

**MAINE COMMISSION ON
PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES**

January 22, 2026

**Commissioner's
Meeting Packet**

MAINE COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES

JANUARY 22, 2026 MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Rulemaking Public Hearing – Chapter 302
- 2) Approval of the December 17, 2025 and January 5, 2026 Commission Meeting Minutes
- 3) Report of the Executive Director
 - a. Operations report
 - b. Staffing update
- 4) Update from District Defenders
- 5) Budget/Legislative Update
- 6) Rulemaking discussion / Chapter 303
- 7) Set Date, Time and Location of Next Regular Meeting of the Commission
- 8) Public Comment

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 ~~Apply~~ apply.

- 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 Applicationapplication.** 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

Maine Commission on Public Defense Services- Commissioners Meeting
December 17, 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
Public Hearing: Proposed Rule Chapter 303 (Legal Research Materials)	Presentation: Updates include a name change for consistency and moving to a direct purchase model for books to utilize bulk purchasing and tax-exempt savings. Action: Commissioner Alexander recused himself due to a conflict of interest. No public comments made. Public hearing closed; written comments accepted until 5:00PM December 29, 2025. All comments may be sent to Executive Director Tarpinian at frayla.tarpinian@maine.gov.
Approval of the November 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes	Executive Director Tarpinian requested a correction to clarify that probate court discussions involved protective custody (PC) cases rather than "mental health cases". Specifically, on page two of the November minutes under "Commissioner Discussion" there are three bullet points. The proposed amendment is to the third bullet point and it should read: "It is less clear what will happen with protective custody cases and the probate court." Motion: Commissioner Soucy moved to approve the November 2025 minutes as amended. Seconded by Chair Tardy. Action: Motion passed unanimously.
Executive Director Report (Operations, Staffing, and Agency Meetings)	Unrepresented List: • Decreased to 304 people which was a huge decrease from last year; • With the list being at this lower number, it is more important than ever that the list is accurate. Concerns have been raised regarding manual data accuracy from court clerks. There are many individuals putting in time and effort into this list and ensuring the accuracy could minimize a duplication of efforts.

	• For example, PDS checked the six oldest cases on the PC list yesterday and five of them had been staffed already. The next step is for Executive Director Tarpinian to reach out to the judicial branch to make sure we can ensure accuracy. • Commissioner Kilgore: Indicated that this has been flagged before and wonders if there is a way to pull this information from the new MJB data system to try and eliminate human error. • Commissioner O'Connor: What other additional suggestions have been made on how to align these lists? • Executive Director Tarpinian: The judicial branch is currently switching from their current MEJIS system to Enterprise Justice which is also causing considerable effort on the court with challenges of this transition. We may need to look at what strategies we can use today and begin to talk about strategies we can use within these new systems. • Commissioner Soucy: How does the failure to have accurate information plays out in a way that affects your ability to appoint counsel? • Commissioner Kilgore: When multiple attorneys are doing conflict checks to assess if they can take a particular case, that leads to a good deal of redundant effort on all members of the system. • Executive Director Tarpinian: These are the same issues being encountered in criminal cases. Additionally, if two attorneys are appointed on the same case, this means one has to file a motion to withdraw with is additional work for the whole system. Operations Report: Vouchers: • The number of vouchers being submitted is up 21.5% fiscal year-to-date and the amount submitted is up 8.8%. • These numbers should be a little lower because of the removal of the mental health cases and WRO cases that PDS is not currently paying for.
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	• Amount per voucher is still down by over 10% which indicates that vouchers are being submitted on a more regular basis. • Paid hours for the current fiscal year have increased by 6% as compared to last year. • Last month was a bit of a strange month in that there was a 20% decline. • Trainings that were held in October resulted in higher vouchers. There were many attorneys from Massachusetts who came to our trainings this year to fulfill credit requirements to practice in Maine. Rosters: • Externs are finishing up for the semester and have given great feedback on their experience. • 181 active attorneys with 37 of those being for PC cases. • There 352 renewals year to date. • There has been a large increase in new applicants year to date with a total of 57. • New Chapter 2 applications: 72 • New Chapter 3 applications: 142 • We've seen several attorneys from MA during the Bridging the Gap training this past December. • Commissioner Katz: 176 rostered attorneys and 111 available for trial work, how does this compare to past reports. • Executive Director Tarpinian: This appears to be stable. There is year-over-year growth of new applicants. All trends are up for gaining new attorneys. • Commissioner Katz: The number of cases/hours/salary has increased for employed attorneys. This is theoretically work that does not need to be done by the rostered attorneys. How much work has been taken over by the employed attorneys? • Executive Director Tarpinian: Will pull this information for the next meeting. Staffing: • Welcomed Jessica Mizzi to the Parents Counsel in the Southern Maine area. • Working on hiring for the last 1101 position for Casco Bay. Hired a couple of other 1101 attorneys who have
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	not stayed and interviews will be happening for those positions. - Thinking about reclassing one of the 1101 attorney positions to be an appellate attorney for PC cases. - Commissioner Alexander: An appellate attorney would track what is currently happening in the AG's office as they have an appellate attorney for PC cases. This would make for more efficient processing.
District Defender System Update	- Report provided. - Commissioner Bates: Concentrated a lot on the discovery violations. Have you noticed any change to compliance since your last report? - Noted successes in discovery violations as they remain a systemic issue. - Discovery compliance is variable; Aroostook County continues to struggle significantly while other areas improve.
Annual Report Discussion	Chair Tardy requested a review from commissioners. Action: Special meeting scheduled for January 5 at 3:00 p.m. specifically to approve the final draft.
Proposed Commission Rule 302: Funds for Experts/Investigators	Discussion: - Translation Services: Working on a subcommittee to see who is responsible for what payments. - Rule 302 is focused on ensuring experts and interpreters are paid promptly by establishing attorney deadlines for invoice submission. This is due to factors in the slow pace of getting a vendor code number or submission of invoices. - Commissioner Bates: Is the penalty provision necessary? - Executive Director Tarpinian: PDS needs an enforcement mechanism to ensure compliance. The penalty is that PDS has the discretion to not pay vouchers until all information is provided. Motion: To approve the draft and move to a public hearing. Action: Motion passed unanimously.
New Business: Title IV-E Funds & Pilot Project	Title IV-E:

	• Proposal to pursue federal reimbursement for PC legal costs. • This is an entitlement program that needs to run through DHHS so this would be a partnership that we would need to enter into with them. • Commissioner Katz: Any idea how much we may be able to access? • Executive Director Tarpinian: Believe it is in the range of between 25% to 30% of the costs. Totally a couple of million dollars. • Commissioner Kilgore: Excited to hear that we are pursuing this and is willing to help in any way. • Commissioner Jordan: A new set of conditions for federal grants was just issued. Please review those carefully. • Commissioner Kilgore: Indicated that this is not grant money but part of Title IV-E. • Executive Director Tarpinian: Appreciates the information and will have that in the forefront of her thoughts. Pre-Petition Pilot: • Partnering with "MaineMom" to provide legal information from a PDS attorney for pregnant/postpartum women with substance use disorders to prevent unnecessary removals. • Dr. O'Conner has been working with PDS concerning some issues that she sees in her practice. • This legal help will be provided before the client has a case. • Goal is to drive down intervention and ensure that the court has all the information that they should have when considering removal. • An employed attorney would support these families through education and advocacy with DHHS. • Data will be reported back to the commission. • Commissioner Alexander: How does this intervene when the case worker is seeking a judge in the middle of the night? • Executive Director Tarpinian: The goal would be to be prepared for that mandated report going in and possibly safety planning so that the case worker never seeks
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	removal or that the judge has all of the information about this family. • Commissioner O’Conner: Supports pre-petition work. Who is the attorney who would be assigned? • Executive Director Tarpinian: Chelsea Peters. • Commissioner Soucy: This work is at the core of what DHHS is supposed to be doing. This is failure in the system and the benefits to the parents are huge. • Commissioner Katz: What is the statutory authority for this program? • Executive Director Tarpinian: Will review and report back. Both met with a warm reception and will be explored further by PDS.
Public Comment	Robert Ruffner: • Was up in Bangor at the PD office and noted that we should continue to look for employed defenders in other states as this is a desirable place to relocate. • Attorney Ruffner urged adding the budget shortfall to the Jan 5 agenda. The budget shortfall is not just with PDS as the judicial branch also needs additional funding to really solve the problem. • He believes that the Court appointing employed defenders without consultation is a dangerous practice. This is a separation of powers issue. Jeremy Pratt: • Would like the Commission to review the point system again. Specifically the homicide case points. These cases are very long and holding that many points for that long makes taking more cases difficult. • The majority of the work is 90 to 60 days before trial but they are two to three years long. • Another example is juvenile murder cases that are two points but if bound over would climb to over 30 points. • Class A manslaughter and tracking cases require a similar amount of work but have a much lower point value. Neal Prendergast: • Judges have issued orders appointing employed public defenders.

	• This seems to cross a threshold as the prosecutors choose who to prosecute, set bail conditions, and are now telling the courts who to appoint to the cases. This gives the prosecutors too much power. • If this is going to continue, this is a problem for due process. Attorney Prendergast requests that there is a plan going forward. Tina Nadeau: • Encourages the Commission not to change the point system for homicide cases. • Does agree that the points for juvenile cases should be reviewed. • Homicides are supposed to take up a lot of time throughout the life of the case. Prep and investigation should be over the life of the case. • The Commission is generous in granting waivers. • Prosecutors have specialized homicide prosecutors. • The point total reflects the seriousness of the offense.
Adjournment	Special Meeting for the Annual Report: Monday, January 5th at 3:00 p.m. Next Meeting: Thursday, January 22nd at 3:00 p.m.

Maine Commission on Public Defense Services- Commissioners
Meeting January 5, 2026
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Donald Alexander, Randall Bates, Roger Katz, Kelly O'Connor, David Soucy, and Joshua Tardy.

PDS Staff Present: Frayla Tarpinian (Executive Director), Ellie Maciag (Deputy Executive Director), and Darcy Fisher (Deputy Director of Operations).

Agenda Item	Discussion/Outcome
Annual Report	Commissioner O'Connor: Motion to approve the draft as circulated. Seconded by Commissioner Katz Discussion: Commissioner Katz: Very well-done report. The new draft was circulated today and Commissioner Katz would like any changes highlighted. Commissioner Jordan: Asked that the words "Maine Superior" be inserted when talking about pending litigation to make it clear that it was a state case and not a federal case. One other minor error on page 18, the word found should be the word fund. It was later discussed that the word would be changed to "establish." Motion: Commissioner Jordan proposed to change the word "found" to "establish" on page 18. Chair Tardy seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Alexander: • The revision today adopted many of his recommendations. • There were a couple of suggestions that were not included: ○ #1: Expanded explanation of the steps that PDS has taken to improve the system since the litigation started and the issuance of the 6th Amendment Report. ○ #2: Title 4 section 1807: No problem letting this expire as long as there was no financial impact and if authorized positions were not affected. As long as the court were still free to make appointments from the private bar. ○ Objected to proposal for new legislation to ban the court from appointing private attorneys on page 26, the first suggestion. The proposal would strike out the "or private attorneys" from that section. If this language is included in the report, Commissioner Alexander would vote against the report.

