

**MAINE COMMISSION ON
PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES**

December 17, 2025

**Commissioner's
Meeting Packet**

MAINE COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES

DECEMBER 17, 2025 MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Rulemaking Public Hearing – Chapter 303
- 2) Approval of the November 18, 2025 Commission Meeting Minutes
- 3) Report of the Executive Director
 - a. Operations report
 - b. Staffing update
- 4) Update from District Defenders
- 5) Annual Report discussion
- 6) Rulemaking discussion / Chapter 302
- 7) Discussion of Title IV-E funds
- 8) Pre-Petition pilot project with MaineMOM
- 9) Set Date, Time and Location of Next Regular Meeting of the Commission
- 10) Public Comment

Maine Commission on Public Defense Services- Commissioners Meeting
November 18, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Donald Alexander, Randall Bates, Anne Jordan, Roger Katz, Taylor Kilgore, Kelly O'Connor, David Soucy, Joshua Tardy.

PDS Staff Present: Frayla Tarpinian (Executive Director), Ellie Maciag (Deputy Executive Director), and Toby Jandreau (District Defender).

Agenda Item:	Discussion/Outcome:
Approval of the October 28th Meeting Minutes.	Commissioner Katz moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Jordan. Motion prevailed. No discussion. (Commissioner O'Connor abstained, Chair Tardy not present)
Director Report (Operations, Staffing, and Agency Meetings).	Executive Director Tarpinian provided the following report: Operations Report: • Voucher submissions are up a little over 23% year-to-date, representing approximately \$2 million in extra payments. • Cost per voucher is decreasing, indicating more regular billing. • FY 26 projections anticipate 320,000 paid hours using the first quarter of the FY. This is approximately 15,000 more hours than was reported in FY 25. • The unrepresented list has decreased significantly from approximately 1,000 at the beginning of the year to 250–300 currently. Staffing: • Annual renewals are up from 324 last year to 351 this year; 55 are new attorneys who have entered the system. • It is important to note that while the renewals are up, this does not equate to 55 full-time attorneys as, historically, 80% of the rostered attorneys maintain less than a full-time caseload. • Currently finishing interviews and making decisions for the Portland position and PDS just posted a paralegal position for the Tri-County Office in Lewiston. PDS is very close to being fully staffed in all the PD offices.

	Agency Meetings: • DAFS: Meeting went very well. PDS was able to provide a lot of information to those in attendance, including the Commissioner and representatives from the Governor's office. There were follow-up questions which we responded to very quickly. The hope is that the information will be passed on and will positively influence the projected shortfall. • Maine Judicial Branch (MJB): Met with the judicial branch to discuss payment of "mental health cases" (weapons restrictions and involuntary commitments). The MJB is looking for legislative fixes to establish PDS as the organization to pay attorneys for these cases. PDS acknowledged that we are better set up to receive and pay vouchers for these attorneys, but funding has not followed the workflow. Overall, it was a very positive meeting and we are thankful that they reached out to open those lines of communication. • The Annual Report will be sent prior to the December meeting. Commissioner Discussion: • Commissioner Alexander inquired as to whether the MJB saw the current payment by the MJB in mental health cases as temporary. • Executive Director Tarpinian: At the meeting with the MJB, they went through all the different types of payments. Most of the payments, that historically were paid by PDS, were for Weapon Restriction Orders and Involuntary Commitment cases. When that payment burden shifted to the MJB, it caused great stress on their system as they were not set up to accept vouchers for these case types. Therefore, it is their intention to have legislation next session that would shift the vouchers and payments back to PDS. It is less clear what will happen with mental health cases in the probate court. This requires a larger conversation with the probate courts. • Commissioner Kilgore: ○ Glad to hear that communication with the MJB has opened and is hopeful that the MJB and PDS can advocate together for the funding that needs to be provided.
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	○ Inquired about Child Protection (PC) new rostered attorneys. Chris Guillory reported that there were five brand new applicants for the PC roster. ○ Additionally, Executive Director Tarpinian had a meeting with the Office of the Attorney General to discuss PC appeals and the need for PC appellant attorneys.
District Defender System Update.	District Defender Newsletter: • Well received by Commissioner Alexander and Commissioner O'Connor. Parents Division: • An offer was extended for the last vacant attorney position. The division is active across a large geographic area (Washington, Hancock, Aroostook, Cumberland, and Kennebec). They are having successes with children being returned to their parents in the early stages of the case as well as cases being resolved with a Parental Rights and Responsibilities Order. Training: • Logan Perkins presented a session on secondary trauma at a defense conference in Las Vegas. Logan is also doing a study on court time, specifically, how much time in court is active and how much time is spent sitting around waiting for court. Another report will focus on the effect on the PD office of turnover in the Penobscot County DA's office.
Proposed Commission Rule 302: Procedures Regarding Funds for Experts and Investigators.	Director Tarpinian presented amendments to consolidate PDS policy for reimbursement of expert funds. • The rule specifies who may apply for funds, specifically, someone who is represented by a rostered or employed defender, excluding pro se litigants. • Specifies what should be in the application for reimbursement. • The rule mandates a 10-day deadline for counsel to submit vouchers after receiving invoices from experts to ensure experts are paid within 30 days. Discussion: • Commissioner Alexander clarified that interpreters are provided by the court for in-court proceedings. Executive Director Tarpinian noted that this rule does not change any processes that are currently in place.

	- Commissioners Kilgore: There have recently been a lot of questions in PC cases as to who is responsible for payment for interpreting and translation services. There are a couple of bright lines: (1) If it is in court, the court pays for it. (2) If it is in your office, PDS pays for it. But what about family team meetings? Translation of court orders, motions, and petitions? The responsibility for these is not clear and collaboration around this issue would be beneficial. - Commissioner Jordan: Suggests that a section be added defining what services are paid by PDS and what services are paid by the courts. - Executive Director Tarpinian: Would like to go back and have conversations about what would need to be clarified to ensure all that needs to be included is included. Action: - Chair Tardy made a motion to table the discussion to allow staff to gather information on payment breakdowns between PDS and the Court. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Connor. Vote Result: - All voted in favor. Motion prevailed.
Proposed Commission Rule 303: Access to Online Research Materials.	(Commissioner Alexander recused himself and left the room). Presentation: - Proposal allows PDS to purchase online research (Westlaw) and physical materials directly to utilize bulk purchasing and avoid sales tax. Motion: - Commissioner Katz moved, Commissioner Jordan seconded to approve changes and move the amendments to public comment. Vote Result: - All voted in favor. Motion prevailed.
Public Comment	Robert Ruffner, Esq.: - Praised Attorneys Leslie Wilson and Alison Brauner for securing a not guilty verdict on a felony theft trial. - Commended the Commission and Darcy Fisher (former Training Director) for the Gideon's Promise training. - Urged the Commission to engage the Judicial Branch to ensure that an indigency determination is made at the individual's initial appearance so that counsel can be

	assigned. This determination needs to be made even if there is not an attorney to assign to the case. • Praised Director Tarpinian's recent budget update email for boosting morale.
Adjournment	Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 17 th at 3:00 P.M. The meeting will be in a hybrid format.

MAINE COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES

November 2025 Operations Report

- 2,267 new cases were opened in the defenderData system. This was an 87 case increase from October. Year to date, new cases are flat from last year, from 12,139 at this time last year to 12,071 this year.
- The number of vouchers submitted electronically was 4,177 a decrease of 94 vouchers from October, totaling \$4,103,083, a decrease of \$43,162 from October. Year to date, the number of submitted vouchers is up by 21.5% from 18,166 at this time last year to 22,079 this year, with the total amount for submitted vouchers up 8.8%, from \$19,145,713 at this time last year to \$20,843,771 this year.
- We paid 3,420 electronic vouchers totaling \$3,128,785 representing a decrease of 894 vouchers and a decrease of \$719,793 compared to October. Year to date, the number of paid vouchers is up 19%, from 18,019 vouchers at this time last year to 21,455 this year, and the total amount paid is up 6.8%, from \$18,698,782 this time last year to \$19,984,296 this year.
- The average price per voucher was \$914.85, up \$22.74 per voucher from October. Year to date, the average price per voucher is down 10.2%, from \$1,037.73 at this time last year to \$931.45 this year.
- Petition, Release or Discharge and PDS Training had the highest average voucher total. There were 11 vouchers exceeding \$10,000 paid in November. See attached addendum for details.
- We issued 151 authorizations to expend funds: 71 for private investigators, 58 for experts, and 22 for miscellaneous services such as interpreters and transcriptionists. We paid \$250,230 for experts and investigators, etc. No requests were denied.
- There was one attorney suspension.
- In the All Other Account, the total expenses were \$3,494,673. Approximately \$88,976 was devoted to the Commission's operating expenses.
- In the Personal Services Accounts, we had \$779,329 in expenses.
- In the Revenue Account, the Judicial Branch transferred \$28,834 for counsel fee payments.
- As of December 9, 2025, there are 176 rostered attorneys of which 111 are available for trial court level work.
- For the first 5 months of this fiscal year, paid hours are up 6% over the same 5-month period last year. November 2025 paid hours are 20% lower than November 2024 paid hours.

Paid Hours													
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Yearly Total
FY22	27215	20122	23699	19917	20289	14422	15689	21060	30339	19984	19176	21343	253,255
FY23	19654	22596	21511	21151	20771	19576	23786	18811	22669	19232	27112	22334	259,203
FY24	21550	25799	21317	25400	19983	16857	31200	25274	23804	28726	24288	22486	286,684
FY25	24574	24296	20907	29382	26430	28126	24409	24710	23162	27051	26447	26588	306,081
FY26	30347	26144	29265	26275	21122								133,153

Vouchers over \$10,000 - November 2025

Comment	Voucher Total	Case Total
Gross Sexual Assault	\$21,112.00	\$21,112.00
Homicide	\$19,790.78	\$19,790.78
OUI Manslaughter	\$18,084.00	\$25,359.00
Unlawful Trafficking in Scheduled Drugs	\$16,876.94	\$30,865.71
Domestic Violence Assault	\$14,325.00	\$14,325.00
Aggravated Trafficking	\$13,549.52	\$13,549.52
Child Protection	\$13,104.97	\$27,013.52
Homicide	\$12,720.00	\$12,720.00
Gross Sexual Assault	\$11,880.00	\$11,880.00
VCR/Violating Protective Order	\$10,156.30	\$10,156.30
Burglary	\$10,116.93	\$10,116.93

