



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LAW

Senate Finance Subcommittee – 3/5/2026
Department of Law Budget Overview

Cori Mills

Deputy Attorney General
Civil Division

Angie Kemp

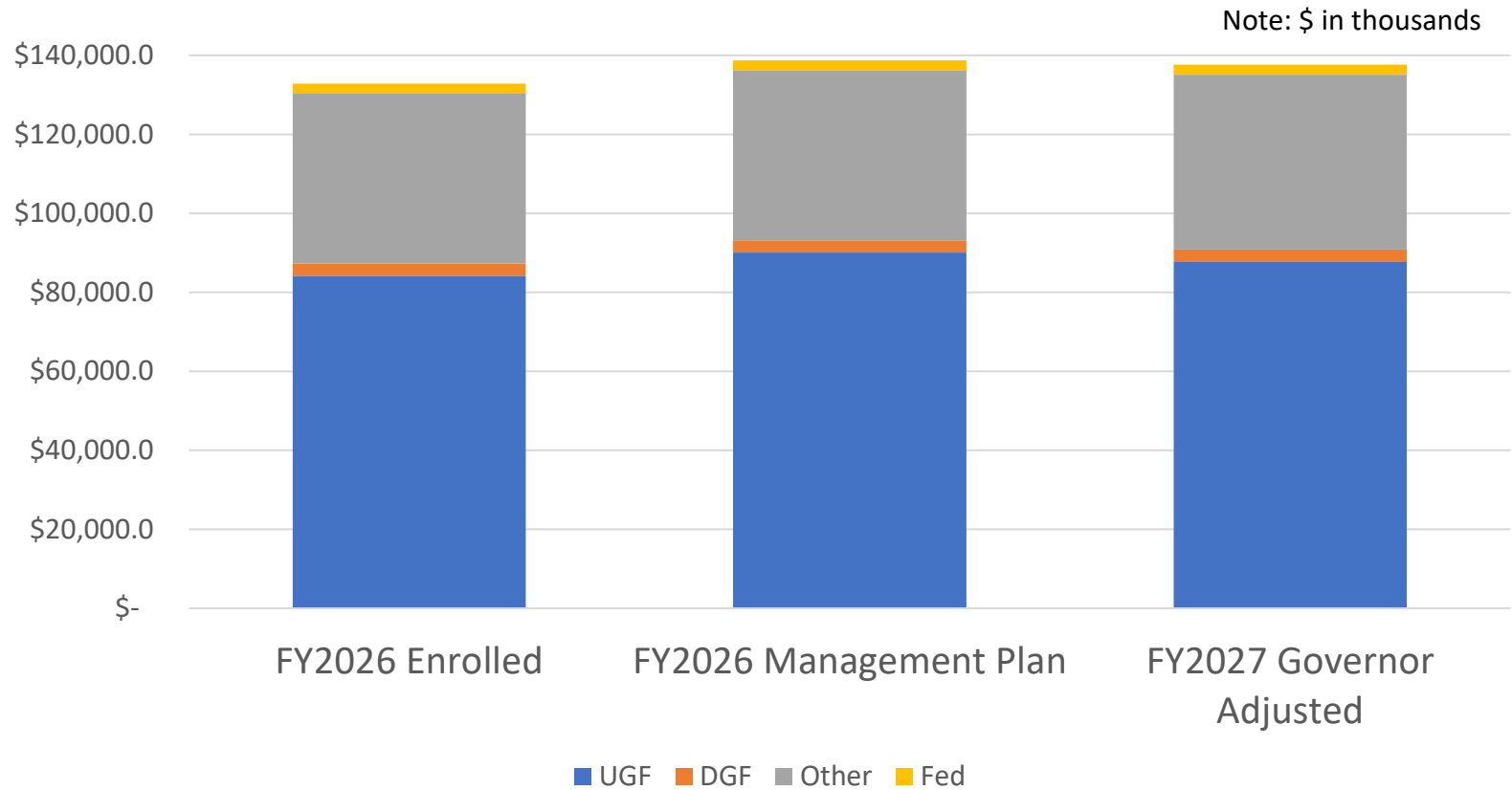
Deputy Attorney General
Criminal Division

