

Jackson County Court Services

Comprehensive Plan

2024



Jackson County Introduction

Population Size and Geographical Location

Jackson County is located in extreme Southwestern Minnesota along the Interstate 90 corridor and borders Iowa. According to the 2022 U. S. Census Bureau's estimate, the total population of Jackson County is 9,893. The county has seen a slight decrease in population of 3.79% since 2010. Of the 87 counties in the State of Minnesota only 20 counties have populations less than that of Jackson County. The county seat of Jackson County is Jackson Minnesota, population 3301.

Jackson County is 703 square miles in size. Agriculture is the dominant industry in Jackson County. The largest business in Jackson County is Agco, which employs nearly 1000 people and manufactures a variety of farming equipment. Several other large manufacturing companies in Jackson Minnesota who employ and give opportunities to clients on probation.

The local median household income in Jackson County is \$68,368. Average commuting time to work is 17 minutes. A total of the population who have a high school degree is 93.5%. There are 707 living veterans residing in Jackson County.



Recreation opportunities are in abundance in Jackson County as well. There are nine county parks totaling over 200 acres of parkland. Kilen Woods State Park near Lakefield Minnesota also provides additional recreational opportunities for Jackson County residents. The Des Moines River runs through the state park and flows downstream to the city of Jackson Minnesota and beyond. Finally, the State of Iowa has worked with Jackson County to create a connector bike trail from Brown/Anderson County Park to the Iowa Great Lakes Trail System.

Race and Ethnicity

White (not Hispanic or Latino)	90.5%
Hispanic or Latino	4.6%
Two or More Races	1.9%
Asian	1.9%
Black or African American	1.1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.2%

Administration and Organization of Correctional Services

Mission Statement

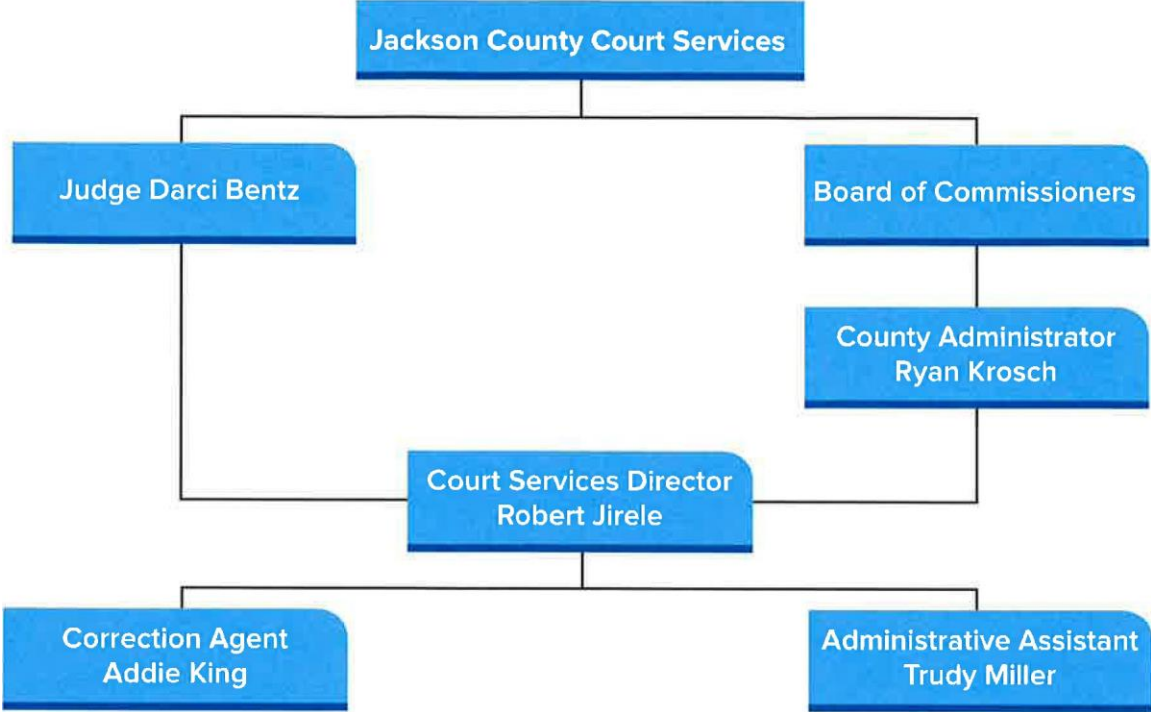
To develop, provide, and promote effective probation services which hold offenders accountable which contribute to a safer community.

