

FY27 Appropriation Request Checklist

Agency Name: 28000 PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE

Business Unit: 28000

1. checklist

Reports to Include in PDF Submission

Form #	Title	
✓ 2	Cvr Ltr	Cover Letter <i>Agency Level</i>
✓ 3	S-1	Certification <i>Agency Level</i>
✓ 4	S-2	Organizational Chart <i>Agency/Program Level</i>
✓ 5	S-8	Financial Summary (BFM) <i>Agency/Program Level</i>
✓ 6	S-9	Account Code Revenue / Expenditure Report <i>Agency/Program Level</i>
✓ 7	S-10	Fund Balance Projection <i>Fund Level</i>
✓ 8	S-13	Detail of Rate Line Items (see instructions) <i>Agency Level</i>
✓ 9	P-1	Program Narrative <i>Program Level</i>
NA	R-2	Transfer Report <i>Agency Level</i>
✓ 10	REV/EXP	Revenue-Expenditure Comparison Report <i>Agency/Program Level</i>
NA	FFRW	Detail of Federal Funds Revenue Worksheet <i>Agency/Program Level</i>
NA	EB-1	Expansion Justifications <i>Program Level</i>
NA	EB-2	Expansion Fiscal Summary <i>Program Level</i>
NA	EB-3	Expansion Line Item Detail <i>Program Level</i>
NA	LFR	Legislating for Results Expansion Tool <i>Program Level</i>
✓ 11	E4	Pcode Detail <i>Program Level</i>
✓ 12	E5	Contract by Pcode <i>Program Level</i>
✓ 13	SAR	Special Appropriation Request Report <i>Agency Level</i>
✓ 14	APR	Annual Performance Report <i>Program Level</i>
✓ 15	Table 2	Table 2 Performance Measure Summary <i>Program Level</i>
✓ 16	SP	Strategic Plan <i>Agency Level</i>
✓ 17	ITP	Information Technology Plan <i>Agency Level</i>
✓ 18	C-1	Base Operating Budget <i>Agency Level</i>
✓ 19	C-2	IT Request Plan <i>Agency Level</i>
NA	Perf Audit	Update to LFC Performance Audits (within last 2 years) <i>Agency Level</i>

Documents to Attach in BFM (PDF Optional)

Where to Attach

✓	Board Cert	Board or Commission Budget Certification	<i>Form 9900</i>
✓	E-6B	Leased Passenger-Related Vehicles	<i>Form 3300/4300</i>



NEW MEXICO
**LAW OFFICES OF THE
PUBLIC DEFENDER**
Chief Public Defender
Bennett J. Baur

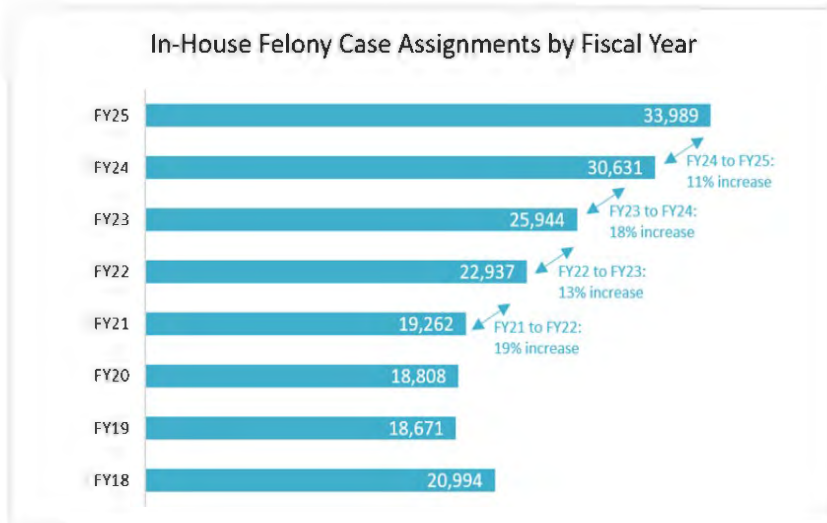
September 2, 2025

Wayne Propst
Cabinet Secretary
DFA State Budget Division
190 Bataan Memorial Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Charles Sallee, Director
Legislative Finance Committee
325 Don Gaspar, Suite 101
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

FY2027 Budget Request for the Law Offices of the Public Defender (Agency 280)

The Law Offices of the Public Defender (LOPD) is the largest law firm in New Mexico, with approximately 243 LOPD public defender attorneys and 80 contract defender attorneys. In fiscal year 2025, these attorneys represented criminal defendants in over 93,000 assigned cases, which reflects an 11 percent increase in felony case assignments compared to fiscal year 2024. This upward trend marks a significant rise in felony case assignments from prior years even surpassing pre-COVID numbers, as illustrated in the accompanying graph.



LOPD was created to fulfill the constitutional mandate established by *Gideon v. Wainwright*, guaranteeing indigent defendants the right to counsel. Both the U.S. and New Mexico Constitutions obligate the State to provide adequate funding for indigent defense to ensure equal access to justice. LOPD workloads remain at unsustainable levels, creating significant challenges in providing high-quality, constitutionally required representation. The New Mexico Project workload study, conducted by the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defense and Moss Adams, confirmed that LOPD needs 602 attorneys to meet current caseloads. In response, LOPD developed a Five-Year Plan to Reduce Representation Deficiency, addressing both supply-side solutions, such as increasing and reallocating resources, and demand-side reforms, including decriminalization and sentencing changes.

Building on this work, LOPD collaborated with Moss Adams and national experts to design a multi-year plan to transition contract counsel from base rates to an hourly model. The study was completed and released in October 2024, and LOPD is submitting a separate special funding request to support the transition, planning, and implementation.

LOPD's FY2027 budget request prioritizes persistent resource gaps that directly impact our ability to provide holistic and effective assistance of counsel. A primary concern is the growing number of felony cases - particularly murder cases - combined with a limited pool of available attorneys, which places significant strain on the agency. Pre-COVID, the number of murder cases assigned to contract attorneys averaged 80 cases per year. However, between FY22 and FY25, murder cases assigned to contractors averaged 189 per year. These cases are highly complex, requiring substantially more time, attention, and resources than other case types. Additional resources are needed for attorneys handling these cases, as well as for expert witnesses and contract investigators. The increasing volume of murder cases, often involving multiple co-defendants, further compounds trial expenses. A one-page summary of the full request is attached.

To address these challenges, the request includes funding for 29 full-time positions, 22 of which will serve rural communities. Our request includes 14 attorneys and 15 core staff - social workers, investigators, and paralegals - who will support clients' growing need for mental health and addiction treatment services. Expanding access to these services, which are critically limited in rural areas, is essential to reducing recidivism and mitigating the significant social and fiscal costs associated with incarceration.

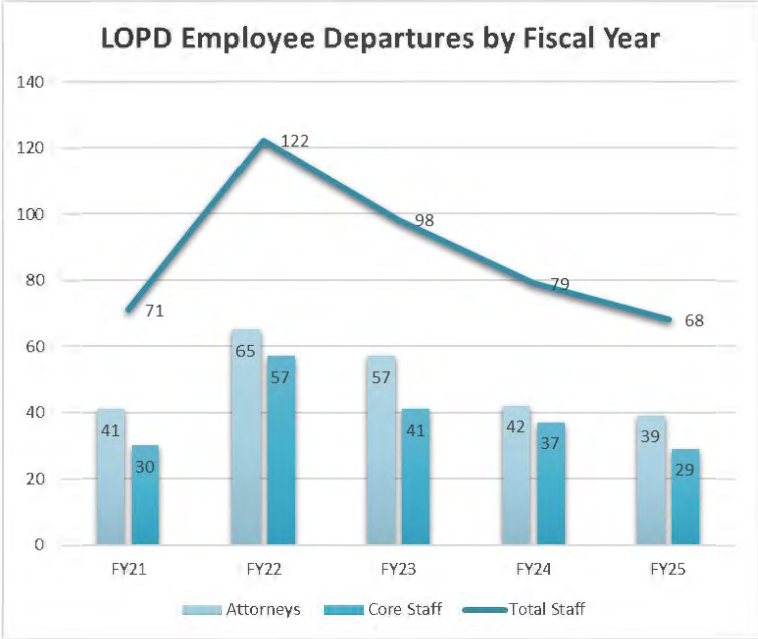
The request also targets three additional critical challenges LOPD faces. The volume of complex trials and competency cases is increasing as the state revamps its

mandates for courts to handle mental health issues. The number of private attorneys in New Mexico willing to take public defense contracts is strained by our pay rates, which are far below peer positions within the state and nationally. Low pay rates make recruiting extremely challenging, attrition common, and create heavy caseloads for remaining contractors. Public defender contract attorneys are paid low base rates, while their counterparts contracted by district attorney offices receive up to \$150 per hour and those engaged for civil matters by the State of New Mexico earn substantially more, creating a stark inequity in compensation for comparable professional work.

Additionally, LOPD projects a shortfall in the personnel category, which reflects both LOPD’s historically low vacancy rate and the fact that this category has not been fully funded in the past. The funding ensures the agency can meet staffing and compensation obligations and includes provisions for longevity pay as negotiated in the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

LOPD has a strong record of managing financial resources wisely, ensuring every dollar is spent efficiently and effectively. The agency’s careful planning, accountability, and commitment to maximizing value have been recognized through the legislature’s approval of 58 additional FTE between FY2022 and FY2024.

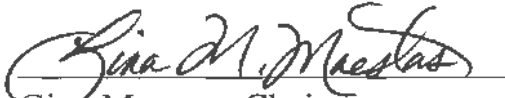
Innovative recruitment and retention strategies have ensured that these positions are filled and employees retained, maintaining vacancy rates well below the statewide average and reflecting a stable workforce and strong return on investment. Over the past five years, retention has improved further, strengthening workforce stability statewide, as illustrated in the chart to the right.



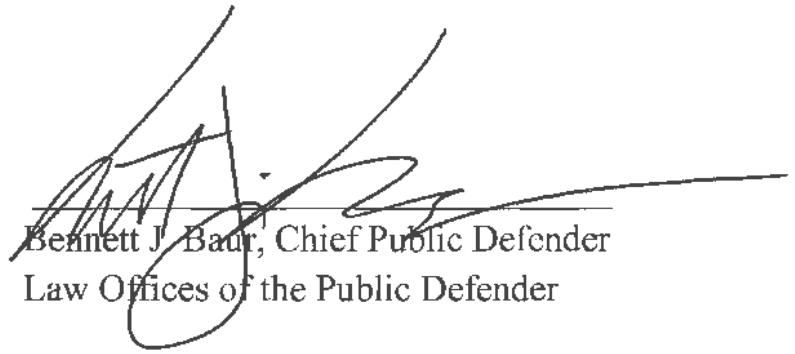
In fulfillment of our constitutional obligations to clients and rural communities, LOPD respectfully submits the attached FY2027 budget request, reflecting the critical need for a 10.4% increase to the base budget.

The Public Defender Commission and the Law Offices of the Public Defender sincerely appreciate your consideration of this FY2027 request.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gina M. Maestas", written over a horizontal line.

Gina Maestas, Chair
Public Defender Commission

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bennett J. Baur", written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly stylized and extends to the right.

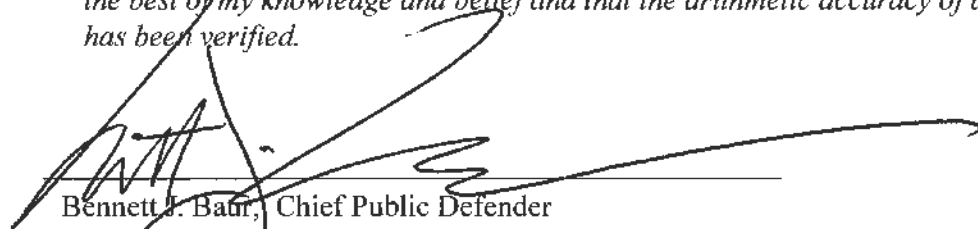
Bennett J. Baur, Chief Public Defender
Law Offices of the Public Defender

**APPROPRIATION REQUEST
CERTIFICATION
FORM S-1**


Agency Name: Public Defender Department

Business Unit: 28000

I hereby certify that the accompanying summary and detailed statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and that the arithmetic accuracy of all numeric information has been verified.


Bennett J. Bair, Chief Public Defender


Gina Maestas, Chairperson

 08/20/2025
Debbie O'Dell, CFO

301 North Guadalupe
Street
Suite 200
Santa Fe, NM 87501

505-490-5463

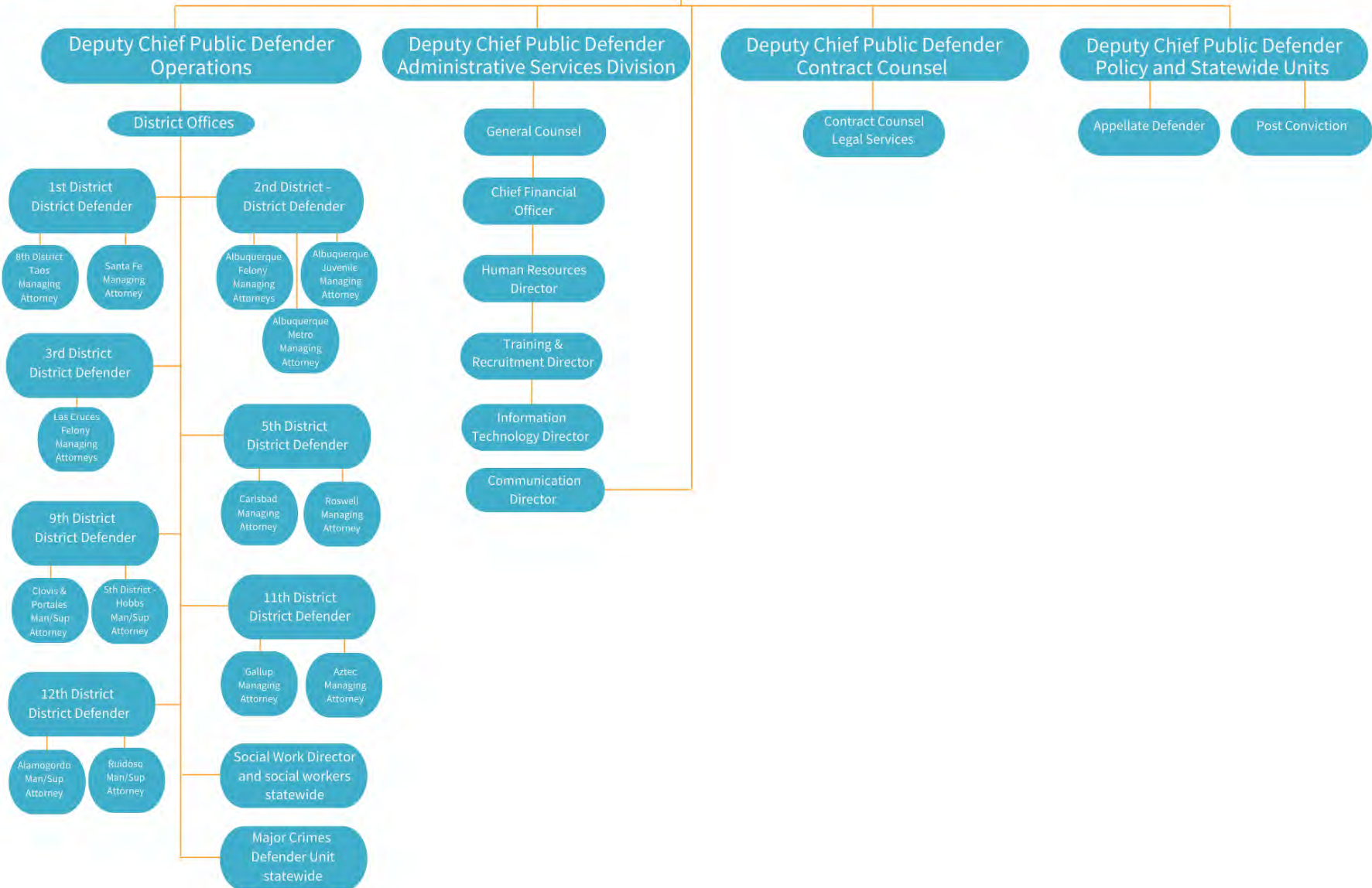
Debbie.odell@lopdm.us

Note: Appropriation Requests for agencies headed by a board or commission must be approved by the board or commission by official action and signed by the chairperson. Operating Budgets of other agencies must be signed by the director or secretary. Appropriation Requests not properly signed will be returned.



NEW MEXICO
**LAW OFFICES OF THE
PUBLIC DEFENDER**

Chief Public Defender



S-8 Financial Summary

(Dollars in Thousands)

BU PCode Department
28000 0000 0000000000

	2024-25 Opbud	2024-25 Actuals	2025-26 Opbud	2026-27 PCF Proj	Base	----- FY 2027 Agency Request ----- Expansion	Total
REVENUE							
111 General Fund Transfers	77,055.0	75,658.8	82,110.0	0.0	90,627.2	0.0	90,627.2
112 Other Transfers	0.0	1,396.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
130 Other Revenues	100.0	83.5	100.0	0.0	400.0	0.0	400.0
REVENUE, TRANSFERS	77,155.0	77,138.5	82,210.0	0	91,027.2	0.0	91,027.2
REVENUE	77,155.0	77,138.5	82,210.0	0	91,027.2	0.0	91,027.2
EXPENSE							
200 Personal services and employee benefits	50,710.7	51,942.5	55,378.7	63,861.9	60,295.9	0.0	60,295.9
300 Contractual services	19,417.1	18,060.5	19,417.1	0.0	22,267.1	0.0	22,267.1
400 Other	7,027.2	6,487.1	7,414.2	0.0	8,464.2	0.0	8,464.2
EXPENDITURES	77,155.0	76,490.1	82,210.0	63,861.92	91,027.2	0.0	91,027.2
EXPENSE	77,155.0	76,490.1	82,210.0	63,861.92	91,027.2	0.0	91,027.2
FTE POSITIONS							
810 Permanent	497.00	0.00	497.00	520.00	526.00	0.00	526.00
820 Term	5.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	5.00
830 Temporary	14.00	0.00	14.00	0.00	14.00	0.00	14.00
FTEs	516.00	0.00	516.00	520.00	545.00	0.00	545.00
FTE POSITIONS	516.00	0.00	516.00	520.00	545.00	0.00	545.00

Public Defender Department

State of New Mexico

S-8 Financial Summary by Fund Level

BU Fund
28000 00000

(Dollars in Thousands)

	2024-25 Opbud	2024-25 Actuals	2025-26 Opbud	2026-27 PCF Proj	Base	----- FY 2027 Agency Request -----		Total
						Expansion		
	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EXPENSE								
200 Personal services and employee benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,010.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,010.33	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EXPENSE	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,010.33	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
FTE POSITIONS								
810 Permanent	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FTEs	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FTE POSITIONS	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

S-8 Financial Summary by Fund Level

BU Fund
28000 17500

(Dollars in Thousands)

	2024-25 Opbud	2024-25 Actuals	2025-26 Opbud	2026-27 PCF Proj	Base	----- FY 2027 Agency Request -----		Total
						Expansion		
	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EXPENSE								
200 Personal services and employee benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0	3,080.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	3,080	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EXPENSE	0.0	0.0	0.0	3,080	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
FTE POSITIONS								
810 Permanent	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FTEs	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FTE POSITIONS	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

S-8 Financial Summary by Fund Level

BU Fund
28000 17510

(Dollars in Thousands)

	2024-25 Opbud	2024-25 Actuals	2025-26 Opbud	2026-27 PCF Proj	Base	----- FY 2027 Agency Request -----		Total
						Expansion		
REVENUE								
111 General Fund Transfers	77,055.0	75,658.8	82,110.0	0.0	90,627.2	0.0		90,627.2
112 Other Transfers	0.0	1,396.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0
130 Other Revenues	0.0	(0.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0
REVENUE, TRANSFERS	77,055.0	77,055.0	82,110.0	0	90,627.2	0.0		90,627.2
REVENUE	77,055.0	77,055.0	82,110.0	0	90,627.2	0.0		90,627.2
EXPENSE								
200 Personal services and employee benefits	50,710.7	51,942.5	55,378.7	58,771.6	60,295.9	0.0		60,295.9
300 Contractual services	19,417.1	18,060.5	19,417.1	0.0	22,267.1	0.0		22,267.1
400 Other	6,927.2	6,394.8	7,314.2	0.0	8,064.2	0.0		8,064.2
EXPENDITURES	77,055.0	76,397.8	82,110.0	58,771.59	90,627.2	0.0		90,627.2
EXPENSE	77,055.0	76,397.8	82,110.0	58,771.59	90,627.2	0.0		90,627.2
FTE POSITIONS								
810 Permanent	497.00	0.00	497.00	476.00	526.00	0.00		526.00
820 Term	5.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	5.00	0.00		5.00
830 Temporary	14.00	0.00	14.00	0.00	14.00	0.00		14.00
FTEs	516.00	0.00	516.00	476.00	545.00	0.00		545.00
FTE POSITIONS	516.00	0.00	516.00	476.00	545.00	0.00		545.00

S-8 Financial Summary by Fund Level

BU Fund
28000 75910

(Dollars in Thousands)

	2024-25 Opbud	2024-25 Actuals	2025-26 Opbud	2026-27 PCF Proj	Base	----- FY 2027 Agency Request ----- Expansion	Total
REVENUE							
130 Other Revenues	100.0	83.5	100.0	0.0	400.0	0.0	400.0
REVENUE, TRANSFERS	100.0	83.5	100.0	0	400.0	0.0	400.0
REVENUE	100.0	83.5	100.0	0	400.0	0.0	400.0
EXPENSE							
300 Contractual services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
400 Other	100.0	92.3	100.0	0.0	400.0	0.0	400.0
EXPENDITURES	100.0	92.3	100.0	0	400.0	0.0	400.0
EXPENSE	100.0	92.3	100.0	0	400.0	0.0	400.0

BU PCode Department
28000 0000 0000000000

S-9 Account Code Revenue/Expenditure Summary
(Dollars in Thousands)

		2024-25	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	----- FY 2027 Agency Request -----		
		Opbud	Actuals	Opbud	PCF Proj	Base	Expansion	Total
499105	General Fd. Appropriation	77,055.0	75,658.8	82,110.0	0.0	90,627.2	0.0	90,627.2
111	General Fund Transfers	77,055.0	75,658.8	82,110.0	0.0	90,627.2	0.0	90,627.2
499905	Other Financing Sources	0.0	1,396.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
112	Other Transfers	0.0	1,396.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
422902	Other Fees	100.0	83.5	100.0	0.0	400.0	0.0	400.0
425302	Legal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
441101	Interest On Bank Deposits	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
130	Other Revenues	100.0	83.5	100.0	0.0	400.0	0.0	400.0
TOTAL REVENUE		77,155.0	77,138.5	82,210.0	0	91,027.2	0.0	91,027.2
520100	Exempt Perm Positions P/T&F/T	36,048.0	36,598.4	39,496.9	45,589.0	43,765.2	0.0	43,765.2
520200	Term Positions	268.9	273.2	315.0	2.2	315.0	0.0	315.0
520500	Temporary Positions F/T & P/T	623.6	82.6	210.0	1.1	99.9	0.0	99.9
520600	Paid Unused Sick Leave	56.5	52.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
520700	Overtime & Other Premium Pay	31.9	33.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
520800	Annl & Comp Paid At Separation	245.5	191.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
521100	Group Insurance Premium	4,185.2	3,080.0	3,664.9	5,729.4	4,006.0	0.0	4,006.0
521200	Retirement Contributions	5,401.7	7,176.0	6,550.3	8,779.3	7,200.0	0.0	7,200.0
521300	F I C A	2,079.4	2,756.2	2,910.0	2,815.8	2,910.0	0.0	2,910.0
521400	Workers' Comp Assessment Fee	4.7	4.2	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	5.0
521410	GSD Work Comp Insur Premium	139.7	110.9	175.7	0.0	135.2	0.0	135.2
521500	Unemployment Comp Premium	50.8	50.1	34.4	0.0	52.5	0.0	52.5
521600	Employee Liability Ins Premium	780.3	761.7	376.5	0.0	1,032.1	0.0	1,032.1
521700	RHC Act Contributions	794.5	745.7	950.0	945.2	775.0	0.0	775.0
521900	Other Employee Benefits	0.0	26.0	695.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
200	Personal services and employee benef	50,710.7	51,942.5	55,378.7	63,861.9	60,295.9	0.0	60,295.9
535200	Professional Services	40.0	153.4	0.0	0.0	196.2	0.0	196.2
535300	Other Services	4,699.0	1,610.9	4,539.2	0.0	3,400.0	0.0	3,400.0
535400	Audit Services	40.4	44.3	45.2	0.0	51.9	0.0	51.9
535500	Attorney Services	13,932.7	15,692.5	14,432.7	0.0	18,169.0	0.0	18,169.0
535600	IT Services	705.0	559.3	400.0	0.0	450.0	0.0	450.0
300	Contractual services	19,417.1	18,060.5	19,417.1	0.0	22,267.1	0.0	22,267.1
542100	Employee I/S Mileage & Fares	80.0	42.1	50.0	0.0	75.0	0.0	75.0
542200	Employee I/S Meals & Lodging	120.0	158.4	140.0	0.0	205.0	0.0	205.0

BU PCode Department
28000 0000 0000000000

S-9 Account Code Revenue/Expenditure Summary
(Dollars in Thousands)

