

**RESEARCH & ANALYSIS SECTION – LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: 2007 PROPOSED BUDGET – MUNICIPAL COURT**

**Personnel**

The 2007 Proposed Budget provides \$1,969,723 in net salaries and wages to support 44 positions (39.5 FTE) compared to \$1,965,768 for 44 positions (39.5 FTE) as provided in 2006. **(Page 7)**

**Operating Budget**

The 2007 Proposed Budget provides \$494,802 for Operating Expenditures compared to \$519,554 in 2006, a \$24,752 or 4.8% decrease. **(Page 8)**

**Equipment Budget**

The 2007 Proposed Budget provides \$39,000 for Total Equipment Purchases compared to \$4,000 in 2006, a \$35,000 mainly due to costs to implement a Comptroller's audit recommendation. **(Page 8)**

**Special Funds**

The 2007 Proposed budget provides \$10,000 for Minor Projects, \$30,000 for Court Hardware Replacement Project and \$10,175 for Parking Citation Electronic Case Transfer. **(Page 9)**

**Special Purpose Accounts**

The 2007 Proposed Budget provides \$521,000 to fund the Clerk of Court Witness Fees Special Purpose Account (\$12,000) and the Municipal Court Intervention Program Special Purpose Account (\$434,000), which pays the Justice 2000 contract, and a newly created Drivers Licensure and Employment Project Special Purpose Account (\$75,000). **(Pages 9-10)**

**Capital Improvement Project Update**

Due to a contract breach, the Court switched vendors and strategies to complete the 3-year old Court Case Management System replacement project. Info Power of Chicago replaces Court Specialists, Inc. as the contractor but provides a different scope of services. An additional \$50,000 allocation is proposed for 2007. **(Page 11)**

**Case Filings**

As of August, the percentage change in year-to-date case filings for Juvenile, Parking, and Building and Zoning cases increase while, traffic, OAI (operating after intoxication), adult municipal, and health filings declined for the same period. **(Pages 11-12)**

**Revenues: Charges for Services, Fines and Forfeitures**

The 2007 Proposed Budget estimates revenues from Charges for Services will increase \$438,100 or 33.6% to \$1,743,700 compared to \$1,305,600 in the 2006 Budget. **(Page 12)**

Estimated revenue from forfeitures total \$5,206,000 in 2007, unchanged from 2006. **(Page 12)**

## **RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION – Legislative Reference Bureau**

### **2007 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET SUMMARY: Municipal Court**

Expense Category	2005 Actual	2006 Budget	% Chg	2007 Proposed	% Chg
Operating	\$3,356,279	\$3,370,945	+ 0.5%	\$3,380,984	+ 0.3%
Capital	\$271,250	-0-	- 100.0%	-0-	0.0%
Special purpose accounts	\$420,679	\$430,000	- 2.3%%	\$521,000	+ 21.2%
Positions	44	44	0.0 %	44	0.0%

*The Municipal Court is responsible for processing all City ordinance violations initiated by citizen complaint and by the following departments: Neighborhood Services, Health, Library, and Police. The Court also processes all DPW-Parking Fund contested Parking Citations.*

### **HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

#### ***Case Loads:***

Based on a Study Group recommendation, an April 1998 appropriation funded the expanded use of court commissioners. In 1999, the court commissioners heard all in-custody cases (17,643), most pre-trials (approximately 18,000), and decreased the lag time between arraignment dates, pre-trial, and trial dates within court schedule target goals.

*Accomplishments: 2002 & 2003* (website:Milwaukee.gov/Public/Municourt/strategicPlan04.htm)

- In 2002, the Court processed 168,000 case filings and collected \$6.8 million in net revenues - \$1.5 million more than projected revenues mainly due to the transition to a new collection agency and interfacing with the State of Wisconsin Tax Refund Intercept Program (TRIP).
- In 2002, the Court expanded the Community Court Initiative to include the REACH program and other community groups, increasing the opportunities for defendants to resolve issues before the court through payment of fines or community service placements.
- Participated in developing the Teen Tribunal, a teen court program implemented in selected MPS schools. The program objective is to reduce the number of juvenile citations that come before the court and the frequency of actions that lead to the issuance of citations.
- In 2002, the Court initiated evening court hours to provide defendants with the option to schedule appearances outside of their regular work or school day thereby increasing appearance rates for scheduled court session.
- Implemented a policy to accept written stipulations from attorneys at pre-trial, reducing the number of in-person appearances by private attorneys and the need for City Attorney appearances on these cases.
- Implemented a policy to allow walk-in defendants to take care of their business with an appearance in one branch rather than being required to check-in and appear in all three branches on multiple cases.

