

Staff Report

Subject: State Court Indigent Defense Services Contract
Author: Mark W. Barnes, Finance Director
Department: Finance Department, State Court
Meeting Date: 12/5/23
Item Description: Consideration to authorize the Chairman to execute a contract for indigent defense services for State Court for calendar year 2024.

Summary Recommendation:

Staff recommends authorizing the execution of the contract for State Court indigent defense services for calendar year 2024.

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. The current contract for State Court indigent defense services ends at the end of CY 2023.
2. This new contract is for CY 2024 and is with a new attorney.
3. This contract rate is the same as CY 2023, the cost is \$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 budget, already budgeted

Attachments:

Agreement for Indigent Defense Services for the State Court