continues to struggle to recruit and retain personnel particularly in the rural parts of the state.
- 2) Many of the agency's clients face educational, mental health, cognitive, substance abuse, and employment challenges. These challenges directly impact the agency's ability to secure proportionate and outcome-driven disposition options for our clients.
- 3) The agency's county contract model continues to show signs of systemic strain in some areas.
- 4) Client-related data collection and analysis challenges inhibit the agency's ability to develop policies and advise the legislature regarding district court-level criminal justice trends and practices.
- 5) Legislative changes and the increasingly complicated nature of indigent defense continues to place additional time and effort burdens on our non-capital attorneys. (e.g., Court Financial Obligation advocacy, client mental health challenges, and specialty court participation.)



# Savings & Efficiencies (Current or Planned)

Savings or Efficiency Name	Brief description of how savings were achieved	Savings in Unit of Measurement*	FY 2023 (Actual \$ Savings)	FY 2024 (Projected \$ Savings)	FY 2025 (Projected \$ Savings)
Salary parity with prosecutorial counterparts	OIDS Attorney Salaries relative to ADA Salaries	% difference	10%	7%	5%
Fleet/Travel	Better utilization of cost-efficient methods of travel, predominately via leased vehicles from OMES-FLEET	\$	\$15,000	\$16,000	\$18,000
Technology Services	Better utilization of technology to improve the following: personnel training, communication, records management, use of computer storage space and workflow coordination.	Hours	10	40	60
Opening of El Reno Satellite Office/Addition of Counties to Current Offices	Significantly improved quality of representation and more responsive service to the judicial system.	Hours	N/A	20	40

\* Hours, FTE, square feet, etc.



# Agency Goals and Key Performance Metrics

Goal		Metric	FY 22 Actuals	FY 23 Actuals	FY 24 Target	FY 29 Target
1	Continue to Provide Effective Legal Representation to Court-Appointed Clients on Appeal.	This performance measure reflects the number of cases handled by the agency's Appeals Division pending before the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals and projected caseload increases.	647	622	630	640
2	Continued Effective Legal Representation of Court-Appointed Clients in All cases Pending Before the Oklahoma District Courts – Capital Trial Program	This performance measure reflects the entire number of capital cases handled by the agency through staff and contract counsel, and projected caseload increases.	29	30	30	30
3	Continued Effective Legal Representation of Non-Capital Court-Appointed Cases by Contracting Attorneys – Non-Capital Trial Program	This performance measure reflects the number of cases handled by agency contract attorneys pursuant to conflict contracts, and projected caseload increases.	294	311	320	361
4	Continued Effective Legal Representation of Court-Appointed Clients in Areas Served by Non-Capital Trial Division Satellite Offices – Regional Offices	This performance measure reflects the number of cases handled by agency regional satellite office staff members, and projected case loads.	12,890	14,213	17,500	19,324
5	Continued Provision of Necessary Expert Services	This performance measure reflects the number of expert services contracts, and projected increases due to projected caseload increases.	85	81	90	110



# Projects for FY 2024 - 2025

## Projects

- 1) The agency will explore and implement improvements to its case management software.
- 2) The agency plans to collaborate with prosecutors to identify more efficient means of discovery exchange and document sharing.
- 3) The agency will continue to implement practices that foster mentorship relationships between more-experienced and less-experienced attorneys.
- 4) The agency will continue to organize and sponsor continuing professional development opportunities.
- 5) The agency will encourage criminal justice system shareholders to utilize our services.
- 6) Legislative change to increase statutory maximum of compensation fees, ensuring effective and experienced counsel will continue to represent court-appointed clients.
- 7) The agency will continue to develop the client resources program which is dedicated to improving the disposition of our clients' criminal cases by connecting clients to social services providers.
- 8) The agency will continue to develop our legal internship program which provides law students the opportunity to serve our clients within our appellate and trial divisions.
- 9) The agency will improve data collection and institute a data analysis program designed to assist agency practices and policy.



