



**Office of the Ohio Public Defender**

250 East Broad Street - Suite 1400

Columbus, Ohio 43215

[www.opd.ohio.gov](http://www.opd.ohio.gov)

(614) 466-5394

Fax (614) 752-5167

TIMOTHY YOUNG  
State Public Defender

**From OPD's 2018-19 Budget Submission:**

“OPD’s operating budget is drastically underfunded. From FY 2000–2015, OPD’s operating budget grew only 7.7%, or half a percentage point per year. The Consumer Price Index during this same period increased 37%. Caseloads, workloads, and the prison population have all grown dramatically. But OPD has lost nearly a third of its staff, most recently being forced to eliminate 10 FTEs in the current biennium.”

**OPD's Operating Budget**

The agency’s operating budget in FY 2000 was \$9,532,115.

If adjusted for consumer price index inflation that is the equivalent of \$13,285,565.

Today – the actual operation budget is just over \$10.5 million dollars.

**Total Statewide Indigent Defense Spending**

In 2006, the Ohio Supreme Court convened the Indigent Defense and Pro Se Task Force. That body recommended that in 2006 the total budget for indigent defense should be \$148.7 million.

Today, adjusted using the consumer price index that would equal \$177.0 million today.

Instead, the total budget is \$140 million, still well below the amount recommended over 11 years ago.

**Impact**

“OPD cannot meet its statutory obligations within the limitations of this budget submission. Both the operating budget and county reimbursement require far in excess of what may be requested under the budget guidance limitations. Without additional funding and with continued declining revenues, OPD will be forced to eliminate additional full-time positions and county reimbursement will drop significantly.”