

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

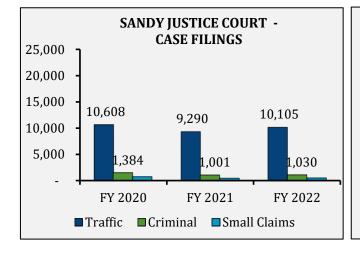
Prior-Year Accomplishments

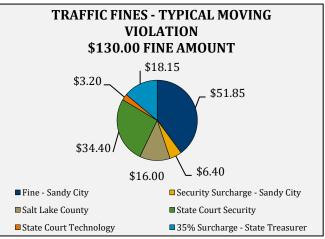
- As a result of a legislative authorization in 2014, justice courts may now utilize the Office of State Debt Collection to assist with the collection of fines at no direct cost to the city. As a result, the Justice Court has seen significant returns each year. In FY 22 the Justice Court collected \$109,005 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 Fillings.
- 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