

Criminal Justice Contracted Services

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Department Description

Criminal Justice Contracted Services (CJCS) provides funding for both public defense and jail services for individuals arrested, prosecuted, and/or convicted of misdemeanor criminal code violations in Seattle. The contracts for these services are managed by the City Budget Office. The City contracts with three non-profit legal agencies to provide public defense services and with several jurisdictions, including King County, to provide jail services.

By the end of 2010, there are projected to be approximately 9,600 bookings in the King County Jail for people who are charged with misdemeanor offenses or failed to appear for court hearings. This is up 4% from approximately 9,200 jail bookings in 2009. The projected 2010 bookings will generate close to 102,000 jail days - the equivalent of having 276 people in jail on any given day - which is about the same as the 2009 average of 275. Through October 2010, on a daily basis, the City averaged 222 people in the King County Jail, 52 people in the Yakima County Jail, and one person in the Renton Jail.

Policy and Program Changes

In developing the 2011 Adopted Budget, the City of Seattle's General Fund was facing a \$67 million shortfall for 2011. The 2011 Adopted Budget includes reductions for all General Fund-dependent functions. There is very little flexibility in the budget for CJCS. Spending is driven by the number of people arrested and booked into jail and also by the number of criminal cases filed by the City Attorney - these factors are outside of the control of CJCS. However, the 2011 Adopted and 2012 Endorsed Budget does include reductions in order to help close the General Fund gap.

From 2002 to 2010, the City contracted with Yakima County to house some of its sentenced misdemeanor inmates. As part of this agreement, the City provided a space for family and friends of inmates being held in Yakima County to visit with them via a video hook-up in Seattle. In 2011, the City will replace its Yakima County contract with a new contract with Snohomish County. Because inmates will be housed in Everett, rather than Yakima County, the City no longer needs to provide video visitation services and is able eliminate its funding for this service.

In 2010, King County significantly changed how it charges cities for jail services. Previously, the County had charged the same daily rate regardless of whether an inmate was housed in general housing or if the inmate needed more expensive specialized psychiatric and/or medical services. In June 2010, King County began charging cities premiums for these specialized services. This change increased the City's 2010 jail costs by 10% (about \$1.25 million annually). In 2011, King County is increasing its rates by an average of 11% (an increase of another \$1.5 million). The CJCS budget is able to absorb these rate increases because it is changing its jail contract for sentenced misdemeanor inmates from Yakima County to Snohomish County. In addition to being much closer to Seattle than Yakima, Snohomish County's jail rates are also more cost-effective.

City Council Provisos

There are no Council provisos.

Criminal Justice

	Summit	2009	2010	2011	2012
Appropriations	Code	Actual	Adopted	Adopted	Endorsed
Indigent Defense Services Budget Control Level	VJ500	5,631,790	5,425,163	6,043,667	6,169,790
Jail Services Budget Control Level	VJ100	14,436,941	18,476,852	18,331,746	21,572,628
Department Total		20,068,730	23,902,015	24,375,413	27,742,418
		2009	2010	2011	2012
Resources		Actual	Adopted	Adopted	Endorsed
General Subfund		20,068,730	23,902,015	24,375,413	27,742,418
Department Total		20,068,730	23,902,015	24,375,413	27,742,418

Indigent Defense Services Budget Control Level

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Indigent Defense Services Budget Control Level is to secure legal defense services, as required by state law, for indigent people facing criminal charges in Seattle Municipal Court.

Summary

Transfer \$515,000 from the Jail Services Budget Control Level (BCL) to the Indigent Defense Services BCL. In 2008 and 2009, public defense expenditures exceeded the budget by \$400,000 - \$460,000 because the actual number of public defense cases was higher than budgeted levels. This overage has been offset by savings in the jail budget. This transfer will adjust the budget to better match the expected level of spending.

Transfer \$5,000 for a copier lease for defense attorneys from the Indigent Defense Services BCL to the Seattle Municipal Court.

Citywide adjustments to various operating costs increase the budget by \$109,000 for a net increase of \$619,000 from the 2010 Adopted Budget to the 2011 Adopted Budget.

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Expenditures	Actual	Adopted	Adopted	Endorsed
Indigent Defense Services	5,631,790	5,425,163	6,043,667	6,169,790

Jail Services Budget Control Level

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Jail Services Budget Control Level is to provide for the booking, housing, transporting, and guarding of City inmates. The jail population, for which the City pays, are adults charged with or convicted of misdemeanor crimes alleged to have been committed within the Seattle city limits.

Summary

Reduce budget by \$33,000 and discontinue video visitation services for sentenced inmates held at Yakima County Jail. In 2011, the City will no longer contract with Yakima County and will instead send sentenced inmates to the Snohomish County Jail.

Transfer \$515,000 from the Jail Services Budget Control Level (BCL) to the Indigent Defense Services BCL. In 2008 and 2009, public defense expenditures exceeded the budget by \$400,000 - \$460,000 because the actual number of public defense cases was higher than budgeted levels. This overage has been offset by savings in the jail budget. This transfer will adjust the budget to better match the expected level of spending.

Citywide adjustments to various operating costs increase the budget by \$403,000 for a net decrease of \$145,000 from the 2010 Adopted Budget to the 2011 Adopted Budget.

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Expenditures	Actual	Adopted	Adopted	Endorsed
Jail Services	14,436,941	18,476,852	18,331,746	21,572,628