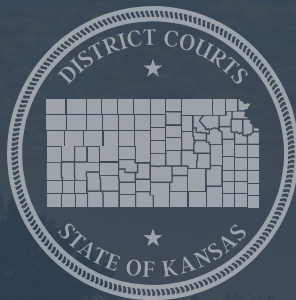


# Kansas Judicial Branch



# FY 2027 BUDGET



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## **400 NARRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Division of the Budget - KANSAS**

**Judicial Branch**

**Agency No: 677**

Senate President Ty Masterson

House Speaker Dan Hawkins

Members of the Kansas Legislature:

Every year, Kansas courts handle hundreds of thousands of cases. Some cases forever change lives, and almost all profoundly affect our fellow Kansans, our communities, and our state. Kansans deserve a judicial system equipped with the resources necessary to perform functions essential to community safety and to resolve disputes in a timely and efficient manner. The people of Kansas, through Article 3, Section 1 of our state's Constitution, granted the Supreme Court general administrative authority over all courts in the state. With this constitutional authority and Kansas statutes, the Court – through the Chief Justice – has the duty to determine the financial needs of the judicial branch and submit those needs to the Legislature for funding. Consistent with this constitutional directive, I attach the judicial branch's budget request for FY 2027.

Over the past several cycles, we prioritized salaries and strengthening critical areas like IT and cybersecurity. We focused on these aspects to ensure our workforce, which is the core of the Judicial Branch, was supported sufficiently and that our infrastructure was enhanced to better efficiently process data and to protect the personal information of court users.

This year's budget request focuses on key areas of the court system that greatly impact court users – specialty courts, rural justice, juvenile justice, and maintaining competitive salaries. We also seek support for adding modestly priced, demonstrative displays about the justice system.

Last year, the Legislature approved a one-time transfer of \$1.5 million State General Fund (SGF) to the Specialty Court Resources Fund with the purpose of funding specialty court operations, including administrative costs. Dedicated funding for specialty courts helps supplement and stabilize those specialty courts that primarily rely on grants and county monies for funding. These funds are planned to be expended over a three-year period and ensure multi-year funding for salaries for regional coordinators. The FY 2027 request asks for 3.0 FTE positions for these coordinators. These professionals are essential to the coordination and planning needed to effectively operate specialty courts and will lessen the burden on judges and others who currently shoulder this responsibility. For FY 2027, our budget requests an additional \$1.5 million transfer from the State General Fund to the Specialty Court Resources Fund. This money would be used to fund statewide training and technical assistance, electronic monitoring services, drug testing subsidies, ancillary services, behavioral health services, materials, and other resources.

The Rural Justice Initiative, a statewide committee tasked with researching and providing recommendations to address the growing rural attorney shortage, issued their final report in 2024. In response to recommendations included in the report, the judicial branch introduced SB 214/HB 2174 to create two new programs to address one of the biggest

## **400 NARRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Division of the Budget - KANSAS**

**Judicial Branch**

**Agency No: 677**

barriers to rural practice – the financial barrier of student loan debt. The funding request in the budget mirrors the fiscal note provided for these bills, including 1.0 FTE position within OJA to administer the program, printing and advertising costs and outreach efforts, and starting money for loan repayments for existing attorneys. These two programs are intended to attract both incoming law students and currently licensed and practicing attorneys. The goal of these programs is to offer two strong financial incentives to live and practice in rural Kansas and address a significant need in rural communities.

Our FY 2027 also requests 1.0 FTE for a statewide juvenile justice coordinator. This coordinator will help support court practices across the state and bring dedicated focus to an important area in the justice system. Juvenile justice reform and ensuring current practices are effective and meet the needs of Kansans has been a policy priority for the Legislature for the past several years. This position builds on the shared vision.

Cost of living increases for state employees, including judicial branch employees, have been crucial for recruitment and retention. For the past several increases, the judicial branch has provided an across-the-board increase at the same percentage for all non-judge employees. This has helped bolster our workforce and has created significant impact in hiring and ensuring positions are competitive. Moving forward, the judicial branch wants to target funding toward positions in areas with the greatest need. OJA has secured the services of a vendor to complete a salary study that will be finished by December 2025. Our request asks for \$3.25 million, the equivalent to a 2.5% across the board increase, to be distributed based upon the results of the salary study.

Lastly, I ask you for your continued support for the Kansas Judicial Learning Center by funding one or two modestly priced exhibits. Two years ago, we received funding to begin planning and developing architectural proposals to convert a portion of the existing law library on the first floor of the Kansas Judicial Center to a student-focused interactive learning center. This center will be a focal point for visitors and students to the Capitol complex and will provide an engaging opportunity to learn, not only about the judicial branch and legal issues, but also about all three branches of government and the partnerships between them. Our funding request includes some funding for the creation of one or two cornerstone exhibits that will allow us to begin implementation of the project, demonstrate progress, and leverage additional funding sources such as foundation grants or private partnerships for the larger costs of renovation and construction. I am incredibly excited about this addition and am certain it will add great value to all Kansans and other visitors who come to Topeka and the Capitol complex.

The initiatives proposed in this budget will continue to move the court system onto firmer ground and enhance the judicial branch. I look forward to our continued collaboration as we continue our work to serve Kansans and strengthen the Kansas Judicial Branch.

## 400 NARRATIVE INFORMATION

Division of the Budget - KANSAS

Judicial Branch

Agency No: 677

As Chief Justice, I submit this budget directly to the Legislature, under K.S.A. 20-158. And I provide it to the governor's Division of the Budget for inclusion in the Governor's Budget Report. The Court urges the Legislature to adopt the submitted budget.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marla Luckert  
Chief Justice

## JUDICIAL BRANCH MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE

Article 3, Section 1, of the Kansas Constitution sets forth the powers granted by the people of Kansas to the judicial branch. These powers include the Supreme Court's general administrative authority over all courts in the state.

### Mission and Goals

The judicial branch provides justice in the disposition of legal disputes. Justice is effective when administered fairly, impartially, and without delay, and when overseen by capable judges who operate in a modern court system under simple and efficient rules of procedure. Because unnecessary delay causes anxiety and expense for litigants, the Supreme Court has adopted principles and guidelines for expedient case disposition. Rules governing the conduct of employees and judicial officers impose high standards of integrity, impartiality, and diligence in the service of Kansans.

### Judicial Branch Budgeting

The judicial branch – through the chief justice – submits its budget directly to the legislature under K.S.A. 20-158 and the director of the budget includes it in the Governor's Budget Report.

While counties pay operating expenses for district courts as required by K.S.A. 20-348, the judicial branch pays salaries of all judicial branch judges and employees. Under this shared funding structure, the state appropriation for its unified court system pays largely for judicial branch personnel costs, which constitutes about 90 percent of the FY 2026 judicial branch budget.

Clerks of district courts collect fines and fees for the benefit of state government. While a portion of the revenue is distributed at the county level, the remainder is sent to the state treasurer to be deposited into state accounts, including the State General Fund.

Revenue collected by district and appellate courts for the benefit of state government totaled more than \$52.1 million in FY 2025. It was distributed by the state treasurer as follows:

Docket (clerks) fees (K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 20-362; K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 20-1a04)	\$18,942,622
Judicial Branch surcharge (K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 28-177)	\$8,610,516
Fines, penalties, and forfeitures (K.S.A. 20-2801; 20-350)	\$15,389,653
Law Enforcement Training Center Fund (K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 20-362)	\$1,854,268
Marriage License fees (K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 23-2510)	\$1,119,058
Correctional Supervision Fund (K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 21-6607)	\$903,279
Drivers' License Reinstatement fees (K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 8-2110)	\$1,275,500
KBI-DNA Database Fee Fund (K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 75-724)	\$819,622
Community Corrections Supervision Fee Fund (K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 8-1567)	\$508,127
Indigent Defense Services Application fee (K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 22-4529)	\$640,815
Indigent Defense Services Bond Forfeiture fees (K.S.A. 20-350)	\$624,461

State General Fund (K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 28-170; K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 32-1049a)	\$906,141
Other	<u>\$521,695</u>
Total	\$52,115,757

#### Funding the Judicial Branch with State General Funds

In 2022, the legislature and Governor Kelly moved judicial branch core funding away from unreliable court user fees. For years, the judicial branch depended on this unstable funding source, which significantly varied from year to year. The heavy reliance on fee funds has ended, and we continue to thank legislative leadership and the governor for their steadfast support of this change.

#### Salary Initiative for Employees

The 2021 legislature appropriated historic salary increases to bring all employees to then full market pay. This ended more than a decade of below-market, uncompetitive employee salaries that led to turnover, difficulty in recruiting qualified employees, and low morale—all of which, in turn, weakened almost every facet of court administration. The legislature capped employee pay increases for FY 2022 at 12 percent; positions eligible for more than a 12 percent increase received the difference in FY 2023. Additionally, judicial branch employees were included in the statewide five percent employee cost-of-living increase in FY 2023, FY 2024, FY 2025, and a 2.5 percent increase in FY 2026.

In the summer of 2025, the judicial branch contracted with a vendor to begin a compensation study to examine all nonjudicial positions. The vendor will interview individuals representing court administrators, court staff, and judges from both rural and urban districts. The vendor will also conduct peer state comparisons that match the Kansas judicial branch operating environment; conduct market benchmarking across public and private sectors; conduct comparisons by peer group and job title; and make recommendations for updated salary structures that align with market data. Results of the study were not available at the time of the budget submission but will be provided at the start of session.

The FY 2027 budget requests \$3.25 million, equivalent to a 2.5% across the board increase. This amount will be distributed based upon the results of the salary study.

#### Judicial Salaries

For many years, salaries for Kansas judges were below market. On April 6, 2023, the legislature passed House Sub. for SB 229, globally addressing legislative, executive, statewide elected official, and judge pay. Governor Kelly signed the bill on April 24, and the law took effect on May 4, when it was published in the Kansas Register.

The law establishes new compensation rates for all Kansas judges. The statute provides a formula to set pay rates, using district judge salaries as its lodestar. Beginning January 1, 2025, a district judge will earn 75 percent of the annual salary of a United States district judge. The salaries for the remaining classes of Kansas judges are determined against that resulting Kansas district

judge figure. This formula was adopted with consideration of comparable market salaries. First, it uses the salaries of trial court judges; these judges, while serving in federal court, perform the same job duties as Kansas' state trial court judges. Their salaries thus provide a market pay comparison. Second, the percentage calculation brought Kansas judges to about the average of salaries received by trial court judges in our four surrounding states in 2023. Here is a quick reference to the formula:

- District Judge salary is equal to 75 percent of the annual salary of a United States District Judge;
- District Magistrate Judge salary is equal to 55 percent of the annual salary of a Kansas District Judge;
- Chief Judge of the District Court salary is equal to 105 percent of the annual salary of a Kansas District Judge;
- Judge of the Court of Appeals salary is equal to 110 percent of the annual salary of a Kansas District Judge;
- Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals salary is equal to 115 percent of the annual salary of a Kansas District Judge;
- Supreme Court Justice salary is equal to 120 percent of the annual salary of a Kansas District Judge; and
- Chief Justice of the Supreme Court salary is equal to 125 percent of the annual salary of a Kansas District Judge.

This change is historic. The judicial branch remains incredibly grateful for the legislature's efforts in passing SB 229. The increased judicial compensation makes judge pay more competitive. It narrows the gap between what the judicial branch offers judicial candidates and what those attorney candidates can make working outside the judiciary. The court system is optimistic that this increased competitiveness will attract the well-experienced and professionally diverse judicial candidates to best serve all entities and Kansans with business before the courts.

The judicial branch FY 2027 budget submission reflects the salary changes made in SB 229. Because the judicial pay formula is based on a federal district judge's salary, the judicial branch's FY 2027 budget includes two assumptions: (1) that the federal 2.9 percent COLA for January 2026 will be adopted, and (2) there will be a federal 2.1 percent COLA beginning January 1, 2027. These assumptions are subject to change based on the federal appropriations process.

Below are current judge salaries and proposed salaries in the budget for FY 2027:

	Current Salary	January 1, 2026 Salary*	January 1, 2027 Salary*
<b>Supreme Court</b>			
Chief Justice	\$231,938	\$238,688	\$243,656
Justice	\$222,660	\$229,140	\$233,910
<b>Court of Appeals</b>			
Chief Judge	\$213,383	\$219,593	\$224,164
Judge	\$204,105	\$210,045	\$214,418



District Court			
Chief Judge	\$194,828	\$200,498	\$204,671
District Judge	\$185,550	\$190,950	\$194,925
District Magistrate Judge	\$102,053	\$105,023	\$107,209

\*Estimated amount, actual amount dependent upon action at the federal level.

#### eCourt

The judicial branch developed and implemented a statewide electronic court system (eCourt). Implementation of the centralized Odyssey case management system in district courts began in August 2019 and was completed in November 2024 when Johnson County District Court came online. The Kansas appellate system came online in July 2024.

Integrated technology use through eCourt has increased access to courts, improved court efficiency, and ensured that judges and court personnel have complete and timely information. Through eCourt, clerks of the court may electronically process case documents in other counties and assist high caseload counties. Litigants, attorneys, judges, law enforcement, court personnel, and all Kansans using an internet connection now have immediate access to authorized case information, details, and records from all 105 counties. The eCourt initiative also included centralizing the payment and disbursements process throughout the state court system. With the judicial branch receiving millions of dollars in payments annually, centralizing this process allows for greater oversight of financial controls, streamlining operations, and enhancing efficient workflow. The rollout of centralized payment processing occurred simultaneously with the rollout of the Odyssey centralized case management system.

#### Specialty Courts

Specialty courts, also known as treatment courts or problem-solving courts, are designed to lead people out of a cycle with the justice system into treatment programs. They help people interrupt a cycle of repeat interactions with the justice system by leading them into treatment programs that help them restore stability in their lives.

Over the last several years, the number of specialty courts operating in Kansas has increased. These specialty courts include adult drug courts, veteran treatment courts, youth or truancy courts, behavioral health courts, assisted outpatient treatment courts, family treatment courts, and juvenile drug courts. These courts are primarily funded with federal grants and county monies.

KSA 20-173c established the Specialty Court Resources Fund with the specified purpose of funding the operations of specialty courts, including administrative costs. The legislature approved a one-time transfer of \$1.5 million in FY 2026. These funds are planned to be expended over a three-year period and ensure multi-year funding for salaries. FY 2027 requests 3.0 FTE positions for regional coordinator positions. These positions are crucial to help plan and manage specialty courts and ensure they are running efficiently. Additionally, the FY 2027 budget requests an additional \$1.5 million for statewide training and technical assistance, electronic monitoring

services, drug testing subsidies, ancillary services, behavioral health services, materials, and other resources that will be used statewide.

### Kansas Judicial Learning Center

In FY 2025, the legislature approved \$50,000 to begin the planning phase for a Kansas Judicial Learning Center. The Chief Justice and several Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) staff members visited other states' judicial branches and took tours of the different learning areas provided, noting the unique exhibits and experiences for students and citizens to learn about the judicial process of each state. This inspired the Supreme Court and OJA to begin to visualize what a learning center could look like in the judicial center. The Supreme Court convened a learning center planning committee. Members include representatives from all three branches of government, including the Kansas Department of Education and the Kansas Historical Society.

While visitors, including many students, visit the judicial center on field trips to the Capitol complex, the Court and OJA agreed that this experience could be enhanced by providing information about the history, processes, and relationships of the three branches of government with a focus on the work of the judicial system. Exhibits will also be designed with the intent of sparking an interest in children to consider government service and the law as career paths. We have seen a significant decrease in practicing attorneys in Kansas and nationwide. Using the learning center as an introduction for students to explore a career in the legal field helps support one of the judicial branch's strategic goals.

The FY 2027 budget includes \$300,000 to begin developing and constructing one or two cornerstone exhibits within the learning center space. We revised the previous budget request that asked for the full cost of the learning center, based on the architect's designs proposals, to a smaller request. We recognize the state must balance and prioritize capital improvement needs across Kansas. This phased approach will allow us to begin implementing the project, demonstrate progress, and leverage additional funding sources such as foundation grants or private partnerships, which we are actively pursuing.

### Strategic Goals

In April 2025, the judicial branch kicked off the Strategic Planning Steering Committee to meet with staff from the National Center for State Courts who are helping us with our branch wide strategic planning project. The major focus of the project is identifying our courts' collective strengths, challenges, and opportunities as we work to fulfill our constitutional responsibilities.

The steering committee reviewed anonymous survey results and discussed feedback collected from 10 separate focus groups. The committee began drafting a new mission statement.

It also identified four strategic goal areas to guide our work for the next few years: workforce; court operations and efficiencies; public trust, confidence, and understanding; and access to justice. Finalization of the strategic plan will happen near the end of 2025.

## **A HISTORY OF THE KANSAS JUDICIAL BRANCH**

The Kansas judicial system, consisting of district courts and the supreme court, was instituted in 1854, prior to statehood. Separate county courts of limited jurisdiction heard probate, juvenile, minor civil, minor criminal, and traffic cases. Justices of the peace administered the law throughout much of the state. In 1859, Kansans created the judicial branch by ratification of the Wyandotte Constitution. In 1968, justices of the peace were effectively abolished by severely limiting their jurisdiction. Their former jurisdiction was transferred to county courts, and, in most counties, their functions were consolidated under one judge. In 1972, a new judicial article was added to the Kansas Constitution, which led to many improvements, including unification of trial courts, and provided that the court of appeals could be established by statute.

The Office of Judicial Administration was established in 1965 to help the Supreme Court exercise its administrative and supervisory responsibilities over the judicial system. The Judicial Department Reform Act of 1965 grouped judicial districts into departments. Currently there are six departments, and each is assigned a justice who supervises administrative activities within the department. Each justice has authority to assign judges from one district to another and to require reports needed to keep abreast of the business of the courts.

The Kansas Constitution currently provides for one court of justice composed of a supreme court, district courts, and other courts as provided by law. In January 1977, Kansans codified a court of appeals as an intermediate appellate court. These three court types constitute the unified state judicial system. The state constitution gives the Kansas Supreme Court administrative authority over all courts in the state.

### **Unification**

A citizens' study committee appointed in 1973 examined the judicial system and recommended changes to fully implement the judicial article. The work of this committee ultimately resulted in unification of the state's trial courts in January 1977. The jurisdiction of probate, juvenile, and county courts, as well as magistrate-level courts of countywide jurisdiction, were consolidated into county district courts. At the same time, the Court of Appeals was established to improve the state's appellate caseload processing.

Currently, judges of the district court are either district judges or district magistrate judges. Legislation passed in 1983 eliminated a third class of judge, the associate district judge, which had almost the same jurisdiction, power, and duties as a district judge. On January 12, 1987, associate district judges were converted to district judges.

In 1978, the Legislature mandated phasing in state funding for personnel costs for nonjudge employees of district courts in exchange for revenue that formerly accrued to the benefit of county general funds. A program gradually phasing in full funding of salaries by the state was completed June 30, 1981; however, county governments continue to fund district court operating expenditures.

In 2022, the Legislature and governor enacted law and a budget that transition core judicial branch funding off unreliable court user fees. Now, those court fees are deposited directly into the state treasury and a commensurate amount is appropriated to the court system from the state general fund. In 2023, Kansas codified a formula establishing new compensation rates, subject to appropriations, for all judges within the judicial branch beginning January 1, 2025. Under the new law, judges and supreme court justice compensation is tied to the federal judiciary.

#### Court of Appeals

The Court of Appeals was established by the 1975 Legislature and became operational in January 1977. At that time, commissioners of the Supreme Court then in office were transferred by law to this court, and other members were appointed by the governor on recommendation of the Supreme Court Nominating Commission. Effective July 1, 1987, the court was expanded to 10 members. The 2001 Legislature further expanded the Court of Appeals to 14 members. Limited funding staggered the expansion over several years, with one judge added in 2003, 2005, 2008, and 2014. The method for appointing judges to this court was changed by the 2013 Legislature. Today, court of appeals vacancies are filled by the governor appointing a nominee subject to Kansas Senate confirmation. The first court of appeals judge appointed by this method was position 14, and the appointee was sworn in effective January 2014.

#### Time Standards

In December 1980, the Kansas Judicial Branch became the first jurisdiction to establish statewide case processing time standards when it adopted a report of the Kansas Supreme Court's Standards Committee entitled *General Principles and Guidelines for the District Courts*. Adopting statewide standards increased the speed and efficiency of the judicial process in Kansas, and it set an example for other state jurisdictions. In July 1983, by supreme court action, Kansas became the first state to adopt a comprehensive set of guidelines to help manage jury systems within a state court system, furthering the Supreme Court's goal to have all phases of the Kansas court system effectively managed. In October 1987, the Foundation for Improvement of Justice recognized the leadership and achievement of the Kansas Judicial Branch by awarding a gold medallion to acknowledge the national impact of the Kansas model for reducing unnecessary delay in the judicial process.

#### Court Accessibility

To make the court system more accessible to its users, while ensuring litigants receive a fair trial, the Supreme Court allowed cameras and audio recording in the court system and set rules for using electronic media. Effective September 1, 1988, the program was extended to authorize coverage in municipal courts under tightly drawn rules embodied in Supreme Court Rule 1001. In 2012, the Supreme Court began webcasting its oral arguments. Also, as part of a judicial outreach effort, the Supreme Court hears oral arguments in cities across Kansas twice a year.

#### Project Pegasus

In 2011, the judicial branch began Project Pegasus. The project included a weighted caseload study led by the National Center for State Courts and a review of judicial branch

operations by the Blue Ribbon Commission. The weighted caseload study measured judge and clerk of court office workloads in Kansas district courts by considering factors beyond the number of cases alone. The need for such a study had been well documented in Kansas since at least 1944 and had been identified in two Legislative Post Audit studies.

Blue Ribbon Commission members were community leaders who came together to find ways for the courts to operate as efficiently as possible while maintaining access to justice. The commission was authorized to consider issues such as the number of court locations needed to provide Kansans access to justice, the services to be provided in each court location, hours of operation, appropriate use of technology, cost containment or reductions, and flexibility in human resources use. However, the commission was not limited to those subjects, and it had the authority to review other operational efficiencies associated with the court system.

The commission completed its work in 2011 and, in early 2012, submitted its report to the supreme court with recommendations for action. Its report took into account the weighted caseload study.



