

Judiciary
FY25 Midyear Status Report

Item No.	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	LFD Questions
1	Alaska Court System / Trial Courts	Facilities Operating and Maintenance Cost Increases	\$495.3 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	Was the lease for the Hooper Bay Courthouse maintained?
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The lease with the former landlord terminated and the courthouse will move into the Hooper Bay National Guard Armory facility by the end of FY2025. The court system FY2026 budget request includes a \$50,000 base budget reduction to reflect the lower lease cost for the Armory facility compared to the former lease cost.</p>				
2	Alaska Court System / Trial Courts	Increased Pay for Contract Mediators, Court Visitors, and Interpreters for Recruitment and Retention	\$346.5 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	Has the increased pay for these contract court professionals been implemented and has there been a positive impact on recruitment and retention? Please describe how the funding has been distributed between the Mediators, Court Visitors and Interpreters and when that occurred or is planned to occur.
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The rates paid to the court contractors performing this work were increased on 7/1/2024. Based on projected spending, the distribution of this funding is as follows: \$238,500 for Court Visitors; \$60,400 for Mediators; and \$47,600 for Interpreters. The court system will adjust this forecasted funding distribution as the fiscal year progresses. The increase for the Mediators was to better align amounts paid for this professional service with the amounts paid to court-appointed attorneys. The court system is hopeful that the current pool of mediators will accept increased hours after the increase. The increased rate for Interpreters was requested to address inflation. Recruitments following the Court Visitors rate increase have yielded larger applicant pools. Prior to the pay increase and during the last two fiscal years, 24 Court Visitors stopped accepting contract work. Since the rate increase six months ago, the program has lost only one Visitor who accepted employment with a federal agency.</p>				
3	Alaska Court System / Trial Courts	New Positions for Monitoring Guardianship Appointments - Education and Supportive Help for Guardians	\$417.0 Gen Fund (UGF) 3 PFT Positions Inc	With the expansion of the original pilot project, how many positions in total are there for guardianship monitoring? Have these three additional positions been recruited and filled? Please provide details of progress and hiring dates for the new positions.

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<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The Guardianship Monitoring program was initiated with federal grant funds. The grant funding is fully expended and this authorized FY2025 funding pays for one formerly grant-funded guardianship monitor and two new positions. The two new positions were filled on 9/30/24 and 10/23/24. The new employees are in the processing of completing their training. All three monitoring positions will continue to address the backlog of the monitoring work and will expand monitoring into areas of the state which have not received comprehensive monitoring services.</p>				
4	Alaska Court System / Trial Courts	New Position to Review Office of Public Advocacy (OPA) Appointments (FY 25-27)	\$139.0 Gen Fund (UGF) 1 PFT Position IncT	Has this new position been recruited for and filled? Please provide details of progress and the hiring date.
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>This three-year position special project monitor was hired on 12/2/2024. Training has commenced with plans to begin working with OPA in January 2025 to address the challenges of having an insufficient number of public guardians and to discuss proposed operational changes within OPA to streamline guardianship work. This position is located in Kenai and will serve the communities of Kenai, Homer, and Seward - communities for which there is an insufficiency of available guardianship services.</p>				
5	FY24/25 Capital	Palmer Courthouse Expansion	\$7,200.0 Gen Fund (UGF)	A total of \$7.2 million was appropriated for the courthouse expansion between the FY24 supplemental and FY25 capital budgets. What will this amount of funding accomplish toward a much larger outlined (\$35.7 million) project? Will this project be phased and additional funding be required? What is the timeline for completion?
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The \$7.2 million will be used to fund the estimated costs for the full project's design work (\$3.57 million); the site work (\$1.62 million); the utilities infrastructure (\$1.06 million); permitting (\$0.5 million); and, project contingency funding (\$0.45 million). The court system will request the balance of funding required for project construction over two additional phases in FY2026 and FY2027. Because the court system has not yet received funding for all phases of the project, a projected timeline for completion cannot be determined with certainty. If full funding for phase two and three is received in FY2026 and FY2027, the estimated construction timeline is 3.5 to 4.0 years.</p>				