- Selected a vendor, Court Specialists, inc. (CSI) to provide the new case management system to replace the outgoing MCMIS case management system. CSI has since breached the contract.
- Allocated intake calendar slots to accept defendants with contested parking citations and reduce waiting time for defendants wanting to resolve outstanding parking fines.
- Assisted in developing a Youth Development Boot Camp for high-risk, repeat young offenders with cases before the Court to reinforce acceptable behavior and reduce recidivism.
- Instituted the preparation of the "Top 100 Egregious Defendants" listing provided to the Police Department for follow-up by the warrant squad as a means of enforcing judgments.

**Drivers License Workforce Development Initiative**

In 2004, the Municipal Court administered the Drivers License Workforce Development Program, in a collaborative effort with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the Drivers License Workforce Task Force and more than 15 community-based organizations to remove a barrier to employment for certain persons by providing an opportunity for the reinstatement of suspended motor vehicle operating privileges.

The greatest concentration of participation was documented in inner city neighborhoods including those in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> aldermanic districts. Most community-based organizations are headquartered in those districts. Clients traveled from all parts of the city to actively participate in the program. Today, more than 600 of those re-licensed continue to be licensed based on Municipal Court and State Department of Transportation records.

**Personnel**

In 2006, DER determined that the duties of the Court's clerical support does not fit the uniform Office Assistant classification and retitled those positions with a Court Services prefix.

**Revenue**

The following table provides year-to-date accountings for all revenues plus explanations for increases/decreases when compared to the same period in 2005. Although revenues lag behind 2005 levels, as of July 31, they exceed the Comptroller's projection for January-July 2006 by more than \$650,000.

	<b>Accounts</b>	<b>2005 – July YTD</b>	<b>2006 – July YTD</b>	<b>% Change</b>
1	Court Costs (Motion to Reopen)	\$32,261	\$28,744	- 10.9%
2	Court Costs Terms	\$4,450	\$2,645	- 40.6%
3	County Court Costs (Appeal Fee)	\$30	\$30	0.0%
4	Court Citizen Witness Fee	\$1,839	\$1,401	- 23.9%
5	Court Clerk Fee	\$881,815	\$858,061	- 2.7%
6	Court Service Fee	\$101	\$93	+ 8.0%
7	Copy Fee	\$161	\$167	+ 3.8%
8	Court Forfeiture	\$3,719,670	\$3,557,895	-4.4%
9	Miscellaneous Fine	\$4,050	\$2,125	-47.6%

1. Motions to re-open are related directly to the number of case filings and judgments.
2. Terms are assessed on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the judge.
3. Appeal Fees are determined by request for Appeal on the Record, which require the transfer of a transcript of the trial to Circuit Court. Current trend indicates that defendants are requesting a Trial de Novo, appeals granting new trials and, therefore, do not require a transcript.
4. Witness Fees are determined by the number of witnesses subpoenaed by the Office of the City Attorney for cases where the defendant has pled not guilty and requests to go to trial.
5. Factors affecting Court Clerk Fees are case filings, number of cases adjudicated with judgments imposed, and alternative sentences enforced in lieu of payment. A decrease in case filings and judgments imposed directly affects Court Clerk Fee receipts.
6. The Court discontinued certified mail service for Default Judgments in 1995.
8. The Forfeiture amount is determined by judgments rendered in court. Although, partial payments may have decreased due to lower case filings, cases that are paid in full will result in an increase in forfeiture amount.
9. Miscellaneous Fine receipts are derived from receipts from tape recordings of court proceedings.

**Performance Measures**

*Case filings and appearances:*

Case filings are not within the control of the Court. Their numbers are reflective of city department priorities and activities that generate citations. The number of case filings increased by 7,870 or 4.69% from 167,982 in 2002 to 175,852 in 2003 but decreased to 131,732 in 2005. DPW-Parking case filings record annual growth, increasing 249.15% over a two-year period from 2002 to 2004, while MPD, DNS and Health case filings declined 19.52%, 1.86%, and 24.91%, respectively. DNS cases require much more time and effort to settle but have forfeitures that are much greater than other types of cases. In 2005, DNS case volume increased while other departments' case volume decreased.

CASE FILINGS BY DEPARTMENT (Period 2002 – 2005)				
Department	2002	2003	2004	2005
MPD	163,423	167,793	131,524	123,833
DNS	2,312	3,007	2,269	2,615
Health	253	102	190	79
DPW-Parking	<u>1,994</u>	<u>4,950</u>	<u>6,962</u>	<u>5,205</u>
Total	167,982	175,852	140,945	131,732
Case Appearances *	114,978	131,117	137,432	116,388

*Source: Municipal Court*

\* Does not reflect cases where payments are mailed with a guilty plea, default judgments where the defendant does not appear, etc.

A decline in case filings does not necessarily result in a decline in activity at the Court. Court appearances are influenced by factors including but not limited to:

- Changes in household disposable income
- Secure driver's license for employment
- Outside economic factors (gas, rents, etc)
- Size of the judgment
- Job loss necessitates extensions
- Other unexplained causes

It is also important to recognize that there is a substantial period of time between the time of the case filing and the majority of appearances related to that case.

*Cases Adjudicated:*

The number of cases adjudicated within a given year does not match the number of filings due to the time lag between the case's filing date and its adjudication.

<b>Cases Adjudicated (Years 2002 – 2005)</b>			
<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
172,446	183,156	148,582	135,776

*Source: Municipal Court*

*Alternative Sentences:*

The following table summarizes the alternative sentences enforced in lieu of payments in 2003, 2004 and 2005. These sentences are restricted to driver's license suspensions and commitments to the House of Corrections, or Court ordered community service, as a condition of reducing the judgment, but it is not an alternative sentence.

<b>Milwaukee Municipal Court Alternative Sentence Enforcements - 2003 to 2005</b>					
<b>Year</b>	<b>Alternative Sentence</b>	<b>Enforcements</b>			
		<b>Cases</b>	<b>Defendants</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Defendants</b>
2003	Commitments	6,876	3,788		
	Driver's License Suspensions	75,513	31,782		
	Property Liens	658	565		
	Vehicle Registration Denials	<u>1,603</u>	<u>1,486</u>		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84,650</b>	<b>37,621</b>		
				<b>Percent Changes</b>	
				<b>Cases</b>	<b>Defendants</b>
2004	Commitments	6,275	3,324	-8.74%	-12.25%
	Driver's License Suspensions	68,438	28,069	-9.37%	-11.68%
	Property Liens	1,653	1,516	151.22%	168.32%
	Vehicle Registration Denials	<u>4,187</u>	<u>3,763</u>	161.20%	153.23%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80,553</b>	<b>36,672</b>	<b>-4.84%</b>	<b>-2.52%</b>
2005	Commitments	4,395	2,354	-29.96%	-29.18%
	Driver's License Suspensions	50,506	24,563	-26.20%	-12.49%
	Property Liens	2,671	2,434	61.58%	60.55%
	Vehicle Registration Denials	3,945	3,497	-5.78%	-7.07%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61,517</b>	<b>32,848</b>	<b>-23.63%</b>	<b>-10.43%</b>

Enforcement of an alternative sentence does not necessarily mean that the judgment will eventually be satisfied by serving the alternative or that it is even possible for the judgment to be satisfied in this manner. Many defendants eventually make payment in order to secure reinstatement of their driving privileges, to register their vehicle, or to prevent incarceration. Property liens remain in effect for 10 years after filing.

***Defensive Driving Program:***

The Court renewed the contract with MATC’s Defensive Driving Program to continue referring eligible traffic defendants to the 4-hour defensive driving course at no cost to the Court. 369 of the 487 registered participants (76%) completed the program in 2005. The Court also anticipates a 76% completion rate in 2006. All traffic defendants having a valid driver’s license are eligible for referral to the program.

***Outcome Information 2005 & 2006 YTD Justice 2000 Court Alternatives Program:***

Referrals to the Court Alternatives Program come primarily from Municipal Court Judges & Court Commissioners, police officers, probation agents, city attorneys, Criminal Justice Facility staff, and other community agencies. In 2005, 3,009 total defendants with 9,295 total cases were referred to Justice 2000; an average of 250 clients per month.

The following table shows referrals, number of cases, community service hours completed, fines paid, and jail days avoided by month in 2005.