## ENHANCEMENT REQUESTS

# 400 NARRATIVE INFORMATION

Division of Budget – Kansas

Judicial Branch

Agency No. 677

## Enhancement Requests

### *FY 2027 Requested Enhancements:*

**Learning Center.** We request \$300,000 in Capital Improvement funding to further the creation of a Judicial Branch Learning Center in the Supreme Court Law Library to allow one standalone exhibit to be created. The Kansas Judicial Center has many visitors throughout the year who have questions about the judicial branch, including how we are structured, cases heard by courts, how a case flows through the appeals process, and how the judicial branch interacts with other branches of government. Many visitors are school-aged children who visit as part of a civics lesson. Educating and inspiring the next generation of Kansans who could become attorneys, judges, legislators, and community leaders is essential to our state's success. The first-floor learning center in the Kansas Judicial Center would include an interactive learning environment to give visitors information about all three branches of government and explain how our branches interact. Several states either have developed or are in the process of developing similar learning centers in their states. This project will be implemented exhibit by exhibit, with plans to continue updating exhibits in the future.

**Hospitality Language.** We request a technical change to the appropriations bill language to address an issue resulting from the transition of the branch from fee funds to the State General Fund. Issues arose in FY 2025 with payment for food from State General Fund appropriations for non-judicial staff at various training events put on by the Education program. Consultation with the Department of Administration and the Division of the Budget provided limited options. We respectfully request the following language be utilized in the appropriations bill to allow expenditures to be processed: (a) There is appropriated for the above agency from the state general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following: Operating expenditures (including official hospitality) (677-00-1000-0103).....\$XX

**Specialty Court Funding.** K.S.A. 20-173c established the Specialty Court Resources Fund in 2022 with the specified purpose to fund specialty court operations, including administrative costs. The Legislature transferred \$1.5 million from the State General Fund in FY 2026, and we request an additional transfer of \$1.5 million from the State General Fund to the Specialty Court Resources Fund occur in FY 2027, with expenditures of \$1.045 million in FY 2027 from these funds to be spent for specialty court operations when grant funding is not available, including funds for statewide training and technical assistance, electronic monitoring services, drug testing subsidies, ancillary services, behavioral health services, materials and other resources that will be used statewide. This request comes from the Supreme Court Specialty Court Funding Advisory Committee, which is made up of legislators, judges, district court staff, prosecutors, and defense attorneys. Lack of long-term funding is a significant challenge for current specialty courts and a barrier for many district courts to begin operating a specialty court. Some courts operate on federal implementation grants that are not renewable. Grant opportunities available to sustain treatment court programs are not plentiful. Variable and uncertain grant funding is an ongoing challenge for courts seeking to create a stable, consistent specialty court network across the state. State funding is crucial for these programs to continue to provide this vital service in communities around the state. In addition, we request 3.0 FTE positions for the regional coordinator positions included in the planned expenditures from the funds approved by the 2025 Legislature.

## 400 NARRATIVE INFORMATION

Division of Budget – Kansas

Judicial Branch

Agency No. 677

### Enhancement Requests

**Court Services Juvenile Coordinator.** We request enhancement funding totaling \$103,296 and 1.0 FTE position within the Office of Judicial Administration to specialize in all juvenile related concerns, respond to questions arising from Intermediate Intervention Program (IIP) Diversion and CINC case processing, and assist with creating policies and procedures for juvenile supervision and CINC cases. Further, this individual will assist with gathering juvenile specific data.

**Rural Justice Initiative.** We request funding totaling \$886,795 for the Rural Justice Initiative to implement the provisions of SB 214. The request reflects the amount included in the fiscal note, while also incorporating the 2.5% pay increase non-judicial employees received in FY 2026. This request includes funding for a new 1.0 FTE position within the Office of Judicial Administration to oversee the program, printing and advertising costs as well as other outreach efforts, and attorney and loan repayments for existing attorneys. Request for funding for the loan program for students at Washburn and the University of Kansas are out year expenditures and are not included in this amount.

**Nonjudicial Salary Increase.** Cost of living increases for state employees, including judicial branch employees, have been crucial for recruitment and retention. For the past several increases, the judicial branch has provided an across-the-board increase at the same percentage for all non-judge employees. This has helped bolster our workforce and has created significant impact in hiring and ensuring positions are competitive. Moving forward, the judicial branch wants to target funding toward positions in areas with the greatest need. OJA has secured the services of a vendor to complete a salary study that will be finished by December 2025. Our request asks for \$3.25 million, the equivalent to a 2.5% across the board increase, to be distributed based upon the results of the salary study.

## SUMMARY

DA 402

402 Agency Summary

Division of the Budget  
KANSAS

Summary by Program Program Description	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Adjusted Budget Request	FY 2027 Base Budget Request	FY 2027 Agency Change Packages	FY 2027 Adjusted Budget Request	null
01031 Administrative Costs	12,350,744	12,617,032	12,055,929	990,091	13,046,020	0
04011 Supreme Court	6,020,703	6,262,237	6,309,381	0	6,309,381	0
04012 Court of Appeals	8,209,379	8,630,744	8,631,460	0	8,631,460	0
04013 Clerk of Appellate Courts	1,006,399	1,113,399	1,023,013	0	1,023,013	0
04014 Appellate Reporter	1,189,814	1,083,228	1,086,438	0	1,086,438	0
04015 Law Library	1,173,862	917,287	851,567	0	851,567	0
04016 eCourt	9,081,727	11,084,950	10,855,253	0	10,855,253	0
04017 Municipal Court Training	89,204	251,205	332,496	0	332,496	0
04018 Alternative Dispute Resolution	401	3,512	3,512	0	3,512	0
04021 Education Services	586,181	696,584	696,584	0	696,584	0
04095 Information Security	2,209,637	4,584,092	3,903,984	0	3,903,984	0
04098 Data Processing	12,093,102	10,335,554	10,874,911	0	10,874,911	0
04111 Judges of District Courts	52,505,632	62,328,479	63,134,669	0	63,134,669	0
04112 Nonjudicial Personnel	110,906,611	116,010,674	117,235,422	4,296,859	121,532,281	0
04114 CASA & CRB Programs	329,142	401,608	400,916	0	400,916	0
04115 Court Improvements (Fed Grants)	394,118	379,767	418,058	0	418,058	0
04116 Correctional Supervision	401,321	853,367	865,278	0	865,278	0
04117 Child Support Enforcement	832,039	1,211,598	1,219,097	0	1,219,097	0
06111 Commission on Judicial Quals	27,362	33,643	34,002	0	34,002	0
06112 Judicial Nominating Commission	27,397	20,982	21,056	0	21,056	0
06113 Board of Law Examiners	678,520	741,334	587,411	0	587,411	0
06114 Board of Examiners-Court Reporters	9,371	8,964	10,112	0	10,112	0
99000 Capital Improvements	0	625,000	0	300,000	300,000	0
A0142 Audio/Visual Upgrades	44,294	0	0	0	0	0
A0143 Technology	386,237	26,705	12,360	0	12,360	0



402 Agency Summary

Agency: Judiciary  
Agcy No: 00677  
Version: 2027-B-01-00677

Date: 09/15/2025  
Time: 14:44:26

Division of the Budget  
KANSAS

Summary by Program Program Description	FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Adjusted Budget Request	FY 2027 Base Budget Request	FY 2027 Agency Change Packages	FY 2027 Adjusted Budget Request	null
A0144 Upgrades IT infrastructure Modernization	12,775	0	0	0	0	0
Total by Program:	220,565,972	240,221,945	240,562,909	5,586,950	246,149,859	0

# 402 Agency Summary

Agency: Judiciary  
 Agcy No: 00677  
 Version: 2027-B-01-00677

Date: 09/15/2025  
 Time: 14:44:26

Division of the Budget  
 KANSAS

Summary by Funding Source Fund Description		FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Adjusted Budget Request	FY 2027 Base Budget Request	FY 2027 Agency Change Packages	FY 2027 Adjusted Budget Request	null
1000	State General Fund	211,254,713	230,166,036	231,675,589	4,541,950	236,217,539	0
2106	Library Report Ff	0	11,000	11,000	0	11,000	0
2126	Dispute Resolution Fd	401	3,512	3,512	0	3,512	0
2158	Docket Fee Fund	1,496,056	1,388,316	0	0	0	0
2229	Jdcl Br Nonjdcl Stry Intv Fd	94,677	368,514	242,856	0	242,856	0
2324	Judicial Branch Education Fd	89,204	247,896	252,410	0	252,410	0
2389	Judicial Br Nonjdcl Stry Adj F	67,709	74,270	74,108	0	74,108	0
2398	Dist Magistrt Judge Supp Comp	249,480	264,405	264,965	0	264,965	0
2465	Correctional Supervision Fund	401,321	748,898	864,200	0	864,200	0
2543	Duplicate Law Book Fd	0	800	800	0	800	0
2681	93.563-Child Sprt Enfrcmt	832,039	1,113,556	1,101,241	0	1,101,241	0
2714	Sji Grant Fund	183,548	54,375	0	0	0	0
2724	Bar Admission Ff	678,520	711,021	571,565	0	571,565	0
2725	Court Reporters Ff	9,371	8,964	10,112	0	10,112	0
2791	Electronic Filing And Management Fund	1,361,449	1,500,000	3,000,000	0	3,000,000	0
2879	Specialty Court Resources Fund	0	651,933	532,970	1,045,000	1,577,970	0
3057	16.738-Ed Byrne Mem Jsct Asst	131,107	76,169	0	0	0	0
3189	Natl Crim Hst Imprv Prg	1,739,409	825,000	189,399	0	189,399	0
3214	16.588-Violnc Agnst Women-Arra Byrne	71,619	30,273	0	0	0	0
3654	Discretionary Grant Program Fund	238,589	73,927	6,377	0	6,377	0
3680	Elder Justice Innovation Grant	105,185	137,120	60,499	0	60,499	0
3756	Amer Rescue Plan State Relief	443,306	26,705	12,360	0	12,360	0
3922	Bja Vet Treat Crt Disc Grt Fd	395,009	727,991	632,334	0	632,334	0
3937	Justice/Mh Collaboration Grant	0	91,889	99,638	0	99,638	0

402 Agency Summary

Agency: Judiciary  
Agcy No: 00677  
Version: 2027-B-01-00677

Date: 09/15/2025  
Time: 14:44:26

Division of the Budget  
KANSAS

Summary by Funding Source		FY 2025 Actuals	FY 2026 Adjusted Budget Request	FY 2027 Base Budget Request	FY 2027 Agency Change Packages	FY 2027 Adjusted Budget Request	null
Fund	Description						
3942	93.586-St Court Impv Prg	394,118	517,767	556,058	0	556,058	0
7317	Perm Fams-Fam/Child Invest Fd	329,142	401,608	400,916	0	400,916	0
Total by Funding Source:		220,565,972	240,221,945	240,562,909	5,586,950	246,149,859	0

## EXPLANATION OF RECEIPTS ESTIMATES

DA 405

## 405 NARRATIVE INFORMATION

Division of the Budget - KANSAS

Judicial Branch

Agency No: 677

### Library Report Fee Fund – 2106

The Library Report Fee Fund (2106) is authorized by K.S.A. 20-213 for receipt of “all moneys received by or for such librarian from the sale of reports of the supreme court and from the sale of court of appeals reports.” Current prices are:

Subscriptions	\$65.00
Bound Volumes Only	\$60.00
Reprint Volumes	\$60.00
Advance Sheets (each)	\$15.00
Rules	\$25.00

The revenue generated comes primarily through the sales of *Kansas Reports* and *Kansas Court of Appeals Reports*. The amount received in FY 2025, as well as projected revenues for FY 2026 and FY 2027, are indicated below, broken down by subscription sales of *Kansas Reports* and *Kansas Court of Appeals Reports* as well as a modest number of subscriptions to Advance Sheets. There are a small number of subscribers who only receive the *Kansas Court of Appeals Reports*.

	Actual FY 2025	Volumes	Subscribers	Estimated FY 2026	Volumes	Subscribers	Estimated FY 2027
<i>Kansas Reports</i>	\$19,575	2	129	\$16,770	2	119	\$15,470
<i>Court of Appeals Reports</i>	\$18,915	2	150	\$19,500	2	140	\$18,200
Advance Sheet	\$960			\$960			\$960
Rules	\$900			\$900			\$900
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$40,350			\$38,130			\$35,530



**Dispute Resolution Fund – 2126**

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The Dispute Resolution Fund (2126) is authorized by K.S.A. 5-517. Revenue for this fund is received from mediator registration fees.

Actual receipts for FY 2025 and estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Registrations	\$13,075	\$14,000	\$14,000

**Docket Fees**

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**DOCKET FEES**

Kansas uses a uniform docket fee system in which fees are paid to the court for costs associated with processing a case. Portions of various docket fees collected by clerks are distributed to counties, local law libraries, prosecuting attorneys’ training funds, and law enforcement training funds. K.S.A. 20-362 directs the State Treasurer to deposit .99% of the remaining docket fees into the Judicial Council Fund. Of the balance remitted to the state treasury, the first \$1,500,000 is deposited into the Electronic Filing and Management Fund. The remainder is now deposited into the State General Fund.

Estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below, along with the actual receipts for FY 2025.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Clerks’ Fees	\$18,942,622	\$19,500,000	\$19,500,000

**405 NARRATIVE INFORMATION**  
**Division of the Budget - KANSAS**

**Judicial Branch**  
**Agency No: 677**

**Judicial Branch Docket Fee Fund – 2158**

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K.S.A. 28-177 authorizes the Judicial Branch Docket Fee Fund (2158). Pursuant to K.S.A. 20-362, and amendments thereto, the first \$1,500,000 in docket fees are deposited into the Electronic Filing and Management Fund (2791). The Judicial Council’s fund is allocated 0.99% of docket fees remitted and the balance of fees are credited to the State General Fund.

Actual receipts for FY 2025 and estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$77,938	\$0	\$0

## 405 NARRATIVE INFORMATION

Division of the Budget - KANSAS

Judicial Branch

Agency No: 677

### Judicial Branch Nonjudicial Salary Initiative Fund – 2229

The Judicial Branch Nonjudicial Salary Initiative Fund (2229) (K.S.A. 20-1a14) was established in 2000 to partially fund a new pay plan. A portion of docket fee revenue was deposited into the fund. Pursuant to 2013 Session Laws, Ch. 136, §101, FY 2013 was the last year docket fees were deposited into this fund.

The 2015 Legislature transferred oversight of district court debt collection contracts from the Attorney General to the Judicial Administrator (K.S.A. 20-169). The statute authorizes the imposition of an administrative fee on the amount of debt collected. The administrative fee revenue is deposited into this fund and used to partially fund the costs of overseeing the debt collection contracts.

One of the programs recommended by Legislature’s Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee is the Georgetown Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM). This model is a multi-disciplinary approach to addressing the needs of youth who are involved in both the child in need of care system and the juvenile offender system (commonly referred to as crossover kids). A key to ensuring this program is successful is collaboration between the courts, the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC), and the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF). To assist with this, some of the juvenile justice reinvestment funds are used for a CYPM coordinator position at OJA. The primary responsibility of this position is to oversee the CYPM. The position also provides some support to specialty courts and court services officers as time allows. The revenue for this position is received from the KDOC Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Fund.

Estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 as well as actual amounts for FY 2025 are shown below.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Collection Fees	\$163,211	\$170,000	\$170,000
Crossover Youth Practice Model Coordinator	\$92,498	\$108,308	\$108,308
Total	<u>\$255,709</u>	<u>\$278,308</u>	<u>\$278,308</u>

**Judicial Branch Education Fund – 2324**

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The Judicial Branch Education Fund (2324) is authorized by K.S.A. 20-1a11. Traffic docket fees provide revenue for this fund.

As authorized by K.S.A. 12-4116, where there is a finding of guilty or a plea of guilty, a plea of no contest, forfeiture of bond, or a diversion, a sum in an amount not to exceed \$1 shall be assessed for the training, testing, and continuing judicial education of municipal judges as provided in K.S.A. 12-4114. This fund is authorized to accept grants from federal or other agencies.

Estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below along with the actual receipts for FY 2025.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Municipal Violation Fees	\$159,193	\$170,000	\$170,000
Miscellaneous	<u>\$500</u>		
Total	\$159,693		

**Judicial Branch Nonjudicial Salary Adjustment Fund – 2389**

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The Judicial Branch Nonjudicial Salary Adjustment Fund (2389) is authorized by K.S.A. 20-1a15. The fund is used for compensation of nonjudge employees of the district courts, Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court and shall not be expended for compensation of judges or justices of the Judicial Branch.

Historically, a percentage of marriage license fees (15.25%) and driver’s license reinstatement fees (\$15 plus 41.17% of the balance) were deposited into this account. On July 1, 2022, when HB 2541 became effective, the deposits of those moneys were shifted to the State General Fund as part of the transition of core judicial branch funding to the State General Fund.

Estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below along with the actual receipts for FY 2025.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Interest Income	\$21,312	\$20,000	\$20,000

**DMJ Supplemental Compensation Fund - 2398**

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K.S.A. 75-3120k allows a county or counties comprising the judicial district to supplement the salary of, or pay any compensation to, any district magistrate judge. Any such supplemental salary or compensation shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the district magistrate judge supplemental compensation fund. All moneys credited to this fund shall be paid to the district magistrate judge or judges for whom such moneys were remitted as additional salary or compensation. Currently, the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Johnson County), the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Lyon and Chase Counties), the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District (Riley County), and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District (Shawnee County) provide additional compensation to district magistrate judges.

Estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below along with the actual receipts for FY 2025.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Remittance From Counties	\$281,286	\$285,000	\$285,000

**405 NARRATIVE INFORMATION**  
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**Correctional Supervision Fund – 2465**

The Correctional Supervision Fund (2465) is authorized by K.S.A. 21-6607 with funding derived from probation fees of \$60 for misdemeanors and \$120 for felonies. 58.33% of the payments made for supervision fees is deposited in this fund. These funds are to be used “for the implementation of and training for use of a statewide, mandatory, standardized risk assessment tool” and other support for offender supervision.

The use of the fund also includes training and implementation of a statewide, mandatory, standardized risk assessment tool for juvenile offenders and juvenile offender supervision programs.

Below are estimates of revenue for FY 2026 and FY 2027 along with the actual receipts for FY 2025.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Probation Fees Collected	\$903,280	\$905,195	\$905,195
Times	58.33%	58.33%	58.33%
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<u>\$526,883</u>	<u>\$528,000</u>	<u>\$528,000</u>



**405 NARRATIVE INFORMATION**  
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**Duplicate Law Book Fund – 2543**

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The Duplicate Law Book Fund (2543) is authorized by K.S.A. 20-156 for receipt of monies received by the exchange, sale, or loan of duplicate books, sets of works, or other duplicate or temporary material. This material includes copies, faxes, and lost books. The expenditures from this fund are used for miscellaneous law library purposes including printed library materials.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Receipts	\$666	\$600	\$600

**Child Support Enforcement Contractual Agreement Fund – 2681**

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The Child Support Enforcement Contractual Agreement Fund (2681) is used to fund the Judicial Branch’s activities in Child Support Enforcement. All receipts are received from the Department for Children and Families (DCF) for reimbursement of Judicial Branch expenditures that comply with Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act and the processing of paternity, child support, and medical related activities. The federal match in this program is 66%, which requires a 34% expenditure of State funds to receive, funded by DCF. Because of the match, every dollar of state money expended receives nearly two dollars in federal match money.

The Judicial Branch is reimbursed for work done by nonjudge personnel on Title IV-D activity based on the results of an annual timestudy of district court tasks related to Title IV-D cases. DCF also funds administrative hearing officer positions required to expedite child support enforcement cases through the courts. There is a memorandum of understanding between OJA and DCF agreeing to use the results of the 2025 timestudy to calculate the expenses reimbursable for FY 2026.

Estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below along with the actual receipts for FY 2025.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Reimbursement from DCF	\$919,247	\$935,000	\$935,000

**State Justice Institute Grants - 2714**

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The State Justice Institute Grants Grant Fund (2714) was created for accounting purposes to eliminate using other funds for the receipt and expenditures of non-federal grants in order to isolate, and not co-mingle, these non-federal funds. This fund receives non-federal moneys of either one-time amounts or those that require a match of other funds.

Currently this fund is used for three grants from the State Justice Institute. The first grant allows OJA to engage the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to assist in its review and update of the vision, mission, and strategic goals and objectives set forth in the Strategic Plan of the Kansas Judiciary (2022-2021) and in the creation of an Operational Plan to accompany the updated Strategic Plan. A second grant mirrors this strategic plan project at the district court level to align the district court strategic plans with the branch wide strategic plan. The third grant also allows OJA to engage NCSC to conduct organizational assessments of the district court clerk offices. Three courts with varying caseloads will be included in the assessment to assist in determining the personnel structure needed to meet the demands of the current and projected workloads.

Estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below along with the actual receipts for FY 2025.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Receipts	\$177,154	\$108,125	\$0

## 405 NARRATIVE INFORMATION

Division of the Budget - KANSAS

Judicial Branch

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### Bar Admission Fee Fund – 2724

The Bar Admission Fee Fund (2724) is authorized by K.S.A. 20-1a03. Revenues deposited in this fund are received “from applicants for admission to the practice of law in Kansas.” K.S.A. 20-1a03 requires that ten percent of all receipts is deposited in the State General Fund.

Fees are received for taking the written bar examination, for admission without written examination, for temporary permits while awaiting bar examination, for legal interns, for admission by Uniform Bar Examination, and for restricted licensure of attorneys performing legal services for single employers.

The actual amounts received from these various fees in FY 2025, as well as estimates for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are itemized below.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>		<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>		<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>	
	<u>No. of Applicants</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>No. of Applicants</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>No. of Applicants</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Written Exams (Timely) @ \$700	190	\$133,000	190	\$133,000	190	\$133,000
Written Exams (with Late Fee) @ \$900	52	\$46,800	55	\$49,500	55	\$49,500
Temporary Permits @ \$100	58	\$5,800	60	\$6,000	60	\$6,000
Legal Interns @ \$50	81	\$4,050	90	\$4,500	90	\$4,500
Rule 717, 719, 720 and 721 @\$1,250	291	\$363,750	300	\$375,000	300	\$375,000
Subtotal Receipts		\$553,400		\$568,000		\$568,000
Less 10%		(\$55,340)		(\$56,800)		(\$56,800)
Miscellaneous		\$2,445				
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$500,505		\$511,200		\$511,200

## 405 NARRATIVE INFORMATION

Division of the Budget - KANSAS

Judicial Branch

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### Court Reporter Fund – 2725

The Court Reporter Fund (2725) is authorized by K.S.A. 20-1a02, and money is generated to it from examination fees (including applications for examination and reciprocity with Registered Professional Reporter certificate or on motion from another state), temporary certificate fees, and annual renewal fees. K.S.A. 20-1a02 requires that ten percent of the receipts be credited to the State General Fund. Fees are charged for the certified court reporter examinations, temporary certificates, annual renewals of certification, and late fees imposed after the June 30 renewal date (Supreme Court Rules 310 and 312).

