



# Judicial Council of California

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## REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

*Item No.: 23-193*

For business meeting on November 17, 2023

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**Title**

Trial Court Budget: 2023–24 State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund Allocation Increase for Judicial Council Information Technology Office

**Agenda Item Type**

Action Required

**Effective Date**

November 17, 2023

**Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected**

None

**Date of Report**

October 20, 2023

**Recommended by**

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee  
Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Chair  
Ms. Rebecca Fleming, Vice-Chair

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### Executive Summary

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends a \$721,490 increase to the Judicial Council Information Technology office's 2023–24 Judicial Council-approved allocation from the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund. This increase will provide the Superior Court of Madera County with funding to complete their goal of digitizing over 13.4 million pages of court records and transform a court that relies on paper files into a digital court.

### Recommendation

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective November 17, 2023, approve an increase of \$721,490 to the Judicial Council Information Technology office's 2023–24 allocation from the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund.

### Relevant Previous Council Action

At its meeting on July 21, 2023, the Judicial Council approved the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund (IMF) allocations of \$45.2 million for 2023–24. Of the

total amount approved, \$34.1 million was allocated to the Judicial Council Information Technology office.<sup>1</sup>

This recommendation to approve an increase of \$721,490 to the allocation was presented to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee on September 18, 2023, and approved for consideration by the Judicial Council.

### **Analysis/Rationale**

One of the judicial branch's goals is to promote the digital court. Digitizing paper and film files is a necessary and foundational part of realizing the larger goal of transforming a court that relies on paper files into a digital court.

The Budget Act of 2019 appropriated \$5.6 million General Fund from the Digitizing Court Records budget change proposal (BCP) to conduct phase one of a multi-phase program for digitizing mandatory court records for the superior and appellate courts. Of the total BCP amount, \$4.9 million was transferred into the IMF and allocated to the trial courts participating in phase one. The funding was intended to secure vendor services to prepare the physical documents for conversion, scan them into electronic digital format, and provide quality assurance that the documents were being converted accurately.

The Superior Court of Madera County was included in the pilot and received \$938,229 for this project. However, the court experienced delays in the initial execution of the contract due to concerns with the vendor's contract language, scope, cost, and level of indexing, which impacted the timeline to receive the disbursement of funds. These initial delays prolonged the start of the contract and eventually led to extensions of the intra-branch agreement in November 2021.

During the same period, the state faced a global pandemic impacting the court's workforce and further delaying efforts on this project. Meanwhile, the existing vendor closed its operations, halting the project, and leaving the court without a service provider.

The combined set of circumstances resulted in the expiration of the existing intra-branch agreement on June 30, 2023, before the work could be completed. The court expended a total of \$216,739 with the prior vendor, Stria/Bitwise, leaving a balance of \$721,490 that reverted to the IMF from the court.

### **Policy implications**

None.

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<sup>1</sup> Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund Allocations for 2023–24* (June 22, 2023), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12124543&GUID=6AD25924-2962-4293-92B4-273A42692D54>; Judicial Council of Cal., mins. (July 21, 2023), item 23-058, p. 7, <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=M&ID=1105928&GUID=3AB2B386-B501-4660-AD0F-3984E59DC7DD>.

**Comments**

Circulation for public comment was not required for this report. Additionally, no public comment was received on this item for the September 7, 2023, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee meeting or the September 18, 2023, Judicial Branch Budget Committee meeting.

**Alternatives Considered**

No alternatives were considered.

**Fiscal and Operational Impacts**

There is no fiscal impact to the IMF because the amount requested was returned by the Superior Court of Madera County to the IMF at the end of 2022–23.

**Attachments and Links**

1. Attachment A: Judicial Council of California Approved 2023–24 Allocations from the IMF—State Operations and Local Assistance Appropriations
2. Attachment B: IMF Fund Condition Statement

**Judicial Council of California**  
**Approved 2023-24 Allocations**  
**State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund**  
**State Operations and Local Assistance Appropriations**

#	Program Name	Office	Approved 2023-24 Allocations		
			State Operations	Local Assistance	Total
A	B	C	D	E	F = (D + E)
1	Audit Services	AS	\$ 372,000	\$ -	\$ 372,000
2	Trial Court Master Agreements	BAP	182,000	-	182,000
3	Treasury Services - Cash Management	BAP	110,000		110,000
4	Data Analytics Advisory Committee	BMS		9,000	9,000
5	Budget Focused Training and Meetings	BS		25,000	25,000
6	Revenue Distribution Training	BS		10,000	10,000
7	Treasury Services - Cash Management	BS	-		-
8	Domestic Violence Forms Translation	CFCC		17,000	17,000
9	Interactive Software - Self-Rep Electronic Forms	CFCC		60,000	60,000
10	Self-Help Center	CFCC		5,000,000	5,000,000
11	Statewide Multidisciplinary Education	CFCC		67,000	67,000
12	Shriver Civil Counsel - cy prês Funding	CFCC		893,000	893,000
13	Statewide Support for Self-Help Programs	CFCC		100,000	100,000
14	Court Interpreter Testing etc.	CFCC		143,000	143,000
15	CJER Faculty	CJER		48,000	48,000
16	Essential Court Management Education	CJER	40,000		40,000
17	Essential Court Personnel Education	CJER		130,000	130,000
18	Judicial Education	CJER		984,000	984,000
19	Jury System Improvement Projects	CJS		9,000	9,000
20	Trial Court Labor Relations Academies and Forums	HR		23,000	23,000
21	Data Center and Cloud Service	IT	2,215,000	4,471,000	6,686,000
22	Uniform Civil Filing Services	IT	399,000	3,000	402,000
23	California Courts Protective Order Registry (CCPOR)	IT	418,000	537,000	955,000
24	Telecommunications	IT	-	14,500,000	14,500,000
25	Enterprise Policy & Planning (Statewide Planning and Dev Support)	IT	1,044,000	2,500,000	3,544,000
26	Data Integration	IT	703,000	993,000	1,696,000
27	Jury Management System	IT	-	665,000	665,000
28	Case Management System Replacement	IT	-	-	-
29	Telecom	IT	1,297,000	4,384,000	5,681,000
30	Jury System Improvement Projects	LS		10,000	10,000
31	Regional Office Assistance Group	LS	861,000	-	861,000
32	Judicial Performance Defense Insurance	LSS		1,931,000	1,931,000
33	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 7,641,000</b>	<b>\$ 37,512,000</b>	<b>\$ 45,153,000</b>

