



Superior Court of California County of Alpine BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

The staffing levels are at a bare minimum; no further reductions are possible. At this rate, even a modest increase in case filings will be a challenge if the Alpine Court is to deliver quality, accessible services to the public.

Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

A recent contract change for Self-Help services reduced the scope of the program to realize cost savings.

Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

- Calendars were consolidated to effect savings on contract court reporter services; the court has no court reporter employees.
- The court has no interpreter employees and uses telephonic interpreting or El Dorado County services, when available.

Counters / Clerks / Telephones

- The court is operating with only 3 full-time employees and does not have a Court Executive Officer to oversee day-to-day operations.
- Public counters remain open without reduction of hours, 8 ½ hrs. with no lunch closure, except during the mandatory furlough period in FY 2009-10.

Closed Courtrooms and Court Houses

Alpine Court uses courtrooms in neighboring El Dorado County when necessary for unscheduled, in-custody criminal matters due to a current lack of adequate facilities for conducting criminal matters.

Staff Impacts / Furloughs / Layoffs / Unfilled Vacancies

- Three positions have been eliminated since 2009 by layoffs, retirement and termination, and there are no plans to fill those positions.
- Court imposed mandatory one day per month furloughs in FY 2009-10.
- Salaries have been frozen for the last 4 years.

Court Security / Safety / Facilities

Existing facility lacks even the most basic security features.

Availability of Judicial Officers

- The two Alpine Court judges are regularly assigned to other regional courts, including Amador, El Dorado, Mono, and Inyo among others.
- The absence of a Court Executive Officer requires the judges to cover administrative and personnel functions.

Budget Considerations

Budgeted Revenues* FY 2013-2014	\$601,722
<u>Total Revenues* FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>722,087</u>
Five-Year Revenue Reduction	-\$120,365
<small>*Excludes Sheriff-Provided Security</small>	
Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	-\$16,020
Share of \$60 million augmentation	\$7,226

Court Demographics

Population Served	1,097
Square Miles Covered	743
Total Number of Court Facilities	1
Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-2014	3
<u>Filled Staff Positions FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>5</u>
Lost Positions in 5 years	-2 (40% reduction)

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. David L. DeVore
Asst. Presiding Judge	Hon. Thomas D. Kolpacoff
Court Executive Officer	<i>Vacant</i>
Executive Office Contact	(530) 694-2113

Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

- *The Court is presently using fund balances/reserves to implement a functional case management system, and transition to a critically-needed modified (by Alpine County) facility.*
- *In this era of reductions, the Court could not function without the assistance of the Administrative Office of the Courts for duties/roles previously performed by court staff. "We have reached our limit," the Presiding Judge said.*