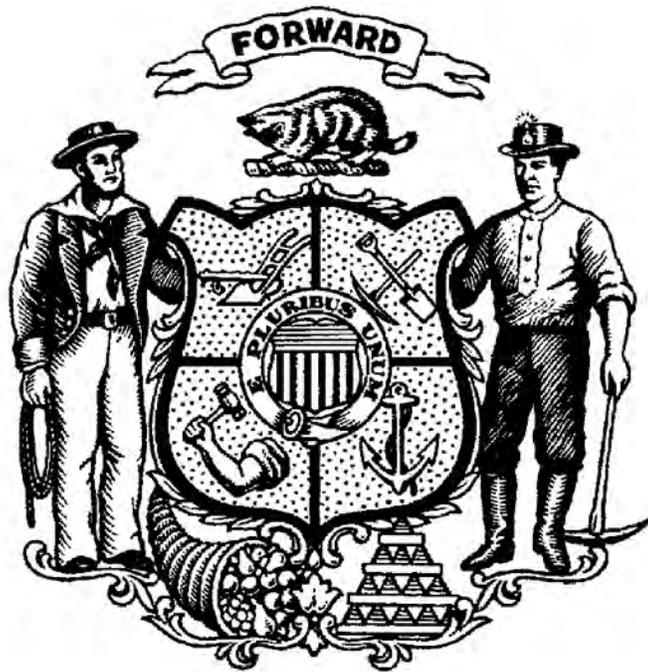


State of Wisconsin

Circuit Courts



Court Budget Request

2023 – 2025 Biennium

October 7, 2022

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Supreme Court of Wisconsin

DIRECTOR OF STATE COURTS

P.O. BOX 1688

MADISON, WISCONSIN 53701-1688

Annette Kingsland Ziegler
Chief Justice

16 East State Capitol
Telephone 608-266-6828
Fax 608-267-0980

Hon. Randy R. Koschnick
Director of State Courts

October 7, 2022

Secretary Kathy Blumenfeld
Department of Administration
101 E. Wilson Street, 10th Floor
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Secretary Blumenfeld:

I submit to you the proposed 2023-25 biennial budgets of the Wisconsin Court System. We are committed to fulfilling our mission to protect individuals' rights, privileges and liberties, to maintain the rule of law, and to provide a forum for the resolution of disputes that is fair, accessible, independent and effective.

Our budget submission requests a significant investment in cybersecurity defense strategies to prevent and respond to cybersecurity attacks on the court system. State and federal judiciaries around the country have been facing increasingly sophisticated attacks on their networks. A cybersecurity attack could not only result in catastrophic impacts to the judicial system and judicial data integrity, but could also lead to fiscal instability resulting from ransomware demands. The \$4 million investment in cybersecurity presented in our budget request would provide the court system with a mature cybersecurity system consistent with recognized best practices for securing IT systems and data, and provide our best defense against such risks.

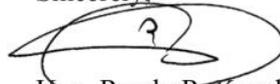
In addition, our budget submittal requests funding and resources to support four new circuit court branches, as directed by 2019 Wisconsin Act 184. This act added four new circuit court branches to the court system in each of the fiscal years 21-22, 22-23 and 23-24 and required our office to include funding and position authority for those positions in its 2021-23 and 2023-25 budget requests. In addition, the budget requests additional funding to counties to reflect the additional circuit court costs associated with the new judgeships, to ensure the current level of circuit court support remains across all counties.

The Wisconsin Court System, like state agencies, was significantly impacted by the global pandemic over the last nearly three years. Despite these challenges, we were able to invest in emerging technologies to ensure continuity of courtroom operations. These technologies include the expanded use of Zoom for remote hearings, laptops and docking stations for business continuity, and the installation of digital audio recording systems which allows monitored court reporting of proceedings. Over the past several years several million dollars in technology purchases have been made using existing revenues and budget authority. In FY20 through

FY22, the Court System was able to leverage \$1.3 million in federal CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act aid for these purchases, which allowed us to continue this critical infrastructure investment. This budget includes a modest request in sum sufficient authority, which would allow the court system to complete and maintain its installation of digital audio recording devices in each courtroom, which is critical to address the changing court reporter workforce and be able to meet our court reporting needs well into the 21st century.

In summary, we are confident that this budget submission meets our shared goal of timely, fair, and effective delivery of justice to the people of Wisconsin, while ensuring fiscal prudence in the use of our resources. I look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming months in ensuring court operations become more effective and efficient, utilizing the resources presented in this budget proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy R. Koschnick", enclosed within a large, loopy oval scribble.

Hon. Randy R. Koschnick
Director of State Courts

RRK: cmf
cc. Chief Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler

COURT DESCRIPTION

The Circuit Courts are Wisconsin's courts of general jurisdiction and consist of 257 judicial positions in 69 judicial circuits. 2019 Wisconsin Act 184 authorized the creation of 12 additional circuit court branches across two biennia. As of August 1, 2021 there were 253 judicial positions and as of August 1, 2022 there were 257 judicial positions. The last four circuit court branches are to be created in the 2023-2025 biennium on August 1, 2023 increasing judicial positions to 261.

