



Superior Court of California

County of Modoc

BUDGET SNAPSHOT



February 2015

Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2015-16

Increasing Self-Help services, i.e. website usability, self-help instructions and procedures, and increased accessibility. Focus on technology replacements and upgrades. Seeking out and achieving greater efficiency programs, equipment and processes. Maintaining current programs such as Drug Court. Boosting employee morale to increase productivity.

Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

- Modoc has one court reporter; four to six times each year we hire an additional court reporter to address calendar overflow. The daily rate for the additional reporters is typically around \$550, and totals approximately \$5,000 per year. When added to the cost of our employed court reporter, we spend nearly \$80,000 per year for reporting services. We have no choice but to employ our court reporter on a full-time salaried basis even though the court calendar does not support a full-time position because our rural location is not supportive of contracting out for this service, and the contract costs are high.
- Modoc County is predominately an English speaking community. We do not have any certified, registered interpreters in the county and would be required to pay nearly \$500 per day for a qualified interpreter; instead we use a non-certified, non-registered interpreter for this service. With the implementation of the new language access provisions, we will experience a substantial increase in our interpreting costs and will see significant delays in setting court matters based on the schedules of outside qualified interpreters.

Counters / Clerks / Telephones

Office hours will be reduced two hours per day beginning March 1, 2015 to allow staff to work on the backlog that we are now experiencing. All services to the public are being reduced. We no longer have the time or resources to provide the customer service and counter assistance at the same level we previously provided.

Court Security / Safety / Facilities

The court security provided to us is through the bailiff and only when court proceedings are in session. There are no outside perimeter cameras nor is law enforcement conducting perimeter checks of the premises. Court security has become the responsibility of court staff. The court does not have any type of alarm system to guard against any unauthorized admittance and could very easily be breached.

Court Demographics

Population Served	9,197
Square Miles Covered	4,203
Total Number of Court Facilities	1

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Francis W. Barclay
Court Executive Officer	Ronda Gysin
Executive Office Contact	(530) 233-6516 ext. 1207

Staff Impacts / Furloughs / Layoffs / Unfilled Vacancies

On January 30, 2015, another employee was laid off. We now have five vacancies and currently are staffed at one position below the model recommendation. We have suffered a 35% staff reduction while the workload continues at the same level, if not higher, with the passage of Prop 47 and AB 109.

- Staff is currently furloughed two days per month with no end to furloughs in sight.
- Once negotiations begin with the employee union, the court will begin a merit freeze.

Mediation

Modoc has one employee who serves as our Child Custody Recommending Counselor and Probate Investigator. While it would be more cost effective to use a contracted position rather than a full-time, benefited employee, our rural location prevents us from finding a contract candidate. With inclement weather occurring October through May, ensuring that these services are provided can only be facilitated through full-time employment. Unfortunately, approximately 95% of the clientele are receiving state assistance and qualify for fee waivers, so we are unable to recoup most expenses

Budget Challenges for FY 2015-16

Ensuring we have adequate resources available to provide the minimum level of access to justice. Increasing court security especially since the Sheriff's Department only provides a bailiff while court is in session. There is no funding available for much needed aesthetic improvement or replacement of normal wear-and-tear. Finding adequate resources to replace office furniture to avoid disability claims.