

Louisiana Senate Finance Committee



FY26 Executive Budget

01 – Executive Department

01-116 – Office of the State Public Defender (OSPD)

March 2025

*Senator Cameron Henry, President
Senator Glen Womack, Chairman*





FY26 Executive Budget

Schedule 01 — Executive Department Agencies

Executive Department

Management and
Regulatory Agencies
Supporting the
Executive Branch of
State Government

	Tab No.
Executive Department Overview	Overview
Executive Office	01-100 EXEC
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01-116 Office of the State Public Defender Table of Organization



The Louisiana Public Defender Board (LPDB) was originally created in August 2007 in the Louisiana Constitution to provide for “a uniform system for securing and compensating qualified counsel for indigents.”

The LPDB was abolished in March 2024 by Act 22 of the 2024 Second Extraordinary Session, which created the Office of the State Public Defender.

Office of the Governor

Office of the State Public Defender

Remy Voisin Starns, State Public Defender

District Defenders

42 Public Defender Offices (PDOs)

37 District Defenders

4 District Defenders Manage 2 or More Contiguous Districts:

7/28; 11/39/42; 14/38; 30/36

Contract Programs

- Baton Rouge Capital Conflict Office (BRCCO)
- Center for Social Justice (Formerly CAP)
- Capital Defense Project of Southeast Louisiana (CPDSL)
- Innocence Project New Orleans (IPNO)
- Louisiana Appellate Project (LAP)
- Louisiana Capital Assistance Center (LCAC)
- Louisiana Center for Children's Rights (LCCR)
- Mwalimu Center for Justice (formerly CPCPL)
- University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM)
- Louisiana Writ Project (LAWS)

Public Defenders and Staff

Contract Program Attorneys and Staff



01-116 Office of the State Public Defender

Act 22 of the 2024 Second Extraordinary Session

Act 22 was effective on March 20, 2024, and enacted the following changes, among others:

- **Transferred the authority to deliver public defender services from the Louisiana Public Defender Board to the Office of the State Public Defender.**
- **Eliminated the eleven-member Louisiana Public Defender Board and created the nine-member Louisiana Public Defender Oversight Board to provide supervision and oversight to the Office of the State Public Defender.**
- **Established the composition of the Louisiana Public Defender Oversight Board:**
 - (1) Four members appointed by the governor.
 - (2) One member selected by the governor from a list of three nominees submitted by a joint resolution of the Public Defenders Association of La. and the La. Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.
 - (3) Two members selected by a majority of the supreme court justices, with one member being a juvenile justice advocate and the other being a retired judge.
 - (4) One member selected by the president of the Senate, and one member selected by the speaker of the House.
- **The Office is authorized to:**
 - (1) Regulate and fund public defender services and provide financial support to other service programs that provide services to persons adjudicated in the criminal justice system.
 - (2) Make recommendations to the legislature, governor, and the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court regarding potential changes to laws in order to improve public defender services and the criminal justice system in Louisiana.
- **Responsibilities of the Louisiana Public Defender Oversight Board include:**
 - (1) Establishing a compensation plan for the public defenders.
 - (2) Adopting rules.
 - (3) Approving a strategic plan.
- **Provided for the governor to appoint the state public defender for a term of two years**, subject to approval by a majority of the Louisiana Public Defender Oversight Board and Senate confirmation.
- **Provided for honoring existing contracts up to June 30, 2024**, and specified that a public defender who had an existing contract with the board for FY24 would have the option to renew the contract for FY25, provided the public defender had satisfactory performance evaluation.
- **Required that employees of the Louisiana Public Defender Board remain in their current retirement system with no gap or disruption in service.**
- **Provided that a person employed as the chief indigent defender of a judicial district shall continue to be employed by, or enter into a contract with, the office and serve as the district public defender of that district.**

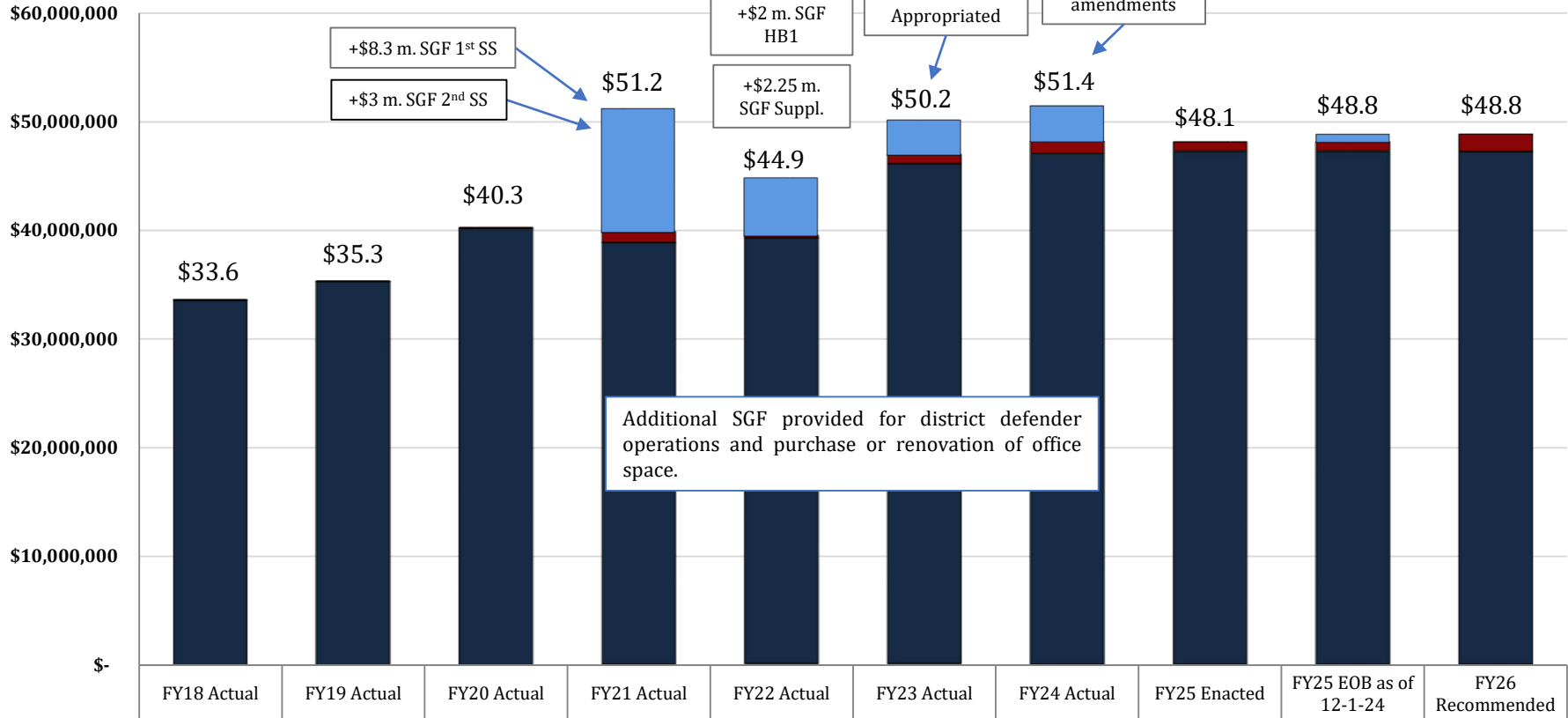


01-116 Office of the State Public Defender

Changes in Funding since FY18

Change from FY18 to FY26 is 45%.
(Actual to Recommended)
 Change from FY18 to FY24 is 53%.
(Actual to Actual)

