



2024 BUDGET PRESENTATION

CORPORATION COUNSEL

BUDGET SUMMARY

- A number of DI's reflect an increase in outside non-GPR revenue as a result of an equal increase in expenses due to personnel salaries and benefits.
- In both general operations and permanency planning, there are DI's that reflect an increase in expenses due to price increases, and further investments in training.

GENERAL OPERATIONS

Decision Item #1 – Increase Groundwater Initiative Revenue

- Attorney position #290 is partially funded by the Groundwater Initiative Revenue line (landfill). It is anticipated that the costs for that attorney will increase in 2024.
- Revenue Increase: \$22,950

GENERAL OPERATIONS

Decision Item #2 – Increase In Airport Services Revenue

- Corporation Counsel provides specialized legal services to the DC Regional Airport, including on matters related to PFAS and related regulatory issues. Currently one attorney position is dedicated to handle all general legal issues for the Airport, and another is partially dedicated to assist with PFAS related matters. It is anticipated that personnel costs will increase in 2024.
- Revenue Increase: \$7,276.

GENERAL OPERATIONS

Decision Items #3 & 4 – Increase in Expense Lines

- Expense Line increases are attributed to:
 - Increases in pricing associated with the department's online research services and cost of mobile devices.
 - Price increases associated with membership fees and the need to access additional resources.
- Expense Line increase: \$9,800

PERMANENCY PLANNING

Decision Item #1 – Increase IV-E Revenue

- Increase in projected IV-E Reimbursement Revenue due to personnel costs and other expenses.
- Revenue Increase: \$48,764.

PERMANENCY PLANNING

Decision Item #2 – Increase in Expense Line

- Expense line increase is the result of a price increase associated with the department's online research services and cost of mobile devices.
- Expense Increase: \$8,000

LANGUAGE ACCESS

Approach, including challenges, and need for assistance in developing a language access plan or protocols

- **Child Support Agency**

- As part of its Civil Rights Plan, the Agency is required by the State to provide translation services for Limited English Proficient (LEP) Populations. In addition, the agency is required to translate documents, provide court interpreter services, and maintain access to Language Line Services in case it is necessary.
- Currently, all CSA Customer Service Team members are bilingual (Spanish). In addition, we have designated certain positions to be bilingual (both Spanish and Hmong) in each unit.
- Our bilingual staff are utilized in all areas of the agency to assist with returning phone calls, translating documents, working with walk-ins. We also contract with two Spanish interpreters for court hearings. Our contract allows them to be available for court hearings as well as pretrialing with CSA attorneys before hearings. Currently, we have 14 bilingual staff out of 55 total.
- CSA follows LEP State Requirements and works with the State on issues. Training is available.

LANGUAGE ACCESS

Approach, including challenges, and need for assistance in developing a language access plan or protocols

- Permanency Planning Division
 - Division is comprised of attorneys who represent the County and are not ethically permitted to speak to individuals without their attorneys being present. In child welfare and behavioral health cases, defendants are represented.
 - Sometimes, parents or children in child welfare cases are Spanish or Hmong-speaking. In those instances, attorneys rely on bilingual departmental staff or a court interpreter. Witnesses in behavioral health cases are sometimes non-English speaking and the attorneys rely on Journey bilingual staff or a court interpreter.
 - The Division does not have a written policy or practice in place.
 - It is critical that there is reliable access to interpreter services when necessary.

LANGUAGE ACCESS

Approach, including challenges, and need for assistance in developing a language access plan or protocols

- Civil Unit
 - Staff rarely have had experience dealing with someone who is non-English speaking, but it is definitely possible given that we have a clerk that works in our front office and deals with the public.
 - Attorneys utilize court interpreter services when necessary, and are aware of the availability of the language line.
 - Additional written materials may be helpful, but unlike with Child Support, the civil unit will not be aware of the issues that an individual may have prior to initial contact.
 - No formal policy exists, other than staff being made aware that interpretative services are available when needed.

ANY QUESTIONS?