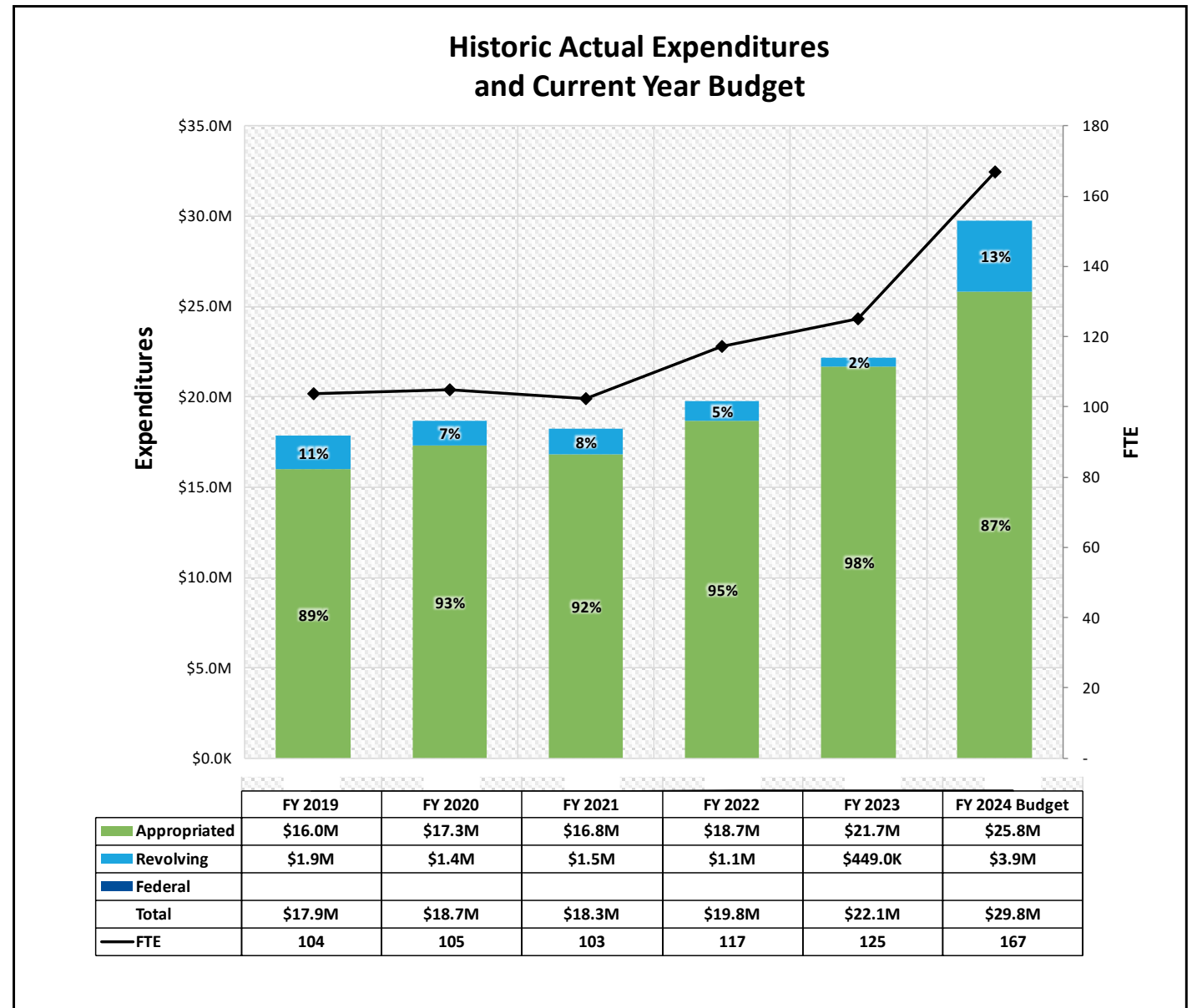


# Historic Actual Expenditures (FY 2019-23) and Current Year Budget (FY 2024)

## Explanation of Significant Changes and Trends

The agency has used recent fiscal year improvements in funding to address our challenges with recruiting and retention. Demographic challenges to staffing in more rural areas persists; however, the agency is making headway due to having sufficient resources to offer competitive salaries and benefits.

