Judicial Information System Committee Meeting February 22, 2019

DECISION POINT – Laptop reimbursement request

MOTIONS:

1. I move to modify the AOC practice, pursuant to JIS General Policy 1, to allow courts and county clerks' offices to be reimbursed in the current biennium, up to the current budgetary allowance of $790 for the purchase of replacement laptops for court staff.

2. Beginning in the 2021-2023 biennium, I move to modify the AOC practice, pursuant to JIS General Policy 1, to allow courts and county clerks' offices to be reimbursed for purchased or leased laptops at that biennium's desktop rate.

I. BACKGROUND

As each court was implemented with the Judicial Information System (SCOMIS, DISCIS, JUVIS), the JIS fund provided some end user equipment to enable users to access the system. With the implementation of the IP network, and the need to replace "dumb" terminals, in 1996, AOC began supplying personal computers to courts and county clerks' offices. The amount of equipment AOC supplied depended on available funds.

JIS General Policy 1.1 provides that, subject to legislative funding, the JIS fund will provide personal computers and printers at up to 75% of FTEs for courts and county clerks. Pursuant to JIS Policy 1.1.4, equipment is provided to users to enable judicial officers, county clerks, court administrators, and their staff to access and update the JIS, do legal research, or for other court business purposes.

JIS General Policy 1.2 provides for replacement of existing AOC-supplied equipment every five years, subject to legislative funding. JIS General Policy 1.2.2.1 allows courts and county clerks to purchase their own replacement equipment and be reimbursed for the actual cost of the equipment or an amount based on current market prices, whichever is less. JIS General Policies do not allow for reimbursement for computers leased by courts.

JIS General Policy 1.7 provides that each superior and district court judge and each full-time commissioner receives one personal computer. Full-time municipal court judges, and those whose courts have a substantial domestic violence caseload, receive one personal computer. Judges' personal computers are eligible for reimbursement contracts. Policies for judges' equipment were established in 1998, and the allocation for municipal court judges was established in 1999.

II. DISCUSSION

It has been the practice of AOC to reimburse courts and county clerks offices for the purchase of desktop computers for court or county clerk's office staff, and to reimburse for

laptops only for judges. In the current budget cycle, desktop computers are reimbursed at the rate of up to $790 and laptops are reimbursed at a rate of up to $1,050.

On September 7, 2018, the District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA) sent a letter to Chief Justice Fairhurst asking the JISC to update the AOC practice to reimburse courts for the purchase of laptops at the amount allotted for court staff in the current budget cycle, $790. The DMCMA also requested reimbursement regardless of whether the computers are purchased or leased by cities and counties.

On October 11, 2018, the District and Municipal Court Judges' Association sent a letter to Chief Justice Fairhurst supporting the DMCMA's request to allow reimbursement for purchase of laptops for court staff.

OUTCOME IF NOT PASSED –

If this change is not made, courts and county clerks' offices will be limited to purchasing desktops for their staff if they want to be reimbursed for those costs from the JIS fund. In future biennia, courts and county clerks' offices would not be eligible for reimbursement for leased computers.