

Washington State Judicial Branch

2024 Supplemental Budget

Move Supreme Court Back to Temple of Justice

Agency: Administrative Office of the Courts

Decision Package Code/Title: 2M – Move Supreme Court Back to TOJ

Agency Recommendation Summary Text:

The Administrative Office of the Courts requests funding to return to the Temple of Justice (TOJ) from its temporary location in Tumwater, WA. The 18-month project is on-track to be complete in July 2024, and current funding is not sufficient to cover the costs of the move or the replacement of deficiencies not realized until the move-out occurred. (General Fund – State)

Fiscal Summary:

	FY 2024	FY 2025	Biennial	FY 2026	FY 2027	Biennial
Staffing						
FTEs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Operating Expenditures						
Fund 001-1	\$0	\$849,000	\$849,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Expenditures						
	\$0	\$849,000	\$849,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

Package Description:

In the fall of 2022, the Supreme Court, Law Library, and a limited number of staff from the Administrative Office of the Courts moved out of the Temple of Justice and temporarily relocated to a facility in south Tumwater. This was due to a renovation project that included the HVAC, lighting, and water systems. That project is scheduled to conclude in the summer of 2024 and the displaced entities and associated staff are looking forward to returning to the Temple of Justice (TOJ).

The move is not without costs. Funding was initially provided by the Legislature to cover tenant improvements in the temporary space in Tumwater, to cover moving costs, and to hire a coordinator to perform the work. The moving costs from the previous biennium were deemed one-time and not carried into the current fiscal year. The Court will need funding to move back.

In addition to funding for a contract with a moving company, upon returning to the TOJ, the Court will need to replace deteriorating furniture and purchase additional furniture/equipment for staff who have had to downsize since moving to temporary Tumwater location, staff who have been hired since the move-out, and externs who currently work remotely but will begin working at the TOJ once it reopens.

Fully describe and quantify expected impacts on state residents.

The Temple of Justice is a public building on Washington's Capitol Campus and the official meeting space for the Washington State Supreme Court. The Court should return to a building that has the adequate workstations for its staff and be provided the basic tools for those staff to conduct business.

Explain what alternatives were explored by the agency and why this was the best option chosen.

There is no alternative to the Court returning to the Temple of Justice.

What are the consequences of not funding this request?

Without adequate funding of this request, the Court will have to utilize funds that are currently funding staff positions. Doing so would jeopardize access to justice for individuals appearing before the Court, restrict access to law library materials, and likely reduce services provided by the Court.

Is this an expansion or alteration of a current program or service?

No.

Decision Package expenditure, FTE and revenue assumptions:

Below is a summary of the specific costs needed for the move back to the TOJ.

Specific Need	Cost
Contract with moving company	\$135,000
16 Extern and Law Clerk Workstations: \$4,000/workstation	\$64,000
8 Staff Workstations for new staff and replace deteriorated workstations: \$4,000/workstation	\$32,000
Update sound system for Courtroom	\$100,000
Update podium for ADA-accessibility	\$7,000
Update library mail counter for ADA-accessibility	\$5,000
Replace 12 fragile and deteriorating library patron chairs in Main Reading Room: \$500/chair	\$6,000
Re-Paint TOJ interior	\$250,000
Replace significantly deteriorating drapes	\$250,000
Total	\$849,000

How does the package relate to the Judicial Branch principal policy objectives?

The fair and effective administration of justice includes covering the costs of conducting court business.

Are there impacts to other governmental entities?

The only potential impact would be to the Department of Enterprise Services, who manages the building.

Stakeholder response:

None

Are there legal or administrative mandates that require this package to be funded?

No

Does current law need to be changed to successfully implement this package?

No

Are there impacts to state facilities?

Yes, see above.

Are there other supporting materials that strengthen the case for this request?

Not applicable.

Administrative Office of the Courts
Maintenance Level – 2M – Move Supreme Court Back to TOJ

Are there information technology impacts?

No

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