

**2026 BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES FISCAL  
COMMITTEE**

**STAMFORD PROBATE COURT  
PD53**

**Stamford Probate Court, PD53, under Conncticut General Statutes (CGS)**

**45a-8**

**\*not a city department or agency**

(a) The town or towns comprising each probate district shall provide court facilities meeting the minimum standards required by this section. If a probate district consists of more than one town, the expense shall be allocated to the towns in such proportion as the towns may determine by agreement or, in the absence of such agreement, in proportion to their grand lists last perfected.

**Such court facilities shall include:**

- (1) Office space appropriate for the conduct of judicial business, including
  - (A) a room for the judge of probate sufficient in size for ordinary matters in which judicial proceedings may be conducted in private,
  - (B) a separate room for the court staff, and
  - (C) on a prearranged basis, access to a larger hearing room for the conduct of unusually large court hearings;
- (2) furniture and furnishings appropriate to a court facility;
- (3) use and maintenance of a copying machine and the necessary supplies;
- (4) use and maintenance of court record systems and equipment, including such record books and electronic, digital, microfilming or similar systems required to maintain, provide access to and produce court records, and the necessary supplies for such systems, equipment and records;
- (5) the necessary stationery, postage and other related supplies in order that the court may properly carry out its duties;
- (6) typing equipment with which to complete the necessary records;
- (7) basic telephone service, which shall include all local calls;
- (8) if a court is computerized, a dedicated telephone line and maintenance of the computer equipment; and
- (9) adequate liability, fire, loss, theft and replacement insurance on the furniture, furnishings, equipment, court facilities and the records of the court.

**Issues Regarding Non-Compliance with Probate Court Regulations and State Mandates**

Listed on the following pages are issues that the facility has been made aware of but have not been addressed yet. We will be requesting additional funds, and municipal cooperation in the future to meet the following requirements.

**Fire-Resistant Vault or Cabinets Pursuant to CGS Section 45a-10**

(a) Each judge of probate shall keep the records and files of the court of probate for the district in a fire-resistant safe or vault, in office space provided for that purpose by the town or towns comprising the district in which the judge serves, except when the records and files are in actual use for the purpose of examination, recording, copying or entry, or when the records and files, after being recorded or copied, are placed in storage as records and files not in current use.

If such safe or vault or office space is not provided for such purpose, the chief administrative officers of the town or towns comprising the district shall provide the safe or vault or office space.

The expense of providing such safe or vault or office space shall be paid by the town or towns comprising the district in such proportion as the towns may determine by agreement, or, in the absence of such agreement, in proportion to their grand lists last perfected.

**\*Our vault is not fireproof. As such, we are working diligently to digitize and destroy as many closed files as possible before we request fireproof cabinets that will meet the regulation requirements.**

## IT Systems Issues

Our IT staff noticed the following list of items over the last handful of visits which Probate Court Administration (PCA) would like to work with the City of Stamford to address on the court's behalf per state statute 45a-8. PCA cannot pay for building improvements, such as cabling work, at facilities they do not own. Per the meeting with a facility IT employee, it's our understanding these items would need to be brought to the city's Facilities/Operations Department, as it sounded like IT was unable to address these items without additional approval.

Identified problems from PCA IT:

1. There are not enough data drops to add the workstations we require; network cable would need to be run to add a computer in the corner to accommodate a public computer. The public computer station right now is in the middle of the clerks, leading to the clerks unable to discuss confidential cases or have the case files out.
2. A phone system exists in our office which was installed years ago without PCA knowledge. IP based phone systems that use our infrastructure to operate (rather than the city's) are not allowed on the CT Probate network.
3. Performance issues that the court staff encounter on a daily basis are directly related to outdated wiring in our facility as well as the fact that most of our computers are daisy chained through the phones on your desk. CAT5 cabling currently exists across the entire office, which means it was likely installed between ~1995 – 2001. CAT5 is 10 times slower than modern CAT5E or CAT6 cabling & is insufficient for our computers alone, the addition of a voice over IP phone system compounds this problem. In many cases, the wiring currently utilized by our equipment is also going through small 8 port network switches located around the facility due to a lack of wiring, which further slows data transfer on lines that are already inadequate. Ideally all network cabling at our facility needs to be upgraded to CAT6 with two data drops (Going to the CT Probate Court's infrastructure) & 1 voice/phone drop (Going to the City of Stamford infrastructure). These three connections should exist at each location we need a computer & phone. This would also address item #2 by segregating the phone system from our computers & eliminate the need for additional switches that were installed around the facility over the years that need to be removed.