MAINE COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES

Activity Report by Case Type

11/30/2025

DefenderData Case Type	Nov-25						Fiscal Year 2026			
	New Cases	Vouchers Submitted	Submitted Amount	Vouchers Paid	Approved Amount	Average Amount	Cases Opened	Vouchers Paid	Amount Paid	Average Amount
Appeal	12	41	\$74,555.08	39	\$ 73,064.69	\$1,873.45	81	231	\$ 515,376.26	\$2,231.07
Central Office Resource Counsel	0	1	\$1,560.00	2	\$ 2,940.00	\$1,470.00	0	14	\$ 11,085.00	\$791.79
Child Protection Petition	170	613	\$771,046.24	530	\$ 631,215.94	\$1,190.97	789	3,254	\$ 3,907,762.68	\$1,200.91
Drug Court	6	13	\$23,423.42	11	\$ 19,500.78	\$1,772.80	29	89	\$ 179,214.66	\$2,013.65
Emancipation	6	4	\$2,190.00	9	\$ 6,390.48	\$710.05	29	47	\$ 29,773.43	\$633.48
Felony	552	1,395	\$1,609,368.26	1,096	\$ 1,149,731.19	\$1,049.02	3,004	6,832	\$ 7,430,501.94	\$1,087.60
Involuntary Civil Commitment	4	37	\$28,012.74	32	\$ 24,822.18	\$775.69	219	342	\$ 211,221.58	\$617.61
Juvenile	138	138	\$125,023.99	137	\$ 109,761.90	\$801.18	550	724	\$ 687,831.47	\$950.04
Lawyer of the Day - Custody	298	209	\$139,117.37	225	\$ 151,633.53	\$673.93	1,480	1,385	\$ 929,595.09	\$671.19
Lawyer of the Day - Juvenile	2	3	\$1,350.00	5	\$ 2,250.00	\$450.00	15	16	\$ 7,080.00	\$442.50
Lawyer of the Day - Walk-in	133	105	\$69,150.91	97	\$ 65,989.23	\$680.30	624	603	\$ 397,670.22	\$659.49
PDS Provided Training	36	72	\$170,643.90	43	\$ 114,108.80	\$2,653.69	425	345	\$ 361,010.68	\$1,046.41
Misdemeanor	768	1,259	\$881,180.80	941	\$ 604,564.42	\$642.47	3,879	5,840	\$ 3,988,076.61	\$682.89
Petition, Modified Release Treatment	0	5	\$4,131.18	3	\$ 3,201.18	\$1,067.06	5	22	\$ 27,618.14	\$1,255.37
Petition, Release or Discharge	0	1	\$2,670.00	1	\$ 2,670.00	\$2,670.00	0	4	\$ 23,985.21	\$5,996.30
Petition, Termination of Parental Rights	0	0		0			0	6	\$ 21,705.00	\$3,617.50
Post Conviction Review	0	27	\$28,200.70	26	\$ 27,315.70	\$1,050.60	17	159	\$ 204,703.53	\$1,287.44
Probate	1	4	\$2,670.00	2	\$ 810.00	\$405.00	3	14	\$ 14,084.44	\$1,006.03
Probation Violation	137	202	\$125,004.19	173	\$ 95,273.94	\$550.72	777	1,201	\$ 816,787.88	\$680.09
Represent Witness on 5th Amendment	0	1	\$465.00	0			6	6	\$ 2,576.54	\$429.42
Resource Counsel Criminal	0	3	\$1,095.00	5	\$ 6,102.28	\$1,220.46	1	22	\$ 15,207.28	\$691.24
Resource Counsel Juvenile	0	1	\$1,770.00	0			0	5	\$ 1,712.76	\$342.55
Resource Counsel Mental Health	0	0		0			0	2	\$ 285.00	\$142.50
Resource Counsel NCR	0	0		0			0	0		
Resource Counsel Protective Custody	0	1	\$555.00	1	\$ 645.00	\$645.00	0	7	\$ 9,810.00	\$1,401.43
Review of Child Protection Order	0	7	\$18,128.00	6	\$ 13,361.00	\$2,226.83	0	48	\$ 63,640.64	\$1,325.85
Revocation of Administrative Release	0	0		3	\$ 1,200.00	\$400.00	3	8	\$ 3,180.00	\$397.50
Weapons Restrictions Case	4	35	\$21,771.88	33	\$ 22,233.31	\$673.74	135	229	\$ 122,800.91	\$536.25
TOTAL	2,267	4,177	\$4,103,083.66	3,420	\$ 3,128,785.55	\$914.85	12,071	21,455	\$ 19,984,296.95	\$931.45

MAINE COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES

Activity Report by Court

11/30/2025

Court	Nov-25						Fiscal Year 2026			
	New Cases	Vouchers Submitted	Submitted Amount	Vouchers Paid	Approved Amount	Average Amount	Cases Opened	Vouchers Paid	Amount Paid	Average Amount
ALFSC	3	1	\$450.00	2	\$ 1,320.00	\$660.00	10	7	\$ 9,510.00	\$1,358.57
AUBSC	0	3	\$1,166.25	3	\$ 975.00	\$325.00	8	26	\$ 21,600.18	\$830.78
AUGDC	24	40	\$101,557.29	30	\$ 35,623.40	\$1,187.45	111	243	\$ 397,431.07	\$1,635.52
AUGSC	0	6	\$6,801.18	4	\$ 5,871.18	\$1,467.80	7	22	\$ 40,933.37	\$1,860.61
BANDC	31	95	\$111,755.90	114	\$ 137,516.44	\$1,206.28	250	495	\$ 503,123.77	\$1,016.41
BANSC	2	3	\$6,443.59	5	\$ 7,797.75	\$1,559.55	7	10	\$ 21,347.51	\$2,134.75
BATSC	0	0		0			1	1	\$ 1,215.00	\$1,215.00
BELDC	11	14	\$12,085.83	23	\$ 23,900.65	\$1,039.16	48	140	\$ 238,943.62	\$1,706.74
BELSC	0	0		0			0	0		
BIDDC	46	146	\$139,906.63	114	\$ 110,232.94	\$966.96	232	624	\$ 560,727.35	\$898.60
BRIDC	6	17	\$45,764.64	11	\$ 19,063.36	\$1,733.03	45	113	\$ 114,671.56	\$1,014.79
CALDC	4	9	\$5,881.92	10	\$ 5,595.00	\$559.50	21	42	\$ 30,449.43	\$724.99
CARDC	6	15	\$22,914.44	14	\$ 26,709.44	\$1,907.82	20	86	\$ 84,351.08	\$980.83
CARSC	0	1	\$1,920.00	1	\$ 1,920.00	\$1,920.00	2	7	\$ 4,470.00	\$638.57
DOVDC	0	7	\$8,280.00	19	\$ 19,089.84	\$1,004.73	23	57	\$ 61,073.64	\$1,071.47
DOVSC	0	0		0			1	1	\$ 827.18	\$827.18
ELLDC	7	28	\$23,074.52	41	\$ 27,213.72	\$663.75	50	249	\$ 221,279.29	\$888.67
ELLSC	0	1	\$ 645.00	1	\$ 322.50	\$322.50	0	1	\$ 322.50	\$322.50
FARDC	15	32	\$31,877.04	16	\$ 13,618.20	\$851.14	54	140	\$ 128,831.80	\$920.23
FARSC	0	0		0			1	0		
FORDC	1	7	\$2,295.00	6	\$ 3,378.75	\$563.13	15	49	\$ 37,189.11	\$758.96
HOUDC	5	14	\$16,335.00	18	\$ 24,769.58	\$1,376.09	25	88	\$ 91,956.80	\$1,044.96
HOUSC	0	0		0			0	0		
LEWDC	40	129	\$160,099.35	89	\$ 100,413.72	\$1,128.24	276	647	\$ 745,525.86	\$1,152.28
LINDC	7	9	\$9,815.68	13	\$ 9,480.06	\$729.24	34	56	\$ 55,980.72	\$999.66
MACDC	4	3	\$2,130.50	5	\$ 5,595.00	\$1,119.00	9	38	\$ 32,973.94	\$867.74
MACSC	0	0		0			2	2	\$ 8,625.51	\$4,312.76
MADDC	0	0		1	\$ 656.00	\$656.00	0	5	\$ 24,185.67	\$4,837.13
MILDC	1	0		2	\$ 750.00	\$375.00	7	8	\$ 12,719.36	\$1,589.92
NEWDC	9	18	\$13,834.34	27	\$ 33,191.85	\$1,229.33	48	122	\$ 103,907.43	\$851.70
PORDC	51	124	\$107,123.29	77	\$ 68,919.79	\$895.06	237	746	\$ 608,893.14	\$816.21
PORSC	1	5	\$3,600.00	5	\$ 4,065.00	\$813.00	8	14	\$ 11,178.56	\$798.47
PREDC	13	17	\$29,260.90	19	\$ 20,268.20	\$1,066.75	35	86	\$ 85,871.39	\$998.50
ROCDC	4	23	\$27,306.12	25	\$ 38,466.18	\$1,538.65	57	124	\$ 168,140.72	\$1,355.97
ROCSC	0	0		0			1	1	\$ 1,955.94	\$1,955.94
RUMDC	10	22	\$12,837.74	15	\$ 10,843.70	\$722.91	34	141	\$ 164,483.81	\$1,166.55
SKODC	33	49	\$54,039.10	47	\$ 48,917.56	\$1,040.80	120	263	\$ 370,571.07	\$1,409.02
SKOSC	0	0		0			1	3	\$ 2,664.77	\$888.26
SOUNDC	16	25	\$17,318.42	12	\$ 12,252.14	\$1,021.01	50	130	\$ 124,203.71	\$955.41
SOUNSC	1	0		0			2	4	\$ 2,512.50	\$628.13
SPRDC	3	3	\$1,845.00	4	\$ 2,670.00	\$667.50	10	26	\$ 24,862.50	\$956.25
Law Ct	11	38	\$74,769.73	36	\$ 70,684.34	\$1,963.45	76	198	\$ 450,555.83	\$2,275.53
Training	36	74	\$169,233.90	48	\$ 121,588.80	\$2,533.10	422	366	\$ 384,165.68	\$1,049.63
YORCD	256	444	\$351,058.69	344	\$ 289,175.71	\$840.63	1,309	2,167	\$ 2,131,361.70	\$983.55
AROCD	88	162	\$137,357.16	104	\$ 93,719.25	\$901.15	601	1,061	\$ 865,024.98	\$815.29
ANDCD	159	390	\$303,708.28	354	\$ 220,690.62	\$623.42	826	2,116	\$ 1,426,431.12	\$674.12
KENCD	167	227	\$184,091.16	245	\$ 222,464.91	\$908.02	910	1,133	\$ 1,043,561.61	\$921.06
PENCD	146	345	\$286,892.44	266	\$ 231,362.07	\$869.78	977	1,844	\$ 1,624,195.39	\$880.80
SAGCD	35	74	\$76,102.47	62	\$ 45,592.20	\$735.36	206	375	\$ 328,012.90	\$874.70
WALCD	96	85	\$106,097.14	68	\$ 69,050.24	\$1,015.44	370	382	\$ 362,706.07	\$949.49
PISCD	23	36	\$56,530.88	31	\$ 22,737.72	\$733.47	111	114	\$ 142,457.44	\$1,249.63
HANCD	38	48	\$32,468.52	27	\$ 13,522.50	\$500.83	243	299	\$ 262,461.24	\$877.80
FRACD	27	34	\$30,426.36	33	\$ 31,857.62	\$965.38	183	287	\$ 282,571.85	\$984.57
WASCD	35	47	\$70,416.84	30	\$ 43,176.28	\$1,439.21	243	284	\$ 312,496.25	\$1,100.34
CUMCD	450	803	\$791,755.77	600	\$ 517,959.05	\$863.27	2,052	3,511	\$ 3,066,472.47	\$873.39
KNOCD	71	108	\$119,403.63	54	\$ 58,538.94	\$1,084.05	269	345	\$ 318,742.58	\$923.89
SOMCD	83	72	\$53,122.34	98	\$ 76,790.77	\$783.58	455	553	\$ 514,653.89	\$930.66
OXFCD	106	170	\$138,517.32	149	\$ 93,170.68	\$625.31	480	924	\$ 715,696.20	\$774.56
LINCD	45	73	\$59,591.90	33	\$ 16,205.52	\$491.08	248	278	\$ 219,417.06	\$789.27
WATDC	12	25	\$23,994.10	22	\$ 26,778.94	\$1,217.22	64	131	\$ 161,710.98	\$1,234.43
WESDC	13	33	\$34,609.94	30	\$ 26,481.12	\$882.70	97	170	\$ 147,311.42	\$866.54
WISDC	0	4	\$4,650.00	0			7	63	\$ 75,262.99	\$1,194.65
WISSC	0	2	\$3,331.80	2	\$ 3,331.80	\$1,665.90	2	2	\$ 3,331.80	\$1,665.90
YORDC	4	7	\$11,347.02	6	\$ 7,671.52	\$1,278.59	15	26	\$ 19,106.40	\$734.86
TOTAL	2,267	4,177	\$4,103,083.66	3,420	\$3,128,785.55	\$914.85	12,071	21,455	\$19,984,296.95	\$931.45

