



State of Illinois  
Circuit Court of Cook County

Chambers of  
Timothy C. Evans  
Chief Judge

50 West Washington Street  
Suite 2600  
Richard J. Daley Center  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
(312) 603-6000

November 14, 2019

Honorable John P. Daley  
Chairman, Committee on Finance  
Cook County Board of Commissioners  
118 North Clark Street  
Floor 3 ½  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

**Re: 2020 Budget – Commissioner Anaya Inquiries**

Dear Chairman Daley:

On November 1, 2020, the Court received a letter directed to your office from Commissioner Alma Anaya with inquiries concerning the court's 2020 proposed budget. Our responses are outlined below.

1. On Page K-1, under the Public Safety Fund, there is an increase in FTEs and appropriation for both Adult Probation (1280) and Juvenile Probation (1326). These are the largest increases in the Public Safety Fund, besides the Office of the Chief Judge. a. Can you please explain the general increase in the probation departments?

**The proposed increase in the 2020 budget for the Adult Probation Department (APD) of \$4,262,780 is due to a number of factors, but a few larger elements are notable. The largest component, approximately \$2.18 million, or roughly half of the increase, is attributed to the reduction or loss of funding received from three of the court's special revenue funds relating to adult probation: 11263, 11265 and 11326, evident on page K-1 of the executive budget. As a result, APD's Public Safety Fund operating budget must increase to make up the difference. The increase does not provide additional resources for the court. As explained further below, the Mental Health and Drug Court Funds were closed in 2019, pursuant to the Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act, which realigned court fees statewide. The Cook County Board of Commissioners approved resulting changes in the Cook County Code on April 25, 2019. In addition, however, the budget is also impacted by reductions in probation fees from Fund 11326. These court-ordered fees have declined in recent years and cash reserves have been exhausted. As such, costs previously paid with**



those funds, must be paid with Public Safety Fund appropriations. The second reason for the APD budget increase of \$4.26 million relates to the cost of payroll positions, net of increases in payroll turnover, resulting in an overall increase of \$1.87 million. APD received 72 new positions, mostly to support pretrial services. In addition, fifteen existing probation positions counted as one-half FTEs for 2019, based on June 1, 2019 hiring expectations, were upgraded to full value for 2020.

The proposed 2020 budget for Juvenile Probation increased by \$2,035,476. Again, a number of factors account for the increase, but a few are notable. As evident at page K-45, contractual services increased by approximately \$973,000. The increases here reflect the court's desire to expand family therapy and other mental health services to youth as well as to expand the reach of the court's detention alternative programs. These efforts are in line with the court's long-term plans to improve juvenile justice and enhance program performance. Another notable element of change in the budget here relates to the loss of the court's Peer Jury special revenue fund 11264, which increases the budget in 2020 by \$280,000. This fund was eliminated as a source of funding for probation programming due to the change in statutes as noted in 1. above.

2. On Page K-1, under Special Purpose Funds, the Chief Judge Children's Waiting Room seem to have been separated into its own program. a. Can you confirm that it was moved and why?

The Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act eliminated four of the court's special revenue funds effective July 1, 2019, shifting new costs and the burden of funding other costs to the court's Public Safety Fund budget. As a result, the Children's Waiting Room program, with its budget of \$1.84 million, and with a staff of 32 shifted to the operating budget for the Office of the Chief Judge, effective July 1 of this year. The full program staff components are now fully absorbed into the budget for the Office of the Chief Judge, presented on page K-9. It is important to understand then that the court's Public Safety Fund budget increase of \$9.4 million, shown at K-1 effectively includes a technical shift of costs and funding of \$4.1 million from four Special Revenue Funds which have been eliminated. This shift does not represent an increase in resources. The court's real, effective budget increase for 2020 is the net effect of \$5.3 million, which represents 2 percent over this year. That 2% ranks last in the list of 2020 budget increases afforded to the court's peer group agencies.

3. On Page K-1, under the Restricted funds, why is there a decrease in the Partner Abuse Intervention grant from \$29,000 to \$14,950?



The changes in budgets and staffing for the court's grants at pages K-1 and K-2 are largely a matter of Cook County presentation preferences and do not reflect program reductions. The Program 53607 grant, 2019 Partner Abuse Intervention grant, for example, was initiated in July 2019 and ends June 2020. This annual \$29,900 grant was budgeted at \$14,950 for 2020, as this amount represents the portion that will be carried forward into FY2020 through next June. Overall the court currently operates 14 grant programs with a value of about \$9.7 million. The court's portfolio has been increasing. In just the last few months, the Court was awarded a significant new federal award to help fund our mental health courts, arriving just in time to replace some of the funding lost from the Special Revenue Fund 11263.

