



REPORT ON COURT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUND

G.S. 7A-343.2

PREPARED BY
NORTH CAROLINA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
AUGUST 1, 2017



About the North Carolina Judicial Branch

The mission of the North Carolina Judicial Branch is to protect and preserve the rights and liberties of all the people as guaranteed by the Constitutions and laws of the United States and North Carolina by providing a fair, independent and accessible forum for the just, timely and economical resolution of their legal affairs.

About the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts

The mission of the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts is to provide services to help North Carolina's unified court system operate more efficiently and effectively, taking into account each courthouse's diverse needs, caseloads, and available resources.

Introduction

The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) is required to report annually to the General Assembly on the Court Information Technology Fund (the “Fund”). Specifically, G.S. 7A-343.2 provides as follows:

§ 7A-343.2 Court Information Technology Fund

(c) Report. – The Director must report annually by August 1 of each year to the Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Chairs of the Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety. The report must include the following:

- (1) Amounts credited in the preceding fiscal year to the Fund.
- (2) Amounts expended in the preceding fiscal year from the Fund and the purposes of the expenditures.
- (3) Proposed expenditures of the monies in the Fund.

NCAOC respectfully submits this report in compliance with the statutory mandate.

Analysis

The Fund consists of fees for remote public access pursuant to G.S. 7A-109(d) and designated facilities fees generated from court costs pursuant to G.S. 7A-304(a)(2a), 7A-305(a3)(2), 7A-306(a)(1a), and 7A-307(a)(1a). Per G.S. 7A-343.2(b), money from the Fund is used to upgrade, maintain, and operate the judicial and county courthouse telecommunications and data connectivity, and to supplement funds otherwise available to the Judicial Branch for technology needs.

The tables below represent summary and detailed amounts credited and the amounts expended for FY 2016-2017, and the proposed expenditures of monies in the Fund for FY 2017-2018.

Table 1. Summary Amounts Credited, Amounts Expended and Anticipated Expenditures

SUMMARY	AMOUNT
Amounts Credited / Source (FY 2016-2017)	\$15,282,991
Amounts Expended by Purpose (FY 2016-2017)	\$10,627,999
Anticipated Expenditures (FY 2017-2018)	\$21,088,333



Table 2. Amounts Credited to the Court Information Technology Fund (FY 2016-2017)

AMOUNTS CREDITED / SOURCE	AMOUNT
Remote public access – online access fees	\$9,999,758
Remote public access – extracts fees	\$390,311
Facilities fees for telephone system replacement and maintenance	\$4,759,085
Interest	\$133,837
TOTAL	\$15,282,991

Table 3. Amounts Expended from the Court Information Technology Fund (FY 2016-2017)

EXPENDITURE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Personnel	Augment personnel to support ongoing technology programs and services	\$6,019,510
Purchased services	Provide services, including telephone services, required to ensure ongoing technology operations	\$4,037,214
Equipment, supplies, and other expenses	Replace obsolete computer equipment and software and purchase supplies	\$571,275
TOTAL		\$10,627,999

Table 4. Proposed Expenditures from the Court Information Technology Fund (FY 2017-2018)

EXPENDITURE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Personnel	Augment personnel to support ongoing technology programs and services	\$6,019,510
Purchased services	Provide computer hardware and software maintenance and telephone services	\$2,037,214
Equipment	Replace obsolete computer and audiovisual equipment; upgrade and expand capacity of computer hardware and software	\$5,260,316
Chief Justice's Commission on Administration of Law and Justice Initiatives	Technology initiatives toward implementation of technology recommendations as recommended by the commission	\$5,221,293
Contingency reserve		\$2,550,000
TOTAL		\$21,088,333



SUMMARY

NCAOC continues to use money from the Fund to provide and maintain the basic technological infrastructure and applications necessary to serve the public in courthouses and other Judicial Branch locations throughout the State. For FY 2017-2018, the funds will be used for critical technology equipment upgrades, including the long-term realization of the technology recommendations included in the final report of the North Carolina Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice and the evaluation and procurement of court digital recording hardware and software to improve reliability and availability of digital courtroom recordings.

In addition, the funds will facilitate lifecycle replacement of courthouse computing equipment including desktops, laptops, printers, scanners, servers, and network components. The Judicial Branch also will upgrade foundational infrastructure equipment to meet the needs of the eCourts initiative. These infrastructure upgrades include improving network capacity and speed, providing necessary disk storage, expanding data replication capabilities and improving business continuity/disaster recovery.



