

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS & FINANCE
36TH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

POST AUDIT DIVISION

FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET ANALYSIS

Office of the Territorial Public Defender

July 24, 2026



COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS & FINANCE
36TH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

POST AUDIT DIVISION

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OFFICE OF THE TERRITORIAL PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OVERVIEW

The Office of the Territorial Public Defender (OTPD) is a semi-autonomous agency of the Government of the Virgin Islands. OTPD was established under Title 5, Chapter 302, and Subsection 3520 on February 29, 1973, to represent indigent criminal defendants that appear before the Superior and Supreme Courts of the Virgin Islands. The OTPD is comprised of a district office on St. Thomas and one on St. Croix. Each division of the office is comprised of attorneys that are licensed to practice law in the Virgin Islands or specially admitted to practice law in the Virgin Islands on behalf of the Office of the Public Defender.

The OTPD is governed by the Public Defender Administration Board which consists of:

- The President of the Virgin Islands Bar Association or his designee.
- Two appointees of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (one resident of St. Croix district and the other of St. Thomas/St. John district with one serving for three years and the other serving for two years).
- One appointee of the Governor of the Virgin Islands who serves the same term as the person who appointed them.
- One appointee of the President of the VI Legislature who serves the same term as the person who appointed them.

Board Member	Name	Appointed By
Chairperson	Clive Rivers, Esq.	Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands
Member	Amos Carty, Jr., Esq.	Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Member	Kye Walker, Esq.	Office of the Governor
Member	Mark Milligan, Esq.	Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands
Member	Daniel Cevallos, Esq.	Virgin Islands Bar

The Public Defender Administration Board is authorized to:

- Hire or terminate all personnel and staff for the office, upon the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, who is appointed for three years.
- Hear and decide on all complaints and grievances of employees.
- Promulgate rules and regulations governing employees' rights and regulations.
- Approve the annual budget for the office.

The Chief Public Defender's duties and responsibilities include:

- Make an annual report to all board members containing a brief summary of all cases handled by the office during the preceding year.
- Annually survey all federal prisons (which house prisoners incarcerated for the conviction of the violation of a criminal statute of the Virgin Islands) to determine if the facility has made Virgin Islands legal publications and material available to its prisoners.

The Public Defenders duties and responsibilities include:

- Counseling and defending their clients at every stage.
- Devote full-time to the discharge of their duties and cannot directly, or indirectly, engage in the private practice of law.

OFFICE OF THE TERRITOTIAL PUBLIC DEFENDER AT A GLANCE

As of July 6th, the Office of the Territorial Public Defender received **\$4,087,983** in allotments, representing approximately **67%** of its total FY 2026 appropriation.

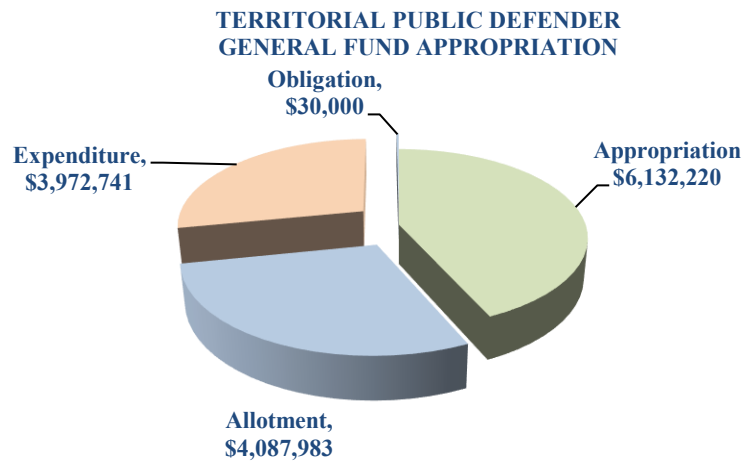


Exhibit I

During the Office's Fiscal Year 2026 budget hearing, testimony was given on the following. *Exhibit II* contains an update on the status of their initiatives:

