

TOWN COUNCIL

STAFF REPORT FINANCE Department



MEETING DATE:	6/8/2021
PROJECT:	Consideration of an Intergovernmental Agreement Renewal between the Town of the Public Defender's Office
PROJECT MANAGER:	Chris Forster, MPA, CPFO, CGFM, Interim Town Manager

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends renewal of the Fourteenth Circuit Public Defender agreement.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION: The Town had a prior, multi-jurisdictional agreement with the Fourteenth Circuit Public Defender's Office which was effective from 12/17/2019 until 7/1/2021 in which the Town of Bluffton, the City of Beaufort, and the Town of Port Royal would each provide \$42,656.66 toward indigent defense services. In addition, the towns of Bluffton and Port Royal would provide for office supplies and postage for the administrator/investigator and the attorney while the City of Beaufort would supply office space and an automobile.

SUMMARY: The new contract is still being negotiated, so the issue before Town Council tonight is a preliminary, conceptual approval of the renewal terms of the agreement to provide for indigent defense. The Fourteenth Circuit Public Defender's Office has requested an increase of \$3,103.34 in the annual services contribution for a total of \$45,760 plus an additional \$1,343 for general office supplies and postage.

NEXT STEPS: As a consent agenda item, authorize the Town Manager to sign the final agreement with the Fourteenth Circuit Public Defender's Office so long as it adheres to the details above.

ATTACHMENTS: Current agreement with the Fourteenth Circuit Public Defender's Office for reference.