



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
YAKIMA, WASHINGTON
AGENDA STATEMENT**

Item No. 7.O.
For Meeting of: October 15, 2024

ITEM TITLE: Resolution authorizing Trial Court Improvement Account (TCIA) to be used by the Municipal Court for ongoing improvements

SUBMITTED BY: Judge Aryn Masters, Presiding Judge of Yakima Municipal Court

SUMMARY EXPLANATION:

In 2005, the State Legislature passed 2ESSB 5454, which created local Trial Court Improvement Accounts (TICAs). This bill mandated that local governments that received partial reimbursement for judges' salaries must create these accounts, funded with an amount equal to funds received from the State. The funds in the accounts must be used to fund improvements to court staffing, programs, facilities and services. Further, the funds are designed to be expended each year, or the balance may accrue to allow the Court to undertake larger improvement projects.

Other jurisdictions have used their TICA funds to upgrade courtroom equipment and technology, improve courtroom facilities, security upgrades, etc.

Currently, the 100% of the Yakima Municipal Court's TICA funds – approximately \$60,000 in 2024 -- are directly placed back into the General Fund to offset judicial salaries. There are several projects that the Yakima Municipal Court needs to fund that are imperative to the functioning of the Court, including, upgrading the courtroom Zoom and speaker system, replacing soundproofing panels in Courtroom #1, installing security cameras in the courtrooms and over the cashier's counter, installing cameras on exterior of building where Court employees enter/exit and park, and upgrade duress alarms in each courtroom. For some of these projects, the Court has received reimbursable grant money, however, without funds to start the work, the Court cannot access the funds. Access to the TICA would allow the court to begin some of these projects.

ITEM BUDGETED: Yes

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 24-25: A Safe and Healthy Yakima

RECOMMENDATION:

ATTACHMENTS:

[Trial Court Improvement Account Resolution 2024.docx](#)