

Pinal County Justice Court Cost Recovery

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PRESIDING JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

What Is The Cost Recovery Fund?

- Established by the Board of Supervisors in May of 1998 to help ease the burden on taxpayers for the expenses incurred by the Justice Courts to process cases. Revised in 2006.
- Collected fees are to be used to modernize, streamline, automate and secure the Justice Courts.
- The Cost Recovery fee is assessed on defendants who have been found/plea guilty of, or responsible for, a criminal offense or civil traffic offense.

Pinal County General Fund

- Pinal County expends more General Fund dollars than come back to the General Fund through fines and fees collected at the Justice Courts.
- FY25 the difference will be approximately $1,954,000
- Increasing Cost Recovery to $40 will generate approximately $670,000

Justice Court GF Budget Expenditures & Revenues FY25 Projections

JUSTICE COURT	FY24/25 GF BUDGET	FY24/25 GF REVENUES	GF BUDGET DIFFERENCE
PIONEER	$999,100	$931,400	-$67,700
CASA GRANDE	$878,700	$445,000	-$433,700
CENTRAL PINAL (COOLIDGE)	$745,600	$447,500	-$298,100
WESTERN PINAL (MARICOPA)	$600,000	$399,000	-$201,000
COPPER CORRIDOR (SUPERIOR/ORACLE)	$777,000	$170,200	-$606,800
APACHE JUNCTION	$677,800	$331,100	-$346,700
	$4,678,200	**$2,724,200**	**-$1,954,000**

Legal Authority

- Authorized under ARS §11-251.05 & ARS §11-251.08
- Established by Ordinance No. 52098-CS in 1998 by the Pinal County Board of Supervisors and amended November 2006 to clarify how to assess the fee and amend the procedures to expend "Recovery Funds."

How the Recovery Fund Works

- Fees collected are deposited into the Pinal County Justice Court Recovery Fund
- Managed by Pinal County Finance Department
- Funds can be used for:
  - Modernizing and automating court systems
  - Improving security
  - Streamlining operations
- Expenditures require approval from both:
  - The Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
  - The Pinal County Manager

Current Cost Recovery Fees (Since 1998)

- Justice Court Enhancement Fee: $20.00
- Non-Sufficient Funds Fee: $25.00
- These fees were in place for 27 years and did not keep up with the rising costs.

Fund Balance Cost Recovery - Budget

	Actual FY 19/20	Actual FY 20/21	Actual FY 21/22	Actual FY 22/23	Actual FY 23/24	YTD Budget FY 24/25	Projection 1/2025	Budget Projection Variance
00147 - JP/COST RECOVERY								
Sources								
Budgeted Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-	(1,162,659)		
Charges for Services	(342,516)	(310,883)	(307,199)	(443,412)	(342,789)	(421,637)	(334,400)	(87,237)
Fines/Forfeits	(549)	(544)	(463)	(416)	(320)	(213)	(30,447)	30,234
Miscellaneous	(16,974)	(4,742)	(4,946)	(19,070)	(27,455)	-	-	-
Total Sources	(360,039)	(316,169)	(312,608)	(462,898)	(370,563)	(1,584,509)	(364,847)	(1,219,662)
Uses								
Personnel Services	243,433	254,304	295,289	295,715	382,290	404,293	431,776	(27,483)
Non-Personnel Services	60,578	113,748	52,614	18,646	63,433	812,562	90,604	721,958
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contingency	-	-	-	-	-	367,654	-	367,654
Total Uses	304,011	368,052	347,903	314,361	445,722	1,584,509	522,380	1,062,129
Sources Less Uses	**(56,028)**	**51,883**	**35,295**	**(148,537)**	**75,159**	**0**	**157,533**	**(157,533)**
Fund Balance								
Beginning Fund Balance	(985,991)	(1,042,019)	(990,137)	(954,842)	(1,103,379)		(1,028,220)	
Increase/(Decrease)	(56,028)	51,883	35,295	(148,537)	75,159		157,533	
Ending Fund Balance	(1,042,019)	(990,137)	(954,842)	(1,103,379)	(1,028,220)		(870,687)	

Proposed New Fees Effective July 2025

- Justice Court Enhancement Fee: $40.00
- Non-Sufficient Funds Fee: $25.00

- If Adopted by the Board of Supervisors at a subsequent BOS regular meeting.
- Implemented countywide across all Justice Courts.

Why the Increase is Needed: Modern Demands and Security

- Modern needs:
  - E-filing
  - Virtual Hearings
  - Digital Record
  - Court Security, Security Equipment
- Security upgrades across courts.
- Supports 6 full-time court security officers (currently $432,000 annually).

Fiscal Impact and Sustainability

Doubling the enhancement fee to $40 helps:

- Fund court improvements without relying solely on general funds
- Provide a stable revenue source for critical upgrades and services
- Strengthen long-term planning and support for the public and staff
- Pay for court security equipment, building modifications and continued assistance to support 6 court security officers

Questions?

- We appreciate your consideration.
- Open to questions and feedback.