		2024-25	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	----- FY 2027 Agency Request -----		
		Opbud	Actuals	Opbud	PCF Proj	Base	Expansion	Total
542300	Brd & Comm Mbr Meals & Lodging	3.0	0.1	3.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	3.0
542310	Brd & Comm Mbr Mileage & Fares	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
542500	Transp - Fuel & Oil	20.0	20.8	30.0	0.0	30.0	0.0	30.0
542600	Transp - Parts & Supplies	10.0	4.0	10.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	10.0
542700	Transp - Transp Insurance	1.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.6
542800	State Transp Pool Charges	175.0	177.6	175.0	0.0	181.0	0.0	181.0
543200	Maint - Furn, Fixt, Equipment	98.0	0.0	50.7	0.0	50.0	0.0	50.0
543300	Maint - Buildings & Structures	6.0	2.9	6.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	5.0
543400	Maint - Property Insurance	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
543500	Maint - Supplies	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
543700	Maintenance Services	15.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
543820	Maintenance IT	0.0	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
543830	IT HW/SW Agreements	100.0	262.7	475.0	0.0	785.0	0.0	785.0
544000	Supply Inventory IT	144.0	66.6	175.0	0.0	185.0	0.0	185.0
544100	Supplies-Office Supplies	95.0	59.6	120.0	0.0	80.0	0.0	80.0
544200	Supplies-Medical,Lab,Personal	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	5.0
544400	Supplies-Field Supplies	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.0
544700	Supplies-Clothing,Unifrms,Linen	5.0	0.1	8.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	5.0
544900	Supplies-Inventory Exempt	60.0	42.7	75.0	0.0	137.9	0.0	137.9
545600	Reporting & Recording	685.0	488.7	887.0	0.0	890.0	0.0	890.0
545700	ISD Services	0.0	2.7	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.0	3.7
545710	DOIT HCM Assessment Fees	172.8	169.2	182.0	0.0	194.0	0.0	194.0
545900	Printing & Photo Services	45.0	59.1	60.0	0.0	90.1	0.0	90.1
545909	Printing & Photo - Interagency	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
546100	Postage & Mail Services	90.0	5.5	60.0	0.0	40.0	0.0	40.0
546109	Postage&Mail Svcs - Int Agency	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
546400	Rent Of Land & Buildings	3,100.0	3,192.4	3,100.0	0.0	3,455.0	0.0	3,455.0
546500	Rent Of Equipment	140.0	170.0	145.0	0.0	210.0	0.0	210.0
546600	Communications	844.1	556.7	750.0	0.0	710.0	0.0	710.0
546610	DOIT Telecommunications	90.0	113.5	104.3	0.0	121.7	0.0	121.7
546700	Subscriptions/Dues/License Fee	300.0	261.7	300.0	0.0	325.0	0.0	325.0
546709	Subscription & Due Interagency	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
546800	Employee Training & Education	72.5	71.0	72.5	0.0	130.1	0.0	130.1

BU PCode Department
28000 0000 0000000000

S-9 Account Code Revenue/Expenditure Summary
(Dollars in Thousands)

		2024-25	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	----- FY 2027 Agency Request -----		
		Opbud	Actuals	Opbud	PCF Proj	Base	Expansion	Total
546900	Advertising	15.0	38.1	60.0	0.0	60.0	0.0	60.0
547900	Miscellaneous Expense	10.0	29.9	25.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	25.0
547999	Request to Pay Prior Year	50.0	216.5	50.0	0.0	150.0	0.0	150.0
548300	Information Tech Equipment	450.0	153.7	150.0	0.0	130.0	0.0	130.0
548400	Other Equipment	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
549600	Employee O/S Mileage & Fares	15.0	41.4	75.0	0.0	75.0	0.0	75.0
549700	Employee O/S Meals & Lodging	15.0	65.8	75.0	0.0	95.0	0.0	95.0
400	Other	7,027.2	6,487.1	7,414.2	0.0	8,464.2	0.0	8,464.2
TOTAL EXPENSE		77,155.0	76,490.1	82,210.0	63,861.92	91,027.2	0.0	91,027.2
810	Permanent	497.00	0.00	497.00	520.00	526.00	0.00	526.00
810	Permanent	497.00	0.00	497.00	520.00	526.00	0.00	526.00
820	Term	5.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	5.00
820	Term	5.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	5.00
830	Temporary	14.00	0.00	14.00	0.00	14.00	0.00	14.00
830	Temporary	14.00	0.00	14.00	0.00	14.00	0.00	14.00
TOTAL FTE POSITIONS		516.00	0.00	516.00	520.00	545.00	0.00	545.00

APPROPRIATION REQUEST

FORM S-10 FUND BALANCE PROJECTION

(In Whole Dollars)

Agency: <u>Public Defender Department</u>	Business Unit: <u>28000</u>
Fund Name: <u>Public Defender</u>	Fund Number: <u>75910</u>
Legal Auth. <u>Administratively Established</u>	

BEGINNING BALANCE

Unreserved, undesignated fund balance (not cash balance) from SHARE NMS006GL Balance Sheet Report at close of FY25	965,600
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ADJUSTMENTS

Add:

Interfund receivables, accounts receivables, and other assets not reflected in fund balance from FCD Reports at close of FY25	0
Other (explain in detail)	0

Deduct:

Liabilities not reflected in FCD Reports at close of FY25	0
Fund balance designated by law for future expenditure (non-reverting funds)	0
Amount due to State General Fund or other fund designated by statute	0
Other (explain in detail)	0
FY25 revision not reflected in liabilities	0

Total Adjustments	0
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ADJUSTED UNRESERVED, UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE at close of FY25	965,600
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Add:

Projected revenue/sources (less fund balance budgeted) for FY26	90,000
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Deduct:

Projected total expenditures for FY26	(95,000)
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ADJUSTED UNRESERVED/UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE at close of FY26	960,600
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Add:

Projected revenue/sources (less fund balance requested) for FY27	125,000
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Deduct:

Total expenditures budgeted in appropriation request	(400,000)
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ADJUSTED UNRESERVED/UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE at close of FY27	685,600
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State of New Mexico

Rate Report - Selected Line Items for Rates

(Dollars in Thousands)

Org Unit	Line		2024-25	2025-26	-----FY 2027-----				Opbud
			Actuals	OpBud	Request		Recommendation		
					Base	Expansion	Base	Expansion	
28000 P850 Criminal Legal Services	521410	GSD Work Comp Insur Premium	110.89	175.7	135.2	0	0	0.0	0.0
	521500	Unemployment Comp Premium	50.08	34.4	52.5	0	0	0.0	0.0
	521600	Employee Liability Ins Premium	761.71	376.5	1,032.1	0	0	0.0	0.0
	535400	Audit Services	44.34	45.2	51.9	0	0	0.0	0.0
	542700	Transp - Transp Insurance	0	0.6	0.6	0	0	0.0	0.0
	542800	State Transp Pool Charges	177.6	175	181	0	0	0.0	0.0
	543400	Maint - Property Insurance	0	0.1	0.1	0	0	0.0	0.0
	545700	ISD Services	2.71	0	3.7	0	0	0.0	0.0
	545710	DOIT HCM Assessment Fees	169.25	182	194	0	0	0.0	0.0
	546610	DOIT Telecommunications	113.5	104.3	121.7	0	0	0.0	0.0
28000 P850 Criminal Legal Services			1,430.08	1,093.8	1,772.8	0	0	0.0	0.0
			1,430.08	1,093.8	1,772.8	0	0	0	0.0

Program Description:

The mandate of the New Mexico Law Offices of the Public Defender (LOPD) is to fulfill New Mexico's constitutional and statutory guarantees of providing legal services to indigent adults and juveniles charged with criminal or delinquent acts in New Mexico. Our mission is to provide holistic legal representation of the highest quality to persons charged with criminal offenses in New Mexico, to protect constitutional rights, to advocate zealously for our clients, and to reduce criminal recidivism and redirect clients from the criminal legal system in New Mexico. LOPD has thirteen offices spread throughout eight of the thirteen Judicial Districts (First, Second, Third, Fifth, Eighth, Ninth, Eleventh, and Twelfth). Those offices handle approximately 67% of all assigned cases. Contract defenders provide representation in 33% of assigned cases annually, in the 20 counties where LOPD does not have an office and in cases statewide where LOPD has a conflict of interest.

Major Issues and Accomplishments:

Public Defense Funding and Staffing Levels

Though the roles of the prosecution and defense are inherently different, there are significant disparities in funding and resource levels between the two entities. For FY26, LOPD's budget (less lease costs) was about 40% of all district attorney's office (including AODA) budgets despite having the same cases and clients. As of July 2025, the DAs have at least 1,117 FTE in total, compared with 498 at LOPD and our 81 contract attorneys – more than double the amount of prosecutorial staff than defense staff.

The DA offices are not only supported by their in-house administration as well as state-level administration, but are also served by state, local and federal law enforcement. For example, state and local law enforcement conduct the initial investigations for the cases handled by the local DA; for LOPD, this process must occur using internal staff time and resources. In addition, each DA's office has an in-house CFO, HR staff, and IT support, combined with similar statewide resources and support provided by AODA.

LOPD has 41 administrative staff dedicated to serving LOPD staff and contract attorneys, while also auditing and monitoring invoicing by contract defenders. Administrative staff includes fiscal, HR, IT, and statewide administrative staff. AODA and the DA's offices have a total of 742 core staff FTE and 375 attorney FTE. In addition, many DA offices have Deputy DAs or other attorney supervisors that are not assigned cases nor carry an active caseload. When compared to data compiled from DA offices across the state, LOPD staffing ratios are significantly lower than the DAs.

The funding gap is further exacerbated as LOPD is burdened with the additional expense of paying leases for its facilities, while DA offices are provided and paid for by the counties. This additional expense depletes the LOPD budget.

Shortage of Contract Defenders

LOPD's funding levels force minimal compensation rates for LOPD contract defenders. As a result, LOPD has struggled to find and retain an adequate number of contractors to provide a constitutionally appropriate level of defense, worsening the legal deserts existing in the state. The current base rate compensation for contract defenders is \$900 for first degree felonies (except capital crimes which are compensated at \$6,500), \$850 for second degree felonies, \$775 for third degree felonies, \$650 for fourth degree felonies, \$360 for juvenile cases, \$220 for misdemeanor cases, and \$360 for misdemeanor DWI and DV cases. Case compensation rates remain low despite LOPD increasing rates 20% in FY24.

Current compensation for public defender contract attorneys lags significantly behind that of attorneys contracted by the State of New Mexico for civil matters and those engaged by district attorney offices at \$150 per hour. The State of New Mexico pays contract lawyers in civil cases \$150 (for those with zero to two years of experience) to \$225 (for over ten years of experience) per hour to protect the State's money through the RMD's contracts. Those hourly rates provide compensation far higher than attorneys representing clients charged with first degree murder or cases that carry a sentence of life imprisonment. By contrast, federal contract public defenders are compensated an hourly rate of \$175. In prior years, LOPD has seen a decrease in response to RFPs for contract attorneys. Although some of the contractors retired, others did not resubmit proposals, preferring instead to concentrate on their more lucrative private practices. It is becoming increasingly difficult to replace contractors in rural areas when LOPD loses them.

Overview of Request: The request includes a base general fund increase of \$8.5 million, a 10.4% increase.

The request includes:

- \$4.9 million for 29 additional FTE, 14 attorneys (\$2.2 million) and 15 core staff (\$1.6 million), with 22 of the positions serving rural communities. The request also includes funds to cover projected shortfalls in the personnel category. The agency projects \$1.8 million is needed to cover costs related to 2025's SB 376 changes to employee health insurance that is not included in this request per DFA guidance. The request also contains funding for longevity pay as negotiated in our Collective Bargaining Agreement.

- \$2.85 million is requested to prepare the agency for more complex cases and an increased number of competency cases. Of that amount, \$2.1 million is to improve compensation for contract attorneys statewide.

- \$750,000 is included in the request to maintain funding for increased lease costs, increased travel rate expenses, and increased software costs.

Programmatic Changes: Climbing Felony Caseloads

Felony caseloads remain a primary concern for the agency as projections continue to show increasing felony case assignments in FY25, a trend the rest of the criminal legal system is also reflecting. The rising number of felony cases - particularly murder cases - paired with a limited pool of available attorneys is a serious concern. Felony cases are highly complex and demand significantly more time, attention, and resources than other case types.

Each of the last four fiscal years has seen double digit increases in felony caseloads: 19% between FY21-FY22, 13% between FY22-FY23, 18% between FY23-FY24, and 11% between FY24-FY25.

Contract Attorneys

In line with the increasing felony caseloads assigned to in-house attorneys, the rise in murder cases is placing a particularly heavy burden on contract attorneys. Pre-COVID, the number of murder cases assigned to contract attorneys averaged 80 cases per year. However, between FY22 and FY25, murder cases assigned to contractors averaged 189 per year. Not only are murder cases more complex to represent, but many murders now have multiple co-defendants, which adds to the difficulty of working these cases.

LOPD faces challenges when trying to contract with attorneys in both rural and urban areas. To help better recruit and retain contract attorneys, LOPD has explored alternatives to base rate pay over the last decade or so, including hourly rate pilot programs and complex litigation compensation, which offers additional pay for documented work on difficult cases.

Rural Office Challenges

Rural public defense offices continue to present significant challenges, with vacancy rates and complex caseloads reaching unsustainable levels. As of June 30, 2025:

In the Gallup office, 88% of attorney positions remain unfilled, severely limiting the capacity to provide effective representation while both the Clovis and Carlsbad office each have a 33% attorney vacancy rate.

Geographic isolation of rural communities often makes recruitment difficult, as potential candidates may be deterred by limited housing or lack of professional support networks.

At the same time, rural public defenders are managing increasingly complex and demanding caseloads. In several offices, attorneys are seeing more felony charges and higher rates of cases going to jury trial than in previous years, increasing both the workload and the stakes for clients and communities. Without adequate staffing, these conditions

strain remaining attorneys, risk constitutional violations, and erode the overall quality and timeliness of representation. Addressing these staffing shortages is critical to ensuring that rural residents have equitable access to justice. LOPD is weighing all available options when considering how to best support rural attorneys.

The New Mexico Project

In January 2022, the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defense released the long awaited report on LOPD workloads, partially funded by the LFC, which confirms what every LOPD attorney experiences on a daily basis. Findings of the report emphasize that LOPD is in need of an additional 602 full time attorneys. The 602 does not consider the additional workload required with new legislation, nor additional staffing and attorneys required when judgeships are added to any courthouses statewide.

Following the findings in the workload study, LOPD worked with a national expert on public defender workloads, experts from Moss Adams, and others to devise an initial long-term plan to find a way toward sustainable effective assistance of counsel for attorneys and core staff.

Since these reports, the department added 8 new attorney FTE in FY23, 3 new attorney FTE in FY24, and 5 new attorney FTE in FY25. These FTE were assigned mostly to rural districts.

Social Work Unit

LOPD continues its long-term goal by providing holistic representation to reduce the number of persons cycling through the criminal legal system. Social Workers have long been a critical part of that mission by assessing client needs and matching them with the available community services. A social worker considers the client as a whole person, assessing their needs and their strengths and communicating their assessment findings to the client in order to build a partnership with the client and an alliance with the client's social support system.

The Social Work unit is a statewide unit of social workers and case managers housed in all district offices. Most LOPD clients struggle with challenges beyond the legal concerns for which they are represented. Often these challenges precede criminal legal system involvement. Social workers connect with defendants and provide assessment and treatment or service plan recommendations. Social workers and case managers help clients access housing, benefits, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and provide support as they negotiate these co

Base Budget Justification: LOPD continues working towards adequate defense team staffing to improve representation, increase direct support and social work services to clients, and reduce recidivism.

The request includes 29 additional FTE, including 14 attorney FTE and 15 core staff FTE:

- 14 additional attorneys of which 12 will serve rural communities.
- 4 investigators to assist attorneys with developing cases.
- 5 core staff to assume administrative work to free up attorneys to focus on client representation, including building relationships and communicating with clients.
- 6 staff dedicated to the social work unit to assess client substance abuse and mental health needs and to engage clients towards recovery.
- The request also contains funding for longevity pay as negotiated in our Collective Bargaining Agreement. Funding would also address projected shortfalls in the personnel category, which reflect both LOPD's historically low vacancy rate and the fact that this category has not been fully funded in the past.

The request also includes essential and competitive compensation for contract defenders creating more pay parity with civil contract attorneys, including funding for complex case compensation, and to increase base rates on cases requiring specialized knowledge, including juvenile work or violent offenses.

- Private attorneys who contract with LOPD are compensated at a base rate depending on the type of criminal charges. LOPD is not funded to pay rates commensurate with the hourly rates paid to attorneys that contract on civil matters to protect the state's money. State contract civil attorneys are compensated an hourly rate based on years of experience.
- Public defender contract attorneys are paid a dismal base rate, far below the \$150 per hour received by contract attorneys working for district attorney offices which underscores a stark disparity in compensation for criminal legal services.
- There has been a statewide increase in assignments of murders and filing of complex cases, which require additional work by contract attorneys. Funding complex case compensation for contract attorneys requires the contract attorneys to provide hourly time keeping on cases. LOPD reviews the time keeping to evaluate whether additional compensation is justified and the amount appropriate.
- There are at least three New Mexico counties with zero attorneys residing in the county and at least eight counties with fewer than 10 resident attorneys. Increased funding will ensure lawyers are compensated such that they are willing to travel to fulfill the State's constitutional requirements to provide zealous representation for indigent New Mexicans living in rural communities and legal deserts.
- LOPD is often tasked with paying more than one attorney on a given case because there are often co-defendants – sometimes as many as six – which requires LOPD to pay several different attorneys, investigators, and experts, on a case while the prosecution costs are relatively fixed.

The request also includes funding for lease expenses, travel and per diem rate increases, and training and recruitment.

- Budget request will help manage increased assignments of murders and filings of complex cases, which also require use of expert witnesses.
- Funding to address escalating rent. LOPD leases and pays rent for space at all of its 15 offices. All other criminal justice partners, specifically the courts and district attorneys, are provided facilities by the state or county. In FY25, lease costs are estimated to exceed \$3 million.

REV EXP COMPARISON

(Dollars in Thousands)

28000 - Public Defender Department

P850 - Criminal Legal Services

	General Fund	Other Funds	Other Transfers	Federal Funds	Total
SOURCES Totals	90,627.2	400.0	0.0	0.0	91,027.2
Personal services and employee benefits	60,295.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	60,295.9
Contractual services	22,267.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	22,267.1
Other	8,064.2	400.0	0.0	0.0	8,464.2
USES Total:	90,627.2	400.0	0.0	0.0	91,027.2
Net:	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Criminal Legal Services

BU PCode
28000 P850

State of New Mexico

E4 PCode Detail
(Dollars in Thousands)

Fund	Account		2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	FY 2027 Agency Request				Justification	
			Actuals	Opbud	PCF Proj	GF	OSF	ISF/IAT	FF		Total
00000	520100	Exempt Perm Positions P/T&F/T	0.0	0.0	1,487.24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
00000	521100	Group Insurance Premium	0.0	0.0	109.16	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
00000	521200	Retirement Contributions	0.0	0.0	285.05	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
00000	521300	F I C A	0.0	0.0	91.86	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
00000	521700	RHC Act Contributions	0.0	0.0	37.04	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
17500	520100	Exempt Perm Positions P/T&F/T	0.0	0.0	2,278.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
17500	521100	Group Insurance Premium	0.0	0.0	143.56	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
17500	521200	Retirement Contributions	0.0	0.0	458.13	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
17500	521300	F I C A	0.0	0.0	140.74	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
17500	521700	RHC Act Contributions	0.0	0.0	58.98	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
17510	520100	Exempt Perm Positions P/T&F/T	36,598.4	39,496.9	41,823.15	43,765.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	43,765.2	29new FTEs attorneys and staff
17510	520200	Term Positions	273.2	315.0	2.2	315.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	315.0	
17510	520500	Temporary Positions F/T & P/T	82.6	210.0	1.08	99.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	99.9	
17510	520600	Paid Unused Sick Leave	52.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
17510	520700	Overtime & Other Premium Pay	33.7	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
17510	520800	Annl & Comp Paid At Separation	191.8	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
17510	521100	Group Insurance Premium	3,080.0	3,664.9	5,476.68	4,006.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4,006.0	10 percent group insurance not included
17510	521200	Retirement Contributions	7,176.0	6,550.3	8,036.16	7,200.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7,200.0	
17510	521300	F I C A	2,756.2	2,910.0	2,583.18	2,910.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,910.0	
17510	521400	Workers' Comp Assessment Fee	4.2	0.0	0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	
17510	521410	GSD Work Comp Insur Premium	110.9	175.7	0	135.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	135.2	
17510	521500	Unemployment Comp Premium	50.1	34.4	0	52.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	52.5	
17510	521600	Employee Liability Ins Premium	761.7	376.5	0	1,032.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,032.1	Large GSD increase
17510	521700	RHC Act Contributions	745.7	950.0	849.14	775.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	775.0	
17510	521900	Other Employee Benefits	26.0	695.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
	200	Personal services and employee benef	51,942.5	55,378.7	63,861.92	60,295.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	60,295.9	
17510	542100	Employee I/S Mileage & Fares	42.1	50.0	0	75.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	
17510	542200	Employee I/S Meals & Lodging	158.4	140.0	0	205.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	205.0	New travel rate increases
17510	542300	Brd & Comm Mbr Meals & Lodging	0.1	3.0	0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	
17510	542310	Brd & Comm Mbr Mileage & Fares	0.3	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
17510	542500	Transp - Fuel & Oil	20.8	30.0	0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.0	
17510	542600	Transp - Parts & Supplies	4.0	10.0	0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	
17510	542700	Transp - Transp Insurance	0.0	0.6	0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	

Criminal Legal Services

State of New Mexico

BU PCode
28000 P850

E4 PCode Detail
(Dollars in Thousands)

Fund	Account	2024-25 Actuals	2025-26 Opbud	2026-27 PCF Proj	FY 2027 Agency Request				Total	Justification
					GF	OSF	ISF/IAT	FF		
17510	542800	177.6	175.0	0	181.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	181.0	
17510	543200	0.0	50.7	0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	
17510	543300	2.9	6.0	0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	
17510	543400	0.0	0.1	0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	
17510	543500	0.1	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
17510	543820	6.1	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
17510	543830	234.3	375.0	0	385.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	385.0	
17510	544000	66.6	175.0	0	185.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	185.0	
17510	544100	59.6	120.0	0	80.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	80.0	
17510	544200	3.0	0.0	0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	
17510	544400	1.4	0.0	0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	
17510	544700	0.1	8.0	0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	
17510	544900	42.7	75.0	0	137.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	137.9	
17510	545600	488.7	887.0	0	890.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	890.0	Court transcribing increases
17510	545700	2.7	0.0	0	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	
17510	545710	169.2	182.0	0	194.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	194.0	
17510	545900	59.1	60.0	0	90.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	90.1	
17510	545909	0.1	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
17510	546100	5.5	60.0	0	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	40.0	
17510	546109	0.1	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
17510	546400	3,192.4	3,100.0	0	3,455.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3,455.0	Rent increases
17510	546500	170.0	145.0	0	210.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	210.0	
17510	546600	556.7	750.0	0	710.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	710.0	
17510	546610	113.5	104.3	0	121.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	121.7	
17510	546700	261.7	300.0	0	325.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	325.0	
17510	546709	0.9	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
17510	546800	71.0	72.5	0	130.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	130.1	training increases
17510	546900	38.1	60.0	0	60.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	60.0	
17510	547900	29.9	25.0	0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	
17510	547999	216.5	50.0	0	150.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	150.0	
17510	548300	89.8	150.0	0	130.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	130.0	
17510	548400	1.7	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
17510	549600	41.4	75.0	0	75.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	
17510	549700	65.8	75.0	0	95.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	95.0	

Criminal Legal Services

BU PCode
28000 P850

State of New Mexico

E4 PCode Detail
(Dollars in Thousands)

Fund	Account		2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	FY 2027 Agency Request				Total	Justification
			Actuals	Opbud	PCF Proj	GF	OSF	ISF/IAT	FF		
75910	543830	IT HW/SW Agreements	28.4	100.0	0	0.0	400.0	0.0	0.0	400.0	IT Enhancement Fund
75910	548300	Information Tech Equipment	63.9	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
	400	Other	6,487.1	7,414.2	0	8,064.2	400.0	0.0	0.0	8,464.2	
TOTAL EXPENSE			58,429.6	62,792.9		68,360.1	400.0	0.0	0.0	68,760.1	

Criminal Legal Services

BU PCode
28000 P850

State of New Mexico
Contract by PCode Detail
(Dollars in Thousands)

Fund	Account	#	Contract Purpose	Actuals	FY 2027 Agency Request				Total	Justification
					GF	OSF	ISF/IAT	FF		
17510	535200	Professional Services	1000	153.4	196.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	196.2	Recruitment of externs
17510	535300	Other Services	1000	1,610.9	3,400.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3,400.0	Expert witness, reporting rate increases
17510	535400	Audit Services	1000	44.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
17510	535400	Audit Services	1001	0.0	51.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	51.9	FY25 audit
17510	535500	Attorney Services	1000	15,692.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
17510	535500	Attorney Services	1002 Trial	0.0	18,169.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18,169.0	To contract with attorneys for LOPD. Complex trial increases
17510	535600	IT Services	1000	559.3	450.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	450.0	
TOTAL EXPENSE				18,060.5	22,267.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	22,267.1	

State of New Mexico
Specials Agency Report (3500)

Run Date: 8/29/25
Run Time: 4:28:44 PM

Report Name

Business Unit	Rank	Form ID	Language Requested for GAA	Request Type Name	GF Request	Total Request	FTE Request	Agency Contact	Phone
28000	1	73826	For externship and internship initiatives.	Special (FY 27)	350.0	350.0	0.00	Debbie O'Dell	505-469-4919
28000	2	74277	For a pilot project to transition selected cases from base rates to hourly rates for contract attorneys.	GRO requests	15,400.0	15,400.0	0.00	Debbie O'Dell	505-469-4919

DFA Performance Based Budgeting Data System

Annual Performance Report

Agency: 28000 Public Defender Department

Program: P850 Criminal Legal Services

The purpose of the criminal legal services program is to provide effective legal representation and advocacy for eligible clients so their liberty and constitutional rights are protected and to serve the community as a partner in assuring a fair and efficient criminal justice system that sustains New Mexico's statutory and constitutional mandate to adequately fund a statewide indigent defense system.

