

MASTER-IN-EQUITY

The Master-in-Equity hears a broad range of non-jury cases that are referred by the Clerk of Court or a Circuit Court Judge. These cases involve real estate matters, such as mechanic liens, foreclosures, partitions, road closings, condemnations and quiet title actions. However, at the present time the majority of the cases referred are foreclosures. The Master-in-Equity is also assigned as a Special Circuit Court Judge for the 7th Judicial Circuit by the Supreme Court. In this capacity, the Master hears probation revocations, restitution hearings, wrongful death and minor settlements.

DEPT NUMBER: 1-9259	MASTER IN EQUITY					
FUNDING SOURCE(S)	FY 2007/08 ACTUAL	FY 2008/09 ACTUAL	FY 2009/10 ACTUAL	FY 2010/11 BUDGET	FY 2011/12 BUDGET	INC/DEC FY 12 - 11
General Fund	357,930	360,678	375,292	365,201	357,746	(7,454)
EXPENDITURES						
Personnel Services Expenditures	344,763	352,014	369,101	354,401	348,066	(6,334)
Operating Expenditures	7,564	8,663	6,191	10,800	9,680	(1,120)
Capital Outlay	5,604	0	0	0	0	0
Other Expenditures	0	0	0	0	0	0
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	\$357,930	\$360,678	\$375,292	\$365,201	\$357,746	(\$7,454)
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL	5	5	5	5	5	0

FY 2011/12 Budget Highlights & Initiatives

- Personnel Services increase due to the SC Retirement System employer contribution rate increase. Overall personnel services decrease due to employee turnover.
- Operating Expenses decrease from FY 2010/11 levels with the across the board reductions to Office Supplies, Mileage, and Professional Development.

Objectives:

- To update all equipment so that when court administration brings the Master's office online, the conversion will be seamless. This includes installation of some type of security system for the protection of the office employees and the Judge.
- To update the phone system, so that conference calls can be made for the benefit of the litigants and an update answer system can be installed
- By updating all equipment and software so this office can continue to operate at current level without the need of additional employees to handle the increased caseload and electronic requirements

Function or Division	Description	Percent of Budget
Court Cases	Hear non-jury cases referred by the Clerk of Court and Circuit Court Judges, which includes foreclosures, mechanic liens, partitions, road closings, condemnations, quiet title actions and other referred cases.	100%