FY 2026 INITIATIVES	UPDATE
Open Cases:	
974 open cases as of July 10, 2026 591 St. Croix District 383 St. Thomas/St. John District	974 Total
New Case Management System:	
Defender Data – Tracks cases and client information. Defender Data affords the Office improved methods for doing regular tasks, track new court dates, assigned internal tasks, and provide accurate records.	Use daily by entire staff
Training:	
Training for the Public Defenders.	Ongoing
Other Key Points:	
Salary Increases – OTPD desire is to even the playing field with employees at the Virgin Islands DOJ.	Ongoing
OTPD partnered with the Division of Personnel to perform general triage for blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, and Body Mass Index (BMI) screenings for employees at its Annual Health Fair Day in both districts.	Completed for 2026
Collaborate with community organizations to assist clients to obtain referrals and funding to attend inpatient and outpatient drug treatment facilities.	Ongoing
Partnered with VI Justice Initiative to promote “Know Your Rights” and “Teen Intervention & Criminal Deterrence Project” campaign in the community. Attorneys go to schools, after school programs, summer camps, discuss relevant topics, including but not limited to online safety, how court involvement affects your future, and the true impact of an arrest and conviction.	Ongoing
Introduce differential pay for employees who speak a foreign language and use those skills as interpreters and transcribers in the performance of the duties of the Office.	Work In Progress
Staff Recruitment – Actively recruit qualified legal and support staff to fill current vacancies in the STT/STJ & STX dist.	Ongoing
Technology Upgrade – Of computer hardware and operating systems throughout OTPD to improve efficiency and security.	Ongoing
Community Collaboration – Work collaboratively with community stakeholders to provide opportunities for education, treatment, and rehabilitation services for clients.	Ongoing
Capital Improvement Projects – Develop a strategic plan for the continued modernization of the OTPD building in St. Croix; and continue discussions and identify additional funding resources to purchase a permanent building for the OTPD in the St. Thomas district.	Ongoing

Exhibit II

FUND FLOW ANALYSIS

The Office's fund flow analysis outlines the FY 2026 budget across five (5) key components: appropriation, allotment amount, obligations, expenditures, and balance available. This analysis can be viewed as *Exhibit III*.

Dept.	Fund Source	Appropriation	OMB - Allotted as of July 6, 2026	Obligated as of June 30, 2026	Expended as of June 30, 2026	Balance	Remarks
OTPD	General	\$6,132,220.00	\$4,087,983.12	\$30,000.00	\$3,972,740.52	\$2,159,479.48	\$2,044,236.88 remains unallotted

Exhibit III

As of July 06, 2026, the Office of the Territorial Public Defender reported the following financial activity based on its FY 2026 General Fund appropriation of \$6,132,220:

- **Allotted Funds:** \$4,087,983
– Represents **67%** of the total appropriation
- **Obligations:** \$30,000.00
– Represents **50%** of the total appropriation
– **73%** of the allotted funds have been obligated
- **Expenditures:** \$3,972,741
– Represents **64.7%** of the total appropriation

FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET SUMMARY

The Governor has recommended a General Fund appropriation of **\$6,132,220** for the Office of the Territorial Public Defender for Fiscal Year 2027. The OPTD, has however, submitted a budget request of **\$6,696,220**, representing an increase of **\$564,000**. *Exhibit IV* provides a three-year financial summary of OTPD's budget submission, broken down by line item.

		FY 2025 Expenditures	FY 2026 Expenditures as of 6/30/26	FY 2027 Budget Request
Personnel Services	Unclassified Empl. Salaries	\$2,670,974.35	\$1,695,732.00	
	Funeral	\$9,271.42	\$50,236.42	
	Lump Sum Payments	\$4,384.23	\$0.00	
	Accrued Leave	\$197,986.82	\$114,809.91	
	Sick Pay	\$123,241.47	\$106,904.71	
	Fees & Compensation Noc	\$25,136.80	\$2,400.00	
	Holiday Pay	\$267,567.13	\$175,225.98	
	Admin Leave	\$216,764.33	\$168,895.09	
	Jury	\$210.57	\$0.00	\$4,250,000.00
	Sub-Total	\$3,515,537.12	\$2,314,204.11	\$4,250,000.00
Capital Outlays	Machinery & Equipment	\$0.00	\$4,511.19	\$60,000.00
	Vehicles	\$44,000.00	\$93,787.80	\$0.00
	All Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Sub-Total	\$44,000.00	\$98,298.99	\$60,000.00
Fringe Benefits	Employer Contr. Retirement	\$568,615.26	\$385,812.08	\$640,000.00
	F.I.C.A.	\$218,577.49	\$143,480.55	\$300,000.00
	Medicare	\$51,118.71	\$33,555.85	\$60,000.00