Increasing appointments, the more complicated nature of criminal defense representation, and a greater need for pretrial diversion advocacy will require the agency to dedicate more resources to personnel and support services.



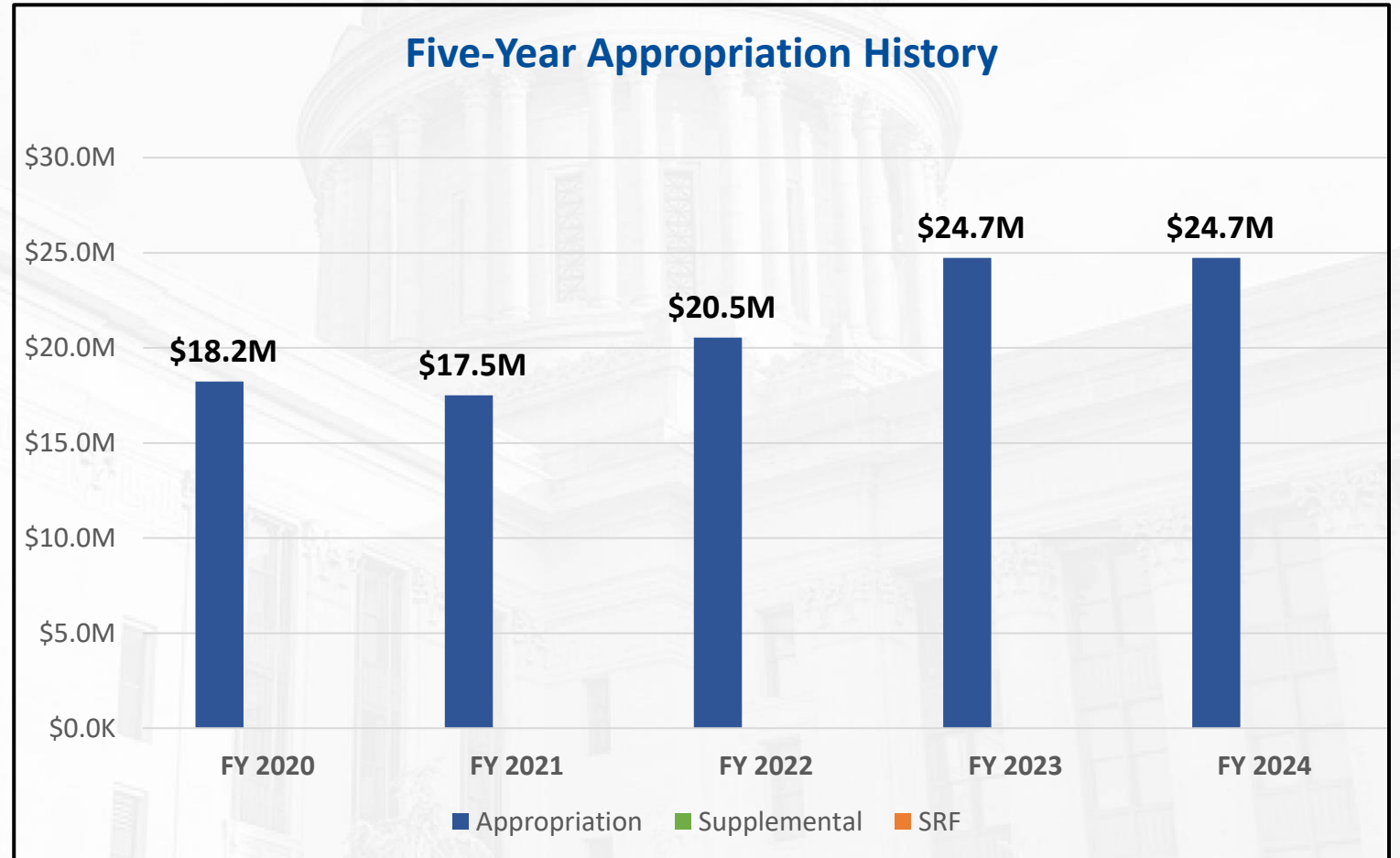


# FY 2024 Budgeted Full Time Equivalents (FTE)

	FY 2024 Budgeted FTE
Total FTE	167
Supervisor FTE	26
Supervisors to Total FTE Ratio (%)	16%