	○ Executive Director Tarpinian: This language was included due to the courts recently appointing employed public defenders without prior authorization. This is protective language for our attorneys. This does not mean that we would not work with the court if they would like to appoint a non-PDS attorney. ○ Commissioner Alexander: Thinks that this practice is a violation of Article 3 for the courts to be appointing employed public defenders. Additionally, the Board of Overseers have issued an opinion that the courts cannot force an attorney to take a case for little to no pay. Should leave things as established in the 2024 agreement where if PDS could not find an attorney the courts may appoint a non-PDS attorney. Chair Tardy: Motion to change the language to “no non-consensual appointments.” Motion Passed Unanimously. Commissioner Soucy: • Great suggestion about eliminating cash bail requirements from Commissioner Alexander. However, he does not think that they need legislation to do this as the judges are able to set the bail and there is no requirement for cash bail. • Scheduling delays due to late discovery: The requirement for the prosecutors and law enforcement to provide discovery is an inter-agency obligation that they have and the current way of addressing late discovery through sanctions is a painful and expensive way of doing it. He suggested instead that prosecutors should educate law enforcement about their obligations and added that it is well within the prosecutors’ capacity to address this problem. Commissioner O’Connor requested that an additional graph be provided that shows the distribution of age and geography. The information is there but there is currently no graph for this information. No objection. Commissioner Katz: What efforts will we make to disseminate this report? Chair Tardy: The list of enumerated recipients is included. Deputy Director Maciag: This gets sent to the parties of interest list, all PDS attorneys, reporters, link on the website, and Frayla will be presenting it to the legislature.
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	Motion to adopt the report as amended. Motion passed unanimously.
Adjournment	

MAINE COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES

December 2025 Operations Report

- 2,234 new cases were opened in the defenderData system. This was an 33 case decrease from November. Year to date, new cases are flat from last year, from 14,372 at this time last year to 14,303 this year.
- The number of vouchers submitted electronically was 4,258 an increase of 81 vouchers from November, totaling \$4,058,889, a decrease of \$44,194 from November. Year to date, the number of submitted vouchers is up by 21.1% from 21,690 at this time last year to 26,277 this year, with the total amount for submitted vouchers up 9.3%, from \$22,664,225 at this time last year to \$24,774,119 this year.
- We paid 4,555 electronic vouchers totaling \$4,470,191 representing an increase of 1,135 vouchers and an increase of \$1,341,406 compared to November. Year to date, the number of paid vouchers is up 16.2%, from 22,365 vouchers at this time last year to 26,010 this year, and the total amount paid is up 5.8%, from \$23,106,757 this time last year to \$24,454,488 this year.
- The average price per voucher was \$981.38, up \$66.53 per voucher from November. Year to date, the average price per voucher is down 8.9%, from \$1,033.17 at this time last year to \$940.20 this year.
- Child Protection and PDS Training had the highest average voucher total. There were 26 vouchers exceeding \$10,000 paid in December. See attached addendum for details.
- We issued 147 authorizations to expend funds: 66 for private investigators, 56 for experts, and 25 for miscellaneous services such as interpreters and transcriptionists. We paid \$255,072 for experts and investigators, etc. No requests were denied.
- There was one attorney suspension.
- In the All Other Account, the total expenses were \$4,835,269. Approximately \$121,061 was devoted to the Commission's operating expenses.
- In the Personal Services Accounts, we had \$1,110,041 in expenses.
- In the Revenue Account, the Judicial Branch transferred \$16,106 for counsel fee payments.
- As of January 5, 2026, there are 180 rostered attorneys of which 122 are available for trial court level work.
- For the first 6 months of this fiscal year, paid hours are up 5.8% over the same 6-month period last year. December 2025 paid hours are 5.1% higher than December 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	29574							162,727

Vouchers over \$10,000 - December 2025

Comment	Voucher Total	Case Total
Manslaughter	\$31,984.13	\$53,504.15
Domestic Violence Aggravated Assault	\$26,557.50	\$26,557.50
Homicide	\$21,025.56	\$28,676.17
Termination of Parental Rights	\$20,760.00	\$20,760.00
Homicide	\$17,493.68	\$17,493.68
Child Protection	\$15,819.00	\$15,819.00
Aggravated Attempted Murder	\$15,620.00	\$15,620.00
Burglary	\$15,420.00	\$15,420.00
Aggravated Trafficking	\$13,992.35	\$22,057.13
Assault in an Emergency Room	\$13,920.00	\$13,920.00
Homicide	\$11,813.46	\$11,813.46
Aggravated Assault	\$11,757.05	\$11,757.05
VCR	\$11,623.54	\$11,623.54
Gross Sexual Assault	\$11,563.30	\$11,563.30
Termination of Parental Rights	\$11,556.80	\$11,556.80
Gross Sexual Assault	\$11,445.00	\$11,445.00
Homicide	\$11,145.00	\$31,552.50
Homicide	\$10,920.00	\$12,411.00
Termination of Parental Rights	\$10,823.46	\$10,823.46
Theft by Deception	\$10,795.42	\$15,434.75
Termination of Parental Rights	\$10,650.00	\$40,080.00
Burglary	\$10,445.34	\$94,060.34
Aggravated Cruelty to Animals	\$10,241.10	\$10,241.10
Child Protection	\$10,155.00	\$10,155.00
Termination of Parental Rights	\$10,104.36	\$15,627.78
Child Protection	\$10,050.00	\$14,430.00

MAINE COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES

Activity Report by Case Type

12/31/2025

DefenderData Case Type	Dec-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	18	57	\$108,351.47	52	\$ 92,075.26	\$1,770.68	99	286	\$ 624,221.52	\$2,182.59
Central Office Resource Counsel	0	2	\$1,125.00	0			0	14	\$ 11,085.00	\$791.79
Child Protection Petition	110	636	\$804,988.94	739	\$ 881,650.50	\$1,193.03	899	3,990	\$ 4,772,643.18	\$1,196.15
Drug Court	4	20	\$45,832.98	16	\$ 31,090.34	\$1,943.15	33	105	\$ 210,305.00	\$2,002.90
Emancipation	3	9	\$4,379.50	6	\$ 2,445.00	\$407.50	32	53	\$ 32,218.43	\$607.89
Felony	627	1,348	\$1,402,112.86	1,446	\$ 1,603,254.90	\$1,108.75	3,627	8,280	\$ 9,030,762.12	\$1,090.67
Involuntary Civil Commitment	2	11	\$13,271.28	14	\$ 14,145.05	\$1,010.36	221	356	\$ 225,366.63	\$633.05
Juvenile	78	161	\$180,939.61	151	\$ 186,652.40	\$1,236.11	628	875	\$ 874,483.87	\$999.41
Lawyer of the Day - Custody	276	285	\$187,806.15	250	\$ 165,231.15	\$660.92	1,756	1,635	\$ 1,094,826.24	\$669.62
Lawyer of the Day - Juvenile	4	3	\$1,350.00	0			19	16	\$ 7,080.00	\$442.50
Lawyer of the Day - Walk-in	116	140	\$91,619.74	137	\$ 91,424.10	\$667.33	740	740	\$ 489,094.32	\$660.94
PDS Provided Training	30	65	\$108,038.14	125	\$ 273,113.00	\$2,184.90	454	468	\$ 629,976.18	\$1,346.10
Misdemeanor	823	1,228	\$868,099.19	1,319	\$ 920,836.67	\$698.13	4,702	7,155	\$ 4,908,335.60	\$686.00
Petition, Modified Release Treatment	0	2	\$2,130.12	4	\$ 2,025.12	\$506.28	5	26	\$ 29,643.26	\$1,140.13
Petition, Release or Discharge	0	1	\$810.00	1	\$ 810.00	\$810.00	0	5	\$ 24,795.21	\$4,959.04
Petition,Termination of Parental Rights	0	5	\$29,041.00	2	\$ 1,320.00	\$660.00	0	8	\$ 23,025.00	\$2,878.13
Post Conviction Review	1	31	\$29,295.50	27	\$ 22,157.00	\$820.63	18	186	\$ 226,860.53	\$1,219.68
Probate	1	2	\$330.00	4	\$ 2,190.00	\$547.50	4	18	\$ 16,274.44	\$904.14
Probation Violation	136	212	\$143,012.93	218	\$ 144,077.64	\$660.91	915	1,421	\$ 964,437.92	\$678.70
Represent Witness on 5th Amendment	4	2	\$1,575.00	1	\$ 465.00	\$465.00	10	7	\$ 3,041.54	\$434.51
Resource Counsel Criminal	1	6	\$7,425.00	5	\$ 3,105.00	\$621.00	3	29	\$ 22,459.78	\$774.48
Resource Counsel Juvenile	0	1	\$15.00	1	\$ 1,770.00	\$1,770.00	0	6	\$ 3,482.76	\$580.46
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	2	\$1,470.00	2	\$ 1,155.00	\$577.50	0	9	\$ 10,965.00	\$1,218.33
Review of Child Protection Order	0	10	\$21,030.00	10	\$ 20,139.00	\$2,013.90	0	58	\$ 83,779.64	\$1,444.48
Revocation of Administrative Release	0	1	\$555.00	1	\$ 555.00	\$555.00	3	9	\$ 3,735.00	\$415.00
Weapons Restrictions Case	0	18	\$4,285.28	24	\$ 8,504.10	\$354.34	135	253	\$ 131,305.01	\$518.99
TOTAL	2,234	4,258	\$4,058,889.69	4,555	\$ 4,470,191.23	\$981.38	14,303	26,010	\$ 24,454,488.18	\$940.20