**We have requested additional ports and wiring, but the request has not been addressed.**

## **Probate Court Security**

Pursuant to Policy 902, many courts have been working diligently with their local municipalities in identifying practical solutions and improvements. Common considerations include the installation of cameras, electronic security doors (key fobs) and panic buttons. Typically, when implementing a security solution, a managed server is also required.

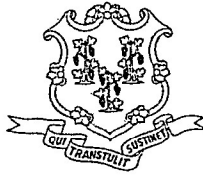
To implement some of these recommendations can be overwhelming. To assist with this process, we have identified a state vendor contract that can be leveraged to implement many court security needs, and I am available to help coordinate those services.

All pricing includes installation.

- For one camera with video only recording (no audio) with one mounted monitor for viewing is approximately \$2,800.00.
- Each additional camera is estimated to cost \$1,500.00. In addition to the mounted monitor, viewing access can also be available from each computer monitor.
- For an electronic security door, the approximate cost is \$2,200.00 per door.
- One wireless panic button is estimated to be \$1,500.00. The central station panic button monitoring service with cellular backup is \$450.00 per year.

As I mentioned before, a managed server is also required for the management of the cameras and for the electronic security doors, but the cost and installation of this component will be provided by PCA. To leverage the management server and the network infrastructure provided by PCA, the security equipment and installation must be procured from the approved state vendor.

**We have requested an electronic security door. The prior security supervisor was reviewing the request prior to his departure.**



COPY

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
COURT OF PROBATE  
DISTRICT OF STAMFORD

GERALD M. FOX, III  
JUDGE

Nelly V. Slocum  
CHIEF CLERK

January 8, 2026

888 WASHINGTON BLVD.  
P.O. BOX 10152  
STAMFORD, CT 06904-2152

TELEPHONE: (203) 323-2149  
FAX: (203) 964-1830

Mayor Caroline Simmons  
City of Stamford  
888 Washington Blvd.  
Stamford, CT 06901

Re: Proposed Court of Probate Budget 2026-2027

Dear Mayor Simmons:

Enclosed please find the Stamford Probate Court budget request for 2026-2027. We are requesting the same budget for 2026-2027 as the previous fiscal year.

Connecticut's Probate Courts protect the rights of individuals and ensure care, safety and community-based solutions for thousands of our most vulnerable residents and their families in times of need. Probate Courts handle a wide range of sensitive issues affecting children, the elderly, persons with intellectual disability and individuals with psychiatric disabilities, in addition to their traditional role of overseeing decedents' estates and trusts.

As we have noted in past years, all the court's requested expenses are mandated by Connecticut General Statute Section 45a-8 to be funded by the municipality where the court is located. There are no salary expenditures in our budget request.

Part of the funds requested will go towards reducing the growing volume of documents stored in our vault by transferring them into storage at the State of Connecticut Archives. The devoted staff at the Archive Office has continually and graciously helped to remove these documents for storage, which has been and remains an ongoing project.

On or by July 2024, Probate Court Administration migrated all probate courts from cable internet to fiber optic internet. The monthly cost of our internet has approximately doubled since.

We have also eliminated the microfilming of court records to transition to digitally storing court records. The storage fee still remains on previously microfilmed sets. However, as we now must digitally archive our records, there is an expense to processing and storing them electronically as media sets. We have received invoices and the cost of storage for these electronic media sets requires an extra expense.

An additional budgeting challenge we face is due to the postage invoices being received sporadically. While we set aside part of the budget to pay for this expenditure, invoices do not come in on a set schedule. We had allocated \$22,084 for 2024-2025 for the cost of postage which we are billed for by the city, but the invoice was not received until after the fiscal year ended. As such, we paid \$22,084.00 for postage covering the months of July 2023 through June 2024 from our 2023-2024 budget in December 2025 that was saved for this specific purpose. We are still missing postage from July 2025 through December 2025.

Despite these challenges, we fell within our allocated budget for 2024-2025. Based on our operating forecast we expect to again fall within our allocated budget for 2025-2026. We are hereby requesting a budget of \$62,500 for 2026-2027.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding any of the attached.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald M. Fox, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and "M".

