

Criminal Justice Contracted Services

Department Description

Criminal Justice Contracted Services provides funding for both public defense and jail services for individuals arrested, prosecuted, and/or convicted of misdemeanor criminal code violations in Seattle. These services are financially managed by the Department of Finance. The City contracts with the King County Office of Public Defense to provide these services through subcontracted not-for-profit legal agencies.

By the end of 2003, there are projected to be almost 10,700 bookings in the King County Jail for people who allegedly committed a misdemeanor offense or who failed to appear for a court hearing. These bookings will generate close to 124,000 jail days, the equivalent of having 339 people in jail on any given day. Seattle contracts with both King County and Yakima County for jail services. In 2004, the contract with Yakima County requires that Seattle pay for a minimum of 155 jail beds at Yakima. The 2004 budget provides funding for a total of 360 jail beds (or almost 132,000 jail days): 205 beds at King County and 155 beds at Yakima County. There are no changes made to the funding levels in the 2004 Endorsed Budget.

Proposed Policy and Program Changes

The City's jail services budget now pays to incarcerate individuals at the King County jail and the Yakima County jail, which is less expensive, but requires the City to play a more active role in the management of the jail population. The Office of Policy and Management houses the jail population management staff, which is funded through savings in the jail budget. A modest amount is budgeted to implement alternatives to confinement. Additionally, in the 2003 budget process, the City Council added \$75,000 in 2003 and 2004 to continue the Car Recovery Clinic, which provides legal assistance to car owners who have had their vehicles impounded as a result of the City's Operation Impound program.

Appropriations	Summit Code	2002 Actual	2003 Adopted	2004 Endorsed	2004 Proposed
Indigent Defense Services Budget Control Level	VJ500	5,887,334	6,292,497	6,794,174	6,794,174
Jail Services Budget Control Level	VJ100	10,963,039	12,608,057	14,168,728	14,168,728
Department Total		16,850,373	18,900,554	20,962,902	20,962,902

Resources

General Subfund	16,850,373	18,900,554	20,962,902	20,962,902
Total	16,850,373	18,900,554	20,962,902	20,962,902

Criminal Justice

Indigent Defense Services Budget Control Level

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Indigent Defense Services Budget Control Level is to secure legal defense services, as required by state law, for indigent persons facing criminal charges in Seattle Municipal Court.

Program Summary

Increase the indigent defense services budget to reflect increases in King County overhead costs and a slight increase in forecasted cases. There is no change in the funding level from the 2004 Endorsed Budget.

	2002 Actual	2003 Adopted	2004 Endorsed	2004 Proposed
Expenditures				
Indigent Defense Services	5,887,334	6,292,497	6,794,174	6,794,174

Jail Services Budget Control Level

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Jail Services Budget Control Level is to provide for the booking, housing, transporting, and guarding of City inmates, and for the lease of a courtroom in the King County jail. The jail population for which the City pays are adults charged with, or convicted of, misdemeanor crimes alleged to have been committed within the City of Seattle limits. Inmates are incarcerated in either the King County or Yakima County jail.

Program Summary

Jail services budget in 2004 is increased to account for contractually agreed higher booking and incarceration costs at King County and Yakima County. Bookings and maintenance days are expected to rise in 2004, as is the City's liability for costs associated with treating inmates with medical and psychiatric disorders. There is no change proposed in the funding level from the 2004 Endorsed Budget.

	2002 Actual	2003 Adopted	2004 Endorsed	2004 Proposed
Expenditures				
Jail Services	10,963,039	12,608,057	14,168,728	14,168,728