Performance Measures:		2024-25 Target	2024-25 Result	Met Target	Year End Result Narrative
Output	Average cases assigned to attorneys yearly	330	370	No	LOPD does not have control over the number of cases filed by the district attorneys of each district or over the rigor with which the cases are screened. Accordingly, LOPD has no control over the number of cases that it must assign to individual attorneys.
Output	Average number of cases opened by district	Discont	0	No	
Output	Average time to case disposition, in months	9	7	Yes	Of all of the participants in the criminal justice system, LOPD has the least ability to affect the "Time to Disposition" in any given case. Law enforcement determines the timeframe for processing evidence for review by the district attorney. The district attorney is charged with reviewing the evidence to determine whether charges should be brought based on the evidence provided by law enforcement. The courts then determine when to schedule the case and its associated hearings on its docket.
Output	Difference between the number of cases opened and closed by office	Discont	0	No	
Output	Number of alternative sentencing treatment placements for felony, misdemeanor and juvenile clients	5,000	32,476	Yes	LOPD has been working to better educate and explain the importance of accurate and timely closure of cases and each quarter shows a marked improvement, especially FY25's cumulative results. Staff are being trained on when and for what reasons cases should be marked closed and what qualifies as an alternative sentence or referral to treatment.
Output	Number of alternative sentencing treatment placements in felony, misdemeanor and juvenile cases for clients of contract attorneys	Discont	0	No	
Output	Number of cases closed by attorneys	Discont	0	No	
Output	Number of cases dismissed in felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile cases	Discont	0	No	
Quality	Percent of felony cases resulting in a reduction of original formally filed charges	65%	78%	Yes	LOPD has been working to better educate and explain the importance of accurate and timely closure of cases and each quarter shows a marked improvement, especially FY25's cumulative results. Staff are being trained on when and for what reasons cases

DFA Performance Based Budgeting Data System

Annual Performance Report

Program: P850 Criminal Legal Services

Performance Measures:		2024-25 Target	2024-25 Result	Met Target	Year End Result Narrative
Quality	Percent of juvenile cases resulting in a reduction of the original formally filed charges	60%	83%	Yes	LOPD has been working to better educate and explain the importance of accurate and timely closure of cases and each quarter shows a marked improvement, especially FY25's cumulative results. Staff are being trained on when and for what reasons cases should be marked closed and what counts as a reduction in sentence.
Quality	Percent of misdemeanor cases resulting in a reduction of the original formally filed charges	65%	87%	Yes	LOPD has been working to better educate and explain the importance of accurate and timely closure of cases and each quarter shows a marked improvement, especially FY25's cumulative results. Staff are being trained on when and for what reasons cases

Performance Measures Summary

P850 Criminal Legal Services

Purpose: The purpose of the criminal legal services program is to provide effective legal representation and advocacy for eligible clients so their liberty and constitutional rights are protected and to serve the community as a partner in assuring a fair and efficient criminal justice system that sustains New Mexico's statutory and constitutional mandate to adequately fund a statewide indigent defense system.

Performance Measures:		2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Request	2026-27 Recomm
Quality	Percent of felony cases resulting in a reduction of original formally filed charges	62%	78%	65%	65%	
Quality	Percent of misdemeanor cases resulting in a reduction of the original formally filed charges	71%	87%	70%	70%	
Quality	Percent of juvenile cases resulting in a reduction of the original formally filed charges	65%	83%	65%	65%	
Output	Number of alternative sentencing treatment placements for felony, misdemeanor and juvenile clients	28,523	32,476	15,000	15,000	
Output	Average cases assigned to attorneys yearly	347	370	330	330	
Output	Average time to case disposition, in months	8	7	8	8	

FY 2027

July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Annual Report and Strategic Plan



NEW MEXICO
LAW OFFICES OF THE
PUBLIC DEFENDER

Website: www.lopdm.us

Twitter: @NMDefenders

Facebook: NM Law Offices of the Public Defender

Instagram: New Mexico Public Defenders

301 N. Guadalupe Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY _____	4
Background: The New Mexico Law Offices of the Public Defender _____	4
Public Defender Commission _____	4
Chief Public Defender _____	5
ADMINISTRATION _____	6
CLIENT ADVOCACY _____	7
Statewide Units _____	7
Public Defender District Offices _____	10
Map of Counties with and without LOPD offices _____	14
LAW OFFICES OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER _____	15
Agency Mission _____	15
Agency Purpose _____	15
Stages of Client Representation (Program Activities) _____	15
Advocating for Criminal Justice Reform and System Change _____	17
CRITICAL CHALLENGES AND EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THEM _____	18
Caseloads _____	18
The New Mexico Project and 5-Year Plan – a Workload Study and Funding Plan _____	19
Shortage of Contract Defenders _____	20
Public Defense Funding and Necessary Staffing Levels _____	23
Innovative Recruitment and Retention Program _____	25
Vacancy Rate _____	27
Statewide Training and Professional Development Program _____	28
Strategic Planning Process _____	29
Efforts to Secure Grants and Other Funding _____	29
Improving Employee Services _____	31
AWARDS AND ACCOLADES _____	32
We Are Leaders in Our State and Nationally _____	33
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT _____	34
We Are Part of Our Communities _____	34
We Are Part of the Story _____	35
We Are Key Players _____	35

FY26 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	36
PERFORMANCE MEASURES	38

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background: The New Mexico Law Offices of the Public Defender

The mandate of the New Mexico Law Offices of the Public Defender (LOPD) is to fulfill New Mexico's constitutional and statutory guarantees of providing legal services to indigent adults and juveniles charged with criminal or delinquent acts in New Mexico. LOPD provides legal counsel in every state court: the New Mexico Supreme Court, the New Mexico Court of Appeals, 15 District Courts, the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court, and 25 Magistrate Courts. The New Mexico Public Defender Act, Sections 31-15-1 through 31-15-12, NMSA 1978, requires the Department to provide indigent criminal defense representation that complies with constitutional standards of effective representation under the V and VI Amendments of the United States Constitution and Article II, Sections 14, 15 and 18 of the New Mexico State Constitution.

Public Defender Commission

In 2012, the citizens of New Mexico passed a constitutional amendment declaring that the New Mexico Public Defender Department "is established as an independent state agency" to be administered by a Chief Public Defender and overseen by a newly-created Public Defender Commission. The Commission is charged with the selection of the Chief Public Defender, setting fair and consistent standards for the operation of LOPD, and approval of the annual budget request. The Chief Public Defender, appointed to a four-year term, is responsible for managing all day-to-day operations of LOPD.

Public Defender Commission Members

Gina Maestas, Albuquerque, Chair
Raymond Sanchez, Albuquerque, Vice Chair
Sheila Lewis, Santa Fe
Justice Richard Bosson, Ret., Santa Fe
Jacqueline Flores, Albuquerque
Maria Padilla, Albuquerque
Michael Sanchez, Belen
Melissa Sawyers, Hobbs
Peter Schoenberg, Albuquerque

Chief Public Defender



Bennett J. Baur
Chief Public Defender

Chief Public Defender Bennett J. Baur began his career as a trial attorney in the Albuquerque office of LOPD in 1993. After time as an assistant district attorney and nine years in private practice, he returned to the LOPD as the First Judicial District Defender. He has also served as deputy chief and interim chief for the department. Baur is a past president of the New Mexico Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and has advocated on criminal legal issues in the New Mexico Legislature for over 20 years. He resides in Santa Fe with his wife. In April 2025, the New Mexico Public Defender Commission unanimously approved Chief Baur to a third, four-year term leading the Law Offices of the Public Defender.

Mission

**From courthouse to Roundhouse:
Leading the fight for justice in New Mexico.**

Vision

A New Mexico where justice is based on restoration, not retribution.

Values

Compassion and Commitment to our Clients
Collaboration and Cooperation with the Community and our Coworkers
Courage to be a Catalyst for Change

ADMINISTRATION

With offices located in Santa Fe and Albuquerque, administrative services encompass a broad range of centralized agency management functions including fiscal oversight and budget preparation, information technology services, personnel and human resources, physical office operations and leasehold management, recruitment, training and professional development programs for employees, litigation support (expert) services, and indigency and eligibility standards compliance.

The administration actively advocates on a broad range of governmental, public policy, and criminal legal issues affecting LOPD and its clients. In addition, the Chief Public Defender, deputy chiefs, statewide directors and district defenders communicate LOPD's interests to criminal legal system constituents, which include local and state governments, district attorneys, jails, prisons, courts and local district office communities to assure the delivery of quality legal services for LOPD's adult and juvenile clients.

LOPD's administration works directly with the legislature, the judiciary, and the executive branches of state government. They also prepare and submit budgets and answer questions through informal mechanisms as well as through formal legislative hearings and presentations. LOPD's administrators and leadership provide formal testimony to legislative committees and interim committees, bill analysis, and substantive written information on a full range of issues directly and indirectly affecting client representation in the trial and appellate courts. The chief, deputy chiefs, and district defenders serve on a number of task forces, advisory committees and councils that shape public policy, criminal legal initiatives and legislation in New Mexico and nationally. LOPD administrative staff and leadership also participate in many court initiatives and programs developed and implemented by the New Mexico Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, District Courts, and the Metropolitan and Magistrate courts.



Justice Richard Bosson, Ret., swears in Maria Padilla to her Public Defender Commission seat in June 2025.



Deputy Chief Public Defender Cydni Sanchez

The Administrative Services Division (ASD) is overseen by Deputy Chief Public Defender Cydni Sanchez. The ASD team is comprised of fiscal, human resources, information technology, training and recruitment and communications staff as well as LOPD's general counsel. Since graduating from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2005, she has proudly dedicated her entire legal career to indigent defense at LOPD. Deputy Chief Sanchez has also taken the lead on special statewide projects including caseload tracking for the state's legislature, annual budget requests, annual reports, and leading the department's participation in a comprehensive workload study, 5-year plan, and strategic plan.

CLIENT ADVOCACY

Statewide Units

LOPD has several statewide units which offer specialized services for clients. These units are headed by the following positions:

- 1) Appellate Defender
- 2) Managing Attorney – Post-Conviction Unit
- 3) District Defender – Major Crimes Defender Unit
- 4) Director – Social Work Services

- **Appellate Division**

With a main office in Santa Fe and a satellite office in Albuquerque, LOPD's Appellate Division provides representation on direct appeal to indigent individuals before the New Mexico Supreme Court and the New Mexico Court of Appeals. Additionally, the Appellate Division provides appellate counsel when a request for interlocutory appeals of dispositive legal issues has been granted by an appellate court prior to final disposition or when appointed by the Supreme Court on certiorari review of a habeas corpus petition.

In FY25, the Appellate Division was assigned to represent clients in 259 cases before the appellate courts. While the overall number is slightly lower than FY24, the number of direct appeals to the Supreme Court, including capital cases and habeas appeals, is up 5% over FY24. The Appellate Division also provides daily on-call assistance to all public defender attorneys and contract defenders statewide. During sessions of the New Mexico Legislature, Appellate Division attorneys prepare the majority of LOPD's analyses of proposed criminal legislation, called Fiscal Impact Reports. During the 2025 session, the division reviewed over 130 bills and prepared and submitted 103 agency FIRs to the Legislature.

- **Habeas Corpus Unit**

The Habeas Corpus Unit, based in Albuquerque, provides statewide representation to individuals in post-conviction matters that fall under two general categories of cases: conviction cases and confinement cases. Conviction cases may include claims related to actual innocence, ineffective assistance of counsel, and illegal sentences. Confinement cases may include claims related to disciplinary actions resulting in lost goodtime, medical complaints, failure to award lump sum credits, and parole issues.

In FY25, the Habeas Corpus Unit received 262 pre-appointment petitions for review and completed 269 pre-appointment reviews. The unit opened and assigned 76 cases with 74 of those cases assigned in-house. At the end of FY25 there were still 77 petitions pending before the Court, that they had not acted on, whether dismissing, returning to petitioner, or appointing LOPD.

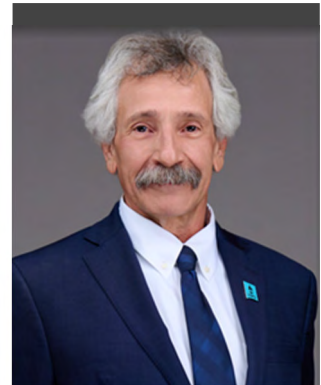
In FY23, the Supreme Court issued a decision in *State v. Thompson*, 2022-NMSC-023 regarding the failure to hold a 5-year parole review hearing for sex offenders. Numerous cases in the Habeas Corpus Unit had previously been stayed pending the New Mexico Supreme Court decision. Several of those cases have now been resolved. However, several others that were stayed

in the New Mexico Supreme Court have now been remanded down for further proceedings. This caused an uptick in 5-year parole duration review cases in FY24 and FY25.

In FY25, there were two cases joined in the Supreme Court relating to the remedy of “immediate discharge” for failure to hold a timely 5-year review hearing, Ronald Lusk S-1-SC-440112 and Jason Aragon S-1-SC-39172. Oral argument was heard on October 4, 2024. A decision was rendered by the NMSC on July 14, 2025, remanding the matter back to district court for evidentiary hearings. There are currently 32 cases within the unit that were stayed or pending briefing while awaiting the Aragon Decision. There are also approximately 21 additional cases that were stayed in the NMSC that will potentially be remanded for habeas evidentiary hearings.

Additionally, LOPD has seen an uptick in petitioners trying to file class action litigation after the decision in *Anderson v. State*, 2022-NMSC-019. The issue of whether the LOPD Habeas Corpus Unit can be properly appointed to represent in a class action matter is currently pending before the Supreme Court in *Franklin and Arroys vs. State, et al*, S-1-SC-4087. Petitioners filed a habeas class action in the Third Judicial District. The court denied certification and severed the petitioners to proceed separately. Mr. Franklin then filed an appeal of the denial of certification, which was later transferred to the Supreme Court as a writ of certiorari. Briefing is currently pending. Depending on the outcome of this case, LOPD Habeas Corpus Unit can be severely impacted if ordered to represent in class action litigation.

The Appellate Division is managed by an appellate defender and the Habeas Corpus Unit is managed by a managing attorney. Both units report to Deputy Chief Philip Larragoite. Philip Larragoite is a 1987 University of New Mexico School of Law (UNMSOL) graduate with a storied career in law, government relations and legislative advocacy. A sixth-generation New Mexican, Philip joined LOPD in 2014. He brings with him a deep commitment to the legislative process and to the reforms our state’s communities need.



Deputy Chief Public
Defender Philip Larragoite

- **Major Crimes Defender Unit**

In FY19, LOPD reorganized the structure through which clients charged with serious violent felonies are represented by creating the Major Crimes Defender Unit with offices in Albuquerque, Roswell, and Las Cruces. The Unit’s goal is to ensure that every rural client's representation is as experienced as that given to clients in more populous areas. Additionally, the unit coordinates with managers in rural areas to provide support and training in offices that often do not have attorneys with the requisite experience to try complex cases.

- **Social Work Unit**

LOPD continues its long-term goal to reduce the number of persons cycling through the criminal legal system. Social Workers have long been a critical part of that mission by assessing client needs and matching the client with the available community services. There are currently 28 staff in the Social Work Unit with Social Workers or Case Managers in every LOPD district office. LOPD Case Managers and Social Workers work mostly with felony cases, including with the Major

Crimes Unit, as well as on serious violent offenses, probation violation cases, and with young adults and juveniles.

Successfully serving an adult or juvenile client charged with a criminal offense requires addressing the collateral consequences of arrest and conviction like loss of housing, removal of children, or deportation as well as basic and behavioral health needs including food, housing, and services for mental health and substance use disorders. This requires a Social Work Unit knowledgeable in the law as well as problem-solving, human behavior, and community resources. LOPD's social workers are a great asset in efforts to increase the availability of holistic defense. Our attorneys and the Social Work Unit engage with clients who are indigent and create a model of legal representation that may reduce incarceration as well as the consequences of legal involvement.

The Unit assists clients with addressing challenges by conducting interviews for intake, assessment, referral, and reassessment. The Unit reviews records, provides progress notes, and assists with treatment and service planning as well as maintains regular contact with clients and crisis or emergency services as needed. Additionally, the Unit works to establish community relationships to break down barriers that prevent clients from accessing services and having their needs met.

Licensed Social Workers, practicing in the forensic environment, apply social work principles and practices to evaluate cases and make recommendations to lawyers and judges. They often offer insight into issues of psychological competence and criminal responsibility. They coordinate access to services with agencies and institutions, including hospitals, mental health centers, and addiction recovery services. They connect clients with resources while providing support for clients and their social systems.

Social Workers assist attorneys by researching client histories and illuminating mitigating circumstances, while assessing biological, psychological, and social needs. From there, the Unit can develop treatment or service plans and provide competency recommendations. Social Workers can also support the client to participate in their own defense.

Case Managers assist with placement, housing referrals, obtaining vital documents such as a birth certificate or Social Security card needed to apply for Income Support and other benefits. Case Managers assist clients with filling out applications and provide referrals for mental health services, counseling, and medical services. Case Management also refer for substance abuse treatment which include out-patient, intensive outpatient, and in-patient programs.

Case Managers and Social Workers meet the client where they are: in detention centers, in the office, or in the community. Depending on the circumstances, they may meet people in their homes.

In 2010, the Supreme Court exerted in *Padilla v. Kentucky* that public defenders need to consider collateral consequences of criminal legal involvement when providing representation. While deportation is a commonly considered collateral consequence, convictions and pleas also affect one's eligibility for social services including housing programs, treatment programs, and employment programs.

Public Defender District Offices

LOPD district offices deliver highly competent, quality legal services through direct supervision and mentoring by experienced trial attorneys. LOPD district offices are managed by a district defender, a local managing attorney, and an office manager. This local office leadership reports to the Deputy Chief Public Defender of Operations, Jennifer Barela.



Deputy Chief Public Defender Jennifer Barela

Deputy Chief Barela has spent a majority of her legal

career working in indigent defense. She earned her law degree from the UNM School of Law in 2002. Jennifer has dedicated her legal career to criminal defense representing indigent clients, mostly serving as a Public Defender in Bernalillo County. She has vast experience in criminal defense in a wide variety of cases, representing clients in both Children's Court and Criminal Court. During her time at LOPD she has worked as a juvenile defender, felony criminal trial attorney, Managing Attorney, and District Defender for the Second Judicial District. She became the Deputy Chief of Operations for LOPD in January of 2022.



Social Work Supervisor
Stefany Foreman, left, and
Social Worker Ash Sena

Public Defender Office Locations and Leadership

First & Eighth Judicial Districts - Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, Los Alamos, and Taos Counties

- District Defender – Stationed in Santa Fe County
 - Managing Attorney – First Judicial District
 - Managing Attorney – Eighth Judicial District Taos

Second Judicial District Office – Albuquerque (Bernalillo County)

- District Defender
 - Four Felony Division Managing Attorneys
 - Juvenile Division Managing Attorney
 - Metro Division Managing Attorney

Third Judicial District Office – Las Cruces (Dona Ana County)

- District Defender
 - Two Managing Attorneys
- Defender – Major Crimes Defender Unit

Fifth Judicial District Offices – Lea, Chaves, and Eddy Counties

- District Defender – Stationed in Eddy County

- Managing Attorney – Eddy County
- Managing Attorney – Chaves County
- Managing Attorney – Lea County

Ninth Judicial District Office – Curry and Roosevelt Counties

- District Defender – Curry County
 - Managing Attorney – Curry and Roosevelt

Eleventh Judicial District Office – San Juan and McKinley Counties

- District Defender – Stationed in San Juan County
 - Managing Attorney – San Juan County
 - Managing Attorney – McKinley County

Twelfth Judicial District Office – Otero and Lincoln Counties

- District Defender – Stationed in Otero County
 - Managing Attorney – Otero County



Mountain Trial Skills

Salt Lake City



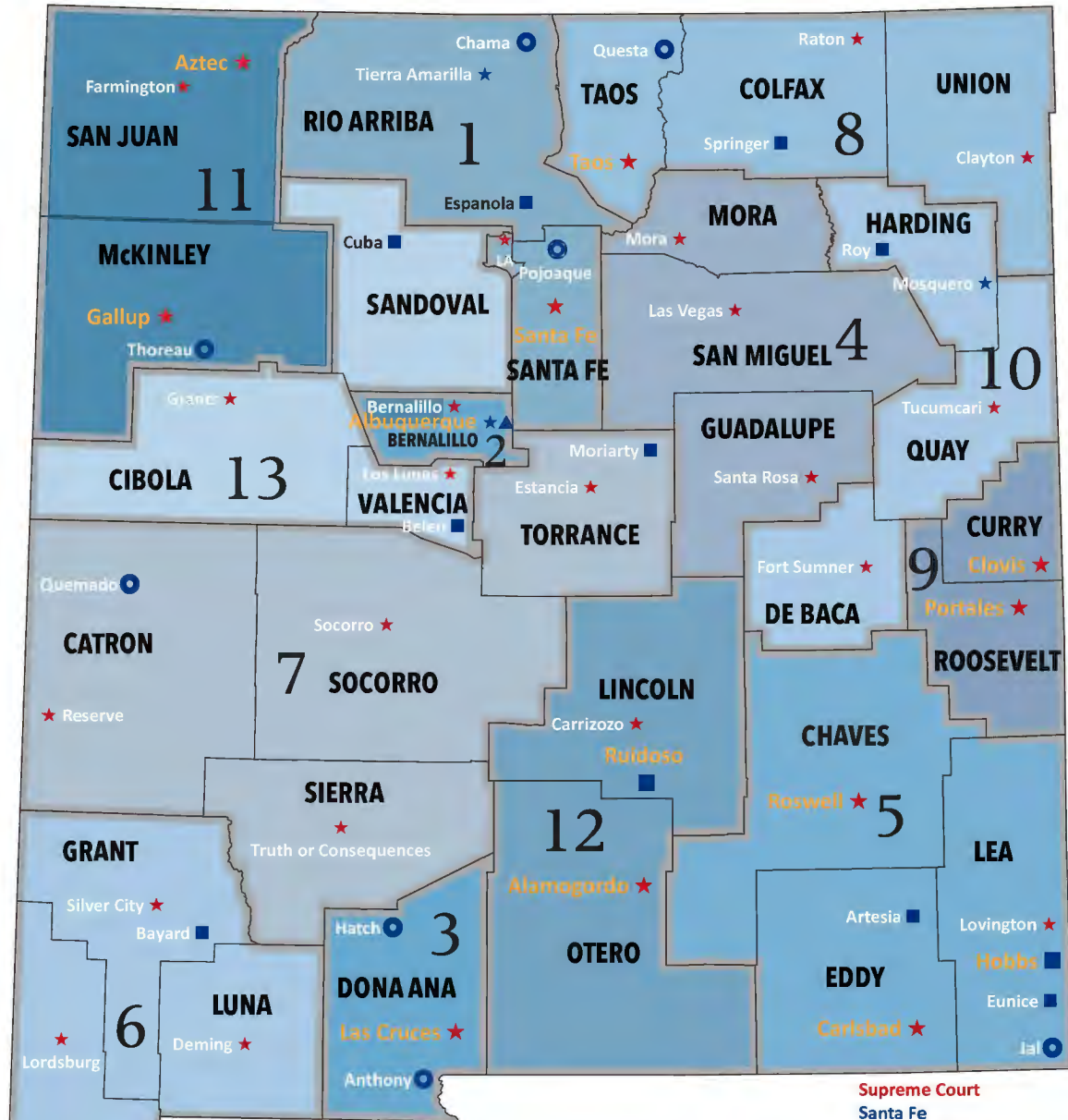
NEW MEXICO
LAW OFFICES OF THE
PUBLIC DEFENDER



Map of New Mexico Courts and LOPD Offices



LAW OFFICES OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER and NEW MEXICO COURTS



1st Judicial District Court Santa Fe, Rio Arriba & Los Alamos	6th Judicial District Court Grant, Hidalgo & Luna	11th Judicial District Court San Juan & McKinley
2nd Judicial District Court Bernalillo	7th Judicial District Court Torrance, Socorro, Catron & Sierra	12th Judicial District Court Otero & Lincoln
3rd Judicial District Court Doña Ana	8th Judicial District Court Taos, Colfax & Union	13th Judicial District Court Cibola, Sandoval & Valencia
4th Judicial District Court San Miguel, Mora & Guadalupe	9th Judicial District Court Curry & Roosevelt	Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Albuquerque
5th Judicial District Court Chaves, Eddy & Lea	10th Judicial District Court Harding, De Baca & Quay	

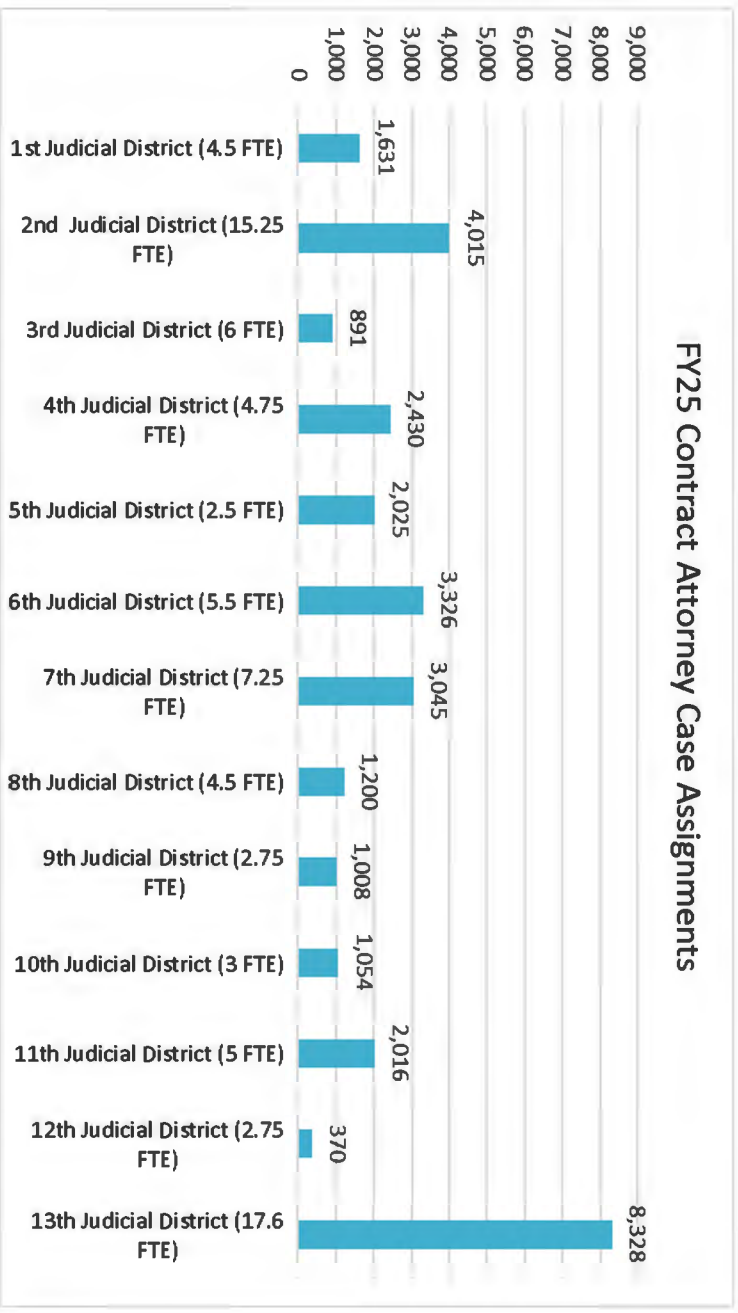
Supreme Court
 Santa Fe
Court of Appeals
 Santa Fe & Albuquerque

LOPD Offices in Gold

- ★ District & Magistrate Courts
- ★ District Court
- ▲ Metropolitan Court
- Magistrate Full Courts
- Magistrate Circuit Courts

- Contract Counsel Legal Services (CCLS Unit)**

LOPD's statewide Contract Counsel Legal Services Unit organizes and oversees the contract defender representation system whereby LOPD contracts with attorneys to represent clients. In those counties where LOPD maintains district office operations, the unit's responsibility is assigning contract counsel in cases when in-house public defender attorneys cannot represent the client due to legal conflicts of interests. In judicial districts and counties lacking district office operations, the unit must assign both primary and conflict of interest contract counsel. LOPD monitors and manages approximately 81 private attorneys who contract with LOPD. In FY25, contract attorneys were assigned 31,339 cases (approximately 33% of the cases assigned by LOPD), with most of those cases being in areas without LOPD offices.



