

OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER



FY 2024-2025 Budget Presentation

February 19, 2024



To ensure... indigent lowans are provided *high-quality* legal representation in the *most efficient* manner...

Hybrid System

Office of the
State Public Defender

SPD Operations

241 Authorized Positions

- 167 Attorneys
- 27 Investigators
- 44 Secretaries
- 3 Administrative Staff

Indigent Defense Fund

- 518 Contract Attorneys

Total Appropriations

	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimate	FY 2025 Dept Request
SPD Operations	\$27,144,382	\$29,483,120	\$30,112,503	\$30,718,203	\$30,718,203
Indigent Defense Fund	\$40,760,448	\$41,160,374	\$42,160,374	\$44,046,374	\$44,046,374
Total	\$67,904,830	\$70,643,494	\$72,272,877	\$74,764,577	\$74,764,577

*FY2025 request equal to FY2024

FY 2025 Governor's Budget Recommendations

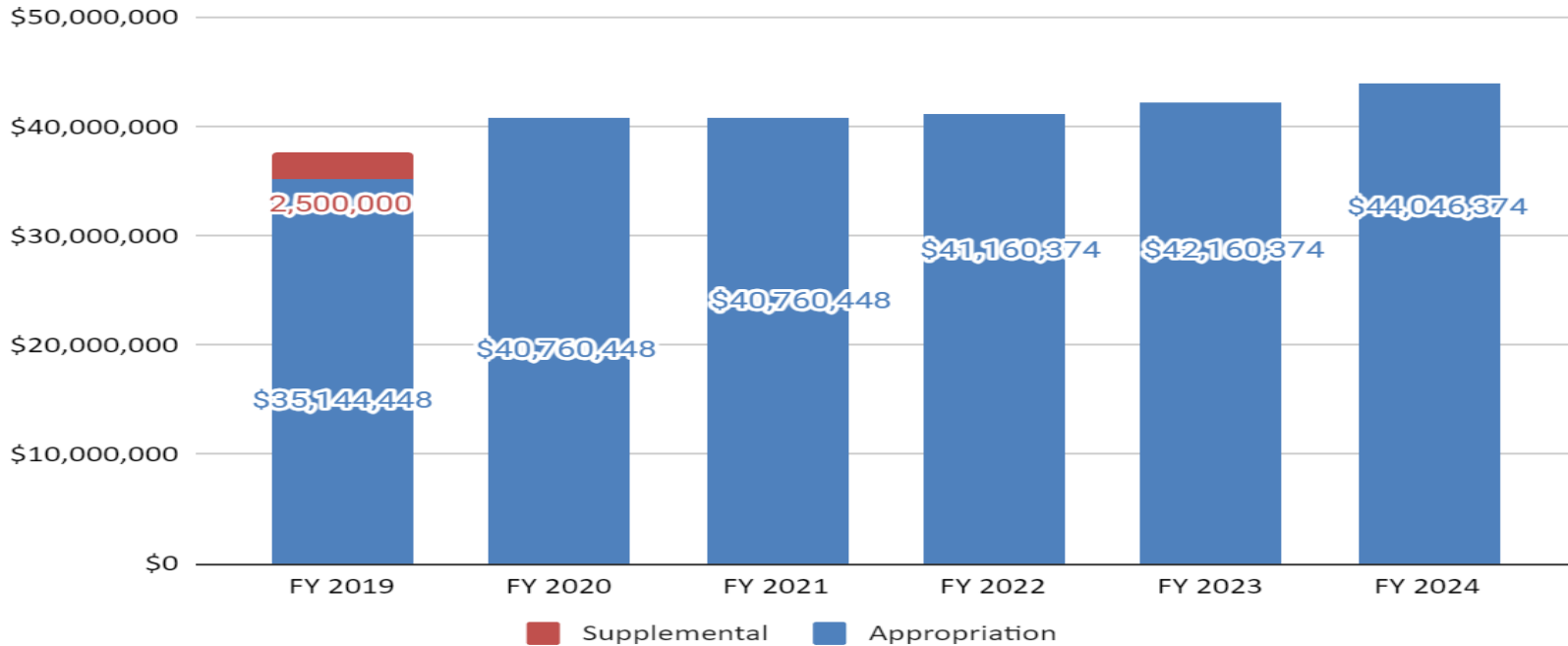
SPD Operations: \$31,477,894

Indigent Defense Fund: \$44,046,374

Total: \$75,524,268



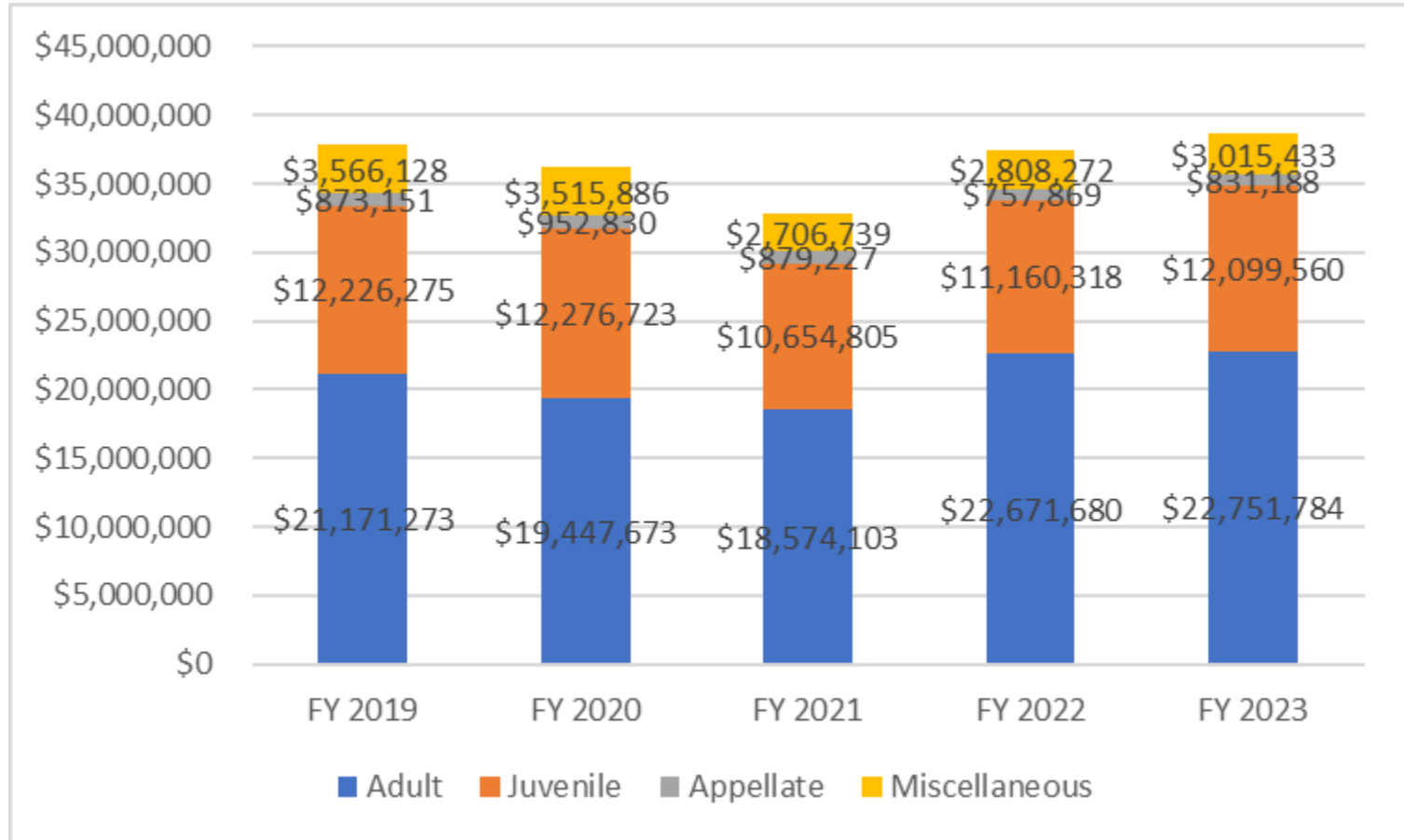