Amber LeBlanc

Division Director
Administrative Services Division



FY2026–FY2027 Budget

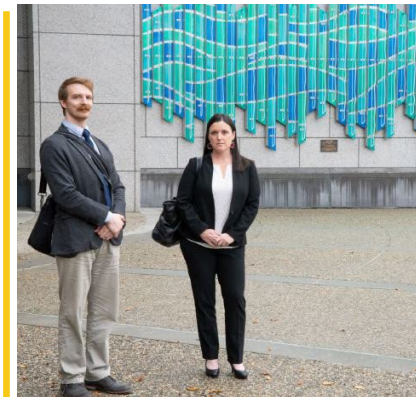


Funding Source	FY2026 Enrolled	FY2026 Management Plan	FY2027 Governor Adjusted
Unrestricted General Fund	\$ 84,182.2	\$ 90,105.9	\$ 87,662.8
Designated General Fund	\$ 3,077.7	\$ 3,077.7	\$ 3,142.2
Other	\$ 43,040.0	\$ 43,040.0	\$ 44,304.6
Federal	\$ 2,508.0	\$ 2,508.0	\$ 2,568.7
Total	\$ 132,807.9	\$ 138,731.6	\$ 137,678.3



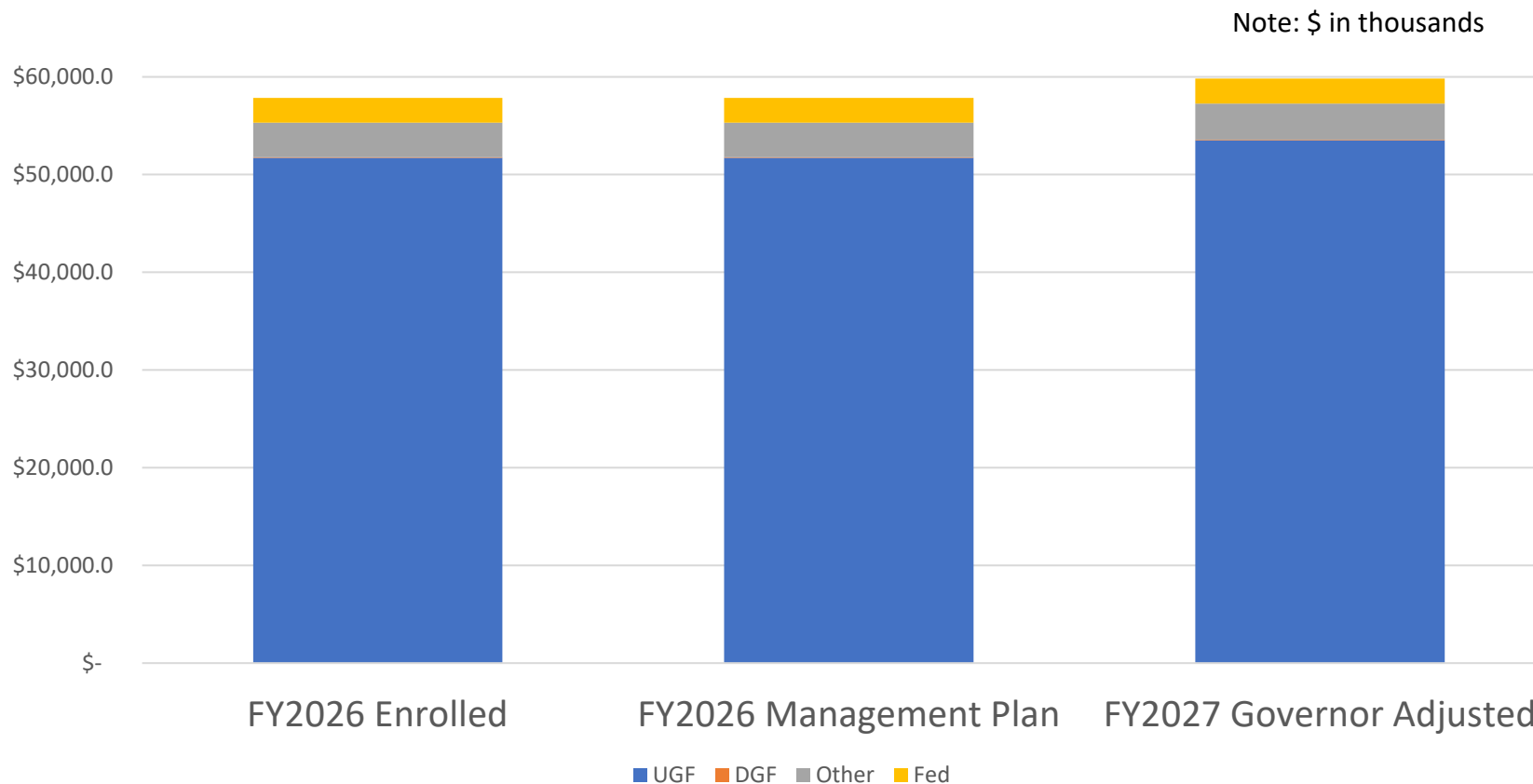
Department of Law

Criminal Division





Criminal Division: FY2026 Budget



Funding Source	FY2026 Enrolled	FY2026 Management Plan	FY2027 Governor Adjusted
Unrestricted General Fund	\$ 51,716.8	\$ 51,716.8	\$ 53,527.5
Designated General Fund	\$ 50.3	\$ 50.3	\$ 50.3
Other	\$ 3,560.3	\$ 3,560.3	\$ 3,683.2
Federal	\$ 2,508.0	\$ 2,508.0	\$ 2,568.7
Total	\$ 57,835.4	\$ 57,835.4	\$ 59,829.7



Criminal Mid-Year Report

Note: \$ in thousands

Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	Status
Criminal Division / Criminal Appeals/Special Litigation	Replace Expiring Federal Grant for Sex and Violent Crimes Prosecutions	\$655.9 UGF	Federal grant expired September 30, 2025. For FY2026, legislature elected to continue funding this work and added UGF to replace the federal receipts. Authority to continue work is needed for FY2027.

