



CITY OF TOPEKA

Budget Office

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Municipal Court

Question: In regards to staffing shortages, is the Municipal Court Department not competitive because of wages or are there other reasons for the staffing shortages?

Answer: Some of the staffing shortage is due to internal or departmental reasons. Most of the staffing shortage has to do with not providing competitive pay. A Court Clerk is paid between \$15-19 an hour and a lot of distribution stores have a starting wages of \$19 an hour. The wage study will help the Municipal Court with the current and future staffing issues

Question: Can you describe the Clean Slate Program more? What is the plan or is it too new to know?

Answer: The Municipal Court has done the Clean Slate program historically. In the past, the process began with getting a donor to provide funding. Once Municipal Court has the donor established, they work with the Kansas Department of Revenue Driver Solutions and the court appointed attorneys. The court helps to pay off outstanding fines. If the individual needs to reinstate their license and they have some fees, the group can help with those costs as well. The program brings together housing specialists, CBK, and their credit company if the individual wants to get on a payment plan. The event would be large and run all day from 7am to 4 pm, which has been an issue with COVID.

Question: Is there any programs (like some other cities) for students specifically?

Answer: For high school students, there is a Youth Core program connected with the high schools.

Question: Over the last year or two, there were some changes made in the fee structure and drug testing, has these changes worked out as it was intended?

Answer: We advise people who are going to be put on supervised probation that there will be a \$100 fee, which has been working well. Our ability to recoup approximately \$16,500 is covering some of those costs of going to the lab, etc. So it has done what we intended it to do.

Question: Do we still have "mental health court"? And if so, how is it going?

Answer: Yes, it is called Alternative Sentencing Court. It's one of three in the State of Kansas. It's a program the city should be proud of! We put in a lot of work to make sure these individuals can receive the services that they need in the community and if not receive, at least know that these services are offered. We will work with the communications department to share more about those who go through the Alternative Sentencing Court.

Information Technology

Question: Are we going to a more cloud based system? Getting rid of the PCs?

Answer: Not at this time. The city is staying with our desktops and our laptops.