Sum of Expended Amount		Fund	Approp	Grand Total
Object Revenue	Object Name	010 Z11201	013 Z11201	
4003	ACCOUNT & AUDIT SERVICES	862.50		862.50
4005	READER & INTERPRETER SERV	4,905.65		4,905.65
4031	INSPECT & INVESTIGATION	32,834.01		32,834.01
4036	INSTRUCTOR & SPEAKER SERV	8,492.73	4,156.12	12,648.85
4040	COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEYS	3,112,659.75		3,112,659.75
4042	LEGAL SERVICES	578.67		578.67
4047	PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION	32,755.50		32,755.50
4073	CONSULTATION SERVICES		11,267.87	11,267.87
4075	CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES	14,431.05		14,431.05
4095	MEDICAL REPORTS	207.60		207.60
4096	CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEE	3,942.90		3,942.90
4099	MISC PROF FEES & SPEC SRV	17,358.98		17,358.98
4270	AUTO MILEAGE-GEN IN STATE	5,091.21		5,091.21
4271	OTHER TRANSPORTATION	37.50		37.50
4273	HOTEL ROOM & LODGING	5,415.54		5,415.54
4274	MEALS AND GRATUITIES	839.34		839.34
4360	AIR FARE OUT OF STATE	430.37		430.37
4378	OUT-OF ST CONFERENCE REG CHGS	645.00		645.00
4381	OTHER TRANSPORTATION COST	34.86		34.86
4532	BOTTLED WATER	40.88		40.88
4606	RENT BUILDINGS AND OFFICE	30,857.47		30,857.47
4651	MISC RENTS	2,037.50		2,037.50
4711	REPAIRS TO BUILDINGS	15.12		15.12
4911	POSTAGE	1,098.56		1,098.56
4913	INTRAGOVERNMENTAL SERVICE	90.31		90.31
4922	WASTE RECYCLING	51.00		51.00
4929	PRINTING AND BINDING	238.92		238.92
4930	TRANSCRIPTS	59,975.45		59,975.45
4959	EXPERT WITNESS FEES	87,668.06		87,668.06
4983	DUES	3,445.00		3,445.00
5001	REGISTRATION FEE-NON STATE	5,964.26		5,964.26
5031	TRAINING FACILITIES	1,725.00	1,750.00	3,475.00
5150	FOOD	28,907.59		28,907.59
5312		18,358.00		18,358.00
5540	MAJOR HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES	(109.98)		(109.98)
5600	OFFICE & OTHER SUPPLIES	108.86		108.86
5602	OFFICE SUPPLIES	5,644.28		5,644.28
5627	PURCHASE OF BOOKS	4,637.73		4,637.73
5636	MISC SUPPLIES	694.82		694.82
5654	ERGONOMIC OFFICE EQUIP	633.12		633.12
5656	MODULAR FURNITURE	1,020.00		1,020.00
6755	MEDICAL REPORTS/RECORDS	48.25		48.25
8511	TRANS TO GEN FUND STACAP		106.65	106.65
Grand Total		3,494,673.36	17,280.64	3,511,954.00

STATEMENT OF ALLOTMENTS/BUDGET
Maine Commission of Indigent Legal Services
FY26 As of 11/30/2025

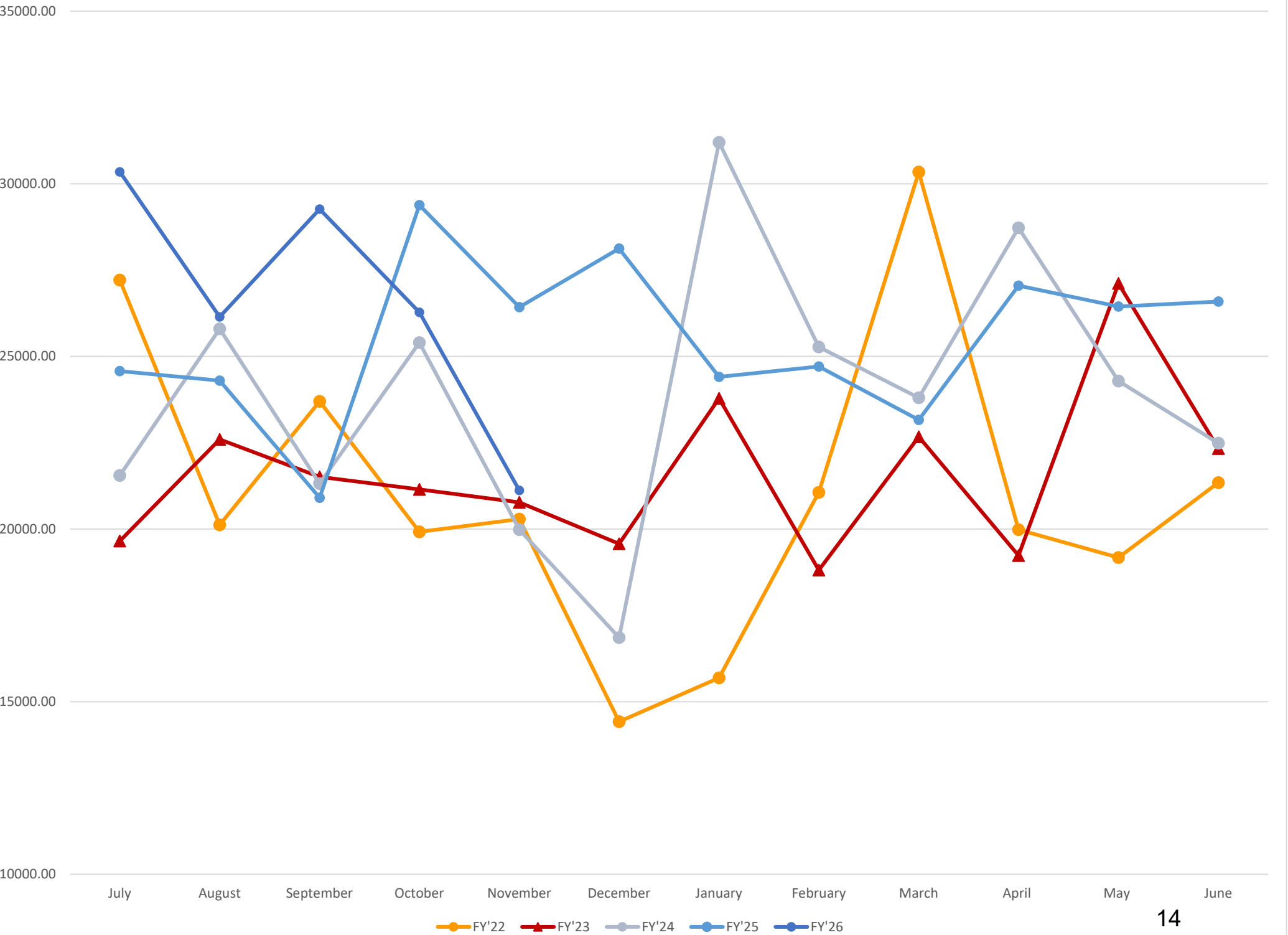
Fund Account Name		Quarter		Quarter		Quarter		Quarter		Total	
GENERAL		1		2		3		4			
010											
Object Class		1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
		PS	AO	PS	AO	PS	AO	PS	AO	PS	AO
Budget/Allot		2,338,782.00	15,234,914.00	4,210,714.00	16,617,427.00	3,002,077.00	10,424,348.00	685,206.00	547,189.00	10,236,779.00	42,823,878.00
Expenditures to date		(2,338,781.78)	(14,188,190.33)	(1,544,061.86)	(7,695,398.93)	-	-	-	-	(3,882,843.64)	(21,883,589.26)
Encumbrances			(1,034,935.60)		8,829.04		-		-		(1,026,106.56)
<i>Available Allotment</i>		<i>0.22</i>	<i>11,788.07</i>	<i>2,666,652.14</i>	<i>8,930,857.11</i>	<i>3,002,077.00</i>	<i>10,424,348.00</i>	<i>685,206.00</i>	<i>547,189.00</i>	<i>6,353,935.36</i>	<i>19,914,182.18</i>

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE		Quarter		Quarter		Quarter		Quarter		Total	
014		1		2		3		4			
Object Class		1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
		PS	AO	PS	AO	PS	AO	PS	AO	PS	AO
Budget/Allotment		-	55,117.00	-	252.00	-	283,334.00	-	66,666.00	-	405,369.00
Expenditures to date		-	(40,089.74)	-	40,089.74	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encumbrances			(15,025.75)		7,304.94		-		-		(7,720.81)
<i>Available Allotment</i>		<i>-</i>	<i>1.51</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>47,646.68</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>\$283,334.00</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>\$66,666.00</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>\$397,648.19</i>

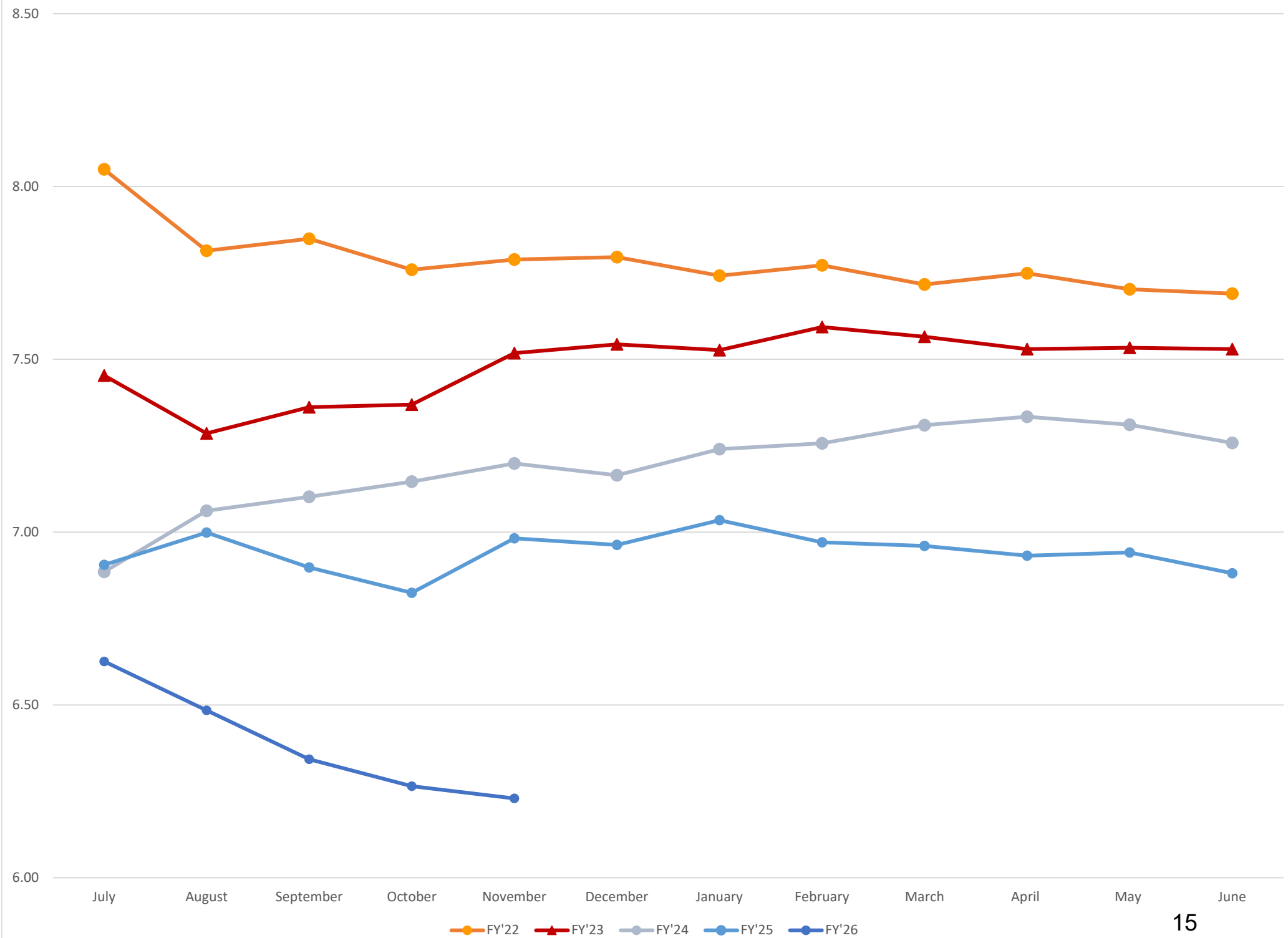
MAINE COMMISSION - INDIGENT LEGAL SVCS
Dept 95F
Fund 010
Approp Z11201
Expenses through #####
Period 5
% of budget 42%
SFY 2026