MAINE COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES

Activity Report by Court

12/31/2025

Court	Dec-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	4	1	\$405.00	1	\$ 405.00	\$405.00	14	8	\$ 9,915.00	\$1,239.38
AUBSC	2	4	\$4,395.00	3	\$ 461.25	\$153.75	10	29	\$ 22,061.43	\$760.74
AUGDC	19	45	\$132,604.29	39	\$ 131,618.91	\$3,374.84	130	280	\$ 517,289.98	\$1,847.46
AUGSC	0	4	\$4,174.36	6	\$ 4,069.36	\$678.23	7	28	\$ 45,002.73	\$1,607.24
BANDC	20	75	\$66,952.50	92	\$ 95,415.26	\$1,037.12	270	587	\$ 598,539.03	\$1,019.66
BANSC	1	3	\$13,700.28	3	\$ 13,847.48	\$4,615.83	8	13	\$ 35,194.99	\$2,707.31
BATSC	0	0		0			1	1	\$ 1,215.00	\$1,215.00
BELDC	10	21	\$23,296.08	18	\$ 19,314.32	\$1,073.02	58	158	\$ 258,257.94	\$1,634.54
BELSC	0	0		0			0	0		
BIDDC	34	114	\$107,603.53	142	\$ 152,254.38	\$1,072.21	265	766	\$ 712,981.73	\$930.79
BRIDC	10	33	\$57,784.66	31	\$ 49,059.12	\$1,582.55	55	144	\$ 163,730.68	\$1,137.02
CALDC	0	8	\$3,210.00	10	\$ 5,116.92	\$511.69	21	52	\$ 35,566.35	\$683.97
CARDC	2	29	\$18,645.00	30	\$ 22,125.00	\$737.50	22	116	\$ 106,476.08	\$917.90
CARSC	0	0		0			2	7	\$ 4,470.00	\$638.57
DOVDC	0	9	\$7,844.84	10	\$ 5,451.08	\$545.11	23	67	\$ 66,524.72	\$992.91
DOVSC	0	1	\$ 101.00	0			1	1	\$ 827.18	\$827.18
ELLDC	4	40	\$38,493.33	39	\$ 43,725.62	\$1,121.17	54	288	\$ 265,004.91	\$920.16
ELLSC	0	0		0			0	1	\$ 322.50	\$322.50
FARDC	18	24	\$26,933.46	35	\$ 37,543.98	\$1,072.69	72	175	\$ 166,375.78	\$950.72
FARSC	0	0		0			1	0		
FORDC	0	12	\$10,230.00	9	\$ 5,340.00	\$593.33	15	58	\$ 42,529.11	\$733.26
HOUDC	7	18	\$17,177.52	19	\$ 13,695.00	\$720.79	32	107	\$ 105,651.80	\$987.40
HOUSC	0	0		0			0	0		
LEWDC	53	130	\$184,495.10	115	\$ 139,582.55	\$1,213.76	327	762	\$ 885,108.41	\$1,161.56
LINDC	1	12	\$4,609.52	13	\$ 9,155.68	\$704.28	35	69	\$ 65,136.40	\$944.01
MACDC	1	5	\$2,820.00	5	\$ 4,185.50	\$837.10	10	43	\$ 37,159.44	\$864.17
MACSC	0	1	\$1,837.71	0			2	2	\$ 8,625.51	\$4,312.76
MADDC	0	0		0			0	5	\$ 24,185.67	\$4,837.13
MILDC	0	0		0			7	8	\$ 12,719.36	\$1,589.92
NEWDC	7	18	\$13,978.10	19	\$ 12,527.96	\$659.37	55	141	\$ 116,435.39	\$825.78
PORDC	18	111	\$117,098.08	165	\$ 147,127.78	\$891.68	255	911	\$ 756,020.92	\$829.88
PORSC	0	4	\$2,555.50	3	\$ 2,460.00	\$820.00	8	17	\$ 13,638.56	\$802.27
PREDC	1	26	\$18,230.64	23	\$ 28,172.10	\$1,224.87	36	109	\$ 114,043.49	\$1,046.27
RODC	1	16	\$16,270.50	17	\$ 20,359.65	\$1,197.63	58	141	\$ 188,500.37	\$1,336.88
ROCSC	0	1	\$2,415.00	0			1	1	\$ 1,955.94	\$1,955.94
RUMDC	2	26	\$30,842.46	33	\$ 22,624.56	\$685.59	36	174	\$ 187,108.37	\$1,075.34
SKODC	8	60	\$90,849.34	51	\$ 79,725.50	\$1,563.25	127	314	\$ 450,296.57	\$1,434.07
SKOSC	0	0		0			1	3	\$ 2,664.77	\$888.26
SOUDC	5	20	\$19,167.26	32	\$ 23,729.04	\$741.53	55	162	\$ 147,932.75	\$913.17
SOUSC	1	0		0			3	4	\$ 2,512.50	\$628.13
SPRDC	2	3	\$2,070.00	3	\$ 2,280.00	\$760.00	12	29	\$ 27,142.50	\$935.95
Law Ct	18	46	\$99,387.73	47	\$ 95,614.84	\$2,034.36	94	247	\$ 557,930.67	\$2,258.83
Training	30	68	\$113,346.14	124	\$ 269,466.00	\$2,173.11	452	490	\$ 653,631.68	\$1,333.94
YORCD	288	450	\$402,614.84	457	\$ 374,147.21	\$818.70	1,600	2,624	\$ 2,505,508.91	\$954.84
ARODC	117	211	\$137,884.04	215	\$ 159,236.24	\$740.63	719	1,276	\$ 1,024,261.22	\$802.71
ANDCD	186	431	\$315,570.24	436	\$ 301,610.39	\$691.77	1,013	2,552	\$ 1,728,041.51	\$677.13
KENCD	194	251	\$222,262.10	238	\$ 190,795.72	\$801.66	1,105	1,371	\$ 1,234,357.33	\$900.33
PENCD	212	313	\$297,894.15	362	\$ 304,957.91	\$842.43	1,189	2,206	\$ 1,929,153.30	\$874.50
SAGCD	41	57	\$59,558.48	61	\$ 64,490.55	\$1,057.22	247	436	\$ 392,503.45	\$900.24
WALCD	48	78	\$48,509.81	110	\$ 100,397.71	\$912.71	418	492	\$ 463,103.78	\$941.27
PISCD	11	22	\$13,835.78	38	\$ 58,541.46	\$1,540.56	122	152	\$ 200,998.90	\$1,322.36
HANCD	32	57	\$37,941.84	66	\$ 53,315.52	\$807.81	275	365	\$ 315,776.76	\$865.14
FRACD	28	42	\$43,730.36	44	\$ 50,413.09	\$1,145.75	210	331	\$ 332,984.94	\$1,006.00
WASCD	22	35	\$35,279.32	47	\$ 58,924.48	\$1,253.71	265	331	\$ 371,420.73	\$1,122.12
CUMCD	421	828	\$771,856.20	831	\$ 818,973.39	\$985.53	2,471	4,342	\$ 3,885,445.86	\$894.85
KNODC	77	82	\$81,726.98	104	\$ 115,851.15	\$1,113.95	346	449	\$ 434,593.73	\$967.91
SOMCD	103	117	\$89,384.75	89	\$ 63,448.25	\$712.90	557	642	\$ 578,102.14	\$900.47
OXFCD	84	138	\$110,189.52	158	\$ 142,746.01	\$903.46	564	1,082	\$ 858,442.21	\$793.38
LINCD	49	65	\$44,599.87	74	\$ 63,648.79	\$860.12	297	352	\$ 283,065.85	\$804.16
WATDC	8	32	\$43,085.34	33	\$ 44,912.98	\$1,361.00	73	164	\$ 206,623.96	\$1,259.90
WESDC	12	34	\$31,729.42	31	\$ 29,594.94	\$954.68	109	201	\$ 176,906.36	\$880.13
WISDC	0	6	\$8,070.00	7	\$ 9,690.00	\$1,384.29	7	70	\$ 84,952.99	\$1,213.61
WISSC	0	0		0			2	2	\$ 3,331.80	\$1,665.90
YORDC	16	9	\$2,786.56	6	\$ 4,658.00	\$776.33	30	32	\$ 23,764.40	\$742.64
TOTAL	2,234	4,258	\$4,058,889.69	4,555	\$4,470,191.23	\$981.38	14,303	26,010	\$24,454,488.18	\$940.20

STATEMENT OF ALLOTMENTS/BUDGET
Maine Commission of Indigent Legal Services
FY26 As of 12/31/2025

Fund Approp Account Name			Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		Total	
GENERAL			1		2		1		2		1	
010 Z11201			PS		AO		PS		AO		PS	
Object Class												
Budget/Allotment			2,338,782.00		15,234,914.00		4,210,714.00		16,617,427.00		3,002,077.00	
Expenditures to date			(2,338,781.78)		(14,188,190.33)		(2,654,102.90)		(12,530,668.23)		-	
Encumbrances					(733,685.60)				(216,033.49)			
Total Available Allotment			0.22		313,038.07		1,556,611.10		3,870,725.28		3,002,077.00	

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS			Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		Total	
014 Z11201			1		2		1		2		1	
			PS		AO		PS		AO		PS	
Object Class												
Budget/Allotment			-		55,117.00		-		252.00		-	
Expenditures to date			-		(40,089.74)		-		40,089.74		-	
Encumbrances					(15,025.75)				7,304.94			
Total Available Allotment			-		1.51		-		47,646.68		-	

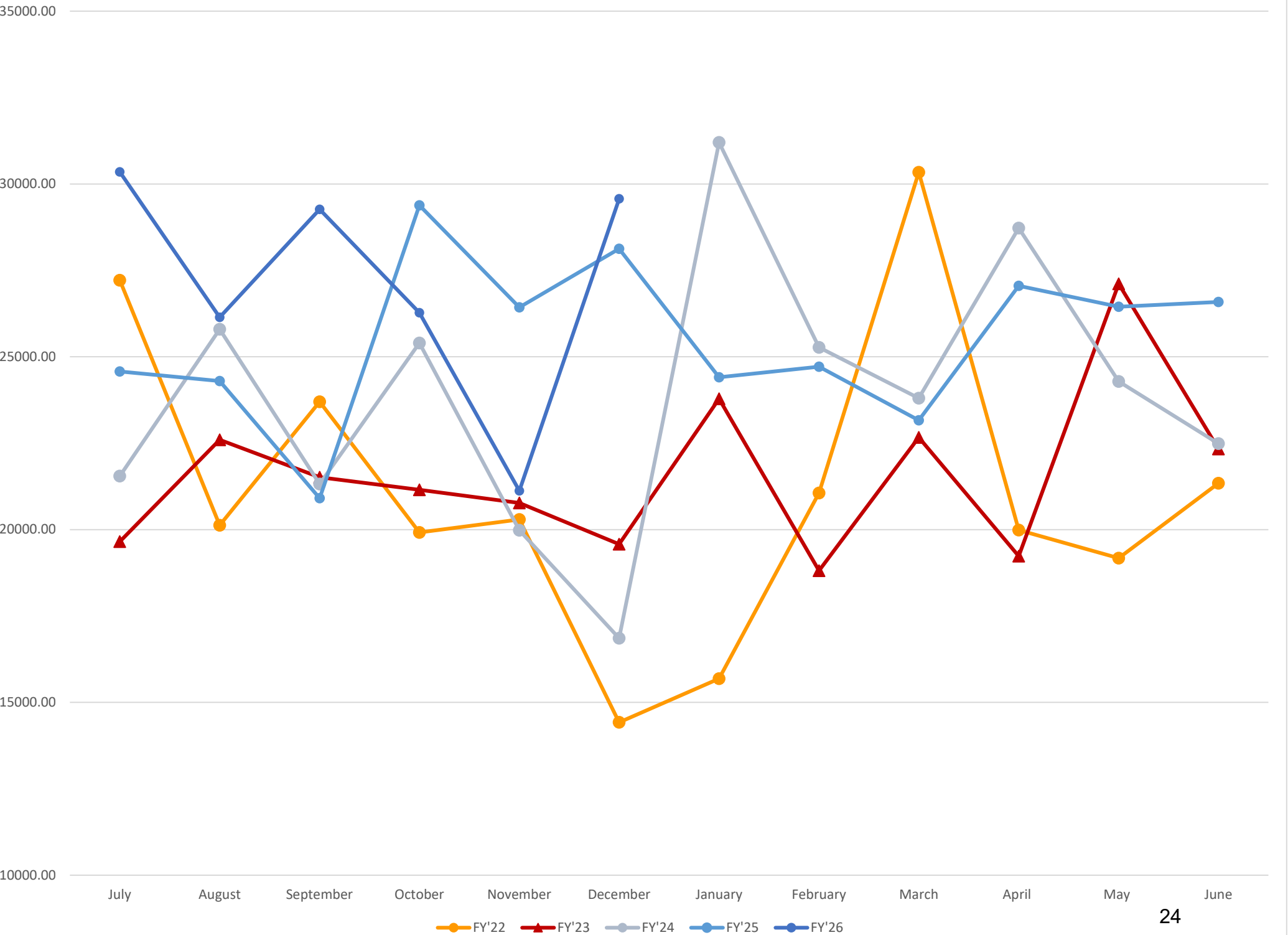
MAINE COMMISSION - INDIGENT LEGAL SVCS	
Dept	95F
Fund	010
Approp	Z11201
Expenses through	12/31/2025
Period	6
% of budget	50%
SFY	2026

		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	22,578,479.00	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		
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	
Aug-25	2	671,020.24	3,858,988.20	33.00	7,349.04	-	-	818.50	-	105,415.38	829.64	12,275.35	-	23,839.20	600.00	14,989.31	45.89	-	300.00	-		
Sep-25	3	709,069.15	4,560,907.85	-	16.00	-	-	-	225.00	112,992.00	6,630.00	-	56,831.00	144.50	7,934.87	-	-	-	150.00	-		
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	-		
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	-	-		
Dec-25	6	1,110,041.04	4,553,885.61	-	8,130.86	157.68	-	31,517.01	-	-	180,570.40	(650.00)	-	57,550.87	-	4,105.87	-	-	1.00	-		
Jan-26	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Feb-26	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Mar-26	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Apr-26	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
May-26	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Jun-26	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Total Expenditures		4,992,884.68	25,248,439.72	49,521.48	37,894.10	1,267.91	56.88	91,599.20	15.12	9,745.96	811,935.47	14,514.90	48,405.49	349,109.68	300.94	714.99	51,692.43	45.89	48.25	1,236.00	2,314.15	
Encumbrances			646,946.29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	534.03	18,000.00	-	194,757.01	-	-	89,481.76	-	-	-	-	
Estimated Remaining Expenses		4,769,259.84	27,000,000.00	99,042.96	37,894.10	1,267.91	56.88	91,599.20	15.12	9,745.96	811,935.47	14,514.90	48,405.49	349,109.68	300.94	714.99	51,692.43	45.89	48.25	1,236.00	2,314.15	
Total Estimated Expenses		9,762,144.52	52,895,386.01	148,564.44	75,788.20	2,535.82	113.76	183,198.40	30.24	19,491.92	1,624,404.97	47,029.80	96,810.98	892,976.37	601.88	1,429.98	192,866.62	91.78	96.50	2,472.00	4,628.30	
Remaining Funds Available		474,634.48	(30,316,746.01)	18,550,066.56	154,201.80	(2,535.82)	(113.76)	(108,198.40)	(30.24)	(15,731.92)	(1,565,554.97)	(39,129.80)	(96,810.98)	210,538.63	(601.88)	17,549.02	(149,193.62)	(91.78)	(96.50)	(2,472.00)	371.70	