The actual receipts for FY 2025 and the estimated receipts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>		<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>		<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>	
	<u>No. of Applicants</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>No. of Applicants</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>No. of Applicants</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Exam @ \$125	28	\$3,500	30	\$3,750	30	\$3,750
Status Change @ \$25						
Annual Renewal Fee @ \$50	273	\$13,650	275	\$13,750	275	\$13,750
Annual Renewal Fee @ \$25 (Inactive)	13	\$325	15	\$375	15	\$375
Late Fee @ \$50	17	\$850	15	\$750	15	\$750
Late Fee @ \$25	3	\$75	5	\$125	5	\$125
Adjustment						
Subtotal Receipts		\$18,400		\$18,750		\$18,750
Less 10%		(\$1,840)		(\$1,875)		(\$1,875)
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$16,560		\$16,875		\$16,875

**Electronic Filing and Management Fund – 2791**

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Pursuant to K.S.A. 20-362, docket fees are deposited to the Electronic Filing and Management Fund (2791) to generate revenue for the “purpose of creating, implementing, and managing an electronic filing and centralized case management system.” The initial \$3,100,000 of clerks’ fees forwarded to the state through FY 2021 were deposited into this fund. For FY 2022 and subsequent years, \$1,500,000 of clerks' fees will be deposited in this fund.

Estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027, and actual deposits for FY 2025 are shown below:

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Clerks’ Fees	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000

**Specialty Court Resources Fund - 2879**

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The Specialty Court Resources Fund (2879) was created for accounting purposes to eliminate using other funds for the receipt and expenditures of non-federal funds in order to isolate, and not co-mingle, these non-federal funds.

K.S.A. 20-173c established the Specialty Court Resources Fund in 2022 with the specified purpose to fund specialty court operations, including administrative costs. In FY 2026, the Kansas Judicial Branch received a transfer of \$1.5 million from the State General Fund to the Specialty Court Resources Fund, and expenditures of the same amount to be spent for specialty court operations when grant funding is not available. This request comes from the Supreme Court Specialty Court Funding Advisory Committee, which is made up of legislators, judges, district court staff, prosecutors, and defense attorneys. Lack of long-term funding is a significant challenge for current specialty courts and a barrier for many district courts to begin operating and maintaining a specialty court. Some courts operate on federal implementation grants that are not renewable. Grant opportunities available to sustain treatment court programs are not plentiful. Variable and uncertain grant funding is an ongoing challenge for courts seeking to create a stable, consistent specialty court network across the state. State funding is crucial for these programs to continue to provide this vital service in communities around the state.

Estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below along with the actual receipts for FY 2025.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Receipts	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000

**Federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program - 3057**

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The Federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Fund (3057) was created for accounting purposes to eliminate using other funds for the receipt and expenditures of federal grants in order to isolate, and not co-mingle, these federal funds. This fund receives federal moneys of either one-time amounts or those that require a match of other funds.

This fund will be used for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Fund (JAG) to offset necessary expenditures related to specialty courts in various judicial districts.

Estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below along with the actual receipts for FY 2025.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Receipts	\$130,541	\$76,169	\$0



**National Criminal History Improvement Program Grant Fund - 3189**

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The National Criminal History Improvement Program Grants Fund (3189) was created for accounting purposes to eliminate using other funds for the receipt and expenditures of federal grants in order to isolate, and not co-mingle, these federal funds. This fund receives federal moneys of either one-time amounts or those that require a match of other funds.

This fund will be used for the National Criminal History Improvement Project (NCHIP) to offset necessary expenditures related to the implementation of a new centralized supervision software.

Estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below, along with the actual receipts for FY 2025.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Receipts	\$1,667,889	\$825,000	\$189,399

**Violence Against Women’s Act Grant Fund - 3214**

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The Violence Against Women’s Grant Fund (3214) was created for accounting purposes to eliminate using other funds for the receipt and expenditures of federal grants in order to isolate, and not co-mingle, these federal funds. This fund receives federal moneys of either one-time amounts or those that require a match of other funds.

Currently this fund is used for the Services Training Officers Prosecutors Violence Against Women Act (S.T.O.P. VAWA) to fund needed enhancements to the Kansas protection order portal: KSPOP, updates and distribution of PFA/PFSSAHT bench cards to all judicial districts, and creation and distribution of KSPOP business cards.

Estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below, along with the actual receipts for FY 2025.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Receipts	\$65,118	\$30,273	\$0

**Byrne Discretionary Grant Program Fund - 3654**

The 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Kansas was earmarked \$1,000,000 in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-103) to design and implement a Veteran Treatment Court program. This direct appropriation is identified in the Congressional Joint Explanatory Statement (JES) to be administered by the Department of Justice by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) under the Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grants/Byrne Discretionary Grants Program.

The Kansas Judicial Branch accepted this direct appropriation as it is in alignment with the Supreme Court Rule 191 forming the Specialty Court Committee and tasked to find innovative solutions aimed at the prevention, intervention, and enforcement of mental health, drug, alcohol, and substance abuse in the State of Kansas with an emphasis on reducing recidivism -- through the use of specialty courts, such as Veterans Treatment Courts.

The awarded grant will establish a new Veteran Treatment Court in the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court located in Sedgwick County, Kansas over a 36-month period.

These courts are specialized dockets that utilize therapeutic or problem-solving procedures to address underlying factors that may be contributing to a party’s involvement in the criminal justice system, like mental illness or drug, alcohol, or other addiction. Kansas specialty courts are operated by judicial branch judges and personnel.

During the lifetime of the grant, a VTC will be established in the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court; the Veteran Treatment Court Team will further define their roles and responsibilities, attend foundational training, concretize the tentative design of the Veteran Treatment Court, adopt a VTC policies and procedures manual, and collaborate with others to better serve court users through specialty courts.

Estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below, along with the actual receipts for FY 2025.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Receipts	\$262,742	\$73,927	\$6,377

**Elder Justice Innovation Grant - 3680**

The Elder Justice Innovation Grant Fund (3680) was created for accounting purposes to eliminate using other funds for the receipt and expenditures of federal grants in order to isolate, and not co-mingle, these federal funds. This fund receives federal moneys that require a match of other funds.

The Kansas Office of Judicial Administration (OJA), in partnership with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), the Kansas Department for Children and Families Adult Protective Service (APS) division, and the Kansas Guardianship Program (KGP) is using these funds to assess the adult guardianship and conservatorship system in Kansas and implement strategies to improve the process. This includes enhancing the fairness and integrity of adult guardianship and conservatorship proceedings as well as addressing less restrictive paths for at risk adults. This project seeks to continue the work of the Adult Decision-Making Learning Collaborative (collaborative) assembled by APS. The goals are to assess current guardianship practices; improve collection and analysis of guardian and conservator data; develop and implement interventions determined during the assessment phase of the project; and develop a process to monitor and measure guardianships and conservatorship cases.

Estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below along with the actual receipts for FY 2025.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Receipts	\$28,889	\$213,416	\$60,499

**ARPA Grant - 3756**

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The ARPA Grant Fund (3756) was created for accounting purposes to eliminate using other funds for the receipt and expenditures of federal grants in order to isolate, and not co-mingle, these federal funds. This fund receives federal moneys of either one-time amounts or those that require a match of other funds.

Currently this fund is used for the Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) State Efficiency and Modernization Program to fund audio visual upgrades, technology upgrades, and IT infrastructure modernization for 21 judicial districts and the Office of Judicial Administration.

Estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below, along with the actual receipts for FY 2025.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Receipts	\$0	\$0	\$0

**BJA Discretionary Grant Fund - 3922**

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The BJA Discretionary Grant Fund (3922) was created for accounting purposes to eliminate using other funds for the receipt and expenditures of federal grants in order to isolate, and not co-mingle, these federal funds. This fund receives federal moneys of either one-time amounts or those that require a match of other funds.

Currently this fund is used for the BJA FY 2022 and BJA FY 2024 Veterans Treatment Court Discretionary Grant Program to fund the establishment of new Veteran Treatment Courts (VTCs), enhance programming already occurring in existing VTCs, hire and sustain a statewide Specialty Court Program Manager, expand the technical assistance provided by the Kansas Office of Judicial Administration, and conduct program and policy evaluations to support enhancement and sustainability of the VTC programing across the state.

Estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below, along with the actual receipts for FY 2025.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Receipts	\$384,914	\$727,991	\$632,334

**Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Grant Fund - 3937**

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The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Grant Fund (3937) was created for accounting purposes to eliminate using other funds for the receipt and expenditures of federal grants in order to isolate, and not co-mingle, these federal funds. This fund receives federal moneys of either one-time amounts or those that require a match of other funds.

Saline County District Court, with the assistance of Saline County and Central Kansas Mental Health Center, applied for and received federal grant funds under the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for the purpose of establishing and operating a specialty court focused on behavioral health-driven criminal offenses. This fund will be used for the salary and fringe benefits of the Behavioral Health Court Coordinator located in Saline County.

Estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below along with the actual receipts for FY 2025.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Receipts	\$0	\$91,889	\$99,638

**Child Welfare-Federal Grant Fund - 3942**

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The Child Welfare-Federal Grant Fund (3942) was created for accounting purposes to eliminate using other funds for the receipt and expenditures of federal grant funds used for the Judicial Branch Court Improvement Program. The Supreme Court established the Task Force on Permanency Planning to oversee this program which is charged with the task of improving the delivery of Judicial Branch services to children in need of care and juvenile offenders.

Estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below, along with the actual receipts for FY 2025.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Receipts	\$393,011	\$517,767	\$556,058



**Permanent Families Account – 7317**

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The Permanent Families Account (7317) in the Family and Children Investment Fund is authorized by K.S.A. 38-1808. The Permanent Families Account is mandated to be used to foster development and expansion of Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs and Citizen Review Board (CRB) programs.

The funds credited to the Permanent Families Account come from a surcharge of \$3 for the first certified copy of a birth certificate and \$1 for each additional copy of the same birth certificate requested at the same time (K.S.A. 65-2418).

Estimated amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are shown below, along with the actual receipts for FY 2025.

	<u>Actual FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2027</u>
Birth Certificate Copies	\$408,639	\$425,000	\$425,000

## APPELLATE COURTS

04000

## 400 NARRATIVE INFORMATION

Division of Budget – Kansas

Judicial Branch

Agency No. 677

Appellate Courts

Appellate Court – 04000

Program Name: Appellate Courts						Program Priority: 1
Subprogram Name	Priority	Required by Statute?	Statutory Basis	Maintenance of Effort Requirement	Purpose	Consequences of not Funding
Supreme Court (04011)	1	Constitutional Requirement	Article III § 2	N/A	Highest court with general administrative authority over Kansas court system.	Constitutional Requirement
Court of Appeals (04012)	1	Yes	K.S.A. 20-3001	N/A	Intermediate appellate court.	Statutorily Required
Appellate Clerk (04013)	1	Constitutional Requirement	Article III § 4	N/A	Case processing for appellate courts.	Constitutional Requirement
Appellate Reporter (04014)	1	Constitutional Requirement	Article III § 4	N/A	Edits and publishes all appellate court decisions.	Constitutional Requirement
Supreme Court Law Library (04015)	1	Yes	K.S.A. 20-155	N/A	Support the research needs of Kansas Judicial Branch	Statutorily Required
eCourt (04016)	1	Yes	K.S.A. 20-1a20	N/A	Centralized, statewide case management system.	Statutorily Required

## 400 NARRATIVE INFORMATION

Division of Budget – Kansas

Judicial Branch

Agency No. 677

Appellate Courts

Appellate Court – 04000

<b>Program Name: Appellate Courts</b>	<b>Program Priority: 1</b>
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<b>Subprogram Name</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Required by Statute?</b>	<b>Statutory Basis</b>	<b>Maintenance of Effort Requirement</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Consequences of not Funding</b>
Municipal Court Training and Judicial Certification (04017)	1	Yes	K.S.A. 12-4114	N/A	Provide training for Municipal Court judges and staff and certify non-lawyer Municipal court judges.	Statutorily Required
Alternative Dispute Resolution (04018)	1	Yes	K.S.A. 5-501	N/A	Provides neutral assistance with negotiations of case parties.	Statutorily Required

## THE SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court consists of seven justices. Vacancies on the Supreme Court are filled by the governor from a list of three qualified persons submitted by the Supreme Court Nominating Commission. After the first year in office, a justice is subject to a retention vote in the next general election. If retained, the justice remains in office for a term of six years. Justices are then subject to a retention vote near the end of each term.

Under the Kansas Constitution, the justice who is senior in continuous term of service is the chief justice, unless that person declines or resigns the position. It is the chief justice's responsibility to implement and carry out the administrative rules and policies established by the Supreme Court.

The Kansas Constitution also grants the Supreme Court general administrative authority over all Kansas courts. The Supreme Court issues rules that have the same force and effect as other state laws pertaining to procedures and operations of the judicial branch. Except for the chief justice, each justice oversees between four to six judicial districts within the state, and all seven justices serve as liaisons to several Supreme Court committees.

The Supreme Court has exclusive jurisdiction over the admission and discipline of attorneys and can discipline judges who fail to observe the Code of Judicial Conduct. The Supreme Court adopts rules governing the attorney disciplinary process, the Office of the Disciplinary Administrator, and the Board of Attorney Discipline. The Supreme Court's administrative authority also includes the Office of Judicial Administration, the appellate reporter's office—which is tasked with the publication of Supreme Court and Court of Appeals decisions—and the appellate clerk's office.

The Supreme Court's jurisdiction is primarily appellate; however, the Kansas Constitution provides for original jurisdiction in three types of proceedings: *quo warranto*, *habeas corpus*, and *mandamus*. These three actions protect the public from arbitrary government operation or oppression by public officials. Today's continued use of these actions illustrates their effectiveness and importance in preserving individual rights. *Quo warranto* is an action challenging the authority of an officer or corporation. It prevents people from exercising powers not conferred by law. A *mandamus* is an order from a court commanding a lower court, a public officer, or a corporation to follow the law. *Habeas corpus* is an action that challenges the legality of the detention of one person by another. The Supreme Court's jurisdiction over direct appeals in criminal cases includes capital murder, certain other high-level felony cases, and cases in which a statute has been held unconstitutional.

In a case on appeal, the Supreme Court can modify, vacate, or reverse any act, order, or judgment of a district court. A district court decision can be appealed in most cases to either the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court. Appealed cases are reviewed through briefs prepared by attorneys. The appellate courts do not determine facts but decide questions of law raised on appeal. If the appellate courts reverse the judgment of the district court due to reversible error, the case is returned to the district court with directions to grant a new trial or to otherwise dispose of the case.

## **46400 Narrative Information**

**Division of the Budget – Kansas  
Judicial Branch Agency No. 677**

**Appellate Courts  
Supreme Court – 04011**

If no reversible error is found, the decision of the district court is upheld. The Supreme Court can review decisions of the Court of Appeals and can transfer cases from that court to the Supreme Court.

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request:     \$540,216

Expenses include telephone and data services, copier equipment rental, and travel and subsistence for Supreme Court justices and their staff. The judicial branch continues to realize savings by using digital options for meetings, trainings, or similar work tasks when possible.

A primary expense is dues for the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). NCSC is an independent, nonprofit court improvement organization that provides research, information, education, and consulting services. Knowledge and information are shared in a variety of forms, from web resources to hands-on assistance. This proved invaluable during the pandemic and as courts have administratively evolved in response to the pandemic. NCSC members represent a significant cross-section of leadership in American courts, enabling the NCSC to serve as a clearinghouse for new information and developments for court improvement. This is augmented by the NCSC's service as secretariat for the Conference of Chief Justices, Conference of State Court Administrators, National Association for Court Management, American Judges Association, National College of Probate Judges, National Association of Women Judges, and National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks. The judicial branch is an active participant in the organization and benefits greatly from its services. This participation should be maintained and supported. The approximate amount of \$156,000 for FY 2027 is requested for NCSC dues. NCSC publishes reports on other projects that benefit courts nationwide. NCSC has also created a language access services section, which helps courts eliminate language barriers for people with limited English proficiency.

NCSC historic projects benefiting the judicial branch include weighted caseload studies, collections improvement, a language access survey, strategic planning, a classification and compensation study for employees, and a compensation study for judges.

### 5300 - Commodities

FY 2027 Request:     \$12,427

Expenses include the Kansas Legal Directories and office supplies.

### 5400 – Capital Outlay

FY 2027 Request:     \$8,000

Expenses include computer supplies.

## COURT OF APPEALS

The Court of Appeals is Kansas’ intermediate appellate court consisting of 14 judges. The purposes of the court from its inception in 1977 include bringing the appellate court to the people, serving litigants and counsel with timely and well-written appellate opinions, and achieving efficiencies in appellate court operations for the taxpayers.

The governor nominates a judge to the court for each vacancy subject to confirmation by the Kansas Senate. Judges on the Court of Appeals continue to stand for retention by the voters every four years.

The Court of Appeals sits in panels of three judges but is also authorized to sit *en banc*. The court also assigns senior judges and district judges to three-judge panels by designation. Although Topeka is designated as the site of the court’s principal offices, it is authorized by statute (K.S.A. 20- 3013) to hear oral arguments in any county in the state. K.S.A. 20-3013 contemplates that the Court of Appeals will travel to hear cases and bring the court “to the people.” When the Court of Appeals is convened at remote locations, the court generates public interest in its work, speaks to civic and attorney groups, and educates in schools and colleges regarding the Judicial Branch and its functions in government. In addition, hearing cases near the county where the cases are filed saves litigants a substantial amount of money each year. In 2016, the Court of Appeals began hearing some cases by videoconference.

Jurisdiction of the court is specified in K.S.A. 60-2101 and 60-2102. The Court of Appeals has jurisdiction over all appeals from district courts except for a few cases where a direct appeal to the Supreme Court is required. In addition, the court has jurisdiction to review decisions of all administrative agencies, including the Board of Tax Appeals, the Workers Compensation Appeals Board, and the Kansas Corporation Commission. The court also has concurrent jurisdiction over original habeas corpus actions. Also, Jessica’s Law cases are directly appealed to the Court of Appeals. The court is required to handle many appeals on an expedited basis, including utility rate cases, juvenile adjudications, termination of parental rights cases, election disputes, interlocutory appeals, extradition appeals, and temporary injunctions.

In 2024, 1,360 new appeals were docketed with the Court of Appeals. In addition, 5,699 written motions were filed with the court. The judges of the Court of Appeals filed 565 formal written opinions in 2024. In 2020, the standard median on appeal for all cases, from docketing to disposition was less than one year at 302 days. Roughly 65% of that time is taken simply awaiting the filing of briefs by all parties. In 2022, once a case was heard, the judges of the Court of Appeals had an average time for issuing an opinion of 31 days, with an internal goal of less than 60 days.

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request:                      \$231,142

Major expenditures under this category are for telephone and data services, as well as travel and subsistence. The Court of Appeals travels during the year to hear oral arguments throughout

**46400 Narrative Information****Division of the Budget – Kansas****Judicial Branch Agency No. 677****Appellate Courts****Court of Appeals – 04012**

the state. Also included are costs for travel to attend judicial conferences and seminars, as well as to send new Court of Appeals judges to new appellate judge training.

Other expenditures in this category include United Parcel Service and Federal Express, copier equipment rental, Westlaw access, and Court of Appeals building maintenance.

**5300 – Commodities**

FY 2027 Request:                      \$9,918

The costs included in this category for the Court of Appeals are copier paper, supplies, forms, and envelopes from the Department of Administration Office of Printing. The purchase of Kansas Legal Directories also appears under this code.



## CLERK OF THE APPELLATE COURTS

The Clerk of the Appellate Courts is clerk of both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. The Clerk of the Supreme Court is a constitutional officer appointed by the justices of the Supreme Court in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, Section 4 of the *Kansas Constitution*. The Clerk of the Supreme Court is *ex officio* Clerk of the Court of Appeals (K.S.A. 20-3015).

In addition to case processing for both appellate courts, the Clerk is responsible for general supervision of support staff for the Supreme Court Nominating Commission, the Judicial Conduct Commission, and the Judicial Ethics Advisory Panel. The Clerk also serves as Secretary of the Judicial Conduct Commission, acting as custodian of the official files and records of the Commission, and performing such other ministerial functions as the Commission directs. *See* Supreme Court Rule 605. The Clerk, in addition, conducts elections for attorney members of the Supreme Court Nominating Commission and seventeen nonpartisan district judicial nominating commissions. The Clerk also serves as Secretary of the Appellate Bench-Bar Committee, acting as custodian of the official files and records of the Committee, and performing such other ministerial functions as the Committee directs. *See* Supreme Court Rule 12.01.

The Clerk's Office docketed over 1,300 appeals each year. The docketing procedure includes setting up electronic files and making eight to ten initial computer entries per case. Files are continuously updated during the pendency of the appeal.

The Clerk's Office is responsible for processing all motions filed with the appellate courts. Each year over 8,000 motions are filed in the Clerk's Office. After being recorded, the motions are either acted upon by the Clerk at the court's direction or forwarded to the appropriate appellate court for consideration and ruling.

The appellate courts have mandatory e-filing for all parties except self-represented litigants.

The Clerk's Office finalizes dockets for both appellate courts and sends copies of each docket to all counsel involved in cases listed, notifying counsel of date, time, and place of hearings. These mailings to self-represented litigants, district courts, and judges can involve substantial postage.

Opinions are handed down weekly by the Court of Appeals and by the Supreme Court. Opinions are mailed to self-represented litigants and district judges from whom the appeal was taken, and other interested parties requesting copies of a decision. Postage for opinions varies with each case, as an opinion can be as brief as one page or in excess of fifty pages. Each year, over 900 opinions, included within the total of 2,100 dispositions, are handed down by the appellate courts.

All briefs for each case are filed in the Clerk's Office. Each case will have at least two briefs filed, one appellant's and one appellee's brief. There may be multiple appellants or appellees, each filing briefs, and briefs may be filed by interveners in the action.