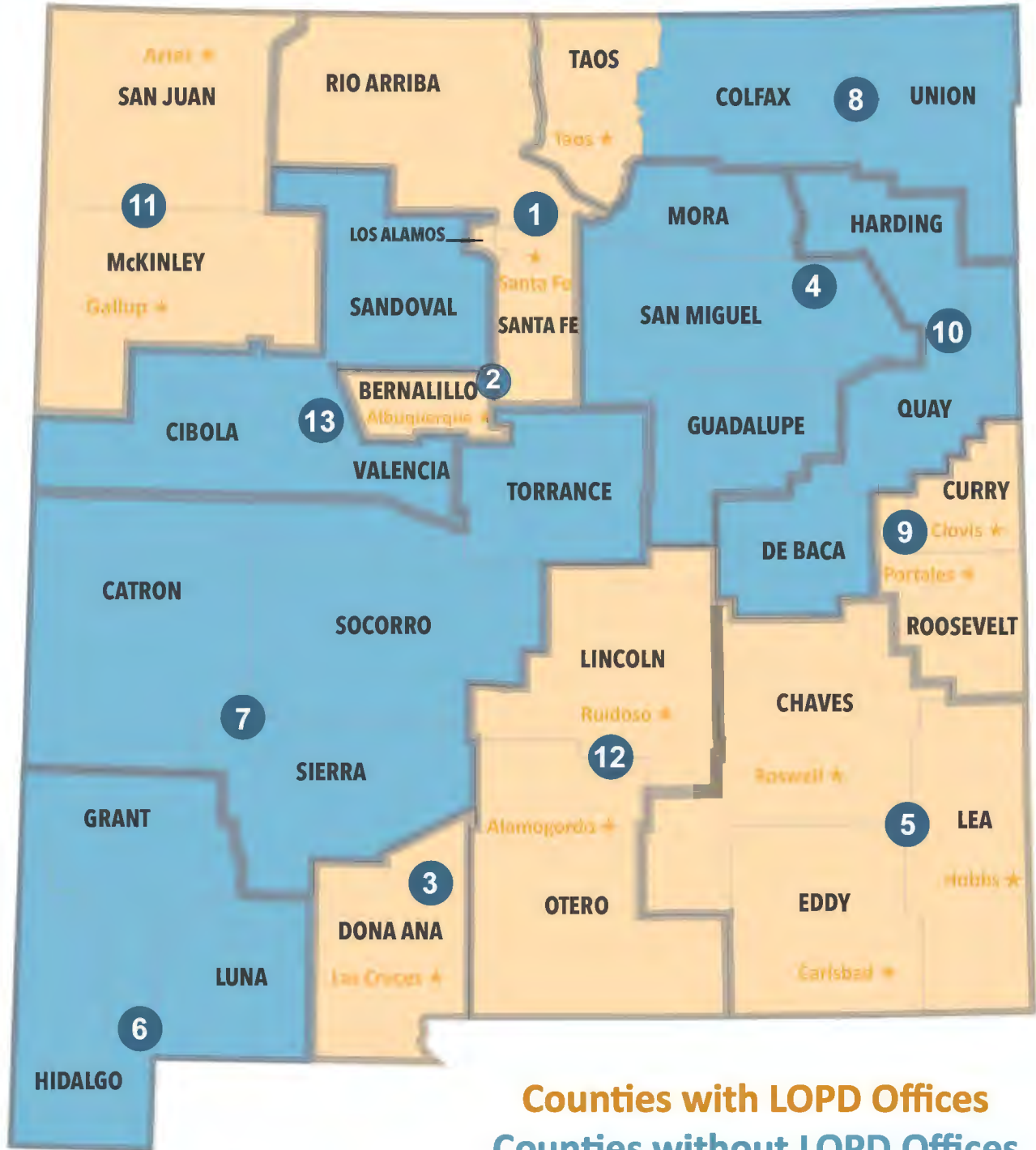
Deputy Chief Public Defender Randy Chavez

The CCLS unit and the contract attorneys are managed by the Deputy Chief Public Defender of Contract Counsel Legal Services, Randy Chavez. Randy Chavez is a native New Mexican raised in Cuba, New Mexico. He earned his law degree from UNM School of Law in 1991, joining the Law Offices of the Public Defender shortly after. After serving as an Assistant District Attorney for a couple of years, he entered private practice and served as Contract Counsel for 19 years and then joined LOPD as the Director of CCLS in 2016. Chief Baur appointed him as Deputy Chief of CCLS in 2019.

Map of Counties with and without LOPD offices



LAW OFFICES OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER and NEW MEXICO COURTS



Counties with LOPD Offices
Counties without LOPD Offices

LAW OFFICES OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

Criminal Legal Services Program

Agency Mission

To provide holistic legal representation of the highest quality to persons charged with criminal offenses in New Mexico, to protect constitutional rights, to advocate zealously for our clients, and to reduce criminal recidivism and redirect clients from the criminal legal system throughout the State of New Mexico.

Agency Purpose

LOPD's purpose is to meet New Mexico's federal and state constitutional mandates by providing effective legal and holistic representation and advocacy for indigent juveniles and adult criminal defendants, and serving the community as a justice partner to guarantee a fair and efficient legal system that reduces recidivism.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Stages of Client Representation (Program Activities)

Pre-Indictment Representation Tasks

Pre-Indictment representation tasks include, but are not limited to:

1. Counseling and advising clients on eligibility for pre-prosecution programs, drug court diversion programs, and judicial supervision program courts (veterans court, mental health courts), and early plea programs;
2. Conducting pre-indictment investigations, interviews and plea negotiations;
3. Handling pre-indictment interaction with juvenile probation and parole officers; and
4. Advising individuals "under investigation" for criminal offenses.

This stage of representation also covers initial appearances, preliminary hearings and grand jury representation, including regular submission of evidence alert letters to grand jurors pursuant to New Mexico Court rules.

Pre-indictment tasks have expanded to include representation at pre-trial detention hearings, which has created an additional responsibility for the department. A new bond rule established after a constitutional amendment allows district attorneys to file a motion requesting that the court detain a defendant charged with a felony pending trial. The rule requires the court to set a hearing on the motion within five days of filing. Public defenders must represent defendants at the pre-trial detention hearings.

Case Preparation

Case preparation and Courtroom Advocacy Tasks Include:

Obtaining and evaluating discovery	Directing and managing case investigations
Interviewing and counseling clients	Interviewing witnesses
Brainstorming and collaborating with colleagues on case defenses	Preparation and presentation of necessary motion hearings/trials
Pretrial litigation of substantive legal issues	Preparing trial materials
Researching scientific evidence	Conducting legal research
Requesting appropriate expert analysis and testimony	Engaging in plea negotiations where appropriate
Sentencing mitigation and presentation	Preparation of appellate docketing statements or post-trial motions

Courtroom/Trial Work and Sentencing Advocacy

LOPD's courtroom and trial work provides high quality representation to clients statewide, despite overwhelming caseloads and workloads. Trial attorneys advocate in evidentiary and various other hearings and trials. LOPD attorneys skillfully work their cases and work closely with clients to determine if there are any challenges that contribute to contact with the criminal legal system. Those attorneys refer clients to LOPD's social services unit for assessment. Cases are resolved in the best interests of the clients, which often includes trials.



Attorneys James Altamirano, left, and Greg Shearer, third from left, work with their client during his trial. This photo was taken by and featured in the Santa Fe New Mexican.

Post-Trial Appeals

LOPD's post-trial work includes appeals and special writs to the New Mexico Court of Appeals as well as appeals and special and habeas corpus writs to the New Mexico Supreme Court.

Post-Conviction Representation

Post-conviction representation includes: adult and juvenile probation violation hearings, habeas corpus petitions and hearings, and probation and parole review hearings for convicted sex offenders. By statute, LOPD is charged with providing legal representation at review hearings at the initial 5-year review and at 2.5 year increments for every individual convicted of a sex offense in New Mexico and serving an indeterminate term of probation or parole.

Administrative and Legislative Functions

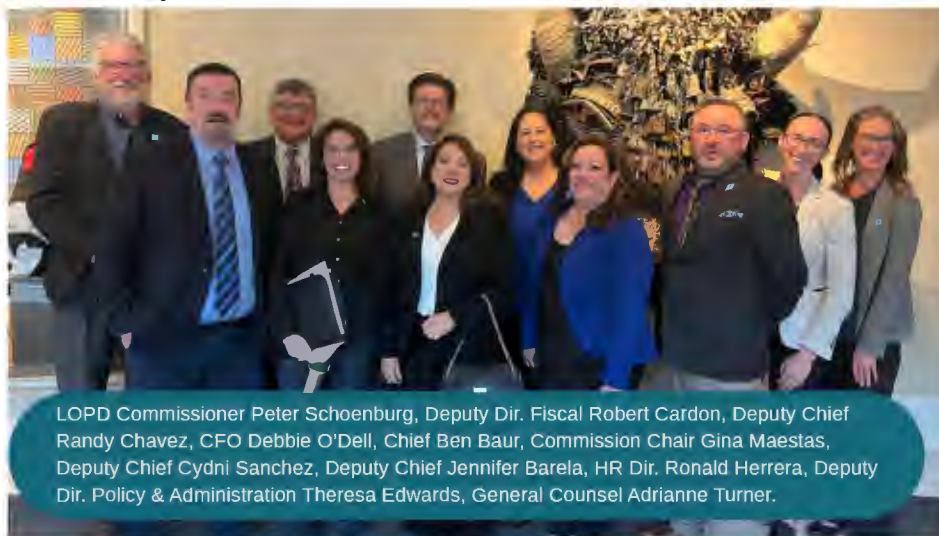
Administrative and legislative functions of LOPD include: eligibility determinations, human resources management, procurement, payroll, fiscal and budget management, training, policy development, legislative consultation and testimony, clerical and secretarial support, information system resources, contract management, strategic planning, maintenance of information and property, quality assurance, policy interaction with legal associations, courts, and the criminal legal community, and service to client advocacy groups and related initiatives by state, county, and municipal entities.

One administrative function includes the standards and policies for determining whether a defendant qualifies for public defender representation. LOPD is dedicated to finding creative solutions for the problem of overwhelming caseloads of its attorneys and focusing resources on the indigent. Since the LOPD mission is to serve the indigent, there is an evaluation of eligibility to ensure the best use of limited resources.

Advocating for Criminal Justice Reform and System Change

Representatives of the LOPD continue to be active participants across the state in many past and current initiatives designed to improve the criminal legal system and ensure efficiency for all criminal legal partners. These include the NM Sentencing Commission, Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils, the Bernalillo County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, the Legislative Interim Subcommittee on Criminal Justice Reform, the Legislative Interim Committee on Corrections, Courts and Justice, the CYFD Juvenile Justice Stakeholders Committee, the NM Sentencing Commission Juvenile Justice Committee, the Anne E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative, the NM Drug Court Advisory Committee, the NM Association of Drug Court Professionals, the City of Santa Fe Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program (LEAD), the Albuquerque Metro Crime Initiative, and mental health advisory and other taskforces at the local levels throughout the state.

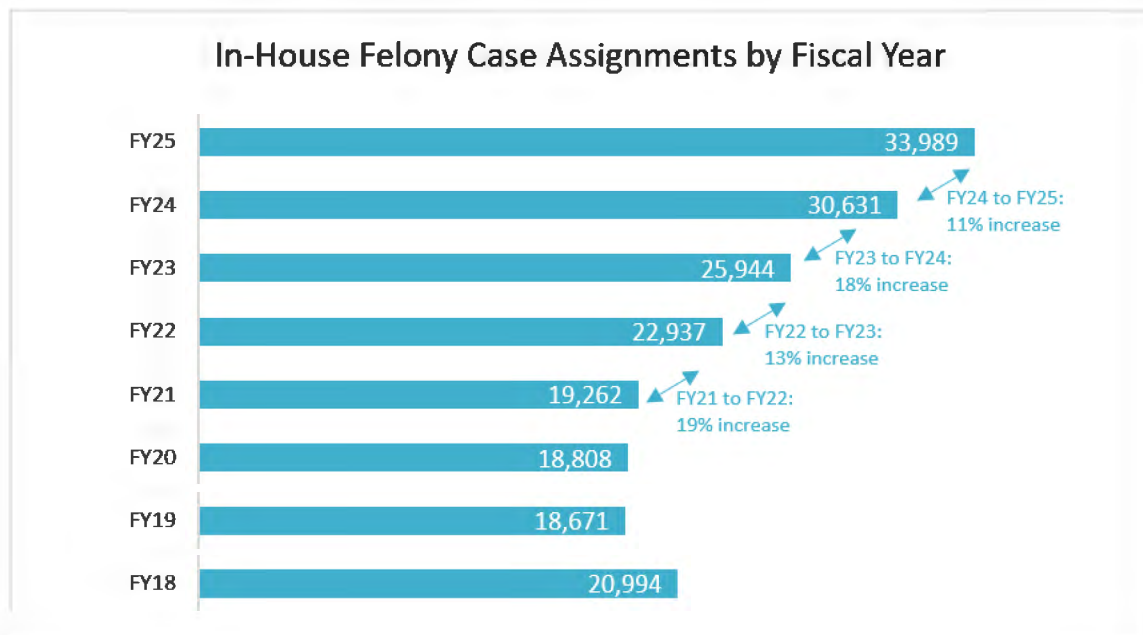
In addition to participating in organizations, LOPD continues to advocate for reforms in the criminal legal system that would allow LOPD to work more efficiently and effectively and for the betterment of our clients and communities. This cannot be accomplished overnight and will not reduce the demands on the system for an indefinite time.



CRITICAL CHALLENGES AND EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THEM

Caseloads

Felony caseloads remain a primary concern for the agency as FY26 projections continue to show felony case assignments far surpassing pre-COVID levels, a trend the rest of the criminal legal system is also reflecting. The rising number of felony cases - particularly murder cases - paired with a limited pool of available attorneys is a serious concern. Felony cases, especially murders, are highly complex and demand significantly more time, attention, and resources than other case types.

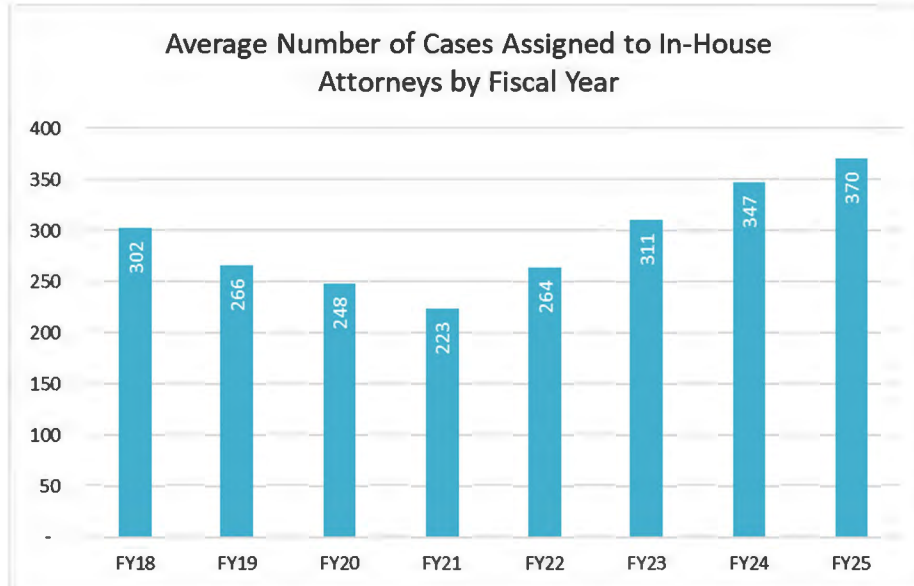


In FY25, LOPD assigned 93,756 cases. Due to LOPD's efforts to increase retention and stability in staffing, combined with the implementation of statewide data entry standards and criminal justice reform, case assignments declined slightly from FY19 to FY21, but then increased in FY22 and well surpassed pre-pandemic levels in FY25 as seen on the graph below.

The resulting caseload for both LOPD attorneys and contract defenders is high enough to cause serious concern about whether most defendants are receiving constitutionally adequate representation. Litigation seeking to flesh-out constitutional mandates regarding caseloads has been pursued in the state Supreme Court and District Courts.

The systemic problems with contract defense in the hybrid model (in which cases are assigned to both in-house and contract attorneys) are exacerbated by the excessive workloads carried by many in-house attorneys (contract defenders may suffer from excessive caseloads as well). In FY25, LOPD in-house attorneys were assigned a total of 370 cases (201 felony cases, 9 juvenile cases, and 160 misdemeanor cases) on average for each attorney. Contract attorneys were

assigned an average of 370 cases each. Because both in-house and contract attorneys carry such high caseloads, there is no available release valve to ease caseloads.



LOPD has few options to ease excessive caseloads because the district attorneys have exclusive control over the cases that are filed. One option for LOPD is assigning in-house cases to contract defenders; however, the problem is simply transferred to the contractors who also have excessive caseloads. Time spent traveling to court and jail in rural New Mexico exacerbates workload issues for both public and contract defenders. Caseload measurement does not account for travel time or in-court waiting time but is critical to evaluating workloads.

There is a shared responsibility between LOPD and the Legislative and Executive Branches to provide constitutionally adequate representation statewide. Because of continuing concerns about caseloads, the Public Defender Commission has promulgated a rule entitled, “Interim Case Refusal Protocol” to address excessive attorney workloads. The objective of the rule is to establish guidelines for the Department to use when excessive attorney workloads would make it unethical for the affected attorneys to accept additional clients or would violate the New Mexico Rules of Professional Conduct or the federal and state constitutional rights of LOPD clients.

The New Mexico Project and 5-Year Plan – a Workload Study and Funding Plan

In early 2022, LOPD established itself as a national leader in public defense by completing a comprehensive workload study (partly funded by the LFC) and was the first in the nation to pursue a 5-year plan to achieve the goals of the study. The reports’ findings emphasized LOPD needs 602 additional attorneys, as well as requisite support staff, assuming no demand side factors change. Demand side factors include reducing caseloads through decriminalization of non-violent crimes with no victim and sentencing reform. The study and plan also do not account for additional the staffing and attorneys required when judgeships are added to any courthouses statewide.

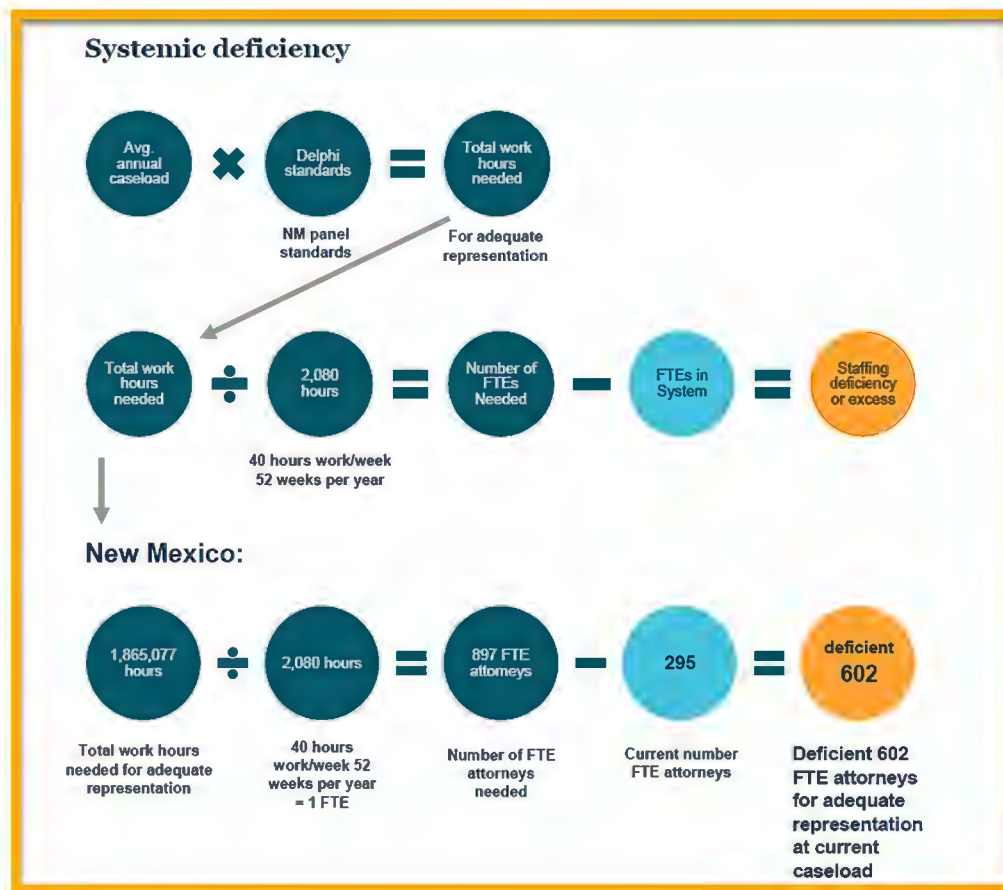
The New Mexico Project Reports

[Workload Study](#)

[Five Year Plan](#)

Available at lopdm.us/about-us/

The following graphic is taken directly from the workload report and lays out the data used in the finding that LOPD has a deficiency of 602 attorneys. The department added 8 new attorney FTE in FY23, 3 new attorney FTE in FY24, and 5 new attorney FTE in FY25. These FTE were assigned mostly to rural districts.



Shortage of Contract Defenders

Building on the issues identified in the Workload Study, due to funding levels forcing meager compensation paid to LOPD contract defenders, LOPD has struggled to find and retain an adequate number of contractors to provide a constitutionally appropriate level of defense. This is especially true in Curry, Eddy, Lea, Lincoln, Luna, McKinley, Roosevelt, and San Juan counties.

The constitutional requirements and performance standards for attorneys apply equally to both contract defenders and in-house attorneys. Unfortunately, contractors are often less able to meet these requirements because of a lack of resources. Contract defenders often receive less support due to having no support staff, including investigators, paralegals, social workers, and secretaries, whereas in-house attorneys have that support. Recruitment competition for attorneys with criminal experience impacts the defense of indigent clients in communities without local public defender offices.

In FY24, LOPD increased base rate compensation by type of case for contract defenders by approximately 20%. Regardless of this recent increase, when comparing these rates to the \$300 to \$400 per case paid in 1968 under the Indigent Defense Act, it becomes evident that inflation has devalued¹ the compensation rate dramatically over the past six decades. The comparison of the FY23 rates and FY24 rates is shown below. There have been no changes to base rates since FY24.

Base Rate Per Case Payment to LOPD Contract Attorneys by Fiscal Year		
Case Type	FY2023 Payment Per Case	FY2024 Payment Per Case
First Degree Murder	\$5,400.00	\$6,500.00
First Degree Felony Life Imprisonment	\$5,400.00	\$6,500.00
1st Degree Felony	\$750.00	\$900.00
2nd Degree Felony	\$700.00	\$850.00
3rd Degree Felony	\$645.00	\$775.00
4th Degree Felony	\$540.00	\$650.00
Juvenile	\$300.00	\$360.00
Misdemeanor DW/DV	\$300.00	\$360.00
Misdemeanor (other)	\$180.00	\$220.00

The State of New Mexico pays contract lawyers in civil cases \$150 (for those with zero to two years of experience) to \$225 (for over ten years of experience) **per hour** to protect the State’s money through the Risk Management Division’s contracts. Those hourly rates are laid out in the chart on the next page. Public defender contract attorneys are paid low base rates compared to their counterparts, with those contracted by district attorney offices earning \$150 per hour and those contracted for civil matters by the State of New Mexico receiving substantially higher compensation—highlighting a significant disparity in pay for comparable professional services.