Gerald M. Fox, III, Judge



Phone  
203.977.4701  
1.833.SOUNDFCU  
Website  
MySoundCU.org  
Email  
info@MySoundCU.org

888 Washington Blvd, Stamford, CT 06901  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Account Number: xxxxxxxx8280  
Statement Date: Jan 31, 2026 thru Feb 27, 2026

Summary - All Accounts

Product	Account #	Ending Balance
Share Draft Account	xxxxxxx8280	\$26,115.10

000499



STAMFORD DISTRICT PROBATE COURT  
888 WASHINGTON BLVD  
STAMFORD CT 06901-2924



Share Draft Account - xxxxxxxx8280

Date	Transaction Description	Withdrawal	Deposit	Balance
	<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>			<b>\$30,282.16</b>
Feb 12	External Withdrawal GOTO - COMMUNICATI GOTO/JIVE	-300.55		29,981.61
Feb 12	External Withdrawal LEASE - SERVICES BILLPAY BILLPAY	-635.42		29,346.19
Feb 18	2017 Check	-807.75		28,538.44
Feb 18	2016 Check	-2,302.76		26,235.68
Feb 20	2018 Check	-120.58		26,115.10
	<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>			<b>\$26,115.10</b>

Check Summary

Check No.	Date	Amount	Check No.	Date	Amount	Check No.	Date	Amount
2016	Feb 18	2,302.76	2017	Feb 18	807.75	2018	Feb 20	120.58

Number of Checks: 3 \* Indicates a skip in sequence e Indicates an electronic check

Overdraft/Returned Item Fees

Fee Type	Total For This Period	Total Year-to-Date
Total Overdraft Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Returned Item Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00

Account Summary

Previous Date	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Interest Paid	Withdrawals	Fees	Ending Balance
Jan 31, 2026	30,282.16	0.00	0.00	4,167.06	0.00	26,115.10

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# Sound

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Customer Statement

Account Number: xxxxxxxx8280  
Statement Date: Jan 01, 2026 thru Jan 30, 2026

Summary - All Accounts

Product	Account #	Ending Balance
Share Draft Account	xxxxxxx8280	\$30,282.16

000509



STAMFORD DISTRICT PROBATE COURT  
888 WASHINGTON BLVD  
STAMFORD CT 06901-2924

Share Draft Account - xxxxxxxx8280

Date	Transaction Description	Withdrawal	Deposit	Balance
	<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>			<b>\$32,366.47</b>
Jan 12	External Withdrawal LEASE - SERVICES BILLPAY BILLPAY	-635.42		31,731.05
Jan 13	External Withdrawal GOTO - COMMUNICATI GOTO/JIVE	-300.55		31,430.50
Jan 16	External Withdrawal Primo - Brands ECHECKPAY ID NBR: 8730059925	-86.40		31,344.10
Jan 21	2014 Check	-70.82		31,273.28
Jan 21	2013 Check	-828.00		30,445.28
Jan 23	2015 Check	-120.58		30,324.70
Jan 29	POS Withdrawal (FIS) DIALPAD MEETING 2700 CAMINO RAMON S 4158429989 CA(5926)	-42.54		30,282.16
	<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>			<b>\$30,282.16</b>

Check Summary

Check No	Date	Amount	Check No	Date	Amount	Check No	Date	Amount
2013	Jan 21 <input type="checkbox"/>	828.00	2014	Jan 21 <input type="checkbox"/>	70.82	2015	Jan 23 <input type="checkbox"/>	120.58

Number of Checks: 3 \* Indicates a skip in sequence e Indicates an electronic check

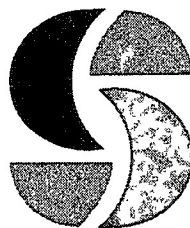
Overdraft/Returned Item Fees

Fee Type	Total For This Period	Total Year-to-Date
Total Overdraft Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Returned Item Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00

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Account Number: xxxxxxxx8280  
Statement Date: Jan 01, 2026 thru Jan 30, 2026

Account Summary

Previous Date	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Interest Paid	Withdrawals	Fees	Ending Balance
Jan 01, 2026	32,366.47	0.00	0.00	2,084.31	0.00	30,282.16



2  
3  
4



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203.977.4701  
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Website  
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888 Washington Blvd, Stamford, CT 06901  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Account Number: xxxxxxxx8280  
Statement Date: Nov 29, 2025 thru Dec 31, 2025