Total Budget by Fiscal Year and Means of Finance
(in \$ millions)



	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Enacted	FY25 EOB as of 12-1-24	FY26 Recommended
■ SGF	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$11,329,995	\$5,324,180	\$3,220,073	\$3,300,000	\$-	\$750,000	\$-
■ IAT	\$68,182	\$49,920	\$136,321	\$967,159	\$255,000	\$800,000	\$1,111,086	\$824,999	\$824,999	\$1,574,999
■ FSGR	\$25,537	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
■ STAT DED	\$33,549,187	\$35,296,308	\$40,126,388	\$38,816,409	\$39,140,145	\$45,983,962	\$46,965,805	\$47,184,543	\$47,191,981	\$47,159,668
■ FED	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$72,916	\$147,125	\$149,385	\$58,254	\$75,823	\$75,823	\$75,823



01-116 Office of the State Public Defender Statewide Adjustments for FY26 Recommended

State General Fund (Direct)	Interagency Transfers	Fees and Self-generated Revenues	Statutory Dedications	Federal Funds	Total	T.O.	Adjustment
\$ 750,000	\$ 824,999	\$ 0	\$ 47,191,981	\$ 75,823	\$ 48,842,803	17	FY25 Existing Operating Budget as of 12-1-24
\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 6,600	\$ 0	\$ 6,600	0	Acquisitions & Major Repairs
\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	(\$171)	\$ 0	(\$171)	0	Civil Service Fees
\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 5,505	\$ 0	\$ 5,505	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Active Employees
\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,356	\$ 0	\$ 1,356	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Retirees
\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 18,852	\$ 0	\$ 18,852	0	Market Rate Classified
(\$750,000)	\$ 0	\$ 0	(\$7,438)	\$ 0	(\$757,438)	0	Non-recurring Carryforwards
\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	(\$2,082)	\$ 0	(\$2,082)	0	Office of State Procurement
\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	(\$1,406)	\$ 0	(\$1,406)	0	Office of Technology Services (OTS)
\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	(\$22,054)	\$ 0	(\$22,054)	0	Related Benefits Base Adjustment
\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	(\$229)	\$ 0	(\$229)	0	Rent in State-Owned Buildings
\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	(\$22,930)	\$ 0	(\$22,930)	0	Retirement Rate Adjustment
\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	(\$2,619)	\$ 0	(\$2,619)	0	Risk Management
\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	(\$5,556)	\$ 0	(\$5,556)	0	Salary Base Adjustment
\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	(\$141)	\$ 0	(\$141)	0	UPS Fees
(\$750,000)	\$ 0	\$ 0	(\$32,313)	\$ 0	(\$782,313)	0	Total Statewide Adjustments
\$ 0	\$ 750,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 750,000	0	Total Other Adjustments
\$ 0	\$ 1,574,999	\$ 0	\$ 47,159,668	\$ 75,823	\$ 48,810,490	17	Total FY26 Recommended Budget
(\$750,000)	\$ 750,000	\$ 0	(\$32,313)	\$ 0	(\$32,313)	0	Total Adjustments (Statewide and Agency-Specific)

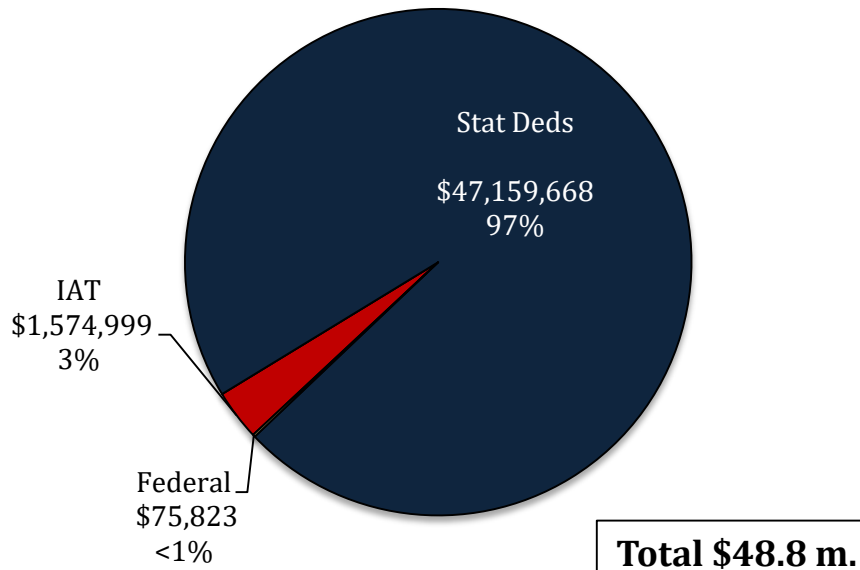
FY26 "Total Other Adjustments" are shown on the next slide.



01-116 Office of the State Public Defender Total Budget and Means of Finance

Total Funding	FY24 Actual	FY25 Enacted	FY25 EOB as of 12-1-24	FY26 Recommended	<i>Difference FY25 EOB to FY26 Recommended</i>
OSPD	\$ 51,435,145	\$ 48,085,365	\$ 48,842,803	\$ 48,810,490	\$ (32,313)
Total Positions	17	17	17	17	-

FY26 Recommended Total Means of Finance



FY26 Total Other Adjustments:

\$750,000 IAT -- Increase in funding received from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for Title IV-E funding to reimburse costs associated with providing representation for parents in all stages of foster care legal proceedings. This will bring the total funding received from DCFS for Title IV-E to \$1.5 million.

Non-SGF Funding Sources:

- **Interagency Transfers** are sourced from a grant from the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and the Title IV-E program (children under foster care or adoption) from Department of Children and Family Services.
- **Statutory Dedications** are derived from the Louisiana Public Defender Fund and the DNA Post-Conviction Relief for Indigents Fund.
- **Federal Funds** come from the Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice.



01-116 Office of the State Public Defender Dedicated Funds

Statutory Dedications	FY24 Actual	FY25 Enacted	FY25 EOB as of 12-1-23	FY26 Recommended	Difference FY25 EOB to FY26 Recommended
DNA Testing Post-Conviction Relief Fund	\$3,221	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
Louisiana Public Defender Fund	\$46,962,584	\$47,134,543	\$47,141,981	\$47,109,668	(\$32,313)
Total:	\$46,965,805	\$47,184,543	\$47,191,981	\$47,159,668	(\$32,313)

Ninety-seven percent of the budget for the Office of the State Public Defender comes from two dedicated funds.

Both of these dedications are funded through State General Fund appropriations in Schedule 20-XXX Funds through HB1.

The DNA Testing Post-Conviction Relief for Indigents Fund is created in the Code of Criminal Procedure 926.1. It is funded solely through appropriations of the legislature and is administered by the Office of the State Public Defender.

The Louisiana Public Defender Fund is created in R.S. 15:167 and derives its funding from appropriations, donations, or other sources. It may be used solely for the provisions of the Louisiana Public Defender Act.



Categorical Expenditures

Examples of Categories

Departments expend funding in the five major categories listed below.

Personal Services

- Salaries – Regular, overtime, and termination pay for Classified and Unclassified personnel.
- Other Compensation – Wages, student labor, compensation for board members and/or board of trustees, evening instruction, university instructors, etc.
- Related Benefits – Retirement contributions, post-retirement contributions/benefits, FICA tax, Medicare tax, group insurance contributions, compensated absences, other related benefits, taxable fringe benefits, etc.

Total Operating Expenses

- Travel – In-state and Out-of-state, including meal reimbursement.
- Operating Services – Advertising, printing, insurance, maintenance, rentals, data processing, internet costs, dues and subscriptions, mail delivery, telephones, data lines, vehicle tracking and telematics, utilities, depreciation, amortization, banking services, credit card fees, etc.
- Supplies – office supplies and equipment, computers, clothing and uniforms, medical, pharmaceutical, food, automotive, repair and maintenance, software, etc.

Professional Services – Accounting, auditing, management consulting, engineering, architectural, legal, medical and dental, veterinary, information technology, etc.

Total Other Charges

- Other Charges – Aid to school boards, local government, etc.; public assistance; miscellaneous charges; judgments, fines, and penalties; interest on judgments; punitive/compensatory damages; OC personal services, operating expenses, professional services; contract attorney expenses; recoupments; furlough; contractual services; interest expense; claim payments; commercial group insurance; reinsurance; loans issued; disbursements; etc.
- Debt Service – Principal, interest, related charges, reserve requirement, amortization, and bond premiums.
- Interagency Transfer Line-Item Expenditure – Any expenses paid for with Interagency Transfers – from commodities and services to equipment.

Acquisitions and Major Repairs

- Acquisitions – Land; buildings; automobiles; aircraft; accessories; equipment; software; hardware; farm and heavy equipment; boats; capital outlay expenditures; construction; etc.
- Major Repairs – Land improvement; buildings; automotive; grounds; boats; aircraft; movable equipment; farm equipment; medical; office; library; education; recreation; communication; other equipment; pollution remediation; etc.



01-116 Office of the State Public Defender Categorical Expenditures at FY26 Recommended

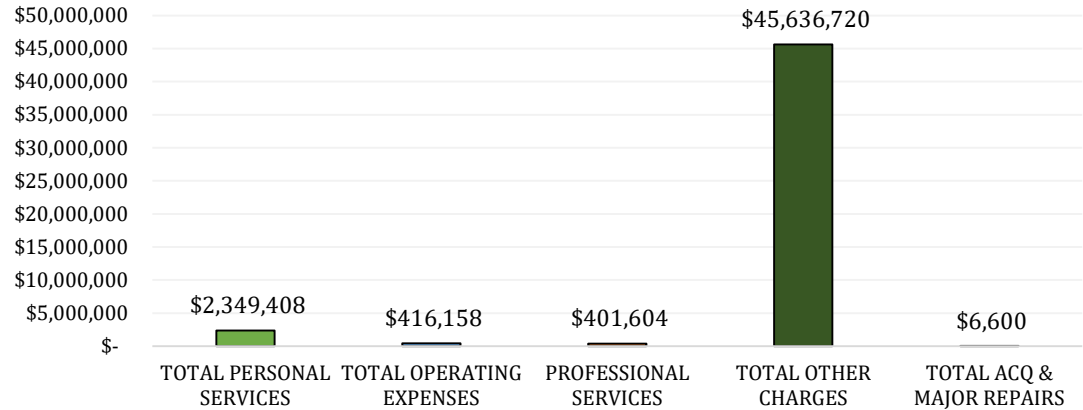
The largest expenditure category in the Office of the State Public Defender for FY26 Recommended is Total Other Charges at 93 percent of the budget.

This is due to funding the Office sends out to the district defender offices and other entities at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Total Personal Services make up 5 percent of the expenditures, while other Total Operating Expenses and Professional Services are 1 percent each.

A total of \$6,600 is provided for Acquisitions at the FY26 Recommended level.

FY26 Recommended Expenditures



Categorical Expenditures	FY24 Actual	FY25 Enacted	FY25 EOB as of 12/01/24	FY26 Recommended	Difference FY25 EOB vs. FY26 REC	Percent Change
Salaries	\$1,198,743	\$1,502,851	\$1,502,851	\$1,511,300	\$8,449	1
Other Compensation	\$22,997	\$113,549	\$113,549	\$113,549	\$0	0
Related Benefits	\$651,396	\$757,835	\$757,835	\$724,559	(\$33,276)	(4)
TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	\$1,873,136	\$2,374,235	\$2,374,235	\$2,349,408	(\$24,827)	(1)
Travel	\$5,658	\$43,000	\$43,000	\$43,000	\$0	0
Operating Services	\$295,332	\$319,799	\$319,799	\$319,799	\$0	0
Supplies	\$14,625	\$53,359	\$53,359	\$53,359	\$0	0
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$315,615	\$416,158	\$416,158	\$416,158	\$0	0
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$420,384	\$401,604	\$409,042	\$401,604	(\$7,438)	(2)
Other Charges	\$48,630,945	\$44,700,428	\$45,450,428	\$45,450,428	\$0	0
Debt Service	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0
Interagency Transfers	\$180,836	\$192,940	\$192,940	\$186,292	(\$6,648)	(3)
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	\$48,811,781	\$44,893,368	\$45,643,368	\$45,636,720	(\$6,648)	(0)
Acquisitions	\$14,230	\$0	\$0	\$6,600	\$6,600	0
Major Repairs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0
TOTAL ACQ. & MAJOR REPAIRS	\$14,230	\$0	\$0	\$6,600	\$6,600	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$51,435,145	\$48,085,365	\$48,842,803	\$48,810,490	(\$32,313)	(0)



01-116 Office of the State Public Defender FY26 Categorical Expenditures Detail

Professional Services -- \$401,604

\$110,404	Legal representation for OSPD in non-tort litigation
\$7,200	Emergency backup and technical support for IT function
\$4,000	Case management IT assistance
\$280,000	Case Management System - Justice Works

Other Charges -- \$45,450,428

\$8,077,503	Contracts with 501(c)(3) organizations to provide capital and other legal defense
\$74,999	Consulting fees for auditing services, which is 100% funded by Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) grant
\$50,000	DNA Post Conviction Testing Program - This program provides post-conviction DNA testing when the guilt of an individual is in question.
\$1,243,000	Indigent Parent Representation Program - For qualified legal representation of indigent parents in child abuse and neglect cases
\$34,039,103	District Assistance Program - Supplemental funding given directly to the qualifying judicial district indigent defenders
\$75,823	Enhancing Juvenile Indigent Defense Grant
\$1,500,000	Title IV-E Program
\$300,000	Contract with the University of Louisiana at Monroe to provide public defender training as required by Act 237 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session
\$90,000	Writ Services provided to the district defenders



01-116 Office of the State Public Defender FY26 Categorical Expenditures Detail *(continued)*

