

RESOLUTION - SUPERMAJORITY

Resolution Authorizing Annual Enhancements and Modifications to iJustice Case Management Software FY 2024-25 (41)

WHEREAS, iJustice case management software was developed for and has been used by the McHenry County Circuit Clerk's office and the 22nd Circuit Court since May 4, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the software has been well accepted with over 600 users relying on the data contained in the iJustice case management program throughout the McHenry County court system; and

WHEREAS, the McHenry County Circuit Clerk and 22nd Judicial Circuit Court have benefited from an automated case management system through the additional operating efficiencies that have allowed for reductions in personnel in the Circuit Clerk's office of 21.35 FTE over the past 13 years, at a cost savings of over \$1.3 million annually; and

WHEREAS, the Circuit Clerk's contract for support and maintenance with Integrated Software Specialists, Inc. includes any necessary enhancements to the software at an hourly rate of \$130; and

WHEREAS, enhancements to the iJustice software are necessary on an annual basis to keep up with changes to State statute, changes to fine and fee assessment, and new Supreme Court authorized programs and mandates; and

WHEREAS, the further integration of technology into the judicial process will further advance efforts to create a more efficient and paperless judicial system and is in direct alignment with the McHenry County Strategic Plan Organizational Advancement Goal 1: Identify strategies to enhance integration, coordination, communication, and information-sharing between County-wide departments; and

WHEREAS, the Law & Government/Liquor and Finance & Audit Committees have reviewed the said request.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by this County Board of McHenry County, Illinois that it hereby authorizes the needed enhancements to Integrated Software Specialists, Inc., 1251 N. Plum Grove Rd., Suite 105, Schaumburg IL 60173, for iJustice case management software enhancements, at a cost not to exceed \$175,000 in FY 2024-2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by this County Board of McHenry County, Illinois, that said costs of \$175,000 will be covered by budgeted funds of \$100,000 in budget line item Fund 372 - Dept 41 - Div 4100 - Main Account 400100 (Court Automation Fund - Contractual Services), \$50,000 in budget line item Fund 371 - Dept 41 - Div 4100 - Main Account 400100 (Court Document Storage Fund - Contractual Services), \$15,000 in budget line item Fund 374 – Dept 41 – Div 4100 – Main Account 400100 (Electronic Citation Fund – Contractual Services), \$10,000 in budget line item Fund 373 – Dept 41 – Div 4100 – Main Account 400100 (Circuit Clerk Operation & Administrative Fund – Contractual Services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is hereby authorized to distribute a certified copy of this Resolution to the Clerk of the Circuit Court, the Presiding Judge, the Court

Administrator, the Auditor, the Chief Financial Officer, and the County Administrator.

DATED at Woodstock, Illinois, this 15th day of April, A.D., 2025.

Michael Buehler, Chairman
McHenry County Board

ATTEST:

Joseph J. Tirio, County Clerk

RESOLUTION

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing Annual Enhancements and Modifications to iJustice Case Management Software FY 2024-25 (41)

Board / Committee Action Requested:

The attached Resolution is for FY 2024-25 annual iJustice case management software enhancements & modifications to be contracted with ISS (Integrated Software Specialists, Inc.) under the current ISS Support & Maintenance contract pricing for consulting services, as approved by the Circuit Clerk and Chief Judge.

Background and Discussion: In 2007, the prior Circuit Clerk contracted with ISS (Integrated Software Specialists, Inc.) to develop a custom case management software package for the McHenry County Circuit Clerk's office. This project was completed in 2009, with the iJustice software going live in the Circuit Clerk's office on May 4, 2009.

The Circuit Clerk's office operation is highly dependent on changes in the law and court decisions that require modifications to the Circuit Clerk's case management software on a fairly regular basis to ensure continued smooth operation of the office. The Court Automation Fund was established by the General Assembly to maintain the Court's automated recordkeeping system. The Court Document Storage Fund was established to fund maintaining the records of the court system. Court Automation and Document Storage Fees have been sufficient to cover the necessary enhancements to the iJustice system since it went live in 2009. Annually, the Circuit Clerk has budgeted a percentage of the Court Automation Fund and Document Storage Fund budgets to cover necessary modifications and enhancements to the iJustice software.

