

## **FISCAL REVIEW SECTION – LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: 2006 PROPOSED BUDGET – MUNICIPAL COURT**

#### **Personnel**

The 2006 Proposed Budget provides \$1,965,768 in net salaries and wages to support 44 positions (39.5 FTE) compared to \$1,799,426 for 44 positions (39.5 FTE) as provided in 2005. (Page 7)

#### **Operating Budget**

The 2006 Proposed Budget provides \$519,554 for Operating Expenditures compared to \$570,881 in 2005, a \$51,327 or 8.99% decrease. (Pages 8-9)

#### **Special Funds**

The 2006 Proposed budget provides \$15,000 for Minor Projects, \$30,000 for Court Hardware Replacement Project and \$11,000 for Parking Citation Electronic Case Transfer. (Page 9)

#### **Special Purpose Accounts**

The 2006 Proposed Budget provides \$430,000 to fund the Clerk of Court Witness Fees Special Purpose Account (\$15,000) and the Municipal Court Intervention Program Special Purpose Account (\$415,000), which pays the Justice 2000 contract. (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. (Page 10)

#### **Case Filings**

As of August, the percentage change in year-to-date case filings for OAI, Building and Zoning cases increase while, traffic, adult municipal, parking, health and juvenile case filings declined for the same period. (Page 11)

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

The 2006 Proposed Budget estimates revenues from Charges for Services will decrease \$57,200 or 4.2% to \$1,305,600 compared to \$1,362,800 in the 2005 Budget. (Page 12)

Estimated revenue from forfeitures total \$5,206,000 in 2006, a modest \$7,000 or 0.98% decrease from \$5,213,000 in 2005. (Page 12)

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LRB – Fiscal Review Analysis  
October 9, 2005

## **FISCAL REVIEW SECTION – LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

### **2006 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET SUMMARY: Municipal Court**

Expense Category	2004 Actual	2005 Budget	% Chg	2006 Proposed	% Chg
Operating	\$3,227,846	\$3,120,575	(3.33%)	\$3,370,945	8.03%
Capital	\$532,058	-0-	-	-0-	-
Special purpose accounts	\$417,077	\$430,000	3.10%	\$430,000	-
Positions	45	44	(2.23%)	44	-

*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 increases in collections due to 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 the developing 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 incidence 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.
- 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 Milwaukee Police Department for follow-up by the warrant squad as a means of enforcing the Court's judgments.

**Drivers License Workforce Development Initiative**

The suspension of motor vehicle operating privileges often restricts an offender's ability to gain or maintain employment, and individuals must pay the forfeitures and assessments required before reinstatement of suspended motor vehicle operating privileges.

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. Nonetheless, clients traveled for every district to actively participate in the program. The State will follow the program to see if those relicensed will continue to be licensed.

**REVENUE:**

In January of 2000, the Court initiated a "motion to reopen fee". A \$15 fee is charged upon granting motions to reopen judgments that are not based on a good cause. If the defendant requests to have the case reopened, and does not have a good cause for not appearing when the judgment was issued by default, a \$15 fee charge is added to the original judgment.

The following table provides year-to-date accountings for all revenues plus explanations for increases/decreases when compared to the same period in 2004.

	<b>Accounts</b>	<b>2004 – July YTD</b>	<b>2005 – July YTD</b>	<b>% Change</b>
1	Court Costs (Motion to Reopen)	\$35,498	\$32,261	-10%
2	Court Costs Terms	\$4,096	\$4,450	7%
3	County Court Costs (Appeal Fee)	\$50	\$30	-66%
4	Court Citizen Witness Fee	\$1,995	\$1,839	- 8%
5	Court Clerk Fee	\$955,902	\$881,815	- 8%
6	Court Service Fee	\$347	\$101	-243%
7	Copy Fee	\$245	\$161	-52%
8	Court Forfeiture	\$3,550,187	\$3,719,670	4%
9	Miscellaneous Fine	\$3,394	\$4,050	16%

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 Municipal Court 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, 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 140,945 in 2004. 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.

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

*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 necessitate 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 its adjudication.

