

Budget Enhancement

FY2022



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For FY2022, the Idaho Supreme Court requests an ongoing appropriation for new positions in the 3rd Judicial District to be chambered in Canyon County. These new positions are a district judge, court reporter, and two magistrate judges.

The FY2022 General Fund appropriation necessary to support this request is \$545,400, which includes \$198,150 for the district judge, \$75,550 for the court reporter, and \$135,850 for each magistrate judge. This amount is for nine months for FY2022, as each position's start date would correspond with the county fiscal year. Thereafter, the funding would need to be annualized. At current salaries, the total annualized cost for these positions would be \$713,799.

BASIS OF NEED

The Idaho Constitution guarantees that "Courts of justice shall be open to every person, and a speedy remedy afforded for every injury of person, property or character, and right and justice shall be administered without sale, denial, delay, or prejudice." Rapid population growth in distinct areas and increases in felony filings are making it more difficult for the Idaho Judiciary to meet this guarantee with current resources. The Idaho Judiciary utilizes various strategies to address increased needs for judicial resources, including the use of senior judges, to help manage the caseload. However, when workloads continue to be in excess of the current resources, judicial positions are sought to address the need.

The need for additional judicial resources is currently and acutely present in the Third District. In FY2020, the district had 373 case filings, on average, per district judge compared to 331 statewide. Similarly, the average number of case filings for magistrate judges in the Third District was the highest in the state at 1,817, while the statewide average was 1,593. Between FY2011 and FY2020, the District saw an average increase in felony filings of 8% year-over-year. Although the district has made use of senior judges, Canyon County's continuing population growth has resulted in the need for additional judicial resources in order to ensure that cases can be processed in a timely fashion.

DEFERRED REQUEST

Idaho's Fourth Judicial District has expressed a need for additional judicial resources, specifically in family law cases in Ada County. The Supreme Court has not included a request for those additional resources for FY2022 to allow for a more in-depth review of the judicial workload to better understand the resource needs. Over the next year, the Administrative Office of Courts will review data measures regarding time-intensive interim case events, the complexity of cases, and local programs which address the unique needs of jurisdictions. With this additional information, the Idaho Supreme Court can better assess the scope of needs in the Fourth Judicial District.