Indigent Defense Appropriation History



	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Appropriation	\$35,144,448	\$40,760,448	\$40,760,448	\$41,160,374	\$42,160,374	\$44,046,374
Supplemental	2,500,000					
Transfer In/Allocation						
Total	\$37,644,448	\$40,760,448	\$40,760,448	\$41,160,374	\$42,160,374	\$44,046,374



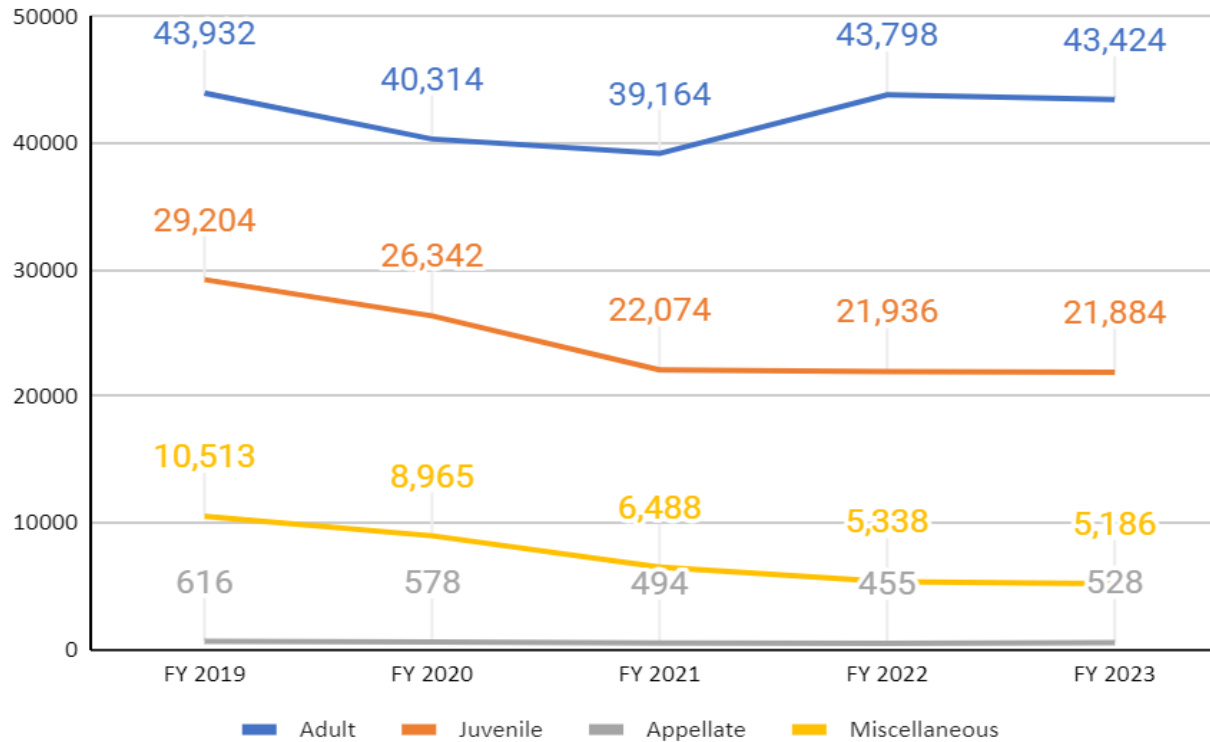
Indigent Defense Fund Expenditures



- Expenditures are actual Indigent Defense claims paid (excludes reversions).