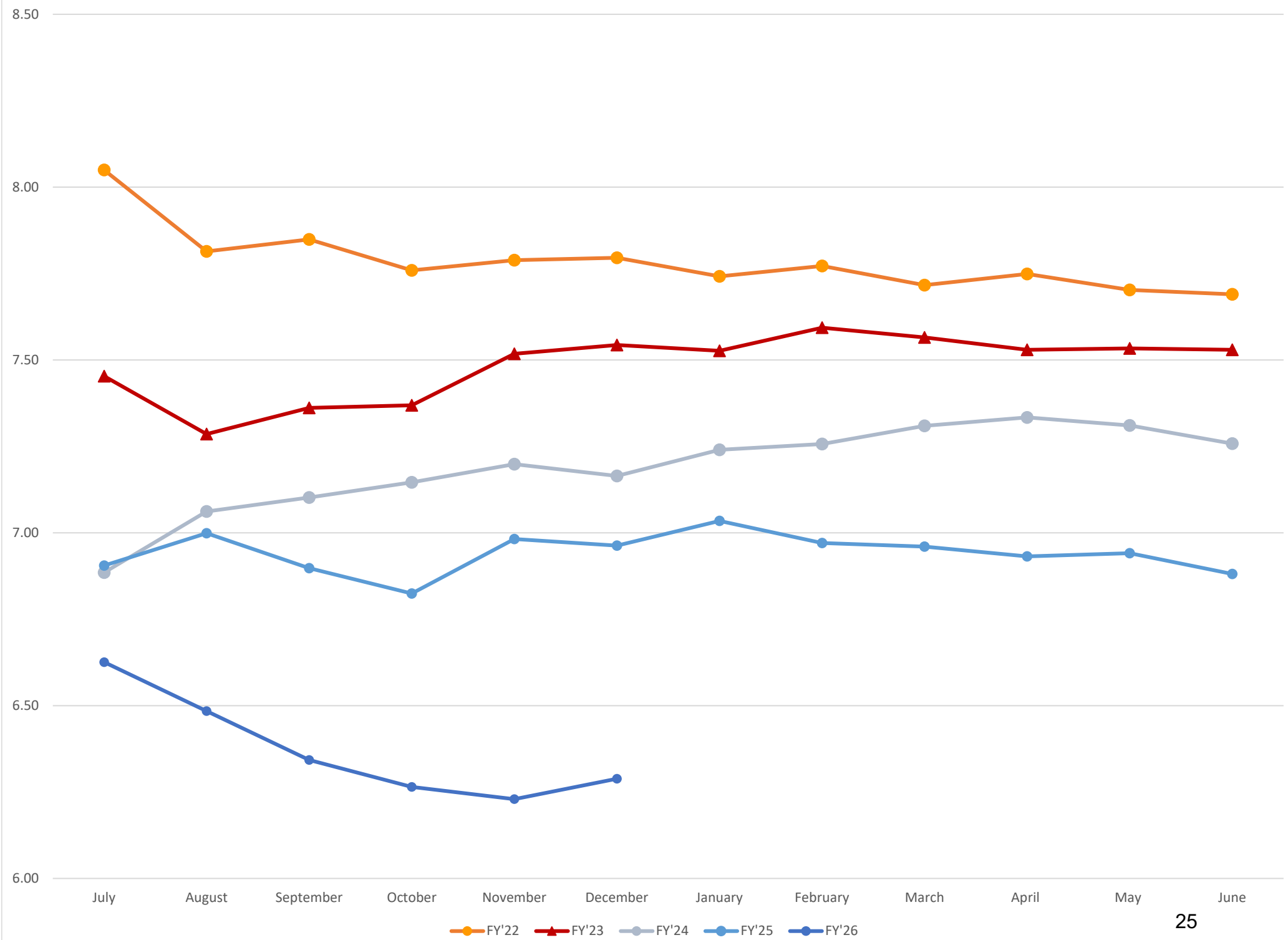
Period	6
Object Class	2

Sum of Expended Amount		Fund 010 Z11201
Object Revenue	Object Name	
4003	ACCOUNT & AUDIT SERVICES	800.00
4005	READER & INTERPRETER SERV	8,937.45
4031	INSPECT & INVESTIGATION	28,197.65
4040	COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEYS	4,459,134.23
4042	LEGAL SERVICES	150.00
4047	PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION	30,875.00
4075	CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES	15,631.86
4096	CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEE	3,184.66
4099	MISC PROF FEES & SPEC SRV	6,974.76
4270	AUTO MILEAGE-GEN IN STATE	7,045.26
4271	OTHER TRANSPORTATION	326.99
4274	MEALS AND GRATUITIES	438.61
4606	RENT BUILDINGS AND OFFICE	31,517.01
4911	POSTAGE	98.55
4913	INTRAGOVERNMENTAL SERVICE	15.77
4922	WASTE RECYCLING	18.00
4930	TRANSCRIPTS	51,545.80
4959	EXPERT WITNESS FEES	128,542.28
4983	DUES	350.00
5001	REGISTRATION FEE-NON STATE	(50.00)
5031	TRAINING FACILITIES	(600.00)
5150	FOOD	-
5301	OIT PROFESSIONAL CHARGES	10,965.41
5302	TELEPHONE SERVICE	1,902.70
5304	CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE	3,406.51
5310	IT END USER SERVICES	17,919.45
5312	IT CONSULTING-NON STATE	9,009.00
5315	IT APPLICATIONS-BY STATE	3,030.81
5331	NETWORK ACCESS	145.62
5341	LEASE PURCHASE HARDWARE/SYSTEM	1,076.55
5355	SOFTWARE MAINT / LICENSES	8,554.28
5370	MINOR IT EQUIPMENT	1,540.54
5602	OFFICE SUPPLIES	478.03
5627	PURCHASE OF BOOKS	1,452.84
5656	MODULAR FURNITURE	2,175.00
4398	OUT OF STATE TRAVEL ADV.	157.68
4275	MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	320.00
9009	MISC BILLING	1.00
Grand Total		4,835,269.30

