



TEXAS INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION MEETING NOTEBOOK

DECEMBER 1, 2025

GRANTS AND REPORTING COMMITTEE MEETING – 9:00 A.M.

**revised December 1, 2025*

Zoom Meeting/YouTube Streamed Live:

[TIDC YouTube Channel](#)



209 W. 14th Street, Room 202
Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: 512-936-6994; Fax: 512-463-5724
www.tidc.texas.gov

Chair:

Honorable Missy Medary Corpus Christi, Presiding Judge, 5th Administrative Judicial Region of Texas

Ex Officio Members:

Honorable Jimmy Blacklock	Austin, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Texas
Honorable Brandon Creighton	Conroe, State Senator
Honorable Emily Miskel	Dallas, Fifth District Court of Appeals
Honorable Joseph “Joe” Moody	El Paso, State Representative
Honorable David J. Schenck	Austin, Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals
Honorable John Smithee	Amarillo, State Representative

Members Appointed by the Governor:

Mr. Alex Bunin	Houston, Chief Public Defender, Harris County Public Defender Office
Mr. James D. “Jim” Bethke	San Antonio, Executive Director, Bexar County Managed Assigned Counsel Office
Mr. Jay Cohen	Houston, Attorney, Blass Law PLLC
Honorable Valerie Covey	Williamson County, Commissioner Precinct 3
Honorable Richard Evans	Bandera, Bandera County Judge
Honorable Missy Medary	Corpus Christi, Presiding Judge, 5th Administrative Judicial Region of Texas
Honorable “J.R.” Woolley Jr.	Waller, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2

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TEXAS INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION
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Austin, Texas 78701

DATE: December 1, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.
Meeting via Zoom/YouTube

AGENDA

The Grants and Reporting Committee may discuss or act on any of the following items:

1. Commencement— *Justice Emily Miskel*
2. Attendance
3. Approval of minutes from August 22, 2025
4. Consider new Improvement Grant applications
5. Consider new grant requests for Temporary or One-Time Assistance for Existing Rural Defender Programs
6. Consider grant modification requests
7. Consider new policy regarding improvement grant eligibility following termination of funded programs
8. Consider FY27 Improvement Grant Request for Applications (RFA)
9. Consider new extraordinary grant disbursement requests
10. Public comment
11. Adjourn

TEXAS INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

Roll Call GRANTS & REPORTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

	MEMBER	PRESENT / ABSENT
1	THE HONORABLE EMILY MISKEL	
2	THE HONORABLE JAMES R. "J.R." WOOLLEY, JR.	
3	MR. JAY COHEN	

Texas Indigent Defense Commission
Minutes of Meeting
Grants and Reporting Committee

August 22, 2025 – Meeting via Zoom/YouTube

Justice Miskel called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Roll was called. Grants and Reporting (G&R) Committee Members present: Justice Emily Miskel and Mr. Jay Cohen. Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) staff present: Mr. Edwin Colfax, Mr. Scott Ehlers, Ms. Dorian Torres, Mr. Eric Schneider, and Mr. Bill Cox.

Quorum has been met. Justice Miskel moved the motion to approve the minutes from June 20, 2025 Grants and Reporting Committee meeting and noted that Mr. Cohen was not present for the meeting. Mr. Colfax confirmed that Mr. Cohen may second conditionally. Mr. Cohen seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Colfax presented the draft budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 that will be taken up for adoption at the upcoming Full Board meeting. The Legislature allowed TIDC to carry forward \$10,000 to use for existing rural defender programs for one-time assistance. TIDC also received a supplemental appropriation of \$5.1 million dollars from House Bill (HB) 500 for the next biennium. This budget will accommodate all of today's recommended grant awards with \$3.2 million that is unbudgeted and still available.

Mr. Colfax presented the grant request that was left pending at the June Full Board meeting from Atascosa County. Atascosa County is requesting an Improvement Grant of \$200,200 to fund the defense component for the newly created specialty court program, the 81st Judicial District Mental Health Court of Atascosa County. The two positions (one attorney and one social worker) will focus on clients with mental illness that are facing non-violent felony charges. The defense component of the program will operate within the existing Atascosa Area Regional Public Defender Office. Justice Miskel moved the motion to recommend award of a FY2026 Mental Health Public Defender Improvement Grant of \$200,200 to Atascosa County. Mr. Cohen seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Colfax presented the pending grant request from Hays County for an Improvement Grant of \$410,083 for an expansion of the Mental Health Division of the Public Defender. The Hays County Public Defender operates under a contract the county executed with Neighborhood Defender Service (NDS), a non-profit public defense service provider. Hays County is requesting funds to add additional staff to expand the NDS program with a team dedicated to representation of clients with mental illness. The program directly addresses several of TIDC's published priorities for the improvement grant program and satisfies the requirements of the legislative budget rider directing TIDC to use at least \$5 million of each biennium's appropriations for indigent defense programs serving clients with mental health challenges. Justice Miskel moved the motion to recommend award of a FY2026 Mental Health Public Defender Improvement Grant of \$410,083 to Hays County. Mr. Cohen seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Colfax presented the pending grant request from Medina County for \$362,549 for a Mental Health expansion of the Regional Public Defender. Medina County hosts the Hill Country Regional Public

Defender Office, which was started with the help of TIDC grants in 2021 and serves Medina, Kerr, Gillespie, Bandera, and Kendall Counties. The counties seek funds to add additional capacity to enhance representation for clients with mental illness through more specialized support to help improve outcomes for clients. The regional public defender requests to add one licensed social worker and four mental health case workers for a total of five additional staff who would transition to the sustainability grant for the regional program after the first year. Justice Miskel moved the motion to recommend award of a FY2026 Mental Health Public Defender Improvement Grant of \$362,549 to Medina County. Mr. Cohen seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Colfax presented the pending grant request from Polk County for \$760,607 to establish the Public Defender's Office. For now, this will be a single-county office, but Mr. Colfax did strongly suggest that Polk works with neighboring counties to establish a regional office. Polk County currently appoints indigent defense attorneys on a case-by-case basis; however, stakeholders have identified concerns with the quality of representation provided that have led to this request for a new public defender program. The program will initially cover one of the district courts and the county court at law. Based in part on feedback from our external grant review committee, TIDC staff worked with Polk County to refine the proposal to add additional details and to ensure that the budget and staffing was sufficient to cover the proposed scope and caseload. The county hopes to hire six staff members, including four attorneys and two support staff, who they propose to handle approximately 50% of the county's indigent defense caseload. Justice Miskel moved the motion to recommend award of a FY2026 Multi-Year Improvement Grant of \$760,607 to Polk County. Mr. Cohen seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Colfax presented the One-Time or Temporary Assistance for Existing Rural Public Defense Programs requests. The Legislature allowed TIDC to carry forward \$10 million of leftover Operation Lone Star (OLS) grants into the current biennium and placed specific restrictions on the funding and said it could only be used for rural public defender programs for one-time or temporary assistance. TIDC issued a supplemental Request for Applications (RFA) after the June board meeting. Suggested eligible one-time or temporary uses for these funds include a reduction of required cash match by the county, recruiting assistance, indigent defense internships and/or fellowships, equipment, technology projects, training, and Family Protection Representation (FPR) pilot programs to provide legal representation to children and/or parents involved in child protective services cases.

Mr. Colfax presented the slate of grant requests TIDC has received since June for the special funds. The first request under the special RFA is from Atascosa County for \$37,600. Atascosa has requested funds for internships and technology equipment. Bee County requested \$95,879 for a 20% temporary reduction in county match. Burnet County requested \$203,298 for technology equipment and a 20% temporary reduction in county match. Culberson County requested \$293,109 for a 20% temporary reduction in county match, internships, recruitment costs including engaging a recruiting firm, travel, recruitment programs, and promotional recruitment videos, and sign-on bonus and moving expenses for new attorney hires. Hale County requested \$357,766 for a 50% temporary reduction in county match. This is the one exception that proposes a 50% reduction instead of 20% reduction in county match due to setbacks and understaffing that has led to the program pausing new appointments and requiring participating counties to continue to pay private counsel in addition to regional contributions. Maverick County requested \$68,371 for a 20% temporary reduction in county match. Medina County requested \$639,802 for temporary employee raises, a 20% temporary reduction in county match, and internships. Potter County requested \$372,256 for technology equipment, internships, and a 20% temporary reduction in county match. Tom Green County requested \$736,091

for a 20% temporary reduction in county match, recruiting costs including engaging a firm, CLE exhibitions, recruitment videos, sign-on bonuses and relocation expenses, and internships. Victoria County requested \$334,319 for a waiver of matching funds, recruiting tools and travel, legal research resources and laptops, and technology equipment. Texas Tech University's Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic requested \$360,690 for temporary attorney fellowships, a vehicle and extended warranty plus any associated expenses for 2 years. Justice Miskel moved the motion to recommend award of Temporary or One-Time Assistance for Existing Rural Defender Programs according to the recommended award amount of \$3,499,181 on pages 17-19 of the meeting notebook. Mr. Cohen seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Colfax presented the grant modification request from Burnet County. Burnet County is seeking to increase their FY26 sustainability grant for the regional public defender program from \$1,323,187 to \$1,385,099—an increase of \$61,912. The county approved a cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) for county staff of 5% for the upcoming fiscal year and insurance costs have increased \$1,312 per employee. Justice Miskel moved the motion to recommend increasing Burnet County's FY2026 Improvement Grant award for the regional public defender program to \$1,385,099. Mr. Cohen seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Colfax presented the grant modification request from Culberson County for an increase of \$61,947 to a revised award of \$3,089,867. The county has requested the increase due to the Culberson County commissioners court approving a COLA for 7% for county employees and an increase in health insurance premiums for employees. Justice Miskel moved the motion to recommend Culberson County's request for a FY2026 grant budget modification for the Far West Texas Regional Public Defender Program as outlined on page 21 and increase the grant award amount by \$61,947 to a revised FY2026 award amount of \$3,089,867. Mr. Cohen seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Colfax presented the FY25 grant modification request from El Paso County's Public Defender *Padilla* program for an increase of \$4,519 to a revised FY25 award amount of \$78,217. The County is requesting a modification to accommodate a shortage in the budget due to previous wage and benefits adjustments. Justice Miskel moved the motion to recommend El Paso County's request for a FY2025 grant budget modification for the Public Defender *Padilla* Program as outlined on pages 22-24 and increase the grant award amount by \$4,519 to a revised FY2025 award amount of \$78,217. Mr. Cohen seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Colfax presented the grant modification request from El Paso County to increase the FY26 Improvement Grant award for the Public Defender *Padilla* program by \$2,454 to a revised award amount of \$27,020. Based on budget correction detailed in the previous request, El Paso county is requesting an increase in their FY26 grant due to previous wage and benefits adjustments. Justice Miskel moved the motion to recommend El Paso County's request for a FY2026 grant budget modification for the Public Defender *Padilla* Program as outlined on page 25 and increase the award amount by \$2,454 to a revised FY2026 award amount of \$27,020. Mr. Cohen seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Colfax presented a correction to the FY26 Tom Green County Concho Valley Regional Public Defender Office award. The Board approved a slate of continuing grants with budget changes requested at the full board meeting on June 27, 2025 which contained an error in the recommended FY26 award amount for Tom Green County's Regional Public Defender Program. The total program budget amount of \$3,166,094 was included in the recommended award column instead of 2/3 of the

approved budget amount of \$2,110,729. Justice Miskel moved the motion to recommend modification of the approved FY2026 grant award amount to Tom Green County for the Concho Valley Regional Public Defender Office to \$2,110,729. Mr. Cohen seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

The next full board meeting is August 28, 2025.

No further business was discussed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Tom Green County

FY 2026 Multi-Year Grant Request

Indigent Defense Coordinator

<-----Projected----->

	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30 (late start; final 3 months of funding)
Total Program Cost	\$55,024	\$70,048	\$70,048	\$70,048	\$17,512
County Match	\$11,005	\$24,517	\$38,526	\$52,536	\$14,010
FY26 Grant Request	\$44,019	\$45,531	\$31,522	\$17,512	\$3,502
TIDC/County Share	80% / 20%	65% / 35%	45% / 55%	25% / 75%	20% / 80%

Program Summary

Tom Green County is seeking grant funding to establish an Indigent Defense Coordinator (IDC) for the 51st, 119th, 340th, and 391st Judicial Districts. The position will provide centralized administration of indigent defense functions, improve compliance with the Fair Defense Act, ensure timely and accurate attorney appointments, and strengthen accountability in the use of county resources. The addition of an IDC will centralize critical front-end processes, ensure compliance with Texas statute, provide timely legal counsel to indigent defendants, reduce administrative burdens on District Court judges, and improve efficiency and effectiveness of indigent defense in Tom Green County.

Staff Recommendation

Award Tom Green County a FY26 Multi-Year Improvement Grant of \$44,019.

2026 Tom Green County Improvement Grant Application Narrative
Establishing a new position of Indigent Defense Coordinator for the 51st, 119th, 340th, & 391st Judicial Districts

a. Application Form

Counties Represented: **Tom Green**

Fiscal Year: **2026**

State Payee Identification Number: **75-6001184**

Division To Administer Grant: **Tom Green County Judge's Office**

Program Title: **Establishing a new position of Indigent Defense Coordinator for the 51st, 119th, 340th, & 391st Judicial Districts**

Requested Grant Amount: **\$44,018.80**

Authorized Official: **Lane Carter**

Financial Officer: **Nathan Cradduck**

Program Director: **Michelle Ferguson**

Mailing Address: **113 W. Beauregard Avenue; San Angelo, TX 76903**

b. Introduction (Executive Summary)

Tom Green County respectfully requests grant assistance from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) to establish a full-time Indigent Defense Coordinator position under the direction of the District Judges of the 51st, 119th, 340th, & 391st and the Director of Court Administration. This position will provide centralized administration of indigent defense functions, improve compliance with the Fair Defense Act, ensure timely and accurate attorney appointments, and strengthen accountability in the use of county resources devoted to indigent defense.

c. Problem Statement

Currently, indigent defense processes in Tom Green County are managed by court staff as one of many competing duties. This often results in:

Delays in attorney appointments

Administrative burdens on court coordinators and judges

Inconsistent record-keeping and reporting to TIDC

Limited oversight of attorney performance and caseloads

Strain on county resources without dedicated staff to monitor expenditures

d. Objectives

The proposed Indigent Defense Coordinator will professionalize and centralize indigent defense administration in Tom Green County for, ensuring fair, timely, and cost-effective representation for defendants while reducing administrative burdens on the District Judges and court staff. With TIDC's partnership, Tom Green County will take a significant step toward strengthening indigent defense and upholding the constitutional right to counsel.

e. Activities

The Indigent Defense Coordinator will serve as the central point of contact for all indigent defense activities across the district courts. Duties will include:

Attorney Appointment Administration

Maintain and update the attorney appointment wheels

Receive and process requests for appointed counsel

Ensure appointments are made promptly and in compliance with the Fair Defense Act

Track and maintain records of appointments, attorney assignments, and case outcomes

Compile and submit required reports to the Director of Court Administration

Monitor attorney caseloads to ensure compliance with TIDC workload standards

Financial Oversight

Review and process attorney fee vouchers for accuracy and compliance with the local indigent defense plan

Monitor expenditures to maximize efficiency and accountability

Training and Support

Assist judges and the Director of Court Administration with indigent defense policy updates

Ensure awareness of TIDC standards and best practices

Project goals and outcomes

The establishments of this position will:

Improve the timeliness of attorney appointments (measured by % appointed with 24 hours of request

Strengthen compliance with the Fair Defense Act

Enhance quality control through monitoring caseloads and requests

Provide accurate and timely reporting to TIDC and the Director of Court Administration

Increase efficiency by centralizing all indigent defense functions under one dedicated staff member

Program elements:

Must perform all appointments (in and out of court) as the designee of the judge or judges;

Must maintain the rotation default system on assigned counsel systems and monitor the frequency and reasons of exception for off list appointments;

Must report summary of appointment data to judges at least monthly;

Must manage the graduated list of court appointed attorneys for judges and receive applications for advancements or adjustments as higher qualifications are met by attorneys;

Must monitor appointment list and attorneys' completion of continuing legal education (CLE) to meet minimum requirements of local plan and Commission rules;

Must review invoices submitted by attorneys and compare to appointment schedule prior to judicial approval;

Perform training for law enforcement, magistrates, local bar, and other stakeholders on indigent defense plan(s) adopted by courts;

Report directly to the judges (rural) or board of judges (mid-size or urban);

Develop procedures to track attorney contact with client, which includes tracking, investigating, and reporting allegations of attorneys not meeting their clients within statutory or plan requirements; and

Must involve all courts in the jurisdiction (rural and mid-sized) or all of the judges of a type of court (larger jurisdiction).

f. Evaluation

Evaluation - Measurable Outcomes (first year)

- ☛ 95% of requests for counsel processed within 24 hours
- ☛ 100% of attorney fee vouchers reviewed and approved in compliance with local standards

- Quarterly reports submitted on time with accurate data

g. Future Funding

Tom Green County is committed to sustaining the Indigent Defense Coordinator position beyond the grant period should funding not be available. Grant funding will allow the County to establish the position and demonstrate its effectiveness. Upon completion of the grant term, the County intends to apply for continuation funding. If TIDC continuation funding is unavailable, Tom Green County will assume full funding responsibility through the general fund.

h. Budget Narrative and Budget Form

Tom Green County requests \$44,018.80 to create a new position, Indigent Defense Coordinator, serving exclusively in functions to coordinate indigent defense activities for the courts of Tom Green County.

