



City Council Report

Date: May 18, 2026
To: City Council
Through: Ken Cost, Assistant City Manger
From: Stephen Umpleby, Presiding City Magistrate
Shawn Haught, Court Administrator
Subject: Intergovernmental Agreement with the State of Arizona for Jury Administration Infrastructure and Related Jury Services for the Mesa Municipal Court

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to request City Council approval of a resolution authorizing the City of Mesa to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Mesa and the State of Arizona on behalf of the Superior Court of Arizona, in and for the County of Maricopa (“Superior Court”), for the Mesa Municipal Court’s use of jury administration infrastructure and related jury services offered by the Superior Court.

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the IGA on behalf of the City.

Background

The City of Mesa and the State of Arizona have maintained intergovernmental agreements for jury administration infrastructure and related jury services for the Mesa Municipal Court since prior to 2000. The parties have periodically renewed and amended these agreements to ensure the continued provision of jury administration infrastructure and related jury services necessary to support Municipal Court jury trials.

The purpose of the IGA is to allow the Mesa Municipal Court to continue to utilize the Superior Court’s established jury administration infrastructure and related jury services system rather than creating and maintaining a separate full-service jury operation internally. Through this arrangement, the Superior Court provides critical jury-related services including juror selection from the countywide master jury list, printing and

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mailing summonses, processing juror payments and mileage reimbursements, and providing access to jury management systems and technology.

By utilizing the Superior Court's existing infrastructure and expertise, the City is able to ensure compliance with Arizona jury statutes and standardized jury administration procedures while avoiding the significant staffing, operational, technological, and administrative resources that would otherwise be required to manage jury services independently. The agreement also provides operational efficiencies and reduces the administrative burden on Municipal Court staff by leveraging an established countywide system designed to administer jury operations in accordance with state law.

Discussion

The proposed IGA outlines the responsibilities of the Superior Court and the City of Mesa related to jury infrastructure and related jury services for the Mesa Municipal Court.

Under the IGA, the Superior Court will provide jury management and related services necessary to support jury trials conducted by the Mesa Municipal Court. The IGA establishes operational responsibilities, service expectations, and the term of the agreement.

The Municipal Court will coordinate jury service responsibilities in accordance with the IGA, including compliance with applicable court and financial requirements, and timely reimbursement for jury-related services. Additional details are outlined in the full IGA.

The initial term of the IGA will commence on July 1, 2026, and continue through June 30, 2028, with provisions for three (3) additional two-year renewal terms through June 30, 2034, upon mutual agreement of the parties.

Alternatives

The City Council could choose not to approve this IGA.

This is not recommended because the IGA would allow the Mesa Municipal Court to continue utilizing jury services provided through the Superior Court. The proposed agreement allows the Mesa Municipal Court to continue utilizing the Superior Court's established jury administration infrastructure and related services. By participating in this arrangement, the City avoids the significant operational, staffing, technological, and administrative costs that would otherwise be necessary to administer a full-service jury program independently.

Without this agreement, the City would be required to dedicate additional personnel

and resources to manage all aspects of jury administration internally, including juror selection, summons processing and mailing, juror payment administration, recordkeeping, technology systems, and compliance with Arizona jury statutes and procedural requirements. Utilizing the Superior Court's existing countywide jury management system provides operational efficiencies and reduces the overall administrative burden on Municipal Court staff while ensuring continued compliance with state law and standardized jury administration procedures.

Fiscal Impact

Over the last five years, the Mesa Municipal Court has spent an average of \$65,000 annually for jury services provided through this IGA. Beginning July 1, 2027, the Superior Court will increase the cost-per-jury-summons from \$2.90 to \$4.35. Based on the Municipal Court's average volume of 1,500 jury summonses issued per month, the estimated annual cost for jury services at the Mesa Municipal Court will increase to approximately \$78,300.

Coordinated With

This IGA has been coordinated with the State of Arizona, on behalf of the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County, the City Attorney's Office, and the City of Mesa Municipal Court.