UGF = Unrestricted General Fund



FY2026 Legislative Intent

20. Criminal Division

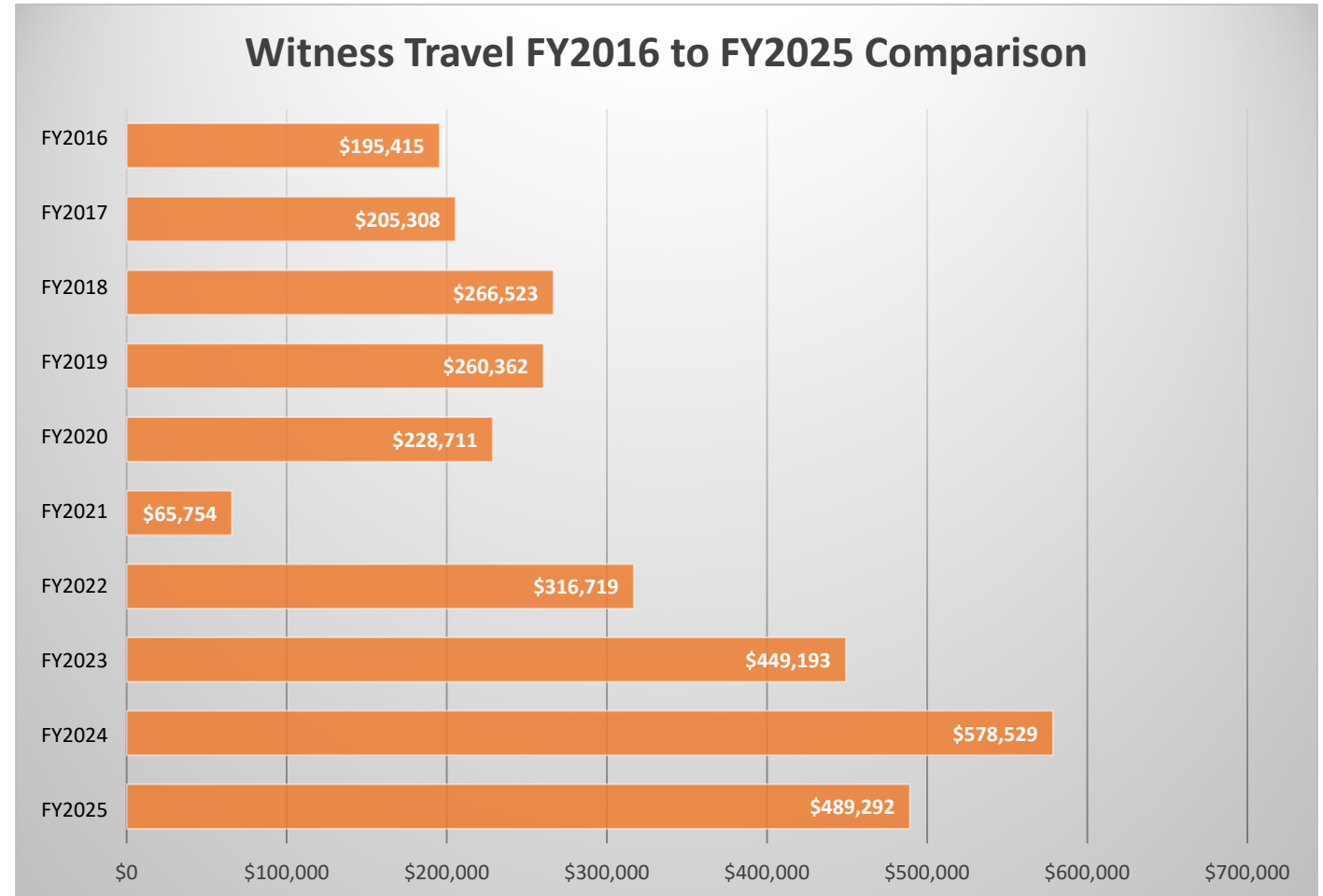
Operating Bill (CCS HB 53(brf sup maj fld H), Sec. 1)

It is the intent of the legislature the State of Alaska no longer cover the full cost of housing unsentenced federal inmates in State facilities. Therefore, the legislature urges the Department of Law to work with the Department of Corrections and federal agencies to either receive adequate daily funding for federal inmates housed in State facilities or to determine a method for them to be housed at a federal or private facility until court hearings. Law and DOC shall submit a joint response to the Co-chairs of the Finance committees and to the Legislative Finance Division by December 20, 2025, outlining the determined terms, number of federal inmates housed in State facilities by month in 2025 and the final cost associated to the State, if any.



Rising Case Costs

- **Witness travel**
 - FY2019 average cost of felony **\$1,760**
 - FY2024 average cost of felony **\$3,909**
 - **122% increase**
- **Expert witness fees**
 - 194% increase from FY2016 to FY2025
- **Rising technology costs**
 - Explosion of digital evidence