The salary and benefits are calculated for a 12-month position; however, this funding request covers only nine months (January through September to complete FY26. A 20% match is entered into the County Match section.

Operating and equipment costs include items necessary to establish this new position and are therefore not prorated by the number of months. These equipment items are one-time purchases and will not appear in future funding requests.

Software licenses are annual subscriptions and will be included in future requests as recurring costs.

FY26 funding request breakdown:

Travel & Training - and travel (in-county mileage) are calculated on a 12-month basis, but the reimbursable amounts requested correspond to the nine month project period for FY26 - In-county mileage - \$1,638 (daily travel between the County Courthouse and County Jail; 12 miles roundtrip, 5 days per week, 52 weeks annually = 3,210 miles \$0.70/mile = \$2,184 annually; prorated for 9 months = \$1,638). The training budget includes \$1,500 for FY26. This will allow the person who fills this position to attend specialized training that is specifically for this role.

Equipment - Desk \$400 (one-time cost)

Computer package \$1,250 (desktop, monitor, monitor stand, keyboard, mouse, Windows - County IT provided this packaged cost)

Supplies - Web camera: 150 (one-time cost)

\$300 paper, binders, pens, highlighters, desk organizer, calendar, chair mat, paperclips, tissues (Kleenex), notebooks, folders. - Note: This position will be located within the jail and requires independent supplies that cannot be accessed from the jail's internal inventory. These costs are recurring but expected to decrease in future budgets. Office supplies are also recurring but are expected to decrease in future years once the position is established. Total \$450

Cell phone allowance - \$450 (9 months at \$50/month; County's standard allowance rate is \$50 per month). This is a recurring cost.

Personnel Costs		\$48,985.50
FTE's	1.00	
Salary	\$34,869.00	
Fringe Benefits	\$14,116.50	
Travel and Training		\$3,138.00
Equipment		\$2,000.00
Supplies		\$900.00
Contract Services		\$0.00
Indirect		\$0.00
Total		\$55,023.50
Required County Match		\$11,004.70
Total less County Match		\$44,018.80

One-Time or Temporary Assistance for Existing Rural Public Defense Programs New Supplemental Funding Requests

TIDC's legislative appropriation for FY26 & FY27 includes the following budget rider:

Unexpended Balance Authority. Out of amounts appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Texas Indigent Defense Commission under strategy D.1.1, Texas Indigent Defense Commission, for the 2024-25 biennium for Operation Lonestar, any unobligated or unexpended balances remaining as of August 31, 2025 (not to exceed \$10,000,000), are appropriated for the fiscal biennium beginning September 1, 2025, for programs in rural counties, created on or before September 1, 2025. The use of any remaining balances may only be used for programs with one-time expenses or temporary assistance.

Suggested eligible one-time or temporary uses for these funds listed in the Supplemental Request for Applications include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Temporary reduction of required sustainability program cash match
- Recruiting assistance
- Indigent defense internships and/or fellowships
- Equipment
- Technology projects
- Training
- Family Protection Representation pilot programs to provide legal representation to children and/or parents involved in child protective services cases.

At the August 28, 2025, meeting, the Board awarded \$3,499,181 from this appropriation. Staff recommend reserving some funds for match reduction in FY27 and a family protection representation pilot project application expected this spring.

Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis and will be presented for each quarterly meeting as long as funds remain available.

Temporary Assistance for Rural Programs (TARP) New Grant Requests Page 1				
Applicant	Program	TARP Request	Recommended Award	Notes
Tom Green	Concho Valley & Big Country Regional Public Defender - 11 Counties			
	Purchase of two vehicles and associated costs	\$107,000		Awaiting cost/benefit analysis
	Replace old laptops (50) and related tech equipment	\$68,000	\$68,000	
	Tom Green TOTAL	\$175,000		
Victoria	Crossroads Regional Public Defender - 4 Counties			
	Internships	\$11,520	\$11,520	
	Recruiting- Signing Bonuses for 4 Felony Openings	\$30,000	\$30,000	
	Recruiting Video and Advertising	\$5,000	\$5,000	
	Advanced Training Opportunities	\$241,785		
	Victoria TOTAL	\$288,305		
RPDO LGC	Statewide Capital Case Public Defender - 177 Counties			
	Professional Recruiting Firm Fees	\$69,366		Estimated cost for two atty positions
	Recruiting - Attorney Signing Bonuses for open positions	\$120,000	\$120,000	Eight vacant positions
	Recruiting -Relocation Expenses for New Attorneys	\$40,000	\$40,000	Eight vacant positions
	RPDO LGC Total	\$229,366		
Goliad	Regional Public Defender Participaton			
	Temporary Reduction of Required County Match	\$15,133	\$15,133	20% Reduction
	Goliad Total	\$15,133		

Temporary Assistance for Rural Programs (TARP) New Grant Requests Page 2				
Applicant	Program	TARP Request	Recommended Award	Notes
Hale	High Plains Regional Public Defender - 12 Counties			
	Law Books	\$15,000	\$15,000	
	Lexis Nexus, Prezi 1 year Subscriptions	\$25,200		not one-time cost
	Computers for Jails for Zoom Visits	\$15,600	\$15,600	Condition to secure agreement from jails
	4 Computers for Interns	\$4,400	\$4,400	
	Adobe SW x4	\$1,600	\$1,600	
	Software (MS Office, GoDaddy)	\$1,500	\$1,500	
	Case Management Access \$115/User x 3 months	\$1,380	\$1,380	
	Mobile Wi-Fi for 4 Interns x 3 months	\$460	\$460	
	Mobile Wi-Fi for 3 Attorneys for 12 months	\$1,370		not one-time cost
	Increase IT Support Contract for Additional Computers & SW	\$2,000	\$2,000	
	4 Paid Internships	\$26,400	\$26,400	
	Housing for 4 interns for 4 months	\$30,000		
	Caseworker TCDLA Membership x3	\$320		not one-time cost
	Caseworker NAPD Membership x3	\$150		not one-time cost
	Caseworker Online Courses x3	\$5,000		
	Investigator TCDLA Membership	\$80		not one-time cost
	Investigator Training In-State or Online	\$2,500	\$2,500	
	4-Day Summer Staff Retreat with Speakers Hotel Costs	\$9,000		
	Mileage and Per Diem for Summer Retreat	\$6,800		
	CLE Presenters Fee for Staff Retreat	\$2,500		
	Presenter Travel Expenses \$1500 x 5	\$12,500		
	Professional Recruiter Fees	\$50,000		
	Recruiting Related Travel to Law Schools	\$25,000	\$22,500	Rec. consistent with award to other programs
	Printing for Recruiting Brochures and Other Documents	\$1,500	\$1,500	
	Social Media Advertising	\$75,000		
	Relocation Expenses for Staff and Attorneys \$5000 x 6	\$30,000	\$30,000	Rec. or new recruited attorneys only
	Signing Bonuses \$5k/attorney and staff x 15	\$75,000	\$30,000	Not for existing staff, new recruited attys only
	Fuel Bonus for Staff and Attorneys \$1000/ employee annually x 15	\$15,000		
	Bonus for Spanish Speaking Staff and Attorneys \$5000	\$20,000		
	Attorney Bonuses for 2nd, 6th, and 10th Trials and Not Guilty Verdicts	\$81,000		
	Longevity Bonuses \$500 x 15 staff after 1 year	\$7,500		
	\$1000 Bonuses for first 25 jail releases per attorney	\$9,000		
	Interpreter Services	\$10,000		not one-time cost
	Plainview Office A Wall Repair and Painting	\$10,000		
	Plainview Office A Carpet and Flooring	\$11,915		
	Plainview Office A Sign	\$15,000		
	Plainview Office B Wall Repair and Painting	\$5,000		
	Plainview Office B Carpet	\$4,654		
	Two "Economy Cars"	\$80,000		Needs cost/benefit analysis
	Auto Insurance 2 Cars	\$24,000		not a one-time cost
	Magnetic Car Sign x2	\$1,500		
	Fuel for 2 Cars	\$10,400		not a one-time cost
	Maintenance 2 Cars	\$5,000		not a one-time cost
	Hale County Total	\$730,229		

Temporary Assistance for Rural Programs (TARP) New Grant Requests Page 3				
Applicant	Program	TARP Request	Recommended Award	Notes
TRGPD	Bee RPDO, Maverick RPDO			
	Recruiting Incentives, Signing Bonus & Relocation Expenses x10	\$150,000	\$150,000	
	8 Internships	\$32,000	\$32,000	
	Fringe costs associated with above	\$33,060	\$33,060	
	Marketing Contractor	\$10,000		
	Web Design Contractor	\$10,000		
	Attorney Travel Stipend, Current and Future Staff	\$52,500		not one-time cost
	Recruiting Related Travel	\$15,000	\$15,000	
	Recruitment Account Fees	\$7,000	\$7,000	
	15% Indirect on Eligible Categories	\$35,259		adjust proportionally to approved amount
	Data Engineer Contractor 1 year	\$110,000		
	(3 Months to Reduce Historical Case Management Storage Fees)			
	(9 Months to Build Integrated Database)			
	2 20TB Hard Drives to Archive Historical Case Data	\$4,000		
	Microsoft Azure SQL Database Subscription	\$2,000		
	Travel for Data Archiving Project	\$1,000		
	15% Indirect Expense on Eligible Categories	\$2,250		
	Diversion Court Program Pilot Project			
	Caseworker Salary (Through September 2027)	\$118,929	\$118,929	
	Temporary Salary Increase for Attorney Assisting in Program Development	\$30,000		
	Associated Fringe Benefits	\$50,118		Adjust proportionally to approved amount
	Workshops, travel, and materials used to build community partnerships	\$20,000	\$10,000	
	Software costs for tracking outcomes, performance reporting	\$10,000		needs detail on research component
	Transportation of Clients to Programs, Staff Travel	\$45,000	\$5,000	unclear
	15% Indirect on Eligible Categories	\$29,857		Adjust proportionally to approved amount
	Total TRGPD	\$767,973		

**2026 Tom Green County Improvement Grant Application Narrative
Request for Temporary Supplemental Funds**

a. Application Form

Counties Represented: **Callahan, Coke, Coleman, Concho, Irion, Runnels, Schleicher, Shackelford, Sterling, Taylor, Tom Green**

Fiscal Year: **2026**

State Payee Identification Number: **75-6001184**

Division To Administer Grant: **Tom Green County Judge's Office**

Program Title: **Request for Temporary Supplemental Funds**

Requested Grant Amount: **\$175,000.00**

Authorized Official: **Lane Carter**

Financial Officer: **Nathan Craddock**

Program Director: **Elizabeth Berry**

Mailing Address: **113 W. Beauregard Avenue; San Angelo, TX 76903**

b. Introduction (Executive Summary)

This proposal seeks one-time funding for two types of equipment: a) to purchase two dedicated vehicles for the use of public defenders and their investigative teams at CVPDO; and b) to replace outdated laptop computers currently in use by attorneys and support staff, and to provide a two-monitor station for each staff member. The vehicle will enable legal professionals to conduct timely field investigations, client visits in detention facilities, and on-site case assessments. Reliable transportation is essential to ensure that clients receive the constitutionally guaranteed right to effective legal representation, regardless of socioeconomic status or geographic location. The existing computer hardware is over four years old, causing significant inefficiencies in day-to-day operations, decreased cybersecurity resilience, and incompatibility with current legal software and virtual court systems. Upgrading this critical equipment will improve our office's ability to provide constitutionally mandated legal defense, meet court deadlines, and ensure equitable access to justice for indigent clients.

c. Problem Statement

a) Vehicles:

In our eleven-county rural jurisdiction, travel is often required to meet with clients in detention centers, locate and interview witnesses, examine crime scenes, serve subpoenas, and attend remote court proceedings. Many of these tasks require 3-hour round trips. Due to a lack of public transportation, our staff is occasionally required to transport clients to and from office meetings, court appearances, and service providers.

Currently, our office lacks a dedicated vehicle for these purposes. Since public transportation is virtually nonexistent, staff are required to rely on personal vehicles. Although CVPDO provides mileage reimbursement, this results in significant devaluation of employees' personal vehicles. Our mileage reimbursement averages \$75,000 per year, making it financially beneficial to purchase two dedicated CVPDO vehicles instead. In addition, the administrative burden of processing the increasing number of mileage claims is a huge monthly burden on staff.

Dedicated vehicles will reduce costs, increase flexibility, and enhance the quality of legal services provided by our team of public defenders and investigators.

b) Computer Equipment:

Our office currently employs 15 attorneys and 2 investigators in our San Angelo office, along with one social worker and 4 support staff. In our Abilene office, we currently have 8 attorneys, 2 investigators, and 2 support staff, all of whom rely on laptops and monitors to manage caseloads, review discovery, communicate with clients, and appear in virtual courtrooms. We also have newly-created positions we are trying to fill, as well as existing vacancies. If all positions are filled, it will bring our staff level to 45 total between both offices.

However, the current equipment has exceeded its optimal lifespan:

- Laptops are slow, prone to crashes, and incompatible with modern legal databases and video conferencing tools.
- Monitors are needed for the new positions and vacancies to ensure each team member has a double monitor set-up to optimize discovery viewing and management.

- These issues result in daily productivity loss, delays in case preparation, and increased stress on staff.

Up-to-date technology is **not a luxury**, but a **necessity** for ensuring timely, accurate, and ethical legal defense.

d. Objectives

Objective 1: Reduce Transportation Costs and Improve Resource Efficiency Through Vehicle Acquisition.

a) **Vehicle:**

Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public defense services through reliable transportation.

