Davis COUNTY

# JUSTICE COURT

## Mission Statement

The mission statement of the Davis County Justice Court is to provide the people with an open, fair, efficient and independent forum for the advancement of justice under the law.

### Prior Year Inputs/Outputs

In 2024 the Davis County Justice Court (DCJC) processed **13,534 cases**. That is **forty-one percent (41%)** of the justice court work done in the county.

DCJC processed **997 criminal cases**. That is **thirty-four percent (34%)** of the criminal justice court work done in the county.

DCJC processed **591 small claims cases**. That is **fifty-four percent (54%)** of the civil work done in the county.

DCJC processed **11,946 traffic cases.** That is **forty-two percent (42%)** of the traffic cases done in the county.

DCJC had **19 jury trials** scheduled that were handled with Judge Facilitated Mediation. Currently there is 1 jury trial pending.

DCJC handled **71 bench trials**. Currently there are 8 bench trials pending.

### Core Functions & Services

The core function of any court, including the Davis County Justice Court, is to provide an impartial forum for dispute resolution.

This core function includes: ensuring access to the court process for all who seek to use it; managing the business of the court in a manner that promotes efficiency, transparency, fairness, timeliness for court patrons; and, working with other law enforcement entities to develop strategies that combine the interests of all three branches of government.

The core function affects Davis County and its citizens by giving them an effective and efficient forum to resolve disputes. No entity is denied access to the court's process. Because the court manages its business efficiently court users have the opportunity for fair and timely dispute resolution. Finally, working with other law enforcement entities, e.g., prosecutors, public defenders, and law enforcement agencies, the court has and is developing strategies that combine the interests of county and municipal government for the benefit of all citizens and visitors.

## Current Year Projected Outcomes

The court does not generate income by producing "widgets." The income that the court generates is the result of fines and fees that are imposed from convictions in cases that are filed by law enforcement, e.g. local police officers, county sheriffs, highway patrol troopers, and prosecuting attorneys. Fees are also generated by the filing fees of citizens using the small claims process. A reduction in the number of cases filed *or* the inability of defendants to pay fines and fees affects the court's "bottom line." This year the number of cases is up a little from last year, i.e., approximately sixteen percent (16%), two thousand one hundred thirty-nine (2,139) cases or approximately one hundred seventy-eight (178) cases per month.

Law enforcement's efforts continue to affect the number of cases filed *and* the economy affects defendants' ability to pay. The court has been imposing fines and setting payments at rates that defendants can afford and pay given input about their income and budgets. The court has been granting extensions to pay fines and fees. We have been closely monitoring the status of existing fines and fees and only letting cases become ninety (90) days delinquent before initiating "collection processes," i.e., Orders to Show Cause or Review Hearings. (This type of "collection process" is not commonly used by many district or justice courts. Instead these courts use the Utah Office of State Debt Collection (OSDC) to collect their outstanding fines and fees. The OSDC places the collection of court fines and fees very low on its priority list and is reported to collect approximately twenty percent (20%) of any outstanding fine or fee). As always, we have a statutory obligation to substitute community service hours in lieu of fines and fees and, when necessary, are making those substitutions.

Review of the "revenue" generated by the court in 2024 shows that we are on pace to collect approximately 2.3 million dollars. The total amount that should be retained by the county will be approximately 1.4 million dollars. The remaining $900,000.00 will be divided and distributed to Farmington, Kaysville, and the State. These "revenue" figures are a little higher than last year.

## Next Year Budget Initiatives

This year we have not made any budget requests that are different from previous years except for an increase in interpreter fees.

In the last year we have seen a significant increase in the number of cases we process that need an interpreter. Between January of 2023 and December 2023 (12 months) the court processed 645 interpreter cases (about 54 cases per month). Between January 2024 and August 2024 (8 months) the court processed 644 interpreter cases (about 80 cases per month). At this pace in 2024 the court will likely process 966 interpreter cases. That is roughly a sixty-six percent (66%) increase in our interpreter case load.

For the last eight years we have had an agreement with Ingrid Osegura to handle our Spanish interpreter cases. To get a high quality interpreter we are required to pay the state rate of fifty-two dollars ($52.00) per hour and sixty-seven cents (0.67) per mile.

For interpretation services for any other language we are required to contract with interpreters recommended by the Utah Administrative Office of Courts. These interpreters can charge as much as three hundred forty dollars ($340.00) per hour.