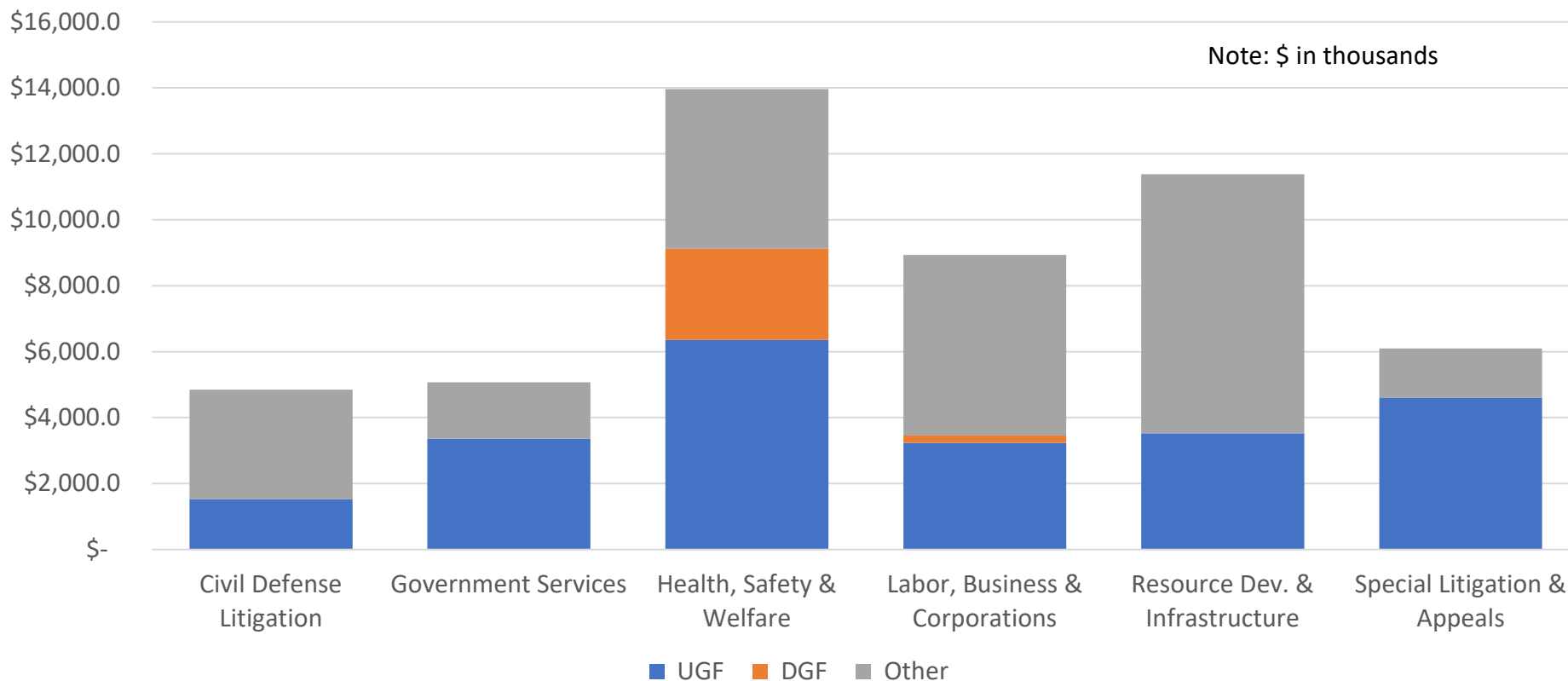
Department of Law

Civil Division





Civil Division Components: FY2027 Governor



Component*	UGF	DGF	Other	Total
Civil Defense Litigation	\$ 1,530.7	\$ -	\$ 3,316.9	\$ 4,847.6
Government Services	\$ 3,358.8	\$ -	\$ 1,715.0	\$ 5,073.8
Health, Safety, & Welfare	\$ 6,358.5	\$ 2,763.4	\$ 4,838.6	\$ 13,960.5
Labor, Business, & Corporations	\$ 3,230.9	\$ 230.6	\$ 5,468.1	\$ 8,929.6
Resource Development & Infrastructure	\$ 3,523.9	\$ -	\$ 7,861.6	\$ 11,385.5
Special Litigation & Appeals	\$ 4,609.0	\$ -	\$ 1,490.3	\$ 6,099.3
Total	\$ 22,611.8	\$ 2,994.0	\$ 24,690.5	\$ 50,296.3

