

County of Milwaukee
Inter-Office Communication

Date: October 22, 2012
Updated 12/13/12

To: Willie Johnson, Jr., Co-Chair, Finance, Personnel, & Audit Committee
David Cullen, Co-Chair, Finance, Personnel, & Audit Committee

From: John Barrett, Clerk of Circuit Court / Register in Probate

Subject: Projected revenue deficits

As per Milwaukee County Ordinance 56.02, the Milwaukee County Combined Courts Related Operations is reporting projected line item revenue deficits for the following accounts:

Account Number	Account Description	Projected (deficit) as per	
		June 2012 ledger	Sept 2012 ledger
1322	Forfeitures - bail	(557,965)	(522,126)
3160	General action large claims	(88,172)	(158,531)

With the success of the Alternatives to Incarceration Program, fewer individuals are being put on bail which results in less potential forfeitures to occur. The requested budget for 2013 has already lowered the projected revenue by \$200,000. In regards to General Action Large Claims, the revenue has been trending downward since the beginning of the year. A large contributing factor is the slow economy which affects collection rates.

These shortfalls are projected to be offset by other departmental savings. The September fiscal projection is for a small departmental surplus of \$29,452.

There are a number of areas where the Clerk of Circuit Court's office has attempted to control expenditures in order to not have a deficit during 2012 because of projected revenue deficits. These include, but are not limited to the following items:

- The department experienced a larger than normal amount of vacancy and turnover for employees within the first six months of the year. We are currently projecting a surplus in wages of approximately \$205,000.
- Reduced social security taxes related to lower payroll amounts are projected to have a surplus of approximately \$72,000.
- Contractual services in total is projected to have a surplus of about \$468,000, of which the largest projected surplus is within Guardian ad Litem fees. While many of these costs are out of our control because of statutory language and/or judicial orders, we continue to watch these expenditures and reduce costs where applicable. The chart below recaps the large variances within contractual services:

Object Account	Account Description	Projected Variance	Projected Variance
<u>6108</u>	<u>GUARDIAN AD LITEM FEES</u>	<u>290,826.47</u>	<u>9.96%</u>
	<u>All other accounts (26)</u>	<u>80,850.71</u>	
<u>6134</u>	<u>INTERPRETER FEES</u>	<u>65,512.11</u>	<u>13.10%</u>
<u>6106</u>	<u>LEGAL FEES-GENERAL</u>	<u>46,783.82</u>	<u>21.76%</u>
<u>6293</u>	<u>JUROR FEES</u>	<u>39,942.00</u>	<u>6.19%</u>
<u>6329</u>	<u>TEL AND TEL OUTSIDE VEN</u>	<u>35,345.58</u>	<u>46.02%</u>
<u>6050</u>	<u>CONTRACT PERS SERV-SHORT</u>	<u>(91,265.07)</u>	<u>-288.42%</u>
	<u>Total</u>	<u>467,995.63</u>	<u>5.78%</u>

In summary, we have taken the step of decreasing bail forfeiture revenue within the 2013 budget by \$200,000 based upon revenue trends. We have also attempted to control current expenditures whenever possible to ensure that the taxpayers of Milwaukee County do not have to provide additional funding for our department during calendar year 2012.

Signed,

John Barrett
Clerk of Circuit Court / Register in Probate

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C: Chris Abele, County Executive
Marina Dimitrijevic, County Board Chair
Mark Borkowski, Chair, Judiciary, Safety, & General Services Committee
Scott Manske, Controller
Steve Cady, County Board Fiscal and Budget Analyst
Patrick Farley, Administrator, Department of Administrative Services
Josh Fudge, Fiscal Management Analyst, Department of Administrative Services
Jeffrey A. Kremers, Chief Judge
Bruce Harvey, District Court Administrator
James J. Smith, Chief Deputy, Milwaukee County Clerk of Circuit Court
David P. Ehlinger, CPA, Fiscal Operations Administrator – Courts