Jackson County Commissioners

L to R: Roger Pohlman, Phil Nasby, Scott McClure, Jim Eigenberg, Don Wachel



Organizational Chart



Judge Darci Bentz



Jackson County Court Services Staff
(Addie King, Trudy Miller, Robert Jirele)

Advisory Board

Jackson County Court Services does not have, nor has ever had, an advisory board. One of the advantages of working for a smaller county/organization is the weekly, if not daily, contact with other departments working within the judicial system. Having said this the Department of Corrections will now require all probation departments to have an active advisory board by May 1, 2024. I would propose to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners the formation of the Jackson County Court Services Advisory Board, to consist of the following members:

Jackson County Commissioner Roger Pohlman
Jackson County Administrator Ryan Krosch
Fifth District Court Judge Darci Bentz
Jackson County Attorney Kristi Meyeraan
Jackson County Chief Deputy Kelly Mitchell

The above Advisory Board was approved by the Jackson County Commissioners on May 21, 2024.

Agency Training Requirements

Jackson County Court Services staff are educated and trained in corrections best practices. Two staff persons are employed by Jackson County Court Services. The Director has nearly 36 years of probation agent experience. The former Juvenile Agent recently began new employment for the Department of Corrections. She completed thirteen years' experience working at Jackson County Court Services and was an active member of the MACPO (Minnesota Association County Probation Officers) organization. Additionally, she studied and completed training to prepare for the Department of Corrections Career Agent exam/interview. Our new Juvenile Agent began employment on 2-12-24. She does not have any prior probation experience and she will be attending the Department of Corrections New Agent Training Academy. The New Agent Training Academy begins on 4-1-24 and it meets intermittently both virtually and in person for a period of three months.

Agents at Jackson County Court Services are required to complete at least forty hours of corrections training each year. This is not difficult to accomplish due to the abundance of online trainings. Additionally, county and department safety trainings are required of all staff. Jackson County Court Services employs one part time support staff. This position is required to attend at least eight hours of training annually.

Lastly, Agents are encouraged to attend a variety of state-wide conferences. Recent conferences attended include the Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers Spring Conference (MACPO), Minnesota Corrections Fall Conference (MCA), and the Minnesota Association Community Corrections Act Counties Agent Conference (MACCAC). If an Agent

attends a state conference the remaining agent must be available to cover the office in their absence.

Overview of Supervision Population

Jackson County Court Services operates under the County Probation Office authority as provided by Minnesota Statute 244.19. Jackson County Court Services Agents are responsible for the supervision of:

- All juvenile probation cases
- Juvenile diversion cases
- Juvenile truancy cases
- Adult pretrial cases
- Adult probation misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor cases
- Adult misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor diversion cases

Jackson County Court Services does not utilize specialized caseloads. With only one adult agent, this is not feasible. The Director covers all adult clients in addition to administrative duties. The remaining agent covers the juvenile caseload. Pretrial cases are handled jointly. When a staff person is gone (e.g. vacation, training, medical leave) the remaining agent must cover the entire office caseload to the best of their ability.

Year-end Probation Population

<u>2020</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>
Gross Misdemeanor	93	65	28	4
Misdemeanor	91	66	25	2
Total:	184			
Juvenile	34	22	12	0

<u>2021</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>
Gross Misdemeanor	94	61	33	3
Misdemeanor	91	66	25	2
Total:	185			
Juvenile	21	15	6	0

<u>2022</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>
Gross Misdemeanor	82	61	21	2
Misdemeanor	67	49	18	0
Total:	149			
Juvenile	25	20	5	0

Pre-Trial Population

<u>2020</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>
Felony	16	14	2	3
Gross Misdemeanor	17	14	3	0
Misdemeanor	4	2	2	0
Total:	37			

<u>2021</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>
Felony	23	22	3	2
Gross Misdemeanor	10	8	2	2
Misdemeanor	5	4	1	0
Total:	48			

<u>2022</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>
Felony	20	19	1	1
Gross Misdemeanor	12	11	1	4
Misdemeanor	3	3	0	0
Total:	45			

As of 1-1-24, the lone adult agent/director has an adult caseload of 143 clients. The 143-client caseload is a mix of gross misdemeanor, misdemeanor, and unsupervised cases. Of the 143 cases there are nine high-risk clients and 13 medium-risk clients. The remaining 121 clients are low risk. Additionally, there are 34 additional clients who are currently under pre-trial supervision as ordered by the court.

The lone juvenile agent has a current caseload of 26 juveniles on court ordered probation. There are an additional nine delinquency cases pending at this time. Additionally, this office supervises truancy cases. There are eleven truancy cases under supervision with eleven more truancy cases pending at this time.

The Department of Corrections (DOC) has requested outcome data for calendar year 2022 as part of this report. Specifically, the percent of adult and juvenile cases successfully closed and unsuccessfully closed. The results are as follows:

Adult cases closed in 2022: 71

Adult cases closed successfully: 61 (86%)

Adult cases closed unsuccessfully: 10 (14%)

Juvenile cases closed in 2022: 29

Juvenile cases closed successfully: 22 (76%)

Juvenile cases closed unsuccessfully: 7 (24%)

A greater percentage of adult cases were closed successfully opposed to juvenile cases. Often, it is easier to encourage adults on probation to successfully complete probationary requirements due to the threat/possibility of jail time. Juveniles (and their parents) are typically a more challenging population of probation client with whom to work.

Strategic Planning

Strategic Planning is a process used by organizations to identify their goals, the strategies necessary to accomplish those goals and the internal performance management system used to monitor and evaluate progress. The trend in probation is to embrace evidence-based practices such as validated risk/needs assessments, cognitive behavioral programming, and outcome measures. Jackson County Court Services will form an Advisory Board with local justice and county partners to ensure departmental success and long-term strategic planning. Short term goals for 2024 include:

1. Jackson County Court Services is committed to providing evidence-based probation services to assist clients with positive behavior changes.
 - A. Complete risk assessments on all juvenile and adult felony cases and all adult and juvenile misdemeanor person related cases.
 - B. Increase client referrals and successful completion to cognitive behavior intervention classes by 50%.
 - C. Complete at least one Carey Guide assignment on a client one time monthly or more.
 - D. Refer new Corrections Agent to training in evidence-based practices through participation and completion of the Department of Corrections New Probation Agent Academy no later than July 15, 2024.

2. Jackson County Court Services is committed to providing victim services and reparations.
 - A. Jackson County Court Services will work with the future hire of the Crime Victims/Witness Coordinator to be employed by and housed at the Jackson County Attorney's Office.
 - B. Jackson County Court Services will assign Corrections Agent King in the specialized role of Intimate Partner Violence Agent which will enhance victim services related to intimate partner violence. King's former role as Southwest Crisis Center Victim Advocate is relevant and applicable for this specialized caseload.

3. Jackson County Court Services will work on personnel related topics as we move into the future.
 - A. Jackson County Court Services will form a five-person Advisory Board by May 1, 2024 as required by the Department of Corrections.
 - B. In December 2024 Jackson County Court Services will begin the recruitment, advertising, and hiring of a new Director of Court Services. It is hoped that a new Director could commence working no later than May 1, 2025 and he/she be allowed the opportunity to cross-train with the current Director for a period of one month.

Pretrial Services & Diversion

Jackson County Court Services implemented the Pretrial Release Program in November 2015. Prior to this date, Jackson County Court did not have an active pretrial release program. Both agents at Jackson County Court Services complete pretrial evaluations for the court. Jackson County Court Services two-person staff completed nearly 70 pretrial release evaluations in 2023.

Effective January 1, 2024 all Minnesota Probation Offices commenced using the new Minnesota Pretrial Release Evaluation Form and Assessment Tool (MNPAT-R). This tool measures risk in inmates appearing before the Court and helps guide the Court in determining conditions of release or setting bail amounts. The MNPAT-R uses three factors in measuring or determining risk on inmates. These factors include an individual's employment status, whether a criminal is pending, and if currently on probation or conditions of release on an unrelated file/case. Completing a MNPAT-R requires the probation agent to interview the inmate to gather relevant information which allows the Court to make an informed decision on conditions of release.

The goal of bail and the Pretrial Release Program is to maximize inmate release while simultaneously ensuring court appearances and increasing public safety. The court uses a myriad of conditions tailored to each individual to ensure that clients attend court and follow the pretrial release conditions that are court-ordered.

Common pretrial conditions ordered by the Court include both random and scheduled alcohol and drug testing, home electronic monitoring, weekly in-person reporting to Court Services, and restricting having any contact with victims. Working with pretrial release clients immediately upon their release from jail helps form relationships with clients and makes it easier to gain a client's trust. Often, clients are encouraged to voluntarily complete assessments or seek out other services which will benefit them prior to a conviction being entered in their particular court case. Forming relationships with clients and guiding them in their decision-making process immediately upon their release from jail can only increase lower recidivism and increase public safety.

Diversion/Truancy Diversion

Jackson County Court Services will monitor adult diversion cases if requested by the County Attorney's Office. However, these are completed on a somewhat limited basis. Juvenile diversion cases are completed with more regularity. The juvenile agent will use the diversion program on a variety of first time, petty offense juvenile cases.

Additionally, an active juvenile diversion program works with truancy cases in partnership with the County Attorney's Office. Jackson County Court Services and the area schools send letters to families who have children with three, five, and seven unexcused absences. If attendance does not improve, the Assistant County Attorney and the Juvenile Agent will meet with parents and truant students in the evening during the school year on the first Thursday of each month. A short presentation is given to all families in attendance as to truancy and the consequences for both students and parents should a child fail to attend school. After the presentation each family is individually counseled to pinpoint the reasons for the student's truancy and to agree on a strategy to increase attendance. A truancy diversion agreement is then written and signed by the parents and the truant student. This agreement is monitored and enforced by the juvenile agent in hopes that a formal court petition is not needed in the future.

Narrative of Core Interventions and Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) Programming

Evidence-based practice (EBP) is the use of objective, balanced, and responsible use of current research and the best available data to guide policy and practice decisions, such that outcomes for clients are improved. Evidence-based practices focus on approaches demonstrated to be effective through empirical research rather than through anecdote or professional experience alone. An evidence-based approach involves ongoing, critical review of research to determine what information is credible, and what policies and practices would be most effective given the best available evidence.

Jackson County Court Services utilizes a number of evidence-based practices (EBP) in assisting our clients on the road to success. Some of the practices are as follows:

Carey Guides

Carey guides assist probation agents with tools to support behavioral change and skill development with their clientele. Each Carey Guide contains worksheets and exercises to help clients better understand how their behavior are impacting their life and those around them, and assists them in identifying and improving skills to avoid repeat offenses.

Case Plans

Case planning involves analyzing a client's problems, establishing goals to address these problems, assigning priorities to these goals, and designing steps to reach these goals within a given time frame. Case Plans are completed on high-risk clientele and clients who need assistance or motivation to complete court ordered conditions of probation.

Risk Assessments

The Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) is an assessment that measures the risk and need factors of adult offenders. It assesses the rehabilitation needs of offenders, their risk of recidivism, and the most relevant factors related to supervision and programming. Some key areas measured include criminal history, education, employment, family, marital status, leisure activities, companions, alcohol or drug issues, procriminal attitude, and antisocial pattern.

The LS/CMI indicates to the supervising agent if a client is at high, medium, or low risk to reoffend. In larger offices probation agents may be assigned a smaller caseload of high-risk clientele or may be assigned a high number of low-risk clientele. In Jackson County however, there is only one adult agent who covers the entire caseload of high, medium, and low-risk clientele. Having a specialized caseload is not an option in Jackson County due to low staffing numbers. The LS/CMI would, however, assist a Jackson County Agent to know a client's risk to reoffend and to ensure that a high-risk client receives the appropriate amount of supervision and guidance. The LS/CMI is completed on adult clients convicted of gross misdemeanors or misdemeanor person-related convictions.

The Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) is a gender-informed, culturally-informed, strengths-focused risk/needs assessment tool for juveniles that reliably and accurately classifies and predicts re-offending with juvenile populations. Key areas measured include prior record/current offense, education and employment, personality, family circumstances and parenting, peer relations, leisure activities and attitudes. The YLS/CMI is completed on juvenile clients convicted of felonies or misdemeanor person convictions.

Domestic Violence Inventory (DVI)

The Domestic Violence Inventory (DVI) is an evidence-based self-report test that is used to evaluate adult clients accused or convicted of domestic violence. The DVI is a domestic violence offender risk assessment tool. This tool measures a client's risk and scores on the following scales: truthfulness, violence, control, alcohol, drug, and stress-coping abilities. In Jackson County the DVI is typically ordered by the Court or is recommended as part of a plea bargain on all domestic violence cases.

There are no domestic violence classes held in Jackson County due to the small number of clients on probation in relation to other Minnesota counties. However, we do refer clients to the domestic violence program run by the Southwest Crisis Center in Worthington Minnesota. If transportation is an issue a client can attend a domestic violence class held virtually at Stage of Change in Mankato Minnesota.

Cognitive Behavioral Intervention

Cognitive behavioral intervention classes involve purposeful involvement to change thinking and behavior through understanding thoughts and emotions. Programs include classes such as Decision Points and Thinking for a Change. Jackson County Court Services does not have the caseload size to facilitate our own cognitive behavioral classes. However, we do refer clients to programming run by other agencies. Currently, we have one client involved in the Thinking for a Change class held at the Nobles County Jail. We also have a client currently participating in the online Decision Points class facilitated by the Department of Corrections in Marshall.

Chemical Dependency Programming

Jackson County is one of the few counties in Minnesota without a chemical dependency assessor or an outpatient or inpatient treatment program. Again, this necessitates Jackson County Court Services to refer clients to chemical dependency services in surrounding counties. Most frequently-used programs include Agape in Windom Minnesota, New Beginnings in Worthington Minnesota, Fountain Centers in Fairmont Minnesota, and Shade of the Tree in Spirit Lake Iowa. Agape is willing to complete assessments via telephone and offers in-person outpatient treatment and a Saturday DWI Class four times yearly. Fountain Centers offers assessment and virtual outpatient treatment programs for both adult and juvenile clientele. New Beginnings completes assessment and offer in-person outpatient treatment. Lastly, Stages of Change in Mankato Minnesota offers virtual chemical dependency assessment and treatment for adults and a recorded 4-hour alcohol education class for juveniles.

Housing Assistance

When clients in Jackson County are struggling with housing needs we often refer to the United Community Action Partnership (UCAP). This is a nine-county agency which operates in various Southwestern Minnesota counties. Services provided by UCAP include rental assistance, lowering of heating and cooling expenses, access to utilities, and provides a list of available units for clients seeking housing.

Gender and Culturally Responsive Services

Due to the relatively low number of clients supervised by Jackson County Court Services, gender and culturally specific services are not feasible. We are constantly searching for alternative programming for clients to attend virtually. We have used the Veterans Drug/DWI Court in Mankato Minnesota on several occasions. A current client is completing an online class called AWARE through Alpha Emergency Behavioral Health (Twin Cities) which provides the client with education on appropriate sexual boundaries.

Family Service Network Collaborative

Jackson County Court Services is an active member of the Family Services Network Collaborative Board. In 1993 the Minnesota State Legislature authorized money for the Family Services Collaborative Grant Program, for the development of "locally driven service delivery partnerships that help communities come together to improve results for Minnesota children and families." In 1997 federal dollars became available through the Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS). Through this, local collaboratives receive reimbursement for a variety of services. There are approximately ninety Children's Mental Health and Family Services Collaboratives in Minnesota.

Since 2016, the Director of Jackson County Court Services has chaired the Family Services Network Collaborative Board. I would like to highlight two Family Service Network programs that work directly with Jackson County Court Services juvenile clients in an effort to reduce recidivism:

Project Intercept Community Support Program

This program is designed to increase the opportunities for positive growth and better emotional health for "at-risk" youth in the community. The goal of the program is to reduce the potential for juvenile delinquency in Jackson County by empowering young people to succeed. This program provides opportunities for youth and their families by way of mental health education and screening, adult mentorship, experiences that promote positive social interaction and coordination of relevant services.

Project Intercept typically meets with youth involved in the program twice monthly. The youth are divided into two groups: middle-school youth and high-school youth. Adult mentors and staff will plan and supervise social activities and opportunities for at-risk youth. These social activities are often experiences these youth would not otherwise have the opportunity to partake in with their own families. Examples of social opportunities include visits to amusement parks, water parks, bowling alleys, and apple orchards. Other social events may include making Christmas cookies or participating in movie and game nights. These events are very much anticipated by the youth involved in the program.

Youth Coordinating Council (YCC}

The Youth Coordinating Council (YCC) is a group of professionals (probation, social worker, school counselor, etc.) that meets with at-risk students and their parents in the school on a monthly basis. This is an opportunity to touch base with the student and discuss school attendance, grades, and any potential issues with other students or in the home. Juvenile probation clients are court ordered to attend YCC during the duration of their probation.

YCC is held at the four schools in Jackson County and YCC rotates to each school on a weekly basis. The schools included are Jackson County Central High School, Jackson County Central Middle School, Okabena High School/Middle School, and the Windom Alternative Learning Center. Attending YCC provides students with an additional opportunity to meet with caring professionals who desire to see each student reach their potential and to increase their chance at success.

Victim Concerns

The majority of the work with crime victims in Jackson County is handled by the Jackson County Attorney's Office. This office strives to protect the rights of crime victims and witnesses. As part of this mission, The Jackson County Attorney's Office provides a variety of services to victims and witnesses of crime and seeks to ensure compliance with the Minnesota Crime Victim Rights Law. The staff of the attorney's office provides crime victims with information about their legal rights and the criminal justice process, including ongoing information about the status of a case and the next court dates and time. Victims are also provided referrals to appropriate services and support resources in the community. The staff works diligently with victims to help in preparing Victim Impact Statements and completing reparations and restitution applications.

The Jackson County Attorney's Office recently requested and has been approved by the Jackson County Board to hire a Crime Victim/Witness Coordinator. This position will primarily be dedicated to providing crime victim services. In addition to this new position, the Jackson County Attorney's Office has a strong working relationship with the Southwest Minnesota Crisis Center which provides victim services in a 5-county area in Southwestern Minnesota. Jackson County Court Services welcomed a new employee on February 12, 2024, Agent King. Ms. King worked for the past 5 years as a victim advocate for the Southwest Crisis Center. She will bring fresh perspective to this position and will prove to be highly skilled and empathetic to crime victims.

While the Jackson County Attorney's Office is the primary contact source for victims, Jackson County Court Services does accommodate victim needs as well. Agents go to great lengths to contact victims of person offenses in the completion of pre-trial release evaluations (bail studies). Victims are asked if they request a no contact order be issued by the court and they are asked about potential physical or mental harm that they may have incurred as a result of the assault against them. Additionally, when a agent is completing a pre-sentence investigation on a person offense, all victim impact statements are reviewed and victim requests for sentencing are considered when recommendations are made. Lastly, great attention is given to clients who may owe monetary restitution to a victim of their crime. A payment plan is set with a defendant and the progress (or lack thereof) is monitored closely. A client who does not adhere to the payment plan will be returned to court on a violation of probation.

Correctional Fees

Jackson County Court Services collects correctional fees in two categories. Probation supervision fees (\$100/year) and urine testing fees (\$10/test). Great efforts have been made to increase the amount of fees collected since the end of 2015 when a new Director was hired. The average amount of correctional fees collected between 2010 to 2015 was \$1231 yearly. However, the amount of fees collected more than doubled between 2016 to 2023 when the average yearly fees collected were \$2480. Collected probation fees go into the general budget while the urine testing fees are used to purchase additional testing supplies and the cost of laboratory testing.

The collection of probation fees will sunset or no longer be allowed to be collected per the Department of Corrections effective July 1, 2027. However, it is still the plan for Jackson County Court Services to collect probation fees until such time as allowed. We will continue to collect urine testing fees to enable the department to cover the costs of the drug testing supplies and laboratory testing.

