



**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER
4th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
123 NORTH COLLEGE AVE
FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS 72701
PHONE (479) 444-1595
FAX (479) 444-1608**

Denny Hyslip
Public Defender

Leana Houston
Chief Deputy

Deputy Public Defenders
Blake Chancellor
Michael C. Roberson
Daniel Field
Matt Bender
Brooke Magness
Sandy Cordi
Joshua Eide
Amanda Simmons
Paul Teufel
Candice Smith
Jera Houghtaling

October 8, 2018

Bill Ussery
Chair of Finance Committee
Quorum Court of Washington Co
280 N. College Ave
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Re: 2019 Budget Request

Dear Mr. Ussery,

Please find attached the budget request for the Washington County Public Defender's Office. We have worked hard for many years to provide quality legal services for the citizens of Washington County with less and less. Our case load continues to increase every month; yet, for many years we have operated on the same or with a minimum increase to our budget. We will always continue to work to provide the best for our county. In January, we had an average case load every week of \$1,300. For August, our average weekly caseload is 1,600 cases a week.

I have a few changes in our budget. They have increased the court days in Madison County, so we have a small increase in mileage with attorneys traveling to court more frequently. I have also made small adjustments to reflect the increase in copier and cell phone costs. The biggest part of the budget increase concerns our Software Support Maintenance Agreement. With the quorum courts help in the last few years, we went from using a rolodex system to maintain and organize our clients and cases to using a software data system. We contract with a company that provides the system and maintains the storage for us. Their charge is based upon the number of cases entered. Because of our great increase in cases, we are needing an increase in the budget

for our contract with them. That is reflected on line item 3102 with the software support maintenance agreement. It is just an increase in cost that we can not avoid. We always appreciate the support that we receive from the Quorum Court. I understand that you all work hard to operate a sound budget without any increase cost to the tax payers. We will always work with you on that goal.

Sincerely,

Denny Hyslip
Attorney at Law