



OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

**LUZERNE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
200 NORTH RIVER STREET
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18711**

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LUZERNE COUNTY

2020 BUDGET

The Court of Common Pleas is seeking a Budget Allocation of \$19,079,208 for 2020, which is a 1.34% increase over 2019. This is less than the amount budgeted in 2018 (\$19,090,343). The Courts have successfully mostly absorbed the increased personnel cost for compensation, health care, pension, etc. through prudent fiscal management. The increases have not been simply “added on”, but, when possible, are offset by reductions in other areas. This process is difficult as 2/3rds of the staff are subject to collective bargaining agreements with fixed costs.

There are four Cost Centers for the Court’s Budget. They are: Courts, Magisterial District Courts, Domestic Relations, and Probation Office. The Summary as is follows:

	2020 BUDGET	2019 BUDGET	PLUS/MINUS
COURTS	\$5,071,757	\$4,901,708	+ \$170,049
MDC	\$2,720,673	\$2,517,692	+ \$202,981
DR	\$4,813,975	\$4,865,864	- \$51,889
PROBATION	\$6,472,803	\$6,537,359	- \$64,556
TOTAL	\$19,079,208	\$18,822,623	+ \$256,585

The Courts have worked closely with the Office of Budget and Finance and the County Manager, and numerous reductions and adjustments were made prior to the submission of the proposed budget. No additional downward adjustments would be sustainable. The Court is actively seeking additional source of revenue. The submitted budget is realistic, lean, and contains no nonessential items.