Interagency Transfers -- \$186,292

\$10,000	Office of State Printing
\$9,731	Phone and Internet Services- Office of Technology Service
\$579	Rent in State-owned Buildings
\$11,896	Office of Risk Management (ORM) Premiums
\$789	Uniform Payroll System (UPS) Fees
\$3,916	Civil Service Fees
\$14,540	Office of Technology Services (OTS) Fees
\$4,089	Office of State Procurement (OSP) Fees
\$14,138	Division of Administration - Human Resources and Payroll
\$61,069	Office of Finance and Support Services (OFSS) – Accounting
\$51,912	Office of Internal Audit
\$3,019	Office of State Mail
\$614	LA Property Assistance Agency Fleet Services - GPS

Acquisitions and Major Repairs -- \$6,600

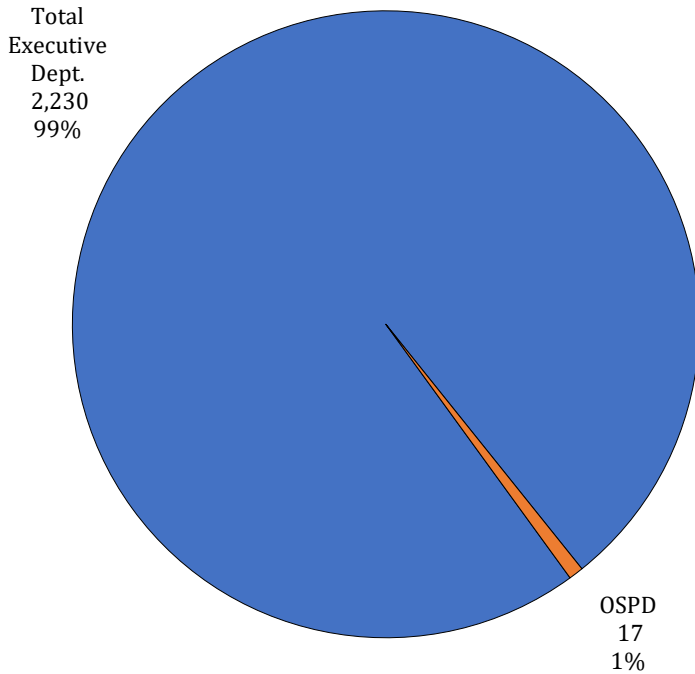
\$4,000	Four (4) desktop computers
\$2,600	Two (2) laptop computers



01-116 Office of the State Public Defender

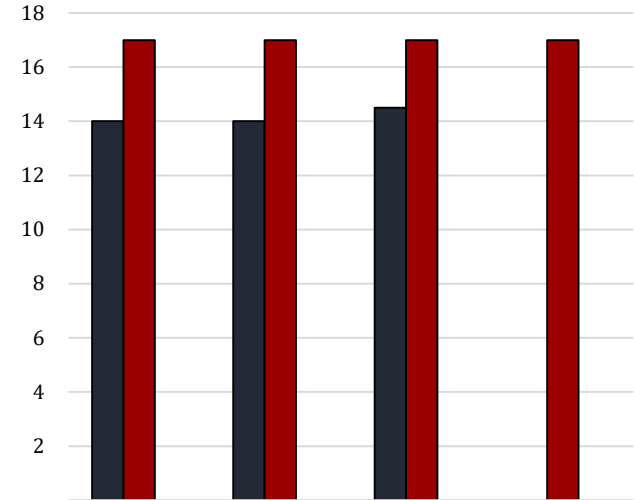
FTEs, Authorized T.O., and Other Charges Positions

**FY26 Agency Employees
as a portion of
FY26 Total Department Employees**



FY25 number of funded, but not filled, positions as of February 3 = 4

**Number
and
Types
of
Positions**



	2023	2024	2025	2026 REC
■ Total FTEs (1st July Report)	14	14	14.5	-
■ Authorized T.O. Positions	17	17	17	17
■ Other Charges Positions	-	-	-	-

The full-time equivalent or **FTE** definition refers to the number of hours considered full-time. For example, if an agency considers 40 hours full time, and there are two employees working 20 hours per week, those two employees would be 1.0 FTE.

Authorized Positions are those referred to in the Table of Organization (or T.O.) for each department. This count includes only those positions paid for from the Salaries expenditure category for the organization units and agencies included in each department's appropriation. This excludes positions paid for from other expenditure categories, such as wages or per diem.

Other Charges positions are authorized under R.S. 39:2(5)(b) ...

(5)(b) "Authorized other charges positions" means the number of positions in an appropriation bill to be funded by the other charges continuing category of the accounting system for the state. The number may be adjusted during a fiscal year in accordance with law.

- [Act 377 of 2013 by Rep. Burrell]
- Positions coded in the Other Charges expenditure category
- These positions are usually associated with federal grants



01-116 Office of the State Public Defender Related Employment Information

Salaries and Related Benefits for the Authorized Positions are listed below in Chart 1.
In Chart 2, benefits are broken out to show the portion paid for active versus retired employees.
This is where payments for the Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL) can be found.

1.

Personal Services	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Enacted	2026 Recommended
Salaries	\$1,355,708	\$1,517,984	\$1,502,851	\$1,511,300
Other Compensation	\$3,664	\$113,549	\$113,549	\$113,549
Related Benefits	\$746,359	\$839,531	\$757,835	\$724,559
Total Personal Services	\$2,105,732	\$2,471,064	\$2,374,235	\$2,349,408

Average T.O. Salary = \$87,628

Examples of Other Compensation include pay for WAE employees, part-time employees, student workers, etc.

2.

Related Benefits FY26 Recommended	Total Funding	%
Total Related Benefits	\$724,559	
UAL payments	\$366,929	51%
Retiree Health Benefits	\$36,341	
Remaining Benefits*	\$321,289	
Means of Finance	General Fund = 0%	Other = 100%

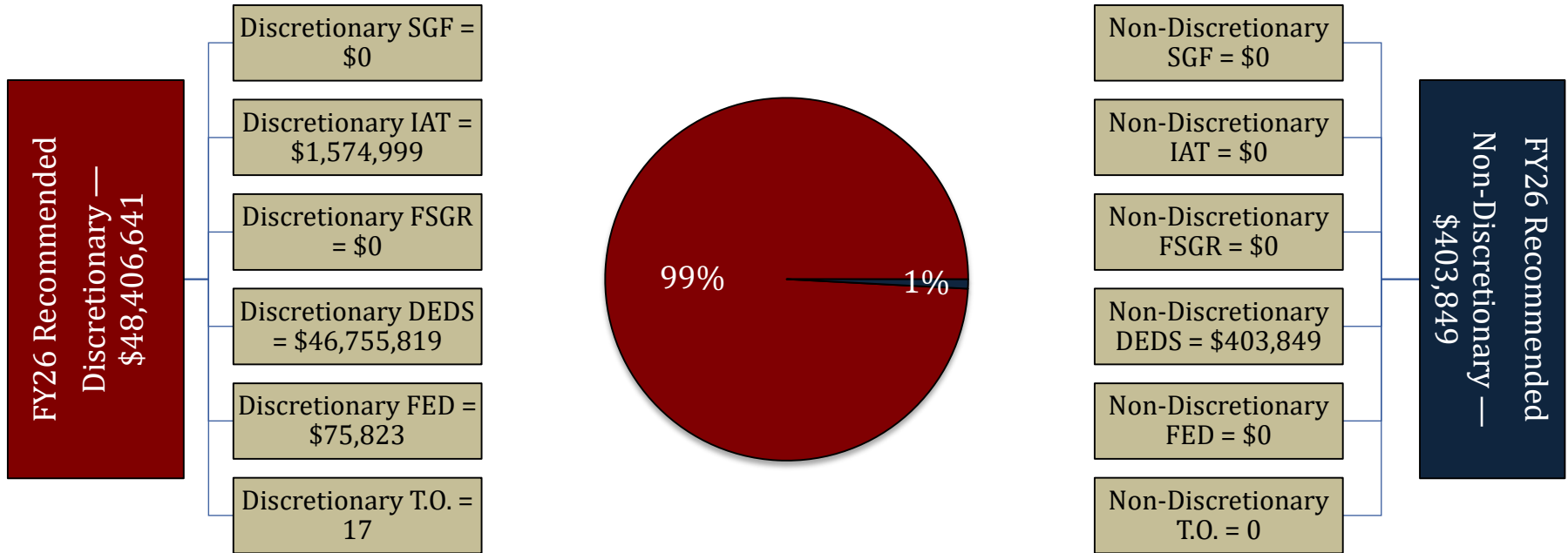
Department Demographics	Total	%
Gender		
Female	9	75
Male	3	25
Race/Ethnicity		
White	6	50
Black	6	50
Asian	--	--
Indian	--	--
Hawaiian/Pacific	--	--
Declined to State	--	--
Currently in DROP or Eligible to Retire	1	8