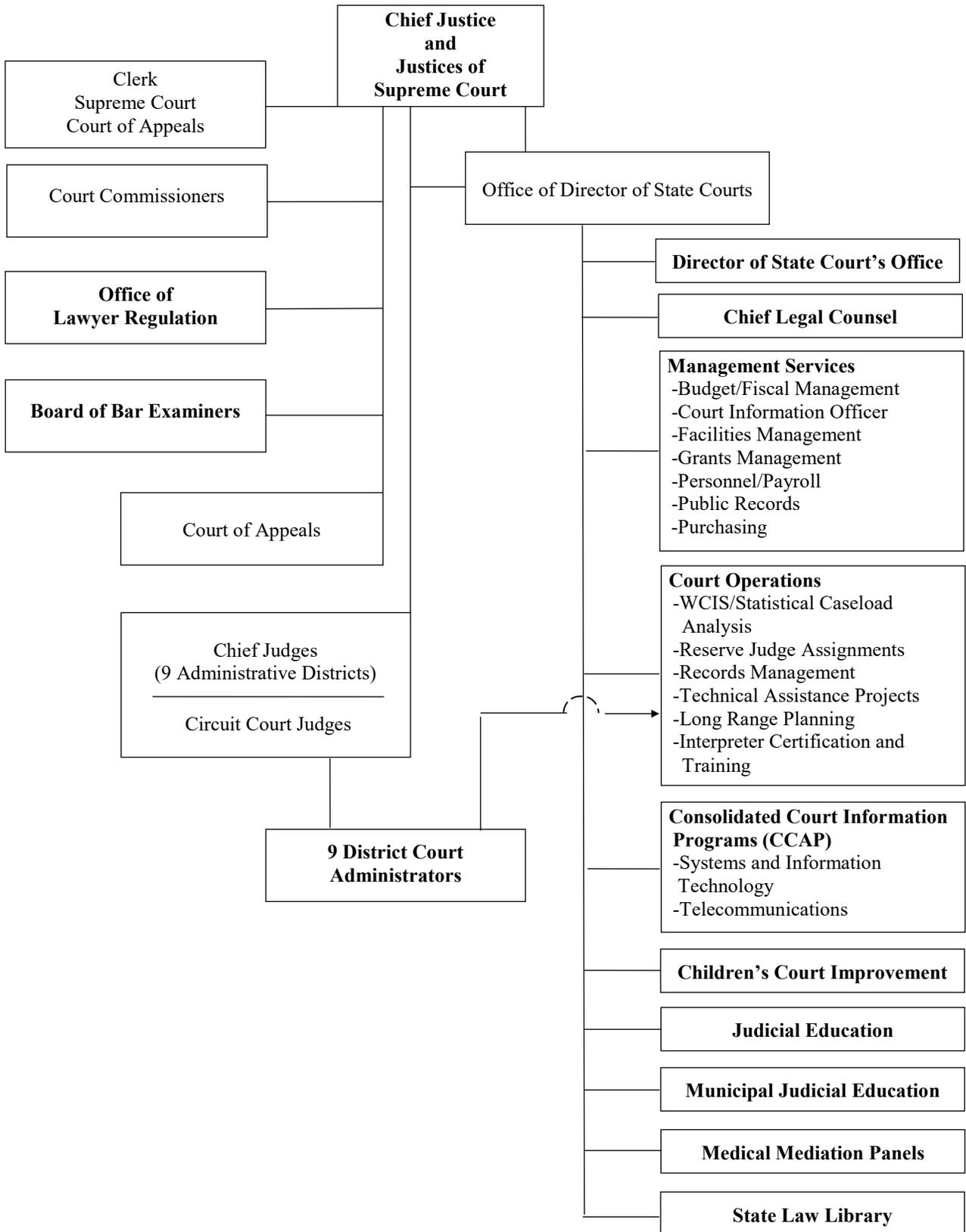
Each county in the state is a circuit, with the exception of Pepin and Buffalo, Menominee and Shawano, and Forest and Florence, which are paired to form three circuits. A circuit may consist of more than one branch (judge) where the volume of litigation warrants. Of the 69 circuits, 46 contain multiple branches.

The Circuit Courts have original jurisdiction in all criminal, civil, juvenile, family and probate cases unless exclusive jurisdiction has been given to another court. The courts have appellate jurisdiction over orders and judgments of the municipal courts and the responsibility to review decisions and orders of state administrative agencies.

For purposes of management, the Circuit Courts are divided into nine administrative districts. Each district has a chief judge appointed by the Supreme Court and a district court administrator, who administers the business of the judicial branch in that district in cooperation with the director of state courts at the direction of the chief justice.

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Wisconsin State Court System



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		ANNUAL SUMMARY						BIENNIAL SUMMARY			
Source of Funds		Prior Year Total	Adjusted Base	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE	Base Year Doubled (BYD)	Biennial Request	Change From (BYD)	Change From BYD %
GPR	L	\$27,417,181	\$27,954,200	\$28,392,900	\$28,392,900	0.00	0.00	\$55,908,400	\$56,785,800	\$877,400	1.60%
GPR	S	\$79,308,066	\$87,784,400	\$88,628,900	\$88,607,200	551.00	551.00	\$175,568,800	\$177,236,100	\$1,667,300	0.90%
Total		\$106,725,247	\$115,738,600	\$117,021,800	\$117,000,100	551.00	551.00	\$231,477,200	\$234,021,900	\$2,544,700	1.10%
PR	L	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	0.00	0.00	\$465,400	\$465,400	\$0	0.00%
PR	S	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Total		\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	0.00	0.00	\$465,400	\$465,400	\$0	0.00%
Grand Total		\$106,957,947	\$115,971,300	\$117,254,500	\$117,232,800	551.00	551.00	\$231,942,600	\$234,487,300	\$2,544,700	1.10%