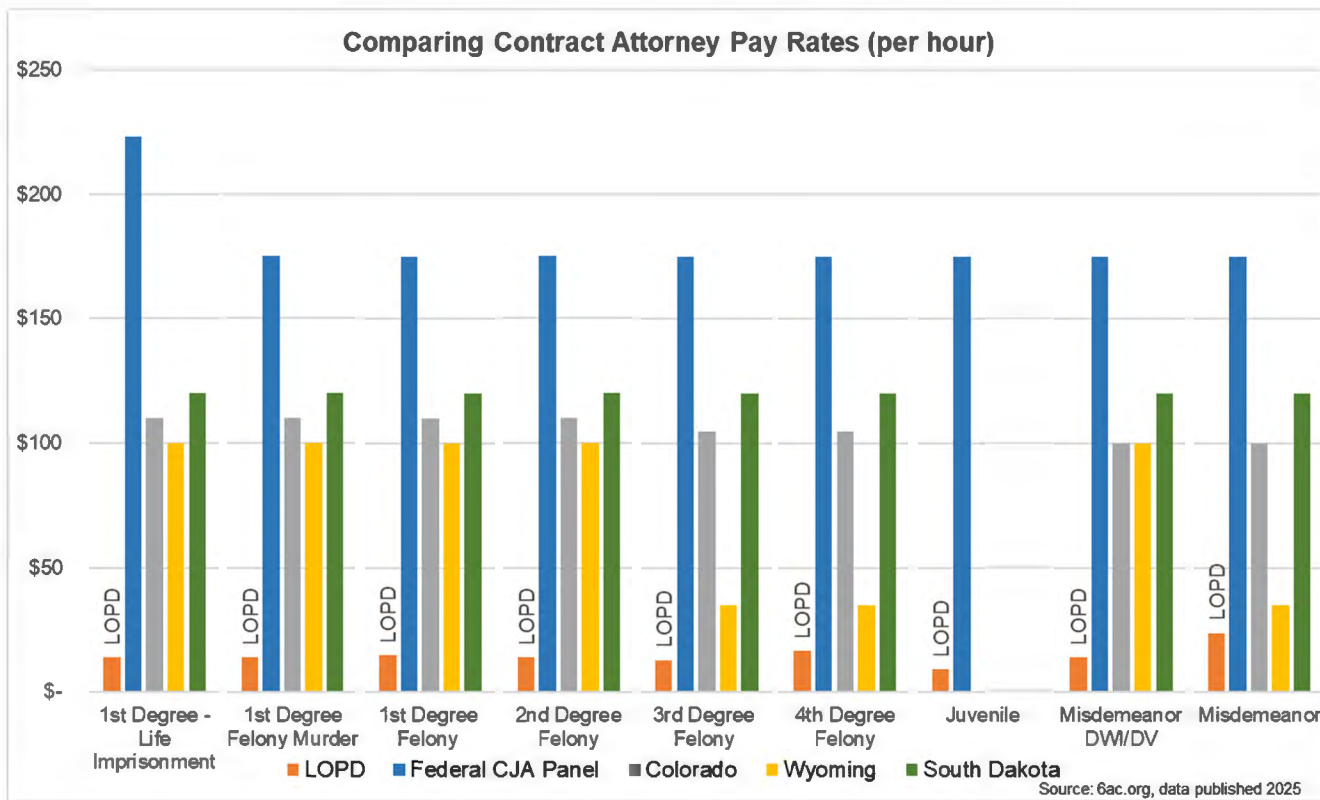
Those hourly rates provide compensation far higher than attorneys representing clients charged with first degree murder or cases that carry a sentence of life imprisonment. The civil contract lawyers defending the state are eligible to receive additional compensation for their paralegals in excess of the amount that even LOPDs most experienced contract lawyers receive for serious violent felony trials. By contrast, federal contract public defenders are compensated an hourly rate of \$175 in non-capital cases, and, in capital cases, a maximum hourly rate of \$223.

NM Risk Management Division (Civil Cases)			
Years of Experience	FY23 Hourly Rates	FY24 Hourly Rates	Hourly Rate Percent Increase YOY
0-2 years	\$95	\$150	57.9%
2-5 years	\$125	\$175	40.0%
5-10 years	\$145	\$200	37.9%
10 years +	\$165	\$225	36.4%

Those hourly rates provide compensation far higher than attorneys representing clients charged with first degree murder or cases that carry a sentence of life imprisonment. The civil contract lawyers defending the state are eligible to receive additional compensation for their paralegals in excess of the amount that even LOPDs most experienced contract lawyers receive for serious violent felony trials. By contrast, federal contract public defenders are compensated an hourly rate of \$175 in non-capital cases, and, in capital cases, a maximum hourly rate of \$223.

The following chart compares, as of 2025, the hourly rates paid by various public defender offices, the federal contract defenders (Federal CJA Panel), the New Mexico Risk Management

Division and the effective hourly rates for LOPD contract attorneys based on current base rates paid per case and the Delphi panel results as reported in the NM workload study, as discussed on pages 19-20.



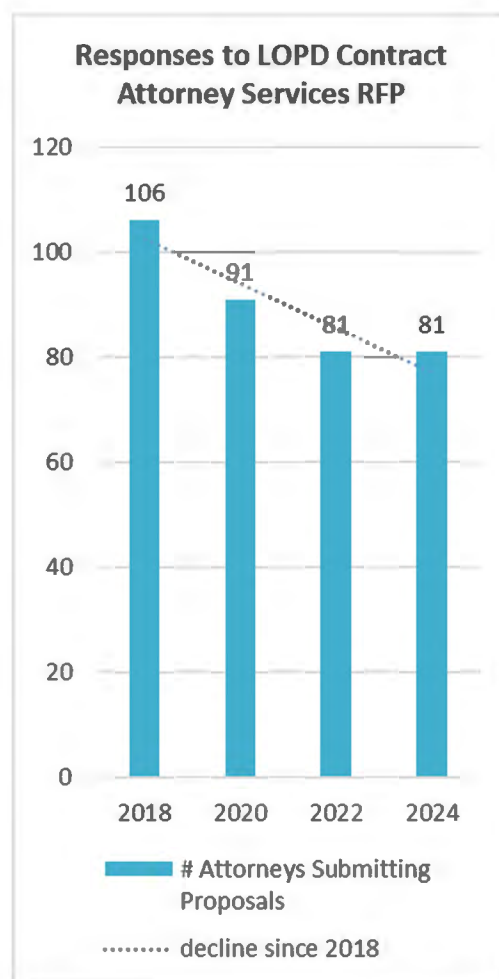
Accordingly, the New Mexico Public Defender Commission and LOPD support a minimum \$150 per hour to compensate contract defenders– the same as many DA special prosecutors. This hourly rate would better provide for constitutionally effective indigent defense, ensure accountability through their billing invoices and achieve the goal of providing true legal services to each client as guaranteed under the New Mexico and United States Constitutions.

Contracts with attorneys have provided a mechanism for additional compensation for complex case representation, although funding to fully implement this mechanism is currently lacking. This mechanism is an interim step to address the inadequate compensation of contract defenders until a system to compensate contract counsel on an hourly basis for the actual work performed can be funded.

Pursuant to a Request for Proposals (RFP) issued in April of 2024, LOPD’s Contract Counsel Legal Services (CCLS) completed execution of its contracts, effective November 1, 2024. The RFP was sent out to all private defense attorneys requesting those interested to submit a Proposal. Contract Attorneys execute a contract with CCLS to represent indigent clients in jurisdictions where LOPD does not have a district office, and, on conflict cases, in districts where there is a local LOPD office.

Overall, there was a decrease in attorneys submitting proposals. In 2018, there were 106 attorneys who submitted proposals, while in 2024, there were only 81. Although some of the contractors retired, others chose not to submit proposals, preferring instead to concentrate on their more lucrative private practices. Others obtained employment with State or Federal agencies, including, but not limited to, the district attorneys' offices, the Judiciary, or relocating outside of New Mexico.

Despite increased advertising of contract work with LOPD through the RFP, it is becoming more difficult to recruit Contract Counsel, especially to the rural areas of New Mexico at the funded base rates. Once LOPD loses contractors in rural areas, it is becoming increasingly difficult to replace them. However, now that many of the hearings are conducted via Zoom or another virtual platform, there may be an increase in contractors willing to accept cases in rural areas. Naturally, this is dependent on judges continuing to use virtual platforms for hearings, and the courts resistance to going back to pre-COVID practices of requiring attorneys to travel long distances for brief, non-trial hearings.



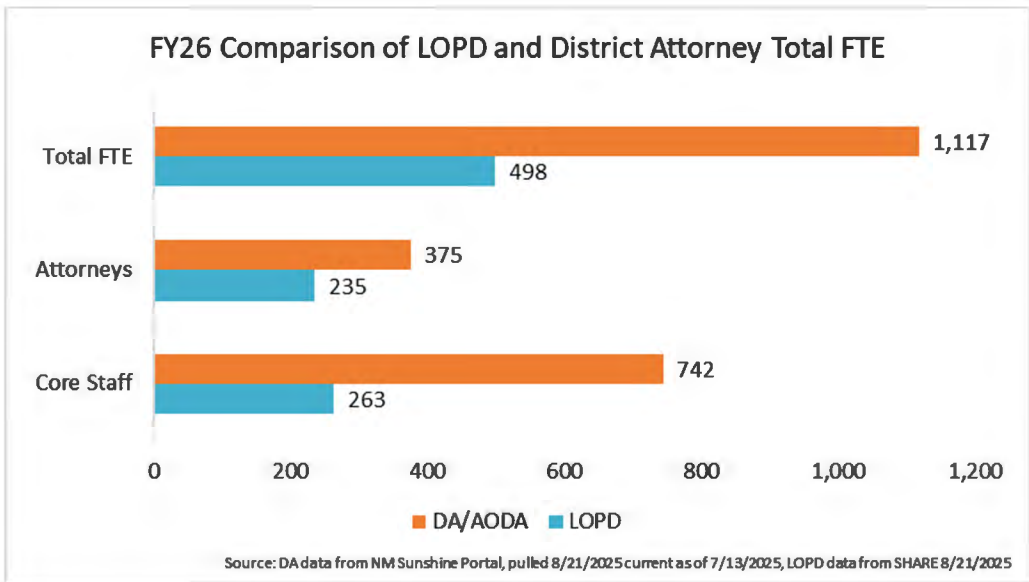
Every fiscal year, the LOPD submits a budget request seeking additional funds for complex case litigation and funds for the use of expert witnesses in complex cases. Paying hourly rates on serious cases and allowing for complex case compensation appears to be the only way to entice other attorneys to become involved and also for LOPD to ensure lawyers are compensated such to fulfill the State's constitutional requirements to provide zealous representation for indigent New Mexicans charged with crimes in rural New Mexico.

To help address all of these challenges, LOPD undertook a new study, in partnership with Moss Adams and Malia Brink, a national expert on public defense standards and structure, to develop a multi-year plan with realistic timeframes and estimated costs to transition from base rates to an hourly wage model. The plan, which was released in October 2024, incorporates the projected number of contract attorneys and required funding to provide effective assistance of counsel based on the New Mexico Project, published in January 2022. Transitioning from LOPD's current base rate system to hourly rates is not only a matter of fairness and good fiscal oversight, it is a critical step toward ensuring universal high-quality public defense services in New Mexico.

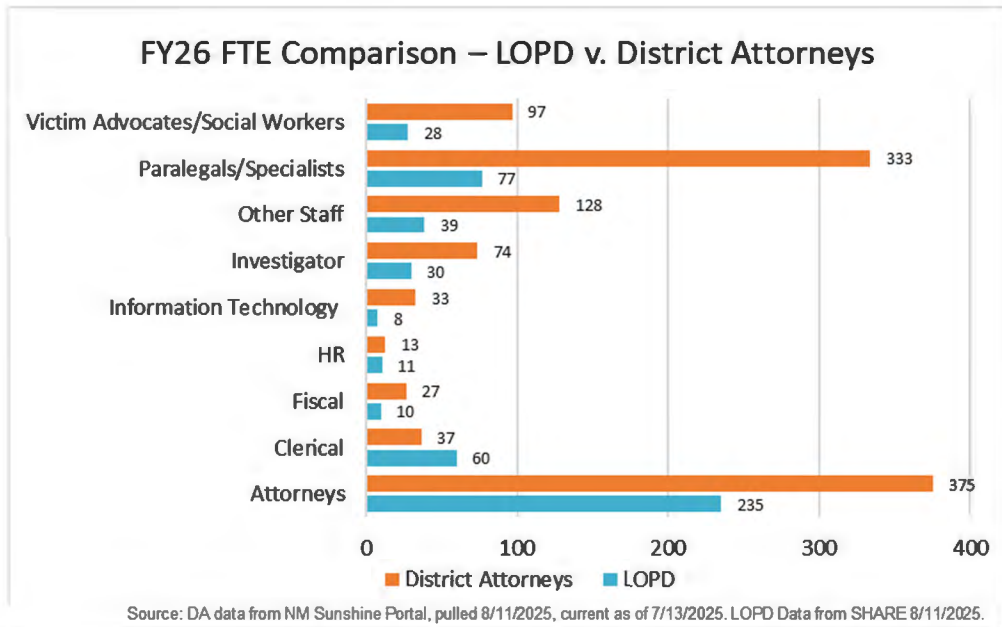
Public Defense Funding and Necessary Staffing Levels

LOPD appreciates the legislative commitment to help better align budget with mission so the Department may fulfill its constitutional mandate to provide effective assistance of counsel to its

clients. However, as shown in the chart below, the gap between the district attorney workforce compared to public defense workforce is stark. LOPD continues to advocate for the legislature to increase the funding necessary for LOPD to "catch up" with others in the system, especially the prosecution. The greater the gap between the two, the more harm to constitutional representation.



Though the roles of the prosecution and defense are admittedly different, the structure of the funding is different as well. District attorney offices are individually budgeted for higher staffing levels. The district attorney offices are not only served by their in-house administration and state-level administration for support, but they are also served by state, local and federal law enforcement. For example, state and local law enforcement conducts the initial investigation for the cases that the local district attorney may choose to charge. In addition, each district attorney's office has in-house chief financial officers, human resources staff, and information technology support, combined with similar statewide resources and support provided by the Administrative Office of the District Attorney (AODA). These charts and graphs do not include the resources provided to DA offices by local and state law enforcement.



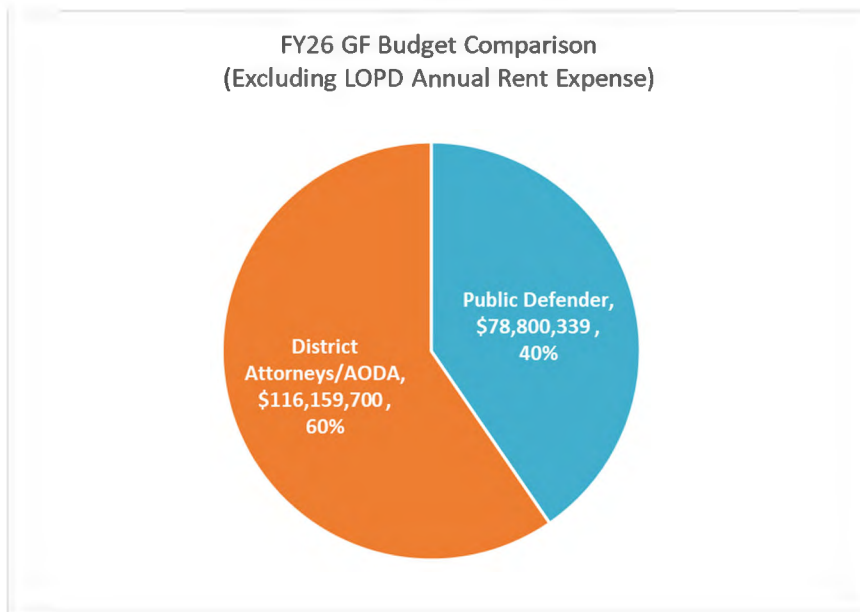
Including vacant FTE, LOPD has 41 administrative staff FTE dedicated to serving 507 FTE and about 80 contractors, while also auditing and monitoring invoicing by contract defenders. Administrative staff includes fiscal, human resources, information technology, and statewide administrative support staff.

AODA and the district attorney’s offices have a total of 742 core staff FTE and 375 attorney FTE including vacancies. In addition, many district attorney offices have Deputy District Attorneys or other attorney supervisors that are not assigned cases, nor carry an active caseload as part of their duties. When compared to data compiled from the district attorney offices across the state, LOPD ratios are significantly lower than the DA’s indicated statewide average staffing ratios, as illustrated in the following charts and graphs.

	DA/AODA	LOPD	Defense to Prosecution Staffing Ratio (%)
Core Staff	742	263	35%
Attorneys	375	235	63%
Total FTE	1,117	498	45%

Source: Sunshine Portal/SHARE

The funding gap is further exacerbated because LOPD is burdened with the additional expense of paying leases for its facilities with General Fund revenues, while the district attorney offices are provided and paid for by the counties. The following graph demonstrates how this additional expense depletes the LOPD budget and the difference in the remaining funds dedicated to client services.



Innovative Recruitment and Retention Program

LOPD continues to fight to keep offices staffed to provide services to clients. Turnover is inevitable; however, it is exacerbated by the increased competition in the public service legal community for attorneys and significant challenges to recruiting in-house and contract attorneys to serve rural communities.

While LOPD has struggled with recruiting experienced attorneys, it has not settled for simply posting positions and hoping candidates will apply. Instead, LOPD has been proactive in targeting different groups of prospective candidates and has



Deputy Chief Jennifer Barela, left, and District Defender Ibukun Adepoju, center, attended a recruiting and collaborative conference with National Legal Aid and Defender Association and the Black Public Defender Association in Baltimore.

dedicated resources to contacting those candidates and actively recruiting them to join our team. As a result, LOPD has been able to reinvent our recruitment program over the last several years. However, retention of hires is critical and an ongoing struggle, especially for rural offices in Eddy, Lea, Curry, Chaves, Roosevelt, Lincoln, and Otero Counties. LOPD still lacks adequate funding to fill positions at a competitive level.

In addition, LOPD created an innovative program that uses geographic pay differentials to reward the attorneys in our rural offices and acknowledge their willingness to serve New Mexico's rural communities. The differential is helpful with recruitment and retention as well.

LOPD has set up a very successful paid externship program using previously available Public Attorney Workforce Capacity Building funds. LOPD is requesting special appropriation funding to continue this program for next summer. Externs are paid \$10,000 to work in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd judicial districts and \$12,000 to work in rural districts.

In FY24, LOPD received 60 applications and placed 13 externs in judicial districts around the state. Of the placed applicants, 4 were second year law students and 9 were third year law students. LOPD hired 6 externs during their third year of law school, with their employment set to begin upon graduation and successful completion of the bar exam. In FY25, LOPD received 44 applications and placed 20 externs around the state. Of note, the application window was shorter, limiting the number of applications received. Of the placed externs, 13 were second year law students and seven were third year law students. LOPD has hired two as full-time defenders so far.

LOPD has worked diligently to develop this pipeline to recruit undergraduates and law students to join LOPD. A huge obstacle for law students in participating in internships is funding as they have little to no income and are unable to move cross county, or even from Albuquerque to rural communities, to participate in the program. This is a bigger obstacle for people of color, who

are often interested in working with indigent clients at LOPD but do not have resources to cover paying rent at their home while finding new housing in another community for 12 weeks.

LOPD has expanded its active recruitment of attorneys. This allows LOPD to proactively address the inevitable attrition of in-house attorneys and contract defenders in the “legal deserts” in New Mexico where there are few lawyers. LOPD continues to pinpoint law schools with strong public interest programs and funding allocated for internships or externships with the goal is to develop pipelines by securing students dedicated to indigent defense for a summer. In FY25, LOPD will continue to focus on developing relationships with law schools by participating in tabling and on campus interview events.

In addition, LOPD has shifted to focus recruitment on hiring law school students immediately prior to or during the beginning of their final year of law school. This early recruitment allows LOPD to secure top notch candidates, while allowing the best candidates to receive an offer long before their colleagues, which provides stability during their last year of law school and while studying for the bar exam. These new hires are “limited practitioners,” which means they have a legal education, but are not sworn into the bar and therefore unable to represent clients in court.

The program continues to expand and adjust to changes in the applicant pool and organizational needs. LOPD brings the limited practitioners onboard for training starting immediately after the bar exam. This time provides the department and the new hire between eight and ten weeks of training so that as soon as the limited practitioners are sworn into the bar, they can be assigned cases and represent clients in court. The training includes an on-line, self-paced curriculum that can be reviewed if needed. There are weekly trainings on different topics and two in person intensive workshops that focus on client communication and trial skills. These trainings fulfill the new attorneys Bridge the Gap participation required by the NM State Bar. Limited practitioners have access to resources such as: investigators, paralegals, secretaries, contract immigration counsel, and hundreds of other attorneys to serve as mentors, trainers, and sounding boards to brainstorm cases.

Results From our Innovative Hiring Program

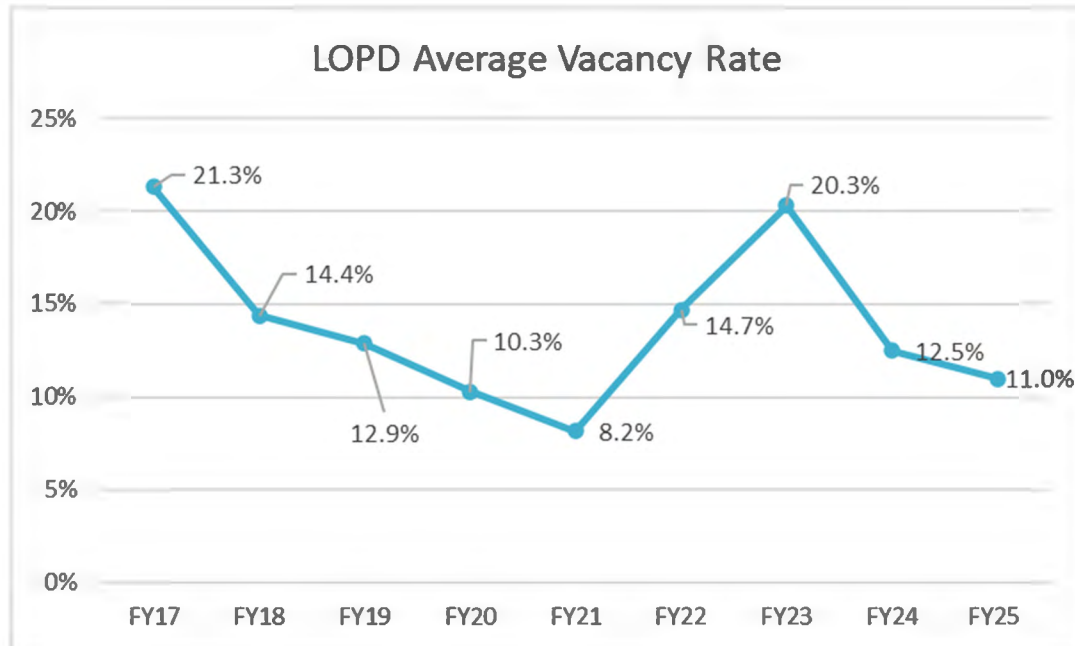
Diversity and Inclusion

More women hold leadership roles at LOPD now than at any time in the last six years. Additionally, the number of female managing attorneys has more than doubled since 2015, and for the last three years have steadily held more than 50% of managing attorney positions. As of August 2025, almost 70% of managing attorneys are female. In addition to gender equity, the department has made steady improvement in racial diversity of core staff and attorneys.

Vacancy Rate

Due to proactive recruitment, such as the limited practitioner program and creative placement of positions, LOPD has diligently worked to reduce vacancies. LOPD has evaluated the hiring process to eliminate delay, proactively planned for anticipated retirements or resignations, and diligently hired new employees.

The average vacancy rate for FY25 was 11% (FY24 was 12.5%). LOPD is pleased to report that the core staff vacancy rate was reduced to as low as 4.7%. Attorney positions are an ongoing struggle to fill with the vacancy rate hovering around 16.5% (FY24 was 18%) statewide. Historically, the biggest dip in the vacancy rate for attorneys occurs in the fall, after the new law student graduate hires are sworn in.



When the average attorney FTE increases, it positively affects the number of cases assigned and assists LOPD in successfully meeting the established performance measure related to case assignments. It is important to emphasize that, although LOPD efforts are reducing the numbers, caseload numbers remain too high to provide effective assistance of counsel in all cases.

Statewide Training and Professional Development Program

LOPD's training and professional development program is designed to improve the quality of client representation while also meeting the evolving needs of employees. The program is developed and maintained by the Director of Training and Recruitment and a part-time core staff employee. In FY25, the department provided virtual and in person trainings for all employees.

LOPD held its in-person conference in June 2025 for attorneys to earn their continuing education credits while convening with their colleagues from around the state. Attorneys were trained by in-house attorneys on statutory case law updates, Indian law and working with clients with mental health issues. There were also trainers from around the country presenting on time management, Storytelling and an ethical approach to preparing clients to testify. In 2025, LOPD expanded its focus to provide training to its core staff on de-escalation and customer service.

We also place a strong emphasis on professional development for our core staff. Over the past year, we partnered with the National Association for Public Defense (NAPD) to deliver de-escalation training across the state, reaching more than 150+ core staff members from every district office. This 3.5-hour training equipped participants with practical strategies for navigating difficult interactions, emphasizing the use of words, body language, and gestures to help defuse tense

situations. Members of our administration joined trainer Stephanie Thornton at 4 regional offices in person, providing not only the training itself but also an opportunity to connect directly with staff. These sessions strengthened staff skills, enhanced workplace safety, and reinforced our commitment to investing in the people who are essential to supporting our clients and offices every day.

Strategic Planning

Process

In FY21, LOPD launched a strategic planning process for the department. This process enabled LOPD to re-center on its mission, refine its vision of success, and focus time and resources on the projects and initiatives with the greatest potential for transforming LOPD in order to support the LOPD mission and allocate resources. In this regard, the strategic plan will provide a means to ensure that all parts of the organization are working collaboratively together in alignment to realize a vision that is fulfilling to staff, compelling to clients, and relevant to the many stakeholders across the entire criminal legal system. Leaders from the Maryland Office of the Public Defender (OPD) provided assistance and served as facilitators through the process. These facilitators have helped several other public defender departments through the strategic planning process.

The first step of the planning process included gathering feedback from all employees through an anonymous survey in order for employees to feel comfortable being open with feedback. Over 40% of employees responded (165 responses) to the survey. The OPD facilitators reviewed the feedback that was collected and sorted them into general themes. Then, a virtual retreat was held in April 2021, when all LOPD employees, Public Defender Commission members, and community partners were invited to participate. The OPD facilitators helped the participants and the department with a vision session and hone in on areas of focus to help LOPD strategically plan to meet our vision and updated mission. During the session, there were discussions on how to improve client services and support employees by evaluating our mission, vision and culture. After those themes were developed, LOPD employees were selected to serve on five different writing teams. The writing teams developed plans that LOPD leadership, employees, and the Public Defender Commission will work to implement its goals and measure success.

Efforts to Secure Grants and Other Funding

LOPD works to use funding effectively and also seeks out sources, other than the legislature, for additional funding. For example, LOPD has been working with Bernalillo County for many years

Strategic Plan 5-year 2022

Areas of Focus

In pursuit of providing the best representation for our clients:

Defender Wellness

Culture Change

Criminal Justice Reform and Advocacy for Resources

Professional Development and Training

Holistic Defense

to provide staffing at needed hearings for probation violations and weekend arraignments. LOPD and Bernalillo County entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in which Bernalillo County provides LOPD funding to provide staff support and attorney representation for clients requiring representation.