# Appropriation History

Fiscal Year	Legislated Appropriation (\$) (Includes supplementals and SRF/ARPA.)
FY 2020	\$18,237,878
FY 2021	\$17,508,363
FY 2022	\$20,537,878
FY 2023	\$24,731,713
FY 2024	\$24,731,713



*\*Includes Supplemental and Statewide Recovery Fund (ARPA) appropriations.*



# Financial Resource Analysis

Carryover	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Total appropriated carryover amount expended (\$)	\$1,571,513	\$1,072,859	\$1,694,389	\$3,771,990

Historical Cash Balances	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Year End Revolving Fund Cash Balances <i>(All Revolving Funds)</i>	\$1,358,460	\$1,271,543	\$2,797,288	\$3,656,294

Class Fund # <i>(Unrestricted only)</i>	Class Fund Name <i>(Unrestricted only)</i>	Current cash balance (\$)
200	Indigent Defense System Revolving Fund (22 O.S. § 1368)	\$105,094
#		\$
#		\$
#		\$
#		\$
#		\$
<b>Total Current Unrestricted Fund Cash balance:</b>		\$105,094

Fiscal Year	Agency's plan to deploy unrestricted cash (including amounts):
FY 2024	
FY 2025	
FY 2026	



*Unrestricted funds are those that are not limited by state or federal law, rule, regulation, other legally binding method, or donor restriction.*

# FY 2022 Incremental Appropriation Review

<i>Purpose of appropriation increase / decrease</i>	<i>Amount of increase or decrease (\$)</i>	<i>Included in FY24 appropriation? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If yes, included in appropriation for same purpose? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If not included for same purpose, please explain.</i>
<b>FY 2022</b>				
Open and maintain office in Lawton	\$700,000	Yes	Yes	
Open and maintain office in Enid	\$540,000	Yes	Yes	
Restore to FY2020 appropriation amount	\$729,515	Yes	Yes	
Need for information technology	\$104,772	Yes	Yes	
Open and maintain office in Woodward	\$537,000	Yes	Yes	
General operations	\$418,228	Yes	Yes	
	\$			
	\$			
<b>Total adjustment</b>	<b>\$3,029,515</b>			



*\*Do not include SRF / ARPA appropriation increases.*

# FY 2023 Incremental Appropriation Review

<i>Purpose of appropriation increase / decrease</i>	<i>Amount of increase or decrease (\$)</i>	<i>Included in FY24 appropriation? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If yes, included in appropriation for same purpose? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If not included for same purpose, please explain.</i>
<b>FY 2023</b>				
Salary Parity	\$4,193,835	Yes	Yes	
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
<b>Total adjustment</b>	<b>\$4,193,835</b>			



*\*Do not include SRF / ARPA appropriation increases.*

# FY 2024 Incremental Appropriation Review

<i>Purpose of appropriation increase / decrease</i>	<i>Amount of increase or decrease (\$)</i>	<i>Does this need to be included in your FY 2025 appropriation? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If yes, included in appropriation for same purpose? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If not included for same purpose, please explain.</i>
<b>FY 2024</b>				
N/A	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
<b>Total adjustment</b>	\$			



*\*Do not include SRF / ARPA appropriation increases.*

# Budget & Supplemental Request Summary

	Request Name	FY 2025 Appropriated Request Amount (\$) {or FY 2024 for Supplementals}	Type of Request: Operating, One-time, or Supplemental
1	Agency is not requesting any additional appropriations at this time, but is continuing to monitor the county contract model and potential legislative changes	N/A	N/A
2			
3			
4			
5			





# (1) Budget Request

<b>Name of Request</b> N/A	
Type: (Operating, One-Time, Supplemental)	\$ Amount Requested for FY 2025 (Or FY 2024, if supplemental)
Describe why these funds are needed.	





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# Appendix

# Counties served by satellite offices