Indigent Defense Claims



Note:

FY2017: Reflects date of service adjustment



SPD/Indigent Defense Caseloads

State Public Defender System

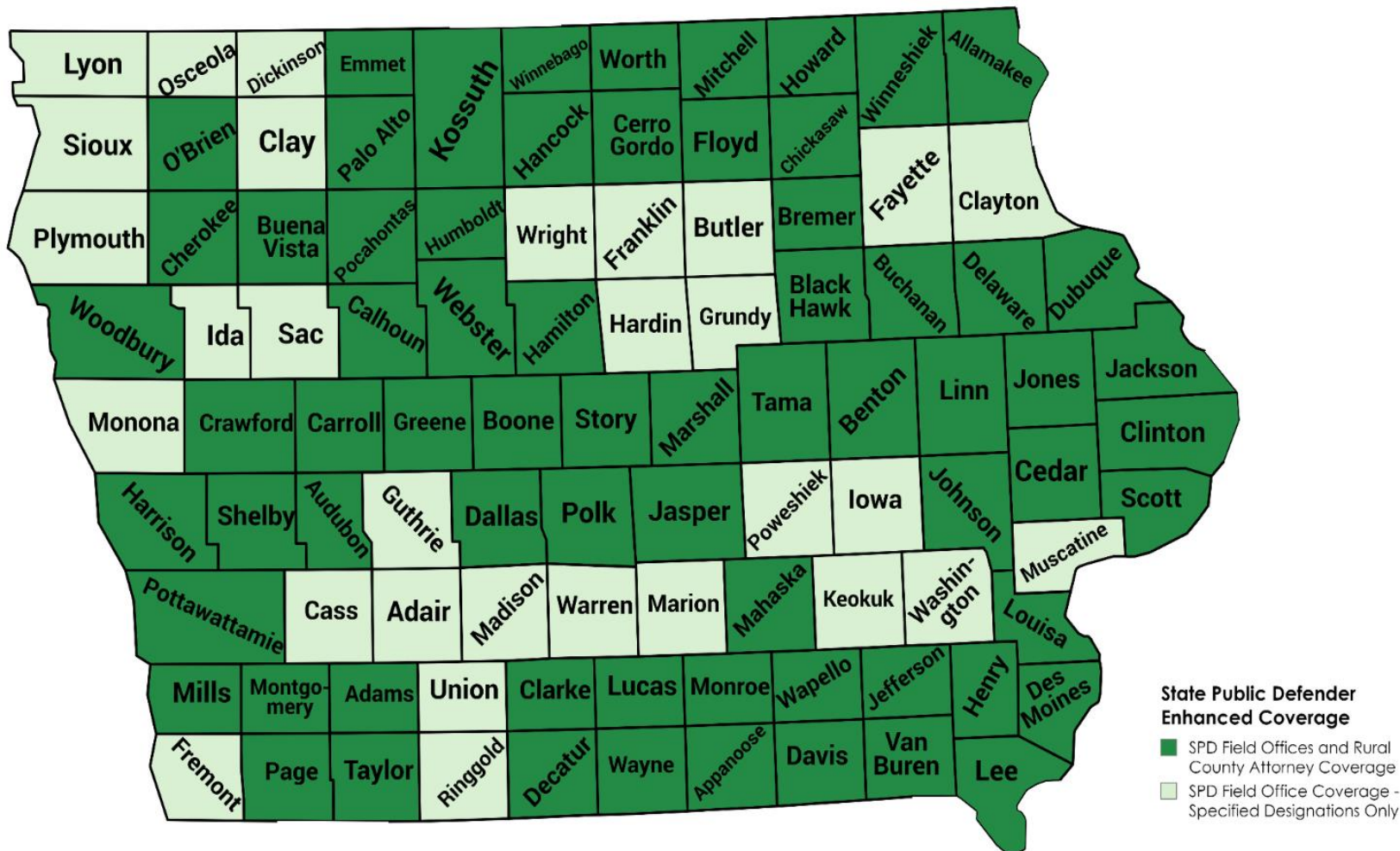
- 2023: 90,854 charges
- 2022: 96,223 charges
- 2021: 88,878 charges
- 2020: 91,758 charges
- 2019: 88,173 charges
- 2018: 82,117 charges
- 2017: 83,398 charges
- 2016: 81,916 charges

