



**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE**

Timothy C. Evans  
Chief Judge

John N. Hourihane, Jr.  
Executive Officer

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**To:** Honorable John P. Daley, *Chairman, Finance Committee*

**From:** John N. Hourihane, Jr., *Executive Officer - Chief Financial Officer  
Office of the Chief Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County*

**CC:** Honorable Timothy C. Evans, *Chief Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County*  
Kanao Ishida Musselwhite, *Budget Director*  
Department of Budget & Management Services

**Date:** November 2, 2023

**Re:** Request for Information from FY2024 Budget Hearing

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The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our office's budget hearing held on October 25, 2023.

**Request ID# 1478-03**

Commissioner Daley asked how long until the Domestic Violence Protection Pilot is available 24 hours a day?

**Response:**

*The next scheduled meeting of the Domestic Violence 24/7 subcommittee is on Monday, November 6, 2023. It is the intention of the subcommittee at this meeting to finalize recommendations to the Committee on Domestic Violence Court on plans for expansion of the pilot to 24/7 operations. The committee anticipates, prior to the end of 2023, requesting an RFP or RFQ for long-term advocate services for operations. Once the committee reviews the subcommittee report it will make recommendations to the Chief Judge regarding expansion.*

**Request ID# 1478-07**

Commissioner Degnen asked what is the line-item cost of your Electronic Monitoring program?

**Response:**

*The total cost of Adult Probation Department electronic monitoring for FY24 is budgeted at \$26,839,000. This cost is composed of two programs or types of monitoring. One is for Victims of Domestic Battery, creating exclusionary zones, and the other monitors and enforces curfews. The Home Confinement program is made up of staff who affix and troubleshoot devices, which is further supported by the Pretrial Services program, who monitor defendants' compliance by reporting all potential violations to the court as well as supporting compliance with conditions of release.*

**Request ID# 1478-10**

Commissioner Degnen asked can you elaborate on the meaning of 'light touch ethical support' in the Juvenile Probation Department's narrative on page L-45?

**Response:**

*The Council on State Governments recognizes the progressive advances of the Cook County Juvenile Court and Juvenile Probation Department (JPD); thus, they have offered limited or "light touch" technical support on a specific project related to completion of conditions of probation.*

*The JPD is working with the Juvenile Justice Division judiciary to improve probation outcomes, particularly those related to youth's completion of court-ordered conditions. A pilot is in development that seeks to align the court's probation conditions and the JPD's case plan, so that youth are supported throughout their period of court-ordered probation.*

*This "light touch" technical assistance is at no cost to the court or the JPD.*

**Request ID# 1478-15**

Commissioner Gainer asked can you provide an assessment of the cost to set up recording systems in the courtrooms (that do not currently have recording equipment)?

**Response:**

*While the court does not have specifics costs yet, the Office of the Chief Judge is leading a collaborative effort with the State's Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Sheriff's Office, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Offices Under the President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, to provide state-of-the-art evidence presentation technology in all criminal, civil and traffic courtrooms throughout Cook County to improve equitable access to justice and ADA accessibility in the courtroom. The initial procurement will include hiring a consultant to develop a set of standardized specifications for systems and equipment to be implemented by courtroom type throughout the entire court system. The project is expected to take approximately 5 years to implement this system throughout 400 courtrooms spanning 14 court locations. The scope of work*

will include the implementation and integration of all new technology and AV systems in every courtroom throughout the Circuit Court of Cook County.

the court has an IT/AV CIP project that was requested in 2022. Capital Planning advises that an RFQ is with procurement to solicit an architect assist in the design. Once design is done, an RFP will be issued and the court will then better understand cost once proposals are submitted. As a preliminary placeholder entry only, the court requested \$20,000,000 as start-up funding. This project is governed by applicable state statutes and Illinois Supreme Court Rules that relate to the official records of proceedings and the safekeeping of any recordings. In addition to the infrastructure costs, the project will help to identify resources needed from the county to provide staffing to manage digital audio/video recording at each court facility where court reporting services are not currently provided.