UGF = Unrestricted General Funds
DGF = Designated General Funds

*Omitted Components: Deputy Attorney General's Office and Legal Support Services



Litigation Over the Past Seven Years

More than 95% success in ~**13,800** Child in Need of Aid (CINA) cases

60 Consumer Protection/Antitrust Wins

271 Torts Cases Concluded

~84% Success Rate on **263** Appeals on the Merits

126 Successful Outcomes Out of **243** Workplace and Employment Cases

936 Civil Commitment Petitions Granted

30 out of **39** Favorable Resolutions in Special Litigation

33 out of **44** Federal Case Successes



FY2025 Monies Collected

Note: \$ in thousands

Health, Safety, and
Welfare
\$4,000.0

Labor, Business, and
Corporations
\$3,985.0

Resource
Development and
Infrastructure
\$27,419.0

Special Litigation and
Appeals
\$1,203.0

Civil Defense
Litigation
\$6,639.0

\$43,246.0



Civil Division Budget Requests

Note: \$ in thousands

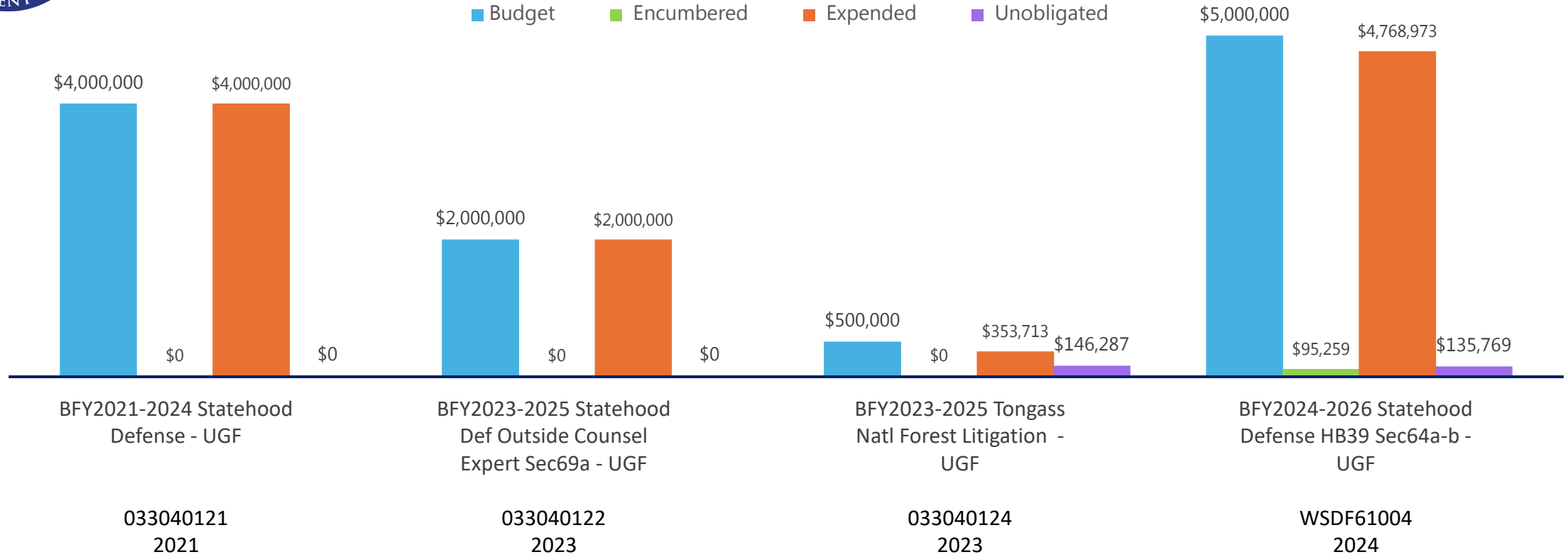
- Transfer Authority to the Department of Law from the Department of Corrections for legal services