Objectives:

1. Acquire a vehicle suitable for regular travel by defense staff and investigators.
2. Increase staff availability for site visits, jail visits, and witness interviews by 50% within the first year.
3. Reduce transportation-related costs (e.g., mileage reimbursements, rental fees) by at least 50% in the first 12 months.
4. Reduce administrative time spent processing mileage reimbursement by 50% in the first 12 months.
5. Decrease transportation cost per case.
6. Redirect cost savings of \$25,000 annually from mileage reimbursements to direct client services.
7. Staff consideration-eliminate personal vehicle wear.

Objective 2: Modernize Technology for Improved Legal Defense Services.

b) **Computer Equipment:**

Goal: To modernize technology for improved legal defense services.

Objectives:

- Replace 100% of outdated laptops and monitors within 90 days of grant approval
- Reduce technology-related downtime by 75%
- Improve attorney and staff efficiency, allowing for better client service and case preparation
- Enhance cybersecurity compliance and reduce vulnerability

e. Activities

a) **Vehicle:**

Upon receipt of grant funds:

- **Vehicle Selection:** One mid-sized, fuel-efficient SUV (such as Ford Explorer) and one crew-cab style pick-up (such as Ford F-150) suitable for rural use will be purchased, with considerations for safety, mileage, cargo capacity, and reliability.
- **Procurement:** Procurement will follow county/agency guidelines for bidding and purchase using BuyBoard pricing.
- **Use Policy:** A clear vehicle usage policy will be developed to manage scheduling, maintenance, and reporting.
- **Assignment:** The vehicle will be primarily assigned to staff investigators and made available for public defenders conducting fieldwork.
- **Maintenance:** Regular maintenance will be conducted according to manufacturer schedules, and the vehicle will be insured under the county policy.

b) **Computer Equipment:**

The grant funds will be used to purchase and deploy:

- **50 new laptops** with modern processors, enhanced RAM, and security features suitable for legal work
- **14 new monitors** with high-resolution displays, ideally 24" or larger for side-by-side document review
- Necessary accessories (docking stations, privacy filters, etc.)
- Installation and data migration support by IT professionals

f. Evaluation

a) **Vehicles:**

Progress will be evaluated using:

- Monthly logs of vehicle use: mileage, purpose, and departments served.
- Pre- and post-purchase comparison of mileage reimbursements and rental costs.
- Staff surveys on improved efficiency and accessibility.
- Quantitative tracking of client and witness site visits before and after vehicle acquisition.

Findings will be reported quarterly to TIDC.

b) Computer Equipment:

By replacing this outdated technology, we expect immediate improvements in:

- **Speed and efficiency** of case management and legal research
- **Quality of client representation**, including the ability to review digital evidence effectively
- **Remote hearing capability**, ensuring full participation in virtual court systems
- **Staff morale and retention**, through tools that support professional performance

We will track impact through internal productivity reports, staff feedback, and performance metrics such as time to case completion and technical support incidents.

g. Future Funding

h. Budget Narrative and Budget Form

a) Vehicles:

This budget ensures all vehicle-related expenses are covered for the entire 24-month grant period. Provides immediate cost savings compared to current mileage reimbursement, while establishing a transportation asset that will serve the office for at least 5-7 years.

Item	Cost Estimate
Vehicle Purchase (New/Used) (Crew Cab)	\$51,000
Vehicle Purchase (New/Used) (Explorer)	\$46,000
Insurance (24 months)	
Tax, Title, Registration	\$10,000
Maintenance & Fuel (24 months)	
Total	\$107,000

b) Computer Equipment:

The grant funds will be used to purchase and deploy:

- **50 new laptops** with modern processors, enhanced RAM, and security features suitable for legal work
- **20 new monitors** with high-resolution displays, ideally 24" or larger for side-by-side document review
- Necessary accessories (docking stations, privacy filters, etc.)
- Installation and data migration support by IT professionals

Estimated Cost Breakdown:

Item	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total
Laptops (e.g., Dell Latitude / HP EliteBook)	50	\$1271.44	\$63,572.00
Monitors (24"+ HD)	14	\$94.97	\$1329.58
Accessories & Installation	-	-	\$3098.42
Total			\$68000.00
Grand Total			\$175,000.00

Personnel Costs	\$0.00
FTE's	
Salary	
Fringe Benefits	
Travel and Training	
Equipment	\$175,000.00
Supplies	
Contract Services	
Indirect	
Total	\$175,000.00
Required County Match	
Total less County Match	\$175,000.00

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TIDC Grant Budget Adjustment Request

RE: FY2026 Budget Adjustment Request - Grant Number TR-26-007

Victoria County requests a budget adjustment for the Crossroads Defenders Temp. Supplemental Funding Program. The details of the request are indicated in the table below:

	Current Approved Budget (from award statement)	Requested Line-Item Change (+/-)	Requested Adjusted Budget
Direct Costs			
1) Personnel	0	\$41,520	\$41,520
2) Fringe Benefits	0	0	
3) Travel and Training	\$15,000	\$246,785	\$261,785
4) Equipment	\$42,498	0	\$42,498
5) Supplies	\$30,999	0	\$30,999
6) Contract Services	0	0	0
7) Indirect Costs	0	0	0
Total Proposed Costs	\$88,497	\$288,305	\$376,802
Less Cash from Other Sources	0	0	0
Total Amount Funded by Commission	\$88,497	\$288,305	\$376,802

1. **Rationale for Adjustment – Explain in detail the proposed changes to the budget and why they are needed. Be specific and use statistics, if possible. Use as much space as necessary to fully explain why the changes are necessary. Attach more detailed “before and after” budget category breakout as needed to fully explain changes.**

We are asking for the funding for the following needs, in addition to our original grant application:

1. **Personnel - \$41,520**
 - a. Internships – 2x Law Students @ \$18/hr x 40hrs/wk x 8 weeks = \$11,520
 - b. Sign-on bonuses – 4x Felony Openings @\$7,500 each w/2 year commitment = \$30,000
2. **Fringe**
 - a. N/A
3. **Travel and Training - \$246,785**
 - a. Recruiting video and custom social media workup - \$5,000
 - b. Advanced Trainings – \$241,785
 - i. Texas public defenders are fortunate to have access to strong statewide trainings through TCDLA, TIDC, and the State Bar. However, the most advanced, national-level programs remain largely inaccessible to public defenders due to cost. These elite courses, such as the American Chemical Society’s Lawyer-Scientist Forensic Certification (ACS-CHAL), are typically reserved for private defense attorneys and their clients.

This budget adjustment would allow Crossroads Defenders to select a small cohort of committed attorneys to attend programs like ACS-CHAL, the Trial Lawyers College, the NCDC Deryl Dantzler Trial Institute, TCDLA’s DWI Super Course, and Harvard’s Negotiation Mastery, as well as CDITC Investigator and NAPD Mitigation certifications for support staff.

Participation would come with a long-term service commitment and a requirement that each attendee apply for all available scholarships, minimizing TIDC’s financial burden while creating lasting institutional expertise.

Program	People	Tuition (total)	Travel (total)	Program total
ACS Lawyer-Scientist (Chicago; 4 courses)	5	\$79,900	\$34,760	\$114,660
Trial Lawyers College (WY; 3-week)	4	\$50,000 <i>(tuition inc. room & board)</i>	\$3,400	\$53,400
NCDC Deryl Dantzler (2-week)	3	\$8,100	\$11,343	\$19,443
Harvard Negotiation Mastery (online)	19	\$35,150	\$0	\$35,150
TCDLA DWI/SFST/DRE/ARIDE (Dallas; 4-day)	5	\$4,625	\$7,700	\$12,325
CDITC Investigator Certification (std. CONUS)	2	\$1,800	\$2,560	\$4,360
NAPD Mitigation	1	\$500	\$1,947	\$2,447
TOTAL		\$180,075	\$61,710	\$241,785

Collectively, these trainings will improve trial performance, enhance forensic literacy, strengthen client communication and negotiation outcomes, and expand holistic-defense capacity across the four-county Crossroads region.

2. Detail any proposed changes to the staffing model and why they are needed.

We would add two summer legal interns, who would be seasonal employees for Summer 2026.

3. Explain any proposed change in program Scope or Program Activities

None.

Sincerely,


County Judge Signature

11-13-25
Date

From: Brian Watson <bw@cxdtx.org>
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2025 10:41 AM
To: Edwin Colfax
Cc: Scott Ehlers; William Cox; TIDC Grants
Subject: Re: Crossroads - Rural Assistance Grant Mod

Sorry for the double email, I had a copy paste snafu.

Edwin,

Thanks for the clarification

Here is our ranking for the training items, along with a brief rationale for each:

- 1. ACS Forensic Lawyer-Scientist Certification:** This training directly addresses forensic science issues, which are critical in many of our most common case types (drugs and DWI). Attaining this level of specialized knowledge is typically impossible for public defenders without a targeted grant opportunity. This would truly be a once-in-a-career opportunity for our attorneys and promises significant long-term benefits to the office's expertise and client outcomes. Participants would be required to sign long-term commitment agreements (2+ years) to ensure a return on this investment.
- 2. Trial Lawyers College (TLC):** This is another capstone-level program, building upon existing trial skills training like TCDLA's Round Top program. TLC is nationally recognized as one of the most highly-regarded and transformative trial skills programs available. Our attorneys selected for this program would apply for any available scholarships and would also be required to sign long-term service commitments to attend.
- 3. Harvard Negotiation Mastery:** Given that the vast majority of cases are resolved through plea agreements or dismissals, training in pragmatic negotiation skills is a badly needed and often overlooked component of defense work. Harvard's program is world-renowned and offers a cost-effective, high-impact course that fills this critical gap in our attorneys' skill sets.
- 4. CDITC Investigator Certification:** We are committed to investing in our excellent support staff. This certification for our investigators represents a high-value training opportunity that will enhance their ability to conduct thorough and professional defense-oriented investigations.
- 5. NAPD Mitigation:** Similarly, we want to equip our social worker and caseworker with advanced tools and specialized training. The NAPD Mitigation certification would provide them with crucial skills to assist our clients through a more holistic defense approach.
- 6. TCDLA DWI/SFST/DRE/ARIDE:** This is a phenomenal and highly relevant training. However, we have placed it lower on the priority list because it is possible, though difficult, that we could allocate a portion of our normal, baseline training budget to cover attendance for this course.

7. NCDC Deryl Dantzler Trial Institute: The Dantzler trial practice institute is highly regarded, but it is also a particularly expensive program. Due to the significant cost, we would assign this a lower priority than the other specialized training options listed above.

2026 RPDO Local Government Corporation County Improvement Grant Application Narrative
Recruiting assistance for Assistant Public Defenders
Single-year

a. Application Form

Counties Represented:

Fiscal Year: **2026**

State Payee Identification Number: **18533651792000**

Division To Administer Grant: **RPDO LGC**

Program Title: **Recruiting assistance for Assistant Public Defenders**

Requested Grant Amount: **\$229,365.50**

Authorized Official: **Ray Keith**

Financial Officer:

Program Director: **Ray Keith**

Mailing Address: **PO Box 2097; Lubbock, TX 79408**

b. Introduction (Executive Summary)

The Regional Public Defender Office for Capital Cases is tasked with representing indigent individuals that are accused of capital murder in participating rural counties. RPDO would engage with professional recruiters to fill 2 of the 8 vacant attorney positions in our organization. The organization would provide signing bonuses for new hires that complete one year of employment. RPDO would also help offset the cost of moving. RPDO will keep track of all applicants and report this data during quarterly reports.

c. Problem Statement

The Regional Public Defender Office for Capital Cases is tasked with representing indigent individuals accused of capital murder in participating counties. RPDO meets the needs of many rural counties in providing excellent representation in these death penalty cases. RPDO is experiencing a shortage of qualified attorney applicants to do this level of work in the rural areas that the organization serves.

RPDO has 16 attorney positions. Eight of those are vacant at this time. Without these eight attorneys, RPDO is not able to adequately staff for this task.

This problem has been persistent. Over the past three years, we have had two qualified attorneys apply.

RPDO has posted these positions on social media and human resource sites along with appropriate listservs.

RPDO has been in contact with recruiting agencies. These agencies charge a percentage of an annual salary.

d. Objectives

Provide exceptionally qualified attorneys to work in the RPDO to represent defendants charged with death-eligible capital murder cases. The goal is to hire qualified attorneys to fill the now vacant positions.

RPDO would engage with a professional recruiter to help find these individuals over the next year and evaluate if this is the best option for recruitment.

RPDO would offer signing bonus of \$15,000 for each of the eight positions

RPDO would help with moving expenses up to \$5,000 for each of the eight positions.

e. Activities

RPDO currently has 16 attorney positions. Eight of those are vacant at this time. RPDO would look at filling two of those eight positions this year. Recruitment costs are 25% of an annual salary of \$138,731. The cost would be \$69,365.50.

RPDO will locate recruiters who are interested in searching for qualified attorneys interested in doing death penalty work in Texas within in a public defender office setting.

RPDO will screen and interview qualified candidates for this position.

RPDO will offer signing bonuses of \$15,000 for each of the eight vacant positions. The first half would be paid upon completion of their 90 day evaluation. The second half would be paid upon completion of one year of employment. The cost would be \$120,000. The process would be handled through the payroll department which track the appropriate dates for payments.

RPDO will offer help relocation expenses of up to \$5,000 for each of the eight vacant positions. This would be paid upon the start date. This would require employees to submit itemized receipts to accounts payable for reimbursement. The cost for this would be \$40,000.

f. Evaluation

RPDO administration will meet each week to discuss the progress in finding applicants. The number of applicants and interviews will be tracked and documented. All applicants will be stored and managed electronically by RPDO's Human Resources manager. All qualified applicants that have been interviewed will be added to the Progress reports that are submitted to TIDC quarterly.

At the end of the year, administration will review the number of applicants and evaluate if this type of recruiting is worth the cost for filling vacant positions.

g. Future Funding

No future funding anticipated.

h. Budget Narrative and Budget Form

Contract services - 25% of the annual salary of \$138,731 for two attorney positions.

Indirect cost - \$15,000 signing bonus and up to \$5,000 relocation expenses per position.

Personnel Costs		\$0.00
FTE's	0.00	
Salary		
Fringe Benefits		
Travel and Training		
Equipment		
Supplies		
Contract Services		\$69,365.50
Indirect		\$160,000.00
Total		\$229,365.50
Required County Match		\$0.00
Total less County Match		\$229,365.50

**2026 Goliad County Improvement Grant Application Narrative
Request for Temporary Supplemental Funds**

a. Application Form

Counties Represented: **Goliad**
Fiscal Year: **2026**
State Payee Identification Number: **17460009941**
Division To Administer Grant: **County Judge**
Program Title: **Request for Temporary Supplemental Funds**
Requested Grant Amount: **\$75,667.00**
Authorized Official: **Mike Bennett**
Financial Officer: **Leigh Lockwood**
Program Director: **Mike Bennett**
Mailing Address: **PO Box 677; Goliad, TX 77963**

b. Introduction (Executive Summary)

Goliad County has been participating in the TIDC sustainability grant program for regional indigent defense programs for many years. Costs for contracted public defender services have risen significantly, and the county struggles to afford the rising costs of the public defender contract. The opportunity for temporary reduction in the required county matching requirement would greatly help the county to meet this burden.

c. Problem Statement

Costs for the contracted regional public defender office have risen substantially. Goliad County requests the available temporary assistance under the Legislature's special appropriation to TIDC for assistance with existing rural programs to reduce on a temporary basis for FY26 and FY27 the required county match, currently 1/3, to temporarily waive it or reduce it as much as is possible.

d. Objectives

To reduce county matching funds required on a temporary basis for the sustainability grant that funds the rural regional public defender office.

e. Activities

The program will continue to operate as it has been.

f. Evaluation

N/A

g. Future Funding

Goliad County understands that any assistance provided under this program will be temporary, and that the 1/3 county match requirement will resume after this special funding opportunity is exhausted.

h. Budget Narrative and Budget Form

Goliad County has a scheduled 1/3 matching contribution for FY26 of \$75,667. We respectfully request to reduce this match as much as possible for FY26 and FY27 depending on the availability of funds for this program.