**Request ID# 1478-16**

Commissioner Gainer asked can you provide a timeline for when JTDC will begin to offer trauma training for staff?

**Response:**

As detailed in the report below, the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center has completed eight (8) unique training titles, with 490 total sessions completed across all titles. De-escalation training sessions are scheduled for November 1-3, 2023.

Event Name	Subjects	Vendor	Language(s)	Tentative Sessions	Approved Sessions	Completed Sessions	Evaluation	Options
Trauma Training	Professional Development	External Training	English (US)	0	0	17		
Webinar: Trauma Training	Webinar	External Training	English (US)	0	0	46		
Think Trauma: Module Two	Mental Health	Cook County JTDC	English (US)	0	0	110		
Think Trauma: Module One	Mental Health	Cook County JTDC	English (US)	0	0	113		
Think Trauma: Module Three	Mental Health	Cook County JTDC	English (US)	0	0	110		
Think Trauma: Module Four	Mental Health	Cook County JTDC	English (US)	0	0	110		
JTDC Wellness Training	Professional Development	Cook County JTDC	English (US)	0	0	32		
Webinar: Training	Professional Development	External Training	English (US)	0	0	62		

**Request ID# 1478-21**

Commissioner Anaya asked has the position under the Elder Justice Clinic been terminated or moved to another program?

**Response:**

Because cases formerly heard in the Elder Law and Miscellaneous Remedies Division, which is no longer a separate division of the court, are heard in the Probate Division. The Administrative Assistant II position previously assigned to the Elder Justice Center program was reassigned

**Request ID# 1478-23**

Commissioner Anaya asked have any interpreters been elevated to full-time work or it is still on an as-needed basis?

**Response:**

*Yes. Per the 2020-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Office of the Chief Judge and the Chicago News Guild, only interpreters certified by the Illinois Supreme Court are eligible for hire as either full time or per diem interpreters. Both categories of interpreters are employed by, not contracted with, the Office of the Chief Judge. In FY23, one per diem interpreter was promoted to a full time interpreter position; two per diem interpreters were promoted to supervisory positions within the Office of Interpreter Services. Available full time positions are posted to all bargaining unit members; no certified per diem interpreters have applied for or indicated interest in the currently posted full time positions.*

**Request ID# 1478-30**

Commissioner K. Morrison asked what is the reason for the large increase in salary for Administrative Analyst II, Caseworker V, and other similar salary increases? (See page L-11)

**Response:**

*The increases in budgeted salaries for the indicated positions do not indicate pay increases for the employees in those positions. More specifically,*

- An employee was promoted into the Administrative Analyst II position in late FY 22. The employee's pay increase comported with the class and compensation definition of "promotion." Apparently due to the timing of the promotion during the late-year budget uploads, the promotion/pay increase information was not captured in the FY 23 budget. The amount reflected on page L-11 was the FY22 budgeted amount for the position when it was vacant, not the employee's previous salary.*
- A substantially similar explanation applies to the other positions and salaries of about which Commissioner Morrison began to inquire: employees were promoted from positions with salaries already higher than the starting salary and are compensated accordingly.*

**Request ID# 1478-32**

Commissioner Trevor asked how is the Domestic Violence afterhours/24/7 pilot program paid for and where are the allocations?

**Response:**

*Beginning in FY22 budget, the court added new or reallocated resources to the Domestic Violence Division (DVD) to address larger caseloads and staff the DVD's after-hours pilot program. To*

*that end, 6 additional judges have been assigned to the division, with each of the 15 division judges covering the after-hours program one (1) week at a time on a rotating basis. Judges' salaries and benefits are paid directly by the State of Illinois, and are not included in the court's budget. Additionally, the court added 5 court coordinators and 3 staff attorneys to address larger caseloads and staff the after-hours pilot program. The after-hours program is staffed at this time by a court administrator who supervises court coordinators who staff the program on a rotating basis while also assigned to general daytime division responsibilities. The court's FY24 budget maintains these resources, with flexibility to address further expansion to 24/7 operation based on recommendations the Committee on Domestic Violence Court will make to the Chief Judge.*

As always, please let us know if you have any additional questions.