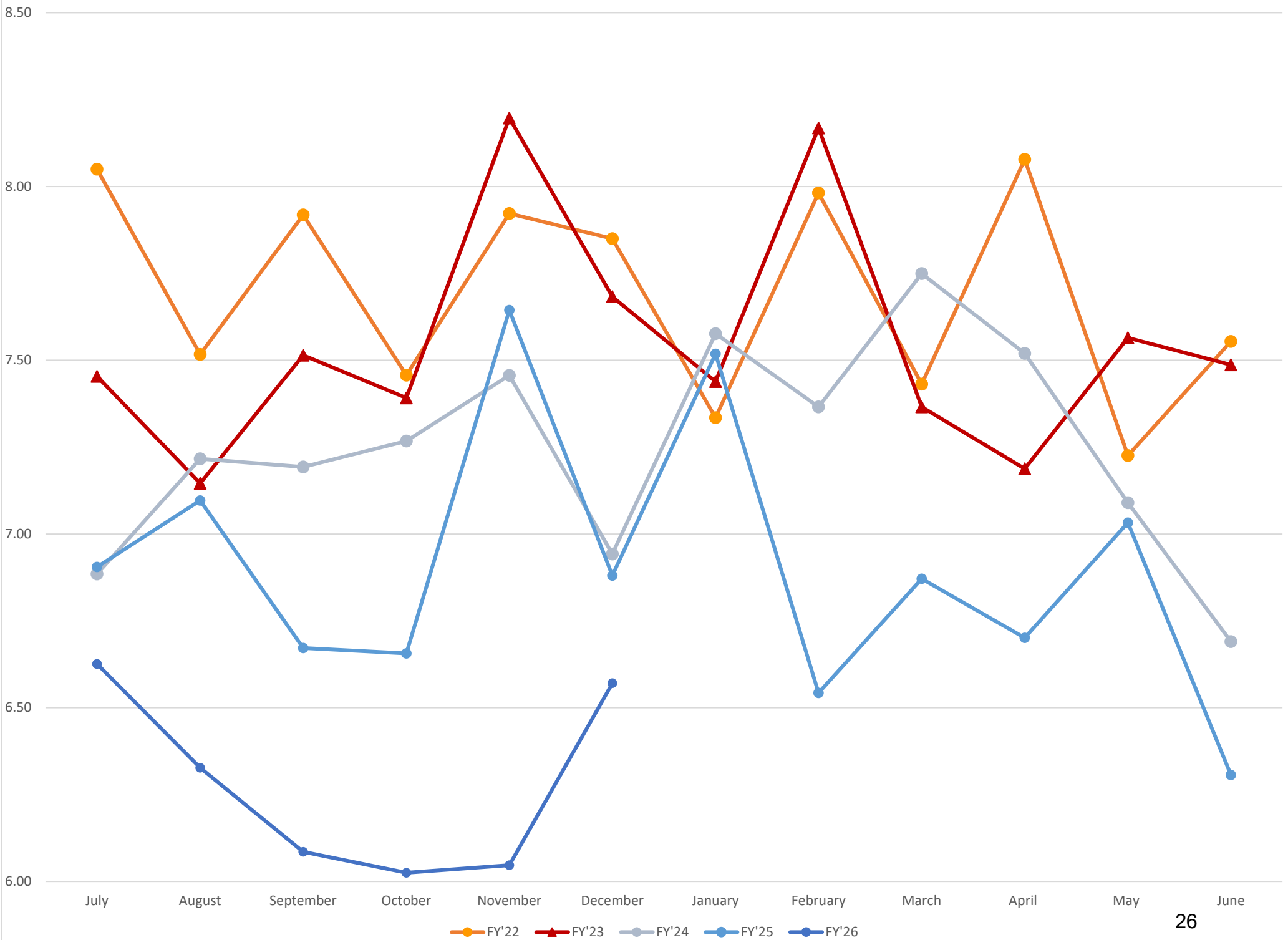
Paid Hours Amount



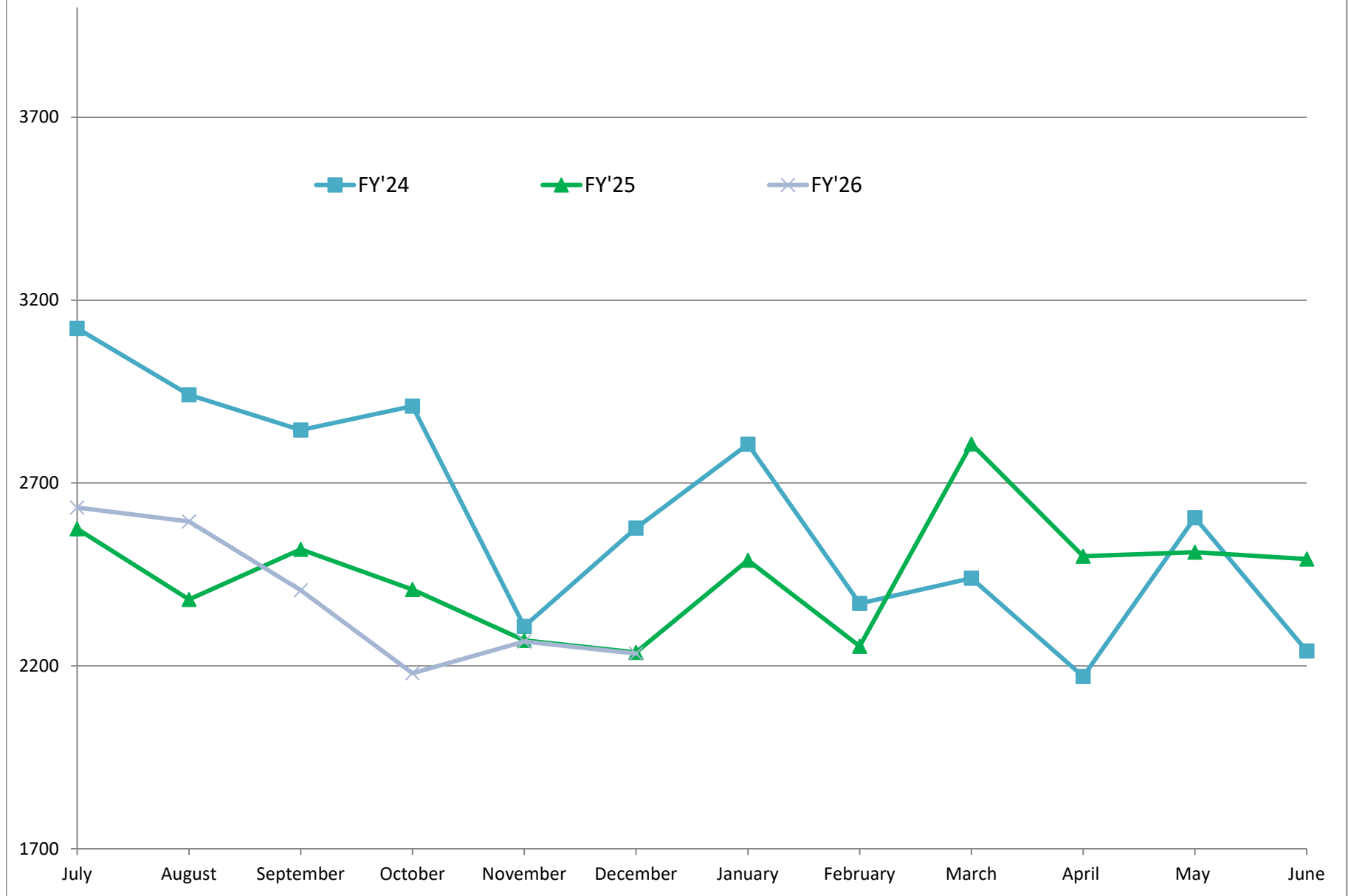
Average Hours per Voucher FYTD



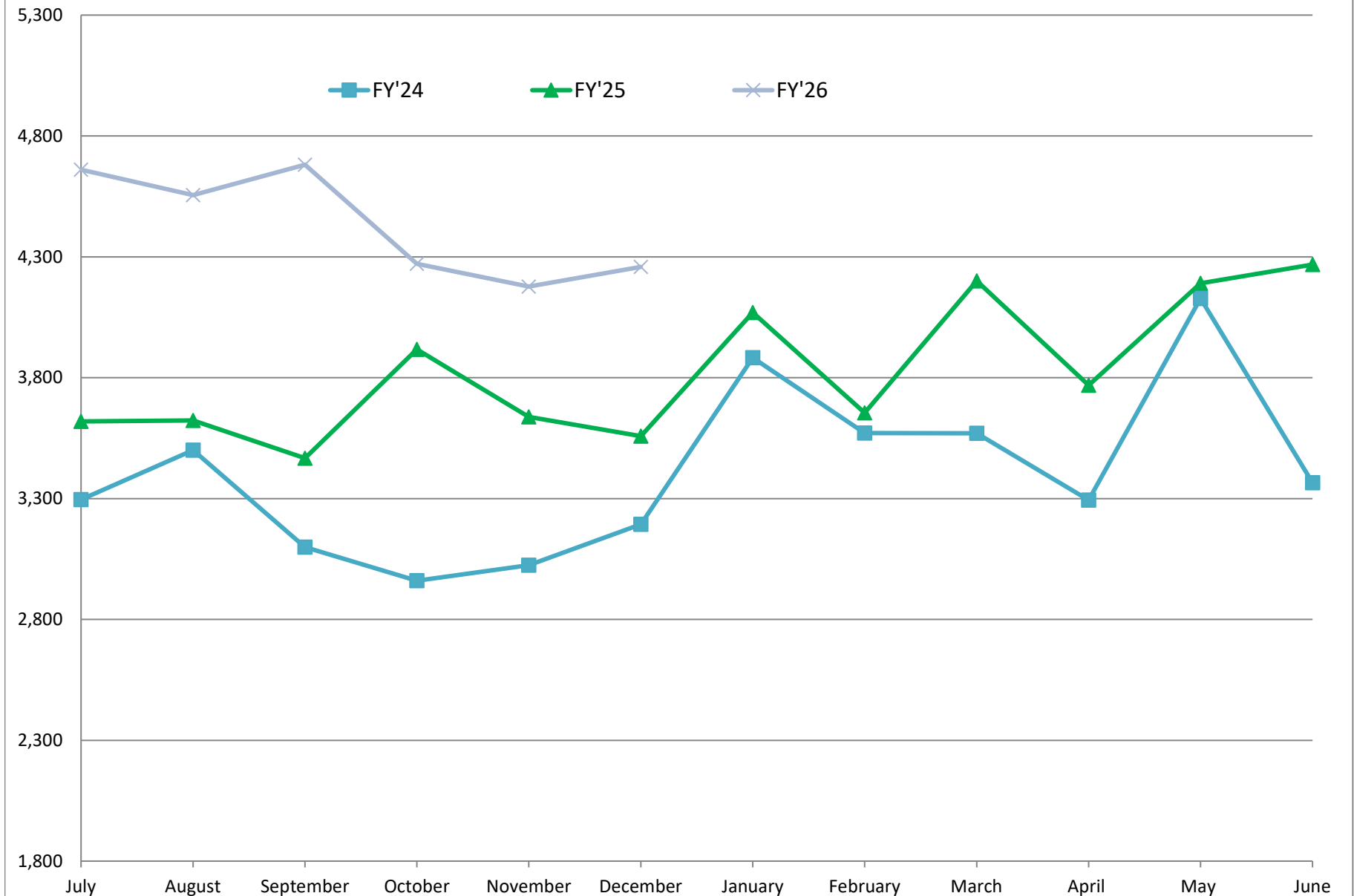
Monthly Average Hours per Voucher



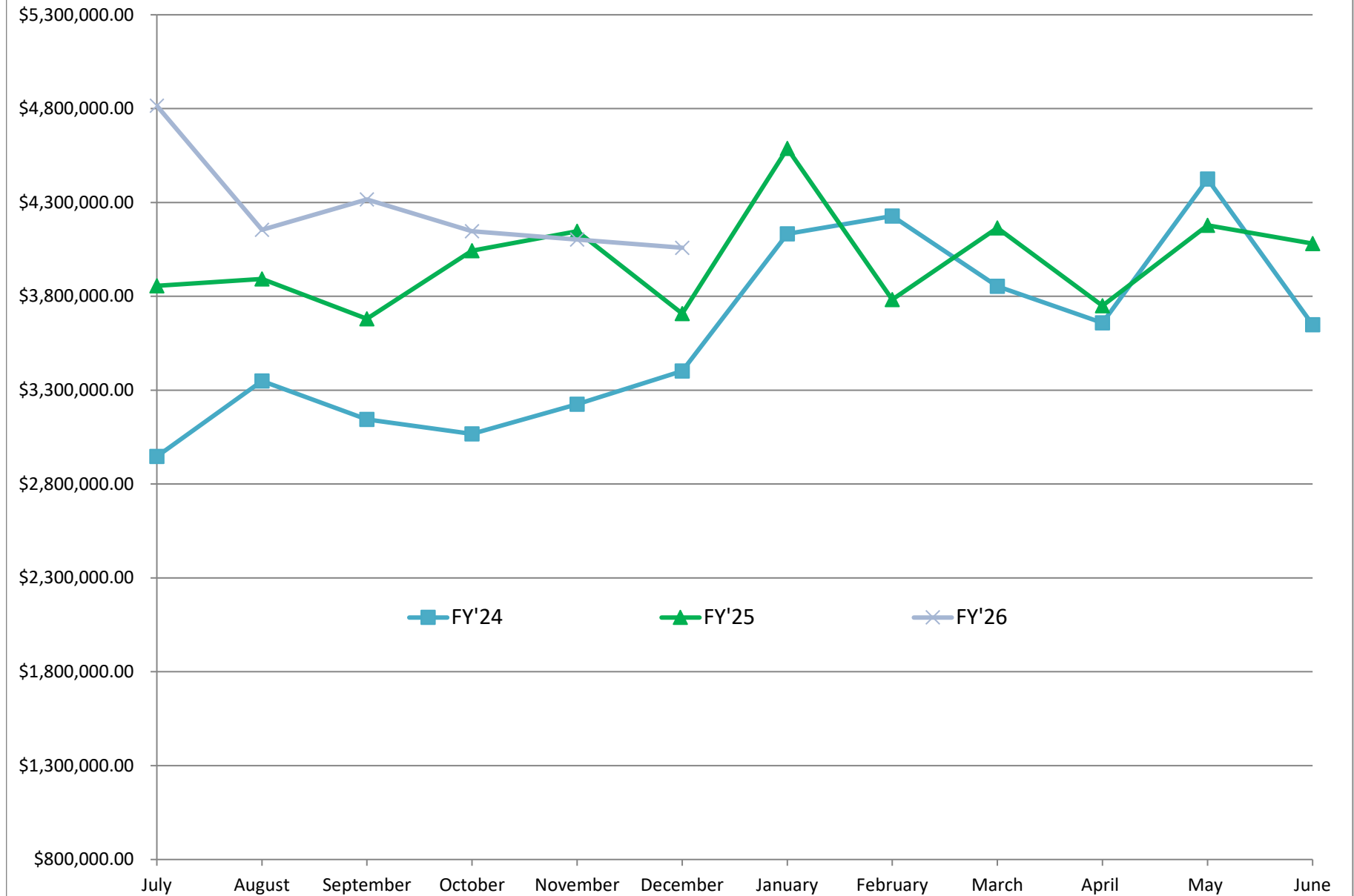
NEW CASES



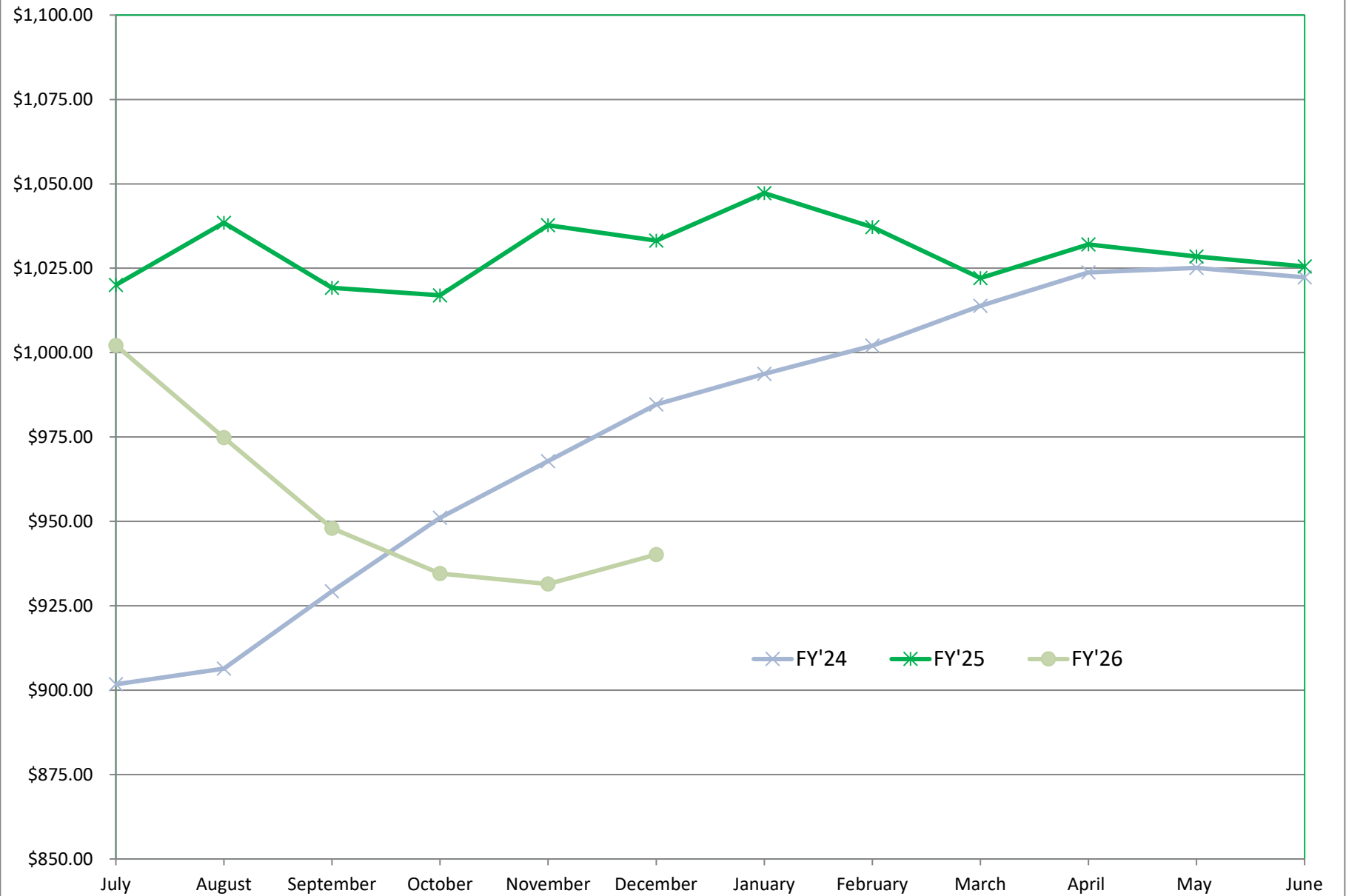
Submitted Vouchers

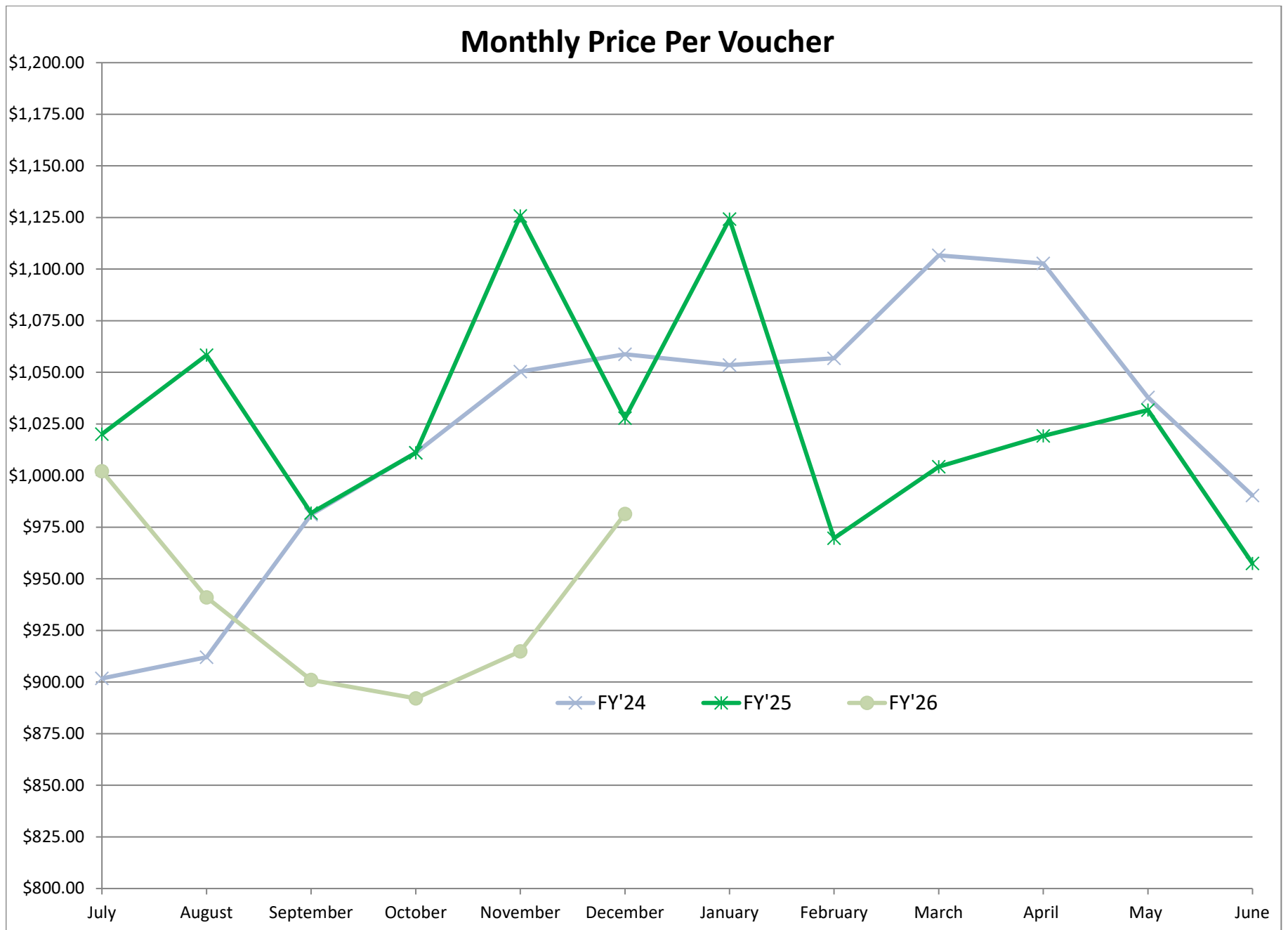


Submitted Voucher Amount



Average Voucher Price Fiscal Year to Date





Pending UCD Cases as of January 9, 2026

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	754	117	143	19.0%	1,449	207	514	35.5%	23	14	60.9%	2,226	324	671	30.1%
Aroostook	502	109	39	7.8%	737	255	134	18.2%	12	6	50.0%	1,251	364	179	14.3%
Caribou	100	22	7	7.0%	150	52	29	19.3%	2	1	50.0%	252	74	37	14.7%
Fort Kent	62	18	3	4.8%	149	64	34	22.8%	0	0	0.0%	211	82	37	17.5%
Houlton	159	27	9	5.7%	206	64	47	22.8%	3	2	66.7%	368	91	58	15.8%
Presque Isle	181	42	20	11.0%	232	75	24	10.3%	7	3	42.9%	420	117	47	11.2%
Cumberland	1,288	205	91	7.1%	2,943	483	522	17.7%	92	26	28.3%	4,323	688	639	14.8%
Bridgton	22	7	0	0.0%	247	55	61	24.7%	8	3	37.5%	277	62	64	23.1%
Portland	1,257	195	87	6.9%	2,386	369	367	15.4%	62	15	24.2%	3,705	564	469	12.7%
West Bath	9	3	4	44.4%	310	59	94	30.3%	22	8	36.4%	341	62	106	31.1%
Franklin	124	29	26	21.0%	333	88	131	39.3%	12	9	75.0%	469	117	166	35.4%
Hancock	226	32	12	5.3%	457	56	137	30.0%	25	9	36.0%	708	88	158	22.3%
Kennebec	605	107	51	8.4%	1,310	273	293	22.4%	19	12	63.2%	1,934	380	356	18.4%
Augusta	579	99	50	8.6%	873	174	187	21.4%	12	7	58.3%	1,464	273	244	16.7%
Waterville	26	8	1	3.8%	437	99	106	24.3%	7	5	71.4%	470	107	112	23.8%
Knox	253	28	20	7.9%	552	126	107	19.4%	8	0	0.0%	813	154	127	15.6%
Lincoln	183	32	18	9.8%	419	119	85	20.3%	12	2	16.7%	614	151	105	17.1%
Oxford	412	96	89	21.6%	718	189	193	26.9%	13	3	23.1%	1,143	285	285	24.9%
Bridgton	59	17	24	40.7%	90	19	40	44.4%	1	0	0.0%	150	36	64	42.7%
Rumford	106	29	7	6.6%	176	53	15	8.5%	4	1	25.0%	286	82	23	8.0%
South Paris	247	50	58	23.5%	452	117	138	30.5%	8	2	25.0%	707	167	198	28.0%
Penobscot	673	36	66	9.8%	1,567	29	442	28.2%	43	21	48.8%	2,283	65	529	23.2%
Bangor	653	36	63	9.6%	1,137	23	290	25.5%	20	11	55.0%	1,810	59	364	20.1%
Lincoln	5	0	3	60.0%	158	2	60	38.0%	15	9	60.0%	178	2	72	40.4%
Newport	15	0	0	0.0%	272	4	92	33.8%	8	1	12.5%	295	4	93	31.5%
Piscataquis	42	1	10	23.8%	70	2	31	44.3%	6	4	66.7%	118	3	45	38.1%
Sagadahoc	140	25	19	13.6%	368	111	89	24.2%	11	3	27.3%	519	136	111	21.4%
Somerset	336	74	18	5.4%	541	123	107	19.8%	13	9	69.2%	890	197	134	15.1%
Waldo	194	26	14	7.2%	336	86	61	18.2%	8	5	62.5%	538	112	80	14.9%
Washington	203	10	8	3.9%	330	55	52	15.8%	21	8	38.1%	554	65	68	12.3%
Calais	85	7	1	1.2%	160	23	28	17.5%	7	2	28.6%	252	30	31	12.3%
