



Budget Change Request

Change request information

Title Supreme Court Blake Decision - Position and Cost Extension
Number B-05-01 Department 05 - Clerk
Requester Brian Stallman
Published by Jennifer Smith Publish Date 2023-08-22
Change Type Policy Change

Board outcome *(to be entered by budget after Board action)*

Board Decision
Board Changes

Funds affected

Fund 0010 - General Fund
General Fund Affected? Yes More Than One Fund Affected? No

Policy request priority and connection to the strategic plan

Priority # 0 Strategic Plan Responsive Law,

Does this request include federal, state, or private grants?

Grant Funded? None
Grantor and timeframe

Does this request affect current positions or propose new positions?

HR Payroll e-mailed? Yes Position Impact Changes End Date(s)
Current position numbers affected 05R01556

What do you need and why? Include any unexpected and external requirements.

Statement of Need

The Thurston County Clerk's Office is requesting the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners to approve extending the end date of the Clerk's Judicial Accounting Specialist, currently being used to cover all Blake Decision tasks. The Washington State Legislature extended the Blake Decision funding through the end of 2025, which allows for reimbursement of positions covering Blake Decision tasks. In 2022 and 2023, the position was 100% reimbursed by Washington State, since it exclusively works on Blake Decision tasks.

This request is in conjunction with the Supreme Court Case, State V. Blake, 022521 WASC, 96873-0. The Supreme Court ruled that the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 69.50.4013 – Possession of Controlled Substance – was unconstitutional and deprived the defendant of their rights to due process. Blake's conviction was vacated, setting up all defendants charged under this RCW to be eventually cleared.

The Supreme Court ruling has increased the clerk's office accounting department's workload, as the courts are ordering for the judgments to be vacated, fines and fees to be waived, and refunds to be made on all vacated cases. The Clerk's Judicial Accounting Specialist is currently working with the Thurston County Prosecutor's Office on calculations on payment refunds, as each payment has to be broken down by fee category and payment period. The position works and completes all orders pertaining to the Blake Decision, which includes waiving fines and fees, completing cases, and refunding payments made on the cases. Also, the position keeps track of all information pertaining to the vacated cases and refunds ordered, which are sent to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Without the extension of the Clerk's Judicial Accounting Specialist, our office would not have the ability to cover additional court tasks and workload while providing coverage for breaks, sick, and vacation absences.

How will this change the performance of your office or department?

Statement of Need

The Thurston County Clerk's Office will not have the staffing levels to fulfill the clerking function needed to cover additional court hearings and increase the workload created by the Supreme Court ruling. The addition of clerk FTE will help our office fulfill this need.

Expenditure, FTE and revenue assumptions plus current budget level

Assumptions

The position will not increase costs, since the position is fully reimbursable.

Current Budget Level

2023 Budgeted Revenues \$2,230,446
Budgeted Expenses \$5,331,951

What happens if this isn't funded? Are there other options?

Impacts and Alternatives

Do nothing and risk not being able to cover hearings, trials, and increase workload. There are no other alternatives.

How does this request affect other offices and departments?

Impact to Other Departments

New Employee Space or Equipment

Which Other Departments are Affected?

Operating Transfer Needed?

No

Operating Transfer Coding and Amount

Personnel Information

FTE	Number	Name	Start Date	End Date
1.00	05R01556	CLERK'S JUD ACCOUNTING SPEC	2024-01-01	2024-06-01

1.00	< Total			
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Operating Revenue Line Items

Org Code	Object Code	Object Description	Project Code	2024	2025
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Capital Revenue Line Items

Org Code	Object Code	Object Description	Project Code	2024	2025
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Operating Expenditure Line Items

Org Code	Object Code	Object Description	Project Code	2024	2025
0105A515	510000	SALARIES		33,600	-
0105A515	521000	SOCIAL SECURITY		2,570	-
0105A515	522000	RETIREMENT		3,155	-
0105A515	523000	MEDICAL/DENTAL/LIFE		5,754	-
0105A515	524000	WORKERS COMPENSATION-L&I		180	-
0105A515	525000	UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION		101	-
0105A515	526000	PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE		73	-
0105A515	527000	LONG TERM DISABILITY		192	-
			Total:	45,625.00	-

Capital Expenditure Line Items

Org Code	Object Code	Object Description	Project Code	2024	2025
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