Joint Update to Technology Committee on ICMS
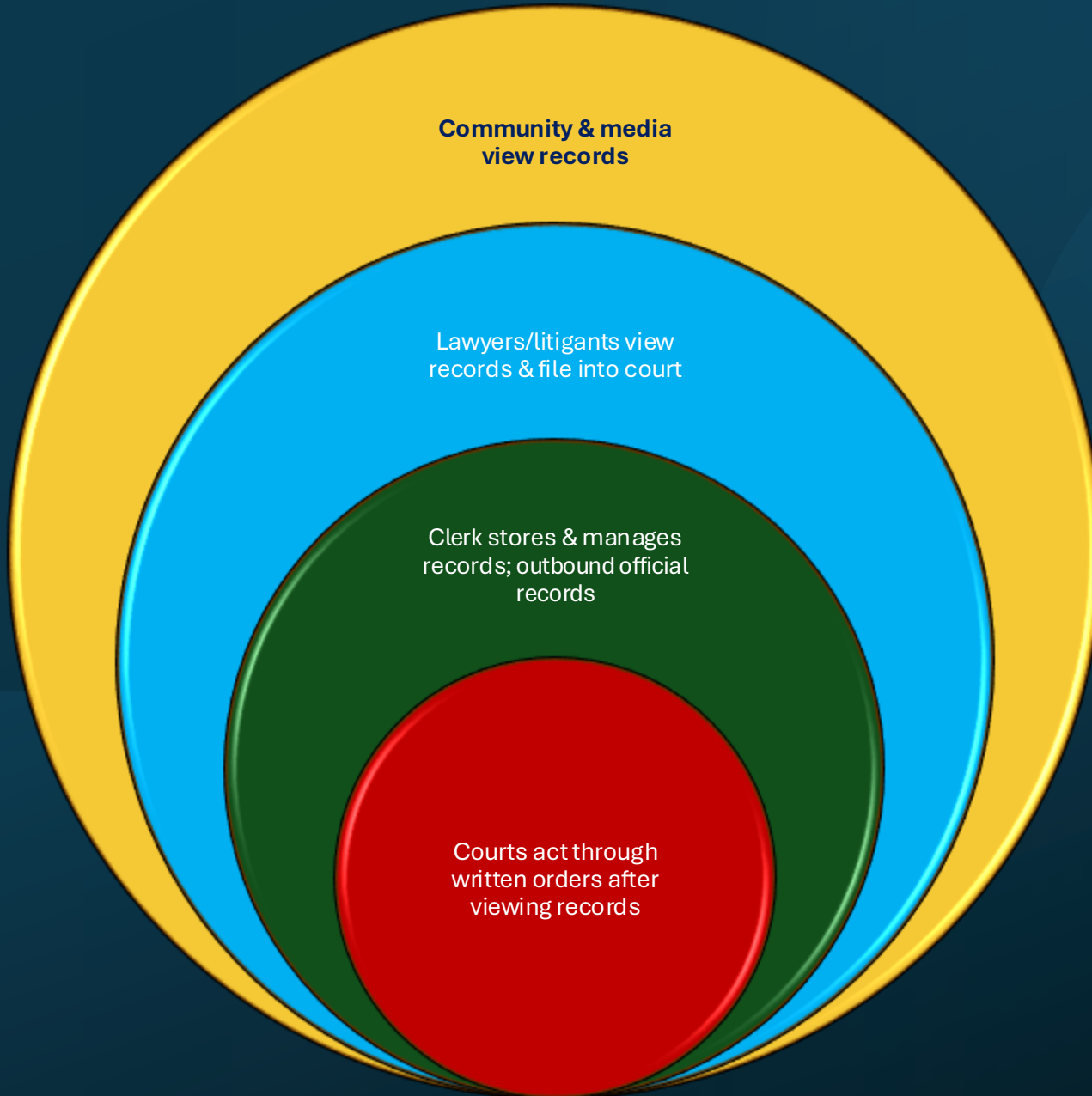# May 30, 2025

Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart

Lake County Circuit Clerk Erin Cartwright Weinstein

19th Judicial Circuit: Court Administrator Karl Walldorf

"Provide County facilities, infrastructure, and technology to meet the ever-changing & evolving needs of and demands upon Lake County."

-Lake County Strategic Plan (2023)

What is a case management system?

Community & media view records

Lawyers/litigants view records & file into court

Clerk stores & manages records; outbound official records

Courts act through written orders after viewing records

Public & media views scanned documents filed by litigants, orders entered by courts, and managed by Clerks. They can also see calendars and the minutes that the clerks keep about court action.
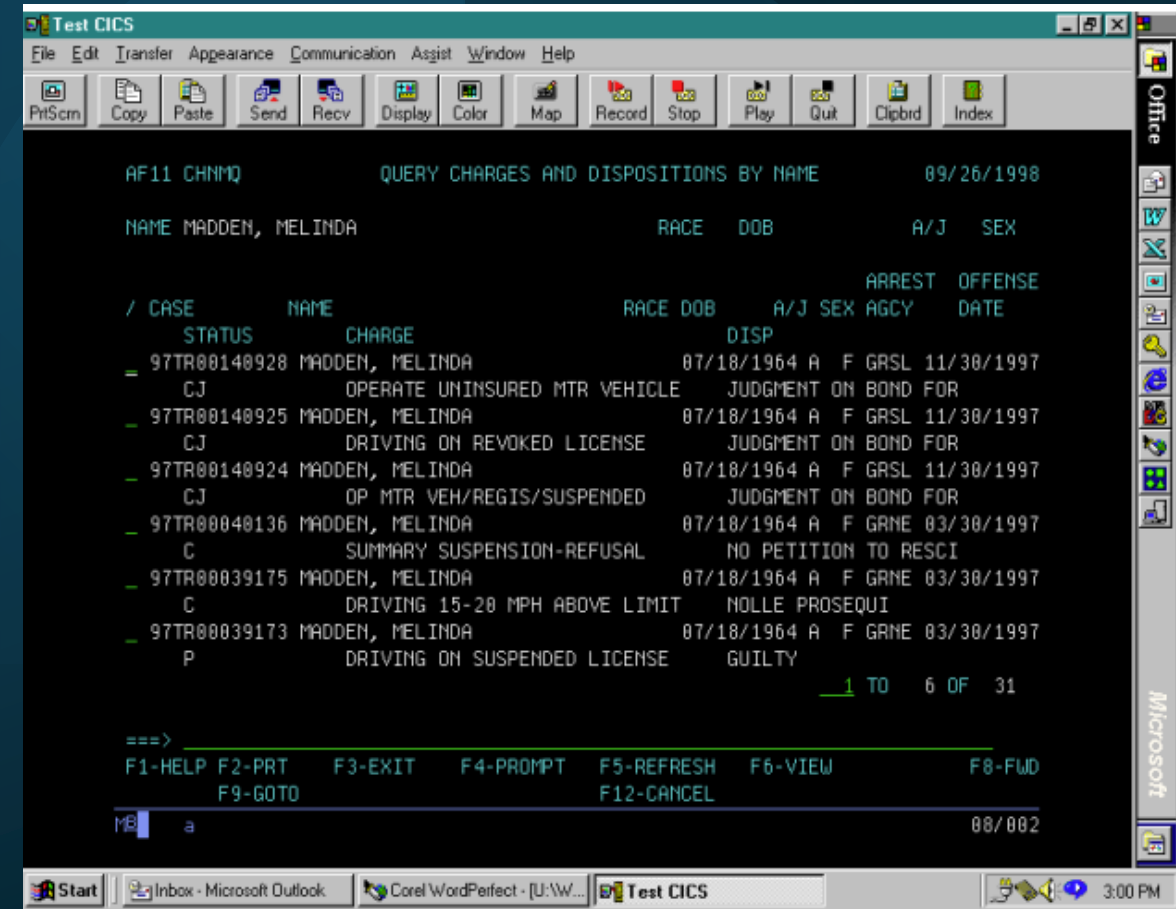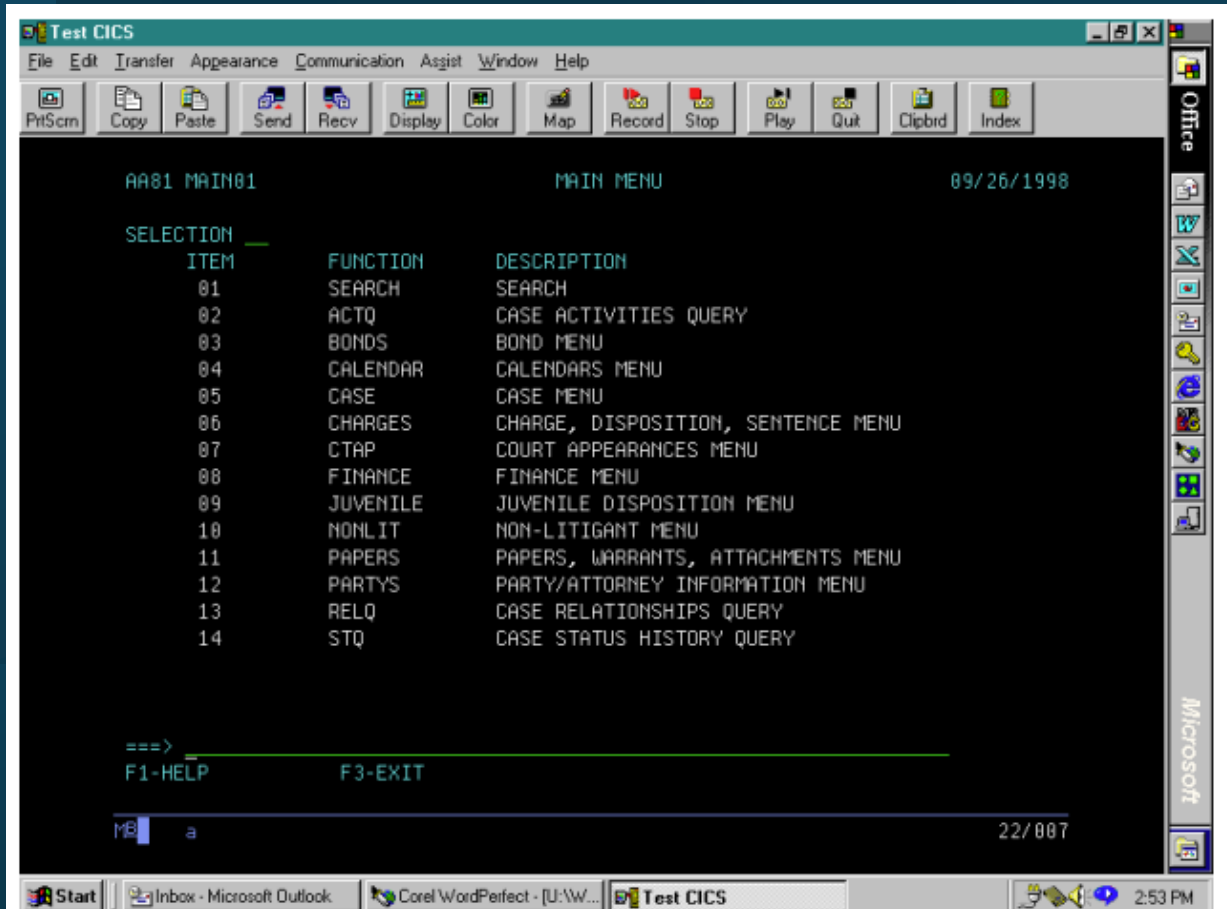
Litigants file documents into the system and view information; prosecutors and plaintiffs initiate cases.