002361



STAMFORD DISTRICT PROBATE COURT  
888 WASHINGTON BLVD  
STAMFORD CT 06901-2924

Summary - All Accounts

Product	Account #	Ending Balance
Share Draft Account	xxxxxxx8280	\$32,366.47

Share Draft Account - xxxxxxxx8280

Date	Transaction Description	Withdrawal	Deposit	Balance
	<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>			<b>\$55,442.17</b>
Dec 01	Activity 11-29 POS Withdrawal - (FIS) DIALPAD MEETING 2700 CAMINO RAMON S 4158429989 CA(5926)	-42.54 ✓		55,399.63
Dec 11	POS Withdrawal (FIS) - AMAZON.COM*6F5J AMAZON.COM SEATTLE WA(5926)	-83.73 ✓		55,315.90
Dec 12	External Withdrawal GOTO - COMMUNICATI GOTO/JIVE	-302.05 ✓		55,013.85
Dec 12	External Withdrawal LEASE - SERVICES BILLPAY BILLPAY	-570.91 ✓		54,442.94
Dec 18	Withdrawal Transfer to - 100136987	-1.00 ✓		54,441.94
Dec 19	2011 Check	-6,349.00 ✓		48,092.94
Dec 23	External Withdrawal Primo - Brands ECHECKPAY ID NBR: 8730059925	-179.80 ✓		47,913.14
Dec 24	2012 Check	-70.96 ✓		47,842.18
Dec 24	2007 Check	-4,249.46 ✓		43,592.72
Dec 24	2008 Check	-4,514.25 ✓		39,078.47
Dec 24	2009 Check	-6,415.85 ✓		32,662.62
Dec 29	POS Withdrawal (FIS) DIALPAD MEETING 2700 CAMINO RAMON S 4158429989 CA(5926)	-42.54 ✓		32,620.08
Dec 29	2010 Check	-253.61 ✓		32,366.47
	<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>			<b>\$32,366.47</b>

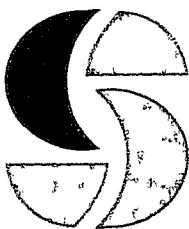
Check Summary

Check No.	Date	Amount	Check No.	Date	Amount	Check No.	Date	Amount
2007	Dec 24	4,249.46	2008	Dec 24	4,514.25	2009	Dec 24	6,415.85

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Account Number: xxxxxxxx8280  
 Statement Date: Nov 29, 2025 thru Dec 31, 2025

Check Summary (Continued)

Check No.	Date	Amount	Check No.	Date	Amount	Check No.	Date	Amount
2010	Dec 29 <input type="checkbox"/>	253.61	2011	Dec 19 <input type="checkbox"/>	6,349.00	2012	Dec 24 <input type="checkbox"/>	70.96

Number of Checks: 6 \* Indicates a skip in sequence e Indicates an electronic check

Overdraft/Returned Item Fees

Fee Type	Total For This Period	Total Year-to-Date
Total Overdraft Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Returned Item Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00

Account Summary

Previous Date	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Interest Paid	Withdrawals	Fees	Ending Balance
Nov 29, 2025	55,442.17	0.00	0.00	23,075.70	0.00	32,366.47



VENDOR	JULY 25	AUGUST 25	SEPTEMBER 25	OCTOBER 25	NOVEMBER 25	DECEMBER 25	JANUARY 26	FEBRUARY 26	MARCH 26	APRIL 26	MAY 26	JUNE 26
APPROVED BUDGET												
DIALPAD	\$42.54	\$42.54	\$42.54	\$42.54	\$42.54	\$42.54	\$42.54	\$42.54	\$42.54	\$42.54	\$42.54	\$42.54
XEROX	\$1,872.09	\$635.42	\$635.42	\$635.42	\$635.42	\$635.42	\$635.42	\$635.42	\$635.42	\$635.42	\$635.42	\$635.42
CRYSTAL ROCK	\$184.56	\$345.70	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00
STAPLES	\$982.41	\$274.95	\$1,112.24	\$328.92	\$2,302.76	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
ACCURATE OFFICE MACHINES (TYPEWRITER MAINTENANCE)	\$369.10											
SHRED IT	\$120.58	\$128.88	\$133.03	\$120.58	\$120.58	\$253.61	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00
FRONTIER	\$78.35	\$70.41	\$70.41	\$70.96	\$70.96	\$70.96	\$70.96	\$70.96	\$70.96	\$70.96	\$70.96	\$70.96
JIVE	\$301.45	\$301.45	\$301.45	\$302.05	\$302.05	\$302.05	\$302.05	\$302.05	\$302.05	\$302.05	\$302.05	\$302.05
OPTIMUM												
CBS					\$426.00							
FIBERCRAFT												
FEDERAL EXPRESS												
MAGEE COMPANY			\$175.00									
HEARST MEDIA					\$58.75							
B&H PHOTO												
CITY OF STAMFORD (POSTAGE)	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
AVENU												
LASERFICHE/WEBEX/INTERNET						\$6,349.00						
MBA GRAPHICS (ENVELOPES/BUSINESS CARDS/ PAPER)												
CARRY OVER FROM PREVIOUS YEAR					\$460.00							
TOTAL												
OVERDRAFT												
ESTIMATED FEE OF UNBILLED EXPENSES				REIMBURSED BACK TO THE CITY OF STAMFORD								