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

*Source: Municipal Court*

*Alternative Sentences:*

The following table summarizes the alternative sentences enforced in lieu of payments in 2003 and 2004. 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.

**Milwaukee Municipal Court Alternative Sentence Enforcements - 2003 and 2004**

Year	Alternative Sentence	Enforcements		Percent Changes	
		Cases	Defendants	Cases	Defendants
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>	84,650	37,621		
2004	Commitments	6,275	3,324	-8.74%	-12.25%
	Driver's License Suspensions	68,438	28,069	-9.37%	-11.69%
	Property Liens	1,653	1,516	151.22%	168.32%
	Vehicle Registration Denials	<u>4,187</u>	<u>3,763</u>	161.2%	153.23%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	80,553	36,672	-4.84%	-2.53%

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. The Court anticipates 76% completion rates in both 2005 and 2006. All traffic defendants having a valid driver's license are eligible for referral to the program.

***Outcome Information 2004 & 2005 YTD Justice 2000 Court Alternatives Program:***

Referrals to the Court Alternatives Program come primarily from Municipal Court Judges and Court Commissioners, police officers, probation agents, city attorneys, Criminal Justice Facility staff, and other community agencies.

In 2004, program staff screened an average of 196 people each month. Approximately 37% of those screened were admitted for a full range of case management services. Services include referral to mental health and or substance abuse treatment, community service referrals, and case monitoring and follow-up reporting to the court.

Each case manager had an ongoing caseload averaging 36 active clients with an average of 3.2 cases per defendant. The recommended caseload size per worker is 30.

The following table shows referrals, number of cases, community service hours completed, fines paid and jail days avoided by month for 2004.

<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	224	492	1362.5	\$2,647	996
February	216	606	977	\$2,944	1001
March	245	598	1716.5	\$5,800	1060
April	197	471	945	\$3,504	875
May	174	429	1363	\$2,240	1191
June	182	444	1463.8	\$1,502	1172
July	144	322	1247	\$1,766	1561
August	190	409	586.5	\$2,350	1217
September	150	330	1880	\$1,505	1028
October	177	338	1930	\$507	1237
November	197	399	1100	\$767	885
December	251	591	1133	\$1,112	1065
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,347</b>	<b>5,566</b>	<b>15,704.3</b>	<b>\$26,645</b>	<b>13,288</b>

*Source: Municipal Court*

During 2004, a total 13,288 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 15,700 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 \$40 the resulting savings of \$531,520 is significant.

The following table shows referrals, number of cases, community service hours completed, fines paid and jail days avoided by month through August 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	501	831	\$1,605	1391
February	263	579	1187	\$1,570	1379
March	296	653	893	\$1,249	1457
April	315	689	1553	\$2,124	2140
May	273	590	854	\$2,079	1834
June	280	575	872	\$1,789	2685
July	220	390	750	\$2,130	1140
August	245	500	1064	\$3,157	1557
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,120</b>	<b>4,477</b>	<b>8,004</b>	<b>\$15,703</b>	<b>13,583</b>

*Source: Municipal Court*

## 2006 PROPOSED CHANGES AND MAJOR ISSUES

The 2006 Proposed Budget increases the Municipal Court Operating Budget by 8.03%, or \$250,370, from \$3,120,575 in 2005 to \$3,370,945 in 2006.

Resource	2005 Adopted	2006 Proposed	Change
Net Salaries & Wages Total	\$1,799,426	\$1,965,768	+ 9.25%
Operating Expenditures Total	\$570,881	\$519,554	- 8.99%
Equipment Purchases Total	\$31,000	\$4,000	- 87.10%
Special Funds Total	\$71,475	\$56,000	- 21.65%
Municipal Court Operating Budget Total	\$3,120,575	\$3,370,945	+ 8.03%

### Personnel

1. The 2006 Proposed Budget provides \$1,965,768 to Salaries and Wages, compared to \$1,799,426 provided in 2005. The \$166,342 increase is calculated by factoring annual step increases in addition to the following:

- Maintaining 39.50 O&M FTEs for 44 authorized positions, unchanged from 2005
- Increasing the dollar amount of 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 \$74,976 to \$81,240.
- Holding open 3 vacant positions assuming no impact on service delivery:
  - Court Commissioner (CC Kopp) vacant since 05-26-05
  - Court Commissioner (CC Krill) vacant since 05-10-04

Due to fewer case filings for Branch A, the Court proposes holding open the vacant Court Commissioner positions. Personnel cost adjustment totals reflect these cost savings.

