

Good afternoon Members of Council,

Thank you for your attention this afternoon to discuss the Courts budget for 2020 and 2021. I am confident in telling you that the amount requested represents the amount needed to safely and effectively run the Detention Center and the Courthouse.

Some highlights I would like to bring to your attention include:

For the first time in its existence, the Court has begun seeking reimbursement from the Federal Government to cover the medical expenses of youth in the Detention Center (DC) who are Medicaid eligible.

Additionally, the Court is committed to carrying over 2.6M of previously encumbered special revenue funds from 2019 into 2020 to assist the County. You will recall, in 2018 the Court agreed to utilize these special revenue funds toward general and HHS funds shortfalls.

Concerning the detention center, the additional funding requests center on keeping the facility safe and orderly. Some of the innovations include:

We need to hire a psychiatric nurse for the detention center. 50-70% of all detention center residents are on medication. The goal is to have the nurse ensure meds are properly taken, and observe behaviors, thus reducing violence, and self-injurious behavior.

Also included is a onetime fee to establish an electronic medical records link between the detention center and University Hospitals. The goal is to reduce hospital visits and ensure better care. The Court is also exploring telemedicine options.

Additionally, two Human Resources positions will be used in large part to reduce overtime costs, and curtail inappropriate pattern call offs and absences in the detention center. The two positions will also focus on recruiting well qualified detention staff and conducting background checks to help capture the very best candidates for detention positions.

And of special note, for the first time, with the addition of ten (10) Detention Officers, the Detention Center will be in compliance with the staffing mandates of the Federal Prison Rape Elimination Act, and the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative.

I would like to thank Jim Ginley for his help over the summer and fall, and Prosecutor Mike O'Malley in allowing us to work with Mr. Ginley. I would like to thank the OBM, Maggie Keenan and Wendy Fein for their help and consideration.

And again, thank you very much for your time and attention. It's been a pleasure working with you over the years towards the mutual goal of the safety of the children and residents of Cuyahoga County.