

Contracting Municipal Court Services

Pros:

- Provides court services by trained professionals performing that sole business
- Provides court services in more formal and secure facilities
- Streamlines services for court customers
- Eliminates need to locate or provide a courtroom capable of accommodating jury trials
- Removes lack of courtroom security risk
- Eliminates need to resolve “open court” requirement while conducting in custody proceedings
- Eliminates conflict for meeting room space and frequent “furniture rearranging”
- Allows staff time to be focused on other City services
- Removes distraction to other City Departments created by Court clientele and attorneys
- Potential for consolidating/simplifying contracts and controlling pricing

Cons:

- Loss of interaction with prosecutor, law enforcement and defense attorneys
- Loss of awareness for types of crimes impacting the community
- Risk of contract price increases
- Potential for increased jail costs if Judge/Prosecutor imposes more severe sentences