

Office of The Public Defender Overview



Mission Statement

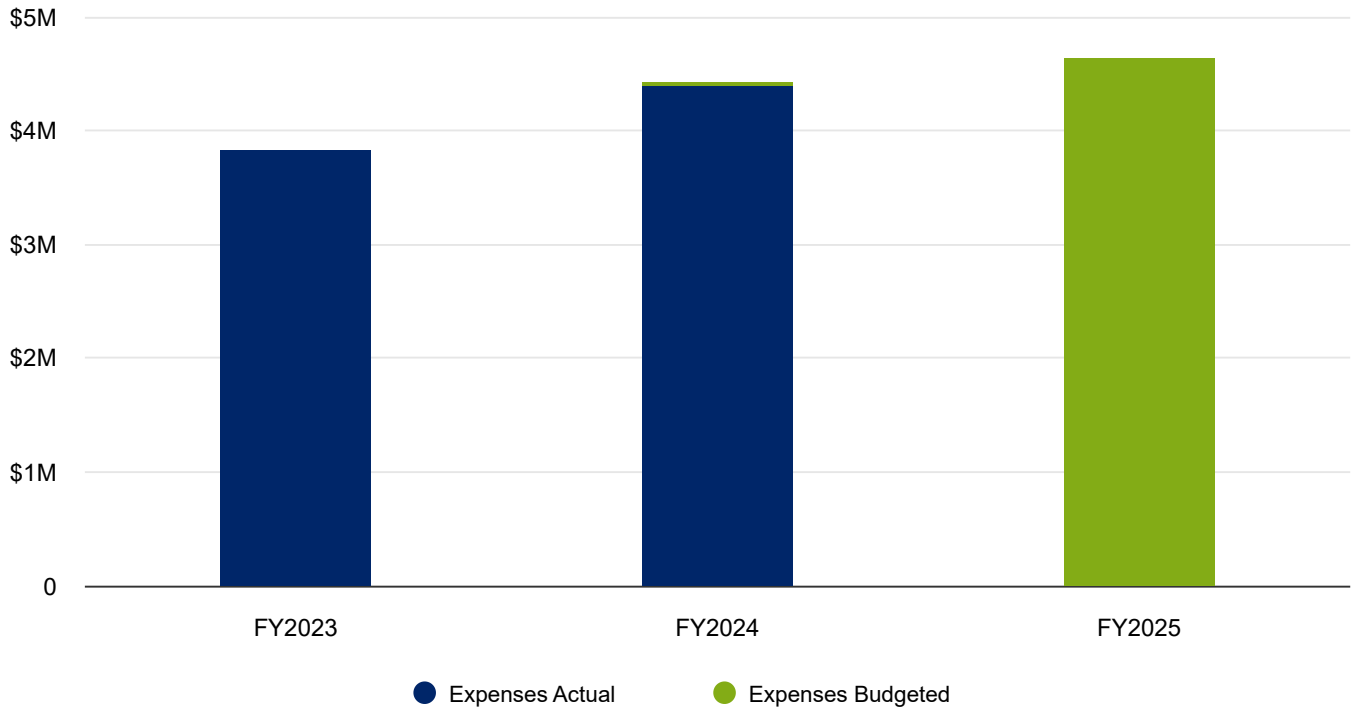
To provide quality, diligent and ethical representation of indigent defendants entitled to appointed counsel in Tucson City Court and to protect and defend the rights guaranteed by the United States and Arizona Constitutions.

Expenditure Summary

\$4,639,260

\$213,852 / 4.61% Higher Than the Prior Year's Budget

Historical Expenditures Across Department



Significant Changes

The adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2025 is \$4,639,260, reflecting a net increase of \$213,852 compared to the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. Key changes include:

- A \$240,867 increase in salaries and benefits, supporting staff retention, recruitment, and competitive compensation.
- A small decrease of \$27,015 in services and supplies, reflecting efficiencies and cost containment in operational spending.