Personnel Costs	\$0.00
FTE's	
Salary	
Fringe Benefits	
Travel and Training	
Equipment	
Supplies	
Contract Services	\$75,667.00
Indirect	
Total	\$75,667.00
Required County Match	\$0.00
Total less County Match	\$75,667.00

2026 Hale County Improvement Grant Application Narrative
New Improvement Grant for Relaunching HRPDO
Single-year

a. Application Form

Counties Represented: **Hale**

Fiscal Year: **2026**

State Payee Identification Number: **17560009734**

Division To Administer Grant: **Hale County**

Program Title: **New Improvement Grant for Relaunching HRPDO**

Requested Grant Amount: **\$730,228.50**

Authorized Official: **David B. Mull**

Financial Officer: **Melinda Silvas**

Program Director: **David B. Mull**

Mailing Address: **500 Broadway; Plainview, TX 79072**

b. Introduction (Executive Summary)

The High Plains Regional Public Defender's Office is the newest public defense entity in Texas, officially launching operations on December 6, 2024. Initially staffed by a Chief Public Defender and Deputy Public Defender, the office rapidly expanded-adding six attorneys in December 2024 and two additional attorneys in early 2025. At its peak, the team comprised eight attorneys, one Chief Public Defender, and six support staff. The office is committed to recruiting highly qualified attorneys and fostering long-term retention through targeted training and access to modern equipment. These efforts aim to enhance operational efficiency, elevate the quality of legal representation, and strengthen service delivery to the counties we serve while building a robust and sustainable organization.

c. Problem Statement

Although the High Plains Regional Public Defender's Office experienced rapid initial growth, its startup phase was marked by significant operational challenges, ultimately resulting in the departure of all felony and misdemeanor attorneys by August 1, 2025. The Chief Public Defender resigned effective September 30, 2025. Exit interviews of former public defenders identified a range of concerns, including demanding travel requirements, inadequate resources, limited access to training, excessive caseloads, insufficient time for thorough case preparation, an outdated office environment, vehicle wear and tear, and the personal financial burden of purchasing supplies and training materials. These challenges severely impacted the counties within the region, which continued to bear program costs despite the office pausing appointments. The absence of attorneys compromised the quality of client representation and hindered the office's ability to fulfill its mission.

d. Objectives

In response, HRPDO hired a new Chief Public Defender, effective October 1, 2025, and is actively working to rebuild as a premier workplace and a sustainable, high-impact public defense program. The office is committed to delivering enhanced legal representation, increased accountability, and cost-effective services to the counties it serves. Securing additional grant funding is essential to achieving this vision. HRPDO has detailed 9 targets/goals to accomplish effective and elevated case movement. Each activity will be evaluated and monitored utilizing internal controls and in quarterly progress reports based on time/date specific measurements dependent on approved funding.

e. Activities

1. Research and Development Needs **Cost: \$25,200.00**

As a newly established office, HRPDO lacks essential legal tools and resources necessary for effective representation of indigent clients in rural areas. To support our attorneys, we are seeking funding for current staff and new hires:

- Legal reference materials for each office, specifically law books.
- One-year access to LexisNexis to enhance legal research capabilities and attract qualified attorneys.
- Development of a motions library to streamline case preparation.
- One-year access to Prezi to enhance mitigation packages and other presentations

LexisNexis is a preferred platform among legal professionals, but current budget limitations prevent us from securing access.

2. Technology and Equipment **Cost: \$28,310**

HRPDO serves a vast region spanning over 16,000 square miles. Travel-related fatigue was a major challenge for our former attorneys. To improve efficiency and reduce travel demands, we propose:

- Equipping Sheriff's Offices with secure new computers to enable Zoom-based meetings.
- Facilitating virtual client visits, case updates, and remote hearings.

These upgrades will significantly enhance attorney-client communication and reduce travel burdens. To support the necessary setup and configuration of hardware and software, HPRPDO also requests funding for additional work from our current dedicated IT service contractor.

3. Internship Program Development **Cost: \$56,400**

Due to extensive travel requirements, attorneys had limited time for in-depth casework. To address this, HPRPDO plans to launch a robust summer internship program that will attract new hires:

- Provide law students with hands-on experience in public defense.
- Support attorneys with case-related research.
- Offer mentorship in all aspects of indigent criminal defense.

To support this initiative, we require:

- Computers, software, email access, case management system access, and mobile Wi-Fi devices (MiFis).
- Funding to offer competitive stipends to attract top-tier law students.
- Short-term housing for interns.

4. Training and Professional Development **Cost: \$38,850**

Ongoing education is vital to the success of our attorneys and staff. Currently, support staff have pursued training independently due to limited resources. We seek funding for current staff and new hires:

- Enroll staff in online courses and with professional organizations.
- Provide formal training for our investigator and caseworkers.
- Host a summer retreat featuring guest speakers to enhance expertise in criminal defense.

This retreat will be held in a rural location within our service area, reinforcing our commitment to the communities we serve.

5. Recruitment of Attorneys **Cost: \$151,500**

To further the mission of the High Plains Regional Public Defender's Office (HPRPDO) in providing high-quality legal representation to underserved communities, we seek funding to enhance our attorney recruitment and outreach efforts. Specifically, HPRPDO proposes to engage the services of professional legal recruiters to identify and attract highly qualified attorneys who are committed to public defense. Utilizing experienced headhunters aligns with our strategic goals by increasing the likelihood of hiring candidates who are not only well-suited to the demands of the role but also more likely to remain with the organization long-term—an essential factor in maintaining continuity and quality of service in rural areas.

In addition to professional recruitment services, HPRPDO aims to expand its outreach to law schools across the states. These visits serve as a critical pipeline for identifying emerging legal talent and fostering interest in public defense careers. Through these efforts, we can recruit both entry-level attorneys and future interns, supporting the long-term sustainability and growth of our office. To maximize the impact of these visits, we request funding for the development and distribution of promotional materials, including brochures and informational documents that highlight the unique opportunities and mission of HPRPDO.

Furthermore, to reach a broader and more diverse pool of candidates, HPRPDO requests funding to advertise open positions on widely used social media platforms such as LinkedIn, Instagram, and TikTok. These platforms are essential tools for engaging with younger legal professionals and increasing visibility for public defense opportunities in rural Texas.

By investing in these recruitment and outreach strategies, this funding will help alleviate the financial burden on our rural counties while strengthening our ability to attract and retain skilled legal professionals dedicated to serving the public.

6. Bonuses and Expenses **Cost: \$237,500**

Recruiting new attorneys for HPRPDO is essential, but equally important is the retention of both attorneys and staff. Over the past 10 months, we have experienced a significant turnover, with 11 employees departing from the 15 positions funded through the Texas Indigent Defense Commission FY2025 Continued Sustainability Improvement Grant. To address this, our goal is to fully staff our offices, provide comprehensive training and necessary equipment,

utilize paid internships, and implement meaningful incentives that support long-term employment and professional growth.

Given that public defender offices across the state face similar recruitment challenges, HPRPDO proposes offering relocation and moving stipends to attract qualified candidates from a broader geographic pool. Additionally, we plan to introduce signing bonuses for attorneys and staff, structured as \$2,500 after six months of employment and an additional \$2,500 after one year, contingent upon a two-year commitment.

To better serve our clients and their families, many of whom face language barriers, we also propose offering incentives for bilingual attorneys and staff. Furthermore, to recognize excellence in trial advocacy, we intend to award bonuses to attorneys upon achieving "Not Guilty" verdicts in their second, sixth, and tenth trials.

As detention facilities face challenges of overcrowding, ultimately costing increased taxpayer dollars, HPRPDO would like to implement a bonus for attorneys who successfully obtain the release of clients after the first 25 releases.

Finally, to foster a positive and stable workplace culture, we will offer longevity bonuses to all employees after completing one full year of service. These initiatives are designed to strengthen our team, enhance service delivery, and uphold our mission of providing outstanding legal representation to the rural counties we serve.

7. Spanish Interpreter Services

Cost: \$10,000

Language barriers have consistently hindered effective communication between staff, clients, and families, particularly in cases involving Spanish-speaking individuals. These challenges can lead to misunderstandings, reduced engagement, and compromised service outcomes. To address this critical need, HPRPDO is requesting funding support in the form of a stipend to provide professional Spanish interpretation services for a duration of one year from newly contracted services. This investment will enhance the organization's ability to deliver equitable, culturally responsive services and ensure that all clients and families receive clear, accurate, and respectful communication throughout their interactions with staff.

8. Office Space Improvements

Cost: \$46,568.50

Our previous attorneys never fully settled into their offices-many never even displayed their diplomas. We aim to create a welcoming, professional environment that staff are proud to work in. However, efforts to improve our office space have been hindered by budgetary constraints and concerns from county officials regarding costs. We do not want to impose these costs on the other rural counties we serve.

Current conditions include:

- Walls with holes and inconsistent, outdated paint in our office located in the Veterans Building.
- A stairwell in need of cosmetic repair.
- Severely worn carpet in our courthouse office, with visible stains and concerns that cleaning could cause further damage.
- Outdated wall paneling from decades past.

We are seeking funding to make necessary improvements from contractors that will foster a professional and inviting workspace for our team and encourage long-term retention of attorneys and staff. We currently do not pay rent or utilities for the office space we have acquired in Hale County which offsets the costs of repairs for both offices we currently occupy.

9. Transportation

Cost: \$120,900

Given the expansive geographic area served by the High Plains Regional Public Defender's Office (HPRPDO), travel is a significant and ongoing operational necessity. Attorneys frequently commute long distances to represent clients across multiple rural counties, and previous staff have reported considerable wear and tear on their personal vehicles as a result.

To address this challenge and support the sustainability of our legal services, HPRPDO respectfully requests grant funding for the purchase of two agency vehicles-one to be stationed at our headquarters in Plainview, Texas, and the other at our satellite office in Levelland, Texas. This request includes funding for the acquisition of the vehicles, as well as associated costs such as insurance, fuel, and routine maintenance.

Additionally, HPRPDO seeks funding for the purchase of magnetic vehicle signage to clearly identify the cars as official public defender vehicles. These signs will enhance visibility and reinforce the presence of our office in the communities we serve.

This investment will help reduce the financial burden on staff, improve operational efficiency, and ensure reliable transportation for attorneys traveling throughout the region.

f. Evaluation

In assessing the necessity of the objectives outlined above, HPRPDO recognizes that the temporary allocation of financial assistance will yield long-term benefits. The requested support will enable the implementation of essential resources, including Research and Development tools, updated Technology and Equipment, an Internship Program, Professional Development opportunities, Attorney Recruitment initiatives, performance-based Bonuses and Operational Expenses, Office Space Improvements, and Transportation enhancements. These investments will strengthen HPRPDO's capacity to deliver high-quality, cost-effective indigent defense services across the twelve counties it proudly serves.

To ensure fiscal accountability, HPRPDO has established a systematic process for monitoring all revenue and expenditures, which will be applied to this one-time grant. Milestones, accomplishments, and timelines will be tracked by the Office Manager and Assistant Office Manager using a Master Expense spreadsheet that records approved budget allocations and real-time expenditures throughout the duration of the award, once received.

The impact of this financial assistance will be evaluated through time-specific data collection within HPRPDO's case management software and TIDC quarterly progress reports. Key performance indicators will include increases in case movement, attorney travel requests, electronically accepted appointments, progress toward case evaluation goals, and team performance reports. These metrics will provide a comprehensive view of the grant's effectiveness and ensure transparency in its implementation

g. Future Funding

As HPRPDO continues to enhance operational efficiency through the development of staff skillsets, acquisition of modern equipment, establishment of motion banks, and retention of highly qualified and well-trained personnel, the organization anticipates a gradual reduction in future funding requirements. These strategic improvements are designed to increase self-sufficiency and sustainability, thereby decreasing reliance on external financial support over time. By investing in these foundational areas now, HPRPDO aims to build long-term capacity that will allow for more cost-effective service delivery and improved outcomes for the populations it serves.

h. Budget Narrative and Budget Form

HPRPDO DETAIL COST LISTING FOR FUNDING REQUEST

Research & Development	COST
Law Books	15000.00
Research Equipment	25200.00
Equipment	
Sheriff's Offices	
Laptops for Sheriff's Office for Secure Zoom Meetings x 13	15600.00
Interns	
4 Additional Computers for Interns	4400.00
Adobe x 4	1600.00
Software (Microsoft Office, GoDaddy)	1500.00
Case Management Access \$115/user x 3 months	1380.00
Mifis	
4 interns x 3 months	460.00
3 attorneys x 12 months	1370.00
IT Contract Stipend	
Stipend for Additional Computers and Software	2000.00
Internships	
Paid Internships for Law Students- Summer of 2026	
\$44/hour x 15 weeks x 4 students	26400.00
Housing for 4 months x 4 students	30000.00
Training	
Case Worker Training & Management	

TCDLA Membership x 3		320.00
NAPD Membership x 3		150.00
Online Courses		5000.00
Investigator Training		
Investigator TCDLA Membership		80.00
Investigator Training in Texas or Online		2500.00
Summer Retreat with CLE		
4 Day Summer Retreat with Speakers		
Hotel x 4 nights x 15 staff		9000.00
Mileage and Per Diem		6800.00
CLE- Speaker Expenses for Training at Retreat		
\$500/speaker		2500.00
Travel Expense- \$1,500 x 5 speakers		12500.00
Advertising		
Recruitment of Attorneys		
Headhunter	50000.00	
Travel to Schools for Recruitment	25000.00	
Printing Services for Brochures and Other Documents	1500.00	
Social Media- Linked In, Instagram and Tik Tok		75000.00
Staff Bonuses and Expenses		
Relocation/Moving Expenses for Staff and Attorneys		
\$5,000 x 6 attorney positions		30000.00
Signing Bonuses		
\$5k/attorney & staff x 15		75000.00
Fuel Bonus for Staff and Attorneys		
\$1000/per Staff/Attorneys X 15 employees annually		15000.00
Bonus for Spanish Speaking		
	\$5,000	20000.00
Bonus for 2nd, 6th and 10th trial- Not Guilty Verdict		
\$2,000 per attorney x 9 attorneys at 2nd Jury Trial		18000.00
\$1,000 for Not Guilty		9000.00
\$2,000 per attorney x 9 attorneys at 6th Jury Trial		18000.00
\$1000 for Not Guilty		9000.00
\$2,000 per attorney x 9 attorneys at 10th Jury Trial		18000.00
\$1000 for Not Guilty		9000.00
Bonus for Longevity		
\$500 x 15 staff after 1st full year		7500.00
Bonus for Jail Release		
\$1,000 for the first 25 Jail Releases per attorney		9000.00

Interpreter Funds	
Spanish Interpreter	10000.00

Office Space:	
120 E. 6th Street, 2nd Floor Plainview	
Wall Repair and Painting	10000.00
Carpet and Flooring	11915.00
Office Sign	15000.00

