

Criminal Justice Contracted Services

Department Description

Criminal Justice Contracted Services provides funding for both public defense and jail services for individuals arrested, prosecuted for, and/or convicted of misdemeanor criminal code violations in Seattle. These services are financially managed by the Department of Finance. In 2003, the Seattle Municipal Court is expected to hear an estimated 17,500 cases, approximately 7,750 of which will qualify for publicly-funded defense services. The City expects a slight increase in cases in 2004 in light of demographic trends. The City contracts with the King County Office of Public Defense to provide these services through subcontracted not-for-profit legal agencies.

By the end of 2002, approximately 10,500 people are expected to have been booked into the King County Jail for allegedly violating the Seattle Municipal Code. These individuals are expected to spend close to 130,000 days in jail. The City expects no change in the demand for jail services in 2003. As a result of population pressures and high costs in the King County jail system, the City began a pilot program with Yakima County in mid-July 2002. Yakima County provides free transportation for jurisdictions that house their inmates in Yakima. During the three-month pilot program, which was evaluated in September 2002, Seattle misdemeanants spent a combined total of nearly 2,000 days in the Yakima County jail. This budget recognizes savings from the City's entrance into a long-term agreement with Yakima County that begins January 1, 2003.

Policy and Program Changes

The City's jail services budget now pays to incarcerate individuals at the King County jail and the Yakima County jail, which is less expensive, but requires the City to play a more active role in the management of the jail population. The Office of Policy and Management houses the new population management staff, which is funded through savings in the jail budget. Further, as case filings continue to decline in the Seattle Municipal Court, the City is able to contain costs for the contract with the King County Office of Public Defense. A modest amount is budgeted to implement alternatives to confinement.

City Council Budget Changes and Provisos

The City Council adds \$75,000 in 2003 and 2004 to continue the Car Recovery Clinic, which provides legal assistance to car owners who have had their vehicles impounded as a result of the City's Operation Impound program.

The City Council adopted the following budget provisos:

Of the appropriation for 2003 for Criminal Justice Contracted Services, Indigent Defense Services Budget Control Level, \$75,000 is appropriated (and \$75,000 is expected to be appropriated for 2004) solely for a contract for the Car Recovery Clinic, and may be spent for no other purpose.

Resources	Summit Code	2001 Actual	2002 Adopted	2003 Adopted	2004 Endorsed
Indigent Defense Services Budget Control Level					
Appropriation	VJ500	5,469,799	6,062,911	6,292,497	6,794,174
Jail Services Budget Control Level					
Appropriation	VJ100	12,595,576	12,719,987	12,608,057	14,168,728
Department Total		18,065,375	18,782,898	18,900,554	20,962,902

Criminal Justice

Indigent Defense Services

Purpose Statement

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

Program Summary

Increase the indigent defense services budget to reflect increases in King County overhead costs. Cases are forecasted to decline in 2003 and rise slightly in 2004. Calendar changes in the Municipal Court have also reduced the overall number of defense attorneys needed.

Resources	2001 Actual	2002 Adopted	2003 Adopted	2004 Endorsed
General Subfund	5,469,799	6,062,911	6,292,497	6,794,174
Total	5,469,799	6,062,911	6,292,497	6,794,174

Jail Services

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Jail Services line of business is to provide for the booking, housing, transporting, and guarding of City inmates, and for the lease of a courtroom in the King County jail. The jail population for which the City pays are adults charged with, or convicted of, misdemeanor crimes alleged to have been committed within the City of Seattle limits. Inmates are incarcerated in either the King County or Yakima County jail.

Program Summary

Reduce the jail services budget in 2003, capturing cost savings resulting from the incarceration of inmates in the Yakima County jail, an increase in the use of electronic home monitoring and other alternatives to confinement, as well as the decrease in the number of bookings and maintenance days. Bookings and maintenance days are expected to rise in 2004, as is the City's liability for costs associated with treating inmates with medical and psychiatric disorders.

Resources	2001 Actual	2002 Adopted	2003 Adopted	2004 Endorsed
General Subfund	12,595,576	12,719,987	12,608,057	14,168,728
Total	12,595,576	12,719,987	12,608,057	14,168,728