


MEMORANDUM

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM

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TO: Representative Neil Foster
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee

FROM: Doug Wooliver 
Deputy Administrative Director
Alaska Court System

DATE: February 5, 2020

RE: Questions from January 31st House Finance Committee Meeting

This memo addresses two questions that were raised during the Judiciary's Budget Overview before the House Finance Committee on Friday, January 31, 2020. The first relates to how overtime is paid to employees who generally work a 36 hour workweek, the second relates to the use of videoconferencing between courts and correctional facilities. I hope this memo answers the questions raised. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

How is Overtime Paid to Employees who Work 36 Hours a Week

Beginning in FY 2017, the court system reduced employee hours from 37.5 to 36 hours a week as a way to reduce its budget. This was achieved by altering employees' hours so they work 8 hours a day Monday through Thursday, and then from 8:00 a.m. until noon on Friday. This 4% reduction in hours corresponded to a 4% reduction in pay.

Although this has saved the court over \$ 2 million dollars a year, we have had to extend some employee hours to handle work that can extend beyond noon on Fridays. We pay overtime for those additional hours, but at two rates. An employee who works more than 36 hours but no more than 40 hours is paid "straight time" overtime, which is paid at their regular rate; an employee who works more than 40 hours a week is paid time and a half to comply with federal overtime requirements.

The FY 19 cost for these two rates was \$156,370 for straight time overtime, and \$58,397 for time and a half overtime for a total of \$214,767. To account for the 1% pay raise anticipated for FY 21, and the trend so far in FY 20, we are asking for a \$250,000 increment to continue these as-needed services on Friday afternoons.

Video Connections to Correctional Facilities

The court system maintains video equipment in 29 court locations, and we use videoconferencing with in-custody defendants in 18 different correctional facilities for a variety of proceedings. (See attached list of facilities and court locations with video conferencing capabilities.)

One specific question from last Friday was where we do videoconferencing for in-custody arraignments. We do some or all video arraignments in Anchorage (for defendants housed in Anchorage for an offense being addressed in another court location), Bethel, Fairbanks, Glennallen, Homer, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kenai, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nome, Prince of Wales, Sitka, Utqiagvik, and Wrangell.

Alaska Court System
Videoconferencing Sites
(effective 1/31/2020)

Location
Anchorage Correctional Complex
Anvil Mountain Correctional Center
Craig Police Department
Dillingham Jail
Fairbanks Correctional Center
Goose Creek Correctional Center
Hiland Mountain Correctional Center
Kotzebue Regional Jail
Lemon Creek Correctional Center
Mat-Su Pretrial
Mat-Su Youth Facility
McLaughlin Youth Center
Nome Youth Facility
Palmer Youth Facility
Seward Jail
Spring Creek Correctional Center
Wildwood Pretrial Facility
Yukon Kuskokwim Correctional Center
Anchorage Campus (Boney, Nesbett, Snowden)
Angoon Court
Aniak Court
Bethel Court
Dillingham Court
Emmonak Court
Fairbanks Court
Glennallen Court
Haines Court
Homer Court
Hooper Bay Court
Juneau Court
Kenai Court
Ketchikan Court
Kodiak Court
Kotzebue Court
Nome Court
Palmer Court
Petersburg Court
Prince of Wales Court
Seward Court
Sitka Court
Skagway Court
Unalakleet Court
Unalaska Court
Utgiaġvik Court
Valdez Court
Wrangell Court
Yakutat Court
Sites with Videoconferencing Capabilities = 47