



Legislation Text

File #: 21-6410, **Version:** 1

Department: County Courts

Department Head/Elected Official: Ed Wells

Regular or Supplemental RCA: Regular RCA

Type of Request: Position

Project ID (if applicable): N/A

Vendor/Entity Legal Name (if applicable): N/A

MWDBE Participation (if applicable): N/A

Request Summary (Agenda Caption):

Request for approval to reclassify and update two part-time Hearing Officer positions to full-time effective December 4, 2021 using \$70,626 from the department's existing budget.

Background and Discussion:

All Class B and above arrests in Harris County are processed through the Joint Processing Center (JPC). Detainees are booked and either released or presented to a Criminal Law Hearing Officer for consideration of probable cause and magistration. Dockets run multiple times a day with 24/7 support of operations. Dockets that run long can delay the start of the next docket, can delay review of search warrant requests, and can delay magistration of out of county/state detainees. Converting these two positions to regular employees will provide additional judicial officers to support more timely processing of those arrested and booked through the JPC. In recent years it has become increasingly difficult to find and retain qualified individuals to fill temporary hearing officer positions. OCM will monitor the impacts this change has to the timely start and conclusion of probable cause dockets.

Expected Impact:

These positions will facilitate more timely processing of defendants and cases through the probable cause/magistration and warrant processes at the Joint Processing Center.

Alternative Options:

Alignment with Goal(s):

- ☒ Justice and Safety
- ☐ Economic Opportunity
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Public Health

- _ Transportation
- _ Flooding
- _ Environment
- _ Governance and Customer Service

Prior Court Action (if any):

Date	Agenda Item #	Action Taken
N/A		

Location:

Address (if applicable): N/A

Precinct(s): Choose an item.

Fiscal and Personnel Summary			
Service Name	Budget and Performance		
	FY 21-22	FY 22	Next 3 FYs
Incremental Expenditures (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Labor Expenditures	\$	\$70,626	\$565,011
Non-Labor Expenditures	\$	\$	\$
Total Incremental Expenditures	\$	\$70,626	\$565,011
Funding Sources (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Existing Budget			
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Total Current Budget	\$	\$	\$
Additional Budget Requested			
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Total Additional Budget Requested	\$	\$	\$
Total Funding Sources	\$	\$70,626	\$565,011
Personnel (Fill out section only if requesting new PCNs)			
Current Position Count for Service		10	12
Additional Positions Requested		2	-
Total Personnel		12	12

Anticipated Implementation Date: December 4, 2021

Emergency/Disaster Recovery Note: Not an emergency, disaster, or COVID-19 related item

Contact(s) name, title, department: Ed Wells, Court Manager, Office of Court Management

Attachments (if applicable):

3441(s), Budget Position Form