Source of Funds	Prior Year Total	ANNUAL SUMMARY					BIENNIAL SUMMARY			
		Adjusted Base	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE	Base Year Doubled (BYD)	Biennial Request	Change From (BYD)	Change From BYD %

01 Court operations

Non Federal

GPR	\$106,725,247	\$115,738,600	\$117,021,800	\$117,000,100	551.00	551.00	\$231,477,200	\$234,021,900	\$2,544,700	1.10%
L	\$27,417,181	\$27,954,200	\$28,392,900	\$28,392,900	0.00	0.00	\$55,908,400	\$56,785,800	\$877,400	1.57%
S	\$79,308,066	\$87,784,400	\$88,628,900	\$88,607,200	551.00	551.00	\$175,568,800	\$177,236,100	\$1,667,300	0.95%
PR	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	0.00	0.00	\$465,400	\$465,400	\$0	0.00%
L	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	0.00	0.00	\$465,400	\$465,400	\$0	0.00%
S	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Total - Non Federal	\$106,957,947	\$115,971,300	\$117,254,500	\$117,232,800	551.00	551.00	\$231,942,600	\$234,487,300	\$2,544,700	1.10%
L	\$27,649,881	\$28,186,900	\$28,625,600	\$28,625,600	0.00	0.00	\$56,373,800	\$57,251,200	\$877,400	1.56%
S	\$79,308,066	\$87,784,400	\$88,628,900	\$88,607,200	551.00	551.00	\$175,568,800	\$177,236,100	\$1,667,300	0.95%
PGM 01 Total	\$106,957,947	\$115,971,300	\$117,254,500	\$117,232,800	551.00	551.00	\$231,942,600	\$234,487,300	\$2,544,700	1.10%
GPR	\$106,725,247	\$115,738,600	\$117,021,800	\$117,000,100	551.00	551.00	\$231,477,200	\$234,021,900	\$2,544,700	1.10%
L	\$27,417,181	\$27,954,200	\$28,392,900	\$28,392,900	0.00	0.00	\$55,908,400	\$56,785,800	\$877,400	1.57%
S	\$79,308,066	\$87,784,400	\$88,628,900	\$88,607,200	551.00	551.00	\$175,568,800	\$177,236,100	\$1,667,300	0.95%

Source of Funds	Prior Year Total	ANNUAL SUMMARY					BIENNIAL SUMMARY			
		Adjusted Base	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE	Base Year Doubled (BYD)	Biennial Request	Change From (BYD)	Change From BYD %
01 Court operations										
PR	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	0.00	0.00	\$465,400	\$465,400	\$0	0.00%
L	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	\$232,700	0.00	0.00	\$465,400	\$465,400	\$0	0.00%
S	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
TOTAL 01	\$106,957,947	\$115,971,300	\$117,254,500	\$117,232,800	551.00	551.00	\$231,942,600	\$234,487,300	\$2,544,700	1.10%
L	\$27,649,881	\$28,186,900	\$28,625,600	\$28,625,600	0.00	0.00	\$56,373,800	\$57,251,200	\$877,400	1.56%
S	\$79,308,066	\$87,784,400	\$88,628,900	\$88,607,200	551.00	551.00	\$175,568,800	\$177,236,100	\$1,667,300	0.95%
COURT TOTAL	\$106,957,947	\$115,971,300	\$117,254,500	\$117,232,800	551.00	551.00	\$231,942,600	\$234,487,300	\$2,544,700	1.10%

Decision Item	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
2000 Adjusted Base Funding Level	\$115,971,300	\$115,971,300	543.00	543.00
3003 Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits	(\$1,193,600)	(\$1,193,600)	0.00	0.00
3010 Full Funding of Lease and Directed Moves Costs	\$2,000	\$3,100	0.00	0.00
4001 Act 184 positions and funding for Circuit Court Branches	\$1,246,100	\$1,223,300	8.00	8.00
4002 Circuit Court Cost Payments	\$438,700	\$438,700	0.00	0.00
4003 Certificates of Qualification for Employment	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
4004 Funding for Digital Audio Recording Devices	\$790,000	\$790,000	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	\$117,254,500	\$117,232,800	551.00	551.00

	CODES	TITLES
DEPARTMENT	625	Circuit Courts
PROGRAM	01	Court operations

DATE

Revenue	Prior Year Actuals	Base Year Estimate	1st Year Estimate	2nd Year Estimate
Opening Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$31,541,363	\$31,395,800	\$31,158,200	\$30,845,700
TOTAL	\$31,541,363	\$31,395,800	\$31,158,200	\$30,845,700

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Decision Item (DIN) - 2000

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Adjusted Base Funding Level

NARRATIVE

Adjusted Base Funding Level

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	625	Circuit Courts

DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	2000	Adjusted Base Funding Level

	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	\$61,229,000	\$61,229,000
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$791,700	\$791,700
05	Fringe Benefits	\$22,147,500	\$22,147,500
06	Supplies and Services	\$2,071,300	\$2,071,300
07	Permanent Property	\$1,544,900	\$1,544,900
08	Unallotted Reserve	\$0	\$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	\$0	\$0
10	Local Assistance	\$28,186,900	\$28,186,900
11	One-time Financing	\$0	\$0
12	Debt service	\$0	\$0
13		\$0	\$0
14		\$0	\$0
15		\$0	\$0
16		\$0	\$0
17	TOTAL	\$115,971,300	\$115,971,300
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	543.00	543.00