		PS	All Other Expenditures																		Total All Other	Expenditures	
		PROF. SERVICES, NOT BY STATE	PROF. SERVICES, BY STATE	TRAVEL EXPENSES, IN STATE	TRAVEL EXPENSES, OUT OF STATE	UTILITY SERVICES	RENTS	REPAIRS	INSURANCE	GENERAL OPERATIONS	EMPLOYEE TRAINING	COMMODITIES - FOOD	TECHNOLOGY	CLOTHING	EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY	OFFICE & OTHER SUPPLIES	LABOR AND INS CLIENT BENEFITS	ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF GRANT	CHARGES TO ASSETS AND LIAB.	TELECOMMUNICATIONS			
		31-39	40	41	42	43	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	53	54	55	56	65	67	90	95		
Budget		10,236,779.00	22,578,640.00	18,698,571.00	229,990.00	-	-	75,000.00	-	3,760.00	58,850.00	7,900.00	-	1,103,515.00	-	18,979.00	43,673.00	-	-	-	5,000.00	42,823,878.00	53,060,657.00
Jul-25	1	958,692.39	5,088,111.07	24,744.24	3,113.42	-	-	26,368.72	-	9,502.81	141,664.30	1,125.00	7,222.55	103,018.06	-	-	4,905.12	-	-	785.00	2,167.00	5,412,727.29	6,371,419.68
Aug-25	2	671,020.24	3,858,988.20	33.00	7,349.04	-	-	818.50	-	-	109,415.38	820.64	12,275.35	23,839.20	-	600.00	14,989.31	45.89	-	300.00	-	4,029,474.51	4,700,494.75
Sep-25	3	709,069.15	4,560,907.85	-	2,427.68	-	16.00	-	-	225.00	112,990.70	4,630.00	-	56,561.83	144.50	-	7,934.97	-	-	150.00	-	4,745,988.53	5,455,057.68
Oct-25	4	764,732.76	3,957,517.65	24,744.24	5,489.51	-	-	-	-	18.15	114,727.39	900.00	-	89,781.72	156.44	224.97	7,018.35	-	-	-	147.15	4,200,725.57	4,965,458.33
Nov-25	5	779,329.10	3,229,029.34	-	11,383.59	1,110.23	40.88	32,894.97	15.12	-	152,567.30	7,689.26	28,907.59	18,358.00	-	(109.98)	12,738.81	-	48.25	-	-	3,494,673.36	4,274,002.46
Dec-25	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jan-26	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feb-26	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mar-26	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Apr-26	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
May-26	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jun-26	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures		3,882,843.64	20,694,554.11	49,521.48	29,763.24	1,110.23	56.88	60,082.19	15.12	9,745.96	631,365.07	15,164.90	48,405.49	291,558.81	300.94	714.99	47,586.56	45.89	48.25	1,235.00	2,314.15	21,883,589.26	25,766,432.90
Encumbrances			695,966.76	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	534.03	18,000.00	-	222,124.01	-	-	89,481.76	-	-	-	-	1,026,106.56	1,026,106.56
Estimated Remaining Expenses		5,880,028.35	31,500,000.00	99,042.96	41,668.54	1,554.32	79.63	84,115.07	21.17	13,644.34	883,911.10	21,230.86	67,767.69	408,182.33	421.32	1,000.99	66,621.18	64.25	67.55	1,729.00	3,239.81	33,194,362.10	39,074,390.45
Total Estimated Expenses		9,762,871.99	52,890,520.87	148,564.44	71,431.78	2,664.55	136.51	144,197.26	36.29	23,390.30	1,515,810.20	54,395.76	116,173.18	921,865.15	722.26	1,715.98	203,689.50	110.14	115.80	2,964.00	5,553.96	56,104,057.92	65,866,929.91
Remaining Funds Available		473,907.01	(30,311,880.87)	18,550,006.56	158,558.22	(2,664.55)	(136.51)	(69,197.26)	(36.29)	(19,630.30)	(1,456,960.20)	(46,495.76)	(116,173.18)	181,649.85	(722.26)	17,263.02	(160,016.50)	(110.14)	(115.80)	(2,964.00)	(553.96)	(13,280,179.92)	(12,806,272.91)

