

Engage Gwinnett Recommendations Status – Law Enforcement and Judiciary

Updated 2010 – 4th Quarter	Updated 2011 - 1st Quarter	Updated 2011 – 2nd Quarter
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Service Area	Status Quo, Declining Tax Digest, or General	Recommendation	Status	Actions Taken	Budget Impact
Law Enforcement and Judiciary	Status Quo	Superior and State Court judges should consider appointing an administrative judge for each court to study, evaluate, and make recommendations to those judges with the aim of maximizing the delivery of judicial services at an affordable cost for the citizens of Gwinnett County.	Complete	Both courts have recognized this point. In Superior Court, Judge Tim Hamil serves as the administrative judge and the State Court administrative judge is Chief Judge Robert Mock.	No budget impacts.
Law Enforcement and Judiciary	Status Quo	Explore and pursue state reimbursement for county services wherever possible.	Complete	Wherever possible, special revenues are used to fund expenditures. For example, the Police Department will be using eligible funds for training purposes in 2011. The Sheriff's Department currently utilizes Drug Related Asset Forfeiture funds to cover county services whenever allowed by law. And the Courts continue to look at grants, grant electronic invoicing system for indigent defense, and drug court grants through the state.	Year to date Police training/travel expenses paid from alternate funding (Grants, LEA & SOA): \$98,727
Law Enforcement and Judiciary	Status Quo	If permitted by law, use SPLOST funds to fund the purchase of police vehicles before using General Fund revenues.	Complete	There is a plan to purchase pursuit vehicles in 2011 using SPLOST funds.	Capital project E-0140, Fleet Equipment Police-2005 SPLOST has \$3,125,500 budgeted for Police pursuit vehicle replacements. Current Year Purchase Orders for \$2,106,386 have been processed for the purchase of pursuit vehicles for Police.
Law Enforcement and Judiciary	Status Quo	The Work Group recognizes the potentially tremendous detrimental impact that reductions in the Law Enforcement and Justice System would have on our community. We recommend maintaining all current service levels.	Complete	The 2011 budget was adopted at an amount that maintains the current level of service. Subsequent actions by the Board of Commissioners to balance the 2011 budget can be found at www.gwinnettcounty.com .	No budget impacts.

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Law Enforcement and Judiciary	Status Quo	<p>The fees permitted by state law for such things as court filings do not come close to the actual costs of providing these services. While recovering the full costs is unlikely, and perhaps not desirable in some cases, fees should be increased to recover a larger portion of the cost of service delivery. Action by the Georgia General Assembly is required. We urge our local elected officials, including our state legislative delegation, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase state-mandated fees to be more closely related to actual costs • Add a technology surcharge to criminal fees to support technology improvements • Authorize privatization of fee/fine collection including the collection of fines that remain unpaid upon the expiration of a criminal sentence • Recategorize some minor misdemeanor criminal offenses and reduce the potential penalty in a way that would permit those cases to be resolved without a jury trial 	In Progress	<p>This recommendation has been accepted through multiple means. The County continues to work with our delegation to improve permissible cost recovery methods. Technology surcharges are being explored. The County drafted legislation in an attempt to establish a technology fee on all citations that are issued, however, the legislative delegation did not bring this item to the floor for debate. We will continue to educate the delegation on the benefits of such a fee, and work with them to try and get this moved forward for a 2012 vote. Georgia House Bill 1055 has allowed certain fees to be increased, and the County has done so where permitted. As a result of 1055, an additional \$1.5 million is projected to be received on an annual basis.</p>	
Law Enforcement and Judiciary	Status Quo	<p>The current method of delivering indigent criminal defense services should be re-examined. Consideration should be given to finding an alternative to the current system of paying for those services on an hourly basis.</p>	In Progress	<p>The governing committee over indigent defense is discussing and looking into options.</p>	
Law Enforcement and Judiciary	Status Quo	<p>We recommend that a process model for budgeting and staffing decisions be implemented that recognizes the highly interconnected and interdependent nature of the entire Law Enforcement and Justice System, a model that would also serve to promote efficiency and eliminate service duplication. This review should be led by the Performance Analysis Department and involve consultants, staff and citizens in its work.</p>	In Progress	<p>This recommendation is being integrated where possible. The change in philosophy is ideal to integrate service delivery across departments and offices within the organization.</p>	