Machias	118	3	7	5.9%	170	32	24	14.1%	14	6	42.9%	302	35	37	12.3%
York	738	102	77	10.4%	2,505	586	611	24.4%	81	20	24.7%	3,324	688	708	21.3%
TOTAL	6,673	1,029	701	10.5%	14,635	2,788	3,509	24.0%	399	151	37.8%	21,707	3,817	4,361	20.1%

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, January 2025 to January 2026

Pending cases as of January 9 of each year

UCD	FELONY			MISDEMEANOR			CIVIL VIOLATION			ALL CASES		
	2025	2026	% Diff	2025	2026	% Diff	2025	2026	% Diff	2025	2026	% Diff
Androscoggin	752	754	0.3%	1,427	1,449	1.5%	16	23	43.8%	2,195	2,226	1.4%
Aroostook	553	502	-9.2%	811	737	-9.1%	23	12	-47.8%	1,387	1,251	-9.8%
Caribou	118	100	-15.3%	138	150	8.7%	7	2	-71.4%	263	252	-4.2%
Fort Kent	76	62	-18.4%	186	149	-19.9%	3	0	-100.0%	265	211	-20.4%
Houlton	156	159	1.9%	227	206	-9.3%	7	3	-57.1%	390	368	-5.6%
Presque Isle	203	181	-10.8%	260	232	-10.8%	6	7	16.7%	469	420	-10.4%
Cumberland	1,383	1,288	-6.9%	3,493	2,943	-15.7%	85	92	8.2%	4,961	4,323	-12.9%
Bridgton	24	22	-8.3%	339	247	-27.1%	18	8	-55.6%	381	277	-27.3%
Portland	1,338	1,257	-6.1%	2,783	2,386	-14.3%	50	62	24.0%	4,171	3,705	-11.2%
West Bath	21	9	-57.1%	371	310	-16.4%	17	22	29.4%	409	341	-16.6%
Franklin	147	124	-15.6%	321	333	3.7%	3	12	300.0%	471	469	-0.4%
Hancock	274	226	-17.5%	445	457	2.7%	26	25	-3.8%	745	708	-5.0%
Kennebec	572	605	5.8%	1,402	1,310	-6.6%	22	19	-13.6%	1,996	1,934	-3.1%
Augusta	538	579	7.6%	874	873	-0.1%	18	12	-33.3%	1,430	1,464	2.4%
Waterville	34	26	-23.5%	528	437	-17.2%	4	7	75.0%	566	470	-17.0%
Knox	210	253	20.5%	569	552	-3.0%	7	8	14.3%	786	813	3.4%
Lincoln	176	183	4.0%	437	419	-4.1%	10	12	20.0%	623	614	-1.4%
Oxford	480	412	-14.2%	859	718	-16.4%	11	13	18.2%	1,350	1,143	-15.3%
Bridgton	46	59	28.3%	82	90	9.8%	1	1	0.0%	129	150	16.3%
Rumford	174	106	-39.1%	332	176	-47.0%	5	4	-20.0%	511	286	-44.0%
South Paris	260	247	-5.0%	445	452	1.6%	5	8	60.0%	710	707	-0.4%
Penobscot	752	673	-10.5%	1,683	1,567	-6.9%	47	43	-8.5%	2,482	2,283	-8.0%
Bangor	734	653	-11.0%	1,294	1,137	-12.1%	16	20	25.0%	2,044	1,810	-11.4%
Lincoln	4	5	25.0%	161	158	-1.9%	24	15	-37.5%	189	178	-5.8%
Newport	14	15	7.1%	228	272	19.3%	7	8	14.3%	249	295	18.5%
Piscataquis	42	42	0.0%	69	70	1.4%	21	6	-71.4%	132	118	-10.6%
Sagadahoc	169	140	-17.2%	418	368	-12.0%	13	11	-15.4%	600	519	-13.5%
Somerset	301	336	11.6%	499	541	8.4%	8	13	62.5%	808	890	10.1%
Waldo	179	194	8.4%	360	336	-6.7%	10	8	-20.0%	549	538	-2.0%
Washington	157	203	29.3%	275	330	20.0%	26	21	-19.2%	458	554	21.0%
Calais	68	85	25.0%	109	160	46.8%	6	7	16.7%	183	252	37.7%
Machias	89	118	32.6%	166	170	2.4%	20	14	-30.0%	275	302	9.8%
York	780	738	-5.4%	2,724	2,505	-8.0%	59	81	37.3%	3,563	3,324	-6.7%
TOTAL	6,927	6,673	-3.7%	15,792	14,635	-7.3%	387	399	3.1%	23,106	21,707	-6.1%

