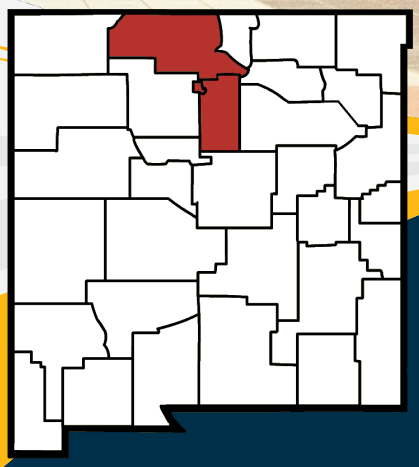


First Judicial
district attorney
mary carmack-altwies

2028 Budget

First Judicial District Attorney's Office

FY28 Budget Summary



Serving Santa Fe County
Rio Arriba County
Los Alamos County

OUR COMMITMENT

Public Safety Through Effective, Accountable Prosecution

The First Judicial District Attorney's Office (FJDA) serves the citizens of New Mexico through criminal prosecution, victim and witness assistance, diversion programs, law enforcement support, and community outreach. The FY28 budget request of $10,490,900, an increase of $698,000 over FY27, focuses on maintaining essential operations, preserving public safety services, and sustaining existing programs rather than expanding services. Funding priorities include personnel costs, continued diversion programming, and rising litigation expenses critical to effective prosecution. Additionally, the Office's anticipated relocation to a new building in 2027 presents operational and move-in costs that further impact budget planning and funding needs.

General Fund Staffing & Positions

Total agency FTE positions: 86

District Attorney: 1 | Attorneys: 27 | Support Staff: 47

Victim Advocates: 7 | Investigators: 4

General Fund Vacancies as of October 1, 2026

6 Attorneys: District Attorney, Deputy District Attorney, Trial Attorney, Attorney

Support Staff Positions: 1

The six (6) vacant attorney positions do not fully reflect workforce capacity, as certain positions are held vacant to support competitive prosecutor compensation, which requires hiring attorney positions above the midpoint salary.

Investing in Public Safety

OPERATING BUDGET

FY27

$9,792,900.00

FY28 (REQUEST)

$10,640,100.00



2028 Programmatic Changes

PHOENIX (PHX) PILOT PROJECT

Continued implementation, evaluation, and refinement of the Phoenix (PHX) Pilot Project.

Implementation of PHX has reinforced what prosecutors have long understood: meaningful reform cannot occur when the process and resulting methodology underlying the reform are flawed. When arrests, complaints, and prosecutable cases are treated as interchangeable measures, policymakers cannot accurately evaluate performance, workload demands, resource needs, or reform effectiveness.

PIVOT JUVENILE JUSTICE DIVERSION PROGRAM

The FJDA seeks recurring funding to sustain the PIVOT Juvenile Justice Diversion Program. Grant funding expires December 31, 2026.

PIVOT provides an evidence-based alternative to formal juvenile prosecution and has become an important component of the FJDA's efforts to improve outcomes for youth outside of the formal children's court process.

EXPERTS AND DNA ANALYSIS

$100,000 for Expert Testimony
$100,000 for DPS Outsourced DNA Testing

As forensic testing increasingly occurs through out-of-state laboratories, prosecutors must retain expert witnesses and secure testimony necessary to establish the admissibility and reliability of DNA evidence in criminal proceedings.

The following cost requests are recurring and unavoidable considering the State must present forensic evidence in serious felony cases.

2028 Budget Request

The FY28 budget request is an investment in the FJDA's ability to meet the demands of modern prosecution. By requesting these resources, the FJDA is preparing to keep cases on track under the Supreme Court's Case Management Order (CMO) while ensuring our prosecutors, victim advocates, investigators, and professional staff have the resources necessary to serve our communities effectively. It is important for the FJDA to retain qualified professionals, sustain successful programs, such as our juvenile diversion program, meet the growing costs of prosecuting cases including expert testimony, and out-of-state forensic and DNA analysis, and ensure our new facility is equipped.

It also means investing in modern, secure technology. Aging servers, network infrastructure and technology must be replaced and strengthened to meet today's cybersecurity realities and protect the sensitive information entrusted to our office.

Fiscal Year 2028 (FY28) Budget Priorities

PERSONNEL SERVICES & BENEFITS | 200s

5.75% increase to base

Adopt and implement the FY28 AODA salary schedule to support recruitment and retention.

CONTRACTS | 300s

$100,000

Sustain the PIVOT juvenile justice diversion program.

$100,000

Increase funding for expert witnesses.

OTHER | 400s

$100,000

Increase contractual funding to offset FJDA costs associated with the DPS Forensic Laboratory Division's outsourcing of DNA testing and analysis to an out-of-state laboratory.

CAPITAL OUTLAY

$600,000

Furniture and related expenses to cover the Santa Fe County budget shortfall.
The unexpected shortfall was disclosed to FJDA on July 31, 2026.

- Quality-based prosecution
- Recruiting and retaining attorneys and staff
- Support victims and strengthen community
- Meet constitutional and statutory obligations

Serving Our Communities.
Pursuing Justice.