- Supplementals:
 - Judgments and settlements currently totaling \$32.0 UGF
 - \$1,000.0 multi-year to continue efforts to unleash Alaska's energy and resource potential



Statehood Defense Multi-Year Appropriations (MYA)

Data as of January 28, 2026



BFY	Appr Unit	Appr Name	Budget	Encumbered	Expended	Unobligated
2021	033040121	BFY2021-2024 Statehood Defense - UGF	\$4,000,000		\$4,000,000	
2023	033040122	BFY2023-2025 Statehood Def Outside Counsel Expert Sec69a - UGF	\$2,000,000		\$2,000,000	
2023	033040124	BFY2023-2025 Tongass Natl Forest Litigation - UGF	\$500,000		\$353,713	\$146,287
2024	WSDF61004	BFY2024-2026 Statehood Defense HB39 Sec64a-b MYA UGF	\$5,000,000	\$95,259	\$4,768,973	\$135,769
Grand Total			\$11,500,000	\$95,259	\$11,122,686	\$282,055

UGF = Unrestricted General Funds
BFY = Budget Fiscal Year



Recent Successes to Unleash Alaska's Resource Potential

Gaining Access for Resource Development, Fish and Game, and Recreation

- **The State won Fortymile!** Feds disclaimed the entire river system
 - Feds put out notice on eight Recordable Disclaimers of Interest that have been sitting for 7 years
 - Next steps: Continue pursuing two existing lawsuits (Mulchatna and Koyukuk), while seeking streamlined processing of the riverbeds Alaska already owns
- **The State won access** to the trails around Chicken, Alaska, vital to mining claims
 - Next steps: Continue pursuing recognition of public trails and roads in Alaska

Clearing Up Unnecessary Regulatory Hurdles to Build Our Energy Economy

- **Successfully defended** ability for continued oil and gas development on the North Slope
 - Private groups challenged the Polar Bear incidental take regulations; if successful, this would have stopped oil and gas activities
- **Successfully challenged** the expansive critical habitat designation for ice seals which would stall development and economic activity in all waters surrounding western and northern Alaska (now on appeal awaiting a decision)
- **Successfully enjoined** prior definition of Waters of the United States. that causes incredible delays and unnecessary litigation over any development, whether it be housing, infrastructure, or resource development, in partnership with other states
 - Submitted comments on the recent federal rulemaking
 - Case is stayed while we await the outcome
- **Successfully defeated** new rule that would require Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to create and monitor emission targets on the transportation system (separate and apart from the Clean Air Act), in partnership with other states
- **Successfully defeated** the Liquid Natural Gas Export Ban and Oil & Gas Leasing Moratorium attempted by the last federal administration, in partnership with other states



Need \$1 Million Multi-Year To Not Lose Ground

*Alaska challenges federal action:
Favorable outcomes in 33 out of 44 cases*

Waters of the
United States

Roadless Rule

Polar Bear
Incidental Take
Regulations

Critical Habitat

Endangered
Species Act
Designations

Public Land
Order 5150

Alaska Succeeds

Alaska succeeds in
court or through
administrative
action

If the new rule is in
Alaska's favor...

3rd Parties challenge; does Alaska defend?

100% chance 3rd party will sue



Vail (Class Action Lawsuit)

What is this case about?

This class action constitutional suit, filed by the ACLU in federal court in May of 2025, seeks systemic reform of inmate health care in Department of Corrections (DOC) prisons and jails through the judicial branch. This is a national trend against correctional systems. The plaintiffs allege that everything from deficient medical devices, to understaffing, to inadequate recordkeeping constitutes violations of Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments. The putative class is "all prisoners who are now, or will in the future be, subjected to medical, mental health, and dental care policies and practices of the Alaska DOC."

What is the current status?

The Court denied the State's motion to dismiss on December 30, 2025. The case will now proceed to the discovery phase, which could easily last over a year.



Questions

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