

MUSCOGEE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

BUDGET PRESENTATION - MAY 11, 2021

IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 JUDICIAL EMERGENCY ON WEAPONS CARRY LICENSE APPLICATIONS AND WHY THE PROBATE COURT NEEDS MORE SUPERVISION OF LICENSE APPLICATIONS

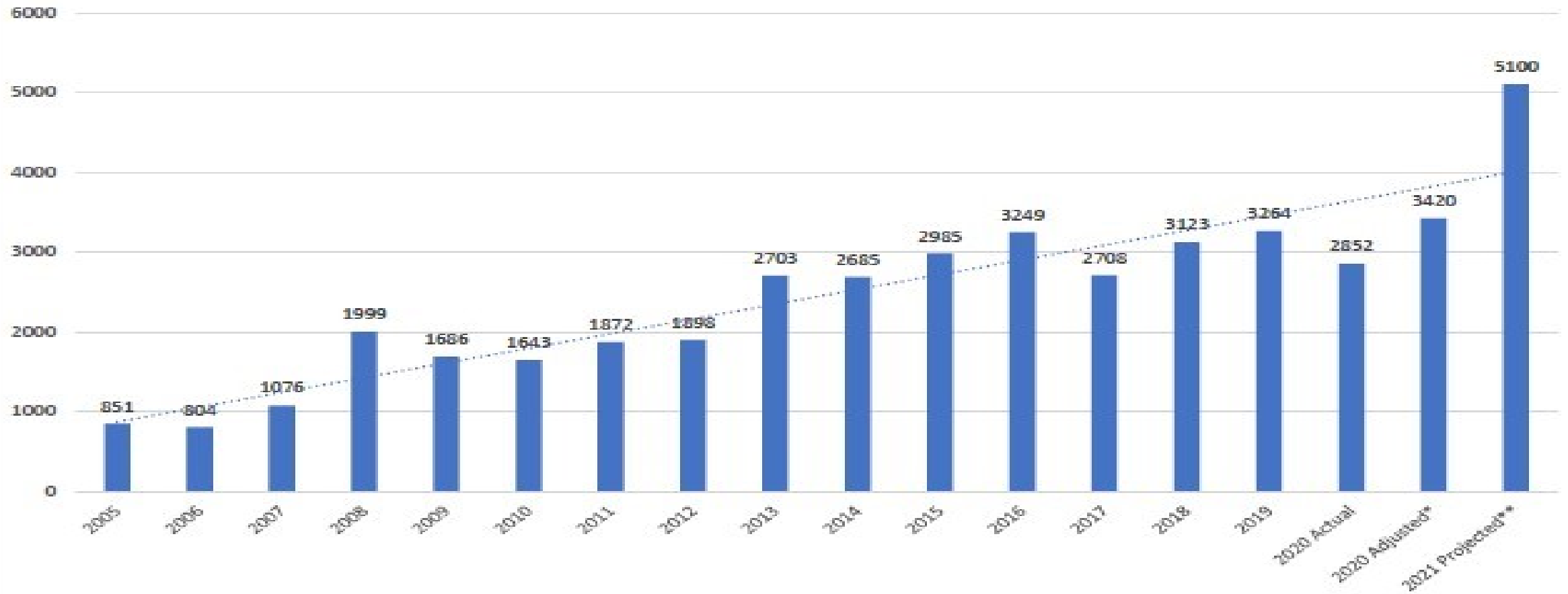
The Probate Court was closed for Weapons Carry and Marriage Licenses between March 14, 2020 and May 18, 2020. Yet, we processed more WCLs in 10 months in 2020 than we did in all of 2017. Currently the Probate Court is processing all renewals by mail and up to 20 new applicants a day. So far in 2021, we have processed over 1800 WCLs.

As shown in the next slides, we have experienced unprecedented demand for WCLs during 2020 and 2021. As a result during FY22, I anticipate a significant increase in revenue for WCLs and a return to “normal” revenue on marriage licenses. This is why I am here asking for a meager increase in my budget to re-classify one of my senior clerks from a G-14 B to a G-15B.

With this promotion, my clerk will have more responsibility supervising license processing plus will have the power to act as the judge in uncontested matters, if needed. This re-classification has already been approved the UGA/CSU folks as appropriate.

GOOD NEWS - Walk-In services for Weapons Carry and Marriage Licenses resumes June 1, 2021. I am confident opening up to walk-ins will not reduce revenue.

Muscogee County Weapons Carry License Applications



* The Probate Court was closed between March 16, 2020 and May 18, 2020 to WCL applications. The 2020 **adjusted** application number assumed the Probate Court would have processed 285 applications per month during the time we were closed. This assumption is based upon the 10-month average number of applications processed in 2020. To wit: $2852/10 =$ approximately 285.

** The 2021 **projected** application number is an extrapolation from the average of the first four months of 2021 (425 per month) applied to the entire 2021 calendar year.

CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE OF INCREASED REVENUE FROM WEAPONS CARRY LICENSE APPLICATIONS IN FY22

- ▶ Revenue to CCG from new and renewal WCLs = \$27.00 each.
 - ▶ (\$22.00 from Probate Court fees less expenses and a \$5.00 fee collected for the Sheriff to cover fingerprinting and name-based background checks.)
- ▶ Conservative estimate of WCLs in FY2022 and beyond = 4000.
- ▶ 4000 WCLs (FY22 estimate) – 3264 WCLs (highest ever - 2019 calendar actual) = 736 new WCLs
- ▶ 736 WCLs x \$27.00 = at least **\$16,192.00** in increased future revenue.
- ▶ Cost of increased license supervision = \$2,189.00.

WHY ENHANCING PROBATE COURT LICENSE SUPERVISION--BY APPROVING MY EMPLOYEE RE-CLASSIFICATION--MAKES SENSE AND CENTS.

- ▶ Projected revenue from increased demand for WCLs far outstrips added supervision expenses. (**Revenue neutral** accounting for increased demand.)
- ▶ Reduces costs related to processing errors. Mistakes have been made.
- ▶ Cheaper than another deputy clerk – would rather be a smaller, smarter, more efficient office than a bigger office. (Macon/Bibb has 11 employees to our 8 employees).
- ▶ Reclassification's Impact on CCG general reserve fund days = under 6 minutes