
COURT SUPPORT SERVICES

Court Support Services includes administrative and operating support funding provided by the Board of County Commissioners for the Judiciary, the Law Libraries, the State Attorney, and the Public Defender.

JUDICIARY

Description

The Judiciary includes administrative and operational support for both the Circuit Court and County Court. The Board of County Commissioners provides funding for the communications, technology, and facility operations and maintenance expenses of the court and certain local option programs. All other personnel and operating expenses are the financial responsibility of the State.

Goals & Objectives

* Efforts by the Chief Judge and the Board of County Commissioners to reduce public expenditures for indigent defense through the use of contracts for legal services and a review of the assets of defendants continue in this budget. The Judiciary has seen a significant increase in costs for the provision of attorney representation for indigents who are parties in Dependency proceedings as well as in Circuit Criminal cases.

* Funds are budgeted to upgrade computers used by the Judiciary.

Explanatory Notes

Operating Budget Comparison

	FY03 Actual	Revised FY04	Projected FY04	Adopted FY05
PERSONAL SERVICES	\$4,583,183	\$5,373,980	\$5,126,790	\$2,080,400
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$9,136,418	\$9,865,310	\$7,310,580	\$9,836,400
CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$101,118	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$260,000
Total Operating Budget	\$13,820,719	\$15,389,290	\$12,587,370	\$12,176,800

Permanent Full Time Positions

101

36

Analysis

The FY05 Budget reflects a decrease in expenditures of \$3,212,490 or 20.9% because of changes under Article V, Revision 7. Requested appropriations include \$542,300 for Juvenile Diversion programs such as Teen Court. New cost centers were created to allow for the restructuring of appropriations into Constitutional, Statutory, Juvenile Diversion, and local optional responsibilities. Under the restructured cost centers, Personal Services decreased \$3,293,580 or 61.3%; and Operating Expenses decreased of \$28,910 or 0.3%. Capital Outlay increased \$110,000 as the result of the new technology responsibilities of the County under Article V. The County is now responsible for operating and maintenance costs of facilities, communications, and technology. The State assumed other general personnel and operating costs of the court's normal functions.

LAW LIBRARIES

Description

The Law Libraries provide and maintain up-to-date, well equipped, staffed reference law libraries for use by judges, members of the legal profession, and the citizens of Pinellas County. A Board of Trustees regulates budgetary matters, plans acquisitions, cancellations and sets rules and regulations for the libraries. Ordinance 97-31 authorizes the Chief Judge to approve the Law Libraries budget requests prior to the budgets being introduced into the County budget process.

Goals & Objectives

* Through the budget oversight of the Chief Judge, the Law Libraries budget has been reduced to closer reflect the actual revenues collected from filing fees that fund them.

* This budget assumes Filing Fee increases as approved by the Board.

*The Law Libraries will complete their automation project funded in FY02 from a State Grant, and begin to offer patrons access to its list of materials by author, title, and subject in Sunline, a web based public online library catalog.

*The Law Libraries will offer interlibrary loan service and document delivery.

*As funds permit, the Law Libraries will begin to replace outdated and outworn equipment, such as photocopiers.

*With increased funding, the Law Libraries will be able to maintain current subscriptions at an estimated inflation cost of 12.52% and reinstate some cancelled titles.

Explanatory Notes

Operating Budget Comparison

	FY03 Actual	Revised FY04	Projected FY04	Adopted FY05
PERSONAL SERVICES	\$220,685	\$268,420	\$227,550	\$212,220
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$21,922	\$21,670	\$7,210	\$14,270
CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$490,172	\$486,000	\$490,000	\$367,160
Total Operating Budget	\$732,779	\$776,090	\$724,760	\$593,650

Permanent Full Time Positions

3

2

Analysis

Law Libraries became a local option as of July 1, 2004 under Article V, Revision 7. The Florida Legislature approved optional local funding for FY05 that would generate revenues in support of personnel and legal materials for a law library. The Board of County Commissioners enacted the necessary ordinance to generate and collect this revenue in June 2004. The Board of County Commissioners recommended that the only funds in support of the law libraries should be the optional local revenues generated pursuant to the local ordinance. As a result, the FY05 Budget is a decrease of \$182,440 or 23.5%. Personal Services reflects a decrease of \$56,200 or 20.9%; Operating Expenses reflects a decrease of \$7,400 or 34.1%; and Capital Outlay decreased \$118,840.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Description

The Public Defender's office provides legal advice, counsel, and defense services to needy and financially indigent citizens accused of the commission of a crime, as required by Florida law.

Goals & Objectives

* Pinellas County's contribution to this office covers the amount required to support payment for office equipment maintenance, communication costs, library services and transportation services. Other in-kind services are provided by the County such as office and building maintenance. The Public Defender's Office receives additional operational funding from the State of Florida.

* Personnel are not part of the Unified Personnel System of Pinellas County. The Public Defender is a Constitutionally Elected official of Pinellas County. Staffing requirements are determined by the State of Florida.

Explanatory Notes

* Operating costs represent County General Fund contribution only. They do not represent total budget.

** Personnel determined by the State.

Operating Budget Comparison

	FY03 Actual	Revised FY04	Projected FY04	Adopted FY05
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$943,952	\$1,401,470	\$600,990	\$287,060
CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$0	\$325,000	\$23,440	\$63,500
Total Operating Budget	\$943,952	\$1,726,470	\$624,430	\$350,560

Permanent Full Time Positions	0	0
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Analysis

The FY05 Budget reflects a decrease of \$1,375,910 or 79.7%. This results from the State assuming funding for most Public Defender costs as a result of implementation of Article V, Revision 7. The County remains responsible for providing facilities, communications, and technology for the Public Defender.

STATE ATTORNEY

Description

The State Attorney represents the State of Florida in Circuit and County Courts and accordingly, is responsible for conducting criminal prosecutions of all persons charged with violating State, County and local laws and ordinances. The State Attorney reviews charges and complaints to determine whether they warrant prosecution and trial. In addition to court duties, the State Attorney provides legal advice in criminal matters to all law enforcement agencies and works with these agencies to provide in-service training.

Goals & Objectives

* Pinellas County's contribution to this office covers the amount required to support payment for office equipment maintenance, communication costs, library services and transportation services. Other in-kind services are provided by the County such as office and building maintenance. The State Attorney's Office receives additional operational funding from the State of Florida.

* Personnel are not part of the Unified Personnel System of Pinellas County. The State Attorney is a Constitutionally Elected official of Pinellas County. Staffing requirements are determined by the State of Florida.

Explanatory Notes

* Operating costs represent County General Fund contribution only. Does not represent total budget.

** Personnel determined by the State.

Operating Budget Comparison

	FY03 Actual	Revised FY04	Projected FY04	Adopted FY05
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$369,750	\$444,170	\$179,410	\$515,500
Total Operating Budget	\$369,750	\$444,170	\$179,410	\$515,500

Permanent Full Time Positions

0

0

Analysis

The FY05 Budget reflects an increase of \$71,330, or 16.1%, due to the changes resulting from Article V, Revision 7 implementation. The County remains responsible for providing facilities, communications, and technology for the State Attorney.