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>Defendants Referred</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>	<b>Community Service Hours Completed</b>	<b>Fines Paid</b>	<b>Jail Days Avoided</b>
January	228	502	830	\$1,621	1,395
February	263	582	1,187	\$2,203	1,379
March	297	656	893	\$1,284	1,457
April	315	637	1,553	\$1,822	2,140
May	273	601	853	\$2,741	1,837
June	280	575	872	\$1,728	2,685
July	220	391	750	\$2,330	1,146
August	247	513	1,064	\$3,157	1,557
September	230	434	503	\$2,130	1,215
October	235	503	713	\$3,660	1,575
November	198	439	1,050	\$1,263	1,844
December	223	453	1,159	\$1,965	1,376
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,009</b>	<b>9,295</b>	<b>11,427</b>	<b>\$25,904</b>	<b>19,606</b>

*Source: Municipal Court*

During 2005, a total 19,606 jail days were avoided because of program services and intervention. A majority of program participants has no income or ability to pay fines. Another portion are supported through fixed income for disabilities. Recognizing that this population tends to be indigent, and will not likely be able to pay fines, the court has recognized a number of alternatives in lieu of financial payment.

Indigent individuals are given credit for community service hours completed at local non-profit organizations. The courts also give credit to individuals involved in community based treatment programs. Program participants completed over 11,400 hours of community service during the

year. By keeping participants involved in the community, there is greater access to resources for treatment, job training, education and eventually job placement. Most participants would never have the ability to pay the fine amounts owed and would eventually cost the city money spent in incarceration costs at a county detention facility. Using a conservative estimate of the cost per jail day of \$50 the resulting savings of \$570,000 is significant.

The following table shows referrals, number of cases, community service hours completed, fines paid and jail days avoided by month through August 2006. Through August 2006, 2,258 defendants with 4,446 cases were referred to Justice 2000, an average of 282 clients per month.

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>Defendants Referred</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>	<b>Community Service Hours Completed</b>	<b>Fines Paid</b>	<b>Jail Days Avoided</b>
January	283	562	703	\$3,042	1,563
February	240	539	617	\$2,904	1,583
March	252	588	748	\$997	1,714
April	236	492	533	\$1,919	1,435
May	286	570	1,416	\$3,077	2,151
June	273	495	584	\$1,708	1,612
July	339	602	1,362	\$5,406	2,179
August	349	598	425	\$5,528	1,779
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,258</b>	<b>4,446</b>	<b>6,388</b>	<b>\$24,581</b>	<b>14,014</b>

*Source: Municipal Court*

## 2007 PROPOSED CHANGES AND MAJOR ISSUES

The 2007 Proposed Budget increases the Municipal Court Operating Budget by 0.3%, or \$10,039, to \$3,380,984 from \$3,370,945 in 2006. In 2007, a proposed Drivers Licensure and Employment Initiative Special Purpose Account is provided \$75,000 (see details on page 10).

### *Personnel*

1. The 2007 Proposed Budget provides \$1,969,723 to Salaries and Wages, compared to \$1,965,768 provided in 2006. The \$3,955 increase is calculated by factoring annual step increases in addition to the following:
  - Maintaining 39.50 O&M FTEs for 44 authorized positions, unchanged since 2005
  - Increasing the personnel cost adjustment (a calculation that should reflect the amount of salary appropriations anticipated to be unexpended as a result of turnover or other changes) from \$81,240 to \$103,143, from 4% to 5% of total net salaries and wages.
  - Anticipating fewer case filings, the Court plans to hold open the vacant Court Commissioner position. Personnel cost adjustment totals reflect these cost savings. The presiding commissioners include Herman John, Lynn Hackbarth, Dominique Beck, and Kristela Cervera.
  - Filling the vacant Network Analyst Senior vacant since 6-4-06
  - Filling the vacant Court Services Assistant II vacant since 7-14-06
  - Filling the vacant Accounting Assistant II vacant since 8-1-06
  - Decreasing Overtime Compensated by 60%, from \$16,000 to \$10,000 to reflect the reduction in overtime hours dedicated to case file preparation and filing in recognition of efficiencies related to the automated case management system enhancements such as the case jacket tracking system.

To improve job retention, the Court instituted a pre-interview requirement whereby applicants must observe departmental operations before scheduling an interview to ensure that they are interested in performing the type of work required by the Court.



## Operating Budget

The 2007 Proposed Budget provides \$494,802 for Total Operating Expenditures compared to \$519,554 in 2006, a \$24,752 or 4.8% decrease. The table below lists funding changes.

