



# Monterey County

## Item No.11

### Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: RES 22-057

April 05, 2022

Introduced: 2/23/2022

Current Status: Criminal Justice - Consent

Version: 1

Matter Type: BoS Resolution

Adopt Resolution to authorize the Auditor-Controller to amend the FY 2021-22 Adopted Budget to increase appropriations and revenues \$637,000 for Public Defender Budget Unit 001-2270-PUB001-8169 financed by a previously awarded Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Indigent Defense Grant to develop the Attorney and Case Management Enhancement project (ACME). (4/5ths vote required)

#### **..Report**

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

Adopt Resolution to authorize the Auditor-Controller to amend the FY 2021-22 Adopted Budget to increase appropriations and revenues \$637,000 for Public Defender Budget Unit 001-2270-PUB001-8169 financed by a previously awarded Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Indigent Defense Grant to develop the Attorney and Case Management Enhancement project (ACME). (4/5ths vote required)

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) is an independent statutory agency that provides leadership and technical assistance to the adult and juvenile criminal justice systems, expertise on Public Safety Realignment issues, a data and information clearinghouse, and provides assistance on a wide range of community corrections issues. The BSCC also administers public safety related to grant funding, including evidence-based practices to fight gangs, and works to address the over representation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system.

The Budget Act of 2020 (Senate Bill 74) established the Indigent Defense Grant Program and appropriated \$10,000,000 in funding. Per the Budget Act, \$9,800,000 is available for grants to nineteen counties with a population of 550,000 residents or less. The Monterey County Public Defender is among one of the nineteen applicable counties who meet eligibility of this grant. The County's allocation is \$637,000.00.

Funds awarded under the Indigent Defense Grant Program will be utilized to address the Public Defender's Attorney and Case Management Enhancement (ACME) project. The ACME project will enhance attorney support for indigent client defense by adding a searchable database to our current paperless digital case management system, streamlining the amount of time the court and client wait for the delivery of paper documents that are stored in offsite locations, and automatically sending text messages to remind indigent clients of the time and place of their upcoming court dates.

The use of BSCC grant funds will result in a more efficient case management system that will benefit the court and our defense of indigent clients. Further outcomes will include attorneys allocating more of their time to ensure positive client outcomes by (1) reducing the time attorneys spend in digitizing and automating duties; and (2) reducing re-calendaring court dates caused by client non-appearances; (3) reducing the time attorneys spend in searching for testimony of recurring witnesses to the point of creating a searchable case database, having information quickly at hand will let attorneys efficiently determine the validity of prior conviction allegations, identify client eligibility for all types of post-conviction relief, and rapidly transfer case materials to subsequent counsel for appeal and writ matters; and (4) improving our method of measuring attorney workloads, thereby redistributing caseloads to achieve workload efficiencies.

In addition to the four goals and related outcomes listed above, the ACME project includes the purchase and installation of hardware and software and software training for attorneys. Our plan includes an assistant Public Defender as project director, a designated financial officer, designated day-to-day project and fiscal contacts, and oversight provided by our Public Defender.

ACME project evaluation (local evaluation plan and logic model for process and outcome designs and methods; data collection tools, methods, and analysis; fidelity monitoring; and local evaluation report) will be conducted, through a Memorandum of Understanding by the County of Monterey Health Department evaluation team that conducted the County's BSCC Strengthening Law Enforcement grant and is currently conducting BSCC's Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant Program grant.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

County Counsel and the Auditor Controller have reviewed this report to legal form and fiscal provisions. The County Administrative Office has reviewed this report. Due to deadlines for agenda ready reports to be signed for the April 5, 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting, as of the writing of this report, it has not yet been supported by the Budget Committee, which will review this request on March 30, 2022.

FINANCING:

There will be no cost to the County General Fund associated with the recommendation.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

This recommendation meets the Board's strategic initiatives by promoting an organization that practices efficient and effective resource management and by creating a safe environment for communities to thrive and grow while reducing violent crimes.

Mark a check to the related Board of Supervisors Strategic Initiatives

- ☐ Economic Development
- ☒ Administration
- ☐ Health & Human Services
- ☐ Infrastructure

X   Public Safety

Prepared by: Latasha Ellis, Finance Manager, Ext. 5082

Approved by: Susan E. Chapman, Public Defender, Ext. 5806

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Chapman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Attachments:

Resolution

Indigent Defense Grant Program Application