

Staff Report

Subject: Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement for FY25

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Department:

Meeting Date: September 17, 2024

Item Description: Approval of Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement for FY25

Summary Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement for FY25

Executive Summary/Background:

- The FY 2025 Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement between Effingham County and the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office outlines the provisions for legal representation for indigent defendants, ensuring compliance with the Georgia Indigent Defense Act of 2003. The agreement covers both statutory and additional services provided by the Public Defender's Office, with Effingham County agreeing to contribute financially to the personnel, office maintenance, and operational expenses necessary to support these services.
- Under this agreement, the Public Defender's Office will offer legal defense for indigent persons in cases prosecuted in Superior and Juvenile Courts, with funding provided by the county in conjunction with state appropriations. The contract details monthly payments for both personnel costs (\$27,989.26) and office maintenance (\$4,597.88), totaling \$391,000 annually, as approved during the FY 2025 budget discussions.
- This collaboration ensures that indigent defendants receive fair representation while maintaining effective coordination between the county and the Public Defender's Office. The terms of the agreement also allow for flexibility in adjusting services based on budgetary changes. This agreement can be terminated due to non-availability of funds, for cause (after a 30-day cure period) or convenience (60 days).
- This agreement begins on July 1, 2024 and expires June 30, 2025.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider

1. Board approval and execution of the contract for Public Defender Services for FY25.
2. Do not approve and execute the contract for Public Defender Services for FY25.

Recommended Alternative: 1

Other Alternatives: 2

Department Review: County Manager, Purchasing, Finance

Funding Source: FY25 Budget

Attachments: Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement for FY25