## **400 Narrative Information**

**Division of the Budget – Kansas  
Judicial Branch Agency No. 677**

**Appellate Courts  
Appellate Clerk – 04013**

When requested by the appellate courts, the Clerk orders case records from the district courts throughout the state. The majority of appellate records are electronic now and are submitted electronically to the Clerk's Office and then distributed to the appropriate court when dockets are set. After the appellate judges complete their review of the records, any hard copy records are returned to the district courts.

After cases have been heard, opinions written, and post-decision motions or petitions considered, mandates are issued by the Clerk's Office. The mandates are sent to the district court from which the appeal was taken. This terminates the case.

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request:     \$47,922

The majority of this category relates to communication and postage charges related to the dissemination of opinions, orders, and notices. Each case filing necessitates the mailing of three or more notices to self-represented litigants involved and the district court clerk in the county from which the case was appealed. These notices advise the attorneys and clerk that the case has been filed, the date filed, which court the case was filed in, and the appellate number assigned to the case. In addition, each motion acted on requires the mailing of a minimum of two orders for self-represented litigants.

When the courts hand down opinions, a copy of the opinion is mailed to any self-represented litigant or pro hac vice. An electronic notice of the opinion is sent to all district court clerks, district court judges, and any attorney on the case. Within a month after the opinions are filed, the mandate and a copy of the opinion are mailed to the clerk of the district court in the county from which the case originated.

This category is also used for printing documents unique to the work performed in the clerk's office, along with copier rental costs, office machine repair costs, and Westlaw access.

Monies from this category also pay travel costs for clerk's office staff. In the area of out-of-state travel, the Clerk attends the annual meeting of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks when funds are available.

In-state travel includes trips to district courts to provide instruction on appellate procedures. These programs include working with the various court clerks relative to handling records on appeal, explaining and updating information regarding new Supreme Court Rules, and other activities relating to the proper filing and processing of cases. The Clerk works with each of the thirty-one judicial districts in the improvement of various procedures for docketing and clerical processing of the various forms and records of the courts.

### 5300 – Commodities

FY 2027 Request:     \$4,945

In the area of office supplies, the primary expenditures relate to mailing cartons, large

**400 Narrative Information****Division of the Budget – Kansas****Judicial Branch Agency No. 677****Appellate Courts****Appellate Clerk – 04013**

mailing envelopes for various court records, copier paper, stationery, and supplies. Computer-generated notices and orders make copier paper a disproportionately large item in this code.

This category also includes the purchase of Kansas Legal Directories. This is a book that is used by members of the Clerk's Office on a daily basis. It is required that each of the staff members be in constant contact with the various attorneys, judges, and clerks statewide.

### APPELLATE REPORTER

The Reporter of the Supreme Court is a constitutional officer and is required to be an attorney. By statute, this person also serves as Reporter of the Court of Appeals. The primary functions are editing all opinions filed by each appellate court, publishing those opinions which each court so designates, and facilitating the placement of the published and unpublished opinions on the Judicial Branch website.

Published opinions of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals are printed in paperback advance sheets. The combined advance sheets contain 500 to 800 pages of opinions and related subject indices. Bound volumes are printed when opinions of an appellate court reach at least the statutory minimum of 750 pages.

All appellate court opinions, whether or not designated for publication, are submitted for approval to the Reporter before filing. The attorneys in the Reporter's Office make a source check on all cases, statutes, and other authorities cited, checking to see that each supports the proposition for which it is cited as well as for accuracy of the citation. The attorneys verify the accuracy of all statements of law or legal propositions. They also proofread all quotations; check dates and other factual references to the record for accuracy; and check for typographical errors, punctuation, grammar, and usage. The attorneys propose changes in language to the authoring judge when appropriate. The Reporter's Office also adds special printer-sensitive coding to the published opinions and compiles and adds all original material (tables, indices, etc.) for publication purposes. These opinions and related materials are then compiled into PDFs and transmitted electronically to the Department of Administration Office of Printing and Mailing where they are printed in advance sheets and, eventually, in permanent bound volumes.

In a published opinion, the Reporter designates the official title and adds the "catch-line" that appears in the opinion in italics at the beginning of each paragraph of the syllabus. This language is not part of the syllabus approved by the Court.

In addition to the publication of the *Kansas Reports* and the *Kansas Court of Appeals Reports*, and the preparation of the opinions for online dissemination, the Reporter's Office is responsible for compiling, editing, and publishing the more than 600-page annual soft-cover book containing the Rules enacted by the Kansas Supreme Court. The office is also responsible for annotating all opinions that cite to the Supreme Court Rules. The annotations are posted online in PDF format and updated on the Judicial Branch website, along with all amended and new Supreme Court Rules.

#### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request:     \$201,893

Expenditures in this category include office communication expenses. Another major expenditure for this category is printing costs. The Appellate Reporter is responsible for publishing advance sheets and bound volumes of Kansas Supreme Court and Court of Appeals opinions.

## **400 Narrative Information**

**Division of Budget – Kansas**  
**Judicial Branch Agency No. 677**

**Appellate Courts**  
**Appellate Reporter – 04014**

K.S.A. 20-205 requires the bound volumes contain a minimum of 750 pages and that they be published “as speedily as possible” following their filing. Normally, three or four bound volumes of the Kansas Reports and the Court of Appeals Reports are published each year. Eight advance sheets are published annually; the advance sheets contain published opinions for both appellate courts. Based on historical information and estimates of printing costs, we are requesting \$187,279 for FY 2027.

Another major expenditure in this category relates to attendance of the meeting of the Association of Reporters of Judicial Decisions. This meeting enables the Reporter’s Office to learn new techniques and methodologies in the reporting of decisions from other jurisdictions, including the United States Supreme Court. Contacts made at this meeting assist the office in learning new index and reporting methods on a national scale. Also included in this category of expenditures is Westlaw access.

### 5300 - Commodities

FY 2027 Request:     \$82

The major expenditure in this category is for the purchase of the Kansas Legal Directory and updated versions of The Bluebook, Garner's Redbook, and other publications as needed.

## SUPREME COURT LAW LIBRARY

The primary function of the Kansas Supreme Court Law Library is to support the research needs of the Judicial Branch. However, users of the library vary considerably and include employees of state agencies, the state Legislature, attorneys from across the state, and the public, including prisoners. The library's collection includes state reports, current statutes, digests, administrative rules and orders, legal encyclopedias, treatises, periodicals, and briefs filed in Supreme Court and Court of Appeals cases. Coverage includes state and federal entities. The law library is also a selective depository for federal documents. Additional online legal resources within the library are the Westlaw database, HeinOnline, and Overdrive E-books.

Library services are provided in several ways. Requests for information and assistance are received in person, through the mail, over the telephone, by e-mail, faxes, and from interlibrary loan requests. Another operation within the library is the Kansas Reports accounting section. It is responsible for the sale and distribution of *Kansas Reports*, *Kansas Court of Appeals Reports*, and *Rules Adopted by the Supreme Court*, as well as maintaining library accounts.

Cooperation among the Supreme Court Law Library, Washburn University Law Library, and the University of Kansas Law Library remains an important part of the law library's effort to contain costs. Efforts in this area include the sharing of materials between the three libraries.

### Online Services

Library operations are automated and provide an Online Patron Access Catalog (O.P.A.C.) for several libraries including the Washburn University Law School Library, Washburn University Mabee Library, and the Kansas Historical Society. Patrons of the library consortium can simultaneously search the catalogs of all these libraries.

The Online Computer Library Center (O.C.L.C.) operates an international computer network of library catalog holdings. This service saves significant time required for the cataloging of library holdings.

Westlaw is an online data retrieval service available through the Supreme Court Law Library. This service is provided to Supreme Court justices, Court of Appeals judges, and their research staff. The use of this service dramatically reduces the amount of time and effort required for legal research activities. Charges for these services are based upon contract, connection type and time, and the volume of inquiries. OverDrive E-books are now available to appellate court staff and will allow for legal research activities to be done while traveling or outside of the building.

The Supreme Court Law Library has a staff member serving on the Judicial Branch's Access to Justice Committee. This will allow the library to work with other committee members to see how we can be of service to self-represented litigants.

## **400 Narrative Information**

**Division of the Budget – Kansas  
Judicial Branch Agency No. 677**

**Appellate Courts  
Supreme Court Law Library – 04015**

Some initiatives the library is currently working on and will be implemented within the next couple of years is a self-help section within the Supreme Court Law Library. This section will include books, legal forms and online resources using the public computers. The Supreme Court library staff will also provide outreach services and conduct training sessions to public library associates to educate them on what legal information can and cannot be provided without the risk of giving legal advice according to the Access to Justice Committee standards. In addition, programs will be provided for self-represented litigants at the public library to help them access forms online, legal resources that may be unfamiliar to them, and education on services that can be provided at the Supreme Court Law Library for public use.

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request:     \$142,430

This category includes expenditures for telephone services, library correspondence, and mailing bound volumes and advance sheets of the Kansas Reports and Kansas Court of Appeals Reports and rules pamphlets. Many legal documents are received by the law library in single issue form. These include all the periodicals and many other legal materials including Kansas and federal documents. All these publications must be bound together so that they will not be lost, to ensure the availability of the index for the entire volume and maintaining the materials in a more sustainable format.

A major expenditure in this category is for Atlas services which allows users to search titles or authors of publications that are housed in the Supreme Court Law Library, Washburn University Law School Library, Washburn University Mabee Library, Washburn Carnegie Education Library, Washburn Law School, and the Historical Society. This category is also used for certain online services such as Westlaw, HeinOnline, and OverDrive E-books services, and the Online Computer Library Center Services.

### 5300 – Commodities

FY 2027 Request:     \$3,600

Items in this category also update publications in the library's collection but differ from those in code 5200 in that they are published on an irregular or infrequent basis.

### 5400 – Capital Outlay

FY 2027 Request:     \$486,752

Materials in this category include books which update continuing sets of works presently in the law library plus other books and monographic materials. This fund is used to maintain the collection and add selected new items.

## ECOURT

The Supreme Court completed its statewide rollout of the centralized case management system as part of the broader eCourt initiative. This initiative is focused on developing and implementing a comprehensive, centralized electronic court environment. eCourt leverages technology to enhance secure access to the courts, making them more user-friendly, improving efficiency, and providing better support to attorneys, court staff, judges, and the public. This system is particularly transformative for daily court operations, centralizing and standardizing processes across the state. With this system, court personnel can be utilized more effectively, allowing clerks available in one county to electronically process case documents in other counties.

The eCourt system is built on multiple integrated technologies, with eFiling, centralized district and appellate court case management, and document management systems forming its core. This initiative has successfully transitioned the courts from local, paper-based systems to a statewide fully electronic environment. We have also upgraded the eFiling system and implemented a new eFiling system specifically for the Appellate courts. In the next fiscal year, we will launch an enhanced web-based public access portal, providing litigants, attorneys, judges, and court personnel with immediate access to authorized case information, details, and records from across the state, accessible through any internet connection, a jury management system, a text messaging system, eFiling for self-represented litigants, and a digital evidence platform.

### *Centralized Court Payment Center*

The eCourt initiative also includes the Judicial Branch's centralized payment center which consolidates essentially all processing and disbursements of court financial transactions throughout the state within the Office of Judicial Administration. With more than \$127 million in payments taken in by the Judicial Branch annually, centralized payment processing allows for greater oversight of financial controls, streamlining of processes, and efficient workflow. Individual district courts joined the centralized payment center as they joined the centralized case management system. As of November 2024, every district court is using the centralized payment center.

While developing the new eCourt case management system, the Supreme Court decided to create the Centralized Court Payment Center (CPC) using the financial component that integrates with the case management system.

The CPC began processing payments in August 2019 as the first six counties transitioned to the new case management system. As of November 2024, all 105 counties and the appellate courts have converted to the new case management system. The CPC is now processing payments and reconciling accounts for 110 district court locations (105 counties, including five dual courthouses) in addition to the appellate court and any mailed in payments to the CPC.

District and appellate court clerks continue to receipt any over-the-counter payments. However, many other financial-related tasks are performed by the CPC as the work moved from a decentralized case management system to a centralized system. Cash deposits are made daily to



## 400 Narrative Information

Division of the Budget – Kansas  
Judicial Branch Agency No. 677

Appellate Courts  
eCourt – 04016

each court's local bank account and electronically transferred the next business day by the CPC to the state bank account. Checks/money orders are electronically scanned and deposited daily by clerks to the state bank account. Credit card transactions from district and appellate courts, e-flex filings, and online payments are automatically deposited to the state bank account. All court bank account reconciliations are reviewed by accountants with the CPC. The CPC is responsible for all court disbursements which are handled through the state bank account.

Centralizing payments allows the Branch to utilize best practices and achieve efficiencies system-wide, but it has also provided opportunities for court users to take advantage of financial efficiencies as well by submitting one payment for bulk cases and/or jurisdictions or by offering more options for large judgments to be processed and handled.

### Centralized Case Management System (CCMS) Implementation Status

On June 17, 2024, the Appellate courts went live on the centralized case management system (CCMS). eFiling into existing Appellate cases went live on July 1, 2024, and eFiling as case initiation went live August 23, 2024. In November 2024, Johnson County, the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District was the last district court, to go live on the CCMS. Both tracks were huge endeavors that included the IS team at OJA, appellate staff, district court employees, as well as judicial branch external justice partners.

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request: \$5,138,802

This category includes all charges for eCourt. Due to limited information technology staff available, vendors may be necessary to assist with the modification or development of applications. In addition, this category includes grant funding to assist with further refinements to the eCourt system. This category also includes funding for the statewide jury management system and a digital evidence solution to allow parties to upload digital evidentiary files to courts, and for the courts to securely save those files as a record in the case.

### 5300 – Commodities

FY 2027 Request: \$3,204

This request includes funding various office supplies related to eCourt.

### 5400 - Capital Outlay

FY 2027 Request: \$500,000

This request primarily includes funding for A/V equipment.

## **MUNICIPAL COURT TRAINING AND JUDICIAL CERTIFICATION**

The Supreme Court is committed to ensuring the citizens of Kansas are well served by every court within the state of Kansas, which includes all our municipal courts. Quality training for municipal court judges and staff helps meet that goal. Training and education are essential because statutory responsibilities and requirements often change and technology, procedures, and management principles are continually improved.

The Supreme Court recognizes that to maximize the performance of municipal courts and its employees, the Supreme Court must continue to offer opportunities for judges and staff to improve their skills and abilities. The Office of Judicial Administration does this work through development of training programs, materials, and resources for municipal judges and municipal clerks. Training focuses on improving judicial and administrative functions and procedures; interpreting statutory requirements; and improving individual skills and job performance. Many educational programs are originated by staff, but the office also works closely with advisory committees. The Office of Judicial Administration develops educational conferences each year for judges and nonjudge employees. In addition, manuals are maintained for both municipal judges and municipal clerks.

The Office of Judicial Administration works with the following groups in planning training: Municipal Court Judges Education Committee and Municipal Court Clerks Education Committee. In FY 2026 and FY 2027 we will continue to focus on offering high quality in person opportunities and expand our municipal educational offerings through virtual options.

### **Municipal Court Judges**

K.S.A. 12-4114 requires the Supreme Court to provide a training and examination program to ensure that non-lawyer municipal judges have the necessary minimum skills and knowledge of the law to carry out the duties of a municipal judge within 18 months of the judge taking office. These certification sessions are conducted by members of the Municipal Judges Education Committee who work with the Office of Judicial Administration to plan the training sessions.

Once certified, municipal judges not licensed to practice law in Kansas must earn a minimum of 13 hours of continuing judicial education each calendar year (Supreme Court Rule 502). An annual training session is provided to fulfill this requirement at no expense to the municipal judge or municipality (K.S.A. 12-4114). This training is funded by the Judicial Branch Education Fund.

### **Municipal Court Staff**

An annual Municipal Court Clerks training session is held each March. In conjunction with this conference, an orientation session is scheduled for new municipal court clerks. The Municipal Court Clerks Education Committee assists in planning the training. This committee also updates the municipal court clerks' manual which is posted online for clerks. The training and manual development is funded by the Judicial Branch Education Fund.

## **400 Narrative Information**

**Division of the Budget – Kansas**

**Judicial Branch Agency No. 677**

**Appellate Courts**

**Municipal Court Training and Judicial Certification - 04017**

### Regional Trainings

Regional trainings program address specific local issues, legal challenges, and community needs that might differ from those in other regions and would allow opportunities for judges and clerks to build a regional network that can be invaluable for problem solving and sharing resources.

### Committees

Committees are used for the purpose of recommending and organizing education and training programs for municipal judges and municipal clerks. These committees include:

Municipal Court Judges Education Committee

Municipal Court Clerks Education Committee

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request:     \$206,662

Expenditures in this category include updating operation manuals for the municipal courts; training and testing materials; and fees paid to the Judicial Council to allow municipalities access to the online municipal court judge's manual. Another major expenditure in this category is travel for municipal judges and municipal court employees to attend training sponsored by the Supreme Court.

An additional expenditure under this category is for honoraria paid to speakers from outside the Kansas court system at trainings. It is imperative to have presenters with expertise in the subject areas. to provide education programs that meet the needs of municipal court employees regarding advancements in technology, procedures, and management.

### 5300 – Commodities

FY 2027 Request:     \$71,841

Expenditures in this category relate to the purchase of educational materials.

## ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Pursuant to statute, staff of the Office of Judicial Administration administers and supports statewide dispute resolution. The Supreme Court has appointed an advisory council of judges, lawyers, and mediators to help establish programs committed to non-adversarial dispute resolution. OJA approves mediation training for judges, court services officers, and state government staff. OJA approves programs and individuals that meet requirements approved by the Supreme Court and promotes public awareness of dispute resolution processes in Kansas.

In 2019 the Supreme Court adopted amended rules relating to court-appointed mediators and new rules relating to conciliators, parenting coordinators, and case managers. These rules were effective January 1, 2020.

Recent efforts in Kansas have focused on expanding and strengthening alternative dispute resolution services across the state. OJA worked with the Advisory Council on Dispute Resolution to create a series of videos addressing common questions about the mediation process, as well as a brochure about mediation. OJA has also expanded support for alternative dispute resolution providers through regular roundtable meetings, an annual virtual dispute resolution town hall, and quarterly newsletters. The council is currently working to develop clarifying changes to existing rules, as well as to propose the adoption of new dispute resolution processes.

To accept referrals from Kansas district courts, dispute resolution providers must meet qualifications and standards established by Kansas Supreme Court Rules 905-922. In FY 2024, 269 mediators, 57 domestic conciliators, 27 parenting coordinators, and 32 case managers were approved to accept dispute resolution service referrals from Kansas district courts. All judicial districts use one or more dispute resolution methods.

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request:     \$3,462

Travel costs are a major expenditure in this category. This request covers travel expenses paid to members of the Advisory Council on Dispute Resolution for attending scheduled meetings.

### 5300 – Commodities

FY 2027 Request:     \$50

Travel-related commodities are the only expenditure in this category.

## JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

01030

## 400 NARRATIVE INFORMATION

Division of Budget – Kansas

Judicial Branch

Agency No. 677

Judicial Administration

Subprogram Narrative Table – 01030

<b>Program Name: Judicial Administration</b>	<b>Program Priority: 1</b>
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<b>Subprogram Name</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Required by Statute?</b>	<b>Statutory Basis</b>	<b>Maintenance of Effort Requirement</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Consequences of not Funding</b>
Administrative Costs (01031)	1	Constitutional Requirement	Article III, § 1	N/A	Administrative support for Kansas court system.	Constitutional Requirement

## OFFICE OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

The Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) implements the rules, policies, and strategic goals of the Supreme Court as they apply to the operation and administration of the Judicial Branch. This office also approves state expenditures for court operations. Other duties prescribed by law or directed by the Supreme Court include:

### Fiscal Operations

OJA administers budgeting, payroll, asset management, debt collection oversight, the centralized court payment center (see eCourt program), and general accounting for the judicial system. The finance group keeps financial records and reports these to the Supreme Court and other state-level administrative departments.

### Human Resources Management

OJA provides human resources services to the Judicial Branch. Among many human resources tasks, the department:

- recommends policies and procedures to the Supreme Court and implements approved policies and court personnel rules;
- manages compensation and classification studies;
- processes all payroll and benefits for judicial branch employees;
- provides training on human resources issues;
- manages recruitment and hiring for full judicial branch;
- implements digital solutions to innovate human resources processing for branch-wide consistency;
- works closely with the accounting department managing over 90% of budget allocated to payroll and benefits;
- provides guidance on benefits issues including leave, insurance, and retirement;
- assesses and advises on compliance with various employment law obligations and advises action to maintain compliance;
- reviews and advises on disciplinary actions; and
- investigates complaints of misconduct.

### Public Information Services

The public information office develops and coordinates communications, public education, and information programs to promote better understanding of the judicial branch, its courts, and its operations. It provides expertise to judicial branch leadership, appellate and trial courts, and court personnel. The office researches and provides prompt responses to media inquiries, offers information to reporters covering high-profile cases, and notifies reporters of story opportunities. The office also manages the judicial branch website and social media presence, and it provides

## **400 Narrative Information**

**Division of the Budget – Kansas  
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**Judicial Administration  
Judicial Costs - 01031**

publication, graphic design, and photo and video communications to support and advance judicial branch programs, projects, and services.

### General Counsel

The general counsel oversees two assistant general counsels and several staff attorneys who assist the Office of Judicial Administration, appellate, and district courts with a variety of legal issues. Legal staff represent the judicial branch in employment-related legal matters, review contracts for goods or services, help with personnel issues that require legal assistance, review and summarize legislative bills, give guidance regarding the implementation of new law, and provide legal counsel for various committees and other OJA sections. In addition, legal staff research and provide legal recommendations on any subject as requested by the Supreme Court or judicial administrator.

### Compiling and Analyzing Court Statistical Information

OJA collects, analyzes, and disseminates court caseload statistical information. The office also monitors case disposition timeliness against case time standards and produces summary reports for court administrative staff and judges.

OJA uses Centralized Case Management System to collect and analyze caseload statistics, such as:

- the type of caseload;
- whether caseload backlogs exist;
- trends in filings and terminations and the age of pending cases;
- caseload projections;
- court personnel needs based on the weighted caseload study; and
- the need to temporarily assign judges and nonjudicial employees from one court to another.

The clerk of the district court in each county is responsible for keeping an accurate record of all cases. OJA provides detailed instructions and conducts periodic training to explain reporting procedures, answer questions, and solve problems. It also develops, produces, and distributes reports that provide management information for the administrative staff, district court administrators, clerks, judges, and justices.