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	2000 Adjusted Base Funding Level				
01	Court operations				
	01 Circuit courts	\$87,784,400	\$87,784,400	543.00	543.00
	05 Circuit court costs	\$27,954,200	\$27,954,200	0.00	0.00
	21 Court interpreters	\$232,700	\$232,700	0.00	0.00
	Court operations Sub Total	\$115,971,300	\$115,971,300	543.00	543.00
	Adjusted Base Funding Level Sub Total	\$115,971,300	\$115,971,300	543.00	543.00
	Court Total	\$115,971,300	\$115,971,300	543.00	543.00

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
2000 Adjusted Base Funding Level					
GPR	L	\$27,954,200	\$27,954,200	0.00	0.00
GPR	S	\$87,784,400	\$87,784,400	543.00	543.00
PR	L	\$232,700	\$232,700	0.00	0.00
Adjusted Base Funding Level Total		\$115,971,300	\$115,971,300	543.00	543.00
Court Total		\$115,971,300	\$115,971,300	543.00	543.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 3003

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits

NARRATIVE

Standard Budget Adjustment - Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	625	Circuit Courts

DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	3003	Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits

	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	(\$1,685,500)	(\$1,685,500)
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$0	\$0
05	Fringe Benefits	\$491,900	\$491,900
06	Supplies and Services	\$0	\$0
07	Permanent Property	\$0	\$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	\$0	\$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	\$0	\$0
10	Local Assistance	\$0	\$0
11	One-time Financing	\$0	\$0
12	Debt service	\$0	\$0
13		\$0	\$0
14		\$0	\$0
15		\$0	\$0
16		\$0	\$0
17	TOTAL	(\$1,193,600)	(\$1,193,600)
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	3003 Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits				
01	Court operations				
	01 Circuit courts	(\$1,193,600)	(\$1,193,600)	0.00	0.00
	Court operations Sub Total	(\$1,193,600)	(\$1,193,600)	0.00	0.00
	Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits Sub Total	(\$1,193,600)	(\$1,193,600)	0.00	0.00
	Court Total	(\$1,193,600)	(\$1,193,600)	0.00	0.00

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
3003 Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits					
GPR	S	(\$1,193,600)	(\$1,193,600)	0.00	0.00
Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits Total		(\$1,193,600)	(\$1,193,600)	0.00	0.00
Court Total		(\$1,193,600)	(\$1,193,600)	0.00	0.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 3010

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Full Funding of Lease and Directed Moves Costs

NARRATIVE

Standard Budget Adjustment - Full Funding of Lease and Directed Moves Costs

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	625	Circuit Courts

DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	3010	Full Funding of Lease and Directed Moves Costs

	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$0	\$0
05	Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0
06	Supplies and Services	\$2,000	\$3,100
07	Permanent Property	\$0	\$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	\$0	\$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	\$0	\$0
10	Local Assistance	\$0	\$0
11	One-time Financing	\$0	\$0
12	Debt service	\$0	\$0
13		\$0	\$0
14		\$0	\$0
15		\$0	\$0
16		\$0	\$0
17	TOTAL	\$2,000	\$3,100
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	3010 Full Funding of Lease and Directed Moves Costs				
01	Court operations				
	01 Circuit courts	\$2,000	\$3,100	0.00	0.00
	Court operations Sub Total	\$2,000	\$3,100	0.00	0.00
	Full Funding of Lease and Directed Moves Costs Sub Total	\$2,000	\$3,100	0.00	0.00
	Court Total	\$2,000	\$3,100	0.00	0.00

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
3010 Full Funding of Lease and Directed Moves Costs					
GPR	S	\$2,000	\$3,100	0.00	0.00
Full Funding of Lease and Directed Moves Costs Total		\$2,000	\$3,100	0.00	0.00
Court Total		\$2,000	\$3,100	0.00	0.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 4001

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Act 184 positions and funding for Circuit Court Branches

NARRATIVE

2019 Wisconsin Act 184, which was enacted March 5, 2020, authorized the creation of 12 additional circuit court branches across two biennia. In the 2021-2023 biennia, four branches were created August 1, 2021 and four branches August 1, 2022. The Director of State Courts request position authority and funding for the last four circuit court branches in Clark, Manitowoc, Sawyer and Wood Counties, effective August 1, 2023.

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Court System 2023-2025 Biennial Budget Issue Paper

DIN Title: 2019 Act 184 positions and funding for Circuit Court Branches (DIN 4001)

Supreme Court — Director of State Courts

Proposal

2019 Wisconsin Act 184, which was enacted March 5, 2020, added 12 circuit court branches over a three-year period (four judges each in 2021, 2022, and 2023), requiring that the Director of State Courts request position authority and funding through the biennial budget process. 2021 Wisconsin Act 58 provided position authority and funding for eight circuit court branches, four branches began operations on August 1, 2021 and four on August 1, 2022.

The 2019 Act 184 requires the Director of State Courts request position authority and funding for the remaining four circuit court branches to comply with the requirements of the Act. Specifically, for the 2023-25 biennial budget, provide position authority for 8.0 FTE GPR unclassified positions and associated funding of \$1,246,100 GPR FY24 (on-going and one-time costs) to establish each branch and \$1,223,200 GPR in FY25, in the appropriation under s. 20.625 (1) (a). The funding in the second year of the biennium (FY25) includes the ongoing costs for the positions created in FY24.

