

John Peck  
Justice of the Peace

Yvette Montijo  
Court Administrator



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# AGENDA MATERIAL

AJO JUSTICE COURT No. 3  
111 LA MINA AVENUE  
AJO, ARIZONA 85321  
(520) 387-7684

DATE 5-10-22 ITEM NO. BHL

10 May 2022

To: Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Re: FY 2022/23 Budget Proposal/Ajo Justice Court

The line-item details for this proposed FY2022-23 budget follow this introduction. I'd like to use this, as in years past, to highlight some specifics.

- We continue to closely watch costs and minimize expenses. As a result, our projected operating expenses in the next fiscal year will be seven percent less than authorized in this fiscal year. Our total budget has increased by approximately \$9,000, and this due to salaries and benefits. As a result of cross-training and task reviews, our FTE will drop to 8.0 in the first quarter of FY22/23; in FY2015/16 when I started this job, it was 11.0.
- To maximize resources for the county, our Adult Probation Officer's caseload continues to include supervision of Pima County probationers living in Ajo in addition to those individuals ordered into probation through our court. This allows more direct and immediate contact with these clients and is cost-efficient. Our court continues to fund this position.
- In the past five years, more than 500 passport requests – applications and renewals – have been processed through our court, making the previous roundtrip of 250+ miles unnecessary for those seeking passports. Staff has been cross-trained for this work.
- As a result of a community meeting on aging funded by the Court through grants, Pima Community College developed a plan to create a Sells-based teaching program to train and certify home-health-care workers. This provides new skillsets for community members as well as responding to acute community needs.
- We continue to be one of the few Justice Courts in the state dealing with Rule 11 competency issues, keeping the court focus local and of greater convenience for clients and their families. The Pima County Superior Court has been of enormous help in this work.
- Prior to the pandemic, we were closing in on creating a multilingual Resource Center to help clients navigate processes and paperwork having to do with Superior Court issues, modeled on the Superior Court Resource Center. Staff had been trained and we were able to combine grant funding with supplemental county funding to purchase equipment. That project was put on hold because of the pandemic but we plan to reactivate it in early 2023.

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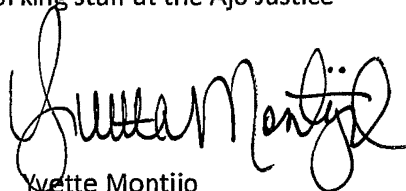
- In pre-pandemic days, we also held court hours on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays as scheduling permitted in order to offer in-person hearings and immediate decisions on releases of in-custody clients. We hope to restart that program this fall. In FY2018/19, this service to the community cost approximately \$3600 (on-call and salaried time).

It's my great fortune to work closely with judges throughout Arizona as president of the state's association of justices of the peace, and as a member of the Arizona Supreme Court's Committee on Limited Jurisdiction Courts. I have the opportunity to hear about new challenges and be exposed to best practices and creative ideas. As a member of Arizona Judicial Council – the policy-making body that oversees the judicial system in Arizona – I'm able to work with my colleagues in providing input on issues that affect us all. In April I was asked to be part of a new workgroup in our statewide Fair Access to Justice initiative that will re-examine court rules. Last week, at the request of the Administrative Office of the Courts, I convened a process to assess and address the declining caseload filings in Arizona's limited-jurisdiction courts.

This is good and challenging work as we try to redress wrong and ensure equitable, accessible justice in all our communities. We thank you and the county for your support of the Ajo Justice Court and our court system in general. And I thank the dedicated and hardworking staff at the Ajo Justice Court for its professionalism and service to the community.



John Peck  
Presiding Judge



Yvette Montijo  
Court Administrator

cc: Jan Leshar, Pima County Administrator  
Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board

**DEPARTMENT-WIDE RECOMMENDED BUDGET & DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023**  
**Justice Court Ajo (JCA)**

