

Florida Courts E-Filing Authority Reserves Policy

Purpose

The purpose of the Reserves Policy for the Florida Courts E-Filing Authority (Authority) is to ensure the stability of the ongoing operations of the organization.

Definitions and Goals

Operating Reserves

The Operating Reserve, which is designated by the Board, is intended to provide an internal source of funds for situations such as: major one-time unbudgeted expenses that are critical in nature or for any unanticipated decrease or loss of revenues. Operating Reserves are not intended to replace a permanent loss of funds or eliminate an ongoing budget gap. It is the intention of the Authority to maintain a required minimum balance for Operating Reserves. If the Operating Reserve has remained below the minimum requirement for two consecutive years, the Treasurer will recommend a budget with a projected surplus that is sufficient to rebuild the reserve over a specific number of years.

The minimum amount of cash to be designated as Operating Reserves, shall be an amount sufficient to maintain ongoing operations and programs measured for a set period of time, in months.

The minimum target for Operating Reserves is equal to 25% (or 3 months) of average operating expenses for the prior two years. The maximum target for Operating Reserves is equal to 50% (or 6 months) of average operating expenses for the prior two years. The calculation of average operating expenses includes all recurring, predictable expenses such as salaries and benefits, occupancy, office, travel, program, and ongoing professional services.

Average Operating Expenses – 17-18 actual +18-19 actual $(5,869,789 + 6,487,937)/2 = \$6,178,863$

Minimum Designated Cash - $\$6,178,863 \times .25 = \$1,544,716$

Maximum Designated Cash - $\$6,178,863 \times .50 = \$3,089,446$

The amount of the targeted Operating Reserve will be calculated each year after the completion of the annual audit, reported to the Treasurer and Board of Directors, and included in the regular financial reports. The Operating Reserves may be invested according to the Investment Policy.

Developmental Reserve

The developmental reserve is intended to provide funds for products and services that grow or expand services provided by the Authority. Developmental opportunities may include items such as the purchase or development of new products/equipment/services or funding for research and development projects. The expectation in all cases, would be that the Portal would realize an improvement in product or service levels. The recommended target balance for the Developmental reserve is \$2.5 million.

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Funding of Reserves

The Operating Reserve will be funded annually with surplus unrestricted operating funds.

The Development Reserve will be funded with any excess unrestricted operating funds after considering the maximum designated Operating Reserve.

Use of Reserves

Use of Reserves requires three steps:

1. Identification of Appropriate Use

The CEO and/or the CFO of the Florida Court Clerks and Comptrollers (FCCC) will identify the need for funds and confirm that the use is consistent with the purposes described in this Policy. This step requires analysis of the reason for the shortfall, the benefits that will be realized by expanding services, the availability of any other sources of funds before using Reserves, and evaluation of the time period that the funds will be needed and replenished, if required.

2. Approval of Reserves

The CEO and or CFO must receive prior approval from the Board of Directors for the use of reserves. Absent an emergency or disaster, this approval will typically occur during the presentation of the annual budget.

3. Emergency Authority to use Reserves

Emergency authority for use of up to \$100,000 of Reserves is delegated to the FCCC CEO and/or the CFO in consultation with the E-Filing Treasurer, if possible. Any emergency use of reserves is required to be reported to the Board of Directors at their next scheduled meeting. This shall include a description of the analysis and determination of the use of funds and plans for replenishment to restore the Reserves to any target minimum amount, if required.

The FCCC CEO and/or the CFO must receive prior approval from the Treasurer and Board of Directors for any use of Reserves in excess of \$100,000.

Reporting on Reserves

The FCCC CFO is responsible for reviewing that the Reserves are maintained and used only as described

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in this Policy. Upon approval for the use of Reserves, the CFO or Controller will maintain records of the use of funds, current balances and plan for replenishment, if required. These records will be reported to the Treasurer and Board of Directors semiannually.

Review of Policy

This Policy will be reviewed annually during the budget process, by the E Filing Treasurer, or sooner if warranted by internal or external events or changes. Changes to the Policy shall be recommended by the Treasurer to the Board of Directors.

Amendment

This policy may be amended by the E-Filing Authority Board of Directors.

Approval Date:

Effective Date:

Last Review Date: May 27, 2020

Summary of Target Reserves	
Reserve Account	Target Amounts
Operating Reserve (Maximum)	\$ 3,089,446
Capital Asset Reserve	\$ 2,500,000
Total Targeted Reserves	\$ 5,589,446