Background and Justification

2019 Wisconsin Act 184 authorized the creation of 12 additional circuit court branches, four branches began operations on August 1, 2021 and four on August 1, 2022, with the last four branches beginning operations on August 1, 2023.

A new circuit court branch requires a circuit court judge and court reporter. To meet the implementation date set forth in 2019 Wisconsin Act 184, ongoing authority for 8.0 FTE GPR unclassified positions (4.0 judges and 4.0 circuit court reporters) are needed in FY24.

2019 Wisconsin Act 184 gives the Director of State Courts the authority to determine in which county each additional branch is allocated, so long as the county has passed a resolution requesting an additional branch and has established appropriate infrastructure to support the additional branch's operation.

Four counties will be designated for a new circuit court branch effective August 1, 2023. The four counties will have demonstrated judicial need, county board resolutions of support, and a commitment to have facilities ready before the statutory deadline of May 31, 2022.

This position authority request includes: 4.0 judges and 4.0 circuit court reporters each year; and on-going funding for salaries, fringe benefits, and supplies and services, as well as one-time set-up costs (e.g. computer equipment, books, etc.). The following table provides the funding request by fiscal year and expenditure type.

Cost Estimate, Four New Judgeships = 8.0 FTE			FY24	FY25	Biennial Cost
		One-time Costs	Set-up	Set-up	One-time
20.625 (1)(a)	GPR	Wisconsin Reports	\$ 10,090	-	\$ 10,090
		IT Technology	\$ 114,620	-	\$ 114,620
		Total One-time Costs	\$ 124,710	-	\$ 124,710
		Annual Costs	11 Months	12 Months	Annual
20.625 (1)(a)	GPR	Judicial Salary*	\$ 603,119	\$ 657,948	\$ 1,261,067
		Judicial Fringe**	\$ 228,703	\$ 249,494	\$ 478,197
		Court Reporter Salary*	\$ 176,942	\$ 193,028	\$ 369,970
		Court Reporter Fringe**	\$ 67,097	\$ 73,196	\$ 140,293
		Judge Per Diem	\$ 11,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 23,000
		Judge Per Diem Fringe (7.65%)	\$ 842	\$ 918	\$ 1,760
		Judicial Travel Expenses	\$ 7,333	\$ 8,000	\$ 15,333
		Annual Advance Sheets	\$ 466	\$ 508	\$ 974
		Bound Volumes	\$ 1,203	\$ 1,312	\$ 2,515
		Computer Maintenance	\$ 24,457	\$ 26,680	\$ 51,137
		Total Annual Costs	\$ 1,121,162	\$ 1,223,084	\$ 2,344,246
		Total 20.625 (1)(a) Costs	\$1,245,872	\$1,223,084	\$2,468,956

* Salaries as of January 3, 2023

**Fringe 2023-2025 37.92%

2023-25 Judgeship Budget Request By DOA Line (Rounded Up)

	FY24	FY25	Biennial Cost
ON-GOING COSTS	Total Yr 1	Total Yr 2	
PERMANENT SALARY*	\$ 780,100	\$ 851,000	\$ 1,631,100
LTE SALARY	\$ 11,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 23,000
FRINGE BENEFITS**	\$ 296,700	\$ 323,700	\$ 620,400
SUPPLIES/SERVICES	\$ 33,500	\$ 36,500	\$ 70,000
ONE-TIME COSTS			
SUPPLIES/SERVICES	\$ 124,800	\$ -	\$ 124,800
	\$ 1,246,100	\$ 1,223,200	\$ 2,469,300

* Salaries as of January 3, 2023

**Fringe 2023-2025 37.92%

STATUTORY LANGUAGE

Modify Wis. Stats. 753.06 to add branches to Clark, Manitowoc, Sawyer and Wood Counties, effective August 1, 2023.

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	625	Circuit Courts

DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	4001	Act 184 positions and funding for Circuit Court Branches

	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	\$780,100	\$851,100
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$11,000	\$12,000
05	Fringe Benefits	\$296,700	\$323,700
06	Supplies and Services	\$33,500	\$36,500
07	Permanent Property	\$0	\$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	\$0	\$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	\$0	\$0
10	Local Assistance	\$0	\$0
11	One-time Financing	\$124,800	\$0
12	Debt service	\$0	\$0
13		\$0	\$0
14		\$0	\$0
15		\$0	\$0
16		\$0	\$0
17	TOTAL	\$1,246,100	\$1,223,300
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	8.00	8.00

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	4001 Act 184 positions and funding for Circuit Court Branches				
01	Court operations				
	01 Circuit courts	\$1,246,100	\$1,223,300	8.00	8.00
	Court operations Sub Total	\$1,246,100	\$1,223,300	8.00	8.00
	Act 184 positions and funding for Circuit Court Branches Sub Total	\$1,246,100	\$1,223,300	8.00	8.00
	Court Total	\$1,246,100	\$1,223,300	8.00	8.00

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
4001 Act 184 positions and funding for Circuit Court Branches					
GPR	S	\$1,246,100	\$1,223,300	8.00	8.00
Act 184 positions and funding for Circuit Court Branches Total		\$1,246,100	\$1,223,300	8.00	8.00
Court Total		\$1,246,100	\$1,223,300	8.00	8.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 4002

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Circuit Court Cost Payments

NARRATIVE

Under 2019 Act 184, 12 circuit court branches, the number of circuit court branches in Wisconsin will increase from 257 to 261 on August 1, 2023. The Circuit Court cost program distributes funding based on the number of branches. The Director of State Courts requests increasing funding to maintain current per branch funding levels in the 2023-25 biennium.

