



July 17, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: City Attorney

Re: Show Me Courts Implementation

Cc: Steve Cross, Co-Interim City Administrator
Joe Vujnich, Co-Interim City Administrator

Development of a statewide judicial information system has been a developing goal of the Missouri Court system since the 1980's, with the intent to create a single automated court platform that would help connect courts with each other, with agencies across Missouri and, ultimately, with agencies throughout the nation. In August 2018, the Missouri Automation Committee ("MAC") announced its plans to designate Show-Me-Courts ("SMC") as the statewide court automation software that must be deployed by all municipal courts. Shortly thereafter, the Presiding Judge of the 21st Judicial Circuit, of which the City's Municipal Court is a division, issued an order mandating that municipal courts comply with a mandatory schedule for implementation of SMC. Failure of the City to implement SMC could result in the suspension of the City's Municipal Court and the transfer of all cases to St. Louis County or the municipal court of another municipality.

The Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) is requiring the City and the Municipal Court to enter into an Agreement for the use of SMC. The City's obligations under the Agreement are, in summary, as follows:

1. Enact an ordinance to assess and collect the \$7.00 Court Automation Fund Fee.
2. Operate its municipal division in accordance with all applicable laws and Supreme Court Rules and standards.
3. Provide and install necessary equipment for the implementation of SMC.

The new \$7.00 fee will increase court costs in the Municipal Court from \$26.50 to \$33.50.

The equipment for the implementation of SMC includes computer monitors and scanners, the costs for which were included in the 2019 budget.