The iJustice case management software is mission-critical to the operation of not only the Circuit Clerk's office, but to the entire court system. iJustice has more than 600 users, which include Circuit Clerk, Court Administration & Judges, Court Services and Specialty Courts as users who are entering data, and State's Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, Corrections, municipal police departments, state agencies, private attorneys and public who are using the system for the viewing of documents and data.

Impact on Human Resources: The Circuit Clerk's office has been able to reduce staff by 21.35 FTE over the past 13 years, largely due to efficiencies gained from our increased use of technology. iJustice and the Circuit Clerk's work with ISS has been at the forefront of this increased technology usage. We are able to work more efficiently and accomplish more work
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with less employees due to our increased use of technology, at minimally a personnel cost savings of over \$1.3 million annually.

Impact on Budget (Revenue; Expenses, Fringe Benefits): iJustice support & maintenance costs are mainly budgeted from both the Court Automation Fund and the Court Document Storage Fund. Court Automation Fees are authorized under 705 ILCS 135/10-5(d)(1) and O-201906-12-36 and set at \$20 per case. They are assessed on all traffic, ordinance, misdemeanor, felony and civil case types, for deposit in the Court Automation Fund for use to establish and maintain an automated recordkeeping system for the Courts. The fund is administered jointly by the Circuit Clerk and Chief Judge. Court Document Storage Fees are authorized under 705 ILCS 135/10-5(d)(2) and O-210906-12-36 and also set at \$20 per case. They are assessed on all traffic, ordinance, misdemeanor, felony and civil case types, for deposit in the Court Document Storage Fund for use to establish and maintain a document storage system for the Courts. The fund is administered by the Circuit Clerk.

The current support & maintenance contract with ISS includes an hourly rate of \$130 per hour for consulting services. Specific enhancement projects to be completed during FY 2024-2025 include:

1. Re-programming to accommodate statewide data requirements through the IL Supreme Court's new SOCRATA platform which will eventually replace the current static statistical reporting done by Circuit Clerks and Court Services with a real-time feed of data to the AOIC that will transmit the current data being reported in addition to many other newly required data elements.
2. Modifications to convert Criminal Electronic Filing from our current Criminal eFile vendor, i2File, to the IL Supreme Court's eFiling vendor, eFileIL. The IL Supreme Court only recently made the changes necessary to accommodate traffic and quasi-criminal electronic filing, which was the last stumbling block keeping us from transitioning fully to eFileIL for all eFiling.
3. Modification to the current eCitation interface which will allow real-time updating of the Traffic case upon completion by the officer in the car which will eliminate the need for Circuit Clerk intervention and allow for near immediate payment of the ticket by the defendant.

Impact on Capital Expenditures: None

Impact on Physical Space: None

Impact on Other County Departments or Outside Agencies: iJustice case management software does have impact on not only the Circuit Clerk's office and the Courts, it also impacts all other Justice agencies within the Courthouse, in addition to all members of the legal community who use the information entered in iJustice to track cases and represent clients, to members of the community who are users of the court system. The 600+ users of iJustice rely on the information in iJustice to efficiently operate the court system and administer justice. Support and maintenance of the iJustice software is key to the efficient operation of the court system in McHenry County.

Conformity to Board Ordinances, Policies and Strategic Plan: The original support & maintenance agreement (attached) with ISS was negotiated with the assistance of the State's Attorney and outside counsel hired by the State's Attorney that specialized in software contracts. The Support Extension Agreement (also attached) was also reviewed by the State's Attorney. It was determined by the State's Attorney that the support & maintenance contract for iJustice did not need to be bid, since it is proprietary software that was developed specifically for McHenry County which can only be supported and modified by ISS.

The Circuit Clerk and Court's use of iJustice case management software meets the County Board's strategic agenda Organizational Advancement Goal 1: *Identify strategies to enhance integration, coordination, communication, and information-sharing between County-wide departments*