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Law Enforcement and Judiciary	Status Quo	<p>The Law Enforcement and Justice System would benefit both in terms of reduced costs and greater efficiency from taking maximum advantage of technology. The Work Group supports implementing technological advances and innovative processes to increase productivity and transparency. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expediting implementation of the Criminal Justice Information System. • Expediting a paperless system for courts, tickets, licenses and permits, police records. • Providing online access or self-service kiosk for service delivery • A case management electronic court filing system. • Exploring a public-private partnership for self-service or paperless delivery of services. 	In Progress	<p>The County continues to strive toward this recommendation. As examples, the Police Department has implemented a self-service and paperless way to access accident reports. The Sheriff's Department has implemented several technology advances like automated license plate readers in patrol cars and automated inmate kiosks at the detention center. The courts are working on a new case management system. The Engage Gwinnett committee called "Excellence Through Innovation" delivered their recommendations to the Board in May, and a number of initiatives with a technology focus are being evaluated that have the potential to create additional government operational efficiencies gained by business process changes and the use of technology to provide long-term improvements. Police implemented automated license plate readers in 3 patrol cars in June 2011.</p>	
Law Enforcement and Judiciary	Status Quo	<p>Explore outsourcing operations for Corrections, GJAC entry (not courtroom) security, building maintenance, the animal control facility, process servers (civil).</p>	In Progress	<p>This recommendation is under review.</p>	
Law Enforcement and Judiciary	Status Quo	<p>We recommend consolidation of certain services, including building maintenance, IT Services, other support services</p>	In Progress	<p>Several initiatives are underway for 2011. The ITS department will absorb greater centralized functions. Support Services is studying centralizing county-wide facilities under their management for purposes of repairs and renovations. The warehouse operations for the Fire and Police departments were combined in 2010.</p>	

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Law Enforcement and Judiciary	Status Quo	Organize and promote a “summit meeting” between municipal and Recorder’s Court officials regarding fines to ensure equitable fines among jurisdictions.	In Progress	We do a survey of other “traffic courts” in the area from time-to-time to see where our fine schedule is in relationship to the other courts. This includes not only the cities, but DeKalb Recorder’s Court and Cobb County State Court, traffic division.	
Law Enforcement and Judiciary	Status Quo	Implement an education initiative to leverage citizen volunteer capacity for community building to extend and compliment the service delivery of the Law Enforcement and Justice System.	In Progress	The Sheriff’s Department is leveraging citizen volunteers in three programs: Deputy Reserves, Seniors in Action, and Explorers. In addition, the County is currently working on a countywide webpage for citizen volunteer opportunities on its website at https://www.gwinnettcounty.com/ . The Police Department initiated a Volunteer program in June 2011. Currently, there are 36 active volunteers assigned to various units at Police. Based on May’s year to date figures, there have been 705 hours worked by volunteers with an estimated value of \$15,075.	
Law Enforcement and Judiciary	Status Quo	Support efforts currently underway to evaluate the internal business process of county operations, to measure performance, and seek efficiencies. These efforts are valuable and should be encouraged.	In Progress	The effort for continued efficiencies is ongoing.	
Law Enforcement and Judiciary	Declining Tax Digest	We would continue to recommend that the County maintain the current levels of service in the courts and law enforcement.	Complete	The 2011 budget was adopted at an amount that maintains the current level of service. Subsequent actions by the Board of Commissioners to balance the 2011 budget can be found at www.gwinnettcounty.com .	No budget impacts.

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Law Enforcement and Judiciary	Declining Tax Digest	<p>If funding in this area of responsibility must be reduced, and reductions are made on a percentage basis, the percentage goal in this area should be set at the least proportionate reduction possible. We acknowledge that more limited cuts in this area might result in a need for greater percentage cuts in other less “core” service areas which is the intention of the recommendation. Within each official's or department's budget and area of responsibility, the reductions should be prioritized by that official or department manager, that person being most familiar with the operations of the department and with a view towards impacting core services as little as possible.</p>	Complete	<p>Through the County's Business Planning Process, each agency and department has identified those core functions that must continue in order to maintain services at status quo. As a whole, County departments and agencies have also identified their own service and fiscal priorities, voluntarily offering \$5.7 million in reductions in 2011 on top of prior-year reductions already in place. Should reductions be required in this area, officials and department managers will be consulted so that the full impact of any funding decisions can be fully explored and evaluated prior to being implemented. The 2011 budget was adopted at an amount that maintains the current level of service. Subsequent actions by the Board of Commissioners to balance the 2011 budget can be found at www.gwinnettcounty.com.</p>	No budget impacts.