Trends

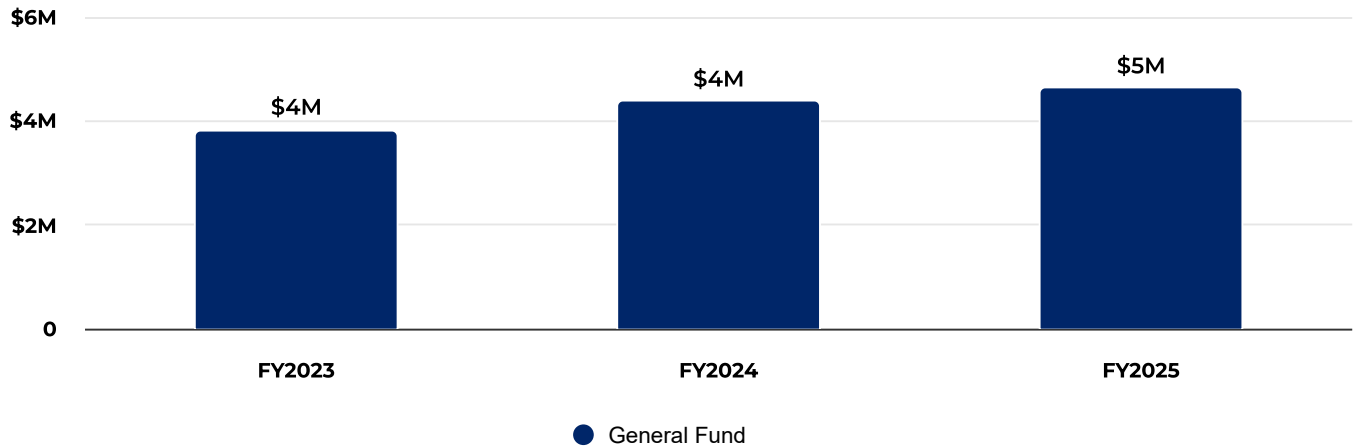
The department continues to advance a holistic approach to Criminal Justice, focusing on individualized support for clients while also addressing their legal matters. This person-centered model aims to improve outcomes by considering the broader needs of each client, such as behavioral health, housing, and rehabilitation, alongside their criminal charges.

Expenditures by Fund

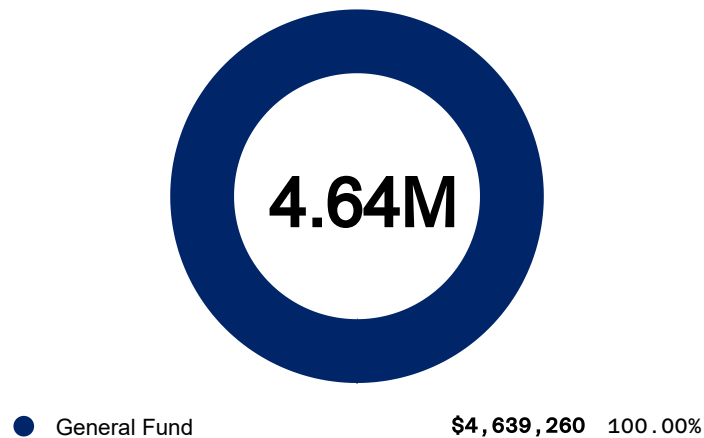
This chart shows a steady increase in General Fund spending over the past three fiscal years, reflecting continued investment in personnel, services, and program support.

- Fiscal Year 2023: Expenditures were approximately \$4 million, supporting core operations and staff.
- Fiscal Year 2024: Spending remained consistent, with a slight increase to maintain service levels and address inflation-related costs.
- Fiscal Year 2025: Expenditures are projected to grow to \$5 million, reflecting a planned increase in staffing costs, program expansion, and other operational needs.

