



Cochise County
Legal Defender's Office

Public Programs...Personal Service
www.cochise.az.gov

Interoffice Memorandum

To: Jim Vlahovich, County Administrator; Ed Gilligan, Deputy County Administrator

From: Joel Larson, Legal Defender

Date: April 25, 2016

Subject: **Request for additional funding of Legal Defender's currently open Attorney I/II position**

This is a request for additional funding of \$21,500 for our currently open Attorney II/ III position. This request is based on the continued increase in felony case numbers, and the projections that these numbers will continue at this level for the foreseeable future.

IDC statistics show the following total of IDC felony case assignments for FY 10/11 through FY 14/15, the first two quarters of FY 15/16 and January and February of 2016 (see chart below)

FY	Total Felony Cases
10/11	856 Cases
11/12	760 Cases
12/13	577 Cases
13/14	596 Cases
14/15	686 Cases
15/16	502 Cases
Jan. 16	95 cases
Feb. 16	118 cases

Although this office was able to handle all non-conflict felony and probation revocation matters referred to it for nearly seven years, a combination of staff shortages and increased felony filings resulted in this office having to overload cases. I have concluded that the office and thus the County are best served by maintaining a full complement of experienced attorneys who are able to handle all aspects of the voluminous, fast paced defense of the criminally accused in Cochise County.

Our vacant position is currently funded at \$56,992. I am requesting an increase in funding for this position of an additional \$21,500, which will enable us to fill the position with a qualified candidate, while also maintaining internal equity.

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