

# Staff Report

**Subject:** State Court Indigent Defense Services Contract  
**Author:** Mark W. Barnes, Finance Director  
**Department:** Finance Department, State Court  
**Meeting Date:** 2/21/23  
**Item Description:** Consideration to authorize the Chairman to execute a contract for indigent defense services for State Court for calendar year 2023.

## **Summary Recommendation:**

Staff recommends authorizing the execution of the contract for State Court indigent defense services for calendar year 2023.

## **Executive Summary:**

The County is required to provide indigent defense services. Per O.C.G.A § 17-12-23 (2012) (d) "A city or county may contract with the circuit public defender office for the provision of criminal defense for indigent persons accused of violating city or county ordinances or state law. If a city or county does not contract with the circuit public defender office, the city or county shall be subject to all applicable policies and standards adopted by the council for representation of indigent persons in this state." Under this agreement, Charlotte Y. Fleming will provide indigent legal services to the Effingham County State Court in accordance with the standards adopted by the State of Georgia pursuant to the Georgia Indigent Defense Act of 2003.

## **Background:**

1. Beginning July 1, 2015 the County had a contract with Jack Williamson to provide indigent defense services for the State Court, originally costing \$3,750 per month. Beginning with FY 2020, the County was paying \$3,900 per month. Jack Williamson is no longer providing these services to the State Court.
2. This contract begins on January 10, 2023 and ends on January 3, 2024.
3. This contract is with Charlotte Y. Fleming and will cost \$4,100 per month.
4. This agreement can be terminated for cause or by mutual agreement.

## **Alternatives for Commission to Consider:**

1. Approve to execute the contract for State Court indigent defense services.
2. Do not approve to execute the contract for State Court indigent defense services.
3. Provide Staff with Direction

## **Recommended Alternative:**

Staff recommends Alternative number 1 – Approve to execute the contract for State Court indigent defense services.

**Other Alternatives:**

N/A

**Department Review:** *(list departments)*

State Court, Finance

**Funding Source:**

State Court already has \$3,900 per month budgeted for these services. State Court agrees to reduce another line item to reach \$4,100 per month.

**Attachments:**

Agreement for Indigent Defense Services for the State Court