Indigent Defense Fund

- 2023: 71,020 claims
- 2022: 71,801 claims
- 2021: 68,220 claims
- 2020: 76,199 claims
- 2019: 84,265 claims
- 2018: 82,496 claims
- 2017: 76,734 claims *
- 2016: 76,043 claims (*Young*)

*11 month – Date of Service change

Rural County Attorney Project – Enhanced Coverage Across Iowa





Decline of Contract Attorneys

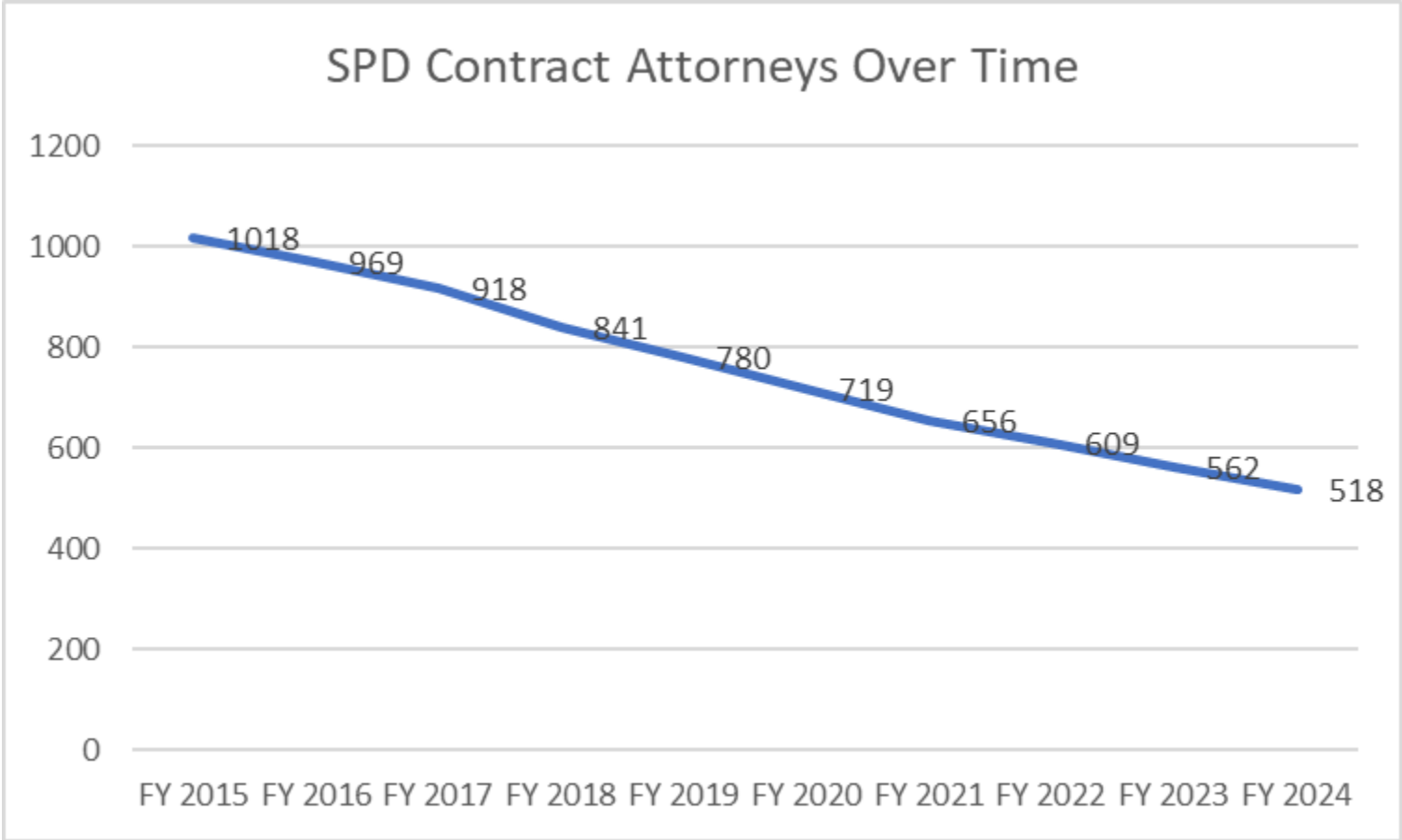
At a Critical Stage:

- 518 Contract Attorneys
- Counties and judges having a difficult time finding attorneys to handle cases of all types

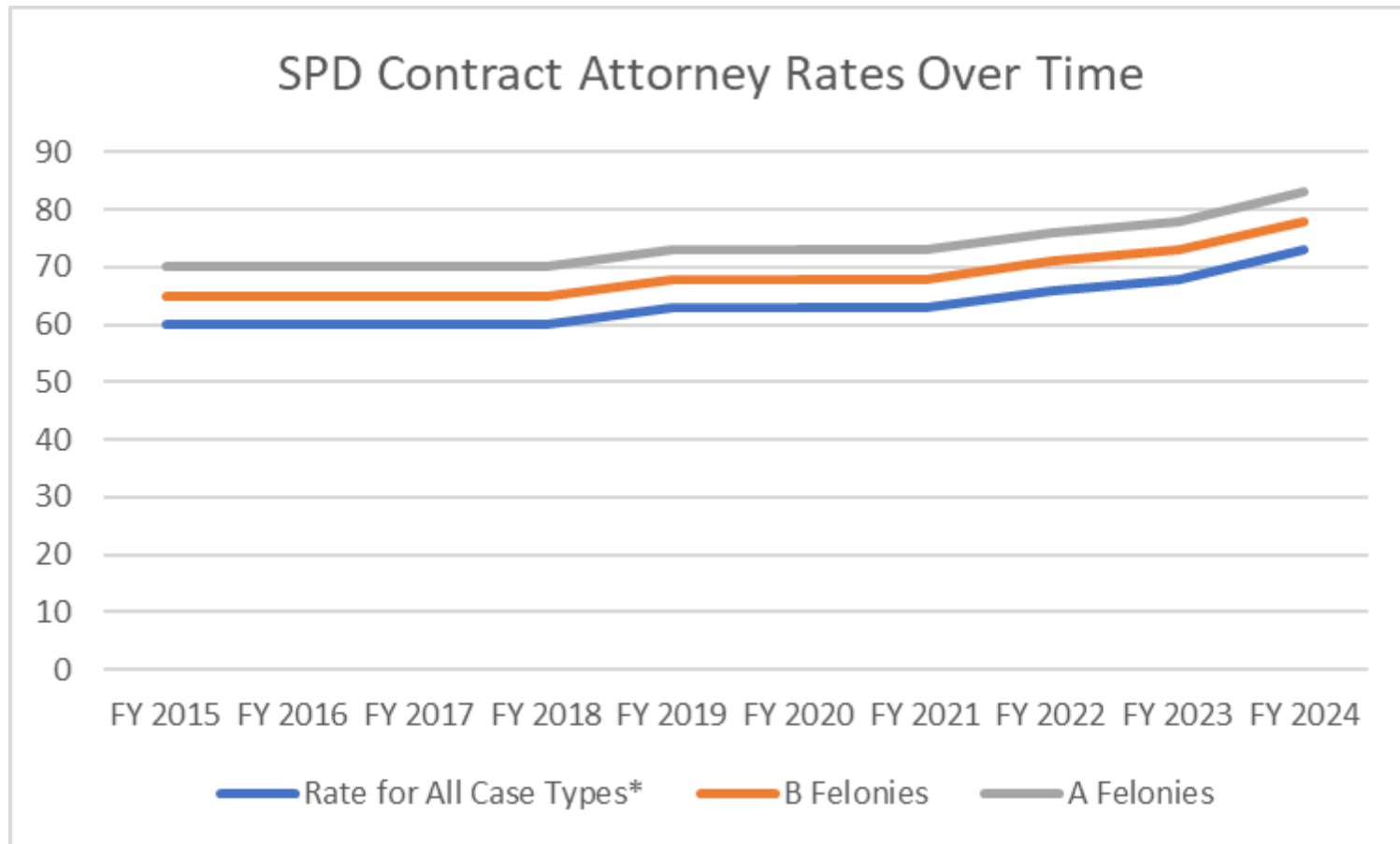
Special Contracts:

- The State Public Defender's Office is working with the Judicial Branch to identify areas where special contracts can provide better efficiency and higher quality representation.

A Decrease in SPD Contract Attorneys



SPD Contract Attorney Hourly Rates Over Time



* excludes A and B Felonies

Contract Attorneys

Multifaceted Approach to Solve Problem:

- Movement toward more virtual hearings
- Outreach and support to contract attorneys
 - 15-City Listening Tour
 - In-Person Criminal Defense Trainings in Each Judicial District (Open to All Licensed Attorneys)
- Financial incentives for their dedication to public service

2024 Legislation

- HF 2403/SF 2350 - Technical Cleanup of 600A Definition



Improving the System



Projects/Advancements

- Technology Improvement has allowed field offices to handle more cases
- Text Messaging reduces failures to appear
- Embracing New Technologies
- Redesigning/Rethinking Office Space
- Video Conference Capabilities
- Wrongful Convictions Collaboration/PCR
- Cellebrite Data Collection
- Monthly CLE and Trainings Offered Statewide via webcast

Funding Sources

- Over \$1.6 million in grants approved
- Post-Conviction DNA Grant for FY2024-FY2026 - \$855,000
- Status quo budget (Governor's Rec.)
- Title IV-E funding (more information to follow)
- Projects completed within our standard appropriation have saved the system money

IV-E Dollars Reversion – Juvenile Justice Improvement Fund

Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated in this section that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of the fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain available for expenditure for the purposes designated until the close of the succeeding fiscal year.

IV-E Dollars Reversion - Juvenile Justice Improvement Fund

Estimated Juvenile Justice Improvement Fund Balance for FY 2024: \$4,436,020

How IV-E Dollars Are Used

- Funding source for the Project to Preserve Families.
- Used for training and development of juvenile-based programs designed to keep families together and save costs long-term.
- Must be used to supplement and not to supplant existing funding.



Leading the Way

Project to Preserve Families and IV-E Funds

- Project to Preserve Families - Referrals are being made; families are staying together
- Various multi-disciplinary models are being used
- Iowa is leading the nation in recovery of legal representation based IV-E funds as a result of a well-structured approach ensuring funds recovered efficiently and used in accordance with federal guidelines

Efficient Offices

- Technology improvements have provided us with the opportunity to take on more cases
- Phone conversions have led to additional savings (approximately half the cost of regular phone service)
- Since the implementation of the the Text Messaging Project, we have observed a decrease in warrants of 22%

Better Services Statewide

- Working with the courts to utilize video hearings in the future
- Working with the courts and counties to provide the greatest possible impact with the Rural County Attorney project
- Actively reaching out to contract attorneys

Questions?