Historical Expenditures by Fund



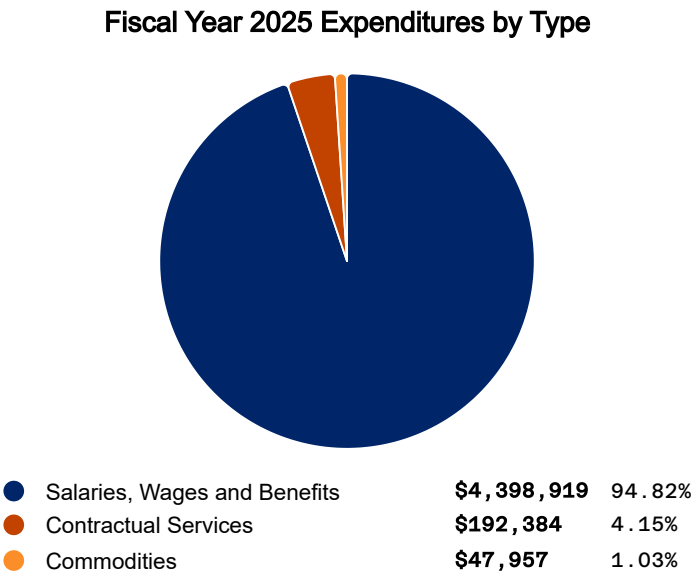
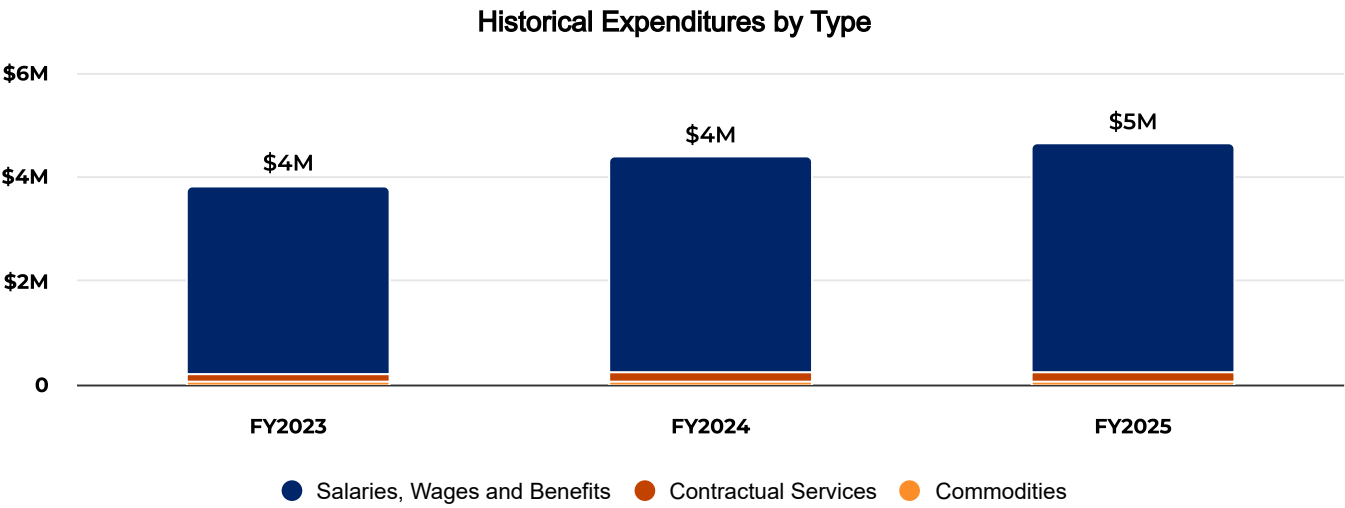
Fiscal Year 2025 Expenditures by Fund



Expenditures by Type

This chart illustrates how spending has been allocated across key expense categories over the last three fiscal years, with a consistent emphasis on personnel costs.

- Fiscal Year 2023: Total expenditures were \$4 million, with the majority spent on Salaries, Wages, and Benefits. Smaller portions supported Contractual Services and Commodities.
- Fiscal Year 2024: Spending remained consistent at \$4 million, maintaining the same proportional distribution, with most funding dedicated to staff compensation.
- Fiscal Year 2025: Expenditures are projected to rise to \$5 million, primarily due to increased costs in Salaries and Benefits, reflecting investments in workforce retention, recruitment, and adjustments for inflation. Contractual Services and Commodities remain a minor share of total expenses.



Accomplishments

Our continued support and involvement with our current Specialty Courts and the establishment of a Community Court are paramount to our clients' success.

We continue to work with local behavioral health agencies, Tucson's Housing First, Community Safety, Health and Wellness team and partners at Pima County Government. These relationships help to better address our clients' needs and open the doors for wraparound services.

Future Objectives

We will continue to focus on how to better serve our clientele by addressing more than their criminal charges. The use of a social worker to focus on wraparound services is essential to changing lives.

Additional focus is placed on preparing for future retirements, as we build a strong team for the future. Significant effort will be focused on the national shortage of criminal defense attorneys and recruitment of staff.

Position Resources

Fiscal Year 2025 Adopted FTE Count

