

Court Technology



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STATUS OF THE FUND

The Court Technology Fund maintains, replaces, and enhances technology to efficiently manage and improve access to the courts and court records. The Fund's revenues are generated through legislatively established civil filing fees, fines and fees in criminal cases, interest, and service-based fees.

The Legislature allocated the Supreme Court five, one-time General Fund appropriations from FY2015 to FY2019 to implement the Odyssey case management system statewide.

In FY2020, Fund revenues were \$8.67M; a \$475k decrease from projections, and a \$608k decrease from FY2019. This decline was likely due to the impacts on a reduction of in-person court services in response to the COVID-19 emergency. Expenditures were below budget by \$833k, minimizing the impact of the reduced revenues. In the last few years, the Fund's cash balance has grown due to the postponement of routine maintenance, planned initiatives, replacement of statewide court assets, and technology upgrades. Now that Odyssey is fully implemented, necessary upgrades and replacements are occurring, utilizing the Fund's available cash balance. The Fund's cash balance has decreased \$2.6M since the end of the Odyssey project to \$4.62M in FY2020.

MAINTENANCE, REPLACEMENT, EXTENSION OR ENHANCEMENT

The Idaho courts began preparing to upgrade Odyssey which will:

- Increase productivity and efficiency for judges and clerks by using personalized favorites, tasks, and jobs
- Allow cases to be accessed faster due to new client software performance
- Improve the efficiency of case task work by increasing navigation speed to case data, related documents, or notes
- Allow judges to save time on administrative tasks by simplifying the document signature process

Courtroom recording systems and in-court clerk computers were replaced and associated software was upgraded. A statewide alerting system is being implemented to ensure timely responses to equipment failures.

New technology solutions were needed to ensure the safety of jurors, parties, attorneys, judges, and court staff during the pandemic to:

- Provide safer, public access to court proceedings and jury selection and trials via livestream or simulcast
- Enabled remote work for judges and clerks to continue to resolve cases

A new data platform, Socrata, was launched to provide citizens and decision makers access to court financial and filing data so they can:

- Better understand court functions and money disbursement, including the variations of money distribution based on the initiating jurisdiction
- Review data regarding court financials and filings in various forms such as annual measures, maps, and charts

To access Socrata, visit: courtdata.idaho.gov