* Remaining Benefits include employer contribution to authorized positions' retirement, health, Medicare, FICA, Emoluments etc. The authorized positions include authorized T.O. positions and authorized other charges positions, both filled and vacant.

Other Charges Benefits
\$0



01-116 Office of the State Public Defender FY26 Discretionary/Non-Discretionary Comparison



Total Discretionary Funding by Office		
Executive Office	\$ 20,202,700	0.42%
Office of Indian Affairs	\$ -	0.00%
Office of Inspector General	\$ 1,896,717	0.04%
Mental Health Advocacy Service	\$ -	0.00%
LA Tax Commission	\$ 4,513,598	0.09%
Division of Administration	\$ 1,525,940,875	31.83%
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority	\$ 200,940,516	4.19%
GOHSEP	\$ 2,630,341,107	54.86%
Department of Military Affairs	\$ 118,484,655	2.47%
Office of the State Public Defender	\$ 48,406,641	1.01%
Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District	\$ 95,266,309	1.99%
Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement	\$ 48,066,304	1.00%
Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs	\$ 69,737,153	1.45%
Louisiana State Racing Commission	\$ 18,365,839	0.38%
Office of Financial Institutions	\$ 12,431,249	0.26%
Total Discretionary	\$4,794,593,663	100.00%

Total Non-Discretionary Funding by Type		
Required by the Constitution (UAL)	\$ 366,929	90.86%
Needed to Pay Debt Service (Rent in State-owned Buildings)	\$ 579	0.14%
Needed for Unavoidable Obligations (Retirees' Group Insurance)	\$ 36,341	9.00%
Total Non-Discretionary	\$ 403,849	100.00%

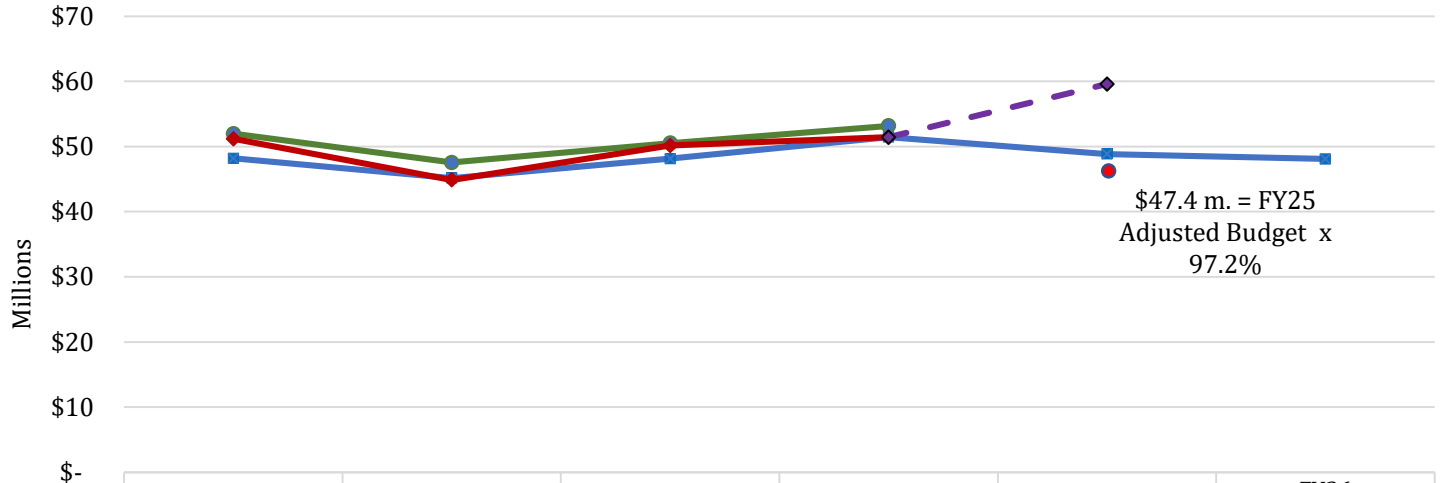


01-116 Office of the State Public Defender Enacted & FYE Budget vs. Actual Expenditures FY21 to FY24

FYE Budget = "Fiscal Year End" Budget includes all in-house and regular BA-7s through June 30 of the fiscal year. For FY25, it is as of January.

FY25 Known Supplemental Needs:
\$2 million est. for district building fund

FY24 General Fund Reversions:
\$0



	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25 EOB	FY26 Recommended
Enacted Budget	\$48,193,875	\$45,164,607	\$48,135,927	\$51,463,845	\$48,842,803	\$48,085,365
FYE Budget	\$51,973,788	\$47,558,291	\$50,513,542	\$53,169,526		
Actual Expenditures	\$51,186,479	\$44,866,449	\$50,153,419	\$51,435,145		
FY25 Expenditure Trend				\$51,435,145	\$59,598,248	

Monthly Budget Activity				
	FY25 Adjusted Budget	FY25 Aggregate Expenditures	Remaining Budget Authority	Percent Expended To Date
Jul-24	\$ 48,085,365	\$ 19,671,123	\$ 28,414,242	40.9%
Aug-24	\$ 48,842,803	\$ 34,038,264	\$ 14,804,539	69.7%
Sep-24	\$ 48,842,803	\$ 34,873,755	\$ 13,969,048	71.4%
Oct-24	\$ 48,842,803	\$ 36,162,576	\$ 12,680,227	74.0%
Nov-24	\$ 48,842,803	\$ 37,036,217	\$ 11,806,586	75.8%
Dec-24	\$ 48,842,803	\$ 37,849,037	\$ 10,993,766	77.5%
Jan-25	\$ 48,842,803	\$ 38,973,143	\$ 9,869,660	79.8%