500 Broadway, Suite 180, Plainview, TX 79072	
Wall Repair and Painting	5000.00
Carpet	4653.50
Transportation	
Economy Car x 2	80000.00
Insurance for 2 Cars	24000.00
Magnetic Car Sign x 2	1500.00
Fuel for 2 Cars	10400.00
Maintenance	5000.00

TOTAL	730228.50
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Personnel Costs		\$263,900.00
FTE's	15.00	
Salary	\$263,900.00	
Fringe Benefits	\$0.00	
Travel and Training		\$184,200.00
Equipment		\$61,800.00
Supplies		\$161,760.00
Contract Services		\$58,568.50
Indirect		\$0.00
Total		\$730,228.50
Required County Match		\$0.00
Total less County Match		\$730,228.50

Home

2026 Texas Rio Grande Public Defender County Improvement Grant Application Narrative
New Improvement Grant Application. Please edit
Multi-year

a. Application Form

Counties Represented: **Bee, Dimmit, Goliad, Live Oak, McMullen, Maverick, Zavala**
Fiscal Year: **2026**
State Payee Identification Number: **Forthcoming**
Division To Administer Grant: **Texas RioGrande Public Defender Executive Division**
Program Title: **New Improvement Grant Application. Please edit**
Requested Grant Amount: **\$767,973.22**
Authorized Official: **David Silberthau**
Financial Officer:
Program Director: **David Silberthau**
Mailing Address: **903 N Washington Ave; Beeville, TX 78102**

b. Introduction (Executive Summary)

TRGPD is a new non-profit with a storied heritage. As we enter our third year of operations, we have identified several core areas for improvement. First, TRGPD has never developed a coherent strategy in how it positions its organization to recruit attorneys. One of the unique strengths of a non-profit public defender viz-a-vie county-run operations is the ability to dynamically position ourselves in the non-profit space. Support for recruitment and marketing will allow TRGPD to unlock its full potential as a 501(c)(3) non-profit and strengthen its ability to grow across South Texas. Second, TRGPD seeks funding to support a temporary Data Engineer position for a one-year period to improve internal data infrastructure and strengthen compliance, transparency, and data-informed decision-making at both the county and State level. Finally, TRGPD wants to enhance its value as a community stakeholder by piloting a misdemeanor diversion and treatment initiative designed for Bee, Live Oak, and McMullen Counties. The program will identify clients whose criminal justice involvement stems from untreated substance use or mental health issues and connect them with appropriate community-based care. Together, these initiatives will fortify TRGPD's culture, improve its efficiency, and augment its value to county partners.

c. Problem Statement

Recruitment Support

Rural public defense faces persistent recruitment and resource crises. Attorneys are less likely to live in or originate from rural communities, and the pay in these regions often lags far behind urban public defender salaries. As a result, qualified candidates tend to pursue work in metropolitan areas where compensation, mentorship, and professional networks are stronger. These endemic imbalances leave rural defender offices chronically understaffed, requiring attorneys to carry high caseloads and travel long distances to cover multiple jurisdictions-conditions that further discourage recruitment and retention.

Beyond compensation, rural public defense suffers from an image problem. While the work is often deeply meaningful, working in rural communities perceived as more hostile to criminal defendants dissuades many lawyers drawn to public defense work. These perceptions make it difficult for TRGPD to compete for talent despite offering an opportunity to have an immediate, tangible impact on clients' lives and communities.

Although TIDC's investments have strengthened rural defense capacity in recent years, significant disparities remain. Attorneys and clients in TRGPD's counties still lack access to the specialized services and community-based resources that urban defender offices now take for granted. Supplementary fundraising and targeted program development could help bridge this gap-allowing TRGPD to offer holistic defense for the first time, integrating legal advocacy with access to social services, mental health care, and reentry support.

TRGPD's own multi-decade history has unfortunately exacerbated some of these problems. Born out of the long and distinguished heritage of Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, the office inherited an infrastructure-and, at times, baggage-of that prior history without the benefit of a distinct brand. As new public defender offices emerge across Texas with clear, modern identities and strong messaging, TRGPD must establish its own voice. Instead, some of its flagship offices are better known for incessant turnover and widely recognized negative office culture. The burden of a tarnished brand harms TRGPD's ability to reset, recruit, and retool its offices.

Exhibiting a recognizable brand that reflects independence, professionalism, and commitment to justice in rural South Texas is essential for recruiting the next generation of defenders.

Improving Operational Efficiency

TRGPD currently lacks a centralized, organized data infrastructure capable of supporting the growing reporting and compliance demands from TIDC and our rural partner counties. Our case, financial, and operational data is dispersed across multiple systems, including LegalServer, QuickBooks, Excel spreadsheets, BambooHR, and SharePoint, making it difficult to access reliable information efficiently and provide consistent performance metrics across programs.

This fragmented data infrastructure creates significant operational challenges. It delays internal reporting, increases the risk of submitting incomplete or inconsistent data to funders, and requires staff to spend time manually preparing TIDC and county reports. These inefficiencies reduce our ability to assess outcomes, demonstrate value to our rural county partners, and make data-informed decisions that are critical to sustaining long-term county contracts.

The absence of a dedicated data engineer has further prevented us from streamlining systems and implementing tools that could automate processes, reduce staff burden, and improve data accuracy. Without this internal capacity, TRGPD is unable to modernize its data infrastructure and meet the transparency and responsiveness expected by our counties and funders.

This grant will allow TRGPD to contract with a full-time Data Engineer for one year (January 2026 - December 2026) to lead two data infrastructure projects:

1. LegalServe Data Offload: Offload and archive legacy case data from LegalServer to secure external hard drives, reducing annual data storage costs by approximately \$20,000.
2. Centralized Database Infrastructure: Design and implement a centralized SQL-based reporting dashboard that consolidates financial, operational, and client data across departments. This system will automate reporting, reduce errors, and produce real-time insights for TIDC and counties.

This one-time grant will substantially improve TRGPD's ability to demonstrate its value in rural counties, enhance transparency, and avoid the types of data gaps that contributed to the loss of previous contracts. It will also strengthen our foundation for future growth, enabling TRGPD to compete for and retain rural public defense contracts more effectively.

Piloting Holistic Services

All parties-prosecutors, defense advocates, and judges-agree that many misdemeanor caseloads are driven by individuals with untreated mental illness or substance use disorders. Without structured diversion options, these defendants cycle repeatedly through jail, at high cost and minimal rehabilitative benefit.

TRGPD's role as the public defender for over a decade in these counties has equipped it with unique perspective of the demographics and contours of this challenge. On one end, many individuals charged with misdemeanors are facing criminal sanctions for the first time. These people can be especially receptive to alternative paths for adjudication. Addressing underlying risk factors, like substance abuse or a volatile mental health episode, before it progresses will not only lead to a better outcome in the present case, but reduce the chances of another, more severe entanglement with the criminal justice system down the line.

At the other end, local stakeholders are familiar with what some refer to as the "frequent flyers." These are the defendants who are known to law enforcement as unhoused, substance abusers, or possessing some other anti-social trait leading to repeated arrests and adjudications. They are not prone to committing violent crimes but may suffer from an acute mental health episode that leads to more serious charges. The current system does little to solve the underlying drivers of arrest, simply rotating them between jail, court, the community, and jail again.

Despite a shared understanding of the problem in Bee, Live Oak, and McMullen Counties, there are few coordinated treatment pathways. The probation department has few, relatively inflexible tools to address mental health or substance abuse needs. The only local rehabilitative center affiliated with

probation is a six to nine month intermediate sanction facility, which is too interventionist for misdemeanor cases. There are no shelters in the tri-county area and few organizations that assist mental health patients or substance abusers. All of this results in ineffectual remedies to solving the underlying factors leading to criminal justice system interaction.

Creating a misdemeanor diversion court for individuals with mental health diagnoses or substance abuse struggles will provide a venue to fix, rather than punish, an illness. Specifically, the diversion track will connect people with resources to treat their illnesses and other unmet needs that are otherwise unavailable in formal adjudication. Long term, the program will reduce caseload burdens, improve client outcomes, and allow scarce defense and prosecutorial resources to be redirected toward cases posing genuine public safety risks.

d. Objectives

Recruitment Support

1. Recruitment Incentives

A. Implement a structured attorney recruitment incentive program by January 2026 offering up to **\$10,000 signing bonuses** for new hires who remain employed with TRGPD for at least 12 consecutive months.

- i. **Specific:** Incentive tied to retention milestone.
- ii. **Measurable:** At least **five attorneys** will receive the signing bonus within the two-year grant period.
- iii. **Achievable:** Funded by grant support and incorporated into HR processes.
- iv. **Realistic:** Competitive with similar rural recruitment bonuses statewide.
- v. **Time-Bound:** Fully operational by **January 31, 2026**, with first bonuses awarded by **December 2026**.

B. Provide **relocation stipends of \$5,000** for new hires moving to Counties in service areas.

- i. **Specific:** Apply stipend upon confirmed move-in and start date to encourage local residency.
- ii. **Measurable:** Track disbursements through HR; target at least **five relocations** in 24 months.
- iii. **Achievable & Realistic:** Cost-effective supplement to recruitment program.
- iv. **Time-Bound:** Begin offering upon program launch in **December 2025**.

C. Offer up to **\$500 in monthly stipends** for attorneys for travel to service counties or obtain housing in service counties.

- i. **Specific:** Monthly stipend to either allow attorneys living out of county funds to travel or local attorneys housing assistance.
- ii. **Measurable:** Maintain documentation showing either travel or housing use for **at least five attorneys** annually.
- iii. **Achievable:** Budgeted within travel funds.
- iv. **Time-Bound:** Begin disbursing stipends by **January 2026**, continuing through **September 2027**.

2. Outreach and Recruitment Expansion

A. Conduct **ten in-person law school visits per year** over the next two years to promote rural public defense careers.

- i. **Specific:** Visits will include career fairs, presentations, and networking sessions.
- ii. **Measurable:** Record attendance, number of student contacts, and follow-up interest; target **20 qualified applicants** per year from outreach.
- iii. **Achievable:** Coordinated by the Chief Public Defender and Recruitment Lead with travel support.
- iv. **Realistic:** Focus on Texas-based law schools with strong public service programs.
- v. **Time-Bound:** 10 visits annually, from **January 2026 through September 2027**.

B. Offer two paid summer internships per program of \$4,000 over the next two years.

- a. **Specific:** Interns will assist with reviewing cases, meeting clients, and assistant supervisors in court.
- b. **Measurable:** Track number of students who accept any full-time employment offer with TRGPD after completing the internship program.
- c. **Achievable:** Run by the Executive Director and program managers to lead program.
- d. **Realistic:** Public interest internships are rarely compensated, increasing chances of recruitment.
- e. **Time-Bound:** 4-6 interns per year for the next two years.

3. Branding and Web Presence

A. Redesign and launch a modern TRGPD website within six months that reflects the organization's core values of justice, service, and community.

- a. **Specific:** Include updated visual identity, staff profiles, success stories, and donation portal.
- b. **Measurable:** Completion of launch and analytics tracking showing at least **50% increase in visitor engagement** within three months of launch.
- c. **Achievable:** Contractor-led redesign with internal content development.
- d. **Realistic:** Leverages existing TRGPD infrastructure with distinct branding.
- e. **Time-Bound:** Website live by **May 2026**.

Improving Operational Efficiency

1. Reduce LegalServer Data Storage Costs

- a. By March 31, 2025, TRGPD's Data Engineer will offload and archive approximately 20TB of legacy case data from LegalServer, resulting in a documented reduction of at least \$20,000 in annual storage costs. This archived data includes older case files originally owned by Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA), TRGPD's former parent organization. TRLA has confirmed that they will maintain these cases in their own LegalServer system, allowing TRGPD to securely store duplicates on encrypted external drives and permanently delete them from our system. This step will reduce cloud storage expenses and free up space for new indigent defense cases from our rural county partners.

2. Improve Internal Reporting Accuracy and Efficiency

- a. By December 31, 2026, the Data Engineer will design and deploy a centralized, queryable Microsoft Azure SQL database and internal reporting dashboard that consolidates operational, financial, and case data from LegalServer, QuickBooks, Excel, BambooHR, and Gusto. This database will support more timely and accurate reporting for TIDC and TRGPD's rural county contracts, where transparency and accountability are critical to maintaining indigent defense partnerships.

3. Automate Core Reporting Functions

- a. By December 31, 2026, the Data Engineer will implement at least five automated, exportable reports that are used regularly for internal management, TIDC reporting, and compliance with

TRGPD's rural county contracts. These reports will include:

- i. Quarterly financial reports submitted to Bee, Live Oak, McMullen, Goliad, Maverick, Dimmit, Zavala and OLS counties
 - ii. Monthly case reports detailing active and disposed cases for indigent clients per county.
- Automation of these reports will reduce staff workload, eliminate inconsistencies, and allow TRGPD to more effectively demonstrate the value of its indigent defense services.

4. Increase Staff Capacity to Access and Use Data

- a. By December 31, 2026, TRGPD will ensure that all County Chief Public Defenders, and executive staff are trained on how to access and use the new reporting dashboard. Documentation and live walkthroughs will be provided by the Data Engineer to ensure staff can independently extract relevant data to guide decision-making, monitor outcomes, and better advocate for the clients we serve across our rural county jurisdictions.

Piloting Holistic Services

1. **Develop Diversion Criteria:** Within six months, establish specific standards for diversion in collaboration with prosecutors and community partners, and based on accepted risk-assessment tools developed across successful diversion courts.
2. **Learn From Success:** Connect with at least two partners in jurisdictions across Texas that run successful diversion programs to absorb successful strategies and avoid pitfalls.
3. **Establish Community Partnerships:** TRGPD's diversion court caseworker will establish partnerships with at least ten community partners in the South Texas area to participate in diversion programs, including rehabilitation centers, sober living environments, housing assistance programs, and mental health providers.
4. **Maintain Ethical Obligations to Clients:** TRGPD's advocacy for diversion programs will never be at the expense of its duty to its clients, including honoring attorney client privilege and refusing to condition diversion participation on waiver of jury trial rights.
5. **Do Good, Not Harm:** Over-intervention in relatively minor offenses like misdemeanors can lead to more harm than good. TRGPD will prioritize eligibility criteria that focuses on individuals with systemic risk factors heightening the chance of repeat interactions with the criminal justice system, rather than isolated incidents.
6. **Implement Diversion Court:** By Month 6, begin operation of the diversion program for eligible misdemeanor clients to treatment and social services alternatives.
7. **Hire Dedicated Staff:** Employ a full-time Diversion Court Caseworker to coordinate referrals, maintain communication with clients, and support clients in accessing services.
8. **Demonstrate Impact:** Track participant recidivism, treatment completion, and court efficiency metrics for annual reporting and program evaluation. Outcomes will be measured both horizontally-against similarly situated non-participants-and vertically-compared to a participant's pattern of behavior prior to participation.
 - a. Track completion percentage for all participants in diversion program, and measure the cost of program per participant, including cost of caseworker and any program costs for services.
 - b. Conduct quarterly post-completion follow-ups of participants. Follow-ups will include qualitative assessments of stability based on specific participant's needs (i.e. has a participant who was connected with a mental health provider to treat a diagnosis continued to take prescriptions?) and objective criteria such as re-arrest rates.
 - c. Compare objective criteria of success against similarly situated defendants who did not participate in the diversion program.
 - d. For participants with lengthy or frequent contact with the criminal justice system, compare post-completion behavior against pattern of prior behavior.
 - e. Generate three reports during the course of the pilot program.