- Filling the vacant Network Manager (T. Ringle) vacant since 6-23-05
- Reclassifying 2 jobs, titles only, based on May 20 request for DER study:
  - (1) Office Assistant IV (PR 445) and (+1) Court Services Assistant IV (PR 445)
  - (6) Office Assistant II (PR 410) and (+6) Court Services Assistant II (PR 410)
- Increasing Overtime Compensated by 60%, from \$10,000 to \$16,000 due to:
  - Increased time dedicated to preparing and re-filing case files used in court
  - Increasing volume of bankruptcies needing processing
  - Coverage for staff shortages due to vacation scheduling (7 of 9 court clerks earn maximum 6 weeks of vacation annually)



## Operating Budget

The 2006 Proposed Budget - Operating Expenditure Totals provides \$519,554 compared to \$570,881 in 2005, a \$51,327 or 8.99% decrease. The table below provides changes in funding.

Budget Line	2005 Adopted	2006 Proposed	% Change
General Office Expense	\$234,758	\$234,254	- 0.22%
Other Operating Supplies	\$3,000	\$2,300	- 23.34%
Non-Vehicle Equipment Rental	\$3,787	\$3,000	- 20.79%
Professional Services	\$78,700	\$95,000	+20.72%
Information Technology Services	\$130,000	\$80,000	- 38.47%
Property Services	\$42,560	\$40,250	+15.43%
Other Operating Services	\$20,000	\$14,750	- 26.25%
Reimburse Other Departments	<u>\$58,076</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>	<u>-13.78%</u>
Totals	<u>\$570,881</u>	<u>\$519,554</u>	<u>- 8.99%</u>

### Professional Services:

This category funds costs for guardian ad litem, transcripts, DER investigative services, and credit card and property lien recording fees. Property liens are filed in Milwaukee County on cases having judgments in excess of \$300 and if valued in excess of \$500, the Court attempts to identify property and file liens against those properties outside Milwaukee County. Increased activities related to recording property liens and payments received via credit cards account for most of the 15.43% increase.

### Information Technology:

This category provides for the following 2005 and 2006 uses, according to the Court:

	2005 Budget	2006 Proposed
Municipal Court - IT Infrastructure		
System Support & Oracle DBA	\$90,000	\$40,000
Word/Excel Purchase	\$10,800	
NetWare/Groupwise Purchase	\$3,500	\$3,500
Software Licensing		
Firewall	\$630	\$350
Back-up	\$170	
Anti-Virus	\$1,100	\$1,000
Miscellaneous	\$50	\$800
Recording System Maint. Agreement	\$1,150	\$1,150
Oracle License	\$20,000	\$16,000
Crystal Reports Maintenance		\$4,350
Magic Maintenance		\$7,000
PC Maintenance	\$2,600	\$3,250
Rumba Maintenance		\$2,100
Track-it Maintenance		\$500
<b>Total Information Technology Budgets</b>	<b>\$130,000</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>

### Other Operating Services:

Travel costs for judges, court commissioners, and the chief court administrator are budgeted in this category. This category funds

mandatory judicial education and training for 3 judges, 1 reserve judge, and 3-5 court commissioners.

Reimburse Other Depts: This category funds reference operations/storage (\$23,000), telephones (\$25,000), and internal/ external mail services (\$2,000). Printing services are not included in the category in 2006.

**Equipment**

The 2006 Proposed budget provides \$4,000 for equipment, compared to \$31,000 provided in 2005. The Court plans to purchase ergonomic office furniture in 2006.

**Special Funds**

The 2006 Proposed budget provides \$15,000 for Minor Projects, \$30,000 for the Court Hardware Replacement Project and \$11,000 for the newest budget category, Parking Citation Electronic Case Transfer special fund created in 2005.