Monthly Budget Activity				
	FY25 Adjusted Budget	FY25 Aggregate Expenditures	Remaining Budget Authority	Percent Expended To Date
<i>(Trend based on average monthly expenditures to date)</i>				
Feb-25	\$ 48,842,803	\$ 39,607,022	\$9,235,781	81.1%
Mar-25	\$ 48,842,803	\$ 44,604,828	\$4,237,975	91.3%
Apr-25	\$ 48,842,803	\$ 49,602,635	(\$759,832)	101.6%
May-25	\$ 48,842,803	\$ 54,600,441	(\$5,757,638)	111.8%
Jun-25	\$ 48,842,803	\$ 59,598,248	(\$10,755,445)	122.0%

Historical Year End Average

97.2%



01-116 Office of the State Public Defender

2024 Revenues and Expenditures by District

District	Parish(es)	Total State Funds Distributed in CY24	Total Local Funds Received by Districts in CY24	Total CUFs (Conviction & User Fees) Received by Districts in CY24	Total Other Funds Received by Districts in CY24	CY24 Total Combined Funds	CY24 Total Non-State Funds	Percent of Total Funding by State Funds Distributed in CY24	Total CY24 Expenditures	Individual District Estimated CY24 Fund Balance Depletions	Raw Cases Handled in CY24
1	Caddo	\$2,574,529	\$203,000	\$1,009,156	\$642	\$3,787,327	\$1,212,798	67.98%	\$3,453,861		8,960
2	Bienville, Claiborne, Jackson	\$340,061	-	\$244,895	\$3,761	\$588,716	\$248,655	57.76%	\$538,489		1,160
3	Lincoln, Union	\$36,404	-	\$519,303	\$13,402	\$569,109	\$532,705	6.40%	\$680,730	(\$111,621)	3,249
4	Morehouse, Ouachita	\$1,705,124	-	\$1,096,682	\$4,056	\$2,805,861	\$1,100,737	60.77%	\$2,629,343		7,630
5	Franklin, Richland, West Carroll	\$364,982	-	\$309,709	\$716	\$675,407	\$310,425	54.04%	\$654,341		1,547
6	East Carroll, Madison, Tensas	\$238,724	-	\$364,834	\$15,814	\$619,372	\$380,648	38.54%	\$618,180		788
7	Catahoula, Concordia	\$339,014	-	\$19,648	\$1,508	\$460,170	\$121,156	73.67%	\$468,435	(\$8,265)	7,241
8	Winn	\$487,045	-	\$96,807	\$649	\$584,501	\$97,456	83.33%	\$397,495		614
9	Rapides	\$1,014,767	-	\$469,897	\$46	\$1,484,710	\$469,943	68.35%	\$1,538,386	(\$53,676)	7,663
10	Natchitoches	\$359,141	-	\$240,635	-	\$599,776	\$240,635	59.88%	\$585,828		915
11	Sabine	\$378,040	-	\$63,170	\$309	\$441,519	\$63,479	85.62%	\$450,529	(\$9,010)	1,656
12	Avoyelles	\$301,770	-	\$210,490	\$31,593	\$543,852	\$242,083	55.49%	\$547,084	(\$3,232)	3,628
13	Evangeline	\$385,569	-	\$458,807	\$379	\$844,755	\$459,186	45.64%	\$777,206		1,220
14	Calcasieu	\$1,638,603	-	\$1,443,223	\$253,078	\$3,334,903	\$1,696,301	49.13%	\$2,873,029		6,470
15	Acadia, Lafayette, Vermilion	\$3,105,046	-	\$2,113,300	\$172,131	\$5,390,476	\$2,285,430	57.60%	\$3,859,939		11,425
16	Iberia, St. Martin, St. Mary	\$1,533,458	-	\$826,250	\$19,657	\$2,379,365	\$845,907	64.45%	\$2,282,759		5,083
17	Lafourche	\$804,294	-	\$404,587	\$14,344	\$1,223,224	\$418,931	65.75%	\$1,083,365		2,612
18	Iberville, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge	\$374,861	-	\$929,718	\$2,992	\$1,307,571	\$932,710	28.67%	\$999,469		1,861
19	East Baton Rouge	\$5,727,678	\$356,240	\$1,388,667	\$2,381,212	\$9,853,797	\$4,126,119	58.13%	\$6,599,415		10,097
20	East Feliciana, West Feliciana	\$237,667	\$18,750	\$208,924	\$1,321	\$466,662	\$228,996	50.93%	\$499,906	(\$33,244)	1,496
21	Livingston, St. Helena, Tangipahoa	\$2,391,095	\$13,251	\$1,545,605	\$141,739	\$4,091,690	\$1,700,595	58.44%	\$3,979,389		9,205
22	St. Tammany, Washington	\$2,395,029	-	\$1,451,236	\$38,919	\$3,885,185	\$1,490,156	61.65%	\$4,206,952	(\$321,767)	20,766
23	Ascension, Assumption, St. James	\$928,241	-	\$775,869	\$29,500	\$1,733,609	\$805,368	53.54%	\$1,470,574		4,066
24	Jefferson	\$2,054,596	-	\$2,024,111	\$241,440	\$4,320,146	\$2,265,550	47.56%	\$5,171,538	(\$851,392)	24,728
25	Plaquemines	\$304,670	-	\$241,777	\$21,021	\$567,468	\$262,799	53.69%	\$390,650		993
26	Bossier, Webster	\$1,964,042	-	\$945,099	\$4,261	\$2,913,402	\$949,360	67.41%	\$2,616,413		6,530
27	St. Landry	\$707,610	-	\$369,100	\$83,797	\$1,160,508	\$452,898	60.97%	\$1,227,501	(\$66,993)	6,642
28	LaSalle	\$211,559	-	\$52,811	-	\$264,370	\$52,811	80.02%	\$259,573		488
29	St. Charles	\$456,339	-	\$625,860	\$51,454	\$1,133,653	\$677,315	40.25%	\$1,402,498	(\$268,845)	2,082
30	Vernon	\$564,909	-	\$200,418	\$459	\$765,786	\$200,877	73.77%	\$414,147		1,198
31	Jefferson Davis	\$290,433	-	\$406,176	\$800	\$697,408	\$406,975	41.64%	\$615,523		1,598
32	Terrebonne	\$831,216	-	\$740,297	\$6,854	\$1,578,367	\$747,151	52.66%	\$1,464,954		2,676
33	Allen	\$86,343	-	\$26,117	\$685	\$313,145	\$226,802	27.57%	\$298,474		868
34	St. Bernard	\$673,999	-	\$106,335	\$20,102	\$800,435	\$126,436	84.20%	\$656,798		1,206
35	Grant	\$311,483	-	\$129,324	\$2,729	\$443,535	\$132,052	70.23%	\$391,848		723
36	Beauregard	\$239,227	-	\$110,110	\$50	\$349,388	\$110,160	68.47%	\$248,979		1,227
37	Caldwell	\$278,389	-	\$26,422	\$3,407	\$308,218	\$298,30	90.32%	\$356,123	(\$47,905)	445
38	Cameron	\$5,086	-	\$58,396	\$410	\$63,892	\$58,806	7.96%	\$111,022	(\$47,130)	257
39	Red River	\$172,367	-	\$28,035	\$2,475	\$202,877	\$30,510	84.96%	\$164,498		351
40	St. John the Baptist	\$759,355	-	\$351,609	\$12,986	\$1,123,950	\$364,595	67.56%	\$954,095		1,529
41	Orleans	\$3,365,213	\$11,151,812	\$1,579,317	\$112,924	\$16,209,267	\$12,844,054	20.76%	\$14,482,656		11,508
42	DeSoto	\$75,506	-	\$363,890	\$50,095	\$489,491	\$413,985	15.43%	\$486,123		1,098
Totals		\$ 41,013,484	\$11,743,053	\$24,876,617	\$3,743,714	\$81,376,868	\$40,363,384	50.40%	\$72,908,115	(\$1,823,078)	246,675