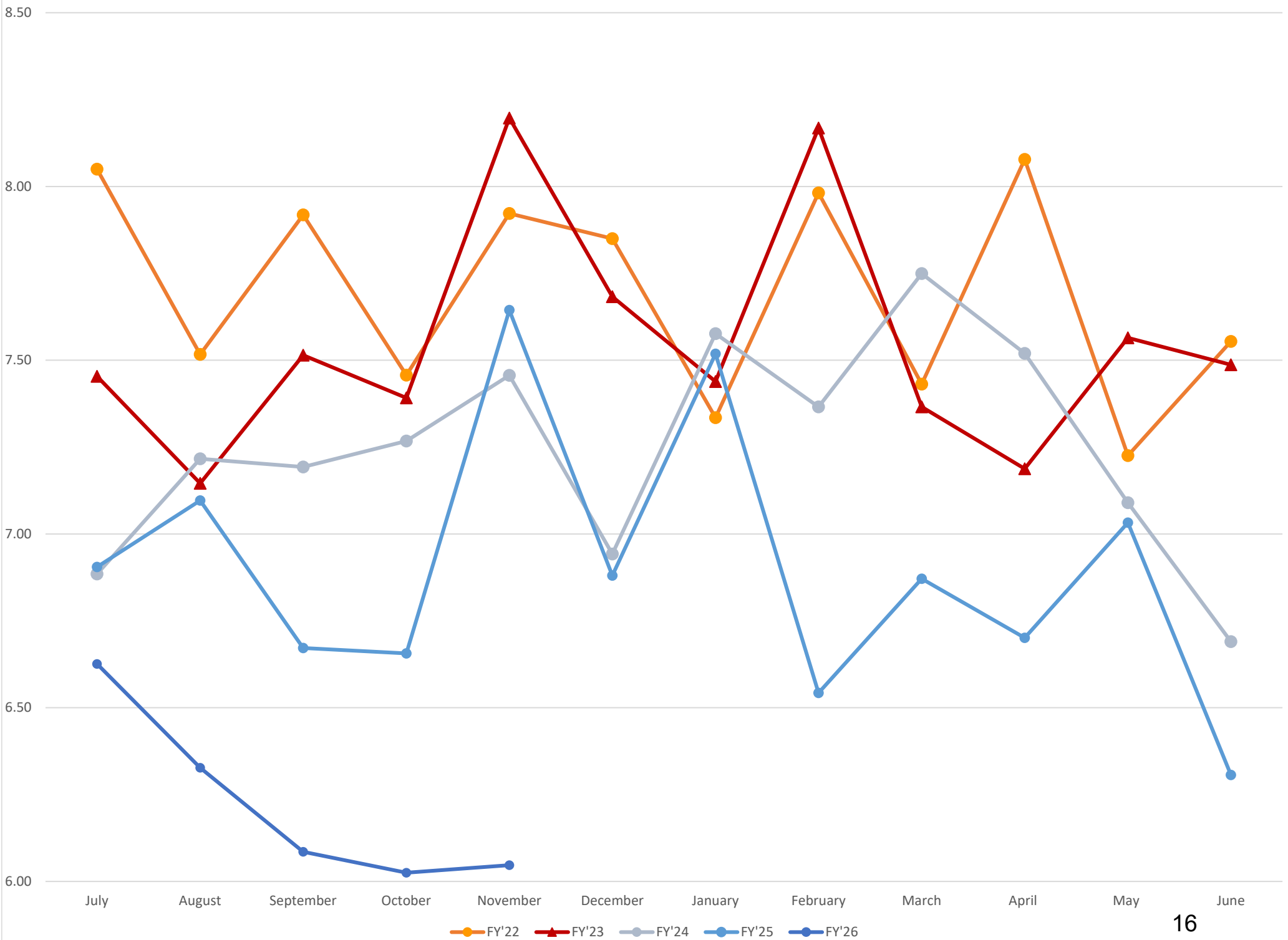
Paid Hours Amount



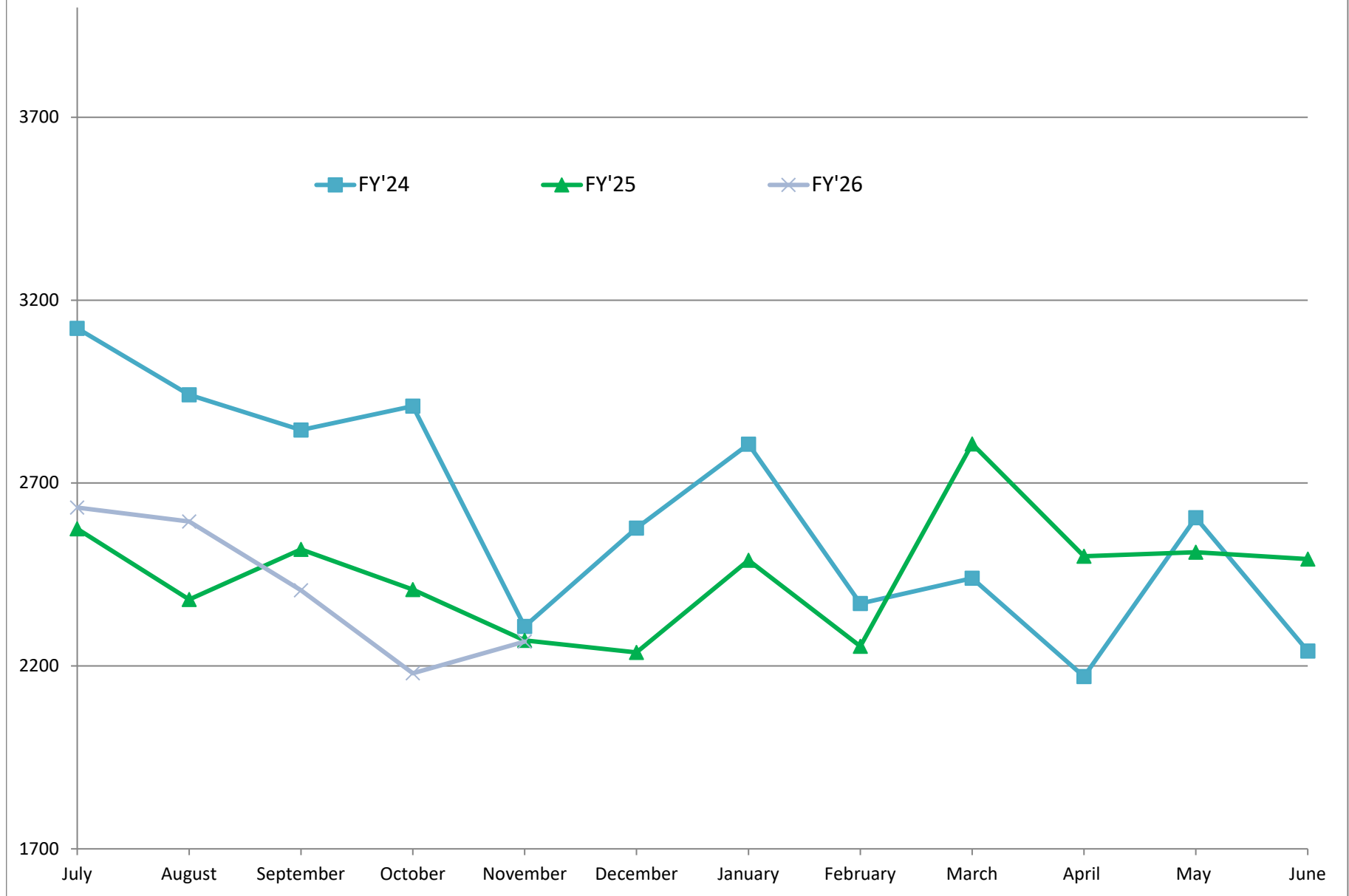
Average Hours per Voucher FYTD



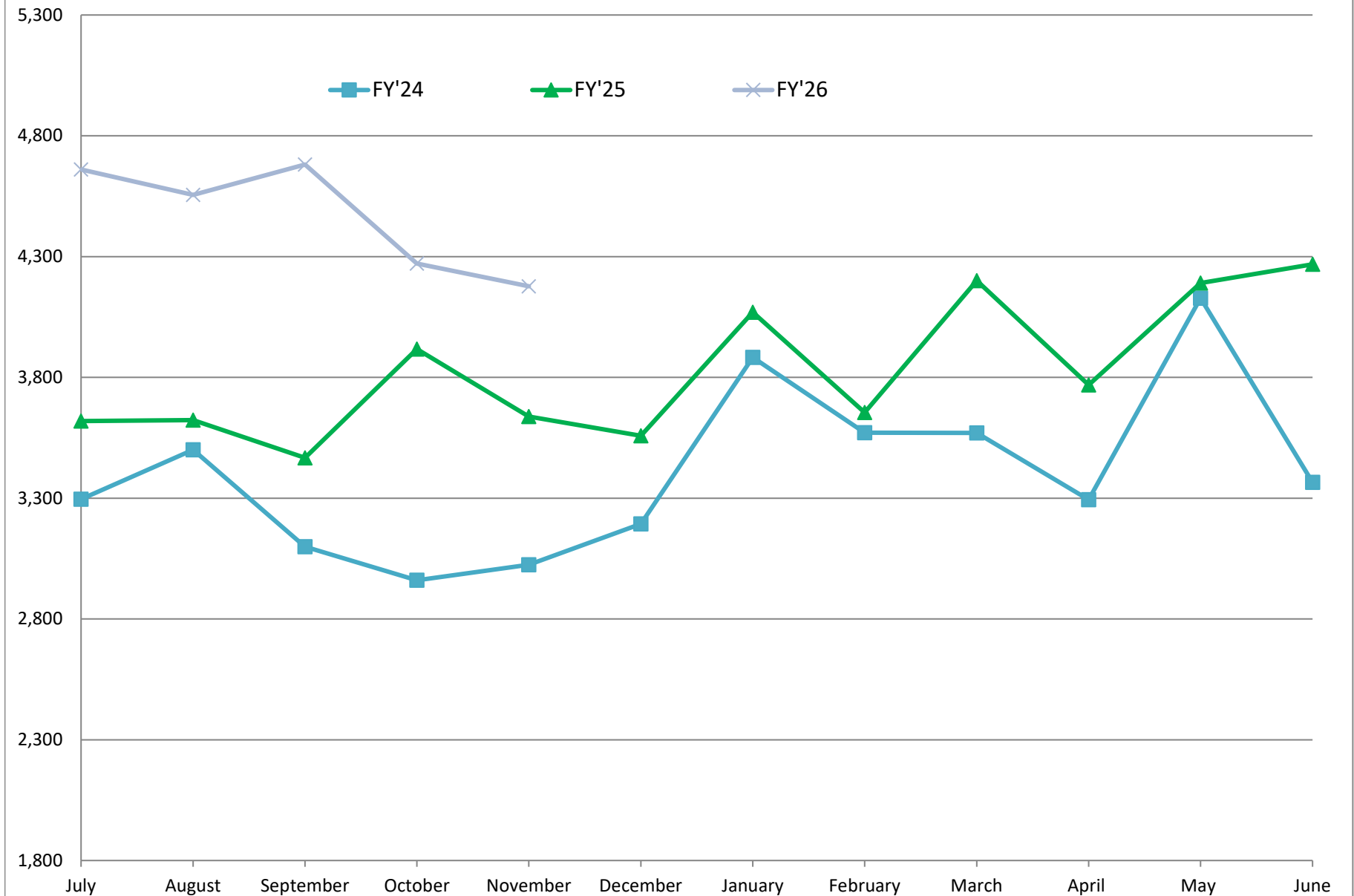
Monthly Average Hours per Voucher



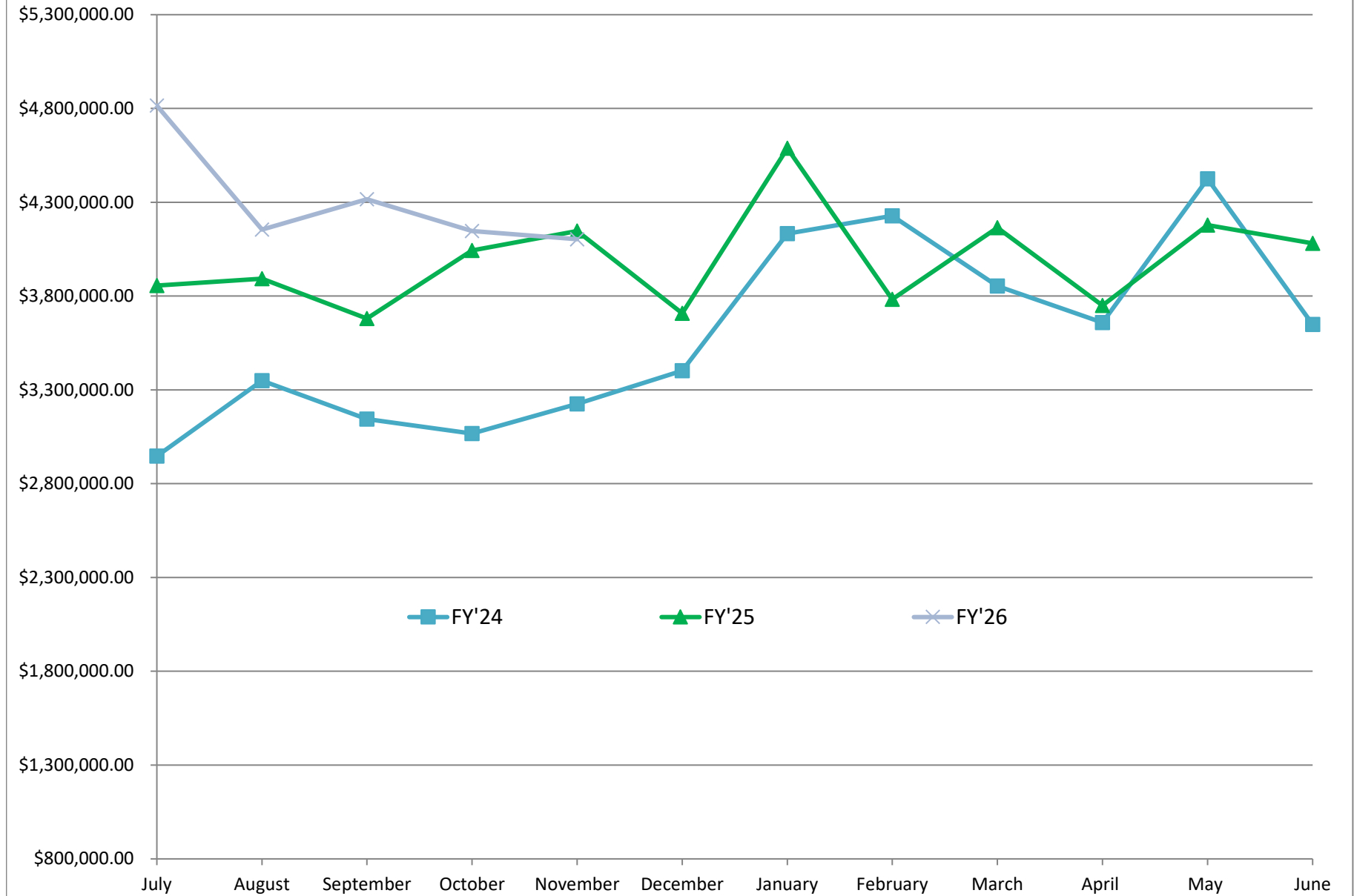
NEW CASES



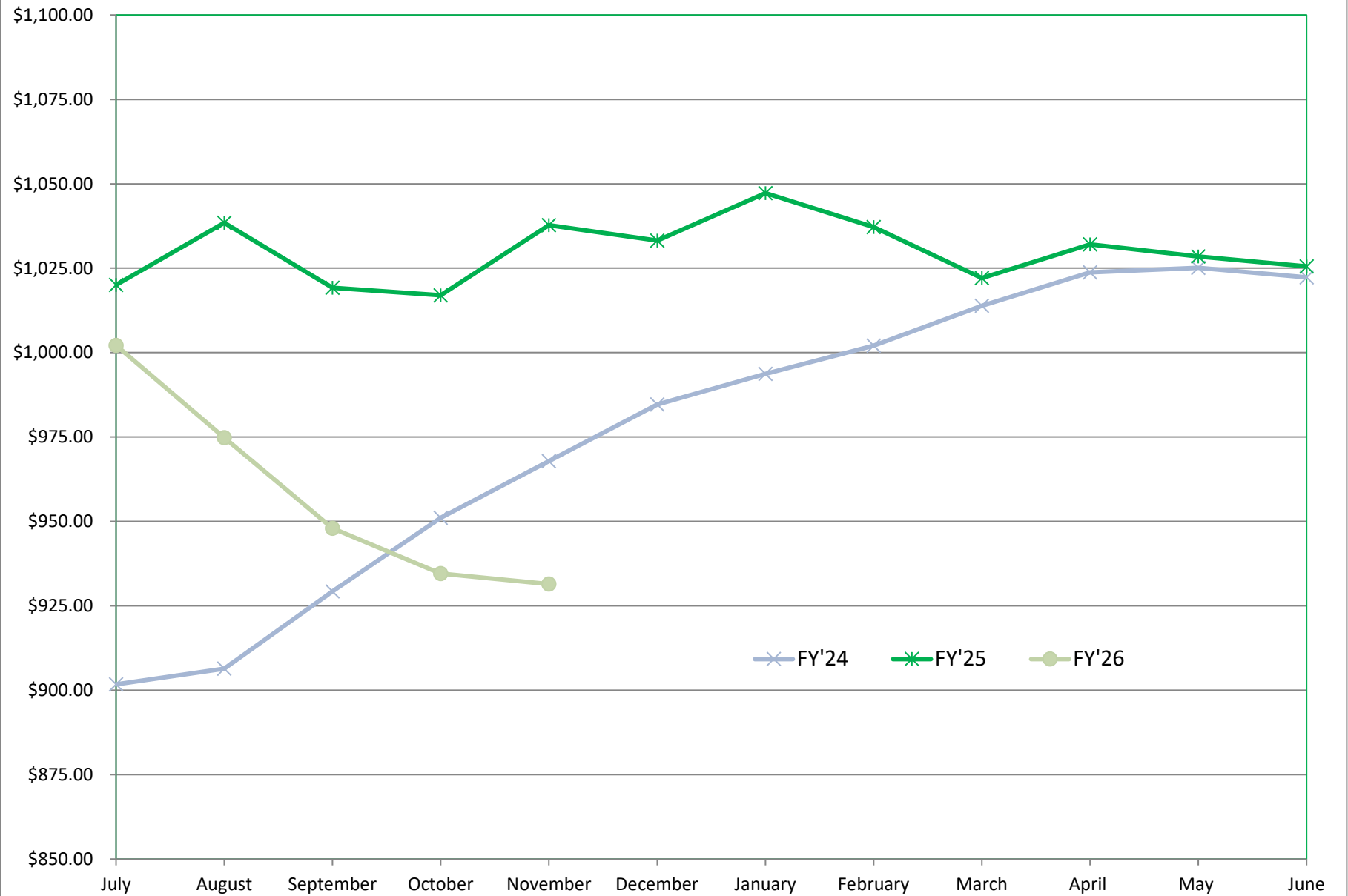
Submitted Vouchers

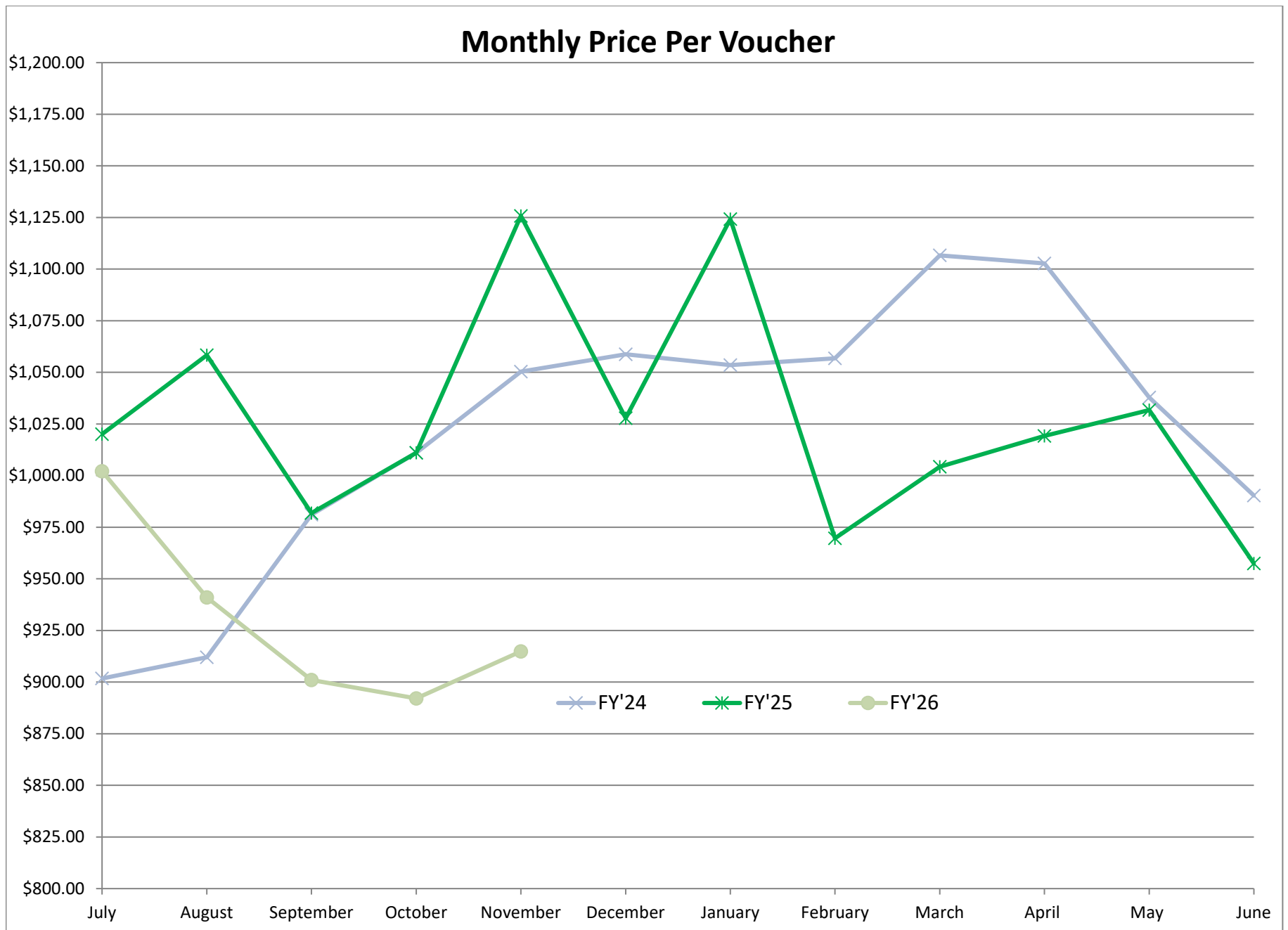


Submitted Voucher Amount



Average Voucher Price Fiscal Year to Date





Pending UCD Cases as of December 5, 2025

UCD	FELONY				MISDEMEANOR				CIVIL VIOLATION			ALL CASES			
	Pending	On DD	No IA	% No IA	Pending	On DD	No IA	% No IA	Pending	No IA	% No IA	Pending	On DD	No IA	% No IA
Androscoggin	772	115	162	21.0%	1,540	200	526	34.2%	23	17	73.9%	2,335	315	705	30.2%
Aroostook	498	103	37	7.4%	766	255	166	21.7%	17	10	58.8%	1,281	358	213	16.6%
Caribou	94	17	4	4.3%	154	47	26	16.9%	5	3	60.0%	253	64	33	13.0%
Fort Kent	64	16	5	7.8%	143	65	23	16.1%	0	0	0.0%	207	81	28	13.5%
Houlton	163	26	8	4.9%	211	64	50	23.7%	7	5	71.4%	381	90	63	16.5%
Presque Isle	177	44	20	11.3%	258	79	67	26.0%	5	2	40.0%	440	123	89	20.2%
Cumberland	1,404	209	128	9.1%	2,994	477	531	17.7%	104	30	28.8%	4,502	686	689	15.3%
Bridgton	22	7	1	4.5%	244	54	74	30.3%	11	7	63.6%	277	61	82	29.6%
Portland	1,370	199	124	9.1%	2,459	365	393	16.0%	71	17	23.9%	3,900	564	534	13.7%
West Bath	12	3	3	25.0%	291	58	64	22.0%	22	6	27.3%	325	61	73	22.5%
Franklin	122	28	24	19.7%	344	98	115	33.4%	12	7	58.3%	478	126	146	30.5%
Hancock	231	32	20	8.7%	447	51	116	26.0%	34	15	44.1%	712	83	151	21.2%
Kennebec	602	109	45	7.5%	1,370	282	294	21.5%	20	13	65.0%	1,992	391	352	17.7%
Augusta	576	102	42	7.3%	885	178	166	18.8%	13	8	61.5%	1,474	280	216	14.7%
Waterville	26	7	3	11.5%	485	104	128	26.4%	7	5	71.4%	518	111	136	26.3%
Knox	248	28	25	10.1%	532	126	122	22.9%	8	3	37.5%	788	154	150	19.0%