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Court System 2023-2025 Biennial Budget Issue Paper

DIN Title: Circuit Court Cost Payments (DIN 4002)

Supreme Court — Director of State Courts

Proposal

2019 Wisconsin Act 184, which was enacted March 5, 2020, added 12 circuit court branches over a three-year period (four judges each in 2021, 2022, and 2023). 2021 Wisconsin Act 58 provided position authority and funding for eight circuit court branches. The 2021 Act 58 also provided additional support to counties by increasing the Circuit Court Cost payment funding \$438,700 GPR in FY22 and \$877,400 GPR in FY23, maintaining FY21 per branch funding.

The 2019 Act 184 requires the Director of State Courts request position authority and funding for the remaining four circuit court branches to comply with the requirements of the Act. For the 2023-25 biennial budget, the Director of State Courts requests \$438,700 GPR in each fiscal year in s. 20.625(1)(cg) be provided to maintain current per branch funding levels in the 2023-25 biennium.

Background and Justification

Under 2019 Act 184, the number of circuit court branches in Wisconsin increased from 249 to 253 on August 1, 2021, and from 253 to 257 on August 1, 2022, and will increase from 257 to 261 on August 1, 2023. Because the Circuit Court cost program distributes available funding based on the number of branches, as the number of branches increases, the per branch court cost payments decreases. A budget increase of approximately \$110,000 per new judgeship per year is required to prevent a reduction in county support payments. Specifically, an additional \$438,700 GPR each year in the circuit court costs appropriation (s. 20.625 (1) (cg)) will preserve the 2022-2023 per branch payment levels.

Support Payments To Counties (625-105 & 625-121)

	FY21 Base \$	FY22	FY23	FY24
Judgeships	249	253	257	261
FY2021 Base	\$ 27,309,500	\$ 27,309,500	\$ 27,309,500	\$ 27,309,500
2021 Act 58		\$ 438,700	\$ 877,400	\$ 877,400
Total State Payments	\$ 27,309,500	\$ 27,748,200	\$ 28,186,900	\$ 28,186,900
Payment Per Judgeship	\$ 109,677	\$ 109,677	\$ 109,677	\$ 107,996
Per Judgeship impact		\$ (0)	\$ (0)	\$ (1,681)
TOTAL needed to maintain per Judgeship payment		\$ 27,748,207	\$ 28,186,914	\$ 28,625,620
Request - Base Increase				\$ 438,700

STATUTORY LANGUAGE

The intent of this proposal is to increase funding for the Circuit Courts Costs s. 20.625 (1) (cg) without changing the function or duties of the court.

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	625	Circuit Courts

DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	4002	Circuit Court Cost Payments

	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$0	\$0
05	Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0
06	Supplies and Services	\$0	\$0
07	Permanent Property	\$0	\$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	\$0	\$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	\$0	\$0
10	Local Assistance	\$438,700	\$438,700
11	One-time Financing	\$0	\$0
12	Debt service	\$0	\$0
13		\$0	\$0
14		\$0	\$0
15		\$0	\$0
16		\$0	\$0
17	TOTAL	\$438,700	\$438,700
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	4002 Circuit Court Cost Payments				
01	Court operations				
	05 Circuit court costs	\$438,700	\$438,700	0.00	0.00
	Court operations Sub Total	\$438,700	\$438,700	0.00	0.00
	Circuit Court Cost Payments Sub Total	\$438,700	\$438,700	0.00	0.00
	Court Total	\$438,700	\$438,700	0.00	0.00

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
4002 Circuit Court Cost Payments					
GPR	L	\$438,700	\$438,700	0.00	0.00
Circuit Court Cost Payments Total		\$438,700	\$438,700	0.00	0.00
Court Total		\$438,700	\$438,700	0.00	0.00

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Decision Item (DIN) - 4003

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Certificates of Qualification for Employment

NARRATIVE

2019 Wisconsin Act 123, which was enacted March 3, 2020, created a procedure for granting Certificates of Qualification for Employment (CQE) for persons convicted of a crime. It also created an appropriation in the Circuit Courts for receipt of moneys from applications by offenders for the CQE. The application fee is \$20. Certificates are granted by the Council on Offender Employment, but are revoked by a court.

The Director of State Courts requests to repeal appropriation s. 20.625(1)(h) and to modify current law to require the Council, rather than a court, to revoke a certificate of qualification for employment if an offender is convicted of a felony or of a Class A or Class B misdemeanor, or if his or her probation, parole, or extended supervision is revoked for the commission of a crime.

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DIN Title: Certificates of Qualification for Employment (DIN 4003)

Supreme Court — Director of State Courts

Proposal

2019 Wisconsin Act 123, which was enacted March 3, 2020, created a procedure for granting Certificates of Qualification for Employment (CQE) for persons convicted of a crime. It also created an appropriation in the Circuit Courts for receipt of moneys from applications by offenders for a certificate of qualification of employment. The application fee is \$20. Certificates are granted by the Council on Offender Employment, but are revoked by a court.

To date, three applications for a certificate have been received by the Council, totaling \$40. The minimal amount creates an administrative burden on the court system to collect and process the fee.

The court system is requesting elimination of the application fee and s. 20.625(1)(h) appropriation within the Circuit Courts in order to allocate fiscal resources from processing the application fee to other responsibilities required to meet the statutory requirements of this program.

This proposal also seeks modification of the process to revoke certificates, as the existing process is burdensome and confusing.

