Court Costs

Mission

To provide funding for witnesses, special needs of disabled, psychiatric examinations, and Baker Act hearings for Circuit Court; to administer payment of costs ordered by Seminole County Judges; and to provide funding for the production of an accurate record of all circuit criminal and other circuit court proceedings.

Business Strategy

Expenditures in this program include payment of witness fees, witness travel, foreign language interpreters which includes sign language, and other misellaneous expenditures necessary in court trials and hearings. Florida Statutes Chapter 914.06 states:"In a criminal case when the State or an indigent defendant requires the services of an expert witness whose opinion is relevant to the issues of the case, the Court shall award reasonable compensation to the expert witness that shall be taxed and paid by the County as costs in the same manner as other costs."

The Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 requires that reasonable accommodations be provided to requesting qualified persons with disabilities in order that they may participate fully in court programs, services, activities and benefits.

Psychiatric examinations and testimony are provided to determine incompetence or insanity in criminal cases. The Constitution of the State of Florida, Article I, Section 16 provides that criminal defendants shall have the right to present witnesses. If a defendant is indigent and his/her mental capacity is at issue, to ensure that his/her rights under this section of the Constitution are secure, the defendant would be able to present psychiatric testimony at public expense.

Psychiatric examinations and testimony for involuntary commitments under Baker Act hearings are established by Florida Statutes, Chapter 916, 394.467, 394.4672, 393.11. The Civil Domestic Division General Master/Hearing Officer holds Baker Act hearings for the Circuit Court F.S. 394.467 (6)(a). Psychiatric examinations are ordered per F.S. 393.11(5)(g) "Members of the examining committee shall receive a reasonable fee to be determined by the Court. The fees are to be paid from the general revenue fund of the County in which the person with mental retardation resided when the petition was filed."

Pursuant to Florida Statutes, Chapter 27 (Part I), Court Reporters are designated to record the proceedings of all Circuit Criminal Courts. The Court Reporter program is established not only for the purpose of creating a verbatim record but is responsible for the generation and retention of transcripts used in the appellate process.

Objectives

Performance Measures

	FY 00/01 Actual	FY 01/02 Estimated	FY 02/03 Goal

Department: JUDICIAL — ***Seminole County***

Division:

Section: COURT COSTS — ***FY 2002/03***

	2000/01 Actual Expenditures	2001/02 Adopted Budget	2002/03 Adopted Budget	% Change 2002/03 over 2001/02
EXPENDITURES:				
Personal Services	0	0	0	
Operating Services	730,362	790,207	790,207	0.0%
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	
Debt Service	0	0	0	
Grants and Aid	0	0	0	
Reserves/Transfers	0	0	0	
Subtotal Operating	**730,362**	**790,207**	**790,207**	**0.0%**
Capital Improvements	0	0	0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**730,362**	**790,207**	**790,207**	**0.0%**
FUNDING SOURCE (S)				
General Fund	730,362	790,207	790,207	0.0%
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCE (S)	**730,362**	**790,207**	**790,207**	**0.0%**
Full Time Positions	0	0	0	
Part-Time Positions	0	0	0	

New Programs and Highlights for Fiscal Year 2002/03

Funding supports criminal psychiatric examinations, court reporters, and witness and other fees.

Capital Improvements	**2002-03**	**2003-04**	**2004-05**	**2005-06**	**2006-07**
Total Project Cost	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operating Impact	0	0	0	0	0