<b>Recommended Budget by Fund</b>					
	<b>2019/2020 Actuals</b>	<b>2020/2021 Actuals</b>	<b>2021/2022 Adopted Budget</b>	<b>2021/2022 Forecast</b>	<b>2022/2023 Recommended Budget</b>
<b>General Fund</b>					
<b>Expense</b>					
Personnel Services	591,838	576,301	607,443	600,071	625,465
Bad Debt Expenses	9	18	-	-	-
Operating Expenses	112,702	86,937	124,332	124,332	115,513
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>704,549</b>	<b>663,256</b>	<b>731,775</b>	<b>724,403</b>	<b>740,978</b>
<b>Revenue</b>					
Revenue	147,395	124,515	139,253	139,253	130,490
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>147,395</b>	<b>124,515</b>	<b>139,253</b>	<b>139,253</b>	<b>130,490</b>
<b>Fund Impact</b>	<b>(557,154)</b>	<b>(538,741)</b>	<b>(592,522)</b>	<b>(585,150)</b>	<b>(610,488)</b>
<b>Grants Fund</b>					
<b>Expense</b>					
Operating Expenses	247	-	7,308	7,308	7,307
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,308</b>	<b>7,308</b>	<b>7,307</b>
<b>Revenue</b>					
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Fund Impact</b>	<b>(247)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(7,308)</b>	<b>(7,308)</b>	<b>(7,307)</b>
<b>Other Special Revenue Fund</b>					
<b>Expense</b>					
Operating Expenses	6,732	4,720	18,000	18,000	18,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>6,732</b>	<b>4,720</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>18,000</b>
<b>Revenue</b>					
Revenue	13,263	10,756	10,091	9,594	11,087
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>13,263</b>	<b>10,756</b>	<b>10,091</b>	<b>9,594</b>	<b>11,087</b>
<b>Fund Impact</b>	<b>6,531</b>	<b>6,036</b>	<b>(7,909)</b>	<b>(8,406)</b>	<b>(6,913)</b>

2/17/2022

## FY 2022/23 Budget

### Justice Court Ajo - General Fund

Adjustment Descriptions	Expenditures	Revenues	Transfers	Fund Impact	FTEs
<b>FY 2021/22 Adopted Budget</b>	<b>731,775</b>	<b>139,253</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(592,522)</b>	<b>8.75</b>
0.75 FTE(s) Added	33,170			(33,170)	
1.00 FTE(s) Reduced	(45,946)			45,946	
Benefits Recalculation	8,047			(8,047)	
Fleet Rate Adjustment	(1,428)			1,428	
General 5% Increase Comp Adjustment	15,818			(15,818)	
ITD Telecom Rate Adjustment	(458)			458	
Revenue Increase/(Decrease)		(8,763)		(8,763)	
FTE Additions					0.75
FTE Reductions					(1.00)
<b>FY 2022/23 Base Budget at Recommended Stage</b>	<b>740,978</b>	<b>130,490</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(610,488)</b>	<b>8.50</b>
<b>FY 2022/23 Changes After Recommended Stage</b>					
				-	
				-	
				-	
<b>FY 2022/23 Final Adopted Budget</b>	<b>740,978</b>	<b>130,490</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(610,488)</b>	<b>8.50</b>
<b>VERIFICATION OF NEW FY ADOPTED BUDGET</b>	<b>754,759</b>	<b>130,490</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(624,269)</b>	<b>8.50</b>
<b>DOUBLE-CHECK</b>	<b>13,781</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(13,781)</b>	<b>-</b>

## Budget Line FY 22/23

**Unit: 0002 Fund: 1000 (AJC General Budget)**

### (Revenue)

Object	Description	Appropriation Unit	Actual FY 20/21	Adopted FY 21/22	Actual to Date	Budget Request
4111	State Revenue	JCA100005	15,709	11,899	0	15,709
4200	General Gov Fees	JCA100005	3953	3,835	2774	4,750
4203	Other Court Fees	JCA100005	2,283	2,306	1350	2,491
4204	Probation Fees	JCA100005	663	888	132	463
4207	Attorney's Fees	JCA100005	1,285	1,295	340	982
4308	Justice Crt Traffic Fees	JCA100005	89,987	116,719	60,130	105,123
4404	Other Misc. Rev Oper.	JCA100005	972	2311	23	972
	<b>Total Revenues:</b>		<b>114,852</b>	<b>139,253</b>	<b>64,749</b>	<b>130,490</b>

### (Expenditures)

Object	Description	Appropriation Unit	Actual FY 20/21	Adopted FY 21/22	Actual to Date	Budget Request
5000	Office Supplies	JCA100002	11,181	11,780	2,729	10,000
5008	Books, Subscriptions & Videos	JCA100002	879	4,000	54	2,500
5009	Law Enforcement Supplies	JCA100002	582	850	158	850
5010	Repair & Maintenance	JCA100002	812	3,080	864	2,594
5014	Clothing, Uniforms & Safety Apparel	JCA100002	874	1,000	0	1,000
5101	Other Judicial Services	JCA100002	4,181	7,250	4,009	9,000
5103	Lawyers	JCA100002	10,800	21,000	9,300	18,000
5105	Misc Legal Svc	JCA100002	0	100	0	0
5104	Expert Witness & Interpreters	JCA100002	955	1,000	299	1,000
5138	In State Training	JCA100002	2,520	5,500	0	5,500
5142	Postage & Freight	JCA100002	1,467	2,500	758	2,500
5143	Printing & Microfilming	JCA100002	93	500	283	500
5160	Banking Credit Card Fees and Charges	JCA100002	3,932	4,500	1,808	4,000
5162	Advertising	JCA100002	0	250	0	500
5167	Leases & Rentals-Office Machines	JCA100002	5,819	5,000	1476	6,000
5203	Interdepartmental Supp. & Serv. Chrg In/Debit	JCA100002	4,781	5,000	878	4,000
5301	Electricity	JCA100002	5,966	10,000	3,907	9,000

5302	Water & Sewer	JCA100002	1,912	2,500	1,106	2,500
5303	Natural Gas	JCA100002	413	500	137	500
5304	Waste Disposal & Recycling	JCA100002	1,440	1,500	0	1,500
5305	Mileage Reimbursement	JCA100002	249	2,500	0	2,300
5306	Motorpool Charges	JCA100002	6,680	8,972	3,585	9,000
5309	Dues & Memberships	JCA100002	100	500	0	500
5315	Pymts to Agencies (Bail Bond Fees)	JCA100002	432	1,000	285	1,000
5350	Radio	JCA100002	1,128	1,200	544	1,200
5359	Phone	JCA100002	6,433	6,500	3,232	6,500
5360	Internet	JCA100002	1,524	4,500	762	2,219
	<b>Operating Budget Total:</b>		<b>75,153</b>	<b>112,982</b>	<b>36,174</b>	<b>104,163</b>
<b>Object</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Appropriation Unit</b>	<b>Actual FY 20/21</b>	<b>Adopted FY 21/22</b>	<b>Actual to Date</b>	<b>Budget Request</b>
	0002 Salary/Benefits:	JCA100001	498,029	506,095	220,782	537,118
5401	Overtime	JCA100001	3,347	2,000	365	2,000
5402	On-Call Pay	JCA100001	0	500	0	500
5404	Temp-Help N/A	JCA100001	6,539	9,845	-179	0
5424	Interdepartmental Salaries (Facilities)	JCA100001	2,651	5,000	3,042	2,500
5426	Interdepartmental Benefits (Facilities)	JCA100001	888	2,000	856	2,000
	<b>Personnel Budget Total:</b>		<b>511,454</b>	<b>525,440</b>	<b>224,866</b>	<b>544,118</b>
	<b>Total Unit 0002:</b>		<b>586,607</b>	<b>638,422</b>	<b>261,060</b>	<b>648,281</b>

**Budget Line FY 22/23****Unit: 0008 Fund: 1000 (Adult Probation)****(Expenditures)**

<b>Object</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Appropriation Unit</b>	<b>Actual FY 19/20</b>	<b>Adopted FY 20/21</b>	<b>Actual to Date</b>	<b>Budget Request</b>
5000	Office Supplies	JCA100002	99	350	0	<b>350</b>
5138	In State Training	JCA100002	65	500	143	<b>500</b>
5305	Mileage Reimbursement	JCA100002	0	500	0	<b>500</b>
5306	Motorpool Charges	JCA100002	9,280	10,000	4,203	<b>10,000</b>
	<b>Operating Budget Total:</b>		<b>9,444</b>	<b>11,350</b>	<b>4,346</b>	<b>11,350</b>
	0008 Salary/Benefits:	JCA100001	66,881	82,003	36,735	<b>81,347</b>
	<b>Total Unit 008:</b>		<b>76,325</b>	<b>93,353</b>	<b>41,081</b>	<b>92,697</b>

**Unit 0002: 648,281****Unit 0008: 92,697****Total: 740,978**



## A Brief History of the Ajo Justice Court



President Abraham Lincoln officially made Arizona a Territory on February 24, 1863. Judges were appointed, and criminal and civil codes written up under the Howell Code which became effective November 10, 1864. Courts were established in Prescott, Tucson and Phoenix. At the turn of the century, county-based deputy sheriffs in the Territory furnished law and order, and Ajo-related cases were heard in Tucson. When Arizona achieved Statehood in 1912, there were three operative courts of justice: the Justice Court, the Superior Court, and the state Supreme Court. Pima County Superior Court staff regularly traveled to Ajo.

Today's community of Ajo was first established on land occupied and nourished for centuries by the Tohono O'odham. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Anglo interests began to exploit the rich mineral deposits in the area and the town became part of the expansion of an open pit mine. As the mine grew, Ajo's shape changed. The center of its present-day layout began in 1916 coincident to the opening of a smelter and the evolution to large-scale copper mining by the New Cornelia mining interests, which later became the Phelps Dodge Corporation. A new, model town was designed north of the mine's original location with a central plaza, stores, a hospital, hotels, paved streets, supplied water and sewage systems, a bank, jail, and courthouse. Until the closing of the mine in 1985, the town was largely company-owned. In 2007, Phelps Dodge merged with Freeport-MacMoRan.

Ajo's Courthouse has occupied a number of locales according to anecdotal histories. Following Statehood, when the south side of the Plaza was completed, the Ajo Court was located on the second floor at the west end, directly east of what became the Valley National Bank (now National Bank of Arizona) and adjacent to the first Ajo branch library. It was later moved to Pajaro Street, across from the present location of the Ajo Copper News.





**In the 1920s Pima County Superior Court regularly flew to Ajo. From left to right: Bell D. Hall, Clerk of the Court; an unidentified Court reporter; Judge Gerald Jones; Louis Kemp, and Charles Mayse.**

What is now the Ajo Courthouse was built in 1949-50 as the Pima County Building, and it housed numerous county departments including the court during the following 50 years. In 2001, the courthouse was dedicated to the memory of G.T. "Tom" Alley, an Ajo businessman and investor who served on the Pima County Board of Supervisors from 1943 to 1950, and in the Arizona House of Representatives from 1972 to 1976.

Available - again anecdotal - records note that there have been 23 Justices of the Peace in Ajo since 1914. Less than half of these - 11 - have been elected. The rest were appointed on the death, removal, or absence of the then-officeholder. In proximate order, these judges are: E. H. Johnson, C. G. Puffer, G. H. Mairs, A.H. D. Barr, Frank K. Edinborough, Ellis Malone, T. R. Fields, E.L. Franck, J.S. Wood, James V. Brooks, M.E. Gibson, Alfred Clay Edwards, Essie Edwards, J.N. Chapman, Brady Byers, Noal Talley, M.F. Anderson, James E. Douglass, Helen Gilmartin, John Casey, Maria Alvillar, Walter U. Weber, and John Peck.

### **Activities of the Court**

There can be little question but that the court dockets were quite full during the heydays of the mine and the contiguous communities of Ajo, Rowood, Gibson, and the segregated areas of Mexican Town and Indian Village, both of the latter lost to the growing open pit. At one point, it has been estimated, there were more than four dozen bars/eating spots in the area, and a number of active and popular brothels. All contributed to the court calendars of the day.

With the strike of 1985 and the bitterness that ensued the court was very busy. The fact that the then-presiding judge had been head of the mine's security operations was a point often noted in observations of that tumultuous period. With the closing of the mine and its operations and the resultant reduction of population and businesses in Ajo, the court saw a similarly significant loss of activity. However, given its remoteness from the county seat, it continued and continues to offer vital services to the community. Rule 16 of the Pima County Code, in fact, mandates court services in Ajo.

Our court today handles protective orders, civil and criminal traffic violations, misdemeanors, civil cases under \$10,000 and small-claims filings, evictions, bond forfeitures, petitions to revoke probations, extraditions, summonses, arrest and search warrants, initial appearances in felony cases, weddings, Rule 11 mental-health hearings, and passports. In the past eight years since I've been associated with the court:

- \* We've processed approximately 11,000 cases covering all these areas, administratively, in chambers and in the courtroom;

- \* Received grants to convene community discussions on domestic violence and senior issues, and provide initial funding for the PCSD boxing program;

- \* Have significantly upgraded our internal and external security systems;

- \* Refurbished and restored our historic courtroom;

- \* Developed a juvenile court hearing room and a law library;

- \* Implemented a completely new database/processing system in cooperation with the Arizona Supreme Court;

- \* Created a passport application and renewal service which has to date serviced 500 applications; previously, the nearest application sites were Yuma and Tucson;

- \* Pre-Pandemic: Offered in-custody hearings on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays; sponsored the Ajo Community Justice Board in cooperation with the Pima County Attorney's Office; instituted a model wallet-size card program for individuals granted protective orders; and started the development of a Pima County Superior Court-related resource center to help citizens navigate and initiate various issues in Ajo rather than having to travel to Tucson. We look forward to resuming work with weekend and holiday in-custody's, the Community Justice Board, and the Resource Center.

Between 2015 and the present fiscal year, our annual budget has increased less than seven percent.

*(The author, Judge John Peck, has been the presiding judge of the Ajo Justice Court since January 1, 2015. He is in his third year of service as president of the Arizona Justice of the Peace Association, a statewide organization of Arizona judges. Judge Peck serves on the Arizona Supreme Court's Committee of Limited Jurisdiction Courts and is one of 11 Arizona judges appointed by Chief Justice Robert Brutinel to serve on the Arizona Judicial Council, the policy-making body that oversees the judicial system in Arizona.)*