

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: April 18, 2022  
To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chair, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
From: Joe Lamers, Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance  
Subject: Courts requests to create 7.0 FTE Deputy Court Clerks and 5.0 FTE Specialist Clerical Cts-  
File Type: Action Report

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**REQUEST**

Courts is requesting to create 7.0 FTE Deputy Court Clerks and 5.0 FTE Specialist Clerical Cts- with State ARPA funding to expand Court operations and reduce the backlog.

**POLICY**

Wisconsin State Statutes:	Wis Stats 59.17
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	MCGO 17.05(1)
Specific Adopted Budget:	2022 Adopted Budget

**BACKGROUND**

In March of 2020, jury trials and statutory speedy trial rights were suspended due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. This led to a growing backlog of cases.

Court stakeholders, supported by County Executive David Crowley's recovery team, acted early and aggressively to restart jury trials and in person proceedings as quickly and safely as possible. The county expended Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) dollars to upgrade technology in the courtroom and provide necessary PPE to keep litigants, jurors, staff, and others safe as the courts opened, and remained open, even when the virus was at its worst. In addition, the Office of State Courts, provided videoconferencing resources to help the courts shift to remote proceedings where appropriate.

As of January, Milwaukee County faced a backlog of approximately 2,600 misdemeanors, 1,700 felonies, and 925 criminal traffic cases. Milwaukee County anticipates it will take between 2 and 3 years to clear the identified backlog and resume resolving cases within the state and national time standard. Milwaukee County was awarded ARPA funds to expand court operations to reduce the backlog. To accomplish that, the proposal is to add: 3 judges to the felony division, 1 judge to the misdemeanor division, and 1 judge to the domestic violence courts. To support this expansion by the

judiciary, additional support staff are needed and funded by State ARPA grant received by Milwaukee County Courts.

Related File No's:	22-478 - \$14,719,000 in State ARPA grant
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**FISCAL EFFECT**

The cost for the positions in 2022 is \$369,714, assuming a hire date of June 1, 2022. The total 2023 annual salary and social security cost of the twelve requested position is \$633,796. All position costs will be fully funded by the State ARPA grant.

**POSITION INFORMATION**

<u>Action</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Pay Range</u>	<u>Annual Salary Range</u>
Create	Deputy Court Clerk	25K	\$51,559 - \$63,669
Create	Specialist Clerical Cts-	05P	\$38,288 - \$49,098

*JOSEPH LAMERS*

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Joe Lamers, Director, Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance.

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk