



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6139
September 6, 2022
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6139: Municipal Court Audio-Visual Reimbursement Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Authorize City Manager to sign the audio-visual reimbursement grant for the Mercer Island Municipal Court.	

DEPARTMENT:	Municipal Court
STAFF:	Ali Spietz, Chief of Administration Cheryl Lucero, Court Administrator
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Interagency Reimbursement Agreement for Audio Visual Equipment
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ 60,633.77
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Court staff is seeking authorization to accept an audio-visual reimbursement grant from the Washington Administrative Office of the Courts for the Mercer Island Municipal Court (“Court”).

- In July 2022, the Court received notification of a grant award from Washington Administrative Office of the Courts.
- This grant funds audio-visual (A/V) upgrades to expand access to justice. Through extensive A/V upgrades, the court will be able to provide remote hearing capabilities and create and manage an electronic filing system.
- Staff seeks authorization to accept the grant award of \$60,633.77 to support A/V upgrades to the Court.

BACKGROUND

The Mercer Island Municipal Court has been a low technology court since it opened in 2005. Case files are still in paper format and court recordings have been on a proprietary and antiquated system. The security cameras are outdated and do not provide coverage for the entire courtroom. In addition, most courts in King County have upgraded their systems over the past few years to provide remote hearings, allowing defendants and attorneys to attend virtually.

In June, the Court applied for a reimbursement grant from Washington Administrative Office of the Courts (“AOC”) for audio visual upgrades in courtrooms. In July, the Court was notified that it would be receiving an award of \$60,633.77 to enhance the A/V capabilities of the courtroom.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The Court will use the grant funds for A/V upgrades and additions to the current system to allow for conducting, recording, and broadcasting under the open court doctrine of remote hearings. An additional desktop computer and data line installation will allow Court staff to facilitate and conduct remote hearings. Furthermore, a large wall monitor, laptop, and data line installation in the courtroom, will allow individuals attending in person to participate and watch remote hearings. The grant funds will also be used to purchase multiple scanners to transition paper case files into electronic files creating business efficiencies and improved records management.

After receiving authorization to sign the reimbursement agreement for the grant, Court staff will work with City IT staff to procure and install the necessary A/V equipment.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authorize the City Manager (or designee) to sign the Interagency Reimbursement Agreement substantially in form attached as Exhibit 1 between the Washington Administrative Office of the Courts and the Mercer Island Municipal Court for Audio Visual Reimbursement in the amount of \$60,633.77, and to accept all grant renewals.