### Access to Justice

The Kansas Supreme Court's four-prong strategic plan incorporates the goal of maximizing access to and promoting justice. For more than 25 years, the Supreme Court has awarded access to justice grants to fund the operating expenses of programs that provide access to the Kansas civil justice system for people who otherwise would not be able to participate. In recent years, these grants have been used to provide direct legal representation and mediation services for low-income persons, brief advice to self-represented litigants, and support for guardians *ad litem*. The grants



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assist Kansans who cannot afford traditional legal services and help meet the needs of self-represented litigants within the court system.

In FY 2026, the Kansas Supreme Court awarded access to justice grants to four organizations: Building Peace, Kansas Holistic Defenders, The Layne Project 4 Families, and Kansas Legal Services.

Building Peace is using grant funds to expand its existing landlord-tenant mediation program and implement small claims mediation services in Douglas County. These programs will provide free mediation to low-income litigants as an option to resolve cases outside of court or early on in the court process.

Kansas Holistic Defenders (KHD) is using grant funds to continue a project to provide pro bono representation in eviction cases and limited legal advice for litigants involved in other related civil case types as well. KHD utilizes a model that pairs the work of attorneys, social workers, and client advocates to collectively address a client's needs.

The Layne Project 4 Families is using grant funds to implement the BeH2O: Strengthening Co-Parenting Through Structure, Stability, and Mindset in Rural Kansas program to low-income families in rural Kansas counties. This program consists of multiple classes, coaching sessions, and meetings delivered virtually, which are tailored for high-conflict family cases with the goal of improving case outcomes.

Kansas Legal Services (KLS) is a longstanding access to justice grant recipient. In FY 2026, KLS is using grant funds to provide full representation to some low-income Kansans, to staff a toll-free phone line to answer legal questions from court patrons, and to hold “legal aid days” at court-based self-help centers throughout Kansas. KLS will also use grant funds to offer support to certain stakeholders within the foster care system and provide some free mediation. These services effectively serve litigants and help relieve overburdened frontline staff in Kansas courthouses.

The Supreme Court also advances its strategic goal of maximizing access to and promoting justice through its Access to Justice Committee, established under Supreme Court Rule 1401. This committee makes recommendations to the Court in three key areas: (1) increasing the resources available for legal services for low-income litigants in civil cases, (2) improving planning and coordination of legal services delivery, and (3) reducing potential barriers to equal access to justice.

At present, the committee is continuing its work with the Kansas Judicial Council to develop simplified forms for case types that frequently involve self-represented litigants. Use of standardized, statewide forms increases court efficiency and productivity in case processing. These forms are also a key component in the success of self-help centers in courthouses around the state. The committee's other recent projects include planning regular trainings for court staff and judges on special issues surrounding self-represented litigants and assisting with the development of a [virtual statewide help center](#) which went live to the public in June. The committee is also advising the Office of Judicial Administration on the development of simplified electronic filing options for self-represented litigants.

In 2019 the Judicial Branch received a grant from the State Justice Institute that allowed the Access to Justice Committee to work with consultants from the National Center for State Courts on a study of court-based help centers that assist self-represented litigants in Kansas. The results of the study were published in January 2020. Recommendations made in the study are helping the committee address how best to increase and improve access statewide through the development of remote and in-person help center services.

### Language Access

Kansas courts have provided qualified spoken language interpreters in both criminal and civil settings since 1973 and qualified sign language interpreters since 1972. More recently, the courts have been evaluating language access goals and identifying methods to meet them.

In 2014, the Supreme Court formed a Language Access Committee to provide recommendations for developing and administering a comprehensive language access program for people with limited English proficiency.

In 2016, the Supreme Court adopted committee recommendations for new and amended rules relating to language access. They included:

- a rule that created the Kansas Code of Professional Responsibility for Court Interpreters; and
- a rule that requires a local language access coordinator in each judicial district, appointed by the chief judge.

In conjunction with the rules relating to language access, the Language Access Committee developed a form interpreters can use to acknowledge and agree they will adhere to the code of professional responsibility, and a form courts use to receive concerns or complaints about interpreters. The committee also developed a foreign language interpreter's bench card for judges and is working to translate commonly used courthouse signs and notices into Spanish.

Most other states, including our surrounding states, require foreign language court interpreters to attend a court interpreter orientation prior to serving as an interpreter. In FY 2017, the Language Access Committee began investigating options and best practices for court interpreter orientation and recommended that orientation be an online program. The Office of Judicial Administration contracted with Johnson County Community College for the hosting of an online court interpreter orientation and attendant services. It allows a court interpreter to access, view, and complete the court interpreter orientation online, free of charge to the interpreter. The orientation is video based and contains quizzes which must be successfully completed for each video unit. The Supreme Court adopted a rule that requires all foreign language interpreters within the state to complete this orientation; that requirement became effective July 1, 2021. More than 540 people have completed the orientation to date.

In 2022, the Language Access Committee developed a statewide language access plan that provides an overview of the judicial branch's language access services, as well as aspirational

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goals for the coming years. The plan was adopted by the Kansas Supreme Court in September 2022.

The Language Access Committee is currently working on implementing certain recommendations contained in the statewide language access plan related to annual training curriculum for staff and judges and exploring avenues for meaningful data collection through the new centralized case management system. In FY 2027, the committee will propose updates to the statewide language access plan to capture current data and information, as well as to incorporate new goals for improving meaningful language access within the court system.

OJA hired a language access program manager in the latter half of FY 2025. The program manager is working steadily to expand the availability of interpreter services, provide educational opportunities for judges and court staff, keep key language access resources current, and to guide implementation of the Language Access Committee's projects. The addition of a dedicated language access program manager marks a watershed moment for the court system's language access initiatives.

### Kansas Court Security

The Supreme Court continues to emphasize improving security and emergency management throughout the Judicial Branch. The Kansas Supreme Court approved Supreme Court Rule 104 in October 2021 requiring district courts to complete continuity of operations (COOP) plans. The Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) coordinated four COOP manager training sessions specifically for court personnel in cooperation with the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) throughout the spring of 2023 to provide personnel from each judicial district the tools and knowledge to complete COOP documents for each of their counties. OJA has supported the creation and completion of COOP documents for courts in all 105 counties and continues to work with KDEM, FEMA, and the National Center for State Courts to provide ongoing assistance to district court personnel in COOP planning.

The Supreme Court continues to review and update security and emergency procedures for the Kansas Judicial Center in Topeka. A Judicial Center security committee comprised of Judicial Center staff and representatives of the Kansas Highway Patrol Capitol Police and Office of Facilities and Property Management develops and recommends security policies and procedures. The committee created a five-year plan to schedule drills, tests, and exercises, and ensure ongoing preparedness. Law enforcement officers provided by Capitol Police and funded by the Judicial Branch help enforce security for the Judicial Center at a security station on the first floor. The Supreme Court has scheduled regular security assessments of the Kansas Judicial Center with the United States Department of Homeland Security and continues to make improvements and changes based on assessment results and best practices. In addition, a subcommittee of the Judicial Center security committee developed a COOP document for the offices within the Judicial Center.

The Judicial Center security system for access control, installed in the early 2000s, was antiquated and malfunctioned. In 2017, the Judicial Branch installed a new security system and continues to expand and improve its use and capability, including making adaptations for pandemic

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concerns. In 2023, all Court of Appeals work areas received improved security tools to match those utilized in previous renovations for the Supreme Court and the information technology areas of the judicial center.

### Credentialing

OJA is involved with many different types of credentialing and regulatory activities. Some of these include:

- Attorney admission and registration
- Approving retired/inactive attorney pro bono work under Rule 1404
- Approving attorneys & other external stakeholders for elevated ODY access
- Monitoring attorney & judge completion of continuing education hours
- Approving CASA & CRB programs
- Approving CASA volunteers
- Court reporter certification
- Nonlawyer district magistrate judge and municipal court judge certification
- Tracking CSO education hours

These are only a sample of the licensing and credentialing activities that OJA oversees. Various OJA staff members in different departments complete this work. By utilizing a compliance and audit team, OJA can strive to achieve the goal of standardizing similar processes and recordkeeping systems, capitalizing on uniform software used in automation, and becoming more efficient in streamlining operations. This benefits the public by having a department that identifies potential efficiencies in regulatory activities and ensures overall principles of fairness, consistency, and transparency are applied to all the credentialing processes that OJA oversees.

### Project Management Office

In FY 2025, OJA established a dedicated project management department to further enhance the organization's efficiency, coordination, and ability to deliver projects on time and within budget. By centralizing project oversight and maintenance, the department provides uniform processes, standard communication channels, and consistent tracking across all teams. The department ensures projects are aligned with strategic goals, risks are proactively managed, and resources are allocated effectively. This centralized approach also fosters accountability, streamlines decision-making, and improves overall project outcomes.

### Other Special Programs and Projects

#### *Specialty Courts*

Specialty courts—also referred to as treatment or problem-solving courts—serve as an evidence-based judicial response to the complex behavioral health and social challenges that often underlie justice system involvement. In Kansas, specialty courts include drug, veterans, mental health, family, youth, and truancy courts. These dockets provide an alternative to traditional court

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processes by addressing root causes such as substance use, mental illness, trauma, and family instability.

As of FY 2025, 34 specialty courts operate across 20 judicial districts, offering targeted interventions that reduce recidivism, support recovery, and enhance public safety. Recognizing their positive impact, the Kansas Supreme Court and the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) continue to expand and strengthen these courts.

In January 2021, the Kansas Supreme Court adopted Rule 191, establishing the Specialty Court Committee to guide the development and administration of specialty courts statewide. This committee, comprised of judges, court administrators, and subject matter experts, provides policy leadership and makes recommendations directly to the Court.

Further reinforcing this structure, the Legislature enacted K.S.A. 20-173, creating the Specialty Court Funding Advisory Committee. This bipartisan cross-branch committee is charged with advising on resource allocation and sustainability. Its statutory responsibilities include evaluating statewide service availability, identifying funding opportunities, and recommending equitable investment strategies based on need and performance.

OJA supports both committees with research, data analysis, and technical assistance to ensure data-driven decision-making. In March 2023, the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) hired a Statewide Specialty Court Program Manager to strengthen coordination, promote operational consistency, and provide implementation support to jurisdictions seeking to establish or enhance specialty court programs.

Together, these structures provide a strong foundation for oversight, accountability, and statewide growth. Specialty courts offer a cost-effective alternative to incarceration by improving participant outcomes and relieving pressure on law enforcement, correctional, and healthcare systems. Investments in these courts yield significant returns by strengthening families and communities across Kansas.

### *Workshare*

Workshare allows all courts using the centralized case management system (CCMS) to create tasks that can be accessed and processed remotely at any of the other court locations using the CCMS. Tasks can be worked by multiple users and at multiple locations simultaneously, which maximizes efficiency when designated work need to be prioritized. Additionally, tasks can be selected for certain users or user groups to ensure processing of specialized workshare assignments.

In FY 2021, twenty-three counties began using and implementing workshare activities. As more counties have gone live on the CCMS, additional uses of workshare throughout the state have emerged. It is expected that efficiencies will increase with all employees statewide accessing and processing case filings remotely, especially with the addition of high-volume court locations. During FY 2025, workshare clerks completed over 9,500 hours of work for counties outside their home districts. The following are examples of activities of workshare clerks:

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Judicial Costs - 01031

- Adding an image of the citation to eCourt so judges and court staff have access to the charging document;
- Assisting with eFilings;
- Assisting with statistical reports;
- Assisting with document securities to ensure records are available to external justice partners through the portal; and
- Assisting with preparing records on appeal.

### *Protection Portal*

In fiscal year 2024, petitioners filed more than 15,000 cases in district courts seeking an order of protection from abuse, stalking, sexual assault, or human trafficking. The individuals who file these cases often proceed without the aid of an attorney, and historically they would visit the courthouse to pick up the forms needed to initiate a largely paper-based, in-person process. With in-person access to courthouses restricted during the pandemic, litigants faced new challenges navigating this process.

Thanks to a Federal Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program grant, OJA contracted with the University of Missouri-Kansas City to develop the Kansas Protection Order Portal (KSPOP), a web-based portal for filing protection orders. This scalable, accessible, and mobile- friendly web portal guides litigants through an online interview. The answers are then used to populate forms a judge reviews before determining whether to issue an order. People who need these orders will no longer have to visit the courthouse in person to file required paperwork—a process that may place some vulnerable individuals at risk or be hard to accomplish because of transportation or other problems.

The protection order portal launched December 1, 2020, in Harvey, Johnson, and Riley counties and became available statewide in April 2021. More than 39,000 petitions have been filed through KSPOP since its launch in late 2020, and about 39% of those were submitted outside business hours – a tangible example of how KSPOP is expanding meaningful access to the court system. While courts still accept protection order petitions on paper, the majority of all protection order cases are now filed through KSPOP.

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request:     \$2,498,754

Communication and travel, based on historical expenditures and estimates provided by the Division of the Budget, are a major expense paid from this category. Also paid from this category are repairs and work orders for various offices and conference spaces in the Judicial Center.

Accounting, payroll, and budget systems support fees are paid to the Department of Administration from this category. Funds are also included for online press clippings, subscriptions to professional journals, the purchase of employee service award pins, and other contractual services. Funding is also requested to pay the Kansas Highway Patrol for security services.

## **400 Narrative Information**

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In addition, enhancement funding for the Rural Justice Initiative totaling \$83,500 is included in this category. The Rural Justice Initiative addresses the growing rural attorney shortage. The judicial branch introduced SB 214/ HB 2174 to create two new programs to address the biggest barriers to rural practice – the financial barrier of student loan debt. The funding request mirrors the fiscal note provided for these bills, including printing and advertising costs and outreach efforts.

### **5300 – Commodities**

FY 2027 Request:     \$68,880

The major expense is office supplies.

### **5400 – Capital Outlay**

FY 2027 Request:     \$250,000

Included is funding for various IT, physical security upgrades and office equipment.

### **5500 – Grants and Aid**

FY 2027 Request:     \$1,600,000

The budget reflects a grant of \$900,000 for the Access to Justice Program. It also includes enhancement request totaling \$700,000 for the Rural Justice Initiative to implement provisions of SB 214/HB 2174 concerning attorney student loan repayments for existing practicing attorneys in rural Kansas.

## INFORMATION SERVICES

04090



## 400 NARRATIVE INFORMATION

Division of Budget – Kansas

Judicial Branch

Agency No. 677

Information Services

Subprogram Narrative Table – 04020

<b>Program Name: Information Services Support</b>	<b>Program Priority: 1</b>
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<b>Subprogram Name</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Required by Statute?</b>	<b>Statutory Basis</b>	<b>Maintenance of Effort Requirement</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Consequences of not Funding</b>
Information Services (04098)	1	No		N/A	Provide information technology for the Kansas court system.	Entire court system could not operate.
Information Security (04095)	1	No		N/A	Provide information security for the Kansas court system.	Entire court system could not operate.

## INFORMATION SERVICES

The Information Services program in the Judicial Branch provides secure, efficient, and reliable judicial technology services to all district courts and appellate courts across the State of Kansas. The aim is to ensure equitable access to justice by leveraging modern technology to support court operations, enhance public access, and streamline case processing statewide.

### Services Provided:

- Court Case Management Systems (CMS) and other eCourt systems support;
- Electronic Filing (eFiling) Services;
- End-User Support and Training for Court Staff;
- Server Hosting and Infrastructure Management;
- Application Development for Court-Specific Needs; and
- Data Management including integration, classification and reporting.

### New Initiatives:

The Information Services program will undertake several key modernization projects:

- Upgrading the Statewide Case Management System (CMS) – Upgrade CMS across all judicial districts to improve efficiency and consistency.
- Statewide Jury Management System – Deploy an integrated platform for jury selection, communication, and tracking.
- Self-Represented Litigant Portal – Provide accessible, guided tools for citizens to navigate legal processes without an attorney.
- Public Access Portal – Enhance public access to case records while protecting sensitive information.
- Specialty Court Portal – Support problem-solving courts with tailored case tracking and reporting features.
- Judicial Data Warehouse Project – Establish a centralized repository for judicial data to enable reporting, analytics, and evidence-based decision-making.
- Completing statutory requirements from 2023 Senate Bill 291.

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request:     \$4,427,043

This category includes charges for the Judicial Center’s network infrastructure, including hardware and software maintenance. Due to limited information technology staff available, vendors may be necessary to assist with the modification or development of applications in the Judicial Center.

5300 - Commodities

FY 2027 Request:     \$5,120

These supplies are used by support staff and with equipment attached to the Judicial Center network with toner as the primary expense in this category.

5400 - Capital Outlay

FY 2027 Request:     \$330,457

These funds are traditionally used to replace existing hardware and software that are nearing the end of their useful life cycle.

## INFORMATION SECURITY

In support of the Judicial Branch’s strategic goals, the information security team helps to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information systems and the data housed therein.

### NIST CSF 2.0

2024 House Sub. for SB 291 included requirements for the Judicial Branch to adopt and comply with the controls outlined in the NIST Cybersecurity Framework 2.0 by July 1, 2028. The framework provides a holistic approach to managing, prioritizing, and reducing cybersecurity risk while improving the preparedness and resilience of the adopting organization.

### Information Systems Governance

We are improving Information Systems Governance in part by implementing a Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) platform. This platform will improve oversight, reduce organizational risk, and ensure that our use of technology aligns with our governing standards. This initiative will centralize risk management, compliance tracking, and monitoring of controls, providing real-time visibility into our compliance with governing standards while improving audit readiness. By embedding governance principles into our technology operations, we are enhancing security and positioning our information systems to support sustainable growth and long-term organizational stability.

### Data Loss Prevention

Information held by the Judicial Branch may be confidential in nature or otherwise protected personally identifiable information. Properly protecting this information requires a comprehensive program which includes processes and tools for identification, classification, and effective data loss prevention.

### Information System Resilience

Access to critical systems, such as the case management system, is dependent upon many functioning networks, servers, and supporting applications. Strategically improving the infrastructure providing these systems, whether locally or otherwise, improves availability, adds capacity for recovery, and diversifies options for secure access.

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request:     \$2,518,515

This category includes charges associated with the Information Security team, including software licenses and related maintenance. This category also includes professional services for items that are necessary to contract with outside vendors. Also included is funding for a Security

#### **400 Narrative Information**

**Division of the Budget – Kansas**

**Judicial Branch Agency No. 677**

**Information Security**

**Information Security - 04095**

Operations Center (SOC) service to provide 24-7 network monitoring, log management, threat detection and intelligence, and incident investigation and response.

#### **5300 - Commodities**

FY 2027 Request:     \$3,000

The primary expenditure in this category are office supplies.

#### **5400 - Capital Outlay**

FY 2027 Request:     \$16,000

These funds are used to replace existing hardware nearing the end of their useful life cycle.

## EDUCATION SERVICES

04020

## 400 NARRATIVE INFORMATION

Division of Budget – Kansas

Judicial Branch

Agency No. 677

Education Services

Education Services – 04020

<b>Program Name: Education Services</b>	<b>Program Priority: 1</b>
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<b>Subprogram Name</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Required by Statute?</b>	<b>Statutory Basis</b>	<b>Maintenance of Effort Requirement</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Consequences of not Funding</b>
Education Services (04021)	1	Yes	K.S.A. 20-1a11	N/A	Provide training for Judicial Branch judges and staff.	Statutorily Required

## EDUCATION SERVICES

The Supreme Court is committed to ensuring the citizens of Kansas are well served by the Judicial Branch. Quality training for judges and staff helps meet that goal. Training and education are essential because statutory responsibilities and requirements often change and technology, procedures, and management principles are continually improved. In addition, education of the public on how the Judicial Branch works promotes greater awareness and understanding of the role of the courts in our society.

The Supreme Court recognizes that to maximize the performance of its employees and enhance the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the judicial system, it must continue to improve their skills and abilities. To meet this goal, the Office of Judicial Administration develops training programs for judges and court employees. Training focuses on improving judicial and administrative functions and procedures; interpreting statutory requirements; and improving individual skills and job performance. Many educational programs are originated by staff, but the office also works closely with advisory committees representing all components of the Kansas Judicial Branch. The office develops educational conferences each year for judges and nonjudge employees. In addition, seminars on special topics (e.g., Train the Trainers) are conducted throughout the year if funds are available. The branch continues transitioning some compliance level training to virtual delivery. This garnered several benefits but lacked the ability to test skills and knowledge. The Court continues working on a balance between in person and virtual training options and instituting tools that will aid in compliance.

The Office of Judicial Administration works with the following groups in planning training: Judicial Education Advisory Committee and District Magistrate Judges Certification Committee. In FY 2026 and FY 2027 we will continue to focus on increasing in person opportunities while maintaining the efficiencies captured with virtual learning. We have continued experiencing cost increases for all aspects of training and have adopted the hybrid format as a popular method of expanding educational impact, while also considering what is more suited for in-person or virtual training.

### District Court Training

#### *Judges:*

Each year a two-day training conference is offered to appellate justices and judges, district judges, district magistrate judges, and senior judges. This conference is statutorily mandated.

Historically, a second major training session for judges of the district court is conducted regionally at four sites. This training provides judges with the opportunity to discuss specific issues with other judges in their region. Prior to FY 2025, regional trainings had not been held since early 2020. The Office of Judicial Administration has regional training planned again for spring 2026 and 2027. These trainings will afford judges the opportunities to address specific issues, legal challenges and community needs that are unique to their area. In more recent years, additional educational opportunities have been offered via webinar.



The Court will continue to review scope and frequency of provision in conjunction with the virtual options provided as well as efficiencies that may be gained by combining regional training for judges and non-judge employees.

Other training for judges includes district magistrate judge certification sessions, new judge orientation, new chief judge orientation, and chief judges' annual meeting. The Education team will be recommending new judge training in a manner closer to the beginning of a judge's career. Current provision of new judge training can have judicial staff in position for over a year prior to the course being given. As we had an increase in judicial staffing, this cadence was insufficient. To address this insufficiency, new judge orientation was increased to an annual offering, and the training was recorded so new judges can access it as soon as they take the bench.

#### *Non-judge Staff:*

An annual managers training is held for court administrators, clerks of the district court, chief court services officers, managing court reporters, information technology managers, and other judicial branch managers. The Court is currently reviewing the needs of non-judge staff to determine what additional training is needed and how those are best delivered while simultaneously offering educational opportunities as requested by district court staff. There has been increased demand for more training for non-judge staff. As a response, the Office of Judicial Administration has developed monthly virtual trainings for non-judge staff focused on the skills and knowledge needed to provide effective service to the public. Travel expenses for non-judge staff are reimbursed for some committee meetings.

