

Staff Report

Subject: Residual funds at the Office of the Public Defender for the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit

Author: Mark W. Barnes, Finance Director

Department: Finance Department

Meeting Date: 3/7/23

Item Description: Consideration to allow the Office of the Public Defender for the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit to keep \$3,206.76 worth of funding from Effingham for FY 2021 and FY 2022.

Summary Recommendation:

Staff is recommending the Office of the Public Defender keeps the funding but use it to offset Effingham's portion of their FY 2024 budget request.

Executive Summary:

Each fiscal year, the Office of the Public Defender for the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit drafts their operating budget. Each county in the circuit is apportioned a piece of that annual budget that they are responsible for funding. After all discussions and any proposed changes, the budget is approved by each county in the circuit via an agreement.

For FY 2021 and FY 2022, the Office of the Public Defender had \$311.26 and \$2,895.50 in funding from Effingham that remained unspent. They have requested to keep the funding.

Background:

1. The County's share of the Public Defender budget in FY 2021 was \$219,132.
2. The County's share of the Public Defender budget in FY 2022 was \$260,288.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. Approve to allow the Office of the Public Defender to keep the funds but use them to offset Effingham's portion of their FY 2024 budget request.
2. Approve to request the Office of the Public Defender to send a refund check for the funds back to Effingham County.
3. Approve to allow the Office of the Public Defender to keep the funds and use at their discretion.
4. Provide Staff with Direction

Recommended Alternative:

1. Staff recommends Alternative number 1 – Approve to allow the Office of the Public Defender to keep the funds and use them to offset Effingham's portion of their FY 2024 budget request.

Other Alternatives:

N/A

Department Review: *(list departments)*

Finance, County Manager

Funding Source:

Funds originally came from general fund

Attachments:

1. Excerpt of email chain from the Office of the Public Defender