Source: OSPD 2024 Annual Report

NOTE: The individual District Estimated CY24 Fund Balance Depletion is estimated by subtracting district expenditures from combined State, Local, CUFs and Other funds. Note also that the significant \$851K depletion in District 24 is an artifact of using fund balance monies to purchase the \$1.1M office building in Gretna. Note also that "Total Other Funds" consist of various funding sources ranging from private donations to corporate and philanthropic grants. Further note that because State funding is appropriated for the Fiscal Year and this report is for the Calendar Year, totals must be derived from parts of FY24 & FY25. The Revenues and Expenditures for Districts 11, 19, 25, 30, 36 and 42 have not been verified by OSPD staff. Finally, please note that some data in this report may change over time due to districts' future corrections or revisions.

Districts shaded in yellow have fund balance depletions.



01-116 Office of the State Public Defender 2024 Revenues by Source

2024 Total
\$81.3 m.

*an increase of \$5.6 m.
(or 7.4%) over 2023*

2023 Total
\$75.8 m.

2022 Total
\$64.4 m.

2021 Total
\$63.8 m.

Increase in CUFs Continues

In 2024, Conviction and User Fees (CUF) continued an increase over the prior year which began in 2023. Totals for 2024 were \$643,578 above 2023, and 2023 itself was over \$2.3 million above 2022. These increases have occurred after several years of decreases. Actual CUF collections had fallen by \$5.7 million from 2018 to 2022 mainly due to a decrease in traffic court filings.

State Funds and Other Funds also increased from 2023 to 2024. State Funds grew by \$3.2 million and Other Funds by \$2.3 million.

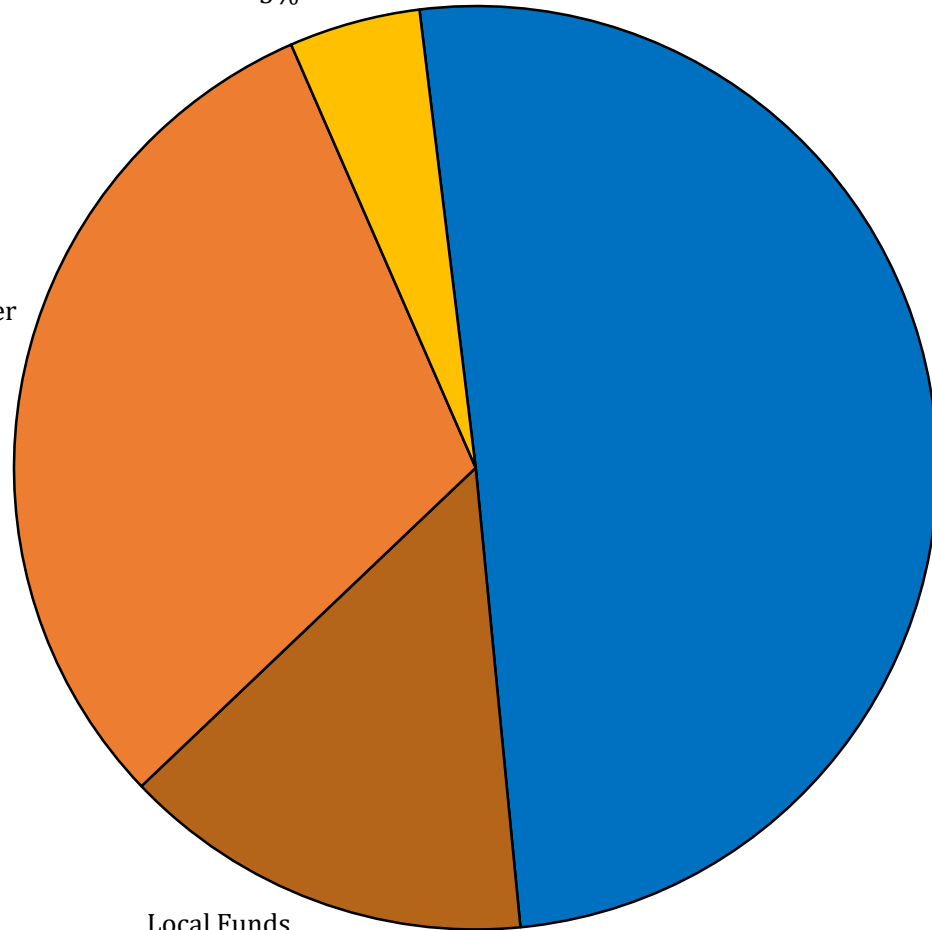
Local Funds showed a decrease of **(\$564,710)**, which was roughly 5 percent lower than 2023.

