

# Sarpy County

## UNFUNDED MANDATES & SERVICES PROVIDED TO STATE OF NEBRASKA - FISCAL 2021 DATA

Updated February 2022

Following is a partial list of services provided to the State of Nebraska without reimbursement and unfunded mandates.

Office/Department	Description	Amount
Register of Deeds	The Sarpy County Register of Deeds office does nearly all of the work required to file land records in the County, yet was required to send over \$3.2M of the documentary stamp tax collected to the State in FY 2021.	\$ 3,244,253
County Court	The Sarpy County Court is required to remit certain court costs to the State. If those fees cannot be collected from defendants in the case the County is required to provide funds for those fees, including Filing Fees, Judges Retirement and Law Enforcement Improvement Fund. (See Note 1).	\$ 56,747
County Clerk	Requires counties, cities, school districts, and community colleges to hold a joint public hearing if one of these entities wishes to request more property tax dollars from the previous year. These entities must mail a postcard to all property taxpayers detailing the date, time, and location of the joint public hearing, a list of entities participating in the hearing, a telephone number for each, and the amount of each entity's property tax request. The postcard will also include the prior and current year assessed value, the amount of property taxes due for the previous year, the amount of property taxes due for the current year, and the change in the amount of property taxes.	\$ 23,052
Autopsy Costs	Added due to inclusion on NACO survey list	\$ 285,582
Grand Jury Costs	Added due to inclusion on NACO survey list	\$ 2,682
Indigent Defense - Adults	Added due to inclusion on NACO survey list	\$ 2,225,519
Indigent Defense - Juvenile	Added due to inclusion on NACO survey list	\$ 559,073
County Court Clerk	Sarpy County is required to provide 3,436 square feet of space for this department including all custodial services and utilities. At a square foot cost of \$20, the value of this space is estimated at \$68,720.	\$ 68,720
County Court	All County Court staff are employees of the State of Nebraska. Sarpy County is required to provide the operating budget for the Sarpy County Court including supplies, court costs (as described above), attorney fees, and equipment including computers. (See Note 1).	\$ 84,971
District Courts	Added due to inclusion on NACO survey list; last square footage obtained (November 2021) was 5,152 square foot. Multiply times \$20 per square foot	\$ 103,040
Juvenile Probation	Sarpy County is required to provide 2,802 square feet of space for this department including all custodial services and utilities. At a square foot cost of \$20, the annual cost of this space is estimated at \$56,040. In addition, recent legislation added 6-8 new staff members to the Juvenile Probation Office and Sarpy County was compelled to rent an additional 3,800 square feet of office space at a cost of \$45,430 not including utilities and custodial.	\$ 103,160
Juvenile Probation	Juvenile Probation staff are State employees. Sarpy County is required to provide some operating expenses for this department such as office and medical supplies, computers and furniture. (See Note 1).	\$ 23,261
District Judge	The Sarpy County District Court Judges are State employees. Sarpy County is required to pay for the bailiff (personal secretary) for each judge and for a law clerk that is shared by all three judges. Personnel costs are \$321,633 (not including health & dental insurance). Sarpy County also pays for expenses such as Court Appointed Counsel, law library costs, supplies, computers and furniture. (See Note 1).	\$ 713,712
Juvenile Judge	The Sarpy County Juvenile Court Judges are State employees. Sarpy County is required to pay for the bailiff (personal secretary) for each judge and for a file clerk and a part-time receptionist. Personnel costs are \$220,847. Sarpy County also pays for Court Appointed Attorneys, evaluations and supplies. (See Note 1). <b>Legislation regarding Court Appointed Attorney and Guardian Ad Litem fees caused the Attorney Fees line item in this budget to increase from \$292,657 in the 2015 FY to: 2016FY-\$348,099; 2017FY-\$434,766; 2018FY-\$385,297; 2019FY-\$450,101; 2020FY-\$461,588; 2021FY-\$476,853.</b>	\$ 701,701
Courtrooms	Sarpy County is required to provide courtrooms for each County, Juvenile and District Courts including custodial services and utilities. At a square foot cost of \$20, the annual cost of these spaces are estimated as follows: County Court: 11,553 square feet - \$231,060 Juvenile Court: 4,190 square feet - \$ 83,800 District Court: 14,545 square feet - \$290,900	\$ 605,760
Courtroom Security	Sarpy County is required to provide security in all courtrooms. This includes sworn deputies, civilian security officers and various security equipment. Actual cost for the Support Services Department for 2021FY was \$2,838,908. At least 60% of this cost was for court security. (See Note 1).	\$ 1,703,345
Adult Probation	Adult Probation staff are State employees. Sarpy County is required to provide some operating expenses for this department such as wireless cards, supplies, computers and furniture. (A portion of the cost is covered by Cass & Otoe Counties.) (See Note 1). This includes \$48,726 paid for 4,500 square feet rented for a day reporting center.	\$ 88,470
Adult Probation	Sarpy County is required to provide 7,140 square feet of space for this department for offices and drug testing including all custodial services and utilities. At a square foot cost of \$20, the annual cost of this space is estimated at \$142,800.	\$ 142,800
Health & Human Services	Department of Health and Human Services staff are State employees. Sarpy County is required to provide 4,000 square feet at no charge, including custodial service and utilities. The cost for FY 2021 for the space at Brentwood Square was \$63,093 for 12 months of rent & utilities.	\$ 63,093
Jail	Sarpy County houses prisoners on behalf of the State of Nebraska. Effective with the passage of LB 383, Sarpy County no longer receives any reimbursement for the housing of State prisoners. For the first quarter ending 9/30/2010 Sarpy County received a payment of \$97,755, which was based on a rate of \$35/day, which equates to 2,793 prisoner days per quarter or 11,172 prisoner days per year. The true cost of holding a state prisoner as calculated in the County's Indirect Cost Allocation Plan for the 2020 FY is \$136.63 per day. The 11,172 prisoner days multiplied by a daily rate of \$136.63 equals an annual cost of \$1,526,430. Please note that total prisoner days for the 2020 FY was 59,376.	\$ 1,526,430
Insufficient Fees	Almost all of the fees charged by County offices are set by State Statute. Many of these fees fall short of generating sufficient revenues to cover the cost of providing the required services. A few (not all inclusive) examples are: Service Fees - Writs, Warrants, etc - Sheriff Motor Vehicle Inspection Fees - Sheriff	\$\$\$
Law Enforcement Training Center	Because of insufficient State funding for the LETC, there is a significant backlog for recruit training positions. Because of the delay in enrolling recruits at the LETC, Sarpy County and several other jurisdictions have been compelled to start their own Law Enforcement Training Academy at County and City expense. The County's contribution is \$20,000 per year plus the cost of County staff provided as instructors. These costs are offset somewhat by not having to pay for mileage to Grand Island and for meals at the LETC.	\$ 20,000
Jail	LB 605 was passed by the Legislature in 2015. This bill changes sentencing guidelines used by the judges and will result in some prisoners being sentenced to County Jail that formerly would have been sentenced to the State Penitentiary. In addition, the bill provides that State probation officers can recommend time in County Jail as a sanction for violation of probation. This bill has resulted in an increase in the cost of housing prisoners, although the exact monetary impact is difficult to determine. As a result of LB605, Sarpy County did receive grants totaling \$118,160, however, none of these funds can be used to offset the increasing cost of housing prisoners.	\$\$\$
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 12,345,372</b>