Budget Line	2006 Adopted	2007 Proposed	% Change
General Office Expense	\$234,254	\$212,861	- 9.2%
Other Operating Supplies	\$2,300	\$3,000	+ 30.5%
Non-Vehicle Equipment Rental	\$3,000	\$3,500	+ 16.7%
Professional Services	\$95,000	\$105,000	+ 10.6%
Information Technology Services	\$80,000	\$67,000	- 16.3%
Property Services	\$40,250	\$45,000	+ 11.8%
Other Operating Services	\$14,750	\$9,500	- 35.6%
Reimburse Other Departments	\$50,000	\$48,941	- 2.2%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$519,554</b>	<b>\$494,802</b>	<b>- 4.8%</b>

General Office Expense: This category decreases to reflect reductions in mailing and case jacket costs based on a projected reduction in overall cases filings.

Professional Services: This category funds costs for guardian ad litem, substitute judges, transcripts, DER investigative services, credit card and property lien recording fees and clerical pool/temporary help. The anticipated reduction in clerical pool costs is offset by increased costs for processing payments received via credit cards account (+\$10,000) and recording property liens (+\$3,000). The Municipal Court funds and files the property liens which stay in effect for 10 years but the City Attorney's Office records the revenue offset.

Information Technology: This category funds network, CATS ("Court Automated Tracking System", the new management information system) and Oracle database software upgrades.

Other Operating Services: Travel costs for judges, court commissioners, and the chief court administrator; mandatory judicial education and training are budgeted in this category. In 2007, 1 trip is forgone at a \$3,000 cost savings.

Reimburse Other Depts: This category funds reference operations/storage (\$27,941) and telephones (\$21,000). Printing services and internal/ external mail services are not included in the category in 2007.

## Equipment

The 2007 Proposed budget provides \$39,000 for equipment, compared to \$4,000 in 2006. The Comptroller conducted an audit of the Court's cashier function and recommended various entrance and surveillance securities. The \$35,000 additional funding will provide for those improvements accordingly:

\$ 6,500	Security camera hardware and installation
\$27,000	Asbestos abatement, hardware, and installation of key accesses
\$ 1,500	4.3% Contingency
<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

## Special Funds

The 2007 Proposed budget provides \$10,000 for Minor Projects, \$30,000 for the Court Hardware Replacement Project and \$10,175 for Parking Citation Electronic Case Transfer special funds.

The Parking Citation Electronic Case Transfer special fund supports parking fund driven activity. The collection agent, PAM, keys or scans DPW-Parking generated citations to electronically transfer the data to the Court, allowing the Court the information needed to create case files for contested parking citation hearings. DPW-Parking, unlike DNS, Health, and MPD, is the only citation-issuing department that does not pay PAM directly for this billable service.

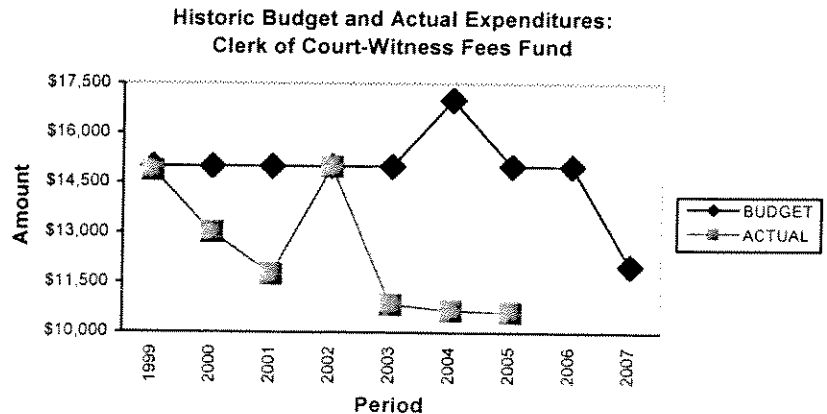
The Court is developing a cost effective system that would feed the information directly between the parking checker and the Court staff, which would eliminate data entry errors and potentially change the scope of future service contracts with PAM.

## Special Purpose Accounts

The Municipal Court administers two special purpose accounts and proposes a third in 2007. The 2007 Proposed budget provides \$521,000 total funding as follows:

### Clerk of Court Witness Fees – \$12,000

Tax levy funds support the Clerk of Court Witness Fees SPA. This account reimburses witnesses subpoenaed by the City to appear before the Municipal Court, excluding Police Officers as stipulated by City Ordinance and s. 814.67(1)(a)1., Wis. Stats. The proposed \$3,000 funding reduction is based on an anticipated decrease in case filings.



