



Eleventh Judicial District Attorney,
Division One
San Juan County NM
335 S. Miller Avenue
Farmington, NM 87401



FY27 BUDGET NEEDS

2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Jack L. Fortner, District Attorney



“As I near the completion of my first year of service as District Attorney, the year has been filled with rewards and challenges.

Unexpectedly managing the funds for the McKinley County D.A.’s office, the employees there, and now handling cases assigned from Division II has been quite the challenge, but our staff was willing to step up and deliver in response.

We continue to work on our initiative to interrupt the cycle of crime committed by those with mental illness and substance abuse issues through cooperation with local government and charitable entities to provide counseling and interdiction services. We are also initiating an aggressive program to pursue child predators and child pornographers in our county. Our work with the Region II Drug Task force has resulted, through our joint efforts, in a 47% reduction in illegal drug-related deaths.

Competitive attorney compensation remains an issue in both recruitment and retention, and increased security for our office is needed in a rising threat environment.

We trust that the Legislature will recognize the important role our office plays in addressing crime in our communities and that our requested budget will be fully funded.”

San Juan County District Attorney Initiatives

+ Counseling & intervention services – Break the cycle!

+ Fill Vacant Positions (cross train & prep for retirements)

- **Child Sexual Assault Unit:** Deputy District Attorney & Legal Secretary in place, hire Trial Attorney, Victim Witness Assistant, & Prosecution Assistant
- **Competency Case Team:** Senior Trial Attorney & Legal Secretary in place, add Assistant Trial Attorney & Prosecution Specialist.
- **Physical Safety of Personnel and Building:** increased vandalism and threats require us to add investigative staff

+ Digital Evidence Storage \$90,000 per year

+ Supplemental Request: building security enhancements, replacement vehicles, legal research tools, training & equipment, & in-house employee counseling (beyond EAP)



FY27 Budget Priorities



Recruitment & retention unified priority NMDAA

PSEB Increase to FY26 Base to be fully funded:

\$467,000 to increase attorney pay to mid-point of the FY27 Proposed Salary Schedule

\$320,000 to increase support staff pay to mid-point

\$203,000 to convert ½ of 3 term HIDTA positions to general fund (1.5 Perm FTE)

\$220,000 for increased health insurance costs

\$507,000 to fill vacant positions

Note: \$600,000 of this increase was included in the FY27 PCF projection in BFM and we are asking for \$1.2M above the projection with \$787K to bring employee pay to mid-point.

Federal Funds – High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)

2 Attorney & 1 Support Staff Positions:

- \$494,000 FY27 Projection
- \$234,300 Grant Funding
- **\$259,700 Shortfall**

Asking for 1.5 FTE with this funding to provide grant solvency

FY26 health insurance affordability act added \$25,000 to this shortfall



Thank you for your time!

Questions?

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