

Department Mission



- To provide the citizens of Klamath County with judicial service in accordance with the Oregon Revised Statutes and operate the Court in a cost-effective manner.

Mandated Services



- Justice Court is not mandated, but rather provided as both a service to Klamath County and a service to the public—enabling the public to have local courts deciding local issues. In addition, the civil functions (Justice Court Small Claims Court and Justice Court Civil Court) are able to be navigated without legal representation and at a significantly lower cost than the circuit court. Filing fees are set by the Oregon Revised Statutes in Chapter 55.

Department Overview



- The Justice court is providing judicial services regarding citations issued through various state, county, and city agencies.

Successes and Challenges



The Justice Court is self-supporting through fines collected from citations and from civil filing fees. Upcoming challenges include maintaining sufficient qualified staffing to process citations and payments for over 3000 violations per year.

Budget Overview

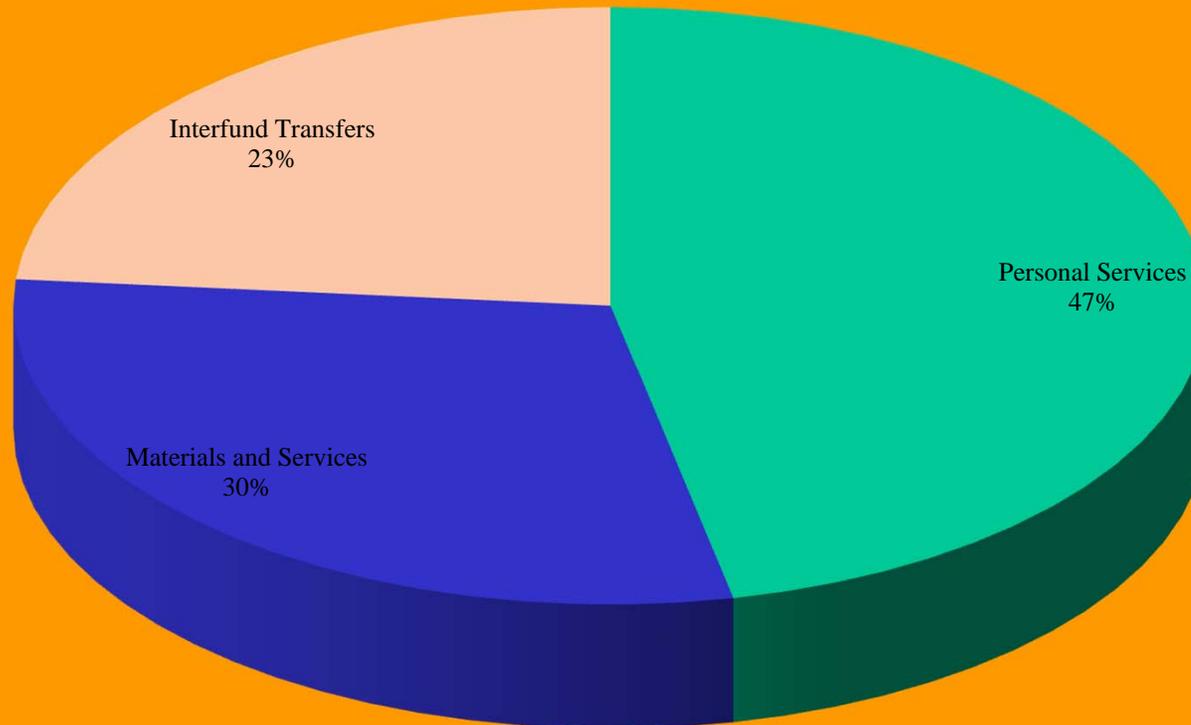


- The Court's expense budget is fixed and the revenue side of the budget is dependent on outside factors – for example, when Klamath County Sheriff's Office cuts patrol, the number of citations issued decreases and revenue decreases. There is no quota imposed for revenue; the amount listed is anticipated but cannot be judicially required.

Financial Presentation



2011-12 Budget
Requirements by Category



Significant Changes



- In 2009-10, the clerks were cut from 40 hrs/week (2 FTE) to 37.5 hrs/week to meet budget goals (1.9 FTE). The 2012 budget contemplates a 1.8 FTE. During the recent 5% budget decrease, the court cut more time, down to 27 hours per week (1.6 FTE). This impacted court hours, eliminating Mondays and Fridays. The 2012 budget provides for a Monday through Thursday court week. The increase will serve the public and assist in backlog of workload (increased by reduction of hours).



Key issues

- A remaining area of concern is the lease/contract for the credit card machine which expires in August 2010. An online credit processing agency, *nCourt*, will be utilized which imposes no fees to the Court. Since the use of credit cards has increased dramatically, the fees associated with the lease have also increased dramatically. Under the *nCourt* program, there will be no fees and the public can pay their citations 24-hours-a-day through an online portal which *nCourt* will supply. The issue of declining citations is not one which the Court has control over, the majority of citations are issued by the Sheriff's Office and his budget thus directly impacts Justice Court.