Conviction and User
Fees (CUF)
\$24,876,617
31%

Other Funds
\$3,743,714
5%

State Funds
\$41,013,484
50%

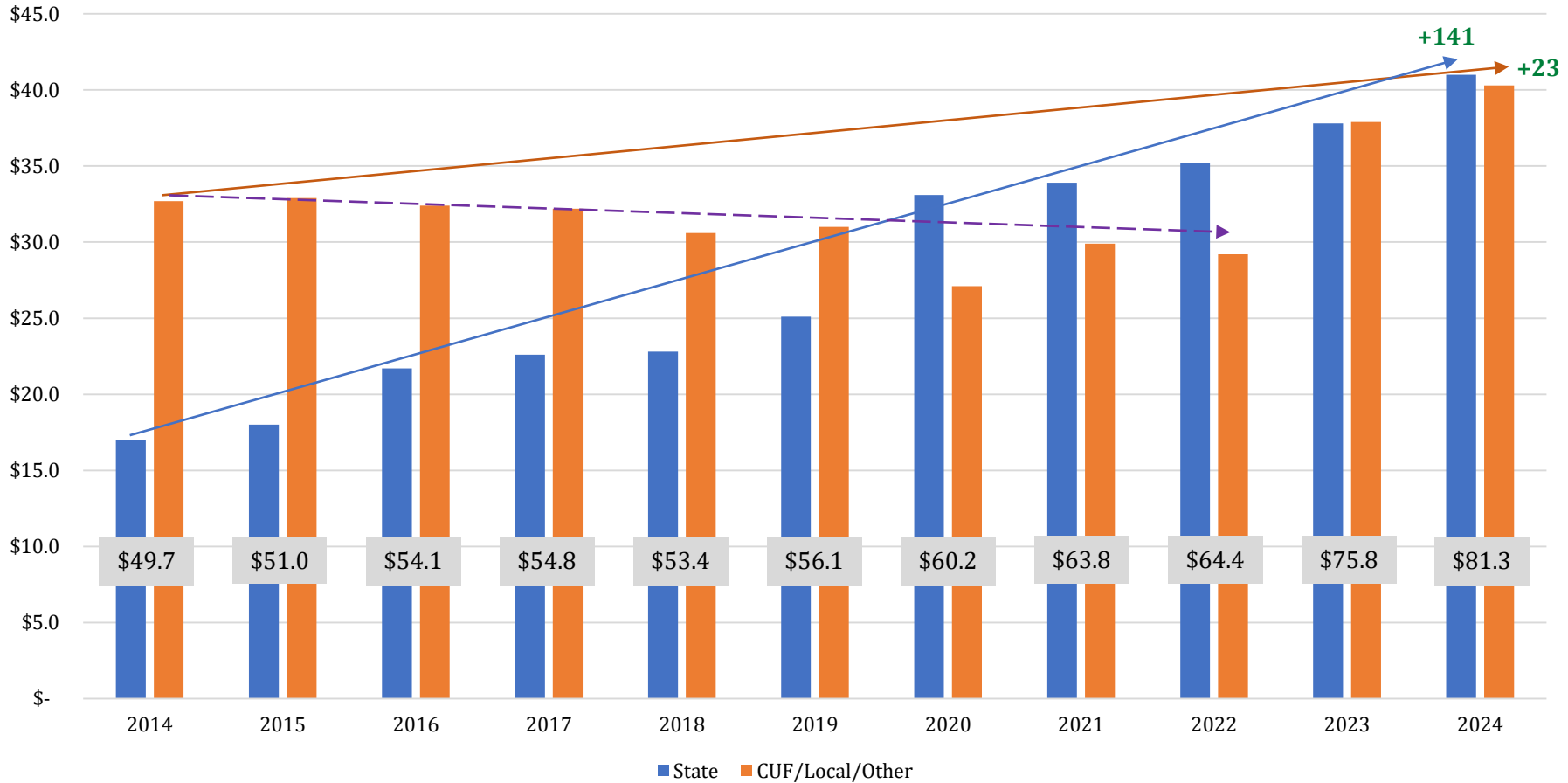
Local Funds
\$11,743,053
14%





01-116 Office of the State Public Defender

State and CUF/Local/Other Funding History since 2014



In \$ millions

--- Percent Change for State Funds from 2014 to 2024 is **+141** percent.
 --- Percent Change for CUF/Local/Other Funds from 2014 to 2024 is **+23** percent.

Source: OSPD Annual Reports 2014 through 2024.

From 2014 to 2022,
 CUF/Local/Other
 Funds had
 decreased by 11
 percent.



01-116 Office of the State Public Defender

2024 Caseloads and Outcomes

The chart below shows caseload activity and outcomes for 2024 in all districts.

Case Type	New Cases 01/01/2024 to 12/31/24	Closed Cases 01/01/2024 to 12/31/24	Pending Cases* (# of cases pending on 12/31/23)	# of Cases pending on 12/31/23 plus New Cases Received 01/01/24 to 12/31/24	# of Cases resulting in termination of Parental Rights	# of Cases resulting in Reunification	# Charges with Admit/Guilty Plea to Current Offense	# Charges with Plea of Guilty to Lesser Charge	# Charges Resulting in Dismissal	# Charges Resulting in Diversion or Deferred Disposition	# Jury Trials found Not Guilty	# Jury Trials found Guilty	# Judge Trials found Guilty	# Judge Trials found Not Guilty	Total Trials
Child Support	1766	2947	1660	3426	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
CINC-Child	0	16	28	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CINC-Parent	3784	3687	4983	8767	0	289	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Termination	177	281	256	433	190	3	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
FINS	1507	1664	868	2375	0	0	119	0	374	13	0	0	0	0	0
Delinquency Misdemeanor	5202	5408	2990	8092	0	0	1671	74	1947	437	0	0	7	24	31
Delinquency Felony	3633	3929	3229	6862	0	0	1690	211	1788	186	0	0	27	37	64
Delinquency-Life	96	79	58	154	0	0	16	3	31	1	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile Revocations	128	234	133	261	0	0	3	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adult Misdemeanor*	57,371	56,759	42,392	97,473	0	0	20,310	2746	23,144	12	4	25	101	164	294
Adult Felony Non- LWOP**	56,683	57,542	52,079	108,762	0	0	24,480	6210	26,334	5	76	221	66	211	574
LWOP	719	716	1374	2093	0	0	155	152	240	0	6	83	3	8	100
Capital***	13	6	18	31	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revocations	2544	3913	5870	7881	0	0	4	1	61	0	0	0	0	0	0
PCR	9	18	26	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	12
SOAP	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

NOTE: Charges columns include all charges filed in association with a particular Case Type, regardless of each charge's severity.

*Includes Traffic, Parish/Municipal Ordinances, Extradition and Unclassified Cases

**Life Without Parole

***Capital cases may include cases initially opened by the district office and transferred to a program office at some later stage in the proceedings.

PCR = Post Conviction Relief

SOAP = Sex Offender Assessment Panel



01-116 Office of the State Public Defender

OSPD Recommendations for Needed Changes in the Law Comparison of FY23 to FY24 Expenditures in Public Defense

Recommendations from the OSPD:

- 1) Amend all references to the “Louisiana Public Defender Board” in the law, replacing such references with “Office of the State Public Defender.”
- 2) Creation of a stable, reliable, sufficient funding source for public defense.
- 3) Focus on non-carceral, rehabilitative interventions.
- 4) Preserve state resources by eliminating the death penalty as a sentencing option in current and future cases and provide for resentencing inmates currently under a sentence of death to a life sentence.
- 5) Amend 15:529.1(c) to provide for a shortened cleansing time for prior convictions to be used to enhance sentences.
- 6) Eliminate life without parole sentences for offenses committed prior to the offender turning 17 years old.
- 7) Amend 39:100.210(C)(2)(c) to provide that any funds distributed to the Office of the State Public Defender through the vape tax be used to cover salary and benefits for district personnel.
- 8) Create a statute providing that no fees or bonds for costs shall be required for a criminal appeal or writ as long as the prisoner meets all requirements for proceeding in “forma pauperis.”

FY23 to FY24 Public Defense Expenditure Comparison

Expense Category	FY23 Expenditures	FY24 Expenditures	Difference
All District Office expenditures (funded by Local, CUFs, and District Assistance Fund)	\$64,661,211	\$ 69,801,668	\$5,140,457
Trial-Level Capital Programs	\$4,545,000	\$ 3,798,333	(\$746,667)
Non-Capital Programs and Contracts	\$2,373,125	\$ 1,583,891	(\$789,234)
OSPD Office Administration Costs	\$2,858,523	\$ 2,804,200	(\$54,323)
Post-Trial Capital Programs and Contracts	\$2,588,786	\$ 2,680,036	\$91,250
Miller - Montgomery Cases	\$1,069,133	\$ 290,471	(\$778,662)
OJJPD Enhancing Juvenile	\$149,385	\$ 58,254	(\$91,131)
DCFS - Title IV-E Grant	\$600,000	\$ 436,087	(\$163,913)
LCLE Grant	\$74,999	\$ 74,999	\$0
DNA Testing	\$4,725	\$ 3,221	(\$1,504)
Angola 5 Cases	\$13,544	\$ 2,271	(\$11,273)
Total	\$78,938,431	\$81,533,431	\$2,595,000

Note: Expenses are shown in fiscal years; revenues are shown in calendar years.