Lincoln	192	34	27	14.1%	440	111	101	23.0%	18	8	44.4%	650	145	136	20.9%
Oxford	425	94	111	26.1%	772	190	229	29.7%	29	20	69.0%	1,226	284	360	29.4%
Bridgton	56	15	23	41.1%	85	22	39	45.9%	5	2	40.0%	146	37	64	43.8%
Rumford	126	28	12	9.5%	198	51	17	8.6%	4	0	0.0%	328	79	29	8.8%
South Paris	243	51	76	31.3%	489	117	173	35.4%	20	18	90.0%	752	168	267	35.5%
Penobscot	673	36	58	8.6%	1,593	35	480	30.1%	49	11	22.4%	2,315	71	549	23.7%
Bangor	650	36	53	8.2%	1,176	26	339	28.8%	15	4	26.7%	1,841	62	396	21.5%
Lincoln	6	0	4	66.7%	151	3	51	33.8%	24	6	25.0%	181	3	61	33.7%
Newport	17	0	1	5.9%	266	6	90	33.8%	10	1	10.0%	293	6	92	31.4%
Piscataquis	44	1	8	18.2%	74	2	32	43.2%	7	5	71.4%	125	3	45	36.0%
Sagadahoc	137	25	13	9.5%	362	116	74	20.4%	11	2	18.2%	510	141	89	17.5%
Somerset	335	80	30	9.0%	522	127	113	21.6%	9	6	66.7%	866	207	149	17.2%
Waldo	196	27	17	8.7%	348	87	72	20.7%	6	2	33.3%	550	114	91	16.5%
Washington	197	14	10	5.1%	308	57	30	9.7%	20	8	40.0%	525	71	48	9.1%
Calais	82	8	1	1.2%	150	24	20	13.3%	8	4	50.0%	240	32	25	10.4%
Machias	115	6	9	7.8%	158	33	10	6.3%	12	4	33.3%	285	39	23	8.1%
York	744	103	92	12.4%	2,426	620	559	23.0%	72	25	34.7%	3,242	723	676	20.9%
TOTAL	6,820	1,038	807	11.8%	14,838	2,834	3,560	24.0%	439	182	41.5%	22,097	3,872	4,549	20.6%

Columns

Pending	Number of cases having at least one charge without a disposition, and without a currently active warrant.
On DD	Number of pending cases with an Order of Deferred Disposition entered.
No IA	Number of pending cases with a complaint filed, but not having an initial appearance or arraignment held or waived.
% No IA	Percent of pending cases without an initial appearance/arraignment.

Cases are categorized based on the most serious offense charged. Local ordinance violations filed with the court are not included in the reported counts.