The court system is also requesting the transfer of the authority to revoke a CQE from a court to the Council. This would decrease use of resources by the court system through the creation of a streamlined revocation process. Because efficiencies would be realized through a streamlined process, increased fiscal pressures would not be placed on the council.

Background and Justification

2019 Wisconsin Act 123 establishes a process for a person who has been convicted of a nonviolent crime to apply for a CQE. The CQE provides an offender with relief for collateral sanctions, such as prohibitions against certain occupational licensing or disadvantage relating to the offender's criminal record. It does not protect an offender against additional confinements, suspensions of driving privileges, extended supervision or other violations.

The act also created a Council on Offender Employment. The council consists of the attorney general, the state public defender, and the chairperson of the parole commission or the designee of those officials.

The act requires that the Director of State Courts provide a form for filing the application for the CQE, and convene the Council for reviewing the applications. After filing an application, the Council must request information from the Department of Corrections. This information includes information about the offender's education, treatment,

performance evaluations for the offender's work, risk and needs assessment, and any other reports that the department has prepared.

The council must grant an offender's CQE application if the offender is not likely to pose a risk to public safety, the CQE will assist the offender in obtaining employment or occupational licensing, or the offender is less likely to commit an additional crime if he or she obtains a CQE.

A court must permanently revoke an offender's CQE if the offender commits a Class A or B misdemeanor, or if the offender's probation, parole, or extended supervision is revoked for commission of a crime. The CQE cannot be revoked as a sanction or if the offender is revoked as a result of a noncriminal act.

Finally, the act requires the Department of Corrections to prepare an annual report for submittal to the legislature that includes for each year, the number of CQE applications, the number of CQEs issued, and the number of CQEs revoked and the reason for revocation. The Director of State Courts is required to ensure the Wisconsin Circuit Court Access site provides the Department of Corrections access to the information required to complete the report.

Analysis and Justification

The administrative burden of processing the application fee is greater than the administrative burden of meeting the court system's statutory duties related to this program. Due to the small amount of the application fee and the small number of applications, the application fee is insufficient to finance the administrative support necessary to process the application fee. As a result of the existence of the application fee, the court system expends more resources on this program than it would if the application fee did not exist.

Because the Council, and not a court, is responsible for reviewing and granting an offender's CQE, the revocation process requires a court to become involved at a late stage. This creates confusion among the public seeking CQEs and within the court system, as well as an increased use of resources within the court system to address a revocation of a CQE.

Currently, the statute requires a court to revoke a CQE if an offender is convicted of a felony or of a Class A or Class B misdemeanor, or if the offender's probation, parole, or extended supervision is revoked for the commission of a crime. However, the statute does not identify what court must revoke the CQE or what process should be used to accomplish the revocation.

A CQE is associated with an offender—not a case. As a case-based system, the court system does not have a mechanism to track when an offender is subsequently convicted of a felony or a Class A or Class B misdemeanor, or if the offender's probation, parole, or extended supervision is revoked for the commission of a crime. Even if the court system had some ability to track the holders of CQEs, it is unclear which court must revoke the CQE. The case forming the basis of issuance of the CQE differs from the case forming the basis of revocation of the CQE.

The court system must utilize increased resources to determine what CQEs must be revoked and identify what court must revoke the CQE. Because there is no standalone case to facilitate revocation of CQEs, a court must identify some mechanism within an existing proceeding in which it can revoke CQEs, such as a sentencing for the subsequent conviction. This requires more advance notice of a subsequent conviction and administrative processing in order to coordinate the revocation of the CQE within a proceeding for another conviction. When no existing proceeding exists in which a court can revoke a CQE, such as when an offender's probation, parole, or extended supervision is revoked without a new charge, the court must work to identify some other mechanism for revoking the CQE.

Transfer of revocation authority from the court system to the Council would also reduce expenditure of court system resources by streamlining the revocation process. Transferring revocation authority to the Council would allow the Council to adopt a process similar to the revocation process used by licensing entities. Licensing entities, such as those administratively attached to the Department of Safety and Professional Services, require a licensee to notify the respective licensing entity of a subsequent conviction within 48 hours of conviction. The licensing entity then reviews the conviction to determine if it disqualifies the licensee from licensure.

Use of a similar process for CQEs would eliminate the need for the court system to expend resources to track what CQEs need to be revoked and the need to identify what court should be responsible for revoking CQEs. Not only would transfer create efficiencies within the court system and reduce fiscal strains imposed by the current CQE revocation process, confusion in recipients of CQEs would be decreased as they would be presented with a clear process instead of having to navigate a complicated revocation process.

STATUTORY LANGUAGE

The intent of this proposal is to transfer the authority to revoke CQEs from a court to the council, as well as the appropriation authority to receive application fees.

Eliminate s. 20.625(1)(h) to eliminate the appropriation within the Circuit Courts. Transfer any balances to the appropriation under s. 20.625 (1)(g).

Modify the language under s. 973.25(4) to eliminate the application fee of \$20. Also modify the language to eliminate the process by which the council may waive the fee.

Modify the language under 973.25 (6)(a) and (b) such that the council, rather than the court, is responsible for revocation decisions.