### EXPENDITURE TRENDS

<u>2005 Actual</u>	<u>2006 Adopted</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>2007 Proposed</u>	<u>% Change</u>
\$10,073	\$15,000	+ 49.0%	\$12,000	- 20.0%

### Municipal Court Intervention Program – \$434,000

The goal of this program is to provide the Court with alternatives to jail or forfeiture payments on behalf of municipal ordinance violators who are unable to pay fines due to indigence or who are in need of special services. Justice 2000, a local community-based organization, staffs the program.

This special purpose account funds those contractual services. In 2007, proposed funding increases \$19,000 or 4.6% to \$434,000 compared to \$415,000 in 2006 to provide the following:

- 3% cost of living salary increase for Justice 2000 employees
- 10% healthcare expense increase

Justice 2000 reported that when full time vacancies occurred, the agency employed part-time staff and students who are not eligible for health care, so that the agency could operate within previous years budget allocations. In 2007, the proposed \$434,000 budget will provide:

\$347,671	Salaries, FICA, Worker's Compensation, and Healthcare
\$ 10,500	Staff parking, travel, and training
\$ 5,000	Client transportation
\$ 29,700	Operating expenses and equipment
\$ 41,500	<u>Administrative expense</u>
<b>\$434,371</b>	<b>TOTAL (SPA funding rounded to nearest \$1,000)</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE TRENDS</b>				
<u>2005 Actual</u>	<u>2006 Adopted</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>2007 Proposed</u>	<u>% Change</u>
\$410,606	\$415,000	+ 1.1%	\$434,000	+ 4.6%

**Drivers Licensure and Employment Project – \$75,000**

**NEW**

Directed toward low- and moderate-income citizens who do not have driver's licenses due to their failure to pay court ordered judgments, this program will target referrals from agencies with clients who are job-ready or ready to begin apprenticeship or training programs but cannot proceed without a driver's license.

This workforce development program, costing up to \$800,000, will be housed at the MATC main campus in space provided by MATC. Congressional earmark funding and various grants **have been requested** for this program under the guidance of a steering committee consisting of:

- Municipal Court
- Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership
- Justice 2000
- Milwaukee County Circuit Court
- Milwaukee Public Schools
- Mayor Tom Barrett
- Legal Action of Wisconsin
- Milwaukee Bar Association
- Other groups

A non-profit agency will be established and or chosen to operate the program.

<b>EXPENDITURE TRENDS</b>				
<u>2005 Actual</u>	<u>2006 Adopted</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>2007 Proposed</u>	<u>% Change</u>
\$ -0-	\$ -0-	0.0%	\$75,000	N/A

Note: In addition to the \$75,000 SPA funding, the Proposed Budget **recommends** a \$125,000 CDBG Reprogramming allocation to bring the 2007 total funding to \$200,000 (the same amount that the Court initially requested in 2007 SPA authority).

## Capital Improvement Project Updates: Replacing Court Case Information System

In 2007, the CATS system enhancement costs are supported using \$50,000 Court Case Management System Capital Improvement appropriation and \$25,000 funding from 2007 Proposed Total Operating Expenditure.

The Common Council appropriated a total of \$2,000,000 capital improvement borrowing authority to replace the MCMIS case management system (\$1,750,000 in 2002 and \$250,000 in 2004). Court Specialists Inc. (CSI), the initial contractor that worked to transform MCMIS into ENACT, breached the contract by halting all work on the ENACT project and the City Attorney proceeded with legal action against CSI.

The Court worked around the CSI litigation, developed an alternative strategy to complete the upgrade, and added system enhancements with the assistance of another contractor, Info Power of Chicago, to create and implement a replacement system, CATS, in May 2006.

Below is a list of enhancements.

- Enhance case search capability.
- Improved management of installment plans.
- Case jacket tracking system.
- Ability to view violation points as amended and as charged.
- Enhance handling of writs and warrants.
- Bankruptcy processing.
- Improve automated courtroom processing.
- Direct application of payments from collection contractor.

