



MEMORANDUM

November 21, 2023

To: City Council Members
From: Brian Kelley, Administrative Services Director
Subject: Sandy Justice Court Budget

The Sandy Justice Court budget is funded by general revenues. As shown in the attached chart, only \$58.25 (\$51.85 + \$6.40) of a typical \$130 traffic fine is distributed to Sandy City revenues. Court fines and surcharges make up the bulk of general revenues coded to the Sandy Justice Court but are insufficient to cover court operations. This has been the case since fiscal year 2020. The attached budget document shows that the Sandy Justice Court budget relies heavily on other general taxes and revenues not related to court operations—\$550k in the fiscal year 2024 budget.

This trend is not expected to change significantly in the future, so court operations will likely continue to require the use of general revenues not related to court operations each year. It is anticipated that Sandy City will continue to fund court operations with available general revenues for the foreseeable future provided that elected officials continue to support its function as a service provided to Sandy residents.

Objectives & Initiatives

Maintain and Improve Basic Core Municipal Services

- Ensure that proceedings are open, impartial, and timely
- Provide appropriate case follow-up to ensure compliance with judicial orders
- Court Services is funded by the city's general fund without regard to the revenue generated by court fines
- Intent of decisions, fines, and enforcement activities is to change behavior and not to generate revenue
- Those who violate criminal, traffic, zoning, and animal-related laws should primarily bear the costs of enforcement rather than the general public
- The court will make every effort to collect all revenue due and handle cash in compliance with city policy and the state money management act

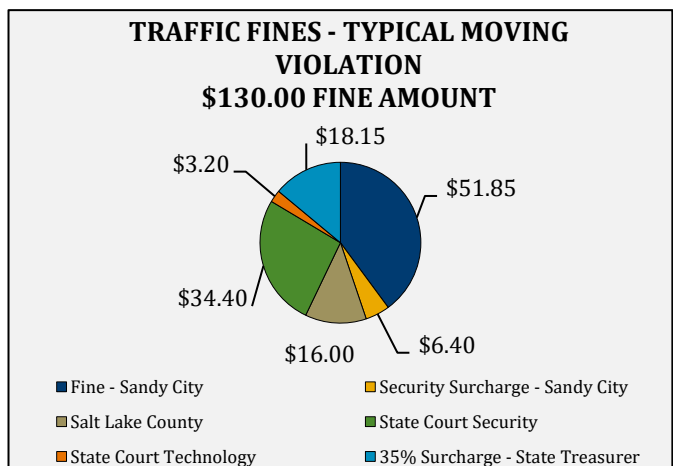
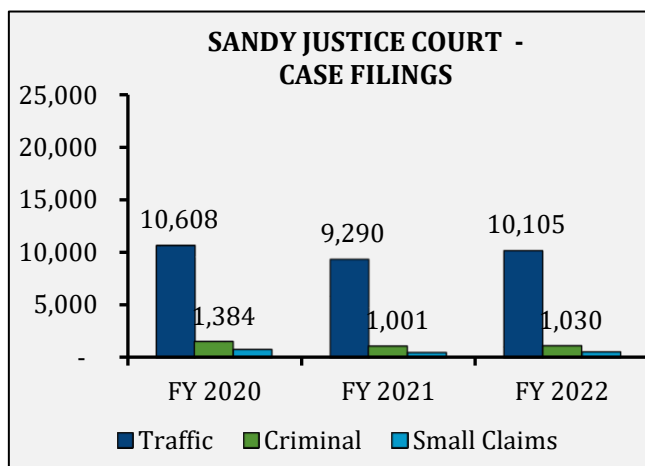
Prior-Year Accomplishments

- As a result of a legislative authorization in 2014, justice courts may now utilize the Office of State Debt Collection to assist with the collection of fines at no direct cost to the city. As a result, the Justice Court has seen significant returns each year. In FY 22 the Justice Court collected \$109,005 with the help of OSDC.
- In FY 22 the Sandy Justice Court made and received 23,002 calls. The no delay telephone response rate (calls answered within 15 seconds) averaged 87.7% in FY 22.
- Worked to implement a Domestic Violence Docket to improve compliance with court orders in those cases

Performance Measures & Analysis

- The pandemic created a significant backlog of cases at the Sandy Justice Court. With the help of dedicated staff, the Justice Court was able to get back to pre-pandemic time to disposition on all case types.
- The Sandy Justice Court processed 11,641 cases in FY 22. Of those, 10,105 were Traffic Cases, 1,030 were Criminal Cases, and 506 were Small Claims Filings.
- The Justice Court heard a total of 7,942 Hearings/ Trials in FY 22. Of those 588 were Bench Trials and 3 were Jury Trials.

Performance Measures (Fiscal Year)	2022	2023	2023	2024
	Actual	Goal/Forecast	Estimated	Goal/Forecast
Traffic Cases	10,105	11,000	11,757	11,757
Criminal Cases	1,030	1,200	1,092	1,092
Small Claims Cases	506	500	538	538
New Cases Filed per Clerk	832	950	956	956
Cases Pending (FY 6/30)	5,316	4,200	4,687	4,500
Trials	544	500	524	500
Arraignments	2,907	3,000	2,954	2,954
Incoming Phone Calls	18,284	23,000	21,115	21,115
Calls Answered Without Delay	87.7%	87.5%	87.2%	87.5%
OSDC Collections	\$109,005	\$115,000	\$100,000	\$100,000



Court Services

Department 1500	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Estimated	2024 Approved
Financing Sources:				
General Taxes & Revenue	\$ 354,797	\$ 630,261	\$ 433,758	\$ 550,597
315100 Court Fines	991,172	901,000	1,077,328	1,076,000
315300 Court Surcharge	46,256	40,000	61,111	60,000
316930 JC Attorney Recoupment	628	1,500	564	500
Total Financing Sources	\$ 1,392,853	\$ 1,572,761	\$ 1,572,761	\$ 1,687,097
Financing Uses:				
411111 Regular Pay	\$ 803,408	\$ 912,901	\$ 912,901	\$ 1,015,559
411121 Seasonal/PTNB	122	-	-	-
411131 Overtime/Gap	1,778	2,300	2,300	2,300
411211 Variable Benefits	179,449	196,524	196,524	218,324
411213 Fixed Benefits	195,866	238,895	238,895	235,101
411215 PTO Disbursement	3,253	4,000	4,000	5,000
411320 Mileage Reimbursement	181	200	200	200
411350 Phone Allowance	385	384	384	384
412100 Books, Sub. & Memberships	1,546	2,800	2,800	2,800
412310 Travel	1,665	8,500	8,500	8,500
412320 Meetings	313	750	750	750
412350 Training	-	500	500	500
412411 Office Supplies	12,797	8,000	8,000	8,000
412414 Computer Supplies	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
412421 Postage	12,397	19,500	19,500	19,500
412431 Printing	336	2,000	2,000	2,000
412511 Equipment O&M	2,321	5,000	5,000	5,000
412611 Telephone	15,595	7,067	7,067	7,107
413420 Credit Card Processing	19,492	30,300	30,300	30,300
413790 Professional Services	24,293	26,086	26,086	26,086
413810 Witness Fees	2,220	4,500	4,500	4,500
413820 Jury Fees	2,387	700	700	700
413890 Miscellaneous Services	2,061	7,500	7,500	7,500
414164 IT Charges	110,259	93,354	93,354	85,986
417400 Equipment	730	-	-	-
Total Financing Uses	\$ 1,392,853	\$ 1,572,761	\$ 1,572,761	\$ 1,687,097