Clerks store & manage information (SCANNED DOCS) that they receive from litigants and judges. Clerks create minutes of court actions separate from orders. Clerks schedule motions for courts

Judges act and make decisions about cases based on the documents they receive from the Clerk.

1995 to 2023: CRIMS

ICMS Timeline: Planning, Building, Implementation

- Summer of 2018: meeting with vendors

- July 2019: contract with Journal Technologies signed. $2.2M price tag to be paid upon GO LIVE

- March 2020: COVID-19 slows down operations for all

- April 2022: Original planned GO LIVE date (DELAYED)

- October 30, 2023: CRIMS is unplugged

- October 31, 2023: GO LIVE – implementation period starts

- November 1, 2023 to present: Like every new software system moving constantly from implementation to permanent operation

Building a Foundation for an Integrated Case Management System

A Phased Approach to County-Wide Efficiency

1. Clerk and Courts (Recordkeeping and Action)

2. State's Attorney and Public Defender (Core Legal Operations)

3. Private Attorneys (Extended Legal Community)

4. The Public (Community Accessibility)

The phased approach ensures a stable, secure, and highly efficient integrated case management system, ultimately enhancing justice and transparency for our entire community.

Enhancing Court Access
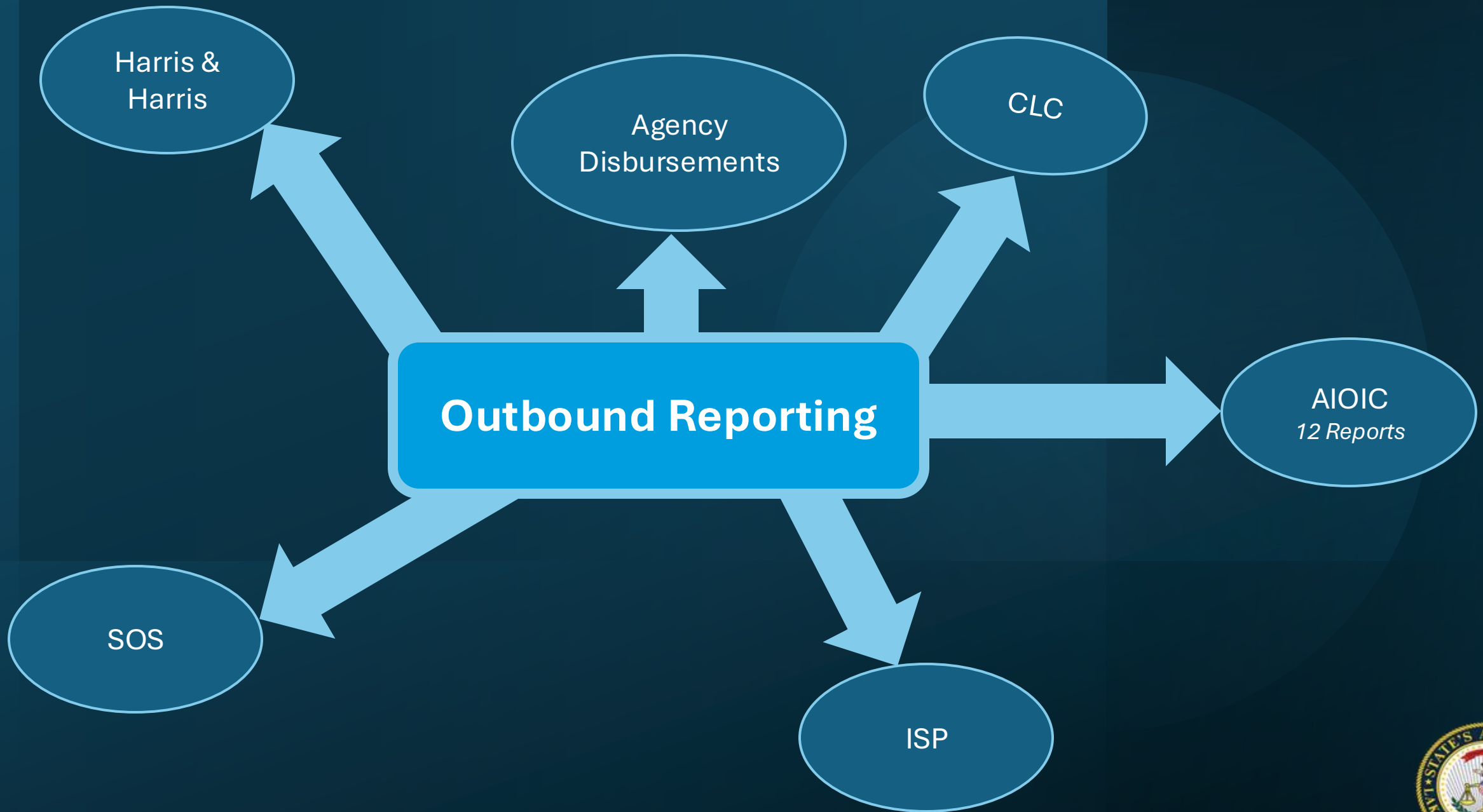
Retired Public Access System **VS** ## eCourt Public Portal