Public Attorney Fund

The legislature created the Public Attorney Workforce Capacity Building Fund, which provided funding in FY24 for the recruitment and retention of public defenders and prosecutors. The funding was intended to provide a total of \$2 million dollars over two fiscal years; however, due to appropriation languages errors, LOPD did not receive the full amount allocated. Instead, the legislature appropriated \$675,300 to LOPD as a special appropriation and \$1.2 million to the district attorneys as a supplemental appropriation. LOPD expects FY26 to be the last year funding is available.

LOPD utilized the Public Attorney Fund to provide summer stipends of up to \$10,000 to law students in FY24, a program LOPD is looking to continue and expand using other sources of funding. See page 27 for more details.

Crime Reduction Grant Act

In FY23 and FY24, LOPD worked with various district attorneys to submit joint applications to fund the recruitment and retention of public defender and district attorneys in seven districts. The goal is to incentivize experienced attorneys to stay in their positions with a retention bonus with the amount of the bonus being based on their years of experience. Retaining experienced attorneys helps provide needed stability for clients, to offices, and ongoing training of newer attorneys. In FY23 and FY24, LOPD secured grants through the New Mexico Sentencing Commission to fund the recruitment and retention bonuses for attorneys in rural communities. LOPD secured over \$440,000 in FY23 and over \$215,000 in FY24 to payout the bonuses.

LOPD received FY25 awards totaling \$124,700 to continue staffing a paralegal to support clients by working with the Second Judicial District's Resource Reentry center and to continue Bernalillo County Warrant Forgiveness Walk-In Programs.

For FY26, LOPD received \$126,350, including \$675 each for the 1st and 12th Judicial Districts for client bus passes, \$35,000 for the 2nd Judicial District and \$30,000 for the 1st Judicial District for safe surrender warrant workshops, \$60,000 to continue staffing a paralegal to provide direct client services and work with the 2nd Judicial District's Resource Reentry center.

Improving Employee Services

Geographic pay differential – Several years ago, LOPD created an innovative program that uses geographic pay differentials to reward the attorneys in our rural offices and acknowledge their willingness to serve New Mexico’s rural communities. The differential is helpful with recruitment and retention as well. LOPD implemented the program by dedicating resources to make it successful. In 2018, LOPD reassessed the program and the Chief increased the variable recruitment and retention geographical differential for the Alamogordo, Carlsbad, Clovis, Portales, Hobbs, Roswell, and Ruidoso offices due to the continued recruitment and retention challenges. The increases resulted in attorneys receiving between \$6,000 and \$10,500 in additional annual compensation, depending on the district office location.

LOPD also utilized grants from the Public Attorney Fund, authorized by the Legislature, to provide additional geographic pay differential amounts to attorneys. Additional annual compensation ranges from \$2,900 in Albuquerque to \$5,000 in remaining offices.

Paid parental leave policy – Effective April 2020, LOPD provides 12 weeks of paid parental leave to eligible employees. The purpose of the leave is to ensure that eligible employees are provided with paid leave to care for and bond with a newborn, newly adopted child, or foster child with an anticipated placement of six months.

LOPD Awards – Presents an ongoing opportunity for LOPD leaders and colleagues to nominate colleagues who deserves recognition and an award for their efforts serving clients and the department. Nominations are collected annually and the winners that are selected are announced during a ceremony (in-person pre-COVID and virtual post-COVID). The following is the list of award titles: Unsung Hero award, Rising Star award, Innovator, Dedicated Public Defender and the Leadership award.

Wellness leave – The Staying Healthy and Rejuvenated Program (SHARP) is designed to recognize the benefits of employee health and wellness and supports time for wellness activities. LOPD recognizes that such activities are mutually beneficial to LOPD and its employees because they improve productivity, work performance and morale. The purpose of the policy is to provide the Law Offices of the Public Defender (LOPD) employees with paid time off to support employees’ efforts to engage in activities that promote wellness, and improve employee conduct, performance, and job satisfaction; and to establish guidelines for the request, approval and administration of the SHARP policy to eligible employees.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

LOPD employees are stellar in the courtroom and in the offices. They are also outstanding in many specialty areas locally and in the national public defense community. Numerous notable acknowledgments are on the following pages.

Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year



EDDIE RAMIREZ

The State Bar of New Mexico has chosen our own Eddie Ramirez in the Hobbs office as the state's Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year.

The award is given “to attorneys who have, during the formative stages of their legal careers, by their ethical and personal conduct, exemplified for their fellow attorneys the epitome of professionalism, demonstrating a commitment to clients’ causes and to public service, enhancing the image of the legal profession in the eyes of the public.”



His Hobbs colleagues nominated him for the award, saying “He cares deeply for his clients and works tirelessly to meet their needs and expectations. Not only does he work on the case, but he strives to put each client in a position to do well after their case has been resolved. He is one of the best advocates when attempting to get clients resources and tools to help better their life. He is persistent in the best possible way as an advocate. Mr. Ramirez is a phenomenal advocate who has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to his clients.”



We Are Leaders in Our State and Nationally

The New Mexico Criminal Defense Lawyers Association is a leading voice for criminal legal reform in New Mexico. Public defenders serve prominent roles in NMCDLA leadership. Additionally, they contribute their expertise through trainings and CLEs.

Washington, DC conference with NLADA

Chief Baur this month joined a panel presenting to the American Council of Chief Defenders in Washington, DC. The Council, part of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, invited Ben to speak with other chiefs about community engagement, workload issues and leadership. The conference included a trip to the Capitol to visit with legislators.



The National Association of Public Defense is the professional organization for more than 33,000 public defense practitioners, which includes all members of the defense team – attorneys, investigators, paralegals, secretaries, etc. The national organization is led by an executive director and a board of directors.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LOPD continues to engage our communities through traditional media, social media, individual outreach, service and community-rooted office events. Additionally, new efforts include participation in documentaries and national public defense messaging campaigns.

We Are Part of Our Communities

Several offices across the state, most notably the Albuquerque office, have launched community-based warrant workshops . These are day-long sessions with public defenders, prosecutors and support providers available for people with arrest warrants to consult and manage their warrant in a safe environment. More than 300 warrants have been addressed in Albuquerque in the FY25 warrant workshops. Additional workshops in Santa Fe have also assisted residents with warrants.

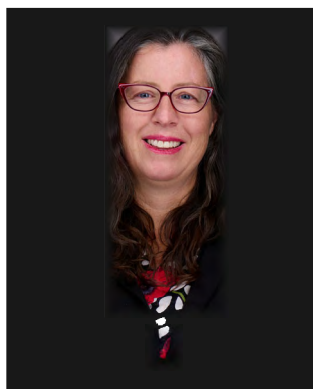
The Aztec office launched a client education project at their local integration center. Led by Social Worker Sonnie Rodriguez, the project installed an education station along with a phone charging station in the exit room for people released from the county jail. The station offers contact information for resources in the community, including our office.

Support for re-entry services

San Juan County officials celebrate the ribbon cutting of a Reentry Resource Center at the San Juan County Adult Detention Center. The Resource Center is a project of Leadership San Juan class of 2024.



We Are Part of the Story



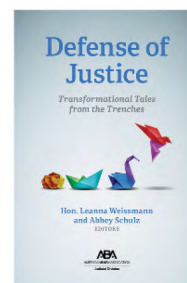
The Department continues to use media outreach and social media to connect with clients and communities across the state and nation. LOPD Communications Director Maggie Shepard works closely with the district offices to coordinate incoming television, radio, and print media interview requests in addition to leveraging media relations to get stories from within the department out into our local communities and national media markets.

The department's website, fully refreshed and rebranded in early 2023, continues to evolve, with design and planning work to include client-centered videos on topics ranging from understanding the court process to looking up a case in online databases and employee- and recruit-centered videos geared toward celebrating and highlighting the benefits of working for LOPD. These videos will also be featured on the department's social media, which not includes a Facebook page, and Instagram channel and a Twitter feed.

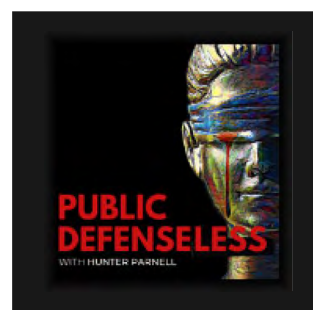


We Are Key Players

The American Bar Association is putting out a compilation of writing about public defense - and New Mexico is making a strong showing in it. Four essays and a poem from LOPD staff have been accepted to the publication, which should be out sometime this year. Accepted authors include Santa Fe attorneys Jennifer Burrill and Isaac Jeantete; Las Cruces attorney James Tiu; and Hobbs investigator Gabrielle Arsiaga.



LOPD leaders and employees continue to be invited to be invited to participate in podcasts and television appearances that discuss public defense issues and public safety. Chief Ben Baur as participated in the Public Defenseless podcast twice, along with Communications Director Maggie Shepard and Taos attorney Travis Weiner. The podcast is in the top 50 legal podcasts.



FY26 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- I. GOAL/OBJECTIVE: Strengthen the statewide system of Public Defender Attorneys and Contract Defenders to improve rural representation to ensure effective indigent defense and focus on restoration, not retribution.
 - a. Action Step: Recruit and retain in-house attorneys, core staff, investigators, and social workers by expanding the current innovative and proactive recruitment program targeting in-house employees statewide with a commitment to diversity and inclusion. Expanding current efforts to recruit attorneys and include prospective employees from core staff, investigators, and social workers and fill all FTE allocated which will improve retention and decrease vacancy rate.
 - i. LOPD seeks to build a team of professionals who support the mission and vision of the organization with a commitment to leading the fight for justice in New Mexico by protecting constitutional rights.
 - ii. LOPD will work to establish and secure funding to provide a rate of equitable and competitive pay, increased levels of accountability, training and performance for in-house attorneys, contract attorneys and core staff.
 - iii. LOPD is committed to recruiting a diverse and inclusive workforce by:
 1. Working to create pipelines with law schools with strong public interest or public defense programming, and
 2. Recruit diverse employees that reflect the populations LOPD represents; specifically, Spanish speaking and employees of Black and Indigenous backgrounds.
 - b. Action Step: Expand the pool of contract defenders by further addressing inadequate compensation for contract counsel. LOPD is advocating for increased funding for contractors.
 - i. Ensure indigent clients receive a constitutionally adequate public defense by advocating for funding to address the existing low base rate, as an hourly rate contract is more likely to garner interest from skilled criminal defense attorneys in the private sector.
 - ii. LOPD will continue working on an hourly rate model and transition plan with suggested transition phases and estimated costs.
 - iii. LOPD will engage the Public Defender Commission and the criminal defense bar to advocate statewide for adequate funding and implementation of an hourly rate for contract counsel.
 - c. Action Step: Continue investing in employees and improving representation through the development of the LOPD Training Program.
 - i. Improve management and operations to invest in employee development including diversity, professional development and self-care.
 - ii. LOPD will implement programs/opportunities/trainings with a focus on diversity and inclusion with input from employees, as well as self-care and well-being.

- iii. LOPD will continue to invest in leadership and supervision training.
- iv. Training and Recruitment Director will coordinate with LOPD's District Defenders and regional managers to identify training topics.
- v. The Training and Recruitment Director will identify, organize, and promote quality trainings to ensure LOPD employees are offered opportunities to fulfill their professional licensure requirements and professional development through both virtual, in-person, and hybrid opportunities.

II. GOAL/OBJECTIVE: Reduce recidivism and support community needs by positively impacting public safety.

- a. Action Step: Dedicate resources to equip the LOPD social work unit and other front-line core staff with essential training to work with clients to address underlying issues impacting their interaction with the criminal legal system.
- b. Action Step: Educate legislators and criminal legal partners about the limited mental health and substance abuse treatment resources statewide.
- c. Action Step: Advocate for additional support and resources to allow clients to address underlying issues.
- d. Action Step: Continue leadership and active involvement in criminal legal reforms.
 - i. LOPD will continue to collaborate with district attorneys and courts statewide to improve existing and create more diversion programs, keeping low risk offenders out of the criminal legal system and reducing jail and prison populations.
 - ii. LOPD continues to advocate for reforms in the criminal legal system which would allow LOPD to work more efficiently and effectively.
 - iii. Participate in community policy conversations about criminal legal reform and garner community participation.

III. GOAL/OBJECTIVE: Meeting staffing requirement reported by the ABA Workload Study by aligning Public Defender pay and staffing levels similar to those of the district attorneys.

- a. Action Step: Obtain funding in the FY27 budget request to hire an additional 29 FTE.
- b. Action Step: LOPD will seek advocacy assistance from the New Mexico Public Defender Commission, the criminal defense bar, and the New Mexico State Bar to advocate support from the Legislature and Executive for adequate funding and compensation for contractors.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

1. Number of alternative sentencing treatment placements in felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile cases.
2. Average cases assigned to attorneys yearly (*staff and contract attorney assignments in each county*).
3. Average time to case disposition (*staff and contract attorneys in each county*) (*measured in months at the close of the case*).
4. Percent of felony cases resulting in a reduction of the original formally filed charges.
5. Percent of juvenile cases resulting in a reduction of the original formally filed charges.
6. Percent of misdemeanor cases resulting in a reduction of the original formally filed charges.



NEW MEXICO
LAW OFFICES OF THE
PUBLIC DEFENDER

Fiscal Year 2027

Law Offices of the Public Defender

IT STRATEGIC PLAN

September 2, 2025

Matthew Bevington
Chief Information Officer

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
I. AGENCY OVERVIEW	3
A. AGENCY PURPOSE AND MISSION.....	3
B. AGENCY BUSINESS GOALS	3
C. AGENCY VISION.....	3
D. AGENCY BUSINESS PRIORITIES AND PRIORITY CHANGES.....	4
E. AGENCY ACCOMPLISHMENT, GOALS, AND CHALLENGES	6
II. IT ENVIRONMENT.....	7
1. Major Applications.....	7
2. Infrastructure.....	7
3. Security	8
4. Agency IT Certified Projects.....	8
5. Workforce	9
6. Challenges.....	10
III. KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS – PRIOR FISCAL YEAR.....	10
A. STRATEGIC IT ACCOMPLISHMENTS.....	10
B. OTHER KEY IT ACCOMPLISHMENTS – PRIOR FISCAL YEAR	11
IV. FY27 IT STRATEGIC GOALS AND STRATEGIES.....	13
V. IT FISCAL AND BUDGET MANAGEMENT	15
VI. SPECIAL FUNDING, SUPPLEMENTAL, COMPUTER SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT (C2) FUNDING AND REAUTHORIZATION OF C2 APPROPRIATIONS	16
APPENDIX A-I: AGENCY ORGANIZATION CHART.....	17
APPENDIX A-II: IT ORGANIZATION CHART	18
APPENDIX A-III: C2 IT DATA PROCESSING CSEF.....	19
APPENDIX A-III: C2 IT Data Processing CSEF	19

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. AGENCY OVERVIEW

A. AGENCY PURPOSE AND MISSION

To provide holistic legal representation of the highest quality to persons charged with criminal offenses in New Mexico, to protect constitutional rights, to advocate zealously for our clients, and to reduce criminal recidivism and redirect clients from the criminal legal system throughout the State of New Mexico. This IT Plan supports the agency mission by providing additional resources and support to the core staff and attorneys to improve client representation and services.

The LOPD I.T. unit supports the Law Offices of the Public Defender by enabling access to efficient tools, data access points, and services with minimal downtime and fast response. This supports the Department's mission to provide effective client representation to 70,000+ indigent cases annually.

B. AGENCY BUSINESS GOALS

Adequate funding is critical to LOPD's ability to meet its constitutional and statutory mandate of engaging its clients, training lawyers and staff, conducting investigation and discovery activities, preparing for hearings and trials, and any necessary post-conviction work including the constitutionally guaranteed appeals. LOPD serves a vital role in the criminal legal system by ensuring fairness in the criminal legal process, protecting every New Mexican's constitutional rights, and guaranteeing "equal justice under the law" for the less privileged in New Mexico. LOPD also strives to reduce recidivism in New Mexico communities by providing treatment guidance through LOPD's social services, assisting clients with reintegration efforts, supporting numerous treatment courts statewide, and participating in other innovative criminal legal reforms.

The LOPD I.T. department assists the office in carrying out its goals by increasing speed, enhancing services, expanding capabilities, and automating every process possible in a cost-effective and cost-responsible way.

C. AGENCY VISION

To provide holistic legal representation of the highest quality to persons charged with criminal offenses in New Mexico, to protect constitutional rights, to advocate zealously, and to work toward reducing criminal recidivism throughout the State of New Mexico in the most efficient and cost-effective way as possible.

The LOPD I.T. department is working toward the shared state IT goals: broadband, cybersecurity, cloud, data, and AI.

D. AGENCY BUSINESS PRIORITIES AND PRIORITY CHANGES

The mandate of the New Mexico Law Offices of the Public Defender (LOPD) is to fulfill New Mexico's constitutional and statutory guarantees of providing legal services to indigent adults and juveniles charged with criminal or delinquent acts in New Mexico. LOPD provides legal counsel in every state court: the New Mexico Supreme Court, the New Mexico Court of Appeals, 15 District Courts, the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court, and 25 Magistrate Courts. The New Mexico Public Defender Act, Sections 31-15-1 through 31-15-12, NMSA 1978, requires the Department to provide indigent criminal defense representation that complies with constitutional standards of effective representation under the V and VI Amendments of the United States Constitution and Article II, Sections 14, 15 and 18 of the New Mexico State Constitution.

In 2012, the citizens of New Mexico passed a constitutional amendment declaring that the New Mexico Public Defender Department "is established as an independent state agency" to be administered by a Chief Public Defender and overseen by a newly-created Public Defender Commission. The Commission is charged with the selection of the Chief Public Defender, setting fair and consistent standards for the operation of LOPD, and approval of the annual budget request. The Chief Public Defender, appointed to a four-year term, is responsible for managing all day-to-day operations of LOPD.

LOPD provides legal services in every county and every judicial district in New Mexico. LOPD is the largest law firm in the State of New Mexico, employing approximately 220 staff attorneys, 230 support staff, and contracting the legal services of another 110 lawyers statewide. In FY2022, these attorneys represented clients in 67,517 cases assigned to LOPD defense lawyers and 22,822 assigned to contract defenders.

ADMINISTRATION

With offices located in Santa Fe and Albuquerque, administrative services encompass a broad range of centralized agency management functions including fiscal oversight and budget preparation, information technology services, personnel and human resources, physical office operations and leasehold management, recruitment, training and professional development programs for employees, litigation support (expert) services, and indigency and eligibility standards compliance.

The administration actively advocates on a broad range of governmental, public policy, and criminal legal issues affecting LOPD and its clients. In addition, the Chief Public Defender, deputy chiefs, statewide directors and district defenders communicate LOPD's interests to criminal legal system constituents, which include local and state governments, district attorneys, jails, prisons, courts and local district office communities to assure the delivery of quality legal services for LOPD's adult and juvenile clients.

LOPD's administration works directly with the legislature, the judiciary, and the executive branches of state government. They also prepare and submit budgets and answer questions through informal mechanisms as well as through formal legislative hearings and presentations. LOPD's administrators and leadership provide formal testimony to legislative committees and interim committees, bill analysis, and substantive written information on a full range of issues directly and indirectly affecting client representation in the trial and appellate courts. The chief, deputy chiefs,

and district defenders serve on a number of task forces, advisory committees and councils that shape public policy, criminal legal initiatives and legislation in New Mexico and nationally. LOPD administrative staff and leadership also participate in many court initiatives and programs developed and implemented by the New Mexico Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, District Courts, and the Metropolitan and Magistrate courts.

Statewide Units

LOPD has several statewide units which offer specialized services for clients. These units are headed by the following positions:

Appellate Division

With a main office in Santa Fe and a satellite office in Albuquerque, LOPD's appellate division provides representation on direct appeal to indigent individuals before the New Mexico Supreme Court and the New Mexico Court of Appeals. Additionally, the appellate division provides appellate counsel when a request for interlocutory appeals of dispositive legal issues has been granted by an appellate court prior to final disposition or when appointed by the Supreme Court on certiorari review of a habeas corpus petition.

Habeas Corpus Unit

The habeas corpus unit, based in Albuquerque, provides statewide representation to individuals in post-conviction matters that fall under two general categories of cases: conviction cases and confinement cases. Conviction cases may include claims related to actual innocence, ineffective assistance of counsel, and illegal sentences. Confinement cases may include claims related to disciplinary actions resulting in lost goodtime, medical complaints, failure to award lump sum credits, and parole issues. Additionally, since the recent change in Rule 5-802 (habeas corpus), LOPD habeas unit conducts a pre-appointment review on all pro se petitions submitted to the court.

Major Crimes Defender Unit

In FY19, LOPD reorganized the structure through which clients charged with serious violent felonies are represented by creating the Major Crimes Defender Unit with offices in Albuquerque, Roswell, and Las Cruces. The Unit's goal is to ensure that every rural client's representation is as experienced as that given to clients in more populous areas. Additionally, the unit coordinates with managers in rural areas to provide support and training in offices that often do not have attorneys with the requisite experience to try complex cases.

Social Work Unit

LOPD continues its long-term goal to reduce the number of persons cycling through the criminal legal system. Social Workers have long been a critical part of that mission by assessing client needs and matching the client with the available community services. There are currently 25 staff in the Social Work Unit with Social Workers or Case Managers in every LOPD district office. LOPD Case Managers and Social Workers work mostly with felony cases, including with the Major Crimes Unit, as well as on serious violent offenses, probation violation cases, and with young adults and juveniles.

Contract Counsel Legal Services (CCLS) Unit

LOPD's statewide Contract Counsel Legal Services Unit organizes and oversees the contract defender representation system whereby LOPD contracts with attorneys to represent clients. In those counties where LOPD maintains district office operations, the unit's responsibility is

assigning contract counsel in cases that the public defender attorney staff cannot represent the client for legal conflicts of interest. In judicial districts and counties lacking district office operations, the unit must assign both primary and conflict of interest contract counsel.

Public Defender District Offices

The large majority of LOPD's services are delivered through the thirteen current regional trial offices located in key population and caseload centers. Clients are represented from arrest through resolution of the case by staff trial lawyers in District Courts, Magistrate Courts, Children's Courts, and the Metropolitan Court.

I.T. Changes in Direction

The need for AI tools is a new development in the legal field. This is seemingly become all-encompassing as almost every system now has an AI component available either included or as an option. The evaluation and usage potential of the systems must be evaluated and implemented where appropriate. The Department is especially interested in the areas of automation for discovery, research, human interaction, automatic data parsing, motions analysis, document library utilization, knowledge retention, and security. The potential cost savings and efficiency aspect of AI should be investigated, and utilized

E. AGENCY ACCOMPLISHMENT, GOALS, AND CHALLENGES

The LOPD I.T. Department enables the agency to achieve goals and operational challenges. Over the past few years, IT has modernized systems, enhanced data-driven decision-making through changes to Defender Data, and improved service delivery through new phone and email system.

Accomplishments:

365 migration

NIST compliance work

Zoom phones

Zoom AI

Sonicwall SMA VPN

Cisco Duo 2FA

Security enhancements on every incoming vector and internal abnormal processes detection

Cloud email archiving

Cloud email security scanning (Proofpoint for 365)

Microsoft Entra implementation

Goals:

AI projects, sufficient equipment/laptops to support AI integration.

The need for AI tools and automation has expanded. AI technology has become cost-effective and mature enough for production. While the technology is still in its infancy, the need for establishing a baseline from which to springboard has become necessary. The LOPD has initiated research to discover the AI tools which would most help client representation, efficiency, and potential cost savings.

Challenges:

Continued evolving landscape, cybersecurity, adapting to cloud, work towards NSIT compliance

II. IT ENVIRONMENT

1. Major Applications

The LOPD's primary application is Justice Work's "Defender Data", a case management system. This is a cloud-based software as a service application. The case management system is connected to an on premise document management system from LaserFiche.

The LOPD collaboration tools consists of Zoom phones with attending desktop-based texting and visual voicemail. Microsoft 365, Zoom, Outlook Web Access, ESET antivirus, and Snagit are available for all employees.

The daily backups are handled by VEEAM One suite, and the Windows Servers and active directory all reside as virtual machines inside VMware vSphere.

2. Infrastructure

LOPD's primary infrastructure:

- HPE Servers
- HPE Nimble & Apollo Storage units
- Zoom Cloud phones
- VMware vSphere
- One and ten gigabyte switches
- Veeam backup software
- OpenPath secure door systems
- Lumu.IO (AI security automation)
- Sonicwall Firewall
- Microsoft 365
- Microsoft Entra
- Proofpoint Defend
- Sonicwall Secure Mobile Access (SMA)
- Cisco Duo 2FA

- Cisco Umbrella
- Halcyon Anti-Cryptolocker
- Sentinel One XDR
- Sentinel One MDR

3. Security

LOPD utilizes:

- Sonicwall NSA (Firewall)
- Sonicwall SMA (Advanced VPN)
- Eset (Traditional Antivirus – All machines)
- Sentinel One XDR and MDR (Advanced Threat Protection – All machines)
- Lumu (AI outbound listener)
- Cisco Duo MFA
- Cisco Umbrella (DNS Defense)
- Proofpoint (Advanced email defense)
- Halcyon (anti-keying and decrypt engine)

4. Agency IT Certified Projects

As of July 1, 2025, LOPD does not have any active C2 projects.

PROJECT NAME: [Enter Project Name]	
Project Description	N/A
Estimated Project Costs	
Current Funding	
Certified Project Phase	
Estimated Completion	
Strategic Priority	
Agency IT Strategic Plan Alignment	
PROJECT NAME: [Enter Project Name]	
Project Description	N/A
Estimated Project Costs	
Current Funding	
Certified Project Phase	
Estimated Completion	
Strategic Priority	
Agency IT Strategic Plan Alignment	
PROJECT NAME: [Enter Project Name]	

Project Description	N/A
Estimated Project Costs	
Current Funding	
Certified Project Phase	
Estimated Completion	
Strategic Priority	
Strategic Priority	
Agency IT Strategic Plan Alignment	
PROJECT NAME: [Enter Project Name]	
Project Description	N/A
Estimated Project Costs	
Current Funding	
Certified Project Phase	
Estimated Completion	
Strategic Priority	
Agency IT Strategic Plan Alignment	

5. Workforce

A. Full Time IT Employees

Classification	Positions Filled	Positions Vacant
I.T. Director	1	0
I.T. Manager	1	0
I.T. Supervisor	0	1
I.T. Admin 2	2	0
I.T. Admin 1	3	0

B. Percentage of IT Full-Time Employees Teleworking, In the Office, or a Hybrid Schedule

Teleworking (%)	Working in the Office (%)	Hybrid Schedule (%)
0%	15%	85%

C. IT Professional Services Contractors

Service Category	Contract Vendor Name	Number of Contract Personnel
N/A	N/A	N/A

6. Challenges

No.	Agency IT Challenge Description	Potential Opportunities to Address the IT Challenge Description
1	Security	Continually evolving threats and new vectors of attack. Increasing complexity and time for preventative actions.
2	Cloud Computing Migration	Increased costs and the necessity for increasing bandwidth across rural locations where unavailability is difficult. New cloud systems necessitate retraining for IT staff.
3	Need for training on new cloud systems	New cloud based tools and platforms such as M365, Proofpoint, Sentinel One, require advanced knowledge to operate effectively.
4	Retention of LOPD I.T. Staff	Retention of LOPD IT staff to retain organizational knowledge of systems.

III. KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS – PRIOR FISCAL YEAR

[Provide a brief narrative as an introductory statement to describe agency's key IT accomplishments. In the format below, list the requested information to describe agency key accomplishments.]

A. STRATEGIC IT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – Security Enhancement	
Anti-Ransomware Vectoring Security Countermeasures	
Strategy 1	Increase Core System Security (Sentinel One XDR)
Accomplishments	Loaded product onto all department servers, workstations, and surfaces.
Outcomes/Metrics	All department computers are protected against advanced threats.
Strategy 2	Increase Email Security (Proofpoint)
Accomplishments	Configured email to run through Proofpoint servers before hitting the department at which.
Outcomes/Metrics	All department email is scanned incoming and outgoing for advanced email directs.

Strategy 3	Ransomware Keying Defense (Halcyon)
Accomplishments	Loaded product onto all department servers.
Outcomes/Metrics	Keying products prevents the ability for encrypt operations by collecting keys during encryption.
Strategy 4	Added 24/7 active security monitoring (Sentinel One MDR and Watchtower)
Accomplishments	Loaded product onto all department computers.
Outcomes/Metrics	All department computers are now monitored in real time and can be remedied by remote inside and outside of office hours.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 –Customer Security and Experience	
Authentication, Authorization, and TPM 2.0 Enhancement	
Strategy 1	Super-VPN (Sonicwall SMA)
Accomplishments	All LOPD employees have the Sonicwall SMA client loaded onto their department computer
Outcomes/Metrics	System employs 2FA, patch check, scan check, app check, domain check, and versioning check prior to allowing VPN connection
Strategy 2	Cisco Duo MFA
Accomplishments	All LOPD employees are using Cisco 2FA for connections
Outcomes/Metrics	All LOPD employees must prove through Cisco duo prior to authentication on Microsoft Entra services.
Strategy 3	Increase Bandwidth for Cloud based systems
Accomplishments	10gb new primary line and 1gb express route lines to coincide with migration to cloud based system.
Outcomes/Metrics	Bandwidth increased by 400%, latency for the Azure and 365 system reduced to near LAN speeds.
Strategy 4	Windows 11 Adoption
Accomplishments	The LOPD is over 65% converted to Windows 11 in anticipation of the Oct deadline for shutting down support on Windows 10
Outcomes/Metrics	The Department will be fully compliant with Windows 11 prior to the shut off of Windows 10 patching services.

B. OTHER KEY IT ACCOMPLISHMENTS – PRIOR FISCAL YEAR

Modernized email client, increased case management system storage capacity, upgraded phone hardware and software with better texting capability, enabled an API between case management system and large digital file system, and greatly enhanced organizational cybersecurity.

APPLICATION	
Accomplishment	M365 Deployment
Value or Impact	Migrate all accounts to M365, load M365 on all LOPD machines, activate Entra and DUO for all users.
DATA	
Accomplishment	Online Defender Data Storage
Value or Impact	Online in app storage of associated files inside of a case within the case management system. Places all relevant data into a single location removing the need for multiple locations of files, increasing efficiency.
PROCESS IMPROVEMENT	
Accomplishment	Zoom Phones
Value or Impact	New features including AI, automatic transcription, enterprise Zoom meetings for all users, and the resumption of texting and fax capabilities.
WORKFORCE	
Accomplishments	Defender Data to Laserfiche API Connector
Value or Impact	Direct connection from the case management system and the bulk storage array containing all hardcopy-scanned files. Increases efficiency by eliminating the need for movement of physical files.
CUSTOMER SERVICE	
Accomplishments	Zoom Enterprise Licensing & Zoom AI for all employees
Value or Impact	Allows all users to host Unlimited Zoom meetings, records Zoom meetings, create automatic summaries of meetings, transcribe meetings in their entirety and connects their cell phone, desk phone and computer into one unified application.
TELEWORK	
Accomplishments	Cisco DUO and Sonicwall SMA
Value or Impact	New enhanced VPN allows for vastly improved security: check to domain, check for patch, check for security product, check for current scan and also verify with 2 FA prior to allowing for VPN connection.
SECURITY	
Accomplishments	Halcyon, Sentinel One XDR/MDR
Value or Impact	Security staff greatly increased: anti-ransomware and anti-crypto lock software suite. Extended data response and managed data response ensuring 24/7 coverage against threat actors.

IV. FY27 IT STRATEGIC GOALS AND STRATEGIES

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 –AI Baseline Support Enhancement	
Goal Statement	
Strategy 1	Zoom Voice AI for Secretary, Receptionist, Recruiting and I.T.
Outcomes/Metrics	Integrate new AI systems for answering phones, redirecting phone calls, answering basic questions from a predefined script and knowledge base, sending messages to Department staff and clients.
Strategy 2	API connection from ZOOM Phones to M365
Outcomes/Metrics	Allows Zoom AI to adjust Department employee calendars automatically according to appointment information changes from staff or clients.
Strategy 3	API connection from Microsoft 365 Copilot to Zoom AI
Outcomes/Metrics	Allows outbound informational calls placed by the Zoom system to update and inform clients of scheduling information.
Strategy 4	API connection from Microsoft 365 Copilot to Defender Data
Outcomes/Metrics	Allows the automatic updating of case information inside the case management system to include notes, messages, scheduling and applicable updates to available files such as processed discovery.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 –AI Baseline Production Enhancement	
Goal Statement	
Strategy 1	AI for Attorneys Discovery
Outcomes/Metrics	Allows for the automatic transcription of discovery files and the parsing of video files into usable sections. Dramatic timesaving for the attorney staff.
Strategy 2	Digital Paralegal Prototype
Outcomes/Metrics	Allows for the automatic writing of motions and the checking of motions from a law specific AI tool.

Strategy 3	AI Research Tools for Attorneys
Outcomes/Metrics	AI assisted research tool via a law specific research service.
Strategy 4	AI NPU update for Attorney computers
Outcomes/Metrics	Allows for the local acceleration and local AI tools available via development in the copilot studio application.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 –Knowledge, Retention, and Longevity	
Goal Statement	
Strategy 1	Hybrid On-Prem & Cloud Veeam Backups
Outcomes/Metrics	Redundancy for backups systems utilizing the cloud as the secondary and remote copy.
Strategy 2	Advanced Training
Outcomes/Metrics	Advanced vendor-led training for I.T. staff on employed major systems: Sentinel One, Proofpoint, Microsoft 365 & Azure. Minimum of two team members trained annually in each of two categories: Security and Production.
Strategy 3	NIST Buildout
Outcomes/Metrics	Research requirements for compliance with the standard.
Strategy 4	Annual 3 rd party penetration testing

V. IT FISCAL AND BUDGET MANAGEMENT

Information Technology (IT) Operating Budget (C1)

(To update this table, please double click on the embedded spreadsheet and add the required information. Before exiting the spreadsheet, please make sure to scroll up. Otherwise, the entries of this table will not be fully previewed.)

Agency Name		Agency Code			
NM Law Offices of the Public Defender		28000			
Base Request Operational Support of IT. Check one of the options below:		Flat Budget	Expansion from previous year		
Yes/No		Yes	No		
Revenue IT Base Budget (dollars in thousands)					
Appropriation Funding Type	FY24 Actual	FY25 Actual	FY26 OpBud	FY27 Request	FY28 Estimate
General Fund	2,056.0	2,655.0	2,180.0	2,595.0	0.0
Other State Funds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Federal Funds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Internal Svc Funds/Interagency Transfer	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	2,056.0	2,655.0	2,180.0	2,595.0	0.0
Expenditure Categories (dollars in thousands)					
Category or Account Description	FY24 Actual	FY25 Actual	FY26 OpBud	FY27 Request	FY28 Estimate
Personnel Services & Employee Benefits	775.0	830.0	830.0	850.0	0.0
Contractual & Professional Services	600.0	559.0	400.0	450.0	0.0
IT Other Services	681.0	1,266.0	950.0	1,295.0	0.0
Other Financing Uses	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	2,056.0	2,655.0	2,180.0	2,595.0	0.0
	Print Name	Phone	Email Address	Date	
Agency Cabinet Secretary/ Director (Mandatory)	Bennett J. Baur	505-395-2881	bennett.j.baur@lopdm.us	7/28/2025	
Chief Information Officer or IT Lead (Mandatory)	Matthew Bevington	505-715-5801	mat.bevington@lopdm.us	7/28/2025	
Chief Finance Officer (Mandatory)	Debbie O'Dell	505-395-2865	debbie.odell@lopdm.us	7/28/2025	

Agency Cabinet Secretary/Director Signature

Chief Information Officer/IT Lead Signature

Chief Financial Officer Signature



 matthew bevington


 Debbie O'Dell

8-29-2025

VI. SPECIAL FUNDING, SUPPLEMENTAL, COMPUTER SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT (C2) FUNDING AND REAUTHORIZATION OF C2 APPROPRIATIONS

A. Special Funding and Supplemental Request(s): LOPD may submit for special or supplemental funding before September 1, but the requests will not capture information technology needs.

Computer System Enhancement (C2) Funding: [Include a list of C2 funding request(s) with the name(s) of the proposed projects. Insert a C2 Information Technology Data Processing – Computer Enhancement Fund (CSEF) form for each request as Appendix-A-III and reference Appendix-A-III in this section. If none, note the agency has no requests.]

Reauthorization of C2 Appropriations: LOPD is not requesting reauthorization of prior C2 appropriations.

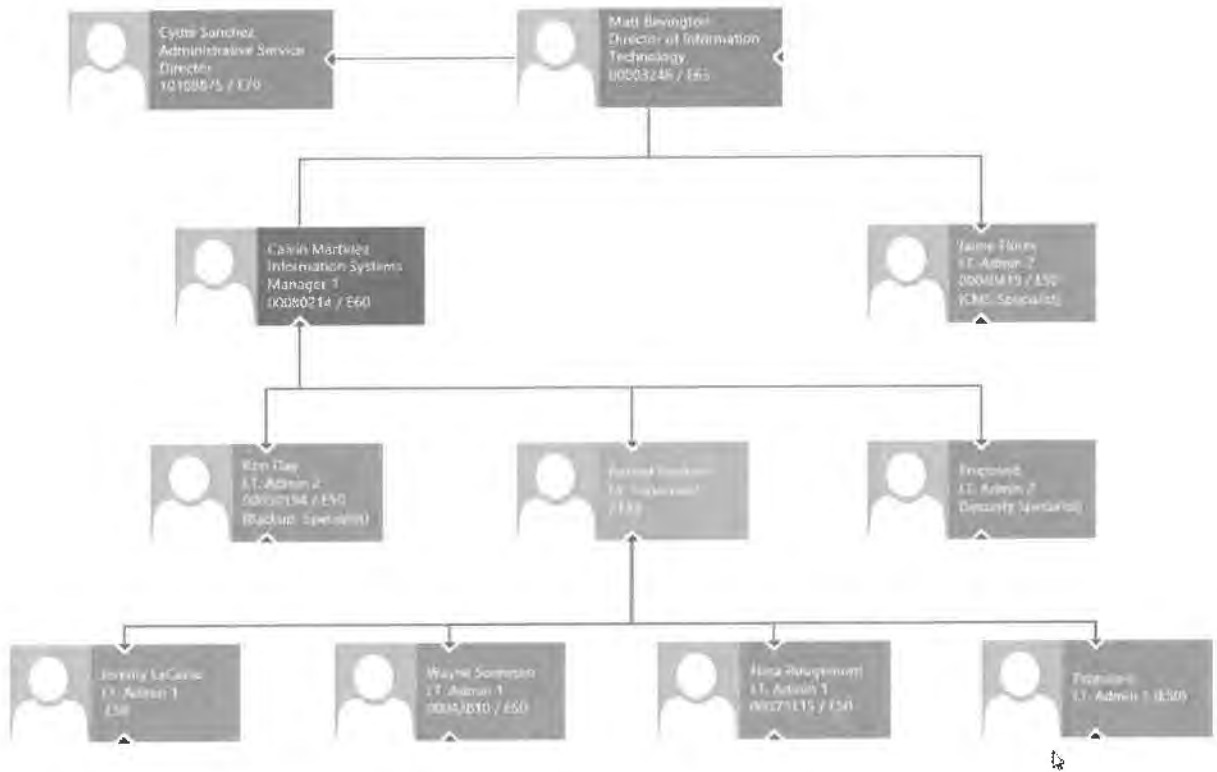
REQUEST FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF C2 APPROPRIATIONS

Information Technology Request for Reauthorization of C2 Appropriations			
Agency Name		Agency Code	
Lead Agency Name Listed on Appropriation		Project Name	
Source of Authorization (e.g. Laws 2022, Chapter 54, Section 7 (12) or Grant/Federal Fund #)		Appropriation Amount (in thousands)	Remaining Balance (in thousands)
N/A		0.0	0.0
		0.0	0.0
		0.0	0.0
		0.0	0.0
		0.0	0.0
		0.0	0.0
Total amount appropriated for project life (in thousands)		Will the project be completed within the next fiscal year?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Reason for Requesting Reauthorization			

APPENDIX A-1: AGENCY ORGANIZATION CHART



APPENDIX A-II: IT ORGANIZATION CHART



APPENDIX A-III: C2 IT DATA PROCESSING CSEF

APPENDIX A-III: C2 IT Data Processing CSEF

C2: Information Technology Data Processing - Computer Systems Enhancement Fund (CSEF)

Agency Name	Agency Code	Project Name			
Law Offices of the Public Defender	28000	Full Business case			
Multi-Agency Project	Participating Agencies	Priority	Projected/Actual Start Date	Projected End Date	
Single agency project		1	7/1/2026	6/30/2028	
Revenue Project Cost (dollars in thousands)					
Category or Account Description	FY25 & Prev Actual	FY26 Budget	FY27 Request	Total	
General Fund (CSEF)	0.0	0.0	680.0	680.0	
Other State Funds (*specify funds below)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Federal Funds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Internal Svc Funds/Interagency Transfer	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Total	0.0	0.0	680.0	680.0	
*If Other State Funds, Specify Funding Source/Fund Name					
Expenditure Categories (dollars in thousands)					
	FY25 & Prev Actual	FY26 Budget	FY27 Request	Total	
Personnel Services & Employee Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Professional Services	0.0	0.0	600.0	600.0	
Travel/Lodging	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
IT Hardware	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
IT Software	0.0	0.0	80.0	80.0	
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Total	0.0	0.0	680.0	680.0	
	Print Name	Phone	Email Address	Date	
Agency Cabinet Secretary/ Director (Mandatory)	Bennett J. Baur	505-395-2881	bennett.j.baur@lodnm.us	7/28/2025	
Chief Information Officer or IT Lead(Mandatory)	Marthw Bevington	505-715-5801	matt.bevington@lodnm.us	7/28/2025	
Chief Finance Officer / Budget Director (Mandatory)	Debbie O'Dell	505-395-2865	debbie.odell@lodnm.us	7/28/2025	

**C2: Information Technology
Data Processing - Computer Systems Enhancement Fund (CSEF)**

Agency Name	Agency Code	Project Name			
Law Offices of the Public Defender	28000	Attorney AI Tools			
Multi-Agency Project	Participating Agencies		Priority	Projected/Actual Start Date	Projected End Date
Single agency project			2	7/1/2026	6/30/2028

Revenue Project Cost (dollars in thousands)				
Category or Account Description	FY25 & Prev Actual	FY26 Budget	FY27 Request	Total
General Fund (CSEF)	0.0	0.0	1,024.0	1,024.0
Other State Funds (*specify funds below)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Federal Funds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Internal Svc Funds/Interagency Transfer	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	0.0	0.0	1,024.0	1,024.0
*If Other State Funds, Specify Funding Source/Fund Name				

Expenditure Categories (dollars in thousands)				
	FY25 & Prev Actual	FY26 Budget	FY27 Request	Total
Personnel Services & Employee Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Professional Services	0.0	0.0	360.0	360.0
Travel/Lodging	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
IT Hardware	0.0	0.0	504.0	504.0
IT Software	0.0	0.0	160.0	160.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	0.0	0.0	1,024.0	1,024.0

	Print Name	Phone	Email Address	Date
Agency Cabinet Secretary/ Director (Mandatory)	Bennett J. Baur	505-395-2881	bennetti.baur@topdnm.us	7/28/2025
Chief Information Officer or IT Lead(Mandatory)	Matthew Bevington	505-715-5801	matr.bevington@topdnm.us	7/28/2025
Chief Finance Officer / Budget Director (Mandatory)	Debbie O'Dell	505-395-2865	debbie.odell@topdnm.us	7/28/2025

Agency Cabinet Secretary/Director Signature



Chief Information Officer/IT Lead Signature

Matthew Bevington

Chief Finance Officer/Budget Director Signature

Debbie O'Dell 8-29-2025



NEW MEXICO
LAW OFFICES OF THE
PUBLIC DEFENDER

Fiscal Year 27
Information Technology Funding (C2) Request
Core Staff AI Support Tools
Full Business Case
Priority I

Matthew Bevington

Chief Information Officer

Release Date: September, 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Executive Summary	3
II. Project Background.....	3
III. Risks.....	7
IV. Scope and Constraints	8
V. Alternative Approach Analysis.....	8
VI. Method(s) Used To Develop Accurate Cost Estimate	9
VII. Key Stakeholders.....	10
VIII. Objectives, Outcomes, Key Performance Indicators.....	10
IX. Benefits	11
X. Total Cost of Ownership.....	12
XI. C2 Form – Computer System Enhancement Fund (CSEF).....	13

I. Executive Summary

1. **Proposed Project Description:** Project seeks to create a baseline Artificial Intelligence (AI) system as a launchpad for support staff AI tools which directly integrate into the case management system and communication system of the Law Office of Public Defender (LOPD). This AI foundation will connect all the major systems LOPD employees use: Email, Word processing, Storage, Case Management, Zoom, and phones into a seamless unified automated platform. The interconnects transform separate systems into a scripted workflow based system.
2. **Business Need/Problem:** Support staff spend a large portion of their time on tasks that could be reduced by AI tools. For example: the answering of phones and transferring of calls is one of the most time intensive functions performed by secretaries and receptionists every day. This could be completely mitigated using an AI voice agent, which can transfer calls without any human intervention. Another area is a personal AI secretary and personal assistant: able to screen calls, take notes, pass information, and update calendars.
3. **Value and Benefits:** This system will allow the majority of phone (voice) functions to be automated, and the resulting action needed from a phone call to also be automated. This time savings will be significant and free up the staff for other critical tasks that allow for better direct client services. For example: the passing of messages from client to attorney regarding scheduling or case specific questions would be able to be dictated by the AI voice system and placed in the attorneys' messages, notes, and calendar.
4. **Project Objectives:** Integration of an AI voice agent into the current Zoom Phones system, integration of an AI voice agent into the M365 system and case management system. This would allow the AI voice agent to create, modify, and delete calendar entries for the attorney which would both augment and enhance the secretarial functions and attorney needs. It would also allow automatic notification and updating for clients regarding scheduling with their attorney and in changes with the court.
5. **Alignment with the IT Strategic Plan:** The state I.T. Strategic plan seeks to utilize AI tools for automation, efficiency and cost saving overtime. This project would create a very strong baseline from which to align with the NM DOIT goals of future AI implementations, connections, cost savings, efficiencies, and interstate departmental data sharing. Alignment with the LOPD I.T. Strategic Plan: The LOPD Strategic Priorities are focused on the most effective defense possible for clients and to maximize available LOPD resources. Our priority is to reduce the amount of time any given task needs for quality completion and recover that saved time for more production.
6. **Proposed Agency General Appropriation Act (GAA) Language:** To establish and implement artificial intelligence tools to support client services.

II. Project Background

Project Description:

1. **Detailed Project Description:** This project will alleviate the time requirements imposed by traditional voice systems when dealing with the public. The annual call volume of the LOPD is 600,000 calls. This traditional format is constrained by the availability of personnel and the limitations of office hours. This project will give callers the option of having an AI system

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

perform the same functions as a human and with no constraints on operating hours to include AI access to M365 and the case management system to assist with scheduling and case updates. The project also adds a chatbot version of the system to allow the public to choose their preference. The LOPD is seeking \$600,000 for the project.

2. Type of Project: This project is a new solution.
3. Technology Type: COTS with custom API.
4. Mission Critical Application: This project complies with and boosts the state IT plan in the areas of emerging technology and AI, workforce, data integration cloud initiatives and cybersecurity. This project also supports the LOPD strategic plan and mission by integrating the production improvements offered by AI: increasing quality, speed, and increasing efficiency.
5. Services Required (Non-Recurring Costs):

a. Is the system being considered a hosted solution?

Hosted Solution Description
YES -Zoom AI Agent for Voice
YES - CoPilot Studio

b. Professional services:

Professional Services	Other Professional Services
CDW MOAT Services	Lumen Zoom Agent for Voice API
Microsoft 365 Developer API	

c. Hardware Description: Will the Agency purchase hardware? No

Hardware Description
N/A

d. Software Licenses Description: Will the Agency purchase Software Licenses? Yes

Software License Description
Zoom AI Agent for Voice (Quantity 5)
Microsoft CoPilot (Quantity 50)

e. Training Description:

Training Description

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

CoPilot Studio: allows the programming of internal copilot apps for use with Microsoft Copilot, Copilot+ for PC using NPU's, and complex interactions for the case management system and associated tools.
--

f. Compliance and Security Description:

Compliance and Security Description
N/A

g. Facilities Description :

Facilities Description
N/A

h. Personnel Services Description:

Personnel Services Description
N/A

6. Estimated Start Date: **7/1/2026**
7. Estimate End Date: **6/30/2028**
8. Project be Phased: If full funding is not available, can the project be phased? **Yes**
9. Project be Phased: If the project can be phased, what can be accomplished with partial funding? **Design of AI agent (singular instance for testing), creation of script (creation of individual office and application routing), and overall knowledgebase for AI voice agent system (knowledge documents for the AI agent to query) plus training in preparation for funding of production voice AI agent system (vendor training for the in-house programming and creation of AI sub-agent applets)**

Project History:

1. Project Funding Request Category:
 - **new project request for a new system**
2. Is this funding request a repeat request for funding that has been previously denied? **No.**
3. Work To Be Performed with this Funding Request: **Creation of voice AI agent and associated connectors to existing phone system, Microsoft 365 and case management system. Creation of an AI phone script, personas, logic for phone routing, AI knowledgebase for the roles of receptionist/secretary/recruitment. Creation of AI callback system and messaging system for attorney to client automatic communications using**

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

voice, email and SMS. Duplication of AI voice agent into chatbot for website based inquires.

4. Is this funding a continuation request to complete an existing project? **No**
Existing Project's Reauthorization Information: N/A (Table removed – new project)

5. Is this funding a continuation request to complete an existing project? **No**
Existing Project's Appropriation History: N/A
(Table removed – new project)

6. Is this funding a continuation request to complete an existing project? **No**
Existing Project's Certification History: N/A (Table removed – new project)

7. Is this funding a continuation request to complete an existing project? **No**
Project Key Milestones and Contract Deliverables: N/A (Table removed – new project)

8. Is this funding a continuation request to complete an existing project and Independent Verification and Validation waiver has been approved by the Department of Information Technology? **No**
Existing Project Independent Verification and Validation Last Update N/A
 1. IV&V Vendor Name:
 2. IV&V Report Effective Date:
 3. Overall IV&V Status Rating:
 4. Overall IV&V Status Summary:
 5. Overall Trend Rating:
 6. Overall Trend Summary:
 7. Accomplishments:
 8. Highest Risks:
 9. High Level Recommendations

III. Risks

The following table provides a quick risk assessment of the proposed project's inherent risks. Provide a brief description of the risks and challenges faced by the agency in moving forward with the project, and the impact if the agency does not move forward with the project.

The largest risk to the Department would be an inability to successfully use the existing API to connect to another system via its API. As the developers of the systems have already indicated that this is entirely possible and straightforward: the risk would be small. If the Department does not move forward with this initiative and work will continue in a far less efficient and cost-effective way for the state. In the event of any unsuccessful API connections, the department can fall back on the default options provided by the

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

vendor, which still provides the core functionality of the design without a few inter-system time saving automations: yielding at least 80% of the production enhancement.

Risk Assessment for Proposed Solution

Criteria		Risk Score = 1	Risk Score = 2	Risk Score = 3	Score
1	Estimated project cost	Less than \$250K	\$250K - \$1M	Greater than \$1M	2
2	Estimated total calendar months before completion	6 or less	6 to 12	More than 12	3
3	Number of project team members	5 or less	6 to 10	More than 10	1
4	Number of subject matter experts required to execute the project	3 or less	4 or 5	6 or more	1
5	Project manager experience level	3 or more projects of similar scope	1 to 2 projects of similar scope	No prior projects of similar scope	1
6	Estimated total effort hours	Less than 500	500 - 1800	More than 1800	2
7	Number of sites/offices impacted by the project	1	2 to 5	More than 5	1
8	Uniqueness of project's technical requirements	Similar to others in the department	Similar to others, but complex	New and complex	3
9	Impact of noncompliance with applicable laws and regulations	None or minimal	Moderate	Significant	1
10	Impact of 12-month project postponement on existing systems	Existing systems can compensate with minimal costs	Existing or new systems can compensate with substantial costs	Existing systems must be curtailed because of the lack of proposed project	1
11	Number of interfaces to existing systems affected	0	1 to 3	More than 3	2
12	User requirements definition	Clearly defined	Somewhat defined, but complex	Very vague and complex	1

Total Risk Score:	19
--------------------------	-----------

IV. Scope and Constraints

The following are elements of the project which are in-scope and out-of-scope that are identified to manage trade-offs during execution.