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	625	Circuit Courts

DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	4003	Certificates of Qualification for Employment

	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$0	\$0
05	Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0
06	Supplies and Services	\$0	\$0
07	Permanent Property	\$0	\$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	\$0	\$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	\$0	\$0
10	Local Assistance	\$0	\$0
11	One-time Financing	\$0	\$0
12	Debt service	\$0	\$0
13		\$0	\$0
14		\$0	\$0
15		\$0	\$0
16		\$0	\$0
17	TOTAL	\$0	\$0
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	4003 Certificates of Qualification for Employment				
01	Court operations				
	23 Certificate qualification empl	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
	Court operations Sub Total	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
	Certificates of Qualification for Employment Sub Total	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
	Court Total	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
4003 Certificates of Qualification for Employment					
PR	S	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
Certificates of Qualification for Employment Total		\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
Court Total		\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00

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Decision Item (DIN) - 4004

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Funding for Digital Audio Recording Devices

NARRATIVE

The Director of State Courts requests additional sum sufficient expenditure authority to support the installation of 100 additional digital audio recording devices as well as life cycle maintenance and replacement of associated hardware and related accessories.

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DIN Title: Digital Audio Recording (DIN 4004)

Circuit Courts

Proposal

The Director of State Courts requests \$0.79 million in FY24 and \$0.79 million in FY25 in additional sum sufficient expenditure authority on the Circuit Court budget (20.625(1)(a)) to support the installation of 100 additional digital audio recording devices and associates hardware and related accessories annually. Ongoing support for Digital Audio Recording (DAR) devices in the Circuits Courts is necessary in order to make the record with digital court reporters.

Background

Beginning in 2019, the Circuit Courts began expanding their use of digital audio recording devices to take the record in Wisconsin's courtrooms. The emergence of this technology, as well as the growing shortage of qualified stenographic court reporters, was necessary in order to ensure that courtrooms remain operational.

As of 2020, the most recent data that was analyzed, 127 out of 285 court reporters were age 55 or older. Several stenographic court reporting schools in Wisconsin have closed, and of those remaining, only a handful of graduates are entering the job market. In response to this issue, the Wisconsin Court System partnered with Fox Valley Technical College to identify a digital court reporter certification program, which will allow FVTC to train students for careers in digital court reporting, in order for the Wisconsin Court System to have qualified individuals available to work as court reporters. However, digital court reporters required specialized digital court reporting equipment, and the Court System has been installing and maintaining these systems are around the state for current digital court reporters, as well as those anticipated to be hired in the next 2-5 years in anticipation of vacancies due to retirement. This equipment will continue to be installed in the next several years, as well as require ongoing maintenance.

Expanding the availability of DAR systems would increase the court reporting pool by allowing digital court reporters to take the record remotely from any other courthouse in the state, or in a local court/hearing room equipped with a DAR system that can be monitored remotely. A courtroom clerk must be present in the court/hearing room with Zoom running so the reporter can take the record. The acceleration of the installation of the DAR systems will allow digital court reporters to staff the low transcript volume hearings. This budget proposal will allow the Court System to install 100 additional digital audio recording devices and associates hardware and related accessories each year.

Analysis & Justification

Installation of Digital Audio Recording (DAR) Systems

Since 2019, DAR has been recognized as an official method of taking the circuit court record, and digital court reporters serve as official, district, and per diem court reporters around the state. Digital court reporters can take the record for any type of proceeding, and if given access, are able to take the record across county lines. Digital court reporting is a flexible method for covering courts on a regular basis and when an emergency coverage issue occurs.

Over the past two years, the majority of new court reporter hires have been digital, not stenographic, court reporters. The number of stenographic court reporters nationwide has significantly decreased over the past ten years and the number of new stenographic reporters available for hire is not sufficient to fill current vacancies.

With the expansion of digital court reporting in Wisconsin, it is critical that the tools to take the record are available in every courtroom and hearing room around the state. The digital court reporter can only cover in courtrooms if a DAR system has been installed.

Since fiscal year 2019, over \$5.7 million has been expended to purchase new digital audio recording systems, and CCAP-PR funding has been used for over \$3.3 million of these new DAR systems. Currently there are over 260 installations in the circuit courts with approximately 115 installations remaining. Each installation costs approximately \$16,000.

The additional funding will enable the court system to expedite this installation process and maintain the DAR systems on a permanent basis. Installing additional DAR systems into courtrooms gives the court the opportunity to staff court reporter vacancies with digital court reporters, which is necessary due to the shortage of qualified stenographic court reporters and the increase in retirements among existing stenographic court reporter staff.

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	625	Circuit Courts

DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	4004	Funding for Digital Audio Recording Devices

	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$0	\$0
05	Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0
06	Supplies and Services	\$790,000	\$790,000
07	Permanent Property	\$0	\$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	\$0	\$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	\$0	\$0
10	Local Assistance	\$0	\$0
11	One-time Financing	\$0	\$0
12	Debt service	\$0	\$0
13		\$0	\$0
14		\$0	\$0
15		\$0	\$0
16		\$0	\$0
17	TOTAL	\$790,000	\$790,000
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	4004 Funding for Digital Audio Recording Devices				
01	Court operations				
	01 Circuit courts	\$790,000	\$790,000	0.00	0.00
	Court operations Sub Total	\$790,000	\$790,000	0.00	0.00
	Funding for Digital Audio Recording Devices Sub Total	\$790,000	\$790,000	0.00	0.00
	Court Total	\$790,000	\$790,000	0.00	0.00

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
4004 Funding for Digital Audio Recording Devices					
GPR	S	\$790,000	\$790,000	0.00	0.00
Funding for Digital Audio Recording Devices Total		\$790,000	\$790,000	0.00	0.00
Court Total		\$790,000	\$790,000	0.00	0.00

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