Totals by Office		Office	State Operations	Local Assistance	Total
Legend	C	D	E	F = (D + E)	
34	Audit Services	AS	\$ 372,000	\$ -	\$ 372,000
35	Branch Accounting and Procurement	BAP	292,000	-	292,000
36	Business Management Services	BMS	-	9,000	9,000
37	Budget Services	BS	-	35,000	35,000
38	Center for Families, Children and the Courts	CFCC	-	6,280,000	6,280,000
39	Center for Judicial Education and Research	CJER	40,000	1,162,000	1,202,000
40	Criminal Justice Services	CJS	-	9,000	9,000
41	Human Resources	HR	-	23,000	23,000
42	Information Technology	IT	6,076,000	28,053,000	34,129,000
43	Legal Services	LS	861,000	10,000	871,000
44	Leadership Services	LSS	-	1,931,000	1,931,000
<b>Total Allocations</b>			<b>\$ 7,641,000</b>	<b>\$ 37,512,000</b>	<b>\$ 45,153,000</b>

**State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund**  
**Fund Condition Statement**  
**October 2023**

Updated: October 10, 2023

#	Description	Estimated				
		2020-21 (Year-end Financial Statement)	2021-22 (Year-end Financial Statement)	2022-23 (Year-end Financial Statement)	2023-24	2024-25
		A	B	C	D	E
1	Beginning Balance	21,152,288	16,886,288	23,242,054	38,128,109	32,679,619
2	Prior-Year Adjustments	2,422,000	8,176,338	8,638,611	-3,200,000	
3	<b>Adjusted Beginning Balance</b>	<b>23,574,288</b>	<b>25,062,626</b>	<b>31,880,665</b>	<b>34,928,109</b>	<b>32,679,619</b>
4	<b>REVENUES<sup>1</sup>:</b>					
12	<b>Subtotal Revenues</b>	<b>17,264,000</b>	<b>15,428,439</b>	<b>18,311,387</b>	<b>13,666,000</b>	<b>12,973,000</b>
13	<b>Transfers and Other Adjustments</b>					
14	To Trial Court Trust Fund (Gov. Code, § 77209(j))	-13,397,000	-13,397,000	-13,397,000	-13,397,000	-13,397,000
15	To Trial Court Trust Fund (Budget Act)	-594,000	-594,000	-594,000	-594,000	-594,000
16	General Fund Transfer (Gov. Code § 20825.1)		-270,000	0	0	0
17	<b>Total Revenues, Transfers, and Other Adjustments</b>	<b>3,273,000</b>	<b>1,167,439</b>	<b>4,320,387</b>	<b>-325,000</b>	<b>-1,018,000</b>
18	<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>26,847,288</b>	<b>26,230,065</b>	<b>36,201,052</b>	<b>34,603,109</b>	<b>31,661,619</b>
19	<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>					
20	Judicial Branch Total State Operations	4,635,000	5,217,956	5,319,495	7,641,000	7,860,000
21	Judicial Branch Total Local Assistance	47,825,000	44,734,883	36,857,436	38,383,490	38,254,000
22	Pro Rata and Other Adjustments	289,000	307,171	180,012	117,000	117,000
23	Less funding provided by General Fund (Local Assistance)	-42,788,000	-47,272,000	-44,284,000	-44,218,000	-44,218,000
24	<b>Total Expenditures and Adjustments</b>	<b>9,961,000</b>	<b>2,988,011</b>	<b>-1,927,057</b>	<b>1,923,490</b>	<b>2,013,000</b>
25	<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>16,886,288</b>	<b>23,242,054</b>	<b>38,128,109</b>	<b>32,679,619</b>	<b>29,648,619</b>
26	<b>Fund Balance - less restricted funds</b>	<b>12,775,459</b>	<b>19,677,611</b>	<b>35,864,950</b>	<b>30,515,460</b>	<b>27,599,459</b>
27	<b>Structural Balance</b>	<b>-6,688,000</b>	<b>-1,820,572</b>	<b>6,247,444</b>	<b>-2,248,490</b>	<b>-3,031,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Revenue estimates are as of October 2023