To meet the needs of non-judge staff, regional clerks training will be offered in FY 2026 and FY 2027. A yearly assessment will be made to determine which group of non-judge staff will receive regional training. This is to manage costs effectively while increasing access to learning opportunities. For those that do not receive regional training, additional webinar offerings will be considered.

#### Out-of-State Travel

To develop in-state expertise and faculty for these training programs and to improve individual skills in specialized subject areas, judges, and occasionally nonjudge employees, are reimbursed for attendance at seminars and conferences at out-of-state locations. The major provider of specialized training for judges is the National Judicial College (NJC) in Reno, Nevada. The college provides a two-week course for new judges. The Supreme Court encourages new judges to attend this course during their first year on the bench. Funding assistance is provided to judges for their travel expenses to the college. Additionally, NJC offers intermediate and advanced courses throughout the nation on a variety of topics. As they offer topics especially relevant to Kansas judges, the Court will offer funding assistance to judges to attend those courses. There has been an increased demand for specialized training, as a result the Office of Judicial Administration is exploring options with the NJC to provide localized training on these specialized topics.

## 46400 Narrative Information

Division of the Budget – Kansas

Judicial Branch Agency No. 677

Education Services

Education Services – 04021

### General Public

For the general public to better understand how state courts operate, the Supreme Court conducts hearings at various locations outside of Topeka. The Supreme Court conducts these evening hearings two to three times each year. The Kansas Court of Appeals also promotes public education by conducting hearings outside of Topeka several times each year.

In FY 2025, the Office of Judicial Administration partnered with the 10th Judicial District for Constitution Day, providing an educational opportunity to learn about the Judicial System through a mock trial that was broadcast virtually to third grade classrooms across the state of Kansas. In FY 2026 this program will be offered once again, but nationally. Coordination efforts, however, will take place across Kansas to provide classroom visits from local judges to make presentations and answers questions to complement the livestream event. Activities such as these provide accessible opportunities for Kansas students to learn about their rights and responsibilities as citizens, encouraging greater public trust and confidence in the judicial system.

The Court has investigated designing and building learning center within the Appellate Court Law Library within the Kansas Judicial Center. This learning center will allow the public to have structured and on demand education regarding the Judicial Branch.

### Committees

#### *Education Committees*

Committees are used for the purpose of recommending and organizing education and training programs for judges and non-judge staff. These committees include:

Judicial Education Advisory Committee

District Magistrate Judges Certification Committee

#### *Other Standing Committees*

Some standing committees were established for the purpose of studying issues and making recommendations to the Supreme Court. These committees include:

Admissions Review Committee

Child Support Guidelines Advisory Committee

eCourt Steering Committees & Subcommittees

Judges Assistance Committee

Language Access Committee

Specialty Court Committee

## 46400 Narrative Information

Division of the Budget – Kansas

Judicial Branch Agency No. 677

Education Services

Education Services – 04021

### *Special Ad Hoc Committees*

These ad hoc committees were established to study or research a particular issue:

Ad Hoc Court Record Committee  
Rural Justice Initiative Committee  
Well-Being in Law Committee

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request:     \$569,623

Expenditures in this category include updating operation manuals and materials used for training and testing. Most travel expenditures are for periodic in-state training. Out-of-state travel is used primarily to fund new judge training at the National Judicial College as well as selected trainings for staff. New judges are given the opportunity to attend a two-week general session at the college as soon as practicable after assuming judicial office. It has been, and continues to be, the Supreme Court's standard that each new judge should attend this comprehensive national judicial education program. Expenditures are also made for staff to attend online trainings.

Additional expenditures in this category relate to honoraria paid to speakers from outside the Kansas court system at various seminars and conferences. In order to provide education programs that meet the needs of court employees regarding advancements in technology, procedures, and management principles, it is imperative to have faculty with expertise in the subject areas.

### 5300 – Commodities

FY 2027 Request:     \$126,961

Expenditures in this category relate to the purchase of materials for educational opportunities.

DISTRICT COURTS

04100

## DISTRICT COURTS

Kansas has 31 judicial districts. Districts range in size from one county to as many as seven counties. Each county must have a district court and at least one resident judge. The district court is a court of record and has original jurisdiction of all matters, both civil and criminal, with certain exceptions. Habeas corpus, quo warranto, and mandamus actions may also be brought in these courts. The district court also serves as the appeals court for municipal courts and certain administrative agencies.

The record of all cases in each county are kept in the office of the clerk of the district court in that county. With the approval of the Supreme Court, a district court may have specialized divisions or departments or may hold court other than in the county courthouse.

Judges of the district court are state officials and are paid by the state.

There are two classes of judges of the district court: district judges and district magistrate judges.

The district judge is a constitutional officer and has full judicial power and authority over all cases filed in the district court. In less populated areas, one district judge might serve a district made up of several counties. In more populous counties, the district court will have several district judges.

District magistrate judges hear uncontested actions for divorce and other civil actions with the consent of the parties. They also hear many other cases, including misdemeanor criminal cases, felony first appearances, limited actions, small claims, probate, juvenile, and violations of state regulations. Rulings of district magistrate judges who are licensed to practice law in Kansas are appealed directly to the Court of Appeals. Rulings of district magistrate judges who are not Kansas attorneys are appealed to a district judge.

Judges of the district court may be assigned to sit in any court in the district by the chief judge of the district. Supreme Court justices oversee multiple-district departments and can assign judges to hear proceedings in other districts.

Judges of the district court are selected in one of two ways. In 17 districts, voters have approved merit selection of judges by a district judicial nominating commission with appointment by the Governor and subsequent nonpartisan retention elections. An appointed judge must stand for retention at the general election following his or her one-year anniversary in office. If retained, the judge then serves a full four-year term and is subject to a retention vote in the general election before the end of each four-year term. In the remaining 14 districts, judges run for office on a politically partisan ballot. Elected judges also serve four-year terms.

## **DISTRICT COURT OPERATIONS**

District courts must follow state statutes and Supreme Court rules.

### Administration

The chief judge in each district is directed under K.S.A. 20-343 to appoint a clerk of the district court in each county to administer the court. The chief judge designates one of the clerks as the chief clerk of the district, except in districts that have a court administrator. The chief judge also appoints other deputies and assistants needed to perform the duties of the district court clerk. Court employees must meet state qualifications.

In 18 judicial districts, the chief judge appoints a district court administrator who is responsible to the chief judge and other judges of the district. The administrator implements policies; coordinates operations of the district court; supervises nonjudge employees; and performs other duties required by law or designated by the chief judge or judicial administrator.

If the district court does not have a court administrator, the chief clerk or chief clerk administrator and chief court services officer are responsible for implementing court policies.

### Clerk of the District Court

By statute, the clerk of the court is the official custodian of all court records. The clerk is charged with the critical function of keeping accurate records of documents that are filed in the court. Because the district court is a court of record, documents received must be preserved for future reference or as a historical record. The clerk also ensures public access to nonconfidential court records and is responsible for maintaining a filing system that eases access by the public, abstractors, and law enforcement.

The clerk is the budget and fiscal officer in most districts that do not have a district court administrator. The clerk prepares budgets for approval by the chief judge and subsequent action by county commissions, which fund part of the district court operations. The clerk monitors expenditures to ensure that appropriations are not exceeded and may also supervise local personnel matters and coordinate case management activities.

The clerk ensures that jury summoning procedures are cost-effective yet meet the needs of the court with minimum disruption to the lives of the jurors. The clerk also prepares payrolls, manages forms, and, in courts that have law libraries, acts as treasurer for the law library board.

The clerk is also required to stay abreast of legislative and Supreme Court Rule changes that affect district court operations.

### Court Services Officers

Each judicial district has a court services division that performs duties required by statute, Supreme Court and local rules, and court policies. In general, court services officers conduct adult

**400 Narrative Information**

**Division of the Budget – Kansas**  
**Judicial Branch Agency No. 677**

**District Courts**  
**District Court Judges - 04100**

presentence and juvenile predisposition investigations; supervise and counsel people on probation; notify the court of any probation violations or modifications; investigate and supervise individuals awaiting release from bond; and oversee arrangements for children in need of care or involved in divorce cases.

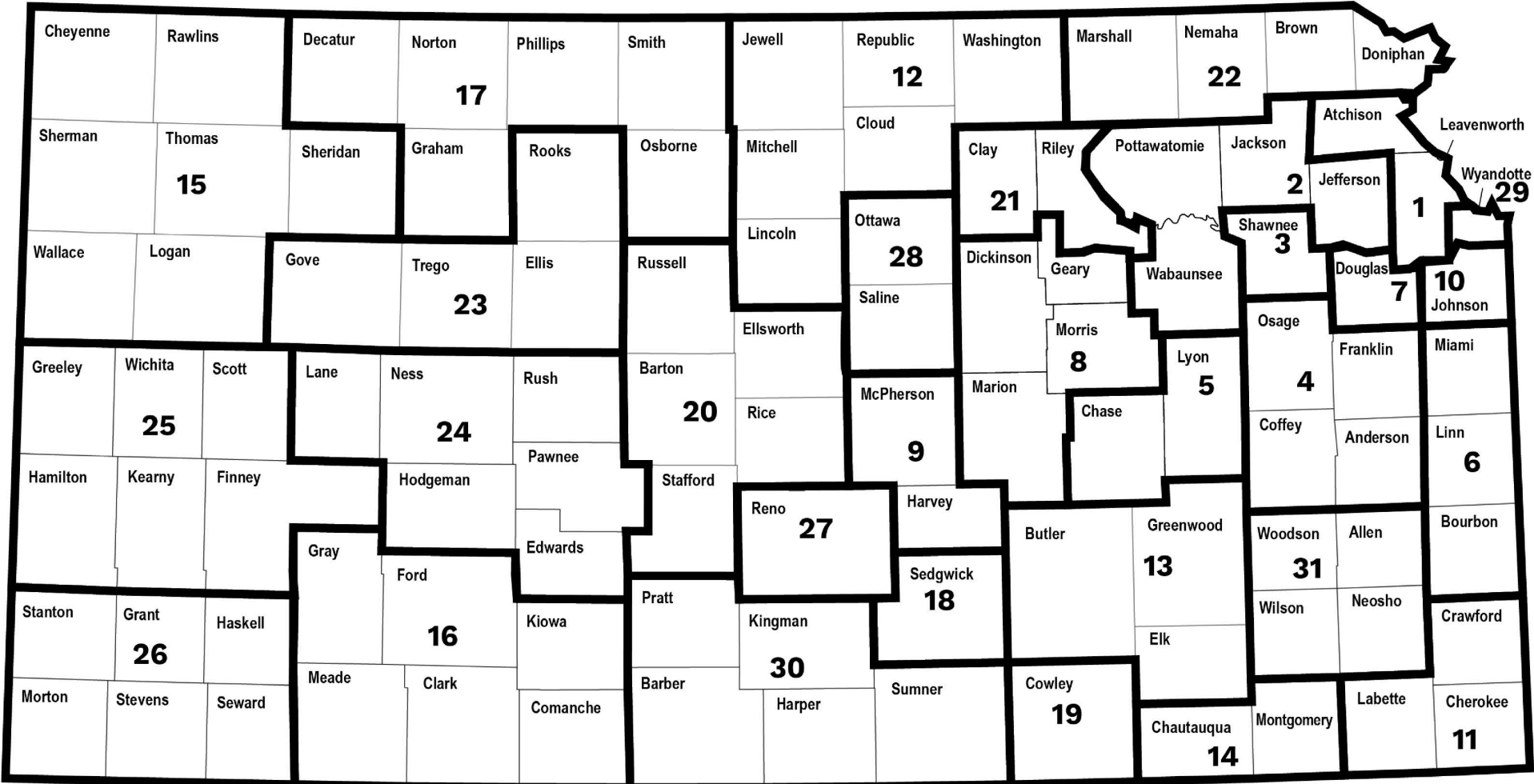
400 NARRATIVE INFORMATION

Division of Budget – Kansas

Judicial Branch  
Agency No. 677

District Courts  
Summary – 04100

Kansas Judicial Districts





#### 400 Narrative Information

Division of the Budget – Kansas

Judicial Branch Agency No. 677

District Courts

District Court Judges - 04100

<u>County</u>	<u>Judicial District</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Judicial District</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Judicial District</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Judicial District</u>
Allen .....	31	Finney .....	25	Logan .....	15	Rooks .....	23
Anderson .....	4	Ford .....	16	Lyon .....	5	Rush .....	24
Atchison .....	1	Franklin .....	4	Marion .....	8	Russell .....	20
Barber .....	30	Geary .....	8	Marshall .....	22	Saline .....	28
Barton .....	20	Gove .....	23	McPherson .....	9	Scott .....	25
Bourbon .....	6	Graham .....	17	Meade .....	16	Sedgwick .....	18
Brown .....	22	Grant .....	26	Miami .....	6	Seward .....	26
Butler .....	13	Gray .....	16	Mitchell .....	12	Shawnee .....	3
Chase .....	5	Greeley .....	25	Montgomery .....	14	Sheridan .....	15
Chautauqua .....	14	Greenwood .....	13	Morris .....	8	Sherman .....	15
Cherokee .....	11	Hamilton .....	25	Morton .....	26	Smith .....	17
Cheyenne .....	15	Harper .....	30	Nemaha .....	22	Stafford .....	20
Clark .....	16	Harvey .....	9	Neosho .....	31	Stanton .....	26
Clay .....	21	Haskell .....	26	Ness .....	24	Stevens .....	26
Cloud .....	12	Hodgeman .....	24	Norton .....	17	Sumner .....	30
Coffey .....	4	Jackson .....	2	Osage .....	4	Thomas .....	15
Comanche .....	16	Jefferson .....	2	Osborne .....	17	Trego .....	23
Cowley .....	19	Jewell .....	12	Ottawa .....	28	Wabaunsee .....	2
Crawford .....	11	Johnson .....	10	Pawnee .....	24	Wallace .....	15
Decatur .....	17	Kearny .....	25	Phillips .....	17	Washington .....	12
Dickinson .....	8	Kingman .....	30	Pottawatomie .....	2	Wichita .....	25
Doniphan .....	22	Kiowa .....	16	Pratt .....	30	Wilson .....	31
Douglas .....	7	Labette .....	11	Rawlins .....	15	Woodson .....	31
Edwards .....	24	Lane .....	24	Reno .....	27	Wyandotte .....	29
Elk .....	13	Leavenworth .....	1	Republic .....	12		
Ellis .....	23	Lincoln .....	12	Rice .....	20		
Ellsworth .....	20	Linn .....	6	Riley .....	21		

**400 Narrative Information**  
**Division of the Budget – Kansas**  
**Judicial Branch Agency No. 677**

**District Courts**  
**District Court Judges - 04100**

<b>Program Name: District Courts</b>	<b>Program Priority: 1</b>
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<b>Subprogram Name</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Required by Statute?</b>	<b>Statutory Basis</b>	<b>Maintenance of Effort Requirement</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Consequences of not Funding</b>
District Court Judges (04111)	1	Constitutional Requirement	Article III, § 6	N/A	Provides original jurisdiction over all matters brought before the courts.	Constitutional Requirement
District Court Employees (04112)	1	Yes	K.S.A. 20-361	N/A	Provides judicial support in district courts.	Statutorily Required
CASA & CRB Programs (04114)	1	No		N/A	Volunteer support for cases involving children in out-of-home placements.	Kansas children remaining in the court system.
Court Improvement (Federal Grants) (04115)	1	No		Salary Match	Provides compliance oversight to federal child welfare laws.	Noncompliance would result in federal penalties.
Correctional Supervision (04116)	1	Yes	K.S.A. 21-6607	N/A	Training on use of mandatory risk assessment tool (LSI-R).	Statutorily Required
Child Support Enforcement	1	Federally Mandated	45 C.F.R. § 303.107	66% Federal 34% State	Federal Title IV-D case compliance	Federally Mandated

## **DISTRICT COURT JUDGES**

### 5100 - Salaries and Wages

FY 2027 Request:     \$62,831,373

Currently, there are 269 district court judicial positions across the Kansas Judicial Branch, including 182 district judges and 87 district magistrate judge positions. In addition, senior judges and assigned judges are utilized when there are congested caseloads, a reassignment is required, or a judicial vacancy exists.

The request includes funding to implement provisions of 2023 House Sub. for SB 229 which establishes new compensation rates for all judicial branch judges. Beginning January 1, 2025, a district judge earns 75 percent of the annual salary of a United States district judge. The salaries for the remaining classes of Kansas judges are determined against that resulting Kansas district judge figure.

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request:     \$303,021

A major expense in this category is travel and subsistence. Judges of the district court and official court reporters are entitled to full reimbursement of their expenses for travel and subsistence. These officials often must travel to other counties in their districts to handle cases. In addition, all judges are subject to assignment within their judicial district by their chief judge and to assignment outside the judicial district by order of the Supreme Court, and they must be reimbursed for those travel and subsistence expenses. Expenses in this category include postage costs for mailing or shipping documents to district courts.

### 5200 – Commodities

FY 2027 Request:     \$275

Expenses include stationery and other miscellaneous office supplies.

## **DISTRICT COURT EMPLOYEES**

The current Judicial Branch pay plan was implemented in FY 2001. It was developed with the intent of avoiding disruptions from employee turnover, and it assumed annual adjustments to keep salaries competitive.

The 2021 Legislature appropriated historic salary increases to bring all employees to full market pay based on updated data to a 2017 salary study performed by the National Center for State Courts. A 12 percent cap was placed on employee pay increases for FY 2022 with any position eligible for more than 12 percent receiving the difference in FY 2023. The last part of the historic salary increases was implemented at the beginning of FY 2023. The 2023 Legislature appropriated funding for a 5 percent employee pay increase for FY 2024. The 2024 Legislature appropriated funding for a 5 percent employee pay increase for FY 2025. The 2025 Legislature appropriated funding for a 2.5 percent employee pay increase for FY 2026. Keeping up with market value and cost increases, the Judicial Branch is requesting enhancement funding for a 2.5 percent pay increase for non-judge employees for FY 2027 to be distributed based upon the results of the salary study currently being performed.

The state is responsible for all Judicial Branch district court salaries, while counties fund operating expenses for local courts. Consequently, approximately 90% of the Judicial Branch budget for FY 2026 is earmarked for salaries.

Court services officers (CSOs) are important to the safety and well-being of all Kansans. They are probation officers who provide direct supervision of adults and juveniles who are sentenced to probation for their crimes. They conduct criminal history checks, prepare status reports and presentence investigations that help judges apply sentencing guidelines, and administer a mandated, standardized risk assessment tool. CSOs help courts process child in need of care cases and in some districts, provide dispute resolution services for child custody investigations and perform home studies. Secretarial support for a CSO department ensures efficient use of CSO time by relieving them of receptionist, typist, and scheduler functions.

In each county, an office of the clerk of the district court serves as a gateway to the courts. This office may be the only contact many Kansans have with their courts, including obtaining marriage licenses, filing a small claims case, and paying traffic fines. Staff in the clerk's office accept and file-stamp court documents, enter them into the case management system, scan and file them, retrieve them, and safely store them. As e-filing is mandatory for attorneys statewide, clerks perform the same record processes for e-filed cases; however, the processes are performed electronically rather than manually. They also accept and give receipts for some fines, judgments, and fees, as directed by law and court order. Each year, new legislation is passed that changes the number of documents clerks process, the number of notices they must send, or other steps they must take, making their duties more complex.

Judicial support staff are critical to smoothly operating courts. Secretarial support manages the case workflow and provides calendaring and other administrative services for judges. Without them, a judge would spend many hours performing these duties or relying on the clerk's office, reducing both the court's and the clerk's office's ability to perform its own duties.

## **400 Narrative Information**

**Division of the Budget – Kansas  
Judicial Branch Agency No. 677**

**District Courts  
District Court Employees - 04112**

Court reporters are vital to district courts. They record and transcribe verbatim reports of judicial trials, conferences, and hearings. They also administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses, and mark exhibits entered into evidence. Because of an increasing shortage of court reporters and advancements in technology, district courts have been using digital recording systems for certain hearings as well as speech to text software. In April 2021, the Supreme Court announced the creation of the Ad Hoc Court Record Committee that reviewed, analyzed, and made recommendations for changes on how court records are created. Spurred by the necessity for remote hearings, federal coronavirus emergency supplemental funding and coronavirus relief funding helped provide district courts with upgrades in audio-visual technology, which in turn provided the infrastructure for this software to be used.

### 5100 - Salaries and Wages

FY 2027 Request:     \$119,596,285

The state is responsible for all Judicial Branch district court salaries, while counties fund operating expenses for local courts. In addition, this includes the enhancement request totaling \$3.25 million for salary increases to be distributed based on the results of the pending salary study to be completed by December 2025. It also includes an enhancement request for the addition of 3.0 FTE positions to be funded from existing moneys in the Specialty Court Resources Fund and.

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request:     \$1,874,442

Major expenditures are travel and subsistence and communications. Other large expenditures are expenditures for the specialty courts. Also included is enhancement fund totaling \$1,005,000 for specialty courts to fund statewide training and technical assistance, electronic monitoring services, drug testing subsidies, ancillary services, behavioral health services, materials, and other resources.

### 5300 – Commodities

FY 2027 Request:     \$61,554

The major expenditure is urine analysis supplies for the specialty courts. Other expenditures include stationery and other miscellaneous office supplies. Also included is enhancement fund totaling \$40,000 for specialty courts to fund printed materials and curriculum.

## CASA AND CRB PROGRAMS

OJA focuses on developing and monitoring Citizen Review Board (CRB) and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs. Kansas currently has eight CRB programs serving eight judicial districts. OJA annually certifies and provides technical assistance to these programs, which train citizen volunteers to review cases and recommend dispositional alternatives to judges on selected cases involving children who are in out-of-home placements. The purpose of a board is to ensure that children do not linger unnecessarily in foster care and to promote a permanent and safe home for each child whose case is reviewed.

CASA programs use citizen volunteers to personally uncover facts affecting the welfare of abused and neglected children. A CASA volunteer is appointed to advocate for the best interests of the child and make recommendations to help the court obtain the most permanent, safe, and home-like placement possible for the child. Currently, there are 20 CASA programs serving 21 judicial districts.