	Health Insurance Premium	\$451,365.41	\$294,572.99	\$560,000.00
	Workers Comp. Premiums	\$2,729.38	\$2,885.32	\$0.00
	Uniform Allowance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	All Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Sub-Total	\$1,292,406.25	\$860,306.79	\$1,560,000.00
Supplies	Office Supplies	\$26,661.66	\$9,746.25	\$40,000.00
	Operating Supplies	\$32,694.48	\$21,122.67	\$25,000.00
	Small Tools/Minor Equipment	\$57,086.09	\$20,280.61	\$30,000.00
	Data Processing	\$111,677.30	\$88,797.27	\$90,000.00
	Vehicle Supplies	\$16,284.59	\$5,432.34	\$8,000.00
	Repair And Maintenance Supplies	\$4,154.35	\$728.00	\$12,500.00
	Food	\$4,919.20	\$12,109.87	\$2,000.00
	Bar Dues & Subscriptions	\$6,200.75	\$8,195.00	\$14,000.00
	All Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Sub-Total	\$259,678.42	\$166,412.01	\$221,500.00
	Other Services & Charges			
Other Services & Charges	Professional Services	\$69,025.91	\$18,472.05	\$160,000.00
	Communication	\$77,942.84	\$53,340.31	\$90,000.00
	Travel	\$111,183.75	\$78,184.63	\$50,000.00
	Transportation - Not Travel	\$9,375.88	\$11,216.35	\$5,000.00
	Advertising And Promotion	\$2,636.80	\$4,344.87	\$7,000.00
	Printing And Binding	\$2,155.00	\$255.00	\$4,000.00
	Insurance	\$23,280.66	\$24,591.56	\$25,000.00
	Repairs And Maintenance	\$131,083.50	\$67,040.53	\$50,000.00
	Repairs-Auto	\$14,061.83	\$4,422.72	\$10,000.00
	Rental- Land/Building	\$152,374.30	\$108,654.60	\$170,000.00
	Rental - Machines/Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Training	\$42,772.32	\$26,864.01	\$50,000.00
	Security	\$1,027.64	\$2,424.24	\$90,000.00
	Bulk Tickets	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00
	Workman's Comp.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
	All Other	\$0.00	\$71,834.32	\$0.00
	Sub-Total	\$636,920.43	\$471,645.19	\$739,000.00
Utility Services	Electricity	\$74,769.47	\$61,873.43	\$110,000.00
	Water	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,720.00
	Sub-Total	\$74,769.47	\$61,873.43	\$125,720.00
	Total Expenses	\$5,823,311.69	\$3,972,740.52	\$6,956,220.00

Exhibit IV

PERSONNEL SERVICES

The Office of the Territorial Public Defender submitted a Fiscal Year 2027 budget request of **\$4,250,000** for personnel services.

Appendix I provides detailed staffing data for forty-four (44) positions within the **Office of Territorial Public Defender**.

- St. Thomas/St. John District:
 - 18 Filled Positions - **\$1,579,264.67**
 - 4 Vacant Positions - **\$230,655.75**
- St. Croix District:
 - 19 Filled Positions - **\$1,902,451.23**
 - 3 Vacant Positions - **\$241,264.75**

OTPD reported the following activity for Fiscal Year 2026:

- 6 New Hires
- 7 Separations

FEDERAL GRANTS

OTPD was not awarded any Federal Grants in Fiscal Year 2026 and do not anticipate receiving any in Fiscal Year 2027.

