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Department Overview

Criminal Justice Contracted Services (CJCS) provides funding for both public defense and jail services for individuals arrested, prosecuted, and/or convicted of misdemeanor crimes in Seattle. The City Budget Office manages the contracts for these services.

The City contracts with King County and Snohomish County to provide jail services. The City also contracts with King County to provide public defense services.

Budget Snapshot

Department Support	2015 Actual	2016 Adopted	2017 Adopted	2018 Endorsed
General Fund Support	\$23,382,693	\$24,420,783	\$28,150,505	\$27,987,525
Total Operations	\$23,382,693	\$24,420,783	\$28,150,505	\$27,987,525
Total Appropriations	\$23,382,693	\$24,420,783	\$28,150,505	\$27,987,525
Full-time Equivalent Total*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

* FTE totals are provided for information purposes only. Changes in FTEs resulting from City Council or Human Resources Director actions outside of the budget process may not be detailed here.

Budget Overview

Spending for Criminal Justice Contracted Services is driven by the number of people arrested and booked into jail and by the number of cases filed by the City Attorney. Jail bookings, jail days and case filing are expected to remain at the same levels as forecast in 2016.

In 2012, the City signed a long-term inter-local agreement with King County to provide jail services through 2030. Annually, the rates are inflated by the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Consumer Price Index-for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers plus 1.5% for most charges and 3% for infirmary and psychiatric surcharges. Every five years, the base costs are reset through a methodology based on King County's previous year's budgeted jail costs. The reset for 2017 produced a significant increase in the daily maintenance charge, increasing by more than 20% over current rates which have grown by more than inflation. Reset years were placed in the agreement to ensure rates reflect changes in costs and actual jail population levels.

A secondary jail services agreement with Snohomish County was legislated in 2015. Per the agreement, there is a rate increase of 7% plus inflation in 2017 and in 2018 rates will only increase by inflation.

The City has an inter-local agreement with King County for public defense services. A number of costs related to salaries and compliance with public defense standards have increased over the baseline, requiring a 9% increase.

City Council changes to the Proposed Budget

Council added \$220,000 to fund a two-year pilot program providing civil legal aid to indigent defendants in Seattle Municipal Court in coordination with their misdemeanor criminal case.

The new pre-filing diversion effort led by the Law Department is expected to provide savings to jail and indigent defense legal services through fewer cases being filed and reducing the jail population and indigent defendants requiring an attorney. The Law Department will use consultants on diversion for family domestic violence, and Restorative Justice diversion for other case types. Cases may be referred to the Seattle Municipal Court to connect defendants to services through the Court Resource Center.

Incremental Budget Changes

Criminal Justice Contracted Services						
	2017	2018				
	Budget	FTE	Budget	FTE		
Total 2016 Adopted Budget	\$ 24,420,783	0.00	\$ 24,420,783	0.00		
Proposed Changes						
Jail Services Increase	\$ 3,151,000	0.00	\$ 3,231,424	0.00		
Public Defense Services Increase	\$ 766,500	0.00	\$ 780,096	0.00		
Council Changes						
Civil Legal Aid Pilot Program	\$ 220,000	0.00	\$ 220,000	0.00		
Pre-Filing Diversion Program	-\$ 407,778	0.00	-\$ 664,778	0.00		
Total Incremental Changes	\$ 3,729,722	0.00	\$ 3,566,742	0.00		
2017 Adopted/2018 Endorsed Budget	\$ 28,150,505	0.00	\$ 27,987,525	0.00		

Descriptions of Incremental Budget Changes

Proposed Changes

Jail Services Increase - \$3,151,000

The City has a long-term inter-local agreement with King County to provide jail services through 2030. Every five years, the base costs are reset through a methodology based on the County's previous year's budgeted jail costs. The reset in 2017 produces a significant increase in the daily maintenance charge, increasing by more than 20% over current rates which have grown by more than inflation. The rate increase is a result of county labor agreements and major maintenance costs.

Public Defense Services Increase - \$766,500

The City has an inter-local agreement with King County for public defense services. The rate paid by the City in 2017 will increase 9% above the previous rate used in the 2016 Adopted Budget. The costs driving this change include:

- county mandated salary increases for social workers;
- clerical and paraprofessional staffing increases to meet public defense standards;
- lower caseload for new attorneys to meet public defense standards;
- caseload flexibility factor of 3%;
- on-call attorney staffing;
- staffing of the Conflict Attorney Panel;
- county overhead increase; and
- inflation and healthcare costs increases.

Council Changes

Civil Legal Aid Pilot Program - \$220,000

This item adds funding for 2017 and 2018 for a two-year pilot program providing civil legal aid to indigent defendants in Seattle Municipal Court in coordination with their misdemeanor criminal case.

Pre-Filing Diversion Program - (\$407,778)

This item represents a portion of a pre-filing diversion effort led by the Law Department. Fewer cases will be filed reducing the jail population and indigent defendants requiring an attorney.

- Savings to jail services is expected to be \$321,000 in 2017 and \$500,000 in 2018.
- Savings to indigent defense services is expected to be \$87,000 in 2017 and \$165,000 in 2018.

The pre-filing diversion effort led by the Law Department is expected to provide savings to jail and indigent defense legal services using consultants on diversion for family domestic violence, and Restorative Justice diversion for other case types. Cases may be referred to the Seattle Municipal Court to connect defendants to services through the Court Resource Center.

City Council Provisos

There are no Council provisos.

Expenditure Overview						
Appropriations	Summit Code	2015 Actual	2016 Adopted	2017 Adopted	2018 Endorsed	
Indigent Defense Services Budget Control Level	VJ500	6,025,140	7,333,471	8,233,171	8,168,647	
Jail Services Budget Control Level	VJ100	17,357,553	17,087,312	19,917,334	19,818,878	
Department Total		23,382,693	24,420,783	28,150,505	27,987,525	
Department Full-time Equivale	ents Total*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

* FTE totals are provided for information purposes only. Changes in FTEs resulting from City Council or Human Resources Director actions outside of the budget process may not be detailed here.

Appropriations By Budget Control Level (BCL) and Program

Indigent Defense Services Budget Control Level

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.

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Program Expenditures	Actual	Adopted	Adopted	Endorsed
Indigent Defense Services	6,025,140	7,333,471	8,233,171	8,168,647
Total	6,025,140	7,333,471	8,233,171	8,168,647

Jail Services Budget Control Level

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.

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Program Expenditures	Actual	Adopted	Adopted	Endorsed
Jail Services	17,357,553	17,087,312	19,917,334	19,818,878
Total	17,357,553	17,087,312	19,917,334	19,818,878