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request:     \$1,483

Travel costs are a major expenditure in this category.

### 5500 – Grants and Aid

FY 2027 Request:     \$350,000

The Office of Judicial Administration provides a number of grants to other entities from dedicated funds. The budget request reflects grants totaling \$350,000 for FY 2027 to Citizen Review Boards and Court Appointed Special Advocate programs from the Permanent Families account.

**COURT IMPROVEMENT FOR CHILD WELFARE (FEDERAL GRANTS)**

OJA has participated in the federally funded Court Improvement Program since 1996. This program is designed to assess current foster care and adoption procedures, laws, and regulations, and to implement improvements. A grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funds a program to collect and analyze information from representative areas of our state judicial system to formulate improved procedures, laws, and regulations in this area of concern. The Supreme Court Task Force on Permanency Planning (Task Force) makes recommendations for improving Judicial Branch oversight for children in need of care and juvenile offenders. Court improvement monies, which appear in this budget in the fund “Child Welfare-Federal Grant Fund,” have been used to fund projects consistent with the recommendations of the Task Force.

Court improvement grant funding is provided to cover basic costs to administer the program, training, and data collection and analysis. Thirty percent of the grant is used for data collection and analysis grant funding to provide accounting and case management system enhancements. Grant funds are used to conduct state, regional, and local training for judges, prosecutors, guardians *ad litem*, attorneys for parents, social workers, and other child welfare professionals to enhance a collaborative child welfare system in Kansas. The Task Force oversees the grants.

For many years, during April and August, OJA has sponsored training for judges, prosecutors, attorneys representing children and other child welfare partners. These workshops focused on permanency planning, quality legal representation, and crossover youth with experts in each subject matter. Continuing education credits for attorneys, judges, and social workers were awarded for these workshops. Additionally, in the fall of 2022, OJA offered a six-part webinar series for new judges, *CINC Nuts & Bolts*.

In spring of 2024, the judicial branch, in collaboration with the executive and legislative branches, hosted the inaugural Child Welfare Summit. Over 700 child welfare partners came together virtually and in person to create lasting improvement in child welfare.

During FY 2025, in addition to the training mentioned above, OJA hosted a webinar series for child welfare partners on the Indian Child Welfare Act.

**5200 – Contractual Services**

FY 2027 Request:     \$187,542

A major expense in this category are communication costs and background checks. This category will be funded by the Child Welfare-Federal Grant Fund for Juvenile Offender and Child in Need of Care Code.

Expenditures include the printing of training manuals, informational cards, brochures, calendars, and bench cards. Also included in this category are costs for trainings opportunities.

5300 – Commodities

FY 2027 Request:     \$136

Major expenditures in this category are for the purchase of office supplies, toner, paper, envelopes, and various Department of Administration Office of Printing forms, including printed stationery.



## CORRECTIONAL SUPERVISION

As a part of adult and juvenile offender supervision, court services officers use validated risk assessment instruments to address offender risk and needs appropriately. This includes case planning and referrals to treatment and community programs. Approximately 350 officers are trained in the use of these instruments.

For adult offenders, the Kansas Sentencing Commission (KSSC) previously designated the LSI-R as the risk and needs assessment tool to be used by parole officers, community corrections officers, and court services officers to determine the level of supervision for adult offenders. Effective July 1, 2021, the KSSC adopted the LSICMI for use with male probationers, an adult risk and needs assessment tool with a case management piece, and the Women's Risk Needs Assessment (WRNA) for use with female probationers. Kansas Supreme Court Rule 1802 requires the use of these tools for adult offenders. There are significant costs associated with purchasing materials, training staff, and implementing these tools, as well as significant demands of time to have court services officers administer this risk assessment. K.S.A. 21-6607 provides that 58.33% of probation fees are deposited into the Correctional Supervision Fund to provide revenue to fund implementation of risk and needs assessments.

For juvenile offenders, K.S.A. 38-2360 requires “[a] single, uniform risk and needs assessment shall be adopted by the office of judicial administration and the department of corrections to be used in all judicial districts.” OJA and the Department of Corrections (DOC) adopted the Youth Level of Service (YLS) 2.0 to be used with juvenile offenders. OJA provides an electronic version of the tool for court services officers to use. By having both tools in an electronic version, it will be easier to conduct data collection and analysis on a statewide basis.

K.S.A. 38-2394 requires training in evidence-based practices for individuals who work with juveniles who are adjudicated as juvenile offenders or who are in immediate intervention programs. Each year, court services officers participate in ongoing education on effective practices in community supervision (EPICS) and case planning. Court services officers meet continuing education requirements through participation in regional training opportunities on evidence-based practices for topics such as scoring, motivational interviewing, and effective case management. This fund is also used to purchase software and web-hosting support necessary to automate data collection from the risk and needs assessments and to generate management reports.

K.S.A. 21-6824 commonly referred to as “SB 123” provides certified substance abuse treatment for certain qualified defendants convicted of unlawful cultivation or distribution of a controlled substance. For someone to receive treatment under SB 123 they must be eligible. Part of that eligibility is to have a Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI) administered. Beginning in FY 2025, all court service officers were trained in and administer the SASSI. Previously, each district determined when and how the SASSI was administered. OJA worked with the KSSC and KDOC to develop a process in which all SASSI assessments are done at the same time as the risk and needs assessment. This streamlined process has created consistent statewide practices and assisted the KSSC with billing.

## **400 Narrative Information**

**Division of the Budget – Kansas  
Judicial Branch Agency No. 677**

**District Courts  
Correctional Supervision - 04116**

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request:     \$501,623

Major expenditures in this category include continued costs associated with the LSCMI, WRNA, YLS, and other evidence-based practices training. It also includes travel costs for these trainings.

### 5300 – Commodities

FY 2027 Request:     \$70,750

The major expense in this category is specialized forms required for use with the LSCMI and YLS and other training materials.

## CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

The Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) participates in a cooperative reimbursement agreement with the Department for Children and Families (DCF) for expediting Title IV-D case processing. A formal time study of allowable activities in paternity, child support, and medical support cases is conducted once each fiscal year over a single four-week period. Time spent by district court personnel is matched with IV-D caseload information to determine the reimbursement. The time judges spend hearing cases is excluded from the time study.

OJA is responsible for administering the Kansas Child Support Guidelines. Federal law (Chapter 45, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 302.56) requires each state to review the economic basis of the guidelines and deviations from the guidelines at least once every four years. The current guidelines became effective January 1, 2024, and can be found at [www.kscourts.gov](http://www.kscourts.gov). In July 2022, the Kansas Child Support Guidelines Committee began meeting to start the review cycle once again. During the review session, the committee meets monthly to review the guidelines, determine whether adjustments are necessary, and make recommendations to the Supreme Court. The committee submitted its report to the Supreme Court in the fall of 2023. The Supreme Court adopted an initial set of revisions effective January 1, 2024. The committee continued its work on a few remaining topics and submitted a second set of revisions to the Supreme Court in March 2024. Those revisions were adopted and were effective August 1, 2024. An additional set of revisions were effective May 1, 2025, to modify existing language to make it easier for litigants to understand the direct expense formula. This fall the Supreme Court will review the committee's proposed revisions based on 2025 House Bill 2062.

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request:                      \$1,241

A major portion of this expense is allotted for travel costs associated with Child Support Guidelines Committee meetings.

## JUDICIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REVIEW

06100

## 400 NARRATIVE INFORMATION

Division of Budget – Kansas

Judicial Branch

Agency No. 677

Judicial and Professional Review  
Subprogram Narrative Table – 06100

<b>Program Name: Judicial and Professional Review</b>	<b>Program Priority: 1</b>	
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Subprogram Name	Priority	Required by Statute?	Statutory Basis	Maintenance of Effort Requirement	Purpose	Consequences of not Funding	
Judicial Conduct (06111)	1	Constitutional Requirement	Article III, § 15	N/A	Assists Supreme Court with judicial disciplinary matters	Constitutional Requirement	
Nominating Commission (06112)	1	Constitutional and Statutory Requirement	Article III § 5; K.S.A. 20-119 through 20-138	N/A	Nominating and submitting to Governor candidates eligible for judicial vacancies	Constitutionally and Statutorily Required	
Law Examiners (06113)	1	Yes	K.S.A. 20-1a03	N/A	Responsible for the admission of attorneys to practice law in Kansas	Statutorily Required	
Court Reporters (06114)	1	Yes	K.S.A. 20-912	N/A	Grant certificates of eligibility for appointment of court reporters based on Supreme Court rules.	Statutorily Required	

### COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

The Commission on Judicial Conduct (formerly the Commission on Judicial Qualifications) was created by order of the Supreme Court and became effective January 1, 1974. This commission serves as an adjunct of the Supreme Court to assist the Court in the exercise of its responsibility under Article 3, Sec. 15, of the *Constitution of the State of Kansas*, which provides that, "...judges shall be subject to retirement for incapacity, and to discipline, suspension and removal for cause by the supreme court after appropriate hearing." The Court adopted a Code of Judicial Conduct, effective January 1, 1974, which prescribes a standard of conduct for judges. The code requires a judge not only to avoid impropriety in all of the judge's activities, but also to avoid any appearance of impropriety. It limits judges' political activities and business affairs and prohibits the practice of law by full-time judges. The Code also requires annual reporting of outside income. The Code was substantially amended effective June 1, 1995, and again on March 1, 2009. Effective May 1, 2019, new rules governing the Commission on Judicial Conduct were adopted by the Supreme Court.

The members of the Commission are:

Allen G. Glendenning (Chair), Great Bend  
Terrence J. Campbell, (Vice Chair), Lawrence  
Hon. Bradley E. Ambrosier, Elkhart  
Hon. Brenda M. Cameron, Olathe  
James S. Cooper, Lawrence  
Hon. Robert W. Fairchild, Lawrence  
Whitney A. Flesher, Lawrence  
Hon. Paula D. Hofaker, Lawrence  
Norman R. Kelly, Salina  
Lance Y. Kinzer, Olathe  
Rosemary Kolich, S.C.L., Leavenworth  
Hon. Thomas E. Malone, Topeka  
Dr. Joyce A. Pigge, Lindsborg  
Hon. Thomas Kelly Ryan, Olathe

Any individual who believes a judge in the State of Kansas has violated the Code of Judicial Conduct may submit a complaint in writing to the Commission on Judicial Conduct. An Inquiry Panel comprised of seven of the Commission members then promptly reviews and investigates such complaints. An Inquiry Panel may (1) find no violation and (a) dismiss the complaint or (b) dismiss the complaint and issue a letter of informal advice or (2) find a violation and (a) issue a letter of caution, (b) issue a cease-and-desist order, or (c) refer the matter for formal proceedings before a Hearing Panel comprised of the other seven Commission members (Rule 614). If the complaint is against a supreme court justice, the Inquiry Panel may (a) dismiss the complaint, (b) issue a letter of caution, or (c) refer the matter for formal proceedings before a Hearing Panel (Rule 614A).

Effective May 1, 1999, the Commission converted from a single-tier to a two-tier system and increased in size from nine to fourteen members including lawyers, judges, and nonlawyers. All members are appointed by the Supreme Court and serve four-year terms with a twelve-year term limit, except a member initially appointed to serve an unexpired term (Rule 602). The clerk of the appellate courts, although not a member of the Commission, serves as secretary to the Commission (Rule 605).

## 400 Narrative Information

Division of Budget – Kansas  
Judicial Branch Agency No. 677

Judicial and Professional Review  
Judicial Conduct - 06111

All Commission members are entitled to actual and necessary travel and subsistence expense (K.S.A. 75-3216). Members, other than active judges, are paid the sum of \$50 per day while engaged in the discharge of their official duties. (*Note: K.S.A. 75-3216 references the Commission on Judicial Qualifications rather than the Commission on Judicial Conduct.*)

The commission currently has pending complaints which could develop into costly formal proceedings requiring extensive investigation, travel, subsistence, and the frequent use of court reporters.

During FY 2025, approximately 1,300 complaints and inquiries were processed.

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request:     \$33,502

Postage, parcel, and express service is paid from this code and includes frequent mailings to the commission members from the Clerk's Office. Also included is correspondence with complainants and judges as well as postage costs for the Judicial Ethics Advisory Panel. Printing of legal documents, such as briefs for the Commission, and envelopes are also included.

Travel costs are a major expense in this category. This request covers mileage paid to Commission members and to the examiner for attending meetings, prehearing conferences, and formal hearings, as well as witnesses' travel expenses and fees. There are matters pending which could develop into formal proceedings. Formal hearings would result in the members meeting for several days. A seven-member panel of the Commission meets monthly, and the full fourteen-member Commission meets annually. Travel expenses for the Judicial Ethics Advisory Panel are also included.

Payments are provided for court reporter fees. As explained above, there are pending matters which could develop into formal proceedings. The Commission's annual dues for membership in the Center for Judicial Conduct Organizations (CJCO), a service of the National Center for State Courts, are paid from this category. The CJCO, the only national clearinghouse for information on judicial conduct and ethics, provides a variety of services such as bi-monthly news clippings and distribution of the Judicial Conduct Reporter and other research materials to subscribing judicial disciplinary commissions. In addition, the CJCO has a research website which is available to members only and is frequently used by Commission staff.

### 5300 – Commodities

FY 2027 Request:     \$500

This category covers such items as professional law books and other publications. Supplies to produce brochures for the Judicial Conduct and Ethics panels and the Annual Report that is distributed to all Kansas judges, and, upon request, external judicial ethics commissions appear in this category.

## JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSIONS

The Supreme Court Nominating Commission was established pursuant to the *Kansas Constitution*, Article 3, Section 5, and K.S.A. 20-119 to 20-138, inclusive, as amended. This nonpartisan Commission has the responsibility of nominating and submitting to the Governor the names of three candidates who are eligible for appointment to vacancies on the Supreme Court.

In 2013, the passage of HB 2019 changed the method of selection for Court of Appeals judges. The Governor appoints members to the Court of Appeals who are then subject to Senate confirmation.

The Commission is presently composed of a chair, who is elected by the lawyers of the state; four nonlawyer members appointed by the Governor; and four lawyer members elected by the members of the bar at elections conducted by the Clerk of the Supreme Court. One nonlawyer and one lawyer are selected from each Congressional District.

Each member of the Commission is entitled to receive \$15 per diem for meetings and reimbursement for travel, meals, and lodging.

The Clerk of the Supreme Court serves as the Commission's administrative officer. The Clerk is authorized to procure any supplies and equipment that may be needed and to employ and fix the compensation of clerical and other assistants who may be necessary to carry out the requirements of the law.

The Supreme Court is authorized to supervise the elections of members of the bar to district judicial nominating commissions (K.S.A. 20-2901 to 20-2913). The expenses of the members of the various district judicial nominating commissions and the Clerk, which are necessary to perform their duties with respect to nonpartisan selection of judges of the district court, are to be paid from available funds (K.S.A. 20-138). Seventeen judicial districts have a nonpartisan selection process. The various district judicial nominating commissions select district magistrate judges and submit to the governor names of candidates to fill vacancies in the office of judge of the district court.

*Note:* Each year the Clerk's Office holds an election among the attorneys in one of the Congressional Districts to elect a lawyer member to the Supreme Court Nominating Commission. In FY 2026, elections will be held in the First Congressional District for the lawyer member from that district and for the chair of the Commission. The Clerk's Office also holds an election among the attorneys to elect lawyer member(s) to hold positions on the judicial district nominating commissions. In FY 2026, all 17 Judicial Districts will have special elections for at least one lawyer position.

### 5100 - Salaries and Wages

There are no employees and no salaries to be paid from this activity. However, if a vacancy occurs on the Supreme Court, members of the Supreme Court Nominating Commission would receive compensation for attendance at meetings of the Commission.



## **400 Narrative Information**

**Division of the Budget – Kansas**

**Judicial Branch Agency No. 677**

**Judicial and Professional Review**

**Nominating Commission - 06112**

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request:     \$20,556

This category covers mailings, including postage and presort services, for elections of members to the Supreme Court Nominating Commission and District Judicial Nominating Commissions. This category covers the printing of notices for elections and ballots as well as presort services and postage for those elections. Vacancies on the Supreme Court require notifying all lawyers in the state and handling attendant paperwork and correspondence. Vacancies on the district court bench require notification of each lawyer in the judicial district.

This category also covers printing of ballots and notices for election of Commission members and notices when vacancies occur on the Supreme Court or in a judicial district.

Members of the Supreme Court Nominating Commission and District Judicial Nominating Commissions receive reimbursement for mileage and subsistence expenses incurred in attending meetings required to fill vacancies in judicial positions. Since it is not known how many and where vacancies will occur, this is an unpredictable item. The Supreme Court Nominating Commission and 17 district judicial nominating commissions submit expense reimbursements through this fund.

There may be additional fees incurred for expenses connected with the duties of the commission secretaries and Supreme Court Justices who chair each commission.

### 5300 - Commodities

FY 2027 Request:     \$500

This category includes the purchase of election supplies.

### BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS

The Board of Law Examiners is a ten-member board as described in Kansas Supreme Court Rule 701, which may employ or otherwise obtain the services of other persons to assist in carrying out all responsibilities relating to the admission of attorneys to practice law in the State of Kansas. These responsibilities include two bar examinations each year; certifying character and fitness of applicants for admission to the bar; printing wall certificates, researching attorney certificates, rules, and bar application forms; administrative and clerical duties related to grading examinations; notifying applicants of examination results; and swearing in successful applicants. In addition to obtaining licensure through the bar exam in Kansas, the Board of Law Examiners also oversees applications to the Kansas bar from individuals who have taken the bar exam in other jurisdictions or seek a license through another means. In FY 2025, there were 759 applications filed with attorney admissions, which includes 51 applications for temporary permits, 179 applications for legal intern permits, 240 applications for the written exam, including those that have re-applied to sit again, 150 applications for Uniform Bar Exam transfer, 124 applications for admission by motion, 15 applications for a restricted corporate counsel license, and no applications for the restricted military spouse license.

The Board of Law Examiners serves as an adjunct of the Supreme Court and has general supervision over admissions to the bar. The Board grades bar examinations and holds character hearings. Each member of the Board receives an annual \$5,000 fee and subsistence expenses for two annual meetings.

The Board approved the implementation of an electronic bar application system (EBAS). The project was successfully implemented. As of June 2025, all applications are available online.

#### Schedule of Fees

- \$50 for Legal Intern Permits
- \$100 for Temporary Permits to Practice Law
- \$700 for Regular Bar Examination Fee, to be charged each time the examination is taken (timely filed application)
- \$900 for Regular Bar Examination Fee (untimely filed application)
- \$1,250 for Restricted License (to perform legal services for a single employer)
- \$1,250 for Restricted Admission for Military Spouses
- \$1,250 for Reciprocal Admission
- \$1,250 for Admission by Uniform Bar Examination Score

The members of the Board of Law Examiners are:

Carol M. Park, (Chair), Hays  
C. Edward Watson, (Vice Chair), Wichita  
Jennifer Cocking, Topeka  
Roarke Gordon, Wichita  
Ivery Goldstein, Lawrence  
Patrick Hughes, Wichita  
Peter S. Johnston, Salina

## 400 Narrative Information

Division of the Budget – Kansas  
Judicial Branch Agency No. 677

Judicial and Professional Review  
Law Examiners - 06113

Anne Emert, Kansas City, KS  
Ann Elliott, McPherson, KS  
Rebekah Gaston, Topeka, KS

Note: This is a fee fund (K.S.A. 20-1a03). Fees to cover all budgeted expenses are considered and set by the Supreme Court.

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request: \$187,467

This category includes expenditures for telephone, postage, freight, and related delivery expenses of assembled exams, testing criteria, and mailings related to character and fitness hearings. The Board sends information concerning scheduled exams to all those enrolled, sends results of exams to all who participate, and engages in a wide variety of correspondence throughout the year.

Members of the Board may travel to attend the UBE grading conference after each examination. A portion of the expenses in this category are used to pay travel expenses for board members.

Other expenditures in this category relate to the printing of:

- Bar Certificates. Bar certificates are printed for the persons passing the bar examinations. The certificates are approximately 18” x 24” and printed on quality stock.
- Stationery. Letterhead stationery is printed in-house.
- Other Exam Supplies. Exam security procedures require printing of testing ID badges and examinee number cards.

A major expenditure in this category includes rent for space twice each year to administer exams and twice to swear in new attorneys. Applicants must be seated at a minimum of three feet apart and comply with all Multistate Bar Examination requirements. There are very few locations in Topeka that meet the requirements for holding the exams. The Board has held the bar exam at the Judicial Building in September 2020, February 2021, 2022, and 2023, but the space was inadequate in both February 2024 and February 2025. The July 2020-2023 exams were held at the University of Kansas. In July 2024 and July 2025, the exam was held at the Maner Conference Center in Topeka. Separate accommodations must be provided for those qualifying under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The ten-member Board meets as needed during the year to conduct Board business and hold character and fitness hearings. Each meeting is held in Topeka and can last several days. Special meetings may be called if Board business requires. Funding is also requested for three staff members to two annual meetings of the Committee of Bar Admissions Administrators and three staff members and one Board member to attend the Annual Bar Examiner’s Conference.

## **400 Narrative Information**

**Division of the Budget – Kansas**

**Judicial Branch Agency No. 677**

**Judicial and Professional Review**

**Law Examiners - 06113**

As part of the character and fitness investigation portion of the bar application process, the KBI provides fingerprint checks at an estimated cost of \$25,000.

This category includes purchase of the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) which is currently \$132 per examinee. An estimated 275 individuals will take the UBE in FY 2027 which totals \$30,000.

Character and fitness questions arise on a regular basis which require investigations, often resulting in hearings involving witnesses and court reporters. These reviews are the primary expense in this category. As part of these reviews, credit reports are required at \$8,000. Funds are also used for mental health and drug/alcohol evaluations.

### 5300 – Commodities

FY 2027 Request:      \$14,525

Major expenditures in this category include the purchase of mailing tubes for bar certificates as well as supplies for character and fitness hearings. Also, other necessary supplies for the bar examinations and preparation of certificates include pencils, pens, labels, gold seals, and miscellaneous supplies.

### 5300 – Capital Outlay

FY 2027 Request      \$82,500

Expenditures in this category include computer programs and computer supplies.

## BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF COURT REPORTERS

The State Board of Examiners of Court Reporters was established by the Supreme Court in 1941 pursuant to K.S.A. 20-912. Rules of the Supreme Court relating to official reporters for district courts and rules adopted by the Board are set forth in the *Kansas Court Rules Annotated*. The Board, subject to direction and approval of the Supreme Court, has general supervision over the granting of certificates of eligibility for appointment as official reporters of district courts.