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 records indicate that contested parking citations generated the following revenues:

	2002	2003	2004	2005 YTD
Payments	\$378,606	\$563,778	\$482,742	\$218,007

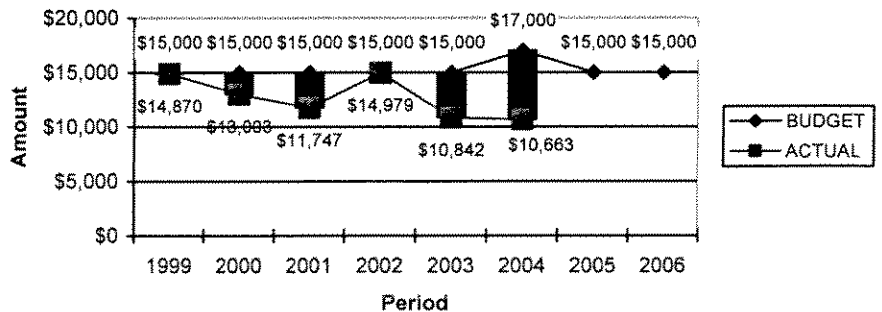
**Special Purpose Accounts**

The Municipal Court administers two special purpose accounts. The 2006 Proposed budget provides \$430,000 total funding as follows:

**Clerk of Court Witness Fees – \$15,000**

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.

**Historic Budget and Actual Expenditures: Clerk of Cour-Witness Fees Fund**



The 2006 Proposed Total Operating Expenditures includes \$226,382 to compliment past budgets for MCMIS related costs.

<b>Court Case Mgmt System</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
New borrowing	1,750,000	-0-	250,000	-0-
Expenditures	-0-	359,833	-0-	-0-
Carryover	-0-	(250,000)	(250,000)	(240,841)

Source: Annual City Budget Books

### Case Filings

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, 2005, the Court recorded 86,283 of 145,000 anticipated total case filings, including those relating to juveniles. In 2006, anticipated total case filings increase to 145,000-150,000.

<b>Case Filings by Case Type - January 1, 2005 through August 31, 2005</b> (source: <a href="http://www.city.milwaukee.gov/display/router.asp?docid=10663">http://www.city.milwaukee.gov/display/router.asp?docid=10663</a> )														
	Traffic		OAI		Adult Municipal		Juvenile		Parking		Health		Bldg & Zoning	
Branch	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month	YTD
1	1,635	18,760	8	121	1,096	6,634	208	2,081	156	1,294	2	15	71	496
2	2,094	18,303	13	126	1,088	5,996	241	2,019	154	1,171	3	21	125	488
3	2,012	18,724	21	85	806	4,287	206	2,039	162	1,255	2	18	101	506
A	117	777	2	37	199	1,028	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
<b>All Branches</b>														
2005	5,858	56,564	44	369	3,189	17,945	655	6,139	474	3,722	7	54	297	1,490
2004	6,907	61,545	35	322	3,143	19,166	617	6,889	732	4,828	7	57	239	1,334
2003	8,512	90,052	34	324	3,896	21,316	670	8,321	453	3,052	7	63	355	2,240
<b>% Change</b>														
2004 to 2005	-15%	-8%	26%	15%	1%	-6%	6%	-11%	-35%	-23%	0%	-5%	24%	12%
2003 to 2004	-19%	-32%	3%	-1%	-19%	-10%	-8%	-17%	62%	58%	0%	-10%	-33%	-40%

### 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 are expected to increase before the 2006 City budget is adopted. 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**

The 2006 Proposed Charges for Services revenue estimate is \$1,305,600, a \$57,200 or 4.2% decrease compared to \$1,362,800 2005 revenue estimate.

The 2006 Proposed Forfeitures revenue estimate is \$5,206,000; a \$7,000 decrease compared to the \$5,213,000 2005 revenue estimate. Revenues are directly related to the number of citations issued by the various city departments.

	2004 Actual	2005 Adopted	% Change	2006 Projected	% Change
<b>Charges For Services</b>	\$1,546,030	\$1,362,800	(11.86%)	\$1,305,600	(4.20%)
<b>Fines &amp; Forfeitures</b>	\$5,634,941	\$5,213,000	(7.49%)	\$5,206,000	(0.14%)
<b>Total</b>	\$7,180,971	\$6,575,800	(8.43%)	\$6,511,600	(0.98%)

**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. The Court’s phone lines are available during regular business hours for this purpose.