Scope:

In Scope	Description
----------	-------------

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

Create knowledgebase and logic for Voice AI agent for phone calls	Local knowledgebase predefined by department for AI agent to answer questions with
API to ZOOM AI and AI Agent to Justice Works case management system	Connection from AI voice agent to case management system for the adding of information and forwarding of important messages to attorney's staff
API calls from ZOOM AI and AI Agent to Microsoft 365	Connection from AI voice agent to Microsoft 365 platform for the adjusting of calendars, notification to attorneys and clients, and reminders to attorneys and clients for upcoming scheduled events.

Out of Scope	Description	Reason Why
Paralegal AI Persona	Role not defined for automation at this time	Complex role that overlaps with certain Attorney role functions

Constraints:

Constraints	
Category	Description
Evolving AI landscape	Capabilities of AI will increase over the next year prior to funding

V. Alternative Approach Analysis

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT SELECTION:

The following table includes viable alternatives, including preliminary research and analysis, that were eliminated in favor of the proposed project:

Alternative Description (e.g. Status Quo, Enhancements, Replacement)	Reason Eliminated	Cost	Preliminary research and analysis conducted (Yes/No)
Status Quo	Inefficient – cost of hours which could be saved thru automation. Average of \$52 an hour x44,096 hours to be saved	\$2,284,300	YES
		\$0.00	
		\$0.00	

VI. Method(s) Used To Develop Accurate Cost Estimate

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

The following method(s) were used to gather information and develop the C2 funding request by providing the information below:

No.	METHOD USED	PURPOSE	COST ESTIMATE AMOUNT (\$)
1	Request for Information (RFI)	Gather preliminary information from potential vendors on capabilities, pricing models, and feasibility	\$600,000
2	Request for Proposal (RFP)	To solicit comprehensive proposals that include technical solutions, cost breakdowns, and delivery schedules	
3	Market Surveys	Engage vendors through surveys to understand pricing capabilities	
4	Historical Cost Data Analysis	Review past expenditures on similar projects to predict future costs	
5	Interstate Collaboration and Networking	Contact other organizations such as National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO), the National Governors Association (NGA), and other industry specific organizations to gather cost data and procurement information. Attend conferences and webinars where states share project outcomes and cost data.	
6	State Specific Agencies	Contact counterparts in other states (e.g. Department of Health, Department of Transportation) to obtain data on similar project initiatives	
7	Other Method: Confidential I.T. survey of engineering firm modernizing IT systems to comply with AI: a firm roughly equivalent to the public defender at 500 employees	Total spend was \$5.3 million across a variety of systems with the AI voice agent component being a minority expense	\$800,000

VII. Key Stakeholders

The following table identifies internal and external stakeholders, their project responsibilities and their expected impact on the project's success.

Project Impact Scale: 1 = Low Impact; 2 = Medium Impact; 3 = High Impact

Internal Stakeholders	Department or Agency	Project Responsibilities	Project Impact
Engineering/Design	I.T.	Evaluate functionality and adjust	3

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

Support staff	Public defender	Test system and provide feedback	1
---------------	-----------------	----------------------------------	---

External Stakeholders	Company or Organization	Project Responsibilities	Project Impact
Engineering	ZOOM	Create API	3
Engineering	Justice Works	Create API	3

VIII. Objectives, Outcomes, Key Performance Indicators

The following are key project objectives with related deliverable outcomes and quantifiable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

Objectives	Outcomes/Deliverables	Benefits/KPIs (as applicable)
Reduce human cost for voice systems	Reduce human interaction on incoming voice traffic by	Increased speed in service to public by automatically
	75% of total call volume which is 600,000 calls annually with	transferring calls as requested to the AI by the caller
Add website AI chat bot as alternative to voice systems	Install AI chat bot on website with full functionality compared to voice AI agent	Client and public general inquiries available as an online resource and doesn't require a phone call

IX. Benefits

The following is a list of tangible and intangible benefits anticipated from the project.

Tangible Benefits	Amount
People/Process/Business/ROI: Annual voice call volume of 600,000 with an average of 45sec per call prior to transfer. Goal to reduce human interaction by 75% This would save 450,000 support staff min, or 7500 hours. Public and clients would be able to receive general requested information instantly 24 hours a day.	\$300,000.00
People/Process/Business/ROI: Automatic messaging, calendar updating, attorney and client scheduling reminders via SMS & email. Reducing secretary hours spent on these tasks. Goal of two hours of savings on both the receptionist, secretary, and attorney roles each week. (2 hours x 52 weeks x 425 enhanced staff = 44,096 hours saved)	\$1,984,320.00

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

Intangible Benefits	Metrics
Business: Increase effective hours for public voice or Chatbot service from 8-5 Monday to Friday schedule to a new 24/7/365 paradigm	Ability for the public to receive information via voice or chatbot at any time.
People: Reduced stress on LOPD staff	Eliminate calls that can be answered via automation.

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

X. Total Cost of Ownership

The following table lists the total potential cost to develop or acquire, implement, operate and maintain the proposed project for its entire life cycle.

**IX. Total Cost of Ownership
Core Staff AI Support Tools**

[The Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) is designed to capture the system lifecycle and should include costs to acquire or develop, implement and support and maintain operations. Work with your budget team to complete this form.]

Category		Previous	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	Total
		\$						
Non-Recurring Cost - Development &		(in thousands)						
200	Personnel Services and Employee Benefits	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0			\$0.0
300	Contractual Services							
	IT Professional Services: Project Management	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0			\$0.0
	IT Professional Services: IV&V	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0			\$0.0
	IT Professional Services: Business Analysis	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0			\$0.0
	IT Professional Services: Dev./Imp./Training/UAT	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$575.0	\$25.0			\$600.0
	Other Professional Services	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0			\$0.0
400	Other							
	Travel/Lodging	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0			\$0.0
	Hardware	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0			\$0.0
	Software Licenses	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0			\$0.0
	Facilities	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0			\$0.0
Subtotal Non-Recurring Cost		\$0.0	\$0.0	\$575.0	\$25.0			\$600.0
Recurring Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Cost		(in thousands)						
200	Personnel Services and Employee Benefits	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
300	Contractual Services							
	IT Professional Services	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
	Training	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
400	Other							
	Hardware	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
	Software Licenses	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$80.0	\$80.0
	Facilities	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
	Compliance and Security	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Subtotal Recurring M&O Cost		\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$80.0	\$80.0
<i>* Applicable for on-going or existing project.</i>								
Total Cost		\$0.0	\$0.0	\$575.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$80.0	\$680.0

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

XI. C2 Form – Computer System Enhancement Fund (CSEF)

**C2: Information Technology
Data Processing – Computer Systems Enhancement Fund (CSEF)**

Agency Name	Agency Code	Project Name			
Law Offices of the Public Defender	28000	Full Business case			
Multi-Agency Project	Participating Agencies	Priority	Projected/Actual Start Date	Projected End Date	
Single agency project		1	7/1/2026	6/30/2028	

Revenue Project Cost (dollars in thousands)				
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Other State Funds (*specify funds below)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Federal Funds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Internal Svc Funds/Interagency Transfer	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	0.0	0.0	680.0	680.0
*If Other State Funds, Specify Funding Source/Fund Name				

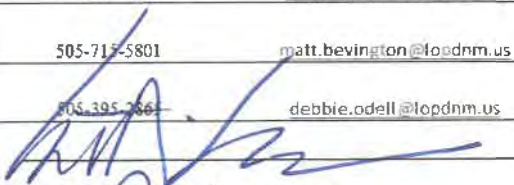
Expenditure Categories (dollars in thousands)				
	FY25 & Prev Actual	FY26 Budget	FY27 Request	Total
Personnel Services & Employee Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Professional Services	0.0	0.0	600.0	600.0
Travel/Lodging	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
IT Hardware	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
IT Software	0.0	0.0	80.0	80.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	0.0	0.0	680.0	680.0

	Print Name	Phone	Email Address	Date
Agency Cabinet Secretary/ Director (Mandatory)	Bennett J. Baur	505-395-2881	bennettj.baur@topdnm.us	7/28/2025
Chief Information Officer or IT Lead(Mandatory)	Matthew Bevington	505-715-5801	matt.bevington@topdnm.us	7/28/2025
Chief Finance Officer / Budget Director (Mandatory)	Debbie O'Dell	505-395-2881	debbie.odell@topdnm.us	7/28/2025

Agency Cabinet Secretary/Director Signature

Chief Information Officer/IT Lead Signature

Chief Finance Officer/Budget Director Signature



matthew bevington

Debbie O'Dell 8-29-2025



NEW MEXICO
LAW OFFICES OF THE
PUBLIC DEFENDER

Fiscal Year 27
Information Technology Funding (C2) Request
Attorney AI Tools
Full Business Case
Priority 2

Matthew Bevington

Chief Information Officer

Release Date: September 2, 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Executive Summary	3
II.	Project Background	3
III.	Risks	7
IV.	Scope and Constraints	8
V.	Alternative Approach Analysis	9
VI.	Method(s) Used To Develop Accurate Cost Estimate	9
VII.	Key Stakeholders	10
VIII.	Objectives, Outcomes, Key Performance Indicators	11
IX.	Benefits	11
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XI.	C2 Form – Computer System Enhancement Fund (CSEF)	14

I. Executive Summary

1. **Proposed Project Description:** Project seeks to create a baseline Artificial Intelligence (AI) system as a Launchpad for attorney production AI tools which directly integrate into the case management system and communication system of the Law Offices of the Public Defender (LOPD).
2. **Business Need/Problem:** Attorneys spend a large portion of their time on tasks which could be delegated to AI tools. Example: an attorney receives 6 hours of video content related to an individual case. The attorney has to watch all 6 hours to have a thorough defense. The AI discovery system will scan all 6 hours and present the relevant information while also creating a transcription of the entire video. This would cut the amount of time spent by minimum of 75%. In addition, the new system will preempt the process of adding, processing and all manipulation of inputting, downloading, storing and applying discovery into the case management system: further enhancing efficiency and eliminating any possible error of overlooking material.
3. **Value and Benefits:** This project will speed up the processing and evaluation of data and will increase the available time attorneys can spend on their cases and meeting with clients. This will increase the efficiency of the attorney staff.
4. **Project Objectives:** Integration of an AI discovery processor for evidence review inside the case management system. This will allow incoming discovery files to automatically be processed without human intervention and then inserted into the appropriate case inside of the case management system. The attorney would only need to review the precise applicable data.
5. **Alignment with the IT Strategic Plan:** The state I.T. Strategic plan seeks to utilize AI tools for automation, efficiency and cost saving over time. This project would create a very strong baseline from which to align with the NM DOIT goals of future AI implementations, connections, cost savings, efficiencies, and interstate departmental data sharing. Alignment with the LOPD I.T. Strategic Plan: The LOPD Strategic Priorities are focused on the most effective defense possible for clients and to maximize available LOPD resources. Our priority is to reduce the amount of time any given task needs for quality completion and recover that saved time for more production.
6. To establish and implement artificial intelligence tools to support attorney services.

II. Project Background

Project Description:

1. **Detailed Project Description** This project will add the critical functionality of AI processing to all incoming evidence and discovery materials. These files will be processed and placed within the case management system automatically and be pre-processed for quick review by the attorney. This automates the receipt of discovery data, automatically processes discovery data, delivers process discovery data into the case management system which is placed in the appropriate case file, and delivers a transcript of the discovery data into the notes of the case file. This project brings AI to the attorney workflow: increasing efficiency, recovering time, allowing more production at a lower total cost. Project includes API calls to and from: Zoom AI, Zoom AI Agent, Microsoft 365, Westlaw, Discovery AI, and Microsoft Surfaces with NPU for localized agent processing. This allows for a complete AI workflow automation and

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

reduce the workload of 70,000+ annual LODP cases.

The LODP is seeking \$1,024,000 to implement the Attorney AI project.

2. **Type of Project:** This project is a new solution which leverages the existing investment in the case management system and helps create a single tool from which an attorney can do all of their work. The overall goal for efficiency is to have all relevant tools to be available from within the public defender case management system. This reduces time spent and the cost associated with using multiple tools and forcing the user to navigate between multiple tools.
3. **Technology Type:** This project is a commercial off-the-shelf solution with added custom API integrations. The custom integrations are simple API calls between the case management system, Zoom, Westlaw and Discovery AI.
4. **Mission Critical Application:** This project complies with and boosts the state IT plan in the areas of emerging technology and AI, workforce, data integration cloud initiatives and cybersecurity. This project also supports the LODP strategic plan and mission by integrating the production improvements offered by AI: increasing quality, speed, and increasing efficiency.
5. **Services Required**

a. **Is the system being considered a hosted solution? Yes**

Hosted Solution Description
ZOOM AI Agent for Voice, Microsoft 365/CoPilot/Copilot Studio, Westlaw, Discovery AI

b. **Professional services:**

Professional Services	Other Professional Services
Westlaw Developer API	Lumen Zoom Agent for Voice API
Justice Works Developer API	AI Discovery API

c. **Hardware Description: Will the Agency purchase hardware? Yes**

Hardware Description
Surface Laptops with NPU - allows for the local processing of internally developed CoPilot apps

d. **Software Licenses Description: Will the Agency purchase Software Licenses? Yes**

Software License Description
Microsoft CoPilot Studio (Quantity 5)
Westlaw Edge, Westlaw CoCounsel, Westlaw Precision (

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

e. Training Description: [Describe the training, if applicable]

Training Description
Microsoft CoPilot Studio Development Training (Vendor led CoPilot training). Additional end-user training for use of AI systems provided by LOPD I.T.

f. Compliance and Security Description: [Describe the Compliance and Security, if applicable]

Compliance and Security Description
N/A – Falls under security contained within Azure and CoPilot

g. Facilities Description : [Describe the Facilities, if applicable]

Facilities Description
N/A

h. Personnel Services Description: [Describe the Personnel Services, if applicable]

Personnel Services Description
N/A

6. Estimated Start Date: **7/1/2026**

7. Estimate End Date: **6/30/2028**

8. Project be Phased: If full funding is not available, can the project be phased? **Yes**

9. Project be Phased: If the project can be phased, what can be accomplished with partial funding? **Limited testing and a singular API created for an evidence AI tool: With this approach the Department will focus on creating a single functional instance of the discovery AI system and a connector to the case management system.**

Project History:

1. Project Funding Request Category: [Agency must select the category that applies:

- **new project request for a new system prior**

2. Is this funding request a repeat request for funding that has been previously denied? **No**

3. Work To Be Performed with this Funding Request: **Creation of API connectors allowing the usage of AI tools with the current case management system, phone system, and office 365 system. Hardware to optimize usage of such tools by attorneys in the office and in the field.**

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

4. Is this funding a continuation request to complete an existing project? **No**
(Table removed – new project) **Existing Project’s Reauthorization Information: N/A**
5. Is this funding a continuation request to complete an existing project? **No**
Existing Project’s Appropriation History: N/A
(Table removed – new project)
6. Is this funding a continuation request to complete an existing project? **No**
Existing Project’s Certification History: N/A (Table removed – new project)
7. Is this funding a continuation request to complete an existing project? **No**
Project Key Milestones and Contract Deliverables: N/A (Table removed – new project)
8. Is this funding a continuation request to complete an existing project and Independent Verification and Validation waiver has been approved by the Department of Information Technology? **No**
Existing Project Independent Verification and Validation Last Update N/A
1. IV&V Vendor Name:
 2. IV&V Report Effective Date:
 3. Overall IV&V Status Rating:
 4. Overall IV&V Status Summary:
 5. Overall Trend Rating:
 6. Overall Trend Summary:
 7. Accomplishments:
 8. Highest Risks:
 9. High Level Recommendations

III. Risks

The following table provides a quick risk assessment of the proposed project’s inherent risks. Provide a brief description of the risks and challenges faced by the agency in moving forward with the project, and the impact if the agency does not move forward with the project. The largest risk to the Department would be an inability to successfully use the existing API to connect to another system via its API. As the developers of the systems have already indicated that this is entirely possible and straightforward: the risk would be small. If the Department does not move forward with this initiative and work will continue in a far less efficient and cost-effective way for the state. In the event of any unsuccessful API connections, the department can fall back on the default options provided by the vendor, which still provides the core functionality of the design without a few inter-system time saving automations: yielding at least 80% of the production enhancement.

Risk Assessment for Proposed Solution

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

Criteria		Risk Score = 1	Risk Score = 2	Risk Score = 3	Score
1	Estimated project cost	Less than \$250K	\$250K - \$1M	Greater than \$1M	2
2	Estimated total calendar months before completion	6 or less	6 to 12	More than 12	3
3	Number of project team members	5 or less	6 to 10	More than 10	1
4	Number of subject matter experts required to execute the project	3 or less	4 or 5	6 or more	1
5	Project manager experience level	3 or more projects of similar scope	1 to 2 projects of similar scope	No prior projects of similar scope	1
6	Estimated total effort hours	Less than 500	500 – 1800	More than 1800	2
7	Number of sites/offices impacted by the project	1	2 to 5	More than 5	1
8	Uniqueness of project's technical requirements	Similar to others in the department	Similar to others, but complex	New and complex	3
9	Impact of noncompliance with applicable laws and regulations	None or minimal	Moderate	Significant	1
10	Impact of 12-month project postponement on existing systems	Existing systems can compensate with minimal costs	Existing or new systems can compensate with substantial costs	Existing systems must be curtailed because of the lack of proposed project	1
11	Number of interfaces to existing systems affected	0	1 to 3	More than 3	2
12	User requirements definition	Clearly defined	Somewhat defined, but complex	Very vague and complex	1

Total Risk Score:	19
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IV. Scope and Constraints

The following are elements of the project which are in-scope and out-of-scope that are identified to manage trade-offs during execution.

Scope:

In Scope	Description
Create API connection between Discovery AI tool and Justice Works case management system	Automatically process evidence/discovery files and place them inside the associated case within the case management system. No user intervention, no manual processing. Instant and unrestrained production. This will save a minimum of 75% of the time currently used to review discovery data.

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

Westlaw to Justice Works API	Automatic AI processing within the case management system for Westlaw Edge, Precision, CoCounsel. This connection would allow for the automatic research of Westlaw AI tools directly within the Department's case management system. Potential uses of this would be automatic checking of motions, practical statutes to be aware of, and relevant existing department created files which are applicable.
API to ZOOM AI and AI Agent to Justice Works case management system	Connection from Discovery AI system to case management system for the importing of processed discovery materials. An example of this function would be newly added discovery files which have been processed by the system and inserted into a case in the case management system. Once this occurs a note would be passed to the attorney via the zoom AI agent and have appropriate notes inserted into their case management system entry and notification via email.
API calls from ZOOM AI and AI Agent to Microsoft 365	Connection from Zoom AI agent to an attorney's email, calendars and SMS. This allows the system to understand messages from the client and respond or conversely messages from the attorney and then take action. Example: a client is running an hour late to a scheduled appearance and calls the Department to notify them of the delay. The system will take the message, route the information to the attorney via SMS and update their calendar. If the attorney accepts no further changes necessary. If the attorney does not accept the system will contact the client and automatically reschedule for the next convenient time.

Out of Scope	Description	Reason Why
Integration with courts and district attorney systems	Interdepartmental communications, synchronization, and scheduling	Different core platforms for case management systems

Constraints:

Constraints	
Category	Description
Evolving AI landscape	Capabilities of AI will increase over the next year prior to funding
Emerging New Mexico State AI initiatives and directives	AI is still relatively new and the potential exists for regulatory rules or oversight may emerge

V. Alternative Approach Analysis

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT SELECTION:

The following table includes viable alternatives, including preliminary research and analysis, that were eliminated in favor of the proposed project:

Alternative Description (e.g. Status Quo, Enhancements, Replacement)	Reason Eliminated	Cost	Preliminary research and analysis conducted (Yes/No)
Status Quo	Inefficient	\$7,200,00	YES
		\$0.00	
		\$0.00	

VI. Method(s) Used To Develop Accurate Cost Estimate

The following method(s) were used to gather information and develop the C2 funding request by providing the information below:

No.	METHOD USED	PURPOSE	COST ESTIMATE AMOUNT (\$)
1	Request for Information (RFI) (Selected Option)	Gather preliminary information from potential vendors on capabilities, pricing models, and feasibility	\$1,000,000
2	Request for Proposal (RFP)	To solicit comprehensive proposals that include technical solutions, cost breakdowns, and delivery schedules	N/A
3	Market Surveys	Engage vendors through surveys to understand pricing capabilities	\$1,100,00
4	Historical Cost Data Analysis	Review past expenditures on similar projects to predict future costs	\$950,000
5	Interstate Collaboration and Networking	Contact other organizations such as National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO), the National Governors Association (NGA), and other industry specific organizations to gather cost data and procurement information. Attend conferences and webinars where states share project outcomes and cost data.	

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

6	State Specific Agencies	Contact counterparts in other states (e.g. Department of Health, Department of Transportation) to obtain data on similar project initiatives	
7	Other Method: Survey of confidential purchasing information by National distributor of IT services and products	Purpose Description: understanding of current spend our national client and state agencies on AI systems and associated hardware with NPU	\$1,200,00

VII. Key Stakeholders

The following table identifies internal and external stakeholders, their project responsibilities and their expected impact on the project's success.

Project Impact Scale: 1 = Low Impact; 2 = Medium Impact; 3 = High Impact

Internal Stakeholders	Department or Agency	Project Responsibilities	Project Impact
Engineering/Design	I.T.	Evaluate functionality and adjust	3
Attorneys	Public defender	Test workflows for ease of use	1

External Stakeholders	Company or Organization	Project Responsibilities	Project Impact
Engineering	Westlaw	Create API	3

VIII. Objectives, Outcomes, Key Performance Indicators

The following are key project objectives with related deliverable outcomes and quantifiable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

Objectives	Outcomes/Deliverables	Benefits/KPIs (as applicable)
Add NPU for attorney computers	Change to CoPilot+ Surfaces	Allow local processing of internally produced CoPilot Studio Agents specific to the public defender

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

Add AI Discovery processing	Integrate receivable discovery into automated workflow for processing	Pre-processed discovery is automatically delivered into the case inside the case management system. This saves the attorney from having to: Go into different tools, begin processing of specific video files individually, waiting for those files to process, and then import those files into the case management system.
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IX. Benefits

The following is a list of tangible and intangible benefits anticipated from the project. Please describe the gain in efficiency and/or effectiveness for the agency and/or constituents served as a result of this project.

Tangible Benefits	Amount
Process/People/ROI = Time reduction in discovery/evidence review: 60,000 cases annually, 3 hours video review per case, target of 80% reduction in time spent. 144,000 attorney hours saved when system is fully developed and deployed. \$50 per hour average cost after salary and benefits totaled.	\$7,200,000.00
	\$0.00

Intangible Benefits	Metrics
People: Reduced stress on LOPD staff	Reduce attorney time spend on video evidence review by 75%

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

X. Total Cost of Ownership

The following table lists the total potential cost to develop or acquire, implement, operate and maintain the proposed project for its entire life cycle.

**IX. Total Cost of Ownership
Attorney AI Tools**

[The Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) is designed to capture the system lifecycle and should include costs to acquire or develop, implement and support and maintain operations. Work with your budget team to complete this form.]

Category		Previous	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	Total
Non-Recurring Cost - Development &		(in thousands)						
200	Personnel Services and Employee Benefits	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0			\$0.0
300	Contractual Services							
	IT Professional Services: Project Management	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0			\$0.0
	IT Professional Services: IV&V	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0			\$0.0
	IT Professional Services: Business Analysis	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0			\$0.0
	IT Professional Services: Dev./Imp./Training/UAT	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$360.0	\$0.0			\$360.0
	Other Professional Services	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0			\$0.0
400	Other							
	Travel/Lodging	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0			\$0.0
	Hardware	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$504.0	\$0.0			\$504.0
	Software Licenses	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$40.0	\$40.0			\$80.0
	Facilities	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0			\$0.0
Subtotal Non-Recurring Cost		\$0.0	\$0.0	\$904.0	\$40.0			\$944.0
Recurring Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Cost		(in thousands)						
200	Personnel Services and Employee Benefits	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
300	Contractual Services							
	IT Professional Services	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
	Training	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
400	Other							
	Hardware	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
	Software Licenses	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$80.0	\$80.0
	Facilities	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
	Compliance and Security	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Subtotal Recurring M&O Cost		\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$80.0	\$80.0
<i>¹ Applicable for on-going or existing project.</i>								
Total Cost		\$0.0	\$0.0	\$904.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$80.0	\$1,024.0

FY27 Information Technology Funding (C2) Request – Full Business Case

XI. C2 Form – Computer System Enhancement Fund (CSEF)

**C2: Information Technology
Data Processing - Computer Systems Enhancement Fund (CSEF)**

Agency Name	Agency Code	Project Name		
Law Offices of the Public Defender	28000	Attorney AI Tools		
Multi-Agency Project	Participating Agencies	Priority	Projected/Actual Start Date	Projected End Date
Single agency project		1	7/1/2026	6/30/2028

Revenue Project Cost (dollars in thousands)				
Category or Account Description	FY25 & Prev Actual	FY26 Budget	FY27 Request	Total
General Fund (CSEF)	0.0	0.0	1,024.0	1,024.0
Other State Funds (*specify funds below)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Federal Funds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Internal Svc Funds/Interagency Transfer	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	0.0	0.0	1,024.0	1,024.0
*If Other State Funds, Specify Funding Source/Fund Name				

Expenditure Categories (dollars in thousands)				
	FY25 & Prev Actual	FY26 Budget	FY27 Request	Total
Personnel Services & Employee Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Professional Services	0.0	0.0	360.0	360.0
Travel/Lodging	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
IT Hardware	0.0	0.0	504.0	504.0
IT Software	0.0	0.0	160.0	160.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	0.0	0.0	1,024.0	1,024.0

	Print Name	Phone	Email Address	Date
Agency Cabinet Secretary/ Director (Mandatory)	Bennett J. Baur	505-395-2881	bennett.j.baur@loupdm.us	7/28/2025
Chief Information Officer or IT Lead(Mandatory)	Matthew Bevington	505-715-5801	matt.bevington@loupdm.us	7/28/2025
Chief Finance Officer / Budget Director (Mandatory)	Debbie O'Dell	505-395-2885	debbie.odell@loupdm.us	7/28/2025

Agency Cabinet Secretary/Director Signature

Chief Information Officer/IT Lead Signature

Chief Finance Officer/Budget Director Signature



 matthew bevington

 Debbie O'Dell 8-29-2025