- i. Six months: report full criteria and process for selecting participants and implementing diversion program.
- ii. Twelve months: initial report on first participants of the diversion program, outcomes, and any necessary adjustments.
- iii. Twenty-four months: final report discussing number of participants, completions, outcomes, and proposal for full implementation.

e. Activities

Recruitment Support

Phase 1 (November 2025 - October 2026): Recruitment and Retention

Objective: Strengthen TRGPD's recruitment pipeline and retention capacity to attract and retain qualified attorneys in rural South Texas.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Description / Deliverable</u>
Nov-Dec 2025	Finalize recruitment incentive policies, signing bonus structure, and relocation stipend procedures. Begin internal communication campaign to existing staff and local partners. Generate internal values and mission statement with existing staff to guide rebrand.
Dec 2025 - Jan 2026	Begin advertising open positions with new incentive package; onboard first wave of new hires, and post paid internship opportunities.
Jan-Mar 2026	Select design contractor; draft content plan emphasizing TRGPD's independent brand identity and community mission.
Jan-Apr 2026	Conduct first round of five in-person visits to law schools and recruit for paid-summer internship program. Collect student engagement data and follow up with interested candidates.
Feb-Jun 2026	Begin disbursing \$5,000 relocation stipends for qualifying attorneys and \$500 monthly housing and travel stipends.
Apr-May 2026	Develop site architecture, finalize logo and messaging, and prepare content that differentiates TRGPD from TRLA.
May-Jun 2026	Initiate tracking of attorney tenure of new hires for 12-month signing bonus eligibility. Launch rebranded website and online presence with consistent messaging tethered to core mission and values of organization. Track engagement analytics.
Jun-Jul 2026	Release first branded content piece (e.g., newsletter or video feature highlighting local defense impact).
Jul-Aug 2026	Evaluate hiring outcomes, bonus uptake, and early retention data; adjust incentives as needed.
Aug-Oct 2026	Conduct second set of five law school visits targeting fall recruitment season. Release second quarterly content piece.

Deliverables by End of Phase 1:

- Up to \$10,000 signing bonus, \$5,000 relocation stipend, and \$500 travel and housing assistance programs implemented.

- Ten law school visits completed.
- Redesigned TRGPD website launched.
- At least three attorneys onboarded and retained.
- One fundraising/branding piece released.
- Baseline data established for Phase 2 evaluation.

Phase 2 (November 2026 - September 2027): Branding and Sustainability

Objective: Establish TRGPD's independent identity, expand donor relationships, and institutionalize recruitment efforts for long-term sustainability.

Month	Description / Deliverable
Nov-Dec 2026	Evaluate first-year recruitment outcomes, signing bonus success, and attorney satisfaction. Identify adjustments for year two.
Dec 2026 - Jan 2027	Release third piece (video, blog, or donor spotlight) emphasizing major programmatic accomplishments in service areas in the prior year. Highlight individual stories exhibiting core values and community impact.
Jan-Mar 2027	Conduct second round of ten in-person visits; focus on deepening relationships, presenting rural defense as a career of choice, and recruiting internship program. Leverage relationships with key stakeholders (student groups, defense-minded faculty, career services) established in prior year.
Feb-Mar 2027	Host informal networking events with local judges, bar associations, and civic groups to promote TRGPD's mission and attract regional support.
Apr-May 2027	Publish fourth quarterly content highlighting staff achievements and client outcomes; integrate donor appeal.
May-Jun 2027	Award bonuses to new attorneys reaching 12-month milestones; measure impact on turnover.
Jun-Jul 2027	Conduct final year's round of visits and presentations. Gather feedback for future outreach refinement.
Jul-Aug 2027	Release final content piece (annual impact report or video series). Showcase cumulative two-year progress.
Sept 2027	Complete final evaluation report measuring recruitment success, and brand outreach.

Deliverables by End of Phase 2:

- 20 total in-person law school visits completed.
- Five quarterly branding campaigns produced.
- Updated retention and recruitment data report finalized.
- Post-grant sustainability plan drafted for FY2028 and beyond.

Improving Operational Efficiency

Phase 1: Data Offloading and LegalServer Cost Reduction (October 2025 - December 2025)

During the first three months of the grant period, the Data Engineer will focus on reducing LegalServer storage costs by archiving legacy case data and establishing long-term data management protocols. This effort supports our ability to efficiently manage and prioritize active casework for indigent clients across rural counties.

The Data Engineer will:

- Identify inactive cases for archival, based on verified records retained by Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA).

- Transfer the data to physical external hard drives.

- Develop documentation and protocols for routine data purges and storage audits

- Collaborate with TRGPD executive staff to ensure that proper parameters are followed when deleting client data from Legal Server.

Staff Responsible:

- Data Engineer: Executes data export, deletion, external storage, and documentation

- Director of Operations: Coordinates LegalServer access and ensures process compliance

- Finance Administrator: Reviews cost savings and monitors billing impact

Deliverables:

- Legacy TRLA data archived securely on encrypted external drives

- Long-term data retention and purge protocols documented

- LegalServer storage costs reduced by approximately \$20,000 annually, freeing resources to serve rural indigent defense clients more efficiently

Phase 2: Strategic Data System Integration (January 2026 - September 2026)

In the second phase, the Data Engineer will design and implement a centralized internal database to integrate financial, operational, and case data. This database will improve reporting accuracy, reduce manual workload, and allow us to better demonstrate the value and impact of our public defense work in rural counties serving indigent clients.

Key activities:

- Designing a centralized reporting Microsoft Azure SQL database

- Automating data imports from platforms including LegalServer, QuickBooks, Excel, BambooHR, and Gusto

- Creating visual dashboards for internal users such as executive staff and county program leads

- Developing automated, exportable reports to meet TIDC and county contract compliance needs

- Providing documentation and training to ensure continued use and understanding across departments

Staff Responsible:

Data Engineer: Leads system architecture, automation, dashboard creation, and reporting tool development

Finance Administrator: Provides access to financial data, defines key metrics, oversees system design and testing, and ensures compatibility with funder and county expectations

Deliverables:

Fully functional internal reporting dashboard

At least five automated report templates aligned with TIDC and rural county reporting requirements

Documented reduction in staff time required to compile and submit reports

Clear documentation and training materials to ensure sustainability beyond the grant term

Piloting Holistic Services

Phase 1 (Months 1-6): Program Development

Diversion courts are not one-sized fits-all. At this stage, local buy-in is strong for trying a new solution outside of the strictures of formal adjudication to address the underlying risk factors of certain individuals. Nonetheless, given the unique resource environment of rural jurisdictions and lack of research into rural diversion programs, the first six months of the program will consist of stakeholder meetings among prosecutors, judges, TRGPD, and local partners to formalize the criteria for participation, implementation of the program, and measurement of success.

1. Hire Diversion Court Caseworker to begin program design.
2. Host bi-weekly meetings with our diversion court caseworker, county attorneys, and judges to develop specific criteria for individuals who are eligible for the diversion court.
 - a. Assess and evaluate peer-reviewed literature on what factors and eligibility criteria are more likely to lead to successful outcomes from diversion courts. Involve quantitative research to inform eligibility criteria.
 - b. Create different restorative frameworks for individuals suffering from mental health diagnoses and those with substance abuse disorders.
 - c. Consider frequency of prior involvement in the criminal justice system, severity of any prior convictions, mental health diagnoses, substance abuse indicators, social history, current support networks, and present economic and social stability in determining criteria for diversion.
 - d. Come to agreement with the County Attorneys about the timing of intervention (pre-filing, post-filing of Information), and how individuals are flagged and by whom-before filing by the prosecutor, after appointment of counsel by defense, or at arraignment.
3. Confer with stakeholders of diversion courts in Bexar County and El Paso County to learn strategies that have worked, and those that have proven less effective in their diversion courts.
4. Establish clear rules for the consequences of completing or failing to complete the diversion program benchmarks.
 - a. Come to agreement with the participating County Attorneys that individuals who participate in the diversion program do not waive their right to trial nor waive any aspect of attorney client privilege for participating in the program.
 - b. Participants will need to provide objective proof of meeting benchmarks to successfully complete diversion. Completion will not depend on TRGPD needing to volunteer information otherwise protected by attorney client privilege.

TRGPD will also develop partnerships outside of the relevant jurisdictions during the launch period to augment the pilot program's efficacy and better measure outcomes. Due to the limited resources in rural areas, partnerships outside of the tri-country region will be essential to the program's success.

1. Seek a research partner such as the Deason Center at SMU to help manage a study on the pilot diversion program to measure impact.
 - a. Develop plan for "control group" of diversion program. TRGPD will not sacrifice ethical obligation to zealously advocate for every client in service of empirical data.
2. Conduct community needs assessment to identify treatment and support service gaps.
3. Based on needs, diversion court caseworker will establish partnerships with at least ten organizations or entities that can help serve participants in the program.
 - a. Draft and execute Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with local partners

Phase 2 (Months 6-24): Implementation and Evaluation

The subsequent 18 months of the grant will pilot the diversion court. Because the specific criteria and structure of the program is subject to the initial phase, the contours of how the program will function is not fully developed. At this time, TRGPD anticipates certain targets for the number of enrolled participants, length of the program, and measurements of outcomes.

1. Launch diversion program in Bee County as a pilot, expanding to Live Oak and McMullen as capacity builds.
 - a. Identify at least twenty-five candidates who meet the diversion court criteria by the end of month 6 and enroll at least ten in the diversion program.
 - b. Participation will begin with a needs assessment conducted by TRGPD's diversion court caseworker for each participant. Needs assessment will not be shared with the prosecutor. Assessments will form the basis of TRGPD's recommended plan for diversion completion, which it will then present to the prosecutor for agreement.
 - c. Dedicate bi-monthly court setting in each participating county court for status updates on diversion participants.
 - d. Within three months of launch, enroll at least 30 participants in diversion programs across all counties.
 - e. Track mental health versus substance abuse diversion participants.
 - f. Execute diversion programs designed for completion in no more than 135 days.
2. Diversion court caseworker will work with TRGPD attorneys to manage referrals, assist clients with treatment navigation, and track compliance.
 - a. The caseworker will be the primary point of contact for diversion participants. The employee will have training working with individuals suffering from substance abuse and mental health illnesses.
 - b. The caseworker will work with appointed counsel to identify TRGPD clients who fit the eligibility criteria. The caseworker will conduct the needs assessment for participants.
 - c. The caseworker will be primary point of contact for participants, conducting bi-weekly check-ins and reporting progress or challenges to the TRGPD attorney.
3. TRGPD and prosecutors will follow pre-determined pathways for identifying eligible participants and developing diversion program for each participant.
4. Attorneys contributing to court design and ongoing case coordination will receive incentive stipends for their work.

f. Evaluation

Recruitment Support

1. Recruitment and Retention Goals

Measurement Approach:

TRGPD will maintain a centralized recruitment and retention database to track applicant flow, hiring outcomes, and attorney tenure. Data will be collected and updated monthly by the Executive Team.

Key Metrics:

- **Number of New Hires:** Total number of attorneys recruited and onboarded under the incentive program.
- **Retention Rate:** Percentage of attorneys remaining with TRGPD for at least 12 months, compared to pre-grant baseline.
- **Incentive Utilization:** Number and percentage of new hires receiving signing bonuses, \$5,000 relocation stipends, and \$500 monthly housing stipends.
- **Recruitment Outreach:** Number of law school visits completed per year and student engagement data (number of students contacted, applicants sourced, and offers accepted).
- **Attorney Satisfaction:** Annual survey assessing job satisfaction, workload, and organizational support.

Evaluation Tools:

TRGPD will maintain tracking spreadsheets on recruitment and retention data, attendance logs from law school visits, and annual staff satisfaction surveys. The Executive Staff will prepare an annual recruitment and retention report summarizing outcomes, lessons learned, and recommended adjustments.

2. Rebranding Objectives**Measurement Approach:**

Rebranding progress will be evaluated through web analytics, stakeholder engagement metrics, and qualitative assessments of TRGPD's visibility and distinct organizational identity. The website contractor will show TRGPD how to collect and analyze data on public engagement with TRGPD's digital presence and branding materials.

Key Metrics:

- **Website Launch and Engagement:** Completion of new website by May 2026; 50% increase in page views, time-on-site, and recruitment form submissions within three months of launch.
- **Content Production:** Four quarterly branded content releases per year (e.g., newsletters, videos, or social media campaigns).
- **Social Media Engagement:** Follower growth, reach, and engagement rates tracked quarterly on select socials.

Evaluation Tools:

Google Analytics (web metrics), social media analytics dashboards, and quarterly communications performance summaries.

Reporting and Accountability

All data will be reviewed quarterly by the Executive Director and presented to the TRGPD management team. Summaries of recruitment and marketing progress will be shared with TIDC in annual reports. Final evaluation findings-including recruitment retention rates and brand visibility metrics-will be compiled in a comprehensive end-of-grant report by **October 2027**, providing a foundation for sustainability planning in FY2028.

Improving Operational Efficiency

Objective	Metrics	Target and Timeline	Positions and Roles
LegalServer Cost Savings	<p>Annual LegalServer storage cost before and after data offloading</p> <p>Total number of legacy cases archived</p>	<p>Projected \$20,000 in annual savings documented by December 31, 2026</p>	<p>Data Engineer: Offloads and archives legacy data</p> <p>Finance Administrator: Tracks billing reductions and confirms savings, helping TRGPD reallocate resources to support indigent clients in rural counties</p> <p>Director of Operations: Coordinates LegalServer access and ensures process compliance</p>
System Integration and Dashboard Use	<p>Number of systems integrated into the centralized database</p> <p>Number of automated reports created and used regularly</p> <p>Frequency of internal dashboard and database use</p>	<p>Centralized database and dashboard deployed by December 31, 2026</p> <p>4 core systems (LegalServer, QuickBooks, Excel, and Gusto) integrated into centralized database by December 31, 2026</p> <p>5 automated reports in use by internal teams by September 30, 2026</p>	<p>Data Engineer: Designs and builds dashboard</p> <p>Finance Administrator: Identifies key metrics to be tracked, tests output, supports user access, overseas and supports dashboard design and implementation</p>
Staff Access and Training	<p>Number of staff trained on dashboard and reports use</p>	<p>Staff training completed for County Chief Public Defender Attorneys and executive team by September 2026</p>	<p>Data Engineer: Organizes a training on dashboard and report use</p> <p>County Chief Public Defenders and executive team: Attend the dashboard and report training</p> <p>Finance Administrator: Oversees and supports staff training</p>

Piloting Holistic

Services

Assessment will need to be qualitative and quantitative. Our pilot program hopes to achieve two primary goals. First and foremost, TRGPD wants to better outcomes for our clients who are not currently served by the criminal justice system. In that vein, we will measure outcomes of participants in the diversion program by recidivism compared to similarly situated individuals, recidivism compared to an individual's prior history, and continued pro-social behavior after diversion completion.

- TRGPD's diversion court caseworker and any research partner will track all measurements with the supervision of TRGPD leadership. TRGPD maintains internal case tracking software that will be outfitted to include parameters for diversion court participants.
- Conduct quarterly post-completion follow-ups of participants. Follow-ups will include qualitative assessments of stability based on specific participant's needs (i.e. has a participant who was connected with a mental health provider to treat a diagnosis continued to take prescriptions?) and objective criteria such as re-arrest rates.
- Track number of eligible participants, number of actual participants, and number of successful completions.
 - Compare objective criteria of success against similarly situated defendants who did not participate in the diversion program.
 - For participants with lengthy or frequent contact with the criminal justice system, compare post-completion behavior against pattern of prior behavior.
 - Amass database of community partners who agreed to provide support to diversion program participants.

To service this goal, TRGPD will generate three reports during the course of the pilot program.

- Six months: report full criteria and process for selecting participants and implementing diversion program.
- Twelve months: initial report on first participants of the diversion program, outcomes, and any necessary adjustments.
- Twenty-four months: final report discussing number of participants, completions, outcomes, and proposal for full implementation.

Second, the pilot diversion program holds the power to change how key stakeholders interact in the criminal justice system. Of course, we subscribe to an adversarial system. Nonetheless, cooperations and collaboration to address a widely understood problem benefits TRGPD's clients. Joint participation in a diversion program unlocks one of the core promises of a public defender office-the development of a key stakeholder who can leverage its position to advance good in the criminal justice system. Thus, TRGPD will also measure whether the collaborative process of creating a diversion program led to greater trust of TRGPD and recognition of its value in the jurisdictions.

- TRGPD will draft an anonymous survey at the inception, one-year, and two-year marks of the diversion program to the County Attorneys offices, presiding diversion court judge, as well as County Judges to measure satisfaction with TRGPD and benefit to the jurisdictions.
- TRGPD will also conduct yearly discussions with key stakeholders to track progress and attitudes regarding cooperation and trust between TRGPD and diversion program participants.

g. Future Funding

N/A

h. Budget Narrative and Budget Form

Recruitment Support

Our budget breaks down into three categories of expenses. All three reflect the central objective of our grant proposal-to recruit, retain, and expand our footprint of attorneys and organization.

Recruitment and Retention Personnel Spending

- **Ten signing bonuses up to \$10,000.** We will award these bonuses to some attorneys for our county attorney programs who remain with the organization at least one year after hire. The bonus will incentivize lawyers to remain in positions after hire.
- **Ten \$5,000 relocation incentives.** This stipend will benefit attorneys who choose to live **in one of the service counties** of the designated contract. We strive to be community partners, and having lawyers live in county allows for greater community involvement.
- **Monthly stipends of \$500 for attorney travel / housing.** Recognizing that not all lawyers will live in rural communities, this stipend will benefit both in-county and commuting attorneys with up to \$500 in support for either travel and hotel accommodation in county or housing for in-county attorneys.
- **Eight paid internships for law students.** Paid internships allow TRGPD to attract law students while still in school to generate a pipeline of recruitment in the next few years.

Branding and Outreach

- **Marketing Contractor.** A marketing vendor will help TRGPD hone consistent messaging and develop communications campaigns and strategies across various socials, TRGPD's website, and in outreach to the general public. Consistent, value-centered messaging will strengthen TRGPD's brand for recruitment and expansion.
- **Web Design Contractor.** Modern branding and website design will improve TRGPD's ability to attract candidates who interact primarily through the digital space.
- **Fees for Branding and Recruitment Accounts.** Job sites (BambooHR, Indeed, etc.) and social media (LinkedIn, etc.) are best utilized with their premium service, which allows for better advertising of job postings and messaging.
- **Recruitment Travel.** In-person travel to law schools incurs costs, which this line item will cover.

Improving Operational Efficiency

The Data Engineer contractor represents the primary expenditure in this contract. They are necessary in order to responsibly sift through our archived Legal Server data, generate parameters in collaboration with TRGPD staff for data ripe for deletion, and designing an easy-to-use interface that integrates core databases for TRGPD.

The grant also funds two years of subscription service to Microsoft's "Azure" service to create the interface, and a modest travel budget for the contractor to visit counties when necessary. Data must be informed by on-the-ground realities, which will require some travel.

Piloting Holistic Services

Diversion Court Caseworker and Attorney Development Incentives (Full-Time, 24 months):
\$199,047.15

Caseworker responsible for liaison work with prosecutors, client case management, and data tracking. Bonus stipends for attorneys contributing to program design, evaluation, and docket support.

Training and Community Partnership Development: \$20,000
Workshops, travel, and materials to establish and strengthen treatment collaborations.

Data Systems and Evaluation Support: \$10,000
Software costs for tracking tools and performance reporting. We anticipate our data partners may require a fee for running any survey or experiment on our behalf.

Transportation: \$45,000

Accounts for transporting clients to programs when necessary and staff travel to onsite locations across the state as well as diversion courts.

Indirect / Administrative Costs (15% de minimis of personnel expenses): \$19,904.71
Payroll, overhead, and operational support.

Personnel Costs		\$414,107.15
FTE's	0.85	
Salary	\$330,929.17	
Fringe Benefits	\$83,177.98	
Travel and Training		\$133,500.00
Equipment		\$4,000.00
Supplies		\$12,000.00
Contract Services		\$137,000.00
Indirect		\$67,366.07
Total		\$767,973.22
Required County Match		\$0.00
Total less County Match		\$767,973.22

Home



Recruitment, Marketing, and Branding Proposal Budget Proposal

Organization:	Texas RioGrande Public Defender
County	Recruitment, Marketing, and Branding Proposal
Contract Period:	November 1st, 2025 - September 30th, 2027
Contract Budgeted Amount:	\$ 344,819.00

Budget Category	Approved Budget
Salaries & Contractors	\$202,000.00
Fringe Benefits	\$33,060.00
Attorney Travel Stipend	\$52,500.00
Recruitment Travel	\$15,000.00
Fees for Branding and Recruitment Accounts	\$7,000.00
Indirect 15% de minimis	\$35,259.00
Total Contract Costs	\$344,819.00



Organization:

County

Contract Period:

Contract Budgeted Amount:

Texas RioGrande Public Defender

Recruitment and Marketing Grant

November 1st, 2025 - September 30th, 2027

\$ 344,819.00

Contract Budget		Budgeted Amount	
Contract Budget: Category	Contract Budget: Line Item	Justification	November 1st, 2025 - September 30th, 2027
Salaries Personnel	Attorney Signing Bonus		\$ 100,000.00
	Attorney Relocation Incentives		\$ 50,000.00
	Internship Programs		\$ 32,000.00
	Marketing Contractor		\$ 10,000.00
	Web Design Contractor		\$ 10,000.00
	sub-total Salaries		\$ 202,000.00
	Fringe Benefits		\$ 33,060.00
sub-total Fringe Benefits			\$ 33,060.00
PERSONNEL (SALARIES AND FRINGE BENEFITS)			\$ 235,060.00
	Line Items	Justification	
	Attorney Travel Stipend	Stipend for lawyers to travel to counties and pay for lodging, when necessary	\$ 52,500.00
	Recruitment Travel	Cost for Executive Team to travel to law schools and lodging	\$ 15,000.00
	Fees for Branding and Recruitment Accounts	Annual fees for recruitment fees (LinkedIn Pro, job postings at law schools), and outward facing accounts (website, socials promotion)	\$ 7,000.00
	Indirect 15% de minimis		\$ 35,259.00
TOTAL NON-PERSONNEL			\$ 109,759.00
TRGPD Total Costs from November 1st, 2025 - September 30th, 2027			\$ 344,819.00



Rural Indigent Defense Data Infrastructure Grant Budget Proposal

Organization:	Texas RioGrande Public Defender
County	Rural Indigent Defense Data Infrastructure Grant
Contract Period:	October 1st, 2025 - September 30th, 2026
Contract Budgeted Amount:	\$ 119,250.00

Budget Category	Approved Budget
Salaries	\$110,000.00
Fringe Benefits	\$0.00
Office Supplies & Equipment	\$4,000.00
Travel	\$1,000.00
Software & Technology	\$2,000.00
Indirect	\$2,250.00
Total Contract Costs	\$119,250.00



Organization:	Texas RioGrande Public Defender
County	Rural Indigent Defense Data Infrastructure Grant
Contract Period:	December 1st, 2025 - September 30th, 2026
Contract Budgeted Amount:	\$ 119,250.00

Contract Budget		Budgeted Amount	
Contract Budget: Category	Contract Budget: Line Item	Allocation	December 1st, 2025 - September 30th, 2026
Salaries Personnel	Data Engineer Contractor	100%	\$ 110,000.00
sub-total Salaries		1.0	\$ 110,000.00
	Fringe Benefits: Support Staff		\$ - .00
sub-total Fringe Benefits			\$ - .00
TOTAL PERSONNEL (SALARIES AND FRINGE BENEFITS)			\$ 110,000.00
	Line Items	Justifications	
	Office Supplies & Equipment	This line includes the purchase of two SanDisk Professional 20TB G-Drives to store archived case data	\$ 4,000.00

Software & Technology	This covers the cost of a Microsoft Azure SQL Database subscription to host TRGPD's centralized data infrastructure. The database will integrate information from multiple systems (LegalServer, QuickBooks, Excel,	\$ 2,000.00
Travel	Travel from Beeville to Austin and back to retrieve a copy of case data from TALA, necessary for archive and reporting integration.	\$ 1,000.00
Indirect		\$ 2,250.00
TOTAL NON-PERSONNEL		\$ 9,250.00
TRGPD Total Costs from December 1st, 2025 - September 30th, 2026		\$ 119,250.00



Bee RPD Pilot Diversion Program Grant Budget Proposal

Organization:	Texas RioGrande Public Defender
County	Bee RPD Pilot Diversion Program Grant
Contract Period:	November 1st, 2025 - September 30th, 2027
Contract Budgeted Amount:	\$ 303,904.22

Budget Category	Approved Budget
Salaries	\$148,929.17
Fringe Benefits	\$50,117.98
Training and Community Partnership Development	\$20,000.00
Software and Data Evaluation Support	\$10,000.00
Travel	\$45,000.00
Indirect 15% de minimis	\$29,857.07
Total Contract Costs	\$303,904.22



Organization:	Texas RioGrande Public Defender
County	Bee RPD Pilot Diversion Program Grant
Contract Period:	November 1st, 2025 - September 30th, 2027
Contract Budgeted Amount:	\$ 303,904.22

Contract Budget		Budgeted Amount	
Contract Budget: Category	Contract Budget: Line Item	Allocation	November 1st, 2025 - September 30th, 2027
Salaries Personnel	Diversion Court Caseworker	85%	\$ 118,929.17
	Attorney Incentive Payment	100%	\$ 30,000.00
sub-total Salaries			\$ 148,929.17
	Fringe Benefits		\$ 50,117.98
sub-total Fringe Benefits			\$ 50,117.98
TOTAL PERSONNEL (SALARIES AND FRINGE BENEFITS)			\$ 199,047.15
	Line Items	Justifications	
	Training and Community Partnership Development	Money for workshops, travel, and materials used to build community partnerships	\$ 20,000.00
	Software and Data Evaluation Support	Additional software costs for tracking outcomes and costs associated with performance reporting, including potential	\$ 10,000.00

	Travel	Accounts for transporting clients to programs when necessary and staff travel to onsite locations across the state as well as diversion	\$ 45,000.00
	Indirect 15% de minimis		\$ 29,857.07
TOTAL NON-PERSONNEL			\$ 104,857.07
TRGPD Total Costs from November 1st, 2025 - September 30th, 2027			\$ 303,904.22

Budget Category	Approved Budget
Salaries & Contractors	\$460,929.17
Fringe Benefits	\$83,177.98
Attorney Travel Stipend	\$52,500.00
Recruitment Travel	\$15,000.00
Fees for Branding and Recruitment Accounts	\$7,000.00
Office Supplies and Equipment	\$4,000.00
Software and Technology	\$12,000.00
Training	\$20,000.00
Travel	\$46,000.00
Indirect 15% de minimis	\$67,366.07
Total Grant Costs	\$767,973.22

Grant Modification Request
Maverick County
Tri-County Public Defender Office
Serving Maverick, Dimmit, and Zavala Counties

Background

At the June 2025 board meeting, TIDC awarded Maverick County a new Sustainability Grant to start a regional public defender office.

The program is to be operated under contract with Texas Rio Grande Public Defender (TRGPD), formally a division of Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid. TRGPD has extensive experience operating public defender programs in Texas, including several regional programs and Operation Lone Star defense programs.

Maverick County has a long history of TIDC Policy Monitoring findings regarding compliance with the Fair Defense Act. Recent changes, including the addition of an Indigent Defense Coordinator, and the public defender grant application, indicate the County's progress toward system improvements.

The County's historical spending on indigent defense is very low. FY23 spending was \$84,898 (\$1.47 per capita). FY24 spending was \$57,757 (87 cents per capita). The statewide average in FY23 was \$14 per capita.

At the August 2025 board meeting, TIDC approved a request for supplemental funds under our Temporary or One-Time Assistance for Rural Defender Programs RFA. That award reduced the required matching funds for FY26 by 20%, in line with the standard reduction offered to most other regional programs under this special funding opportunity.

Request for Supplemental Funds

Maverick County requests \$122,646 in additional supplemental funds under the Temporary or One-Time Assistance for Rural Defenders program to further reduce Maverick County's matching contribution to the program in FY26.

Recommendation

Consider increasing Maverick County's FY26 grant award for the Tri-County Regional Public Defender Office by \$122,646 to a revised award amount of \$1,401,171.



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE
THE HONORABLE RAMSEY ENGLISH CANTÚ

Office of the County Judge
Maverick County Courthouse
500 Quarry Street, Suite 3
Eagle Pass, Texas 78852

November 24, 2025

Texas Indigent Defense Commission
via email—Mr. Edwin Colfax

To the Commission:

On behalf of Maverick County, I write to update the Commission on the county's progress toward establishing a public defender office with Texas Rio Grande Public Defender and request additional temporary funding to finalize our agreement.

Financial circumstances in Maverick County have stressed the county's budget in the current fiscal year. The county has created a County Court at Law to increase the efficiency of our criminal justice system and is not able to fund the current match figure of \$182,646 for a public defender's office in Fiscal Year 2025 at the same time. After reviewing our financial forecast, Maverick County will be able to fund a maximum of \$60,000. We are requesting additional support from TIDC through a Supplemental Grant to support \$122,646 in funding.

As expressed in my letter of support on June 18, 2025, Maverick County remains committed to strengthening its criminal justice system so that all individuals, regardless of income, receive fair and effective legal representation. We remain supportive of establishing a public defender's office with Texas Rio Grande Public Defender. And we are optimistic that with the beginning of operations and more time to forecast our budget in future years Maverick County will be able to increase its contribution in future years. However, at point of inception this year, Maverick will require this additional financial support.

While we are aware of the additional burden of this ask, we sincerely hope that this important initiative does not falter at the finish line. Thank you for your consideration.

In public service, I remain,

Ramsey English Cantu
Maverick County Judge

Policy Considerations Regarding Grant Eligibility Following Termination of a Funded Program

Background

Since its inception, TIDC's Improvement Grant program has been focused on implementing and sustaining *permanent* programs that improve indigent defense.

The standard Improvement Grant is structured to create incentives for counties to implement new defender programs. The standard Improvement Grant provides 80% reimbursement in the first year, 60% in the second year, 40% in the third year, and 20% in the fourth year, gradually transitioning to full county funding after 4 years.

TIDC's Sustainability Grants for rural regional public defender programs are also intended to help counties implement permanent programs that help rural areas address their unique challenges. Those grants provide 80% reimbursement in the first year, and transition to 2/3 grant funding in subsequent years.

In both cases, the strategy has been to make investments in lasting improvements, rather than temporary benefits.

It has been TIDC's clear expectation that applicants make a good-faith commitment to continue to operate successful programs that TIDC has invested in. One required section of the Improvement Grant application is titled "Future Funding," where applicants are asked to describe how the proposed activity fits into the County's long-term budget planning after the grant ends. The RFA also indicates that preferred applications demonstrate a county's long-term commitment to the program.