Aggregate amount of probation fees imposed in 2022:	\$6100
Aggregate amount of fees collected in 2022:	\$2280

An additional \$330 in urine testing fees were collected in 2022.

Contracted Services

Jackson County Court Services does not currently contract for programs or services at the current time. The relatively small caseload in a rural community makes this prohibitive. This office refers to existing programs in nearby counties or utilizes virtual programs and services within the state.

At one time Jackson County Court Services contracted with the Southwestern Mental Health Center and Cottonwood County Probation for a men's domestic violence class. However, the class did not have enough referrals to have a sustainable program.

Budget/Budget Narrative

Each year the Minnesota Department of Corrections disburses funds to Jackson County Court Services to put toward salary and operating expenses. Historically, the annual amount received has been low, putting a greater financial strain on the county budget. However, during the 2023 Minnesota Legislative session a new "funding formula" was developed and probation offices statewide were approved to receive greatly needed additional funding. A snapshot of the funding Jackson County Court Services received from the Minnesota Department of Corrections for the past 6 years is detailed below:

2019	\$51,816
2020	\$49,860
2021	\$49,346
2022	\$54,039
2023	\$185,661
2024	\$262,401

The Minnesota Department of Corrections requests that a salary roster (salary and benefits) and departmental budget be estimated for the next two years and be noted in this report. The estimated salary and benefit costs for the two staff members of Jackson County Court Services is as follows:

Salary and Benefit Roster

Director:

Fiscal Year 2024	\$135,488
Fiscal Year 2025	\$141,584

Agent:

Fiscal Year 2024	\$88,661
Fiscal Year 2025	\$85,026

The agent salary for fiscal year 2024 will be somewhat lower than expected due to the position being vacant for a period of 6 weeks. Additionally, the new hire started at a salary of approximately \$12,000 lower than the previous agent was receiving.

Lastly, Jackson County Court Services contracts with the Family Services Network and the County Attorney's Office for a shared support staff position. The support staff position is employed at Court Services 8 hours weekly at a cost of \$12,000 annually.

Departmental Budget

Fiscal Year 2024

Fiscal Year 2025

Staffing:

Director	\$135,488	\$141,584
Agent	\$88,661	\$85,026
Support Staff	\$12,500	\$14,000

Other Expenses:

Phone	\$480	\$480
Computer/Tech	\$7500	\$7500
Office Space/Lease	\$12,000	\$12,000
Travel/Mileage	\$543	\$750
Training	\$3000	\$3000
Office Supplies	\$600	\$600
Copier Costs	\$1300	\$1300
Drug Testing Supplies	\$300	\$300

Total: \$262,257 \$266,540

DOC Reimbursement: \$262,401 \$262,401

Highlights

In November 2023 the Jackson County Board of Commissioners approved the construction of a new jail and law enforcement center. The current 18-bed jail was built in 1976 and is outdated. The new jail will be a 24-bed facility and will have better separation of female and male inmates. The new law enforcement center will provide much needed office space for the Sheriff's Department and will include an updated dispatch center. Total cost of the new jail and law enforcement center is \$29,509,545. Construction will begin in spring 2024 with an anticipated completion date in 2026.

In January 2024 Jackson County Probation Agent Danni Bristol resigned to accept a job working with felony adult clients for the Minnesota Department of Corrections. She was employed for thirteen years with Jackson County Court Services and will remain housed in the Jackson County Courthouse. We wish Agent Bristol the best in her new role with the DOC working with adult clients.

On February 12, 2024 Addie King commenced working at Jackson County Court Services as the new adult/juvenile agent. Agent King will be earning her bachelor's degree in Corrections from Bemidji State on May 3, 2024. For the past four years Agent King worked at the Southwest Minnesota Crisis Center as a victim advocate. Her prior role as a victim advocate will bring a unique and valuable perspective as she settles into her new role at Jackson County Court Services.

In January 2025 Jackson County will begin the transition process in the recruitment, interviewing, and hiring of a new Director of Court Services. The current Director has been in this role since November 2015 and will be retiring in May 2025. It is the hope to find a replacement that can commence working the beginning of May 2025 to cross train for one month with the current Director.