On July 1, 2020, responsibility for the court reporter program transferred from the Clerk of the Appellate Courts to the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA). OJA is authorized to pay from the Court Reporters Fee Fund all expenses of the Board incidental to the consideration of applications, conduct of examinations, the issuance of certificates, consideration of ethical complaints, formal proceedings, and collection of the annual renewal fee. Members of the Board receive actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

Two examinations are administered each year. Expenditures are made from the Court Reporters Fee Fund.

The members of the Board are:

Melinda Young (Chair), Hutchinson  
Hon. Chris Jayaram, Olathe  
Hon. Clinton Peterson, Liberal  
Lynelle Gottschalk, CCR, Hays  
Chris McMillan, Olathe  
Kai Mann, Topeka  
Jennifer Oliver, CCR, Salina  
Jo Wilkinson, CCR, Wichita  
Mary Castaneda, CCR, Wichita

### 5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2027 Request:     \$10,112

This category includes expenditures for telephone conference calls, postage, and parcel and express service. Examples of mailings are application forms, notices of the court reporter examination, receipts to applicants filing applications, certificates of eligibility mailed to successful applicants, annual registration renewal forms, and registration cards.

This category also includes the printing of cards evidencing annual renewal of certification, reproduction of a handbook for official reporters, and printing handouts for the court-sponsored mandatory educational program.

Also included are expenditures for the certified court reporter examination and Board meetings, formal hearings, and the court-sponsored mandatory educational program.

**400 Narrative Information****Division of Budget – Kansas****Judicial Branch Agency No. 677****Judicial and Professional Review****Court Reporters - 06114**

The Board consists of nine members. It meets twice a year to administer and grade the examination and at other times when deemed necessary. Associated travel expenditures and payments for a speaker at continuing education training for official court reporters sponsored by the Supreme Court are included in this category as are payment for investigative and professional services. Services include research, investigation, and prosecution of complaints before the Board.

COVID-19

21660

## 400 NARRATIVE INFORMATION

Division of Budget – Kansas

Judicial Branch

Agency No. 677

Covid-19

Subprogram Narrative Table

<b>Program Name: COVID-19</b>	<b>Program Priority: 1</b>
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<b>Subprogram Name</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Required by Statute?</b>	<b>Statutory Basis</b>	<b>Maintenance of Effort Requirement</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Consequences of not Funding</b>
COVID-19 Transactions	1	No		N/A	Provides personal protective equipment and technology to allow employees and litigants to access the courts remotely.	The crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic requires these measures for the health and safety of Kansans.



## **400 NARRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Division of Budget – Kansas**

**Judicial Branch**

**Agency No. 677**

**Covid-19**

**Covid-19 – 21662**

### **COVID-19**

On March 12, 2020, Governor Kelly issued the first of three consecutive state of disaster emergency declarations due to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). The virus forced employees and judges to perform their duties remotely, if possible. It quickly became evident that the entire court system needed additional technology to allow remote work. Using existing funds, the Judicial Branch provided some of the necessary equipment such as laptops, cell phones, and hot spots for those with inadequate internet access. Some needed personal protective equipment (PPE), such as face coverings and hand sanitizer, which was also provided using existing funds.

But the existing funds proved insufficient to meet all pandemic-related technology and PPE needs. So, the branch applied for and received a Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Fund grant through the Kansas Governor's Grants Program and began distributing it statewide. The Judicial Branch also received support from the Coronavirus Relief Funding Program administered by the Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas Taskforce.

This program was created by the Division of the Budget to track expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds are budgeted for FY 2026 and FY 2027 to expend the support provided by the Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas Taskforce, and this is expected to be a temporary program.

Funds are being used to increase the efficiency and modernize technology of the judicial branch in FY 2026 and FY 2027.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

## 400 NARRATIVE INFORMATION

Division of Budget – Kansas

Judicial Branch

Agency No. 677

Capital Improvements

Capital Improvements - 99000

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

In FY 2025, the legislature approved \$50,000 to begin the planning phase for a Kansas Judicial Learning Center. The Chief Justice and several Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) staff members visited other states' judicial branches and took tours of the different learning areas provided, noting the unique exhibits and experiences for students and citizens to learn about the judicial process of each state. This inspired the Supreme Court and OJA to begin to visualize what a learning center could look like in the judicial center. The Supreme Court convened a learning center planning committee. Members include representatives from all three branches of government, including the Kansas Department of Education and the Kansas Historical Society.

While visitors, including many students, visit the judicial center on field trips to the Capitol complex, the Court and OJA agreed that this experience could be enhanced by providing information about the history, processes, and relationships of the three branches of government with a focus on the work of the judicial system. Exhibits will also be designed with the intent of sparking an interest in children to consider government service and the law as career paths. We have seen a significant decrease in practicing attorneys in Kansas and nationwide. Using the learning center as an introduction for students to explore a career in the legal field helps support one of the judicial branch's strategic goals.

FY 2027 Request:     \$300,000

The FY 2027 budget includes \$300,000 to begin developing and constructing one or two cornerstone exhibits within the learning center space. We revised the previous budget request that asked for the full cost of the learning center, based on the architect's designs proposals, to a smaller request. We recognize the state must balance and prioritize capital improvement needs across Kansas. This phased approach will allow us to begin implementing the project, demonstrate progress, and leverage additional funding sources such as foundation grants or private partnerships, which we are actively pursuing.

## Judge Position Information

### **1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 3

Counties: Atchison  
Leavenworth

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 7

Division 1 – Leavenworth  
Division 2 – Leavenworth  
Division 3 – Leavenworth  
Division 4 – Leavenworth  
Division 5 – Leavenworth  
Division 6 – Atchison  
Division 7 - Leavenworth

District Magistrate Judges - 0

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 2

Counties: Jackson  
Jefferson  
Pottawatomie  
Wabaunsee

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 3

Division 1 – Jackson  
Division 2 – Jefferson  
Division 3 – Pottawatomie

District Magistrate Judges – 3

Position 1 – Pottawatomie  
Position 2 – Wabaunsee  
Position 3 – Jefferson

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 2

Counties: Shawnee

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 15

Divisions 1-15 – Shawnee

District Magistrate Judges – 2

Positions 1-2- Shawnee

### **4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 3

Counties: Anderson  
Coffey  
Franklin  
Osage

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 3

Division 1 – Coffey  
Division 2 – Franklin  
Division 3 – Anderson

District Magistrate Judges – 3

Position 1 – Osage  
Position 2 – Franklin  
Position 3 – Osage

### **5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 5

Counties: Chase  
Lyon

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 3

Division 1 – Lyon  
Division 2 – Lyon  
Division 3 – Lyon

District Magistrate Judges – 1

Position 1 – Chase

### **6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 4

Counties: Bourbon  
Linn  
Miami

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 6

Division 1 – Miami  
Division 2 – Linn  
Division 3 – Bourbon  
Division 4 – Bourbon  
Division 5 – Miami  
Division 6 - Miami

District Magistrate Judges – 1

Position 1 – Bourbon

### **7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 3

Counties: Douglas

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 7

Divisions 1-7 – Douglas

District Magistrate Judges – 0

### **8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 2

Counties: Dickinson

Geary

Marion

Morris

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 5

Division 1 – Dickinson

Division 2 – Geary

Division 3 – Marion

Division 4 – Geary

Division 5 – Geary

District Magistrate Judges – 3

Position 1 – Dickinson

Position 2 – Morris

Position 3 – Geary

### **9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 5

Counties: Harvey

McPherson

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 4

Division 1 – Harvey

Division 2 – Harvey

Division 3 – McPherson

Division 4 – Harvey

District Magistrate Judges – 2

Position 1 – McPherson

Position 2 – Harvey

### **10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 4

Counties: Johnson

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 22

Divisions 1-22 – Johnson

District Magistrate Judges – 4

Positions 1-4 – Johnson

### **11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 4

Counties: Cherokee

Crawford

Labette

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 6

Division 1 – Crawford

Division 2 – Cherokee

Division 3 – Labette

Division 4 – Crawford

Division 5 – Crawford

Division 6 – Labette

District Magistrate Judges – 2

Position 1 – Cherokee

Position 2 – Crawford

### **12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 1

Counties: Cloud

Jewell

Lincoln

Mitchell

Republic

Washington

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 1

Division 1 – Washington

Division 2 – Cloud

District Magistrate Judges – 5

Position 1 – Lincoln

Position 2 – Jewell

Position 3 – Mitchell

Position 4 – Republic

Position 5 – Washington

### **13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 5

Counties: Butler  
Elk  
Greenwood

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 4

Division 1 – Butler  
Division 2 – Butler  
Division 3 – Butler  
Division 4 – Butler

District Magistrate Judges – 2

Position 1 – Elk  
Position 2 – Greenwood

### **14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 4

Counties: Chautauqua  
Montgomery

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 4

Division 1 – Montgomery  
Division 2 – Montgomery  
Division 3 – Montgomery  
Division 4 - Montgomery

District Magistrate Judges – 1

Position 1 – Chautauqua

### **15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 1

Counties: Cheyenne Sherman  
Logan Thomas  
Rawlins Wallace  
Sheridan

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 2

Division 1 – Thomas  
Division 2 – Sherman

District Magistrate Judges – 6

Position 1 – Cheyenne  
Position 2 – Logan  
Position 3 – Sheridan  
Position 4 – Wallace  
Position 5 – Thomas  
Position 6 – Rawlins

### **16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 6

Counties: Clark  
Comanche  
Ford  
Gray  
Kiowa  
Meade

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 3

Division 1 – Ford  
Division 2 – Ford  
Division 3 – Ford

District Magistrate Judges – 5

Position 1 – Clark  
Position 2 – Comanche  
Position 3 – Gray  
Position 4 – Kiowa  
Position 5 – Meade

### **17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 1

Counties: Decatur  
Graham  
Norton  
Osborne  
Phillips  
Smith

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 2

Division 1 – Graham  
Division 2 - Phillips

District Magistrate Judges – 5

Position 1 – Graham  
Position 2 – Decatur  
Position 3 – Norton  
Position 4 – Osborne  
Position 5 - Smith

### **18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 5

Counties: Sedgwick

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 30

Divisions 1-30 – Sedgwick

District Magistrate Judges – 1

Position 1 - Sedgwick

### **19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 5

Counties: Cowley

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 3

Division 1 – Cowley

Division 2 – Cowley

Division 3 – Cowley

District Magistrate Judges – 1

Position 1 - Cowley

### **20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 6

Counties: Barton  
Ellsworth  
Rice  
Russell  
Stafford

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 3

Division 1 – Ellsworth

Division 2 – Barton

Division 3 – Barton

District Magistrate Judges – 4

Position 1 – Ellsworth

Position 2 – Rice

Position 3 – Russell

Position 4 – Stafford

### **21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 2

Counties: Clay  
Riley

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 3

Division 1 – Riley

Division 2 – Riley

Division 3 – Riley

District Magistrate Judges – 2

Position 1 – Clay

Position 2 – Riley

### **22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 3

Counties: Brown  
Doniphan  
Marshall  
Nemaha

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 2

Division 1 – Brown

Division 2 – Brown

District Magistrate Judges – 3

Position 1 – Doniphan

Position 2 – Marshall

Position 3 – Nemaha

### **23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 1

Counties: Ellis  
Gove  
Rooks  
Trego

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 2

Division 1 – Ellis

Division 2 – Ellis

District Magistrate Judges – 3

Position 1 – Gove

Position 2 – Rooks

Position 3 – Trego

### **24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 6

Counties: Edwards  
Hodgeman  
Lane

Ness  
Pawnee  
Rush

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 1

Division 1 – Pawnee

District Magistrate Judges – 6

Position 1 – Edwards

Position 2 – Hodgeman

Position 3 – Lane

Position 4 – Ness

Position 5 – Pawnee

Position 6 – Rush

### **25<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 6

Counties: Finney  
Greeley  
Hamilton  
Kearny  
Scott  
Wichita

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 4

Division 1 – Finney  
Division 2 – Finney  
Division 3 – Finney  
Division 4 – Finney

District Magistrate Judges – 7

Position 1 – Greeley  
Position 2 – Hamilton  
Position 3 – Kearny  
Position 4 – Scott  
Position 5 – Wichita  
Position 6 – Finney (vacant)  
Position 7 – Hamilton

### **26<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 6

Counties: Grant  
Haskell  
Morton  
Seward  
Stanton  
Stevens

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 3

Division 1 – Morton  
Division 2 – Seward  
Division 3 – Stevens

District Magistrate Judges – 5

Position 1 – Grant  
Position 2 – Haskell  
Position 3 – Morton  
Position 4 – Stanton  
Position 5 – Stevens

### **27<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 6

Counties: Reno

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 4

Division 1-4 – Reno

District Magistrate Judges – 1

Position 1 – Reno

### **28<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 1

Counties: Ottawa  
Saline

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 6

Division 1-6 – Saline

District Magistrate Judges – 2

Position 1 – Ottawa  
Position 2 – Saline

### **29<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 3

Counties: Wyandotte

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 16

Divisions 1-16 – Wyandotte

District Magistrate Judges – 0

### **30<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 5

Counties: Barber Pratt  
Harper Sumner  
Kingman

#### **Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 4

Division 1 – Pratt  
Division 2 – Sumner  
Division 3 – Sumner  
Division 4 – Kingman (vacant)

District Magistrate Judges – 3

Position 1 – Barber  
Position 2 – Harper  
Position 3 – Kingman



**31<sup>st</sup> Judicial District**

Judicial Department No. 4

Counties:     Allen  
                  Neosho  
                  Wilson  
                  Woodson

**Judicial Positions:**

District Judges – 4

Division 1 – Allen  
Division 2 – Wilson  
Division 3 – Allen  
Division 4 - Allen

District Magistrate Judges – 3

Position 1 – Allen  
Position 2 – Woodson  
Position 3 - Neosho

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
<b>JUDICIAL DISTRICT 1</b>					
Administrative Assistant	23	7.00	401,581	382,541	382,960
Clerk of District Court II	35	2.00	130,637	140,317	140,317
Court Services Officer I	36	10.00	592,540	682,136	687,180
Court Services Officer II	40	1.00	82,293	84,350	84,350
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
District Court Administrator II	59	1.00	108,226	115,916	115,916
Official Court Reporter	36				
Secretary II	21	1.00	49,290	53,053	53,053
Transcriptionist	23	2.00	52,485	99,938	103,900
Trial Court Clerk II	18	15.00	602,393	672,792	679,734
Trial Court Clerk III	21	3.00	103,517	155,461	155,461
<b>TOTAL</b>		43.00	2,213,654	2,479,463	2,495,830

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 2					
Administrative Assistant	23	2.00	90,973	103,904	105,161
Clerk of District Court I	31	3.00	168,017	175,544	182,689
Clerk of District Court III	41	1.00	78,391	80,350	80,350
Court Services Officer I	36	5.00	341,132	364,720	368,988
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	88,472	92,959	92,959
Official Court Reporter	36	2.00	147,288	152,992	152,992
Secretary II	21	2.00	100,866	102,409	102,409
Trial Court Clerk II	18	8.50	328,422	366,229	367,867
<b>TOTAL</b>		24.50	1,343,561	1,439,107	1,453,415

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
<b>JUDICIAL DISTRICT 3</b>					
Administrative Assistant	23	18.00	872,685	933,654	921,442
Administrative Support Specialist	26	1.00	39,515	47,002	47,002
Clerk of District Court IV	50	1.00	84,352	91,997	91,997
Court Services Administrative Officer	50	1.00	104,969	107,594	107,594
Court Services Officer I	36	28.00	1,772,141	1,930,826	1,945,887
Court Services Officer II	40	6.00	488,450	506,101	506,101
Court Services Officer III	44	3.00	272,077	278,878	278,878
District Court Administrator III	63	1.00	134,366	137,725	137,725
Managing Court Reporter	40	1.00	79,128	84,350	84,350
Official Court Reporter	36	9.00	408,733	435,811	569,983
Records Clerk III	18	4.00	163,016	173,902	174,476
Secretary I	18	3.00	131,948	143,475	143,739
Transcriptionist	23	2.00	59,986	226,000	91,828
Trial Court Clerk II	18	36.00	1,404,405	1,618,880	1,583,057
Trial Court Clerk III	21	6.00	310,552	318,315	318,315
Trial Court Clerk IV	27	7.00	358,160	404,597	410,005
Trial Court Clerk V	34	1.00	66,657	72,798	72,798
<b>TOTAL</b>		128.00	6,751,140	7,511,905	7,485,177

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 4					
Administrative Assistant	23	3.00	158,273	159,632	159,632
Clerk of District Court I	31	2.00	111,065	117,029	117,029
Clerk of District Court II	35	2.00	140,552	134,064	134,064
Court Services Officer I	36	6.00	402,215	422,843	422,843
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	84,277	92,959	92,959
District Court Administrator I	55	1.00	107,903	121,659	121,659
Official Court Reporter	36	2.00	149,261	152,992	152,992
Secretary II	21	1.00	49,768	53,053	53,053
Transcriptionist	23	1.00	54,369	55,727	55,727
Trial Court Clerk II	18	13.00	516,273	563,201	574,852
<b>TOTAL</b>		32.00	1,773,956	1,873,159	1,884,810

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
<b>JUDICIAL DISTRICT 5</b>					
Administrative Assistant	23	3.00	155,740	159,632	161,865
Clerk of District Court I	31	1.00	57,088	59,706	59,706
Clerk of District Court II	35	1.00	66,162	69,451	69,451
Court Services Officer I	36	5.00	352,843	365,933	365,933
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
District Court Administrator I	55	1.00	107,903	121,659	121,659
Official Court Reporter	36	2.00	144,873	152,992	152,992
Secretary I	18	1.00	44,745	46,128	46,128
Trial Court Clerk II	18	11.50	514,512	531,512	534,507
<b>TOTAL</b>		26.50	1,534,558	1,599,972	1,605,200

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 6					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	54,369	55,727	55,727
Chief Clerk Administrator	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
Clerk of District Court I	31	2.00	122,689	117,030	120,434
Court Services Officer I	36	5.00	300,568	348,913	348,913
Court Services Officer II	40	1.00	49,010	84,350	84,350
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
Secretary II	21	5.00	244,826	233,920	247,856
Transcriptionist	23	2.00	68,063	94,643	95,062
Trial Court Clerk II	18	9.00	368,719	387,584	387,836
Trial Court Clerk III	21	2.00	99,911	91,465	91,465
<b>TOTAL</b>		29.00	1,489,539	1,599,550	1,617,561

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 7					
Administrative Assistant	23	7.00	321,998	339,725	341,539
Clerk of District Court IV	50	1.00	97,608	106,724	106,724
Court Services Officer I	36	7.00	428,217	473,884	488,749
Court Services Officer II	40	2.00	155,523	162,741	162,741
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	87,510	92,959	92,959
District Court Administrator II	59	1.00	131,013	134,289	142,572
Official Court Reporter	36	5.50	356,570	355,070	355,070
Secretary II	21	0.50	24,171	20,786	20,786
Trial Court Clerk II	18	10.00	426,538	441,772	468,675
Trial Court Clerk III	21	2.00	96,304	98,713	98,713
Trial Court Clerk IV	27	1.00	59,864	61,360	61,360
<b>TOTAL</b>		38.50	2,185,316	2,310,128	2,363,974



# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 8					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	54,369	55,727	55,727
Clerk of District Court II	35	3.00	208,472	213,678	213,678
Court Services Officer I	36	10.00	685,064	694,879	719,138
Court Services Officer II	40	2.00	164,586	151,274	157,150
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	90,692	92,955	92,955
Secretary I	18	1.00	46,244	49,296	49,296
Secretary II	21	1.00	51,759	53,052	53,052
Transcriptionist	23	2.50	111,652	121,117	123,350
Trial Court Clerk II	18	18.50	683,621	807,148	793,969
Trial Court Clerk III	21	3.00	140,328	141,525	144,518
<b>TOTAL</b>		43.00	2,236,787	2,380,651	2,402,833

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
<b>JUDICIAL DISTRICT 9</b>					
Administrative Assistant	23	4.00	189,642	201,415	203,570
Clerk of District Court II	35	2.00	132,612	139,065	139,065
Court Services Officer I	36	6.00	382,365	406,533	406,533
Court Services Officer II	40	2.00	158,773	162,741	162,741
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
District Court Administrator I	55	1.00	100,308	105,017	105,017
Secretary II	21	2.00	85,952	95,162	95,162
Transcriptionist	23	3.00	98,445	147,555	148,253
Trial Court Clerk II	18	9.00	341,925	369,124	369,124
Trial Court Clerk III	21	1.00	55,695	53,053	53,053
<b>TOTAL</b>		31.00	1,636,409	1,772,624	1,775,477

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 10					
Accounting Technician	21	2.00	92,862	95,183	95,887
Administrative Assistant	23	31.50	1,574,671	1,615,626	1,623,366
Administrative Program Manager	40	2.00	153,315	159,514	159,514
Clerk of District Court IV	50	1.00	99,202	99,217	102,356
Court Program Analyst	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
Court Services Administrative Officer	50	1.00	80,746	107,594	107,594
Court Services Officer I	36	58.00	3,830,126	4,002,912	4,050,641
Court Services Officer II	40	10.00	746,030	794,121	794,121
Court Services Officer III	44	5.00	407,374	433,812	433,812
District Court Administrator III	63	1.00	151,362	137,725	137,725
Managing Court Reporter	40	2.00	164,586	168,700	168,700
Official Court Reporter	36	10.50	528,996	702,762	703,237
Programmer I	37		76,492		
Programmer II	45		92,961		
Project Manager	53	1.00	71,384	115,789	115,789
Secretary I	18	5.00	203,023	213,192	215,208
Secretary II	21	1.00	51,759	53,053	53,053
Trial Court Clerk II	18	24.00	671,156	991,081	1,012,294
Trial Court Clerk III	21	9.00	309,605	448,127	439,503
Trial Court Clerk IV	27	10.00	463,224	539,116	548,401
Trial Court Coordinator	36	3.00	211,762	224,124	224,124
<b>TOTAL</b>		178.00	10,071,328	10,994,607	11,078,284

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 11					
Administrative Assistant	23	8.00	400,599	413,008	434,630
Clerk of District Court II	35	3.00	198,557	206,977	206,977
Court Services Officer I	36	10.00	683,