It may be appropriate to strengthen and formalize this commitment for several reasons:

- To avoid counties accepting grant funds and then terminating successful programs when state grants wane or end.
- To avoid host or participating counties from pulling out of successful regional programs that destabilize multi-county defender offices.

Policy Options

- Counties that elect to terminate indigent defense programs or projects actively funded by TIDC or funded within the past [36/48] months by Improvement Grants or Sustainability Grants will not be eligible for other Improvement Grants or Sustainability Grants for a period of [36/48] months after the date the program or project was last funded by TIDC.
- Add language to the commissioners court resolution required for all grant applications expressing clear intent to continue successful programs.
- Consider suspension of Formula Grant funding for some period.
- Require repayment of some improvement grant funds if program if program is terminated.

FY27 Improvement Grant Request for Applications

Each year TIDC issues the Improvement Grant Request for Applications (RFA) to invite funding applications for indigent defense programs that improve public defense in Texas.

Non-Substantive Changes

- Due dates will be updated for the FY2027 cycle, with a priority due date of May 8, 2026.
- TIDC is in the early stages of implementing new grant management software. Because configuration is pending, it is premature to provide specific instructions for the new grant application website.
- The FY27 RFA will be issued with an announcement of the transition to the new grant application website. Applicants will be advised that updated grant application web instructions and webinars will be available in March, 2026.

Policy Changes Regarding Grant Eligibility Following Funded Program Termination

The RFA may also incorporate new policies approved by the Board concerning future grant eligibility following the termination of a funded program as described on the previous page.

Recommendation

Publish the FY2027 Improvement Grant Request for Applications with changes described above and incorporating any new policies adopted by the Board.

Extraordinary Disbursement Grant Request

Stephens County

Background

- Stephens County's population is 9,106.
- Total indigent defense expenditures were \$91,900 in FY24 and \$122,301 in FY25.
- The district court has already authorized \$20,000 in expert costs (not yet expended) for three related pending cases expected to incur extraordinary defense costs.
- The County is facing the prospect of significant challenges to normal cash flow if anticipated expenses in these cases are incurred.
- Stephens County has participated in the Regional Public Defender Office for Capital Cases (RPDO) since becoming eligible in 2013. The RPDO is not representing these defendants because the death penalty is not being sought.
- Stephens County previously received a FY2019 Extraordinary Disbursement Grant of \$21,500 for expert costs in a capital case handled by RPDO. (Expert witness expenses are not covered under the RPDO contract.)
- Extraordinary Disbursement Grants typically are not awarded in advance of expenditures. For Stephens County's previous award, the Board approved an "up to" amount, \$50,000, to be paid as documentation of eligible expenditures were submitted. This facilitated quicker reimbursement.
- TIDC adopted a budget of \$300,000 for the Extraordinary Disbursement program in FY26, none of which has been expended to date.

Request

Stephens County has requested an Extraordinary Disbursement Grant *in anticipation of* expected significant expenses in three unrelated cases. The district court has already authorized \$20,000 in expert costs and is expecting extraordinary costs for these three cases.

Staff Recommendation: Award Stephens County an Extraordinary Disbursement Grant of up to \$20,000 pending receipt of documentation of eligible defense expenses in the cases identified in the County's application.

Extraordinary Disbursement Grant Application Form


"Extraordinary Disbursement Grant" means discretionary-based funding to reimburse a county for actual extraordinary expenses for providing indigent defense services in a case or series of cases causing a financial hardship for the county (Texas Administrative Code §173.102(8)).

General Information			
County	Stephens	County Payee Number	17560011573
County Judge	Michael C. Roach	Auditor/Treasurer	Kelsey Cornwall
Address	200 West Walker Street Suite 115, Breckenridge TX	Address	200 West Walker Street Suite 111, Breckenridge TX, 76424
Phone	254.559.2190	Phone	254.559.7333
E-mail	mroach@stephenscountytexas.gov	E-mail	treasurer@stephenscountytexas.gov
Summary of Reimbursement Request: Stephens County seeks reimbursement for extraordinary indigent defense costs in three major felony cases that exceed our annual budget. Judge Philip Gregory has approved the first \$20,000 in expert witness fees. These expenses surpass our FY 2001 baseline and create a significant financial hardship for the County.			
RPDO Participation: Is the county eligible to participate in the RPDO for Capital Cases? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Include a justification with the application material if the county is eligible but is not participating in the RPDO.) Is the county participating in the RPDO for Capital Cases? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			

Case Information			
Court	Cause Number	Defendant's Name	Date of Judgment
90th Judicial State Court	F-37443	Logan Scott Bills	
90th Judicial State Court	F-37624	Jacob Wayne Spencer	
90th Judicial State Court	F-37305	John Brown Lewis IV	

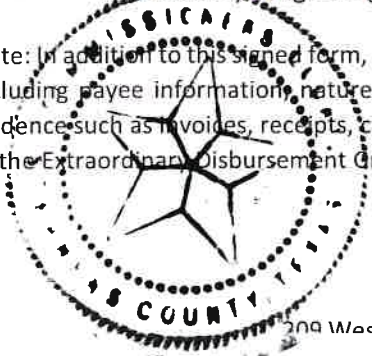
Expense Summary & Total Amount Requested		
Eligible Expense Category	Notes/Description	Expense
Attorney Fees		
Expert Witness Fees		
Investigation Fees		
Mitigation Fees		
Other Eligible Expenses		
Expense Summary Total		\$ 0.00
Total Amount Requested		

I affirm that this reimbursement request is for actual litigation expenses for indigent defendants or indigent juvenile respondents.


Constitutional County Judge's Signature

11/17/25
Date

Note: In addition to this signed form, counties must submit an itemized list of actual extraordinary expenses organized chronologically including payee information, nature of services provided, and amount of expenditure. Counties must also provide documentary evidence such as invoices, receipts, canceled checks, or pay stubs to support the itemized list of extraordinary expenses. Please refer to the Extraordinary Disbursement Grant Procedures for more information.



**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF STEPHENS**

**ORDER AND RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF STEPHENS
COUNTY, TEXAS REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE TEXAS INDIGENT
DEFENSE COMMISSION EXTRAORDINARY DISBURSEMENT GRANT PROGRAM**

On this 27th day of October, 2025, the Commissioners Court of Stephens County, Texas, met in a duly posted meeting with a quorum present and considered the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Stephens County is constitutionally and statutorily responsible for providing indigent defense services to defendants and juvenile respondents; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Indigent Defense Commission is authorized under Texas Government Code Section 79.037 to provide payments and grants to counties to support indigent defense services, including Extraordinary Disbursement Grants for actual extraordinary expenses that create a financial hardship; and

WHEREAS, Extraordinary Disbursement Grants are intended to reimburse counties for extraordinary indigent defense expenses arising from extraordinary circumstances, including murder, capital murder, multiple-defendant litigation, extensive expert requirements, and similar events; and

WHEREAS, Stephens County has incurred extraordinary indigent defense expenses arising from multiple serious felony matters during the current and immediately preceding fiscal years, including murder and capital-related prosecutions requiring qualified counsel, investigators, experts, and mitigation services; and

WHEREAS, these expenses include attorney fees, investigator fees, expert witness fees, mitigation expenses, and other direct litigation costs that are eligible for reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, these extraordinary expenses exceed Stephens County's 2001 baseline indigent defense expenditures and have created a significant financial burden on the County's general fund; and

WHEREAS, the Extraordinary Disbursement Grant Procedures require counties to submit a completed application, a written statement of need, an itemized chronological list of extraordinary expenses, and documentary proof such as invoices, receipts, cancelled checks, or pay stubs; and

WHEREAS, the application form and request letter must be signed by the Constitutional County Judge, and all materials must be submitted on or before June 1 for eligible expenses incurred during the current or immediately preceding fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, for cases involving capital-eligible offenses, the Commission will consider the County's eligibility and participation status with the Regional Public Defender Office for Capital Cases; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court finds that submitting an Extraordinary Disbursement Grant request is in the best interest of Stephens County taxpayers and supports the County's ability to meet its constitutional obligations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AND RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF STEPHENS COUNTY, TEXAS, THAT:

1. Stephens County hereby formally requests financial assistance from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission through the Extraordinary Disbursement Grant Program to reimburse actual extraordinary indigent defense expenses incurred in qualifying felony cases.
2. The Commissioners Court authorizes the completion and submission of the Extraordinary Disbursement Grant Application Form, including all required attachments, documentation, and supporting materials.
3. The Constitutional County Judge, Michael Roach, is designated as the Authorized Official for Stephens County and is empowered to execute the application, certifications, letters, supplemental materials, and any other documents required for the County's request.
4. The Stephens County Auditor and Treasurer are directed to compile and submit all required financial documentation, ensure that only paid eligible expenses are included, maintain all accounting records required by the Commission, and assist in responding to any follow-up requests.
5. The Commissioners Court acknowledges that approval of funding is discretionary and contingent on the availability of funds, staff recommendations, verification of eligible expenses, and a finding of extraordinary financial hardship.
6. If awarded, all grant funds received shall be used solely for reimbursement of the extraordinary indigent defense costs submitted in the application and shall not supplant the County's baseline indigent defense funding.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED on this the 27th day of October, 2025, in a regular meeting of the Stephens County Commissioners Court.



Michael Roach, County Judge

ATTEST:



STEPHENS COUNTY – REQUEST LETTER FOR TIDC EXTRAORDINARY DISBURSEMENT GRANT

Date: November 17, 2025

To: Texas Indigent Defense Commission – Grants Division

Email: Grants@tidc.texas.gov

Re: Extraordinary Disbursement Grant Request – Stephens County, Texas

To the Commissioners and Staff of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission:

Pursuant to Texas Government Code §79.037 and the Commission’s Extraordinary Disbursement Grant Procedures, Stephens County hereby submits this request for reimbursement of extraordinary indigent defense expenses incurred in multiple high-severity felony cases currently pending in the 90th Judicial District Court.

Stephens County is a small rural county with limited general-fund capacity and a historically modest indigent defense budget. During the current fiscal year, the County has been required to provide indigent defense services in three major felony matters that have produced litigation expenses far exceeding our annual indigent defense allocations:

1. **State v. Logan Scott Bills**, Cause No. **F37443**, charged with Murder under Penal Code §19.02(c).
2. **State v. Jacob Wayne Spencer**, Cause No. **F37624**, charged with Criminal Conspiracy to Commit Capital Murder and Criminal Solicitation to Commit Capital Murder under Penal Code §19.03(a)(3).
3. **State v. John Brown Lewis IV**, Cause No. **F37305**, charged with Tampering/Fabricating Physical Evidence with Intent to Impair a Human Corpse under Penal Code §37.09(c).

These cases have required the appointment of qualified defense counsel, investigators, and expert witnesses at levels far above typical indigent defense expenditures for a county of our size.

Expert Fees Authorized by the Court

The Honorable **Philip Gregory**, Judge of the 90th Judicial District Court, has formally approved the **first \$20,000.00 in expert witness fees** connected to these matters. This authorization reflects the complexity and seriousness of the litigation, including matters requiring forensic analysis, expert consultation, evidentiary review, and specialized defense preparation.

Financial Hardship

The combined attorney, investigation, mitigation, and expert-related costs for these three defendants already exceed Stephens County's normal indigent defense budget and significantly surpass our **FY 2001 baseline**, as required by the Extraordinary Disbursement Grant criteria. Because all three defendants remain in pre-trial custody and litigation is ongoing, additional expenses are expected.

These costs place a substantial, unplanned burden on the County's general fund and threaten the County's ability to maintain essential public services while still meeting constitutional indigent defense obligations.

Grant Request

Stephens County respectfully requests consideration for reimbursement under the **Extraordinary Disbursement Grant Program** for all qualifying, documented expenses incurred in these cases, including:

- Attorney fees
- Expert witness fees
- Investigation fees
- Mitigation services
- Other directly related indigent defense expenses authorized by the Court and paid by the County

An itemized, chronological list of all paid extraordinary expenses, together with invoices, receipts, cancelled checks, and other required documentation, will be submitted in accordance with TIDC procedures.

Designation of County Representative

As Constitutional County Judge, I am the authorized signatory for this request and for the Extraordinary Disbursement Grant Application. Stephens County stands ready to provide any additional information or documentation the Commission may require.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of Texas counties in fulfilling their constitutional duties.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Roach

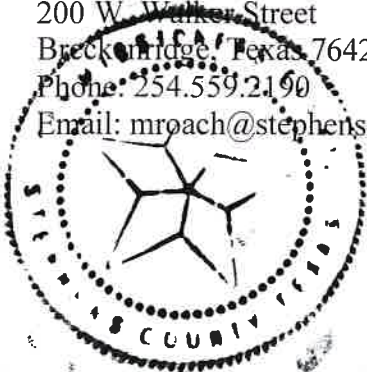
County Judge, Stephens County, Texas

200 W. Walker Street

Breckenridge, Texas 76424

Phone: 254.559.2190

Email: mroach@stephenscountytexas.gov



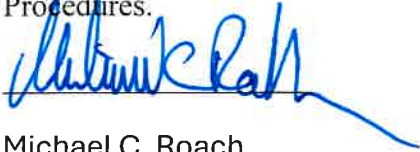
RPDO Participation Justification – Stephens County

Stephens County acknowledges that the Texas Indigent Defense Commission considers a county's participation in the Regional Public Defender Office for Capital Cases (RPDO) when reviewing applications for Extraordinary Disbursement Grant funding. In the matter of **State v. Jacob Wayne Spencer**, Cause No. **F37624**, the charges include Criminal Conspiracy to Commit Capital Murder and Criminal Solicitation to Commit Capital Murder under Penal Code §19.03(a)(3).

Stephens County provides the following justification for not utilizing RPDO representation in this case:

1. **RPDO representation is limited to capital cases in which the State is seeking the death penalty.**
At this time, the prosecution has **not filed notice to seek the death penalty**, and therefore the case does not qualify for RPDO capital representation under its eligibility criteria.
2. **Local appointment was required due to timeline and availability.**
The defendant appeared before the court prior to any death-certification determination, and qualified counsel was immediately appointed consistent with Article 26.052 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
3. **The defense has not requested RPDO involvement nor met procedural requirements for such transfer.**
No motion or request for RPDO services has been filed by defense counsel.
4. **Stephens County continues to comply with all statutory indigent defense obligations.**
The county follows all TIDC-approved indigent defense plans and maintains appointment lists consistent with state requirements.

For these reasons, Stephens County respectfully submits that non-participation in the RPDO for this case is appropriate, justified, and consistent with TIDC Extraordinary Disbursement Grant Procedures.



Michael C. Roach

Stephens County Judge



Operation Lone Star Extraordinary Disbursement Grant Request

Uvalde County

Background

- Uvalde County has been involved with Operation Lone Star (OLS) since the inception. The County adopted an emergency declaration as outlined by the Governor's Office.
- Early in OLS, Uvalde County declined to refer arrestees to the TIDC-funded OLS Defender Program originally operated by Lubbock Private Defender Office. The County determined they had sufficient local attorneys who had the capacity to handle the additional cases generated by the OLS program.
- The Governor's Office provided a grant directly to Uvalde County, part of which was to cover additional indigent defense costs incurred because of OLS.
- Since the original indigent defense funding ran out, the County has covered the costs for OLS defense representation in full.
- Other counties participating in OLS during the last biennium had defense costs covered in full through TIDC-funded regional OLS program.

Request

Uvalde County requests reimbursement from funds appropriated to TIDC for OLS indigent defense for OLS smuggling of persons cases fully funded by the county. The County has submitted hundreds of pages of documentation of these case expenses that are currently under review.

Staff Recommendation: Pending review of documentation.