

JUDICIARY
FY19 - Increment Status Report

Governor's Budget Items Approved as Requested

Item #	Approp/Allocation	Description	Amount/Fund Source	FY19 CC Book Comment	GF Dec?	LFD Question	Agency Comments
1	Alaska Court System/ Trial Courts	Increases in the Cost of Jury Pay and Jury Travel	\$510.0 UGF	Given the increase in prosecutors and other factors, the number of cases going to trial has increased and is expected to continue to increase. The \$510.0 request by Trial Courts is 0.6 percent above the FY18 budget (and 2.5% below FY17 actual expenditures). The funding is expected to be expended in the following categories: • Jury Pay: \$360.0 UGF. • Jury Travel: \$150.0 UGF. To increase the jury pool, jurors may be drawn from a 50-mile radius of a hub court. When jurors are required to travel to the hub court, the Court System is required to provide meals and lodging for the duration of their jury services. On average, 81% of all juror travel costs are attributable to trials held in Dillingham and Bethel.	No	Have the estimated number of cases going to trial (requiring additional funding) been on target?	Based on the preliminary 2nd quarter FY19 criminal trial rates compared to the 2nd quarter FY17 criminal trial rates, the FY19 trial rate is 26% higher. This rate exceeds the trial rates realized for FY18 during which the total criminal trial rate was 20.6% higher than rates experienced in FY17. In summary, the increased funding is required to meet the increased jury expenses.
2	Therapeutic Courts/ Therapeutic Courts	Add a position in the Anchorage Veterans' Court to Align with National Standards and Address Increased Utilization	\$96.3 UGF 1 PFT Position	The Anchorage Veterans' Court, which started in 2004, is a specialized court designed to facilitate the rehabilitation of eligible veterans charged with criminal offenses. In addition to connecting veterans with U.S. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs housing, employment, rehabilitation, and treatment services, the Veterans' Court collaborates with prosecutors, defense attorneys, and the State of Alaska Department of Veterans' Affairs to monitor conditions of alternative sentencing plea agreements. According to Therapeutic Courts, these agreements are designed to help eligible veterans succeed in returning to a productive and law-abiding lifestyle. Prior to FY19, non-veterans' and veterans' court cases were distributed among existing Therapeutic Courts staff. This increment adds funding for a project coordinator position focused on providing services to veterans and to align Veterans' Court practices with recently established national standards.	Potential \$24.0 reduction in FY19 for three months vacancy.	Has the new position been filled? If so, when?	This position was filled on November 1, 2018.