

# Courts Operation Fund

Board of County Commissioners Meeting

December 10, 2024

# Purpose

An Ordinance creating the Courts Operation Fund for programs of the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Courts to address matters including adult and juvenile drug courts, family court and dependency court.

# Background / History

- The Department of Justice initiated a 3-year grant project through the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) allowing judges to conduct on-site drug testing.
- Seminole County applied for the grant in 2023 to fund one full-time position and supplies for operation of a laboratory on-site at the Seminole County Criminal Justice Center.
- To transition from a grant-funded program to a self-sustaining program the operation will charge fees for the service of the laboratory.
- The project was inspired by similar programs in Polk, Brevard and Duval counties.

# Current Status

- The mission of the Drug Testing Laboratory is to enhance public safety by offering accessible and affordable substance testing to Seminole County residents.
- Grant funding will continue through September 30, 2025, with a potential for a one-year extension.
- Grant funding provides for salaries and supplies of the laboratory.

# Recommendation

Approve the Ordinance to establish the Courts Operation Fund and Budget Amendment Request (BAR) #25-011 to appropriate budget.