Change in Pending UCD Cases, December 2024 to December 2025

Pending cases as of December 5 of each year

UCD	FELONY			MISDEMEANOR			CIVIL VIOLATION			ALL CASES		
	2024	2025	% Diff	2024	2025	% Diff	2024	2025	% Diff	2024	2025	% Diff
Androscoggin	777	772	-0.6%	1,523	1,540	1.1%	12	23	91.7%	2,312	2,335	1.0%
Aroostook	551	498	-9.6%	850	766	-9.9%	27	17	-37.0%	1,428	1,281	-10.3%
Caribou	108	94	-13.0%	149	154	3.4%	6	5	-16.7%	263	253	-3.8%
Fort Kent	78	64	-17.9%	176	143	-18.8%	6	0	-100.0%	260	207	-20.4%
Houlton	151	163	7.9%	225	211	-6.2%	6	7	16.7%	382	381	-0.3%
Presque Isle	214	177	-17.3%	300	258	-14.0%	9	5	-44.4%	523	440	-15.9%
Cumberland	1,396	1,404	0.6%	3,547	2,994	-15.6%	99	104	5.1%	5,042	4,502	-10.7%
Bridgton	22	22	0.0%	327	244	-25.4%	31	11	-64.5%	380	277	-27.1%
Portland	1,353	1,370	1.3%	2,817	2,459	-12.7%	47	71	51.1%	4,217	3,900	-7.5%
West Bath	21	12	-42.9%	403	291	-27.8%	21	22	4.8%	445	325	-27.0%
Franklin	143	122	-14.7%	326	344	5.5%	3	12	300.0%	472	478	1.3%
Hancock	286	231	-19.2%	479	447	-6.7%	40	34	-15.0%	805	712	-11.6%
Kennebec	570	602	5.6%	1,389	1,370	-1.4%	18	20	11.1%	1,977	1,992	0.8%
Augusta	534	576	7.9%	856	885	3.4%	11	13	18.2%	1,401	1,474	5.2%
Waterville	36	26	-27.8%	533	485	-9.0%	7	7	0.0%	576	518	-10.1%
Knox	210	248	18.1%	538	532	-1.1%	12	8	-33.3%	760	788	3.7%
Lincoln	157	192	22.3%	401	440	9.7%	10	18	80.0%	568	650	14.4%
Oxford	494	425	-14.0%	861	772	-10.3%	9	29	222.2%	1,364	1,226	-10.1%
Bridgton	41	56	36.6%	76	85	11.8%	0	5	0.0%	117	146	24.8%
Rumford	187	126	-32.6%	336	198	-41.1%	5	4	-20.0%	528	328	-37.9%
South Paris	266	243	-8.6%	449	489	8.9%	4	20	400.0%	719	752	4.6%
Penobscot	758	673	-11.2%	1,766	1,593	-9.8%	52	49	-5.8%	2,576	2,315	-10.1%
Bangor	737	650	-11.8%	1,378	1,176	-14.7%	27	15	-44.4%	2,142	1,841	-14.1%
Lincoln	4	6	50.0%	152	151	-0.7%	19	24	26.3%	175	181	3.4%
Newport	17	17	0.0%	236	266	12.7%	6	10	66.7%	259	293	13.1%
Piscataquis	36	44	22.2%	78	74	-5.1%	13	7	-46.2%	127	125	-1.6%
Sagadahoc	167	137	-18.0%	394	362	-8.1%	12	11	-8.3%	573	510	-11.0%
Somerset	298	335	12.4%	512	522	2.0%	7	9	28.6%	817	866	6.0%
Waldo	178	196	10.1%	380	348	-8.4%	17	6	-64.7%	575	550	-4.3%
Washington	141	197	39.7%	238	308	29.4%	17	20	17.6%	396	525	32.6%
Calais	65	82	26.2%	104	150	44.2%	7	8	14.3%	176	240	36.4%
Machias	76	115	51.3%	134	158	17.9%	10	12	20.0%	220	285	29.5%
York	772	744	-3.6%	2,738	2,426	-11.4%	69	72	4.3%	3,579	3,242	-9.4%
TOTAL	6,934	6,820	-1.6%	16,020	14,838	-7.4%	417	439	5.3%	23,371	22,097	-5.5%

Columns

2024	Number of cases having at least one charge without a disposition, and without a currently active warrant as of December 5, 2024
2025	Number of cases having at least one charge without a disposition, and without a currently active warrant as of December 5, 2025
% Diff	Percent change in pending cases from 2024 to 2025. Red percentages represent an increase, green percentages a decrease.

Cases are categorized based on the most serious offense charged. Local ordinance violations filed with the courts are not included in the reported counts.

Change in Pending UCD Cases, December 2019 to December 2025

Pending cases as of December 5 of each year

UCD	FELONY			MISDEMEANOR			CIVIL VIOLATION			ALL CASES		
	2019	2025	% Diff	2019	2025	% Diff	2019	2025	% Diff	2019	2025	% Diff
Androscoggin	435	772	77.5%	1,308	1,540	17.7%	26	23	-11.5%	1,769	2,335	32.0%
Aroostook	434	498	14.7%	740	766	3.5%	25	17	-32.0%	1,199	1,281	6.8%
Caribou	70	94	34.3%	183	154	-15.8%	1	5	400.0%	254	253	-0.4%
Fort Kent	45	64	42.2%	128	143	11.7%	4	0	-100.0%	177	207	16.9%
Houlton	137	163	19.0%	178	211	18.5%	10	7	-30.0%	325	381	17.2%
Presque Isle	182	177	-2.7%	251	258	2.8%	10	5	-50.0%	443	440	-0.7%
Cumberland	937	1,404	49.8%	2,680	2,994	11.7%	98	104	6.1%	3,715	4,502	21.2%
Bridgton	10	22	120.0%	198	244	23.2%	17	11	-35.3%	225	277	23.1%
Portland	908	1,370	50.9%	2,155	2,459	14.1%	57	71	24.6%	3,120	3,900	25.0%
West Bath	19	12	-36.8%	327	291	-11.0%	24	22	-8.3%	370	325	-12.2%
Franklin	83	122	47.0%	267	344	28.8%	10	12	20.0%	360	478	32.8%
Hancock	209	231	10.5%	517	447	-13.5%	38	34	-10.5%	764	712	-6.8%
Kennebec	384	602	56.8%	1,225	1,370	11.8%	38	20	-47.4%	1,647	1,992	20.9%
Augusta	374	576	54.0%	651	885	35.9%	21	13	-38.1%	1,046	1,474	40.9%
Waterville	10	26	160.0%	574	485	-15.5%	17	7	-58.8%	601	518	-13.8%
Knox	156	248	59.0%	342	532	55.6%	6	8	33.3%	504	788	56.3%
Lincoln	97	192	97.9%	218	440	101.8%	11	18	63.6%	326	650	99.4%
Oxford	210	425	102.4%	548	772	40.9%	16	29	81.3%	774	1,226	58.4%
Bridgton	25	56	124.0%	81	85	4.9%	1	5	400.0%	107	146	36.4%
Rumford	82	126	53.7%	224	198	-11.6%	11	4	-63.6%	317	328	3.5%
South Paris	103	243	135.9%	243	489	101.2%	4	20	400.0%	350	752	114.9%
Penobscot	408	673	65.0%	1,232	1,593	29.3%	87	49	-43.7%	1,727	2,315	34.0%
Bangor	398	650	63.3%	960	1,176	22.5%	67	15	-77.6%	1,425	1,841	29.2%
Lincoln	3	6	100.0%	91	151	65.9%	5	24	380.0%	99	181	82.8%
Newport	7	17	142.9%	181	266	47.0%	15	10	-33.3%	203	293	44.3%
Piscataquis	21	44	109.5%	39	74	89.7%	2	7	250.0%	62	125	101.6%
Sagadahoc	92	137	48.9%	317	362	14.2%	23	11	-52.2%	432	510	18.1%
Somerset	152	335	120.4%	458	522	14.0%	17	9	-47.1%	627	866	38.1%
Waldo	108	196	81.5%	320	348	8.8%	9	6	-33.3%	437	550	25.9%
Washington	105	197	87.6%	226	308	36.3%	20	20	0.0%	351	525	49.6%
Calais	47	82	74.5%	94	150	59.6%	10	8	-20.0%	151	240	58.9%
Machias	58	115	98.3%	132	158	19.7%	10	12	20.0%	200	285	42.5%
York	731	744	1.8%	2,712	2,426	-10.5%	101	72	-28.7%	3,544	3,242	-8.5%
TOTAL	4,562	6,820	49.5%	13,149	14,838	12.8%	527	439	-16.7%	18,238	22,097	21.2%

Columns

2019	Number of cases having at least one charge without a disposition, and without a currently active warrant as of December 5, 2019
2025	Number of cases having at least one charge without a disposition, and without a currently active warrant as of December 5, 2025
% Diff	Percent change in pending cases from 2019 to 2025. Red percentages represent an increase, green percentages a decrease.

Cases are categorized based on the most serious offense charged. Local ordinance violations filed with the courts are not included in the reported counts.

DISTRICT DEFENDERS' COMMISSION REPORT

DECEMBER 2025

Highlands Region Public Defenders, by the numbers:

- Combined October hours that 2 Assistant Defenders spent in non-productive time at court waiting for scheduled hearings: **27.6**.
- December scheduled hearings on Motions to Suppress continued less than a week in advance: **2** (so far).
- 3rd quarter Domestic Violence Assault misdemeanors charged as no jail cases, handled by HRPD as Walk In Arraignments LOD: **5**
- Active misdemeanor OULs at HRPD in a County that does not do deferred dispositions, filings or drop downs on OULs, even the ones in which they cannot prove operation: **14**.
- Date of offense of oldest case open at HRPD: **4/19/2019**.
- Number of Discovery Violations in HRPD found by courts since June: **2**. Plus two more for local attorneys, one that resulted in a dismissal without prejudice.
- Days of trial HRPD defenders are scheduled for from December 15-19: **5**.
- Minutes defendant was late for curfew that resulted in a Motion to Revoke Bail and a new Charge of Violation of Conditions of Release: **11**

Update from the Parents' Counsel Division

The Division is pleased to announce the hiring of Jess Mizzi, an attorney with considerable litigation experience, for its last vacancy, bringing the total number of attorneys in the Division to four, all of whom are assisted by our one dedicated legal administrator. Our employed attorneys currently cover cases in Aroostook, Cumberland, Hancock, Kennebec, and Washington Counties and continue to take new cases as well as cases

from the unrepresented list. In addition to our team collaborating and supporting each other, we are also collaborating with employed criminal defenders in cases where the parent has both criminal and child protective involvement. We are finding that the collaboration not only provides consistency of counsel to the parent/defendant but also the ability to share information and strategies between cases, which we expect will result in more holistic representation and better outcomes for families.

Notes for the Commission -

Fairness is integral to our system of justice and Due Process demands that the State provide all evidence collected to the defense promptly, so that they can adequately prepare. While most defense attorneys can share a horror story about receiving evidence the night before trial, these incidences were historically considered rare. Discovery violations are a problem that manifest in every region that MCPDS has an office. The cost of discovery violations is immense. It delays cases, increases costs, harms clients and prevents us from providing competent legal advice. This in turn worsens the back-log of cases and reduces the Commission's ability to provide attorneys at initial appearance. The District Defenders have taken the initiative to identify, litigate, and train employed and rostered attorneys in litigating discovery violations. We also will continue to report on Discovery Violations to the Commission. We hope that this brings to light this insidious practice that is harmful to the people, the practitioners, and the efficiency of the system.

Report from Capital Region PDs:

CRPD made newspaper headlines once again in November when Dan Lawson, brought in as successor counsel on a case that had been pending several months, noticed significant deficiencies in discovery in a major felony case involving charges of Aggravated Trafficking and Firearms. Dan's persistence and conscientious motion practice right up until the morning of trial resulted in the Court's dismissal of two Class A drug charges for serious discovery violations followed by a significantly more favorable plea agreement which resulted in the dismissal of a Class B firearms charge. Dan held the State to its proof (or lack thereof) to remind them that they have an obligation to prove their case with evidence that counsel is made aware of well before the trial. This type of sanction should not be necessary, but CRPD attorneys will continue to pursue these arguments until we see real change in the State's discovery practices going forward to make them unnecessary.

Defenders From Away

The purpose of this series is to spotlight and celebrate the members of our team who moved here from other areas of the country to practice in our public defender offices. It is also to highlight how effective opening the public defender offices has been at attracting new attorneys to Maine. Maine is a naturally attractive place to live, work, and raise a family. The challenge in rural parts of the state is often the lack of quality jobs. When we as a state recognize a problem (like the public defense crisis) one very effective solution is to create good paying jobs within a state agency to directly address that problem.

The Lewiston Crew

Charles Burden worked as a public defender for eight years in Tallahassee Florida. He and his girlfriend decided they wanted to leave Florida and began looking for other places in the country to live. "In true lawyerly fashion I made a checklist of all the things I was looking for in a place to move to. Except for 'near a big city', Maine checked all the boxes." The timing was perfect for Charles because Maine was just opening its brand new public defender offices across the state. Charles applied to the Tri-County office and was hired in 2024.

John Henderson moved to Maine from Colorado and joined Tri-County public defenders in May of 2025. John has had a long career as a public defender in both state and federal systems across the country including Colorado, Virginia and Kansas. Prior to becoming a lawyer, John earned a master's degree in public administration and had a career working in several federal court clerk's offices in Louisiana and Connecticut. "There was a movement at the time to bring the academic discipline of public administration to the courts. The efficiency of court dockets isn't just about saving time and public money – it directly affects the quality of justice and the court's relationship with the community it serves."

Ben Raker grew up in Brunswick, Maine and began his legal career as a law clerk for two federal judges. After a year in private practice at a boutique law firm in Washington, DC, Ben went to Alaska to work for the public defender's office there. "If Maine had had a public defender office at that time, I would definitely have applied to work there." When it was announced that Maine was opening brick and mortar public defender offices statewide, Ben decided to move back to Maine and work in the Lewiston office. "I drove my truck across Canada and started taking cases as soon as I got my Maine Bar license."

One theme that emerges from the stories of these defenders is that Maine's rural attorney shortage has a simple (but not always easy) solution – create positions that pay well and provide good working conditions and people will come from all over the country to do necessary and quality legal work in our communities.

Success in the Parents Division

In the last couple of months, we have had some inspiring outcomes for families at the earliest stages of cases, including one noteworthy highlight - a dismissal and return of custody to a mother in a case that implicated the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). Prior to the mother having an attorney, the Department was only permitting visits twice per week between the mother and her young child. Parent's' Counsel Chelsea Peters took the case, requested a summary hearing, continuously raised the issue of the increased burden on the Department in ICWA cases, and challenged whether the Department could meet that burden or even the

State's lesser standard of immediate risk of serious harm. On the day of the hearing, six and half weeks after the child was unnecessarily removed from the home, the Department acknowledged it could not meet its burden, returned custody to the mother and dismissed the case. We are confident that continuing to challenge the Department's involvement at the earliest stages, making sure we meet with clients early and often, carefully reviewing discovery, using PDS' new case management services, employing experts, and resisting the status quo is and will continue to be beneficial for our clients and their families.



The Aroostook Discovery Footnote

The Aroostook County Public Defenders includes the following footnote on Motions for Discovery Sanctions to illustrate the frequency of discovery violations. This list does not include all cases with discovery problems, only those where the court found a discovery violation either during a trial or at a hearing on a Motion for Sanctions.

From August 2023 to present the following are Aroostook Public Defender cases in which there was a violation of discovery rules that required court intervention:

State v. Craig Tracy, AROCD-CR-2023-20002, State v. Gervais, AROCD-CR-2023-20285, State v. Dahtee Weh, AROCD-CR-2022-20454, State v. Preston Soucy, AROCD-CR-2023-20055, State v. Scott Guillemette, AROCD-CR-2023-20114, State v. Heath Demerchant, AROCD-CR-2023-40303, State v. Orlin David Flores Vargas, AROCD-CR-2023-20122, State v. Alejandro Ochoa, AROCD-CR-2023-20123, State v. Tony Jackson, AROCD-CR-2022-00085, State v. Joshua Jandreau, AROCD-CR-2022-20289, State v. Sheldon Bragan, AROCD-CR-2024-30071, State v. Taylor Garrison, AROCD-CR-2025-40163, State v. Benjamin Stratton, AROCD-CR-2025-00089, State v. Benjamin Stratton AROCD-CR-2024-00007, State v. D.B. AROCD-JV-2023-00011.

Chapter 302: PROCEDURES REGARDING FUNDS FOR EXPERTS AND INVESTIGATORS

Summary: This Chapter establishes the procedures for attorneys ~~and pro se parties~~ to request funds for experts and investigators from the Commission and provides that the Executive Director shall make the determination to grant or deny the request. It also establishes the procedures for payment of expert and investigator services authorized in this Chapter.

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS

1. Executive Director. "Executive Director" means the Executive Director of the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services or the Executive Director's decision-making designee.
2. PDS or Commission. "PDS" or "Commission" means the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services.
3. Applicant. "Applicant" means the client on whose behalf an attorney submits an application for funds pursuant to this Chapter.
4. Attorney. "Attorney" means the lawyer for the Applicant.
5. Employed Counsel. "Employed Counsel" means an attorney employed by the commission to provide legal services directly to persons who are eligible to receive indigent legal services in civil proceedings.
6. "Public Defender" means an attorney employed by the commission to provide legal services directly to persons who are eligible to receive indigent legal services in criminal and juvenile proceedings.

SECTION 2. APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FOR EXPERT AND INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE

1. ~~1. Who May may Applyapply.~~

~~A. Any person who is entitled to representation at state expense under the United States Constitution or the Constitution or laws of Maine and who has been found indigent by a state court or who claims to be without sufficient funds to employ necessary expert or investigative assistance may file, on their own or through their attorney, applications to PDS for funds to obtain~~

~~expert or investigative assistance or both~~ has been appointed or assigned counsel at PDS expense, or who is represented by an Employed Counsel or Public Defender; and

B. Any person who is entitled to representation at state expense under the United States Constitution or the Constitution or laws of Maine who is represented by retained counsel and who is found indigent by PDS.

2. **Application ~~Directed~~ directed to the Executive Director.** An application for funds to obtain necessary expert or investigative assistance or both shall be directed to the Executive Director.

3. **Form and ~~Contents~~ contents of ~~Application~~ application.** The application shall:

A. Be completed on a form designated by the Executive Director~~;~~;

B. Include the case caption ~~-and~~ the docket number;

C. Set forth the date on which the ~~applicant~~ Applicant was found indigent or, if the ~~applicant~~ Applicant has not been found indigent, set forth the basis on which the ~~applicant~~ Applicant claims to be without sufficient funds. For persons ~~not found indigent by a court~~ applying pursuant to Section 2(1)(B), the application shall be supported by an affidavit demonstrating ~~financial need~~ indigency. Said affidavit shall be on the same form used to determine financial eligibility for appointment of counsel;

D. Describe the nature of the proceeding for which assistance is sought, and in proceedings with respect to adult or juvenile crimes, specifically identify the name and class or statutory cite of the most serious charge, or of the charge which is the basis for the request for funds~~;~~;

E. Set forth a clear and concise statement of the reasons why the assistance is necessary for adequate presentation of the ~~applicant~~ Applicant's claim or defense; ~~and~~

F. Set forth a clear and concise statement as to the work that will be done by the expert and/or investigator~~;~~ and

F.G. Itemize the total amount of funds being requested, the vendor's rate, and any anticipated expenses that may be paid out of the funds.

4. **Parameters for requests.**

A. Requests for funds must be submitted before the expert or investigator begins work on the case.

B. The request for funds should encompass all anticipated funds that will be needed for the expert or investigator's work to be completed.

a. For interpreters and translators, attorneys should estimate the total cost for the services for the life of the case, as opposed to separate requests for each instance in which the interpreter or translator will perform work.

b. When it is probable that an expert or investigator will be needed for a court appearance, the request for funds should include the total anticipated costs needed to pay for the expert or investigator's services through disposition of the case.

4.

5. Electronic ~~f~~Filing ~~p~~Permitted. The application must be filed with PDS according to the procedure directed by the Executive Director. Any procedure developed by the Executive Director shall be designed to protect privileged information from disclosure, and to promote the efficient handling of funds requests by Commission staff.

A. *Repealed.*

B. *Repealed.*

C. *Repealed.*

SECTION 3. DETERMINATION BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director shall review the application and the grounds therefore and, in the Executive Director's sole discretion, shall either grant the funds applied for, in whole or in part, or deny the application. When granting an application in whole or in part, the Executive Director may condition the expenditure of funds as set forth in PDS Rule Chapter 301 ~~, Fee Schedule and Administrative Procedures for Payment of Commission Assigned Counsel,~~ and other PDS procedures. The determination of the Executive Director shall be in writing and may be communicated to the ~~applicant~~Attorney by electronic means.

SECTION 44. ~~PAYMENT FOR EXPERT OR INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE~~PROCEDURE AFTER APPLICATION GRANTED

1. After an application for funds is granted, the attorney must:

A. Ensure the expert or investigator has a State of Maine Vendor Code, or is aware of the process for applying for one;

B. Provide the expert or investigator a copy of the funds authorization;

- C. Inform the expert or investigator that PDS is only guaranteeing payment for services up to the amount authorized at the rate authorized; and
- D. Inform the expert or investigator that:
- a. Any travel expenses incurred must be within the applicable rates set by the Government Service Administration;
 - b. Mileage incurred in Maine is reimbursable up to the rate set by the State of Maine Office of State Controller;
 - c. PDS will not reimburse for travel insurance, cancellation protection, or the like; and
 - d. Absent extenuating circumstances, PDS will not reimburse for first class airfare or seat upgrades.
- E. Upon receipt of an invoice for services for which the expenditure of funds has previously been authorized, the ~~applicant or the applicant's~~ Attorney shall forward the invoice to PDS for processing and payment, together with the relevant authorization.
- F. -Attorneys shall comply with ~~all~~ny procedures established by the Executive Director. The ~~applicant or the applicant's~~ Attorney must state that the services were satisfactory and that all applicable reports and other information have been received. The ~~applicant or the applicant's~~ Attorney ~~should~~must review the invoice to verify that it conforms to PDS requirements and that the appropriate rates for services and mileage were billed. The ~~applicant or the applicant's~~ Attorney is not required by the Commission to advance funds to investigators or other service providers, subject to any professional conduct requirements. The ~~applicant~~ Attorney should ~~make every effort to~~ ensure that the ~~service provider~~expert or investigator includes a State of Maine Vendor Code number on each invoice.
- G. Failure of the Attorney to submit an invoice for expert or investigative services to PDS within 10 calendar days of receiving a complete and accurate invoice from the expert or investigator may result in non-payment of the attorney's vouchers until the attorney submits the invoice to PDS.

SECTION 5. Transition

Repealed.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

4 M.R.S. §§ 1804(2)(G), (3)(A) and (4)(D)

EFFECTIVE DATE:

August 21, 2011 – filing 2011-284

AMENDED:

August 1, 2021 – filing 2021-150

September 1, 2024 – filing 2024-207



Title IV-E Funds for Legal Representation

Overview:

Title IV-E is a federal funding stream under the Social Security Act that helps states pay for various child welfare related expenses. This is an entitlement program, meaning it is authorized on a permanent basis. It functions primarily through a reimbursement model: states spend the money on qualifying expenses and then receive a federal match for eligible costs. Historically, eligible costs included foster care maintenance payments, for children placed in care, certain administrative costs including eligibility determinations and case management and supervision. Title IV-E funds must flow through the state Title IV-E agency, or The Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS). Any Title IV-E funds claimed must be matched by the state receiving the funds.

Expansion of Claimable Expenses

In 2019, the U.S. DHHS/Administration for Children and Families, the Children's Bureau, issued revised and new policies to explicitly allow for Title IV-E funds to be claimed for independent legal representation. This representation was for (1) children who are candidates for or in foster care; and (2) the parents of those children.

In 2020, the Children's Bureau issued a new policy clarifying that Title IV-E funds could be used for: (1) paralegal costs; (2) investigators; (3) peer partners; and (4) social workers to the extent that these services were needed to support independent legal representation. The expansion also allowed pre-petition representation services to be a claimable Title IV-E expense.