Columns	
2025	Number of cases having at least one charge without a disposition, and without a currently active warrant as of January 9, 2025
2026	Number of cases having at least one charge without a disposition, and without a currently active warrant as of January 9, 2026
% Diff	Percent change in pending cases from 2025 to 2026. 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, January 2019 to January 2026

Pending cases as of January 9 of each year

UCD	FELONY			MISDEMEANOR			CIVIL VIOLATION			ALL CASES		
	2019	2026	% Diff	2019	2026	% Diff	2019	2026	% Diff	2019	2026	% Diff
Androscoggin	372	754	102.7%	1,327	1,449	9.2%	16	23	43.8%	1,715	2,226	29.8%
Aroostook	312	502	60.9%	578	737	27.5%	24	12	-50.0%	914	1,251	36.9%
Caribou	59	100	69.5%	144	150	4.2%	8	2	-75.0%	211	252	19.4%
Fort Kent	29	62	113.8%	114	149	30.7%	3	0	-100.0%	146	211	44.5%
Houlton	109	159	45.9%	128	206	60.9%	3	3	0.0%	240	368	53.3%
Presque Isle	115	181	57.4%	192	232	20.8%	10	7	-30.0%	317	420	32.5%
Cumberland	765	1,288	68.4%	2,438	2,943	20.7%	121	92	-24.0%	3,324	4,323	30.1%
Bridgton	8	22	175.0%	191	247	29.3%	18	8	-55.6%	217	277	27.6%
Portland	740	1,257	69.9%	1,916	2,386	24.5%	87	62	-28.7%	2,743	3,705	35.1%
West Bath	17	9	-47.1%	331	310	-6.3%	16	22	37.5%	364	341	-6.3%
Franklin	82	124	51.2%	263	333	26.6%	12	12	0.0%	357	469	31.4%
Hancock	207	226	9.2%	452	457	1.1%	27	25	-7.4%	686	708	3.2%
Kennebec	329	605	83.9%	1,128	1,310	16.1%	43	19	-55.8%	1,500	1,934	28.9%
Augusta	314	579	84.4%	614	873	42.2%	27	12	-55.6%	955	1,464	53.3%
Waterville	15	26	73.3%	514	437	-15.0%	16	7	-56.3%	545	470	-13.8%
Knox	138	253	83.3%	303	552	82.2%	3	8	166.7%	444	813	83.1%
Lincoln	100	183	83.0%	211	419	98.6%	7	12	71.4%	318	614	93.1%
Oxford	204	412	102.0%	532	718	35.0%	22	13	-40.9%	758	1,143	50.8%
Bridgton	25	59	136.0%	93	90	-3.2%	4	1	-75.0%	122	150	23.0%
Rumford	95	106	11.6%	195	176	-9.7%	6	4	-33.3%	296	286	-3.4%
South Paris	84	247	194.0%	244	452	85.2%	12	8	-33.3%	340	707	107.9%
Penobscot	382	673	76.2%	1,195	1,567	31.1%	145	43	-70.3%	1,722	2,283	32.6%
Bangor	372	653	75.5%	941	1,137	20.8%	104	20	-80.8%	1,417	1,810	27.7%
Lincoln	5	5	0.0%	87	158	81.6%	31	15	-51.6%	123	178	44.7%
Newport	5	15	200.0%	167	272	62.9%	10	8	-20.0%	182	295	62.1%
Piscataquis	16	42	162.5%	33	70	112.1%	7	6	-14.3%	56	118	110.7%
Sagadahoc	81	140	72.8%	253	368	45.5%	31	11	-64.5%	365	519	42.2%
Somerset	145	336	131.7%	553	541	-2.2%	50	13	-74.0%	748	890	19.0%
Waldo	113	194	71.7%	245	336	37.1%	7	8	14.3%	365	538	47.4%
Washington	109	203	86.2%	175	330	88.6%	31	21	-32.3%	315	554	75.9%
Calais	33	85	157.6%	72	160	122.2%	13	7	-46.2%	118	252	113.6%
Machias	76	118	55.3%	103	170	65.0%	18	14	-22.2%	197	302	53.3%
York	770	738	-4.2%	2,722	2,505	-8.0%	103	81	-21.4%	3,595	3,324	-7.5%
TOTAL	4,125	6,673	61.8%	12,408	14,635	17.9%	649	399	-38.5%	17,182	21,707	26.3%

Columns

2019	Number of cases having at least one charge without a disposition, and without a currently active warrant as of January 9, 2019
2026	Number of cases having at least one charge without a disposition, and without a currently active warrant as of January 9, 2026
% Diff	Percent change in pending cases from 2019 to 2026. 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.



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

Legislative Document

No. 2059

S.P. 852

In Senate, December 17, 2025

**An Act to Provide Required Funding for the Reimbursement of
Assigned Counsel and to Develop the Public Defender Office for
Cumberland County**

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 15, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative MOONEN of Portland and
Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, DUSON of Cumberland, Representative: SINCLAIR of Bath.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the State's constitutional and statutory obligations include ensuring that
4 each person facing a potential loss of liberty in a criminal or juvenile proceeding and each
5 parent facing a potential loss of parental rights in a child protection proceeding is provided
6 with effective representation; and

7 **Whereas,** on January 3, 2025, in *Robbins v. Billings, et al.* No. CV-22-054 (Me.
8 Super. Ct., Ken. Cty., Jan. 3, 2025) (Combined Order on Partially Dispositive Motions),
9 the Maine Superior Court concluded that the State has violated its constitutional obligations
10 under the United States Constitution, Amendment VI to provide continuous representation
11 to certain criminal defendants in the State; and

12 **Whereas,** the State's primary method for fulfilling its constitutional and statutory
13 obligations is through the appointment of qualified attorneys to provide indigent legal
14 services to eligible persons and reimbursement of these attorneys by the Maine
15 Commission on Public Defense Services in accordance with the hourly rate established by
16 law and the restrictions on eligible expenses established by the commission by rule; and

17 **Whereas,** due to a shortfall in funding, the Maine Commission on Public Defense
18 Services is anticipated to exhaust available appropriations to reimburse assigned counsel
19 in April 2026; and

20 **Whereas,** this legislation establishes authority for the Maine Commission on Public
21 Defense Services to develop a public defender office in Cumberland County, an area of the
22 State identified by the commission as experiencing a significant lack of attorneys eligible
23 for appointment to fulfill the State's constitutional and statutory obligations; and

24 **Whereas,** it is important to develop this new public defender office as soon as
25 possible; and

26 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
27 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
28 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
29 therefore,

30 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

31 **Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
32 allocations are made.

33 **PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES, MAINE COMMISSION ON**
34 **Maine Commission on Public Defense Services Z112**

35 Initiative: Effective April 1, 2026, establishes one District Defender position, one Assistant
36 District Defender I position, 4 Assistant District Defender II positions, 2 Paralegal
37 positions, one Field Investigator position, one Case Manager position and one Office
38 Specialist I position as well as All Other costs, including rent and parking, for a public
39 defender office serving Cumberland County.

40 GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
41 POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	11.000	11.000

1	Personal Services	\$329,976	\$1,425,698
2	All Other	\$153,286	\$218,850
3			
4	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$483,262</u>	<u>\$1,644,548</u>
5	Maine Commission on Public Defense Services Z112		
6	Initiative: Provides one-time funding to address the shortfall in funding available to		
7	compensate constitutionally and statutorily required assigned counsel in fiscal years		
8	2025-26 and 2026-27.		
9	GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
10	All Other	\$13,000,000	\$9,000,000
11			
12	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$13,000,000</u>	<u>\$9,000,000</u>
13			
14	PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES, MAINE		
15	COMMISSION ON		
16	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
17			
18	GENERAL FUND	\$13,483,262	\$10,644,548
19			
20	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$13,483,262</u>	<u>\$10,644,548</u>
21	Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation		
22	takes effect when approved.		

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill provides one-time funding to the Maine Commission on Public Defense
25 Services to address the shortfall in funding available to compensate constitutionally and
26 statutorily required assigned counsel in fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27. It also funds the
27 establishment of a public defender office beginning April 1, 2026, designed to serve 30%
28 of the criminal defendants entitled to indigent legal services in Cumberland County.

Maine Commission on Public Defense Services

Proposed Rule: Chapter 303, Procedures Regarding Legal Research Access & Materials

Detailed Basis Statement:

Pursuant to statute,

The Maine Commission on Public Defense Services, established by [Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 25-A](#), is an independent commission whose purpose is to provide high-quality, effective and efficient representation and promote due process for persons who receive indigent legal services in parity with the resources of the State and consistent with federal and state constitutional and statutory obligations. The commission shall work to ensure the delivery of indigent legal services by qualified and competent counsel in a manner that is fair and consistent throughout the State and to ensure adequate funding of a statewide system of indigent legal services, which must be provided and managed in a fiscally responsible manner, free from undue political interference and conflicts of interest. 4 M.R.S. § 1801.

The Commission is statutorily obligated to, “Develop and maintain a system that employs employed counsel and public defenders, uses appointed private attorneys and contracts with individual attorneys or groups of attorneys to provide high-quality, effective and efficient indigent legal services. The commission shall consider other programs necessary to provide high-quality, effective and efficient indigent legal services.” 4 M.R.S. § 1804(3)(A).

Access to legal research services and legal research materials is “necessary to provide high-quality, effective and efficient indigent legal services.” This Chapter establishes the procedures for attorneys to request access to legal research services and to request PDS purchase of or reimbursement for the purchase of legal research materials.

94-649 MAINE COMMISSION ON ~~INDIGENT-LEGAL~~PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES

Chapter 303: PROCEDURES REGARDING LEGAL RESEARCH ACCESS AND MATERIALS

Summary: This Chapter establishes the procedures for attorneys to request access to legal research services and to request PDS purchase of or reimbursement for the purchase of legal research materials.

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS

1. Executive Director. "Executive Director" means the Executive Director of the Maine Commission on ~~Indigent-Legal~~Public Defense Services or the Executive Director's decision-making designee.
2. MCILSPDS or Commission. "MCILSPDS" or "Commission" means the Maine Commission on ~~Indigent-Legal~~Public Defense Services.
3. Legal Research Services. "Legal Research Services" means a subscription based online provider of access to primary and/or secondary legal research materials. For the purpose of this ~~-rule~~Chapter, "Legal Research Services" are limited to the provider(s), if any, with which MCILSPDS has contracted to provide those materials.
4. Legal Research Materials. "Legal Research Materials" means other written or electronic materials an ~~eligible-attorney~~Eligible Attorney deems necessary to support the representation of a consumer of indigent legal services.
5. ~~Eligible Attorney~~Eligible Attorney. For the purpose of this ~~rule~~Chapter, "~~Eligible Attorney~~Eligible Attorney" means a Maine licensed attorney in good standing with the Board of Overseers of the Bar, ~~to whom~~who is ~~is or was~~ assigned to represent a consumer of indigent legal services in a matter approved by MCILSPDS.
6. Consumer of Indigent Legal Services. "Consumer of Indigent Legal Services" means a person entitled to representation at ~~state~~PDS expense under the United States Constitution or the Constitution or laws of Maine and who has been found indigent or partially indigent by a state court or by MCILSPDS.

