

District Court

General Fund, Dept. No. 109

The District Courts of the State of Washington are authorized under Article IV, section 11, of the constitution of the State of Washington, and were implemented by the Legislature in 1961 to replace the antiquated justice of the peace system. The Courts are an independent branch of county government under the supervision of the Washington State Supreme Court. Lewis County is a single judicial district requiring the Court to provide its services to all parts of the County as described in the County districting plan, and is authorized by the Legislature to have two judges.

District Courts are the lower level of the trial court system. The Lewis County District Court judges are empowered to hear and decide civil damage cases in which the amount at issue is up to \$75,000 and criminal cases where the maximum term of imprisonment is not more than one year. Lewis County District Court also hears traffic and civil infraction cases, and is responsible to provide a forum for resolution of legal matters such as anti-harassment orders, name changes, and small claims, in which citizens usually represent themselves.

The District Court Clerk, under the supervision of the judges, is responsible for the supervision of the deputy clerks and the day-to-day operations of the Court. The deputy clerks are responsible for the creation of files, maintenance of records, scheduling of hearings and trials, and collection of fines. In 2008, more than 19,289 new cases were filed, and in excess of \$3.4 million dollars in fines and fees were collected in Lewis County District Court. The funds collected are split between the State and the County. County government is required to pay all costs of operations even if no revenue is produced.

The District Court Probation Services Department, under the oversight of the judges, is responsible for the supervision of persons convicted of committing crimes and specifically ordered to be under the supervision of Probation Services. The probation officer's job is to ensure that treatment requirements are met, to monitor whether convicts continue to violate the law, and to bring those cases back before the Court if a convict fails to comply with the Court's orders.

Staffing Summary

	2006 FTE	2007 FTE	2008 FTE	2009 FTE
Judge	2	2	2	2
Clerk of the District Court	1	1	1	1
Deputy District Court Clerk/Courtroom Clerk	7	8	8	3
Deputy District Court Clerk/Probation	0	0	0	1
Deputy District Court Clerk	0	0	0	3
Court Clerk	0	0	0	2
Lead Deputy Court Clerk/Calendar Coord.	1	1	1	1
Accountant	1	1	1	1
Senior Deputy Dist Court/Disposition Clerk	1	1	1	1
Probation Director	1	1	1	1
Probation Officer	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Office Administrator	1	1	1	0
Court Commissioner	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	17.6	18.6	18.6	18.6



REVENUES

GENERAL		2006	2007	2008	2009	Change 2008	%
BARS #	Description	Actual	Actual	Est. Actual	Adopted	to 2009	Change
330	Intergovernmental	41,311	65,833	20,615	18,000	-2,615	-12.7%
340	Charges for Services	311,590	321,428	302,926	328,825	25,899	8.5%
350	Fines & Forfeits	1,216,001	1,351,591	1,428,528	1,406,400	-22,128	-1.5%
360	Miscellaneous	27,979	44,417	48,638	57,500	8,862	18.2%
Total		1,596,881	1,783,269	1,800,707	1,810,725	10,018	0.6%
TOTAL REVENUES		1,596,881	1,783,269	1,800,707	1,810,725	10,018	0.6%

EXPENDITURES

ADMINISTRATION			2006	2007	2008	2009	Change 2008	%
BARS #	Object	Description	Actual	Actual	Est. Actual	Adopted	to 2009	Change
512.40	10	Salaries & Wages	900,295	959,283	1,040,827	1,085,053	44,226	4.2%
	11-12	Extra Help/Overtime	0	0	8,574	0	-8,574	-100.0%
	20	Payroll Benefits	234,888	271,323	314,619	341,156	26,537	8.4%
	30	Supplies	23,459	21,201	25,513	21,650	-3,863	-15.1%
	40	Other Services/Charges	332,424	78,391	87,103	110,237	23,134	26.6%
	50	Intergovernmental	47	0	0	0	0	0.0%
	90	Interfund Payments	158,146	165,312	202,437	194,411	-8,026	-4.0%
Total			1,649,259	1,495,510	1,679,072	1,752,507	73,435	4.4%
INDIGENT DEFENSE			2006	2007	2008	2009	Change 2008	%
BARS #	Object	Description	Actual	Actual	Est. Actual	Adopted	to 2009	Change
512.81	40	Other Services/Charges	0	292,999	47,250	0	-47,250	-100.0%
Total			0	292,999	47,250	0	-47,250	-100.0%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			1,649,259	1,788,509	1,726,322	1,752,507	26,185	1.5%