**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 can pay fines online. This includes credit cards, debit cards, and check cards to make 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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 October 7, 2005

## 2006 SPECIAL PURPOSE ACCOUNT: CLERK OF COURT WITNESS FEES

### PURPOSE

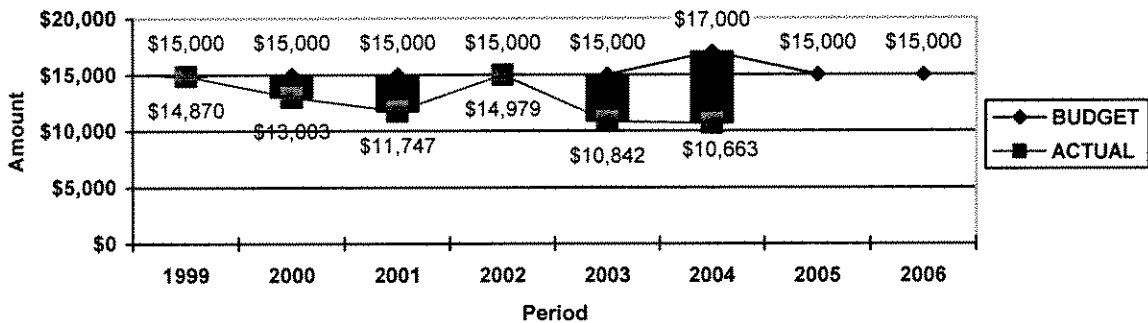
This account reimburses witnesses subpoenaed by the City to appear before the Municipal Court, excluding police officers. Even though subpoenas require witnesses to appear, fees are believed to encourage court attendance.

The Clerk of Court Witness Fees has a tax levy impact.

### FACTORS AFFECTING FUND LEVEL

The number of municipal cases and witnesses necessary for their prosecution affect fund levels. As witnesses are not called to appear in pre-trial proceedings, the use of mandatory pre-trials has reduced the demand for account reimbursement.

Historic Budget and Actual Expenditures: Clerk of Cour-Witness Fees Fund



### DEPARTMENT MANAGING ACCOUNT

Municipal Court

EXPENDITURE TRENDS				
<u>2004 Actual</u>	<u>2005 Adopted</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>2006 Proposed</u>	<u>%Change</u>
\$10,663	\$15,000	40.68%	\$15,000	-

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October 7, 2005

2006 clerkwitness\_spa

## 2006 SPECIAL PURPOSE ACCOUNT: MUNICIPAL COURT INTERVENTION PROGRAM

### PURPOSE

This fund supports the Court Alternative Services contract, the current contract was awarded to Justice 2000 on July 1, 2003.

Justice 2000 is a community based not-for-profit organization located in Milwaukee. The contractor provides a service for indigent screening and social service referral for offenders at risk of incarceration for nonpayment of fines.

The purpose of this program is to ensure that indigent offenders are not incarcerated solely because of their inability to pay their forfeiture, giving offenders alternative ways to fulfill the judgment. The need for incarceration alternatives for indigents is a constitutional requirement.

Based on interviews with offenders, Justice 2000 may recommend to judges alternative sentences such as participation in educational programs, working in nonprofit community agencies, or participation in treatment programs. Other offenders are placed on payment plans.

To the extent that intervention services cause people to be diverted from the House of Corrections, there is a net savings per defendant screened by the contractor.

The account has a tax levy impact.

### FACTORS AFFECTING FUND LEVEL

In the past, fund variations and increases were more related to increasing in the contractors' salary and fringe benefit costs, rather than to changes in Municipal Court workload.

### DEPARTMENT MANAGING ACCOUNT

Municipal Court

EXPENDITURE TRENDS				
<u>2004 Actual</u>	<u>2005 Adopted</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>2006 Proposed</u>	<u>% Change</u>
\$406,414	\$415,000	2.12%	\$415,000	-

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October 6, 2005