✓ Public access to basic case information
- ✓ Party names
- ✓ Judgments
- ✓ Dispositions
- ✓ List of filed documents
- ✓ Court events

✓ Attorney access to their court calendar

✓ Public access to basic case information
- ✓ Party names
- ✓ Judgments
- ✓ Dispositions
- ✓ List of filed documents
- ✓ Court events

✓ Attorney access to court calendar

+ Attorney access to court documents

+ Party of record access to court documents

+ Pay court fines online

+ Search court calendars

+ Ability to submit proposed

DATA ENTRY, INTEGRATION & THE COUNTY PARTNERS

- The current case management system is an "integrated case management system."

- The integrated partners include: the Courts, the Circuit Clerk, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office, and the Public Defender's Office.

- The Courts/Clerk system is called "e-Court." The LCSAO system is called "e-Prosecutor." The Public Defender's system is called "e-Defender."

- When e-Court takes an action via Clerk data entry or the filing of a document or the entry of an order, all three systems AUTOMATICALLY have the information. (Accurate, non-redundant, secure.)

- This is completely different than most case management systems used throughout Illinois. This allows for one moment of data entry – not four

What are the benefits of integration?

- Reduces redundant data entry
- Reduces error rate
- Improves accuracy and increases communication across justice partners.
- Enables real-time access and transparency.
- Scalable, secure, and future-ready.

ICMS works for safety and justice

- ✓ Easier to understand PEOPLE we see in courtrooms
- ✓ Prosecutors can see every scanned file on every case as they make decisions; HUGE safety enhancement
- ✓ Judges can see any old file that they want within a few clicks
- ✓ Much easier to curate and present data than legacy systems
- ✓ No other system like this in Illinois
- ✓ For every new software and technology system there will be improvements, upgrades, minor delays, and improvements.

Cost & Comparison

- Four total responses to RFP
- Cheapest integrated besides JTI: $12M from Tyler
- Cheapest non-integrated: $10M from ISS
- All four contemplated project management consultants SEPARATE from these costs

$7.588M spent to date for software, consulting and licensing for a success.

$7.588M is less than $12M.

CRIMS cost $1.5M per year (Acct: 101) for maintenance & licensing

$791K is the current annual cost (101)

The Road Ahead

These initiatives represent targeted, high-impact improvements to Lake County's justice technology ecosystem. Each is designed to enhance public access, transparency, and equity by reducing barriers to information and services, modernizing workflows, and supporting more responsive court operations

- Criminal e-Filing for last set of external partners
- E-Citation with over 40 police agencies
- Interface with Sheriff's Office (jail & police records)
- Portal Enhancements
    - Online Scheduling (civil & criminal)
    - Email Notifications from Clerk
- Historical Legacy Data Conversion
- Access to certified records online

- None of this possible under old system