All interpreters require a minimum payment of two hours regardless of how long the hearing actually takes.

| | Account Description | 2024 Budget | Proposed Budget | Variance | % | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Revenue | JC SMALL CLAIMS REVENUE | ($100,000.00) | ($100,000.00) | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | JUSTICE COURT | ($1,020,000.00) | ($1,200,000.00) | ($180,000.00) | 17.65% | |
| | JUSTICE COURT CC FEES | ($5,000.00) | ($5,000.00) | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | FINES - TO CITIES | $310,000.00 | $420,000.00 | $110,000.00 | 35.48% | |
| | JC BAIL INTEREST REVENUE | ($10,000.00) | ($10,000.00) | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | SALE OF FIXED ASSETS | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | SUNDRY REVENUE | ($15,000.00) | ($15,000.00) | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | **Sub Total** | **($840,000.00)** | **($910,000.00)** | **($70,000.00)** | **8.33%** | |
| Personnel | PAYROLL | $610,710.62 | $638,014.68 | $27,304.06 | 4.47% | |
| | TRAVEL PAY | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | TAXABLE INCENTIVES | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | OVERTIME | $612.00 | $0.00 | ($612.00) | -100.00% | |
| | MISC BENEFITS FEES | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | PAYROLL TAXES | $46,766.10 | $48,808.12 | $2,042.02 | 4.37% | |
| | WORKERS COMP | $7,103.23 | $6,791.60 | ($311.63) | -4.39% | |
| | INSURANCE | $102,810.42 | $117,121.57 | $14,311.15 | 13.92% | |
| | RETIREMENT | $118,465.72 | $114,988.48 | ($3,477.24) | -2.94% | |
| | COMMUNICATIONS ALLOW | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | **Sub Total** | **$886,468.09** | **$925,724.45** | **$39,256.36** | **4.43%** | |
| Operations | SUBS & MEMBERSHIPS | $1,700.00 | $1,810.00 | $110.00 | 6.47% | |
| | PUBLIC NOTICES | $400.00 | $400.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | FOOD BUSINESS | $1,800.00 | $1,800.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | EMPLOYEE AWARDS | $1,000.00 | $1,000.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | CONTRIBUTIONS-INTERLOCAL | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | UNIFORMS/LINENS | $1,500.00 | $1,500.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | MISC SUPPLIES | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | COMPUTER EQUIP | $1,450.00 | $1,900.00 | $450.00 | 31.03% | |
| | EQUIPMENT | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | EXPENSE REDUCTIONS | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | OFFICE SUPPLIES | $13,000.00 | $13,500.00 | $500.00 | 3.85% | |
| | TRAVEL/EDUC& TRNG | $9,383.00 | $9,383.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | MILEAGE/LOCAL TRAVEL | $2,320.00 | $2,320.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTION | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | PROF & TECH | $22,500.00 | $23,000.00 | $500.00 | 2.22% | |
| | OTHER PROF & TECH | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | EQUIP REP/CONTRACTS | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | TELEPHONE | $450.00 | $450.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | **Sub Total** | **$55,503.00** | **$57,063.00** | **$1,560.00** | **2.81%** | |
| Allocations | TELEPHONE ALLOCATION | $8,024.28 | $7,386.63 | ($637.65) | -7.95% | |
| | EMAIL ALLOCATION | $1,083.24 | $1,215.00 | $131.76 | 12.16% | |
| | SECURITY CAMERA ALLOCATION | $1,008.00 | $833.00 | ($175.00) | -17.36% | |
| | INSURANCE ALLOCATION | $5,117.00 | $4,979.00 | ($138.00) | -2.70% | |
| | MAINTENANCE ALLOCATION | $14,848.00 | $15,208.80 | $360.80 | 2.43% | |
| | RENT ALLOCATION PARAM | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | **Sub Total** | **$30,080.52** | **$29,622.43** | **($458.09)** | **-1.52%** | |
| Capital | CAPITAL LEASE PMT | $52,362.13 | $52,362.13 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | LEASE INTEREST EXPENSE | $19,170.47 | $19,170.47 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | BLDG IMPROVEMENTS | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | EQUIPMENT | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | COMPUTER EQUIPMENT | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | 0.00% | |
| | **Sub Total** | **$71,532.60** | **$71,532.60** | **$0.00** | **0.00%** | |