

House Finance Budget Subcommittee FY 10 Alaska Court System

Subcommittee Report FY10

February 27, 2009

The House Finance Budget Subcommittee (HFBS) on the Alaska Court System submits an operating budget for FY10 as follows:

GF	\$ 87,212.8	Fed Funds	\$ 1,675.6	Other Funds	\$ 1,481.3	Total	\$ 90,369.7
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Alaska Court System House Finance Budget Subcommittee FY10 Highlights

The HFBS budget authorizes \$2,414.3 less general funds and 22 less employees than the FY10 Court System request. The FY10 subcommittee budget requests a total increment from 09 Revised Management Plan of \$2,727.0 general funds.

In reviewing the Alaska Court System's FY 10 budget request, the subcommittee worked closely with the court system administration to determine their priorities, as well as to examine the function and necessity of each budget item. The highest priority needs for material support were fully funded as was the highest priority request for an additional Judge and Clerk in South Central Alaska. The request to implement a classification study of magistrate salaries which have not been adjusted since 1995 was approved. Increased funding for the No Dark Courtrooms initiative was approved at the same level of increase as was provided in FY09. The requested creation of numerous permanent full and part-time positions was not approved. A significant savings was also found by removing unnecessary funding for transcript costs for PD and OPA. Funding for a pro tem pay increase was also removed, as pro tem pay is intended to be a stipend.

The full amount of funding requested by the Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct was approved. The Judicial Council also received full funding of their request and a very small legislatively sponsored increase supporting the Alaska Judicial Observers.

Most significantly, the subcommittee also made a structural change to the budget creating a separate component for the Therapeutic Courts. This adjustment establishes the Therapeutic Courts as a distinct budget allocation under the Alaska Court System. Therapeutic Courts have proven successful and are becoming financially significant meriting segregation from traditional court operations. The subcommittee added intent language requesting that, as much as is practical in the FY 11 budget, therapeutic court funding be transferred from other agencies to this appropriation, rather than continuing the current practice of scattering a multitude of small individual items throughout Health and Social Services, the Department of Law, and the Department of Corrections.

The following Legislative Finance reports are attached:

1. Agency Totals – FY10 Operating Budget – House Structure
2. Appropriation/Allocation Summary (GF) – House Structure
3. Appropriation/Allocation Summary (all funds) – House Structure
4. Transaction Comparison (Adj. Base and House Subcom)
5. Transaction Comparison (Gov. Amd and House Subcom)
6. Wordage Report – FY10 Operating Budget – House Structure

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MH", is positioned below the text "Submitted,".

Representative Mike Hawker
House Finance Subcommittee Chairman
Alaska Court System