



# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 8/18/2020

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File #: 20-867

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**To:** Board of Supervisors

**From:** County Administrative Office

**Agenda Section:** Consent

SUBJECT:

Transfer from the “Contingencies” Budget Unit and Supplemental Budget for the Courts-County Contribution to Indigent Defense in Fiscal Year 2019-20 (4/5 Vote Required)

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve a transfer from the “Contingencies” budget unit and supplemental budget for the Courts-County Contribution (fund 1100, budget unit 250) in the amount of \$194,000 for unanticipated indigent defense expenses (4/5 vote required).

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

General Fund

DISCUSSION:

The Courts-County Contribution received a General Fund Contribution in fiscal year (FY) 2019-20 of \$936,573 to provide outside counsel, investigators and experts for indigent defense that could not be assigned to the Humboldt County Public Defenders Offices. Additionally, utility costs for the state court areas are paid from this budget unit, as are transcripts that are required to be paid by the county. There are unexpected overages totaling an estimated \$194,000 for FY 2019-20. The overdraft in services and supplies are due to a marked increase in the utilization of experts and counsel in defense of criminal cases, and an increase in transcript costs. A number of overlapping mandates from the United States Constitution to the California Penal Code require the county to provide indigent defense. Funding for this increased expense is available through a transfer from the “Contingencies” budget unit within the General Fund.

Staff recommend that your Board approve the attached transfer from the “Contingencies” budget unit and supplemental budget for the Courts-County Contribution (1100-250) in the amount of \$194,000 for increased indigent defense expense.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Unanticipated indigent defense expenses in Courts-County Contributions total \$194,000. These expenses have been incurred and were required to provide mandated services in FY 2019-20. Funding is available through a transfer from the “Contingencies” budget unit within the General Fund. The current appropriations in the General Fund’s “Contingencies” budget unit available for use in FY 2019-20 is \$1,697,712. The approval of this transfer will obligate 12% of the county’s contingency funding, resulting in an ending balance of \$1,504,712.

**STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:**

This action supports your Board’s Strategic Framework by protecting vulnerable populations , investing in county employees and providing community-appropriate levels of service.

**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:**

None

**ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Your Board may choose not to approve the supplemental budgets. This is not recommended as it would leave budgets overdrawn.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Supplemental Budget

**PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:**

Board Order No.: N/A

Meeting of: N/A

File No.: N/A