## Case Filings

### Case Filings by Case Type - January 1, 2006 through July 31, 2006

(source: <http://www.city.milwaukee.gov/display/router.asp?docid=15579>)

Branch	Traffic		OAI		Adult Municipal		Juvenile		Parking		Health		Bldng & Zoning	
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month	YTD
1	2,221	16,004	12	87	879	4,537	228	1,976	141	1,222	0	16	78	571
2	2,253	14,846	17	88	787	4,252	307	1,974	135	1,013	5	14	105	558
3	2,256	15,361	6	94	889	4,463	261	1,907	168	1,148	1	8	87	572
A	100	613	2	24	166	805	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

#### All Branches

2006	6,830	46,824	37	293	2,721	14,057	797	5,858	444	3,383	6	38	270	1,701
2005	5,919	50,706	35	325	2,364	14,756	739	5,484	430	3,248	7	47	126	1,193
2004	7,315	54,638	34	287	2,570	16,023	684	6,272	556	4,096	12	50	169	1,095

#### % Change From

2005 to 2006	15%	-8%	6%	-10%	15%	-5%	8%	7%	3%	4%	-14%	-19%	114%	43%
2004 to 2005	-19%	-7%	3%	13%	-8%	-8%	8%	-13%	-23%	-21%	-42%	-6%	-25%	9%

Department of Neighborhood Services, Health, Parking and Milwaukee Police Department activities directly affect the Court's caseload and generally influence the Court's performance measures. From January 1, to August 31, 2006, the Court recorded 72,154 of 145,000 anticipated total case filings, including those relating to juveniles. Building and Zoning cases increased 43% compared to the same time last year. Juvenile and Parking cases also increased from 2005 by 7% and 4% respectively. All other case filings decreased. In 2007, anticipated total case filings decrease to 135,000 - 140,000.

### ***Departmental Revenues***

The Municipal Court remits 30% of collection to County and State due to various fees and surcharges required under state statutes. Stated revenues are actually lower than those collected.

The Court developed a strategy (requiring a change in statute) to provide a mechanism for the state to share in collection costs of overdue forfeitures. In the past, the state received 100% of the state surcharge (24%) regardless of the cost of collecting that judgment. The state surcharge and crime lab fee increased in 2005. Under the new WI Act 140, the state now shares in the cost of employing a private company to collect these judgments. This will result in approximately \$100-\$150,000 more money retained by the City each year.

### ***Revenues: Charges for Services and Forfeitures***

Section 800.03(3), Wis. Stats., states that "the amount of the deposit shall be set by the municipal judge, but shall not be effective until approved by the governing body [Common Council] of the municipality". In April the Council adopted a 2006, Municipal Non-Traffic and Boating Deposit Schedules reflecting the statutory change to allow the Court to increase the Court Clerk Fee from \$23 to \$28 thereby increasing the fee retained by the Municipal Court from \$18 to \$23. Based on the \$1,388,229 in actual Municipal Court Clerk fees generated in 2005—at the \$18 level—the Court expects that the \$23 fee would generate an additional \$385,000 through year-end.

The 2007 Proposed Charges for Services revenue estimate is \$1,743,700, a \$438,100 or 33.6% decrease compared to \$1,305,600 2006 revenue estimate.

The 2007 Proposed Forfeitures revenue estimate is \$5,206,000; the same level as 2006. Revenues are directly related to the number of citations issued by the various city departments.

	2005 Actual	2006 Adopted	% Change	2007 Projected	% Change
<b>Charges For Services</b>	\$1,380,443	\$1,305,600	(5.5%)	\$1,743,700	+ 33.6%
<b>Fines &amp; Forfeitures</b>	\$5,884,753	\$5,206,000	(11.6%)	\$5,206,000	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	\$7,265,196	\$6,511,600	(10.4%)	\$6,949,700	+ 6.8%

## ***Payment Collection Methods***

The Court offers a flexible array of payment methods to clients for paying forfeitures and fees. No additional fees are collected from persons making credit card payments.

**In Person:** Payments can be made via cash, check, Visa or MasterCard.

**Phone:** Payments can be made via Visa or Master Card via phone during business hours.

**Fax:** Clients choosing to pay by credit card can fax credit account information, court case information and signature to the Municipal Court.

**Online:** Clients choosing to pay by MasterCard or Visa credit, debit and check cards can pay fines online. This includes either installment or full payments on cases filed with the Municipal Court, except on cases involving juvenile defendants (by law, cases involving juveniles are sealed and cannot be referenced on the Court's website).

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