SECTION 2. ACCESS TO LEGAL RESEARCH SERVICES

1. Any ~~eligible-attorney~~Eligible Attorney may apply to MCILSPDS for access to legal research services. If MCILSPDS grants that ~~eligible-attorney~~Eligible Attorney access to legal research services, those services shall be used exclusively for the benefit of Consumers of Indigent Legal Services.
2. Access to legal research services may be granted from month-~~to-~~month and shall be limited to those ~~eligible-attorney~~Eligible Attorneys who bear present professional responsibility for one or more matters on behalf of at least one eConsumer of Indigent Legal Services.
3. ~~Eligible-attorney~~Eligible Attorneys shall not access MCILSPDS contracted legal research services when an attorney does not bear present professional responsibility for one or more matters on behalf of at least one Consumer of Indigent Legal Services.
4. ~~Eligible-attorney~~Eligible Attorneys who have received access to MCILSPDS contracted legal research services shall inform MCILSPDS if ~~an-attorney~~they no longer bears ~~present~~ professional responsibility for one or more matters on behalf of at least one Consumer of Indigent Legal Services within seven calendar days of the conclusion of the attorney's representation of their last Consumer of Indigent Legal Services. At that time, MCILSPDS ~~may-will~~ terminate access to its legal research provider for that attorney.
5. As a condition of use of MCILSPDS contracted legal research services, each ~~eligible-attorney~~Eligible Attorney agrees to log the client for whom that attorney accesses that service in the manner prescribed by MCILSPDS, including through the service itself, if so directed.
6. ~~Eligible-attorney~~Eligible Attorneys who wish to be granted access to MCILSPDS contracted legal research services shall apply in the manner directed by the Executive Director, which may include a prescribed form and may also include a directive to apply through the MCILSPDS secure website.

SECTION 3. APPLICATION FOR PDS PURCHASE OF OR REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF LEGAL RESEARCH MATERIALS

1. Any ~~eligible-attorney~~Eligible Attorney may apply to MCILSPDS in the manner prescribed by the Executive Director for permission to purchase legal research materials that attorney deems necessary to support the representation of a consumer of indigent legal services.
2. The Executive Director may approve the PDS purchase of ~~for reimbursement for the purchase of~~ legal research materials by an ~~eligible-attorney~~Eligible Attorney if the Executive Director finds that the proposed purchase is reasonably necessary to support the representation of a Consumer of Indigent Legal Services.

3. The application for ~~permission~~ PDS purchase of or reimbursement for the ~~to~~ purchase of legal research materials shall be made in writing in the manner directed by the Executive Director, which may include a prescribed form and may also include a directive to apply through the MCILSPDS secure website.
4. 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 MCILSPDS Rule Chapter 301, ~~*Fee Schedule and Administrative Procedures for Payment of Court or Commission Assigned Counsel*~~, and other MCILSPDS procedures. The determination of the Executive Director shall be in writing and may be communicated to the applicant by electronic means.
5. ~~If the Executive Director approves the application, PDS will—when practical—purchase the legal research materials on behalf of the Eligible Attorney and notify the attorney of the same. If it is impossible or impractical for PDS to purchase the approved legal research materials, only then will the Executive Director grant permission for the Eligible Attorney to purchase the materials and be reimbursed by PDS.~~
- 5.6. ~~Eligible attorney~~ Eligible Attorneys who wish to be reimbursed for the purchase of legal research materials for which permission has been granted by the Executive Director pursuant to Section 3(5) herein shall seek reimbursement by providing the following documents in .pdf form:
 - a. The request upon which the Executive Director acted;
 - b. The decision of the Executive Director; and
 - c. Either payment confirmation from the vendor specifying the product purchased and the amount paid, or an invoice and proof of payment.
- 6.7. ~~Retroactive requests for reimbursement shall not be granted except in extraordinary circumstances on a showing that for reasons outside of that attorney's control, a timely request could not be made.~~
- 7.8. ~~Purchases made prior to the effective date of this rule shall not be subject to reimbursement.~~

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

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

EFFECTIVE DATE:

November 12, 2022 – filing 2022-222

DISTRICT DEFENDERS' COMMISSION REPORT

January 2026

Parents' Counsel Division Update

The PC Division is now fully staffed with four attorneys and a legal administrator. They cover Cumberland, Kennebec, Hancock, Washington, and Aroostook Counties. The relatively new collaboration with criminal district defenders in cases where there is overlap between criminal and protective custody matters continues to work well for clients impacted by both systems.

The PC Division attorneys continue to challenge the status quo at all stages of protective custody cases and are providing empathetic and high-quality counsel to the parents they serve. Some noteworthy results include attorney Chelsea Peters representing a former client whose previous case ended with a permanency guardianship. In cases where parents haven't been able to reunify with their children in the timeframe set by statute, Maine favors terminating parental rights as opposed to agreeing to permanency guardianships, which are a less punitive and draconian outcome. In the cases that do end with permanency guardianship, there is a narrow window in which a parent can return and move to modify or terminate the guardianship if their situation has substantially changed. There is no similar window to regain contact or custody if a parent's rights are terminated.

In this case, with Chelsea's help, the court granted termination of the guardianship and fully restored custody to the parent. This type of case holds a particular level of celebration because if that same parent's rights had been terminated, she would not have had a pathway back into her child's life.

Recognition for our non-attorney staff

When we tell stories about the accomplishments of the public defenders we often focus on the work of the lawyers – securing a not guilty verdict, successfully arguing a motion to suppress, or negotiating a favorable plea. I wanted to take a moment to highlight the important contributions of the non-lawyer members of our teams. Having full-time support staff is one of the key things that makes our public defender offices able to deliver excellent defense services to our clients more effectively and efficiently.

Our field investigators do critical work that can drastically change the outcome of a case for a client. Too often, the police reports we receive in discovery fail to paint a complete picture of the events and people involved in our cases. Proper and timely investigation uncovers exculpatory information that can greatly improve a client's defense. In my office, we recently had a case where our field investigator was able to get a statement from a witness that completely contradicted the police report. This information was presented at a bail review hearing and got a favorable outcome for the client.

We're also very fortunate to have experienced paralegals supporting our work. Ensuring clients receive timely communication about their cases is critical.

Paralegals make sure letters and notices go out to clients and necessary motions get timely filed.

An important function our paralegal in the Downeast office has taken on is managing clients on deferred dispositions. Very often, deferred dispositions require check-ins, monthly payments, or documentary evidence provided to the DA's office. For many clients, these requirements can be overwhelming and easily forgotten. Our paralegal works directly with clients on deferred disposition to make sure they understand all their obligations and facilitate any communication with the court and the DA's office. This is vital work that helps our clients get the best outcome they can.

Each office also has a legal administrator who is essential to the functioning of our public defender system. Navigating communication between our office, the courts, the DA, PDS central office, and all our vendors is no small task. We are very lucky in Downeast to have hired a talented administrator who had many years of experience working in our county DA's office. Not only do we benefit from her experience as an administrator, but also from the existing relationships she has with the court clerks and the DA's office. Statewide, our legal administrators have been essential in making the roll out of the public defender offices a success.

Report from Aroostook

The Aroostook County Public Defenders' office will be looking for another attorney to join their team soon. The vacancy was created when Mackenzie Deveau, the first Assistant Defender to be hired by PDS for the RDU, made the move to

The Casco Bay Public Defenders' office. While the team is happy to see Kenzie move onto another chapter in her career as an Assistant Defender, they will miss her hard work, commitment, and adaptability in the Caribou office. Kenzie leaves the office with 5 jury trial acquittals and an innumerable amount of great advocacy under her belt.

Massive Systemic Discovery Problem at Bangor PD Uncovered by Highlands Region Public Defenders

In mid-December as HRPD was getting ready for trial on an Elevated Aggravated Assault case, it became clear that they did not have all the automatic discovery materials. Trial was scheduled for December 17 and 18. On December 12, Ben Olsen, lead counsel on the case, reached out to Deputy DA Chelsea Lynds to inquire about the missing discovery.

DDA Lynds followed up and learned that in a significant quantity of discovery had not been shared with Defense counsel. She followed up with Bangor PD to identify the source of the problem.

Beginning on the afternoon of 12/15, the Highlands' office received nearly 5 GB of electronic discovery including audio recordings of interviews with their client, with the complaining witness, and other witnesses. The large volume of previously missing discovery would take many hours to review. Due to limitations on download speed, HRPD did not even have access to all this data until 1 PM on 12/16, the day before the trial was scheduled to start.

As a result of this clear discovery violation, the State changed its negotiating position from 15 years on the Class A, to 9 months on a Class C. The client accepted that offer and was sentenced on 12/17.

At the insistence of the HRPD office, the court then held a hearing to inquire as to the nature, extent and cause of this discovery violation. The State conceded that it was a discovery violation. The court heard from DDA Lynds, and from Lieutenant Brent Boulrier, the head of the Criminal Investigation Division at Bangor Police Department.

At the hearing, it was illustrated that a staffing change at Bangor PD in early 2025 had resulted in Bangor PD failing to follow its established procedure for informing the DA's office clerical staff, who in turn were supposed to share with defense counsel, when any secondary, later or additional discovery materials were uploaded to Watchguard, their discovery platform. The Prosecutors have access to an entire Watchguard file at will, any time. On the other hand, Defense counsel relies on the DA's office to send links via email that allow them to open the file and download the contents. Notably, this link expires after two weeks, and defense counsel do not retain access to the Watchguard file for the duration of the case, unlike the DA's office.

When the Bangor PD employee who was responsible for uploading discovery changed, no one trained the new person about the need to notify the DA's office clerical staff when secondary or additional discovery uploads occurred in their cases. For nearly the entirety of 2025, no defense counsel handling cases originating with Bangor PD got notified of any additional discovery uploads after the original discovery packet was shared. HRPD has now identified 93 Bangor PD cases handled by their office in 2025 potentially impacted by this.

Despite DDA and Captain Boulrier's assurance that there would be a full audit of the violations caused by this lack of training and negligence, HRPD has heard about additional discovery in just one case since December 17.

When DD Perkins shared this development with the MACDL list serve, notifying Penobscot County practitioners of this problem, another local practitioner shared that they had discovered this problem in October of 2025, during a hearing on a Motion to Compel discovery. In that matter, the defense attorneys had been continuously asking for discovery materials, the State had repeatedly asserted that everything had been shared. When the Court ordered the State to "reshare," discovery, Defense counsel was inundated with additional discovery they had never previously seen from the Bangor PD Watchguard system. Based on this attorney's description and the Court's Order in that matter, it appears that the Bangor PD, and the Penobscot DA's office had constructive notice of this problem in October, when the court wrote, "It became evident during the hearing that the most significant issue is a technical problem with the Defendant's access to documents made available to him through electronic means by the Bangor Police Department."

HRPD is now in the process of following up on the remaining 92 cases potentially impacted by this violation with the Penobscot County DAs office, and our local AAG drug prosecutor.

Report from Casco Bay PD

The Casco Bay Public Defender's office now has four attorneys working on representing previously unrepresented Mainers as a result of LD 1101. Currently, there are less than 20 unrepresented Defendants in Cumberland County, a significant decrease from when the first Assistant Defender started in the late summer of 2025.

Report from Tri-County

District Defender Archer reports that in the past few months the Tri-County office has helped bring the list of unrepresented people down to only those who that office could not represent due to conflicts. The Assistant Defenders in that office continue to advocate zealously and reach favorable outcomes for their clients.

