

**Trial Court Budget Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2007**



Members Present

Belvin Perry, Jr., Chair
John Laurent
Robert Morris
William Roby
Walt Smith
Mark Weinberg

Mike Bridenback
Manuel Menendez
Stan Morris
Robert Roundtree
Patricia Thomas
Robin Wright

Ruben Carrerou
Donald Moran
James Perry
Susan Schaeffer
Mary Vanden Brook

Members Absent

Paul Bryan
Carol Lee Ortman
Judy Pittman

Charles Francis, Vice-Chair
Raul Palomino
Thomas Reese

Joseph Farina
Nancy Perez

Others Present

Barbara Dawicke OSCA staff

The April 5, 2007 telephonic conference of the Trial Court Budget Commission (TCBC) was called to order at 12:05 by Judge Belvin Perry, Chair.

I. Discussion of Available Funds for Statewide Year End Spending Plan

On March 13, 2007, the TCBC approved the staff recommendation to proceed with an analysis of potential available funds for a year end spending plan. All circuits responded to OSCA's request for information regarding projected unobligated balances through fiscal year end. Approximately \$1.4 million was identified by the circuits, and along with the amounts available in the statewide accounts, the total unobligated funds available for the plan is approximately \$2.3 million.

The amount of \$2,321,090 was forwarded to the Funding Methodology Committee (FMC) staff for the development of a proposed allocation methodology.

II. Proposed Allocation Methodology for Year End Spending Plan

An inventory of court reporting technology resources conducted by OSCA in November 2006, identified FY 2006-07 and FY 2007-08 hardware/software needs associated with future digital expansion efforts and refresh plans. Approximately \$5 million was identified.

For the FY 2005-06 year end spending plan, the TCBC approved an allocation methodology based on circuit FY 2006-07 Court Reporting LBR requests and based on previous experience in dealing with requisitions when FY 2004-05 year end funds were allocated for court reporting equipment. Of the total amount allocated, approximately 1/3 was spent on items at or above \$1,000 (OCO) and 2/3 was spent on items under \$1,000 (Expense).

The joint recommendation of the Executive Committee, Funding Methodology Committee, and Budget Management Committee is to use the same methodology as last year: allocate the FY 2006-07 year end funds for the purchase of court reporting equipment based on a proportional distribution. Calculate the percentage of a circuit's request compared to the total amount requested statewide and apply that percentage to the total amount of available year end funds. Of the total circuit allocation, distribute 1/3 as OCO and 2/3 as Expense. Allow the OSCA Office of Budget Services to transfer funds between these two budget categories, if necessary, to maximize the use of the funds.

Future considerations for the TCBC are the annual maintenance costs associated with this court reporting expansion allocations, if approved. The costs are projected to be \$641,711 statewide and will become effective in FY 2008-09. In development of the FY 2008-09 LBR, staff will prepare 5 to 10 year projections for maintenance and refresh costs associated with court reporting equipment.

Mike Bridenback made a motion to approve the joint recommendations of the Executive Committee, Funding Methodology Committee, and Budget Management Committee. Judge Roundtree seconded and the motion passed without objection.

- III. Other Business** – The status of an additional rate distribution was discussed. An exact number was not available; staff needs more time to monitor the payroll expenditures and liabilities. The members were reminded that only recurring funds may be used for a distribution as non-recurring funds will revert.

Adjournment

The next meeting of the TCBC will be held Saturday, June 9, 2007, in Marco Island.

With no other business before the commission, Judge Perry adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.