



Superior Court of California County of Stanislaus BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

- *Delays in processing judgments from 90 to 120 days; trial dates are set out months in advance*
- *The public and attorneys must wait in long lines to process files and documents*
- *Relationships with justice system partners are strained as services diminish and outreach efforts have been eliminated*
- *We will be in negotiations with represented staff, as our MOU expires in September 2014*
- *We have immediate facility needs due to multi-defendant trials*
- *We will continue implementation of a paperless document management system as part of our solution to staffing shortages*

Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

- Staff reduced from 7 to 4; average wait time has doubled
- Funding reduced overall by 33% since FY 2008-09

Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

- Eliminated 3 court reporter positions prior to FY 2012-13 and eliminated an additional 2 reporters in FY 2012-13; these 2 were rehired in March 2013 so we are down net 3 court reporter positions as of March 2013
- Reduced expenditures for interpreters by 28%; although we had been operating without an interpreter coordinator, the court is in the process of hiring (February 2014) the .5 FTE we are allotted for this administrative function

Counters / Clerks / Telephones

- Public counters and telephones closed at 3:00 pm daily, except Fridays, from January 4, 2013 until Sept 30, 2013 when hours were changed back to 4:00 pm; on Fridays, public counters and telephones still close at 12:00 pm
- Backlogs exist as a result from staff losses

Closed Courtrooms and Court Houses

- Branch court operations closed in Turlock and Ceres
- Closed one civil and one traffic/small claims courtroom

Staff Impacts / Furloughs / Layoffs / Unfilled Vacancies

- Mandatory furloughs in FY 2009-10 and voluntary furloughs still utilized; 5% furlough for all employees planned effective June 2, 2013 to June 1, 2014 ceased as of August 10, 2013
- Twelve positions eliminated, with potential layoff of an additional 15-20 staff due to projected budget deficit in FY 2013-14 avoided with WAFM in FY 2013-14
- Vacancy rate anticipated to rise from 17% to 20% by end of FY 2012-13; actual reduction in force/vacancy from FY 2008-09 to FY 2013-14 is 22% reduction

Court Security / Safety / Facilities

- Court has cancelled an armed security contract
- Court does not have adequate facilities for multi defendant jury trials

Availability of Judicial Officers

One court commissioner position was eliminated

Budget Considerations

Budgeted Revenues* FY 2013-2014	\$22,435,035
<u>Total Revenues* FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>\$23,658,437</u>
Five-Year Revenue Reduction	-\$1,223,402
<small>*Excludes Sheriff-Provided Security</small>	
Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	-\$1,374,921
Share of \$60 million augmentation	\$839,468

Court Demographics

Population Served	519,940
Square Miles Covered	1,515
Total Number of Court Facilities	7
Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-2014	206
<u>Filled Staff Positions FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>265</u>
Lost Positions in 5 years	-59 (22% reduction)

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Loretta Murphy Begen
Court Executive Officer	Rebecca Fleming
Executive Office Contact	(209) 530-3111

Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

- *Stanislaus Court designated as a one of California's "historically underfunded" courts*
- *Staff vacancies have severely impacted court services and will force the court to handle only those cases deemed mandatory and high priority*
- *Without anticipated health and retirement increases as well as technology needs funding in FY 2014-15, the court does not have a balanced 2014-15 budget*
- *Facilities/Security are an issue, as multi-defendant trials are becoming a norm*
- *We do not have adequate courtroom facilities for anything over three defendant trials at this time, therefore, the court is looking to lease additional space on or before April 1, 2014 in order to prepare for a nine defendant trial scheduled to start June 1, 2014*
- *One-time annual leased space is expected to cost \$134,400 and utilities are expected to be \$1,750 per month*
- *If the court must fund these facilities expenditures, it could lead to an additional three to four layoffs in FY 2014-15*