



**Trial Court Budget Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
March 23, 2016  
Telephone Conference**

**Attendance – Members Present**

The Honorable Mark Mahon, Chair	Ms. Kathy Pugh
The Honorable Robert Roundtree, Vice Chair	The Honorable Anthony Rondolino
The Honorable Catherine Brunson	The Honorable Margaret Steinbeck
The Honorable Gregory Parker	Mr. Grant Slayden
Mr. Walt Smith	The Honorable Elijah Smiley
Mr. Tom Genung	The Honorable Bertila Soto
The Honorable Frederick Lauten	The Honorable Augustus Aikens
Ms. Sandra Lonergan	Mr. Mark Weinberg
The Honorable Wayne Miller	Ms. Robin Wright
The Honorable Patricia Thomas	

**Attendance – Members Absent**

The Honorable Ronald Ficarrota	The Honorable Debra Nelson
The Honorable John Stargel	The Honorable Jeffrey Colbath
The Honorable Diana Moreland	

**Special Note:** It is recommended that these minutes be used in conjunction with the meeting materials.

Judge Mahon welcomed members and called the Trial Court Budget Commission (TCBC) meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. The roll was taken with a quorum present.

**Agenda Item I: FY 2015-16 End-of-Year Spending and Related Budget Management Matters**

Dorothy Willard presented the issue stating the year-end spending discussions began in December with a conference call with the Trial Court Administrators, advising each circuit to begin analyzing remaining funds and any anticipated needs. The matter was also discussed at the January 8, 2016, TCBC meeting. Implementation of a plan was stayed pending the outcomes of legislative session. As part of the exercise, the circuits returned \$1,539,381 and identified funding priorities totaling \$2,357,062. Six funding priorities were identified: Due Process Equipment Refresh (\$1,527,151); Remote Interpreting Equipment (\$166,933); Judicial Viewers

(\$618,786); Mediation Services (\$12,315); Senior Judge Days (\$8,877); and Furniture (\$23,000). Ms. Willard noted that topical experts reviewed all due process, remote interpreting, and judicial viewer requests to ensure they met existing standards. Circuits were asked to submit any budget amendments that may be needed to accommodate their internal spending plans. By utilizing the statewide reserves there was sufficient funding available to address the circuit priorities and internal spending plan budget amendments, if approved.

Due Process reevaluations were not included in this exercise due to the TCBC closely monitoring the due process elements. Ms. Willard noted there has been a decent upward trend in the third quarter spending and that the Budget Management Committee (BMC) will meet again and discuss due process deficits. Dorothy Willard stated that due to the limited time frame, further development and deployment of the Integrated Case Management System (ICMS) was not included; however, due to interest expressed by some circuits on expanded deployment, this may be an issue to consider funding at the beginning of next fiscal year. Ms. Willard reviewed the status of expenditures as of February 29, 2016, and noted that spending at rate of release would be roughly 34% remaining for this point in the fiscal year and, overall, 36.39% of the budget is remaining.

Ms. Willard presented the following options for the commission's consideration of the year-end spending plan, noting the BMC recommended approving.

- Option One: Approve requested circuit year-end spending priorities.
- Option Two: Disapprove requested circuit year-end spending priorities.

Judge Parker motioned to approve requested circuit year-end spending priorities. Tom Genung seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

Judge Mahon thanked everyone for the work involved on the year-end spending plan. Judge Mahon stated the April meeting will include BMC recommendations addressing enhanced budget management practices.

Walt Smith inquired if the remaining funding available was going to be spent and if the TCBC would entertain another request, stating since the requests were submitted the Twelfth Circuit has had a need arise. Judge Mahon stated the TCBC would be meeting again in April. Dorothy Willard requested that Walt Smith contact her with details of the need and to see what options were available.

### **Other Business**

Eric Maclure stated the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2016, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in Orlando.

**Adjournment**

With no other business before the commission, the meeting adjourned at 12:29 p.m.