COMPLIANCE, OVERSIGHT & CORRECTIVE ACTION REVIEW

The Office of the Territorial Public Defender submitted requested information for the 2023 and 2024 Single Audit. The 2023 Single Audit had no findings for the Office.

LOCAL GRANTS

The Office of the Territorial Public Defender will not receive any local grants for Fiscal Year 2027.

LEASES/RENTAL

Exhibit V presents a detailed listing of the properties owned and rented by the Office of the Territorial Public Defender. The Office currently generates **\$33,900** annually in rental income. In addition, the St. Thomas office space is leased from Lindon Corporation at an annual cost of **\$152,069.40**.

	Sq. Footage	Monthly Rent	Yearly Total	Terms
St. Thomas Lessor				
Lindon Corporation	5,981	\$12,672.45	\$152,069.40	10/1/2023 – 9/30/2028
		\$12,672.45	\$152,069.40	
St. Croix Lessee				
Antillean Engineering	1,150	\$900.00	\$10,800.00	Month-Month
VITEMA	2,100	\$1,925.00	\$23,100.00	12/1/2025 – 11/30/2026
		\$2,825.00	\$33,900.00	

Exhibit V

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS

Exhibit VI provides a current listing of the Office of the Territorial Public Defender's professional services contracts as of June 30, 2026. For Fiscal Year 2027, the Office anticipates expenditures of approximately **\$176,769.18** on these contracts.

Vendor	Type of Service	Paid to Date	Terms of Contract
Bulk Storage d/b/a Dry Marina	Storage	\$7,275.00	\$1,455.00/quarter
RELX Lexis Nexis	Online Data Service	\$26,995.24	\$2,982.00/month
Oliver Exterminating	General Pest Control	\$855.00	\$95.00/month-STT
Real Tech Exterminating	General Pest Control	\$250.00	\$50.00/month-STX
One Communications	Telephones Cellphones/Mifi's	\$40,758.31	\$4,500.00/month
Peter Bertrand	Generator Maintenance (St. Croix District)	\$1,485.00	\$125.00/month plus materials
Smartnet, LLC	Internet Service Provider	\$12,582.00	\$1,398.00/month
DSD Associates, Inc.	Financial Management Software	\$5,306.25	\$525.00/month
Sage Software, Inc.	Financial Software	\$9,117.00	\$9,117.00/year + Enhancements
Kaseya	Office 365/ Server support	\$17,246.41	\$1,825.42 Month
Zoom at Carahsoft	Zoom Subscription	\$2,033.01	\$2,033.01/year - 7/2025-7/2026
Adobe Inc.	Adobe Acrobat DC Pro Subscription	\$11,699.60	\$11,699.60 Annual Subscription 2/2026-2/2027
Just Right Trucking, LLC	Trash Removal	\$2,700.00	\$300.00/month
ADT Security Systems VI	Alarm System Services	\$2,424.24	\$1,344.96-STT Annually \$1,440.00-STX Annually
EJS Project Management Group	Project Management	\$0.00	As needed
Jacqueline Ann Bashkoff, Ph. D	Expert Witness	\$16,379.11	As needed
Digital Evidence	Expert Witness	\$0.00	As needed
Lawrence A. Presley	Expert Witness	\$0.00	As needed
Chris Comar	Expert Witness	\$0.00	As needed
J.S. Held LLC-US	Expert Witness	\$0.00	As needed
Heather Harris	Expert Witness	\$0.00	As needed
Bert Smith & Co.	Auditing	\$0.00	\$21,500.00 FY2022 Audit Services
Crucian Point	Web Hosting	\$3,850.00	\$3,850.00 Annually
Reduct	Video Transcription Service	\$0.00	\$10,000.00 Annually 3/2026-3/2027
Justice Works (defenderData)	Case Management System	\$9,780.00	\$1,050.00 Monthly
Sherweb	Data Processing	\$6,033.01	\$715.00 Monthly
Total		\$176,769.18	

Exhibit VI

VEHICLE

The Office maintains a fleet of six (6) vehicles in the St. Thomas/St. John district, and nine (9) on the island of St. Croix for a total of fifteen (15) vehicles. A total of **\$9,791.16** was spent on maintenance and **\$8,295.69** on gas.

Tag #	Make/Model	Year	Assigned to:	Funding	Lease/ Own	Conditions/ Comments	Maintenance/ Cost Amount	Gas
St. Thomas/St. John District								
OPD-4	Toyota Rav4	2019	Investigator	General	Own	Good	\$1,968.77	\$1,056.78
OPD-6	Toyota Rav4	2019	Assistant Administrator	General	Own	Good	\$176.24	\$780.01
OPD-12	Chevrolet Equinox	2016	Deputy Chief Territorial Public Defender	General	Own	Fair	\$610.36	\$993.55
THR-271	Toyota Rav4	2020	Chief Territorial Public Defender	General	Own	Good	\$176.24	\$602.52
THR-284	Chevy Traverse	2018	Messenger/Chauffeur	General	Own	Good	\$1,189.26	\$720.00
THR-292	Chevrolet Colorado	2022	Office	General	Own	New	\$397.48	\$315.00
					6	Total	\$4,518.35	\$4,467.86

Tag #	Make/Model	Year	Assigned to:	Funding	Lease/ Own	Conditions/ Comments	Maintenance/ Cost Amount	Gas
St. Croix District								
OPD-3	Chevrolet Colorado	2018	IT Director	General	Own	Fair	\$3,305.50	\$1,545.09
OPD-5	Chevy Equinox	2016	Office	General	Own	Fair	\$204.25	\$165.01
OPD-10	Toyota Rav4	2023	Administrator	General	Own	New	\$278.62	\$142.35
OPD-13	Toyota 4Runner	2025	Chief Financial Officer	General	Own	New	\$0.00	\$521.01
OPD-15	Toyota Rav4	2025	Office	General	Own	New	\$0.00	\$353.95
CIO-688	Toyota Highlander	2026	Chief Territorial Public Defender	General	Own	New	\$0.00	\$345.79
CHZ-299	Toyota Rav4	2020	Deputy Chief Territorial Public Defender	General	Own	Good	\$296.38	\$0.00
CHZ-295	Toyota Rav4	2023	Investigator	General	Own	New	\$662.06	\$661.79
OPD-11	Toyota Rav4	2018	Office	General	Own	Good	\$526.00	\$92.84
					9	Total	\$5,272.81	\$3,827.83

Exhibit VII

OUTSTANDING VENDOR PAYMENTS

The Office of the Territorial Public Defender currently has two (2) outstanding vendor payments, for a total of \$30,000 in outstanding obligations.

Vendor	Type of Service	Outstanding Amount
Tempaire International	Final payment due for new St. Thomas air conditioning installation.	\$4,000.00
Caribbean Cooling	Installation of new air conditioning unit and removal of old unit in the St. Croix office.	\$26,000.00
	Total	\$30,000.00

Exhibit VIII

SUMMARY

The Governor has recommended a General Fund lump sum appropriation of **\$6,132,220** for the Office of the Territorial Public Defender for Fiscal Year 2027. The Governor's Fiscal Year 2027 recommendation is the same as Fiscal Year 2026.

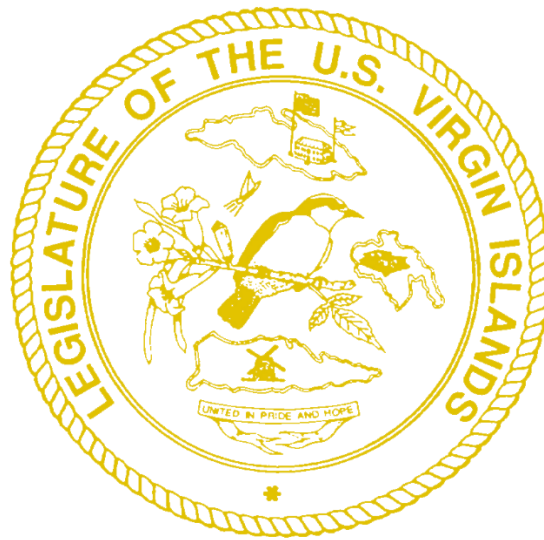
<u>\$6,132,220</u>	General Fund FY 2027 Budget Recommendation
\$6,132,220	Fiscal Year 2027 Recommended Budget



Theodora Philip, DBA
Post Auditor

APPENDIX I PERSONNEL LISTING

Name	Position	Salary	Retirement System Status	Funding Source
Filled	Assistant Administrator	\$90,600.00	Active	General Fund
Filled	Deputy Chief Territorial Public Defender	\$146,000.00	Active	General Fund
Filled	Assistant Territorial Public Defender	\$101,785.50	Active	General Fund
Vacant	Assistant Territorial Public Defender	\$125,655.75	Active	General Fund
Filled	Assistant Territorial Public Defender	\$136,264.75	Active	General Fund
Filled	Assistant Territorial Public Defender	\$133,612.50	Active	General Fund
Filled	Appellate Territorial Public Defender	\$136,264.75	Active	General Fund
Filled	Assistant Territorial Public Defender	\$136,264.75	Active	General Fund
Vacant	Assistant Territorial Public Defender	\$0.00	Active	General Fund
Filled	Investigator	\$80,000.00	Active	General Fund
Filled	Paralegal	\$85,500.00	Active	General Fund
Filled	Legal Secretary	\$59,500.00	Active	General Fund
Filled	Legal Secretary	\$66,054.00	Active	General Fund
Filled	Legal Secretary	\$52,500.00	Active	General Fund
Filled	Legal Secretary	\$66,387.90	Active	General Fund
Filled	Chauffeur/Messenger	\$40,744.41	Active	General Fund
Filled	Receptionist/Data Entry Clerk	\$53,500.00	Active	General Fund
Filled	Custodian	\$49,414.15	Active	General Fund
Filled	Network Specialist	\$70,400.00	Active	General Fund
Filled	Administrative Assistant	\$74,471.96	Active	General Fund
Vacant	Intervention Outreach Coordinator	\$70,000.00	Active	General Fund
Prospective	Security Officer	\$35,000.00	Active	General Fund
Total STT		\$1,809,920.42		
Filled	Chief Territorial Public Defender	\$167,000.00	Active	General Fund
Filled	Administrator	\$95,000.00	Active	General Fund
Filled	Chief Financial Officer	\$106,150.00	Active	General Fund
Filled	Deputy Chief Territorial Public Defender	\$146,000.00	Active	General Fund
Filled	Assistant Territorial Public Defender	\$136,264.75	Active	General Fund
Vacant	Assistant Territorial Public Defender	\$136,264.75	Active	General Fund
Filled	Assistant Territorial Public Defender	\$136,264.75	Active	General Fund
Filled	Assistant Territorial Public Defender	\$136,264.75	Active	General Fund
Filled	Assistant Territorial Public Defender	\$99,133.25	Active	General Fund
Filled	Assistant Territorial Public Defender	\$104,437.75	Active	General Fund
Filled	Assistant Territorial Public Defender	\$125,655.75	Active	General Fund
Filled	Investigator	\$99,044.45	Active	General Fund
Filled	Director of Information Technology	\$105,945.84	Active	General Fund
Filled	Paralegal	\$76,276.36	Active	General Fund
Filled	Legal Secretary	\$66,054.00	Active	General Fund
Filled	Legal Secretary	\$66,387.90	Active	General Fund
Filled	Legal Secretary	\$64,335.00	Active	General Fund
Filled	Receptionist/Data Entry Clerk	\$55,602.53	Active	General Fund
Filled	Facility Management Assistant/Custodian	\$49,414.15	Active	General Fund
Filled	Administrative Assistant	\$67,220.00	Active	General Fund
Vacant	Intervention Outreach Coordinator	\$70,000.00	Active	General Fund
Prospective	Security Officer	\$35,000.00	Active	General Fund
Total STX		\$2,143,715.98		
Grand Total		\$3,953,636.40		



COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS & FINANCE
- POST AUDIT DIVISION -

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