

RESOLUTION

NO: [Title]

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

DATE: Click or tap to enter a date.

Resolution Aligning Expenditures to Accommodate Declining Court Caseloads - Board of Commissioners

WHEREAS, on 6/6/22 the Courts were provided with a report titled “Livingston County Courts: Cost Per Case Analysis.”; and

WHEREAS, this report compiled data from reputable sources including the Michigan State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), and Livingston County’s Financial Database (MUNIS); and

WHEREAS, this report concluded that costs associated with adjudicating cases have risen significantly since 2011. For example, after adjusting for inflation, per case costs for District Court have nearly doubled, going from \$105.31 to \$195.82; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Judicial Workload Assessment (Aug 2011) cited in this Cost Per Case Analysis concluded that in 2011 the Livingston County Courts have had a surplus of 6.3 quasi-judicial officers; and

WHEREAS, since 2011 when this surplus was identified, caseloads have District Court caseloads have dropped by over 50% while Circuit Court caseloads have dropped by about 45%; and

WHEREAS, additionally, per the Revenue Estimating report published on 5/30/22, Livingston County Courts (Courts) are projecting a decline in revenue of \$449,022 for FY 2023; and

WHEREAS, for FY 2024 this decline is not projected to reverse, thereby indicating this decline is structural in nature and not one-time occurrence; and

WHEREAS, the Cost per Case Analysis concludes that taxpayers could save \$26 million over the next decade (\$2.6 million/year) if the Court’s cost structure were returned to its previous level and the recommendations of the Michigan Judicial Workload assessment were implemented; and

WHEREAS, taxpayers would save an additional \$4.449 million over the next decade by aligning expenses with the revenue decline identified in Revenue Estimating Report, thereby generating a total of over \$30 million in savings over the next decade; and

WHEREAS, the Livingston County Board of Commissioners (BOC) recognizes that it may not be optimum to implement the Cost per Case Analysis recommendations in the span of one budget year, and thus proposes these budget changes be implemented over three (3) years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the BOC directs the County Administrator and staff to start addressing these budget issues by implementing an \$800,000 expense reduction for 2023, with the remaining \$1.8 million to be addressed in 2024 and 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BOC directs the County Administrator and staff to implement another \$449,022 expense reduction for 2023 to address the projected revenue loss. Accordingly, a total reduction of expenses of \$1,249,022 shall be targeted for FY 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED for clarification the FY 2023 budget shall be \$1,249,022 less that the FY2022 actual expenditures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED those funds from the \$800,000 reduction shall be placed in contingency for future appropriation by the BOC.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED those funds from the \$1.8 million reduction for 2024 and 2025 shall also be placed in contingency for future appropriation by the BOC.

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