



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, Mayor Kneeland, Jennifer Teal, Shane Ewald

FROM: Amanda Parker, City of Gahanna

DATE: May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

SUBJECT: Creating Court Computer Fund

---

Council,

You have requested information regarding the creation of a court computerization fund and the addition of a \$3 fee for computerization of the court.

### Purpose

The computer fee that is currently collected, per ORC, can only be used for the computerization of the office of the clerk of court. ORC 1901.261, as shown below, allows for the creation of a separate court computerization fund that may be used for the computerization of the court itself and the acquisition of legal research services. Revenue generated from this fee would be used to offset the cost of computerized legal research services for use by the court personnel and prosecutors. In addition, it would be expended for purchasing and maintaining the life cycle replacement of computers or tablets for use by court personnel. A proportionate share based upon use would be applied for upgrade to the audio/visual equipment within the court chambers. The remainder of balance left after operational expenses would be retained for future use to computerize the new court facility. Please see the attached spreadsheet showing the 5 year projected revenue and expenses, if the fee of \$3 per case were added.

### Ohio Revised Code

#### **1901.261 Computerizing court of paying cost of computerized legal research.**

(A) (1) A municipal court may determine that for the efficient operation of the court additional funds are required to computerize the court, to make available computerized legal research services, or to do both. Upon making a determination that additional funds are required for either or both of those purposes, the court shall include in its schedule of fees and costs under section [1901.26](#) of the Revised Code one additional fee not to exceed three dollars on the filing of each cause of action or appeal equivalent to one described in division (A), (Q), or (U) of section [2303.20](#) of the Revised Code and shall direct the clerk of the court to charge the fee.

(2) All fees collected under this section shall be paid on or before the twentieth day of the month following the month in which they are collected to the county treasurer if the court is a county-operated municipal court or to the city treasurer if the court is not a county-



operated municipal court. The treasurer shall place the funds from the fees in a separate fund to be disbursed upon an order of the court, subject to an appropriation by the board of county commissioners if the court is a county-operated municipal court or by the legislative authority of the municipal corporation if the court is not a county-operated municipal court, or upon an order of the court, subject to the court making an annual report available to the public listing the use of all such funds, in an amount not greater than the actual cost to the court of computerizing the court, procuring and maintaining computerized al research services, or both.

(3) If the court determines that the funds in the fund described in division (A)(2) of this section are more than sufficient to satisfy the purpose for which the additional fee described in division (A)(1) of this section was imposed, the court may declare a surplus in the fund and, subject to an appropriation by the board of county commissioners if the court is a county-operated municipal court or by the legislative authority of the municipal corporation if the court is not a county-operated municipal court, expend those surplus funds, or upon an order of the court, subject to the court making an annual report available to the public listing the use of all such funds, expend those surplus funds, for other appropriate technological expenses of the court.

Request

Therefore, it is being requested that a court computerization fund be created.

Sincerely,

Amanda J. Parker  
Clerk of Courts

cc: