

# **INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE**

## **Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary**

### **Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the 2019 Interim**

**October 1, 2019**

#### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The 4th meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, at 8:00 AM, in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Stephen West, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Stephen West, Co-Chair; Senator Denise Harper Angel; Representatives Nima Kulkarni and Brandon Reed.

Guests: Laurie Dudgeon, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC); Danny Rhoades, Executive Officer, Department of Facilities, AOC; Carole Henderson, Budget Director, AOC; and Jimmy Shaffer, Executive Secretary, Judicial Conduct Commission.

LRC Staff: Zachary Ireland, Savannah Wiley, and Benjamin Thompson

#### **Judicial Facilities and Judicial Conduct Commission**

Ms. Dudgeon, Mr. Rhoades, and Ms. Henderson provided information on judicial facility capital projects that were authorized between fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2018. Ms. Shaffer provided information on the Judicial Conduct Commission and its budget.

In response to questions from Chair West, Ms. Dudgeon noted that the total cost of the Jefferson County Hall of Justice renovation would be \$5.2 million, split almost equally between the AOC and Jefferson County. Ms. Dudgeon stated that within the memorandum of understanding signed by both the AOC and Jefferson County, there is no point laid out where funding would be pulled back from the project even though it is on hold due to Jefferson County's budgetary constraints. Ms. Shaffer noted that AOC handles contracts for the Judicial Conduct Commission. Ms. Henderson stated that AOC receives contract agreements from the Judicial Conduct Commission and inputs them into the budgeting system. Ms. Shaffer noted that the Kentucky Bar Association refers to the Judicial Conduct Commission concerning judicial complaints. Ms. Shaffer said there had been no judges removed by the commission in the last five years.

In response to a question from Representative Reed, Ms. Dudgeon stated that judicial construction projects authorized in FY 2014 are still in progress.

In response to questions from Chair West, Mr. Rhoades noted that projects completed in the late 1990s and early 2000s have begun having heating and air conditioning issues. Mr. Rhoades stated that many repairs are covered by the judicial facility maintenance budget. Ms. Dudgeon noted that only capital projects over \$1 million need to be approved by the General Assembly. Ms. Henderson stated that the AOC sets aside \$1.5 million for deferred maintenance.

In response to a question from Representative Reed, Mr. Rhoades said janitorial staff in courthouses are either contractors or county employees.

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 AM.