4. On Page K-2, under the Restricted funds, there several positions that appear to be cut for 2020. These include G53456, G53457, G53539, and G53541. Were these positions moved or simply not requested for 2020?

As noted above, the fractional positions noted in K-2 reflect presentation preferences, as staffing for awards are split between fiscal years. While the details in K-2 are somewhat difficult to follow, note that the total grant position counts increased from 15 in 2019 to 16.2 for 2020. The extra position was added for the mental health grant as noted above. Court Grant staffing overall has increased in recent years to support new awards.

To address your specific questions, the court did not reduce positions for grants but allocated position costs to grants that are anticipated to be active in FY2020, as requested by the county budget office. For example, G53456 – Grant 2018 Access and Visitation, which started July 2018 and ended June 2019, funded one FTE. Because this grant ended in June 2019, the program position for 2020 is budgeted in G53596 – Grant 2019 Access and Visitation (0.6 FTE), which is active until June 2020, and G53732 – Grant 2020 Access and Visitation (0.4 FTE) which is expected to start July 2020. Also, one position that was funded both by G53539 – Grant 2018 WRAP Drug Court Enhancement and G53541 – Grant 2018 SAMHSA Suburban Drug Court is budgeted in program G53803 – Grant 2019 SAMHSA Suburban Drug Court and G53683 – Grant 2018 North Suburban Drug Court programs. One position budgeted under G53696 – Grant 2018 Risk, Need, Responsivity, is new relative to the FY2019 appropriation. When the grant started in October 2018, the Court did not have details for the position, so it was not included in the FY2019 appropriation presentation.

5. Similarly, on Page K-2 under the Restricted funds, there are several positions starting with G53696 to the end of the page that appear to be new. Are these all new FTEs or moved from elsewhere?



**Please see the response in 4. above.**

6. On Page K-3, under Contractual Service, there is a line item for Armored Car Service (520029).
- What are these vehicles typically used for?
  - Why is there an increase in the department request from \$200 to \$2,792? How will the additional funding be used?
  - How many armored vehicles are there in the Office of the Chief Judge?

**Various agencies of the Circuit Court collect certain court-ordered fees and restitution as ordered by the court. These collections are in addition to the fines, fees and costs collected by the Clerk of the Circuit Court, which are reported as Public Safety Fund revenues. The court's collections require special handling and security. As such, the proposed 2020 budget has small provisions for armored car services in three offices: APD (\$2,592), the Public Guardian (\$200) and the Social Service Department (\$3,000). The costs relate to secured transport of cash collections by vendors retained for those agencies from home office locations to banks in Chicago. The court does not operate or maintain armored vehicles. The increase in costs relates to the fact the current 2019 APD provision of \$2,592 is being paid through the probation fees Special Revenue Fund; see K-57 and the discussion above. The Social Service transport costs are paid through their probation fees fund; see K-58.**

7. On Page K-3, under Supplies and Materials, there are increases in the line items for Books & Periodicals (530635) and Multimedia Supplies (530700) of \$34,699 and \$47,506, respectively. a. What are these funds typically used for?

**"Books and Periodicals" includes Lexis-Nexis legal research services for the judiciary, computer supplies and hard copy publications. The increase in 2020 of \$34,699 is due to the fact that \$47,940 was transferred from APD's special revenue fund 11326, for the reasons cited above. See page k-57. Otherwise the provision declined in 2020 compared to 2019.**

**"Multimedia Supplies" mostly includes photocopier paper and forms printing. Similar to the books account above, most of the increase of \$47,506 relates to \$30,000 in costs transferred from APD's special revenue fund.**

8. On Page K-5, under the Special Purpose Funds, there are several line items that do not appear under Personal Services starting with 501005 through 501585 (with the exception of 501210). Why are there no requests or recommendations for these line items for 2020?

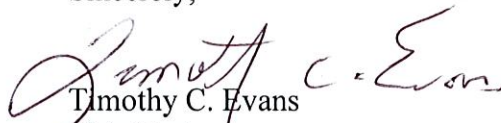


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**As noted above, the reductions here relate to closing four of the court's seven Special Revenue Funds pursuant to the Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act, combined with the reduction in probation programming costs paid through the APD probation fund 11326, due to lower collections and the loss of reserve funds. See K-57.**

Thank you for your interest and support of the Court's work for the citizens we serve.

Sincerely,

  
Timothy C. Evans  
Chief Judge  
Circuit Court of Cook County

cc:

Honorable Toni R. Preckwinkle, President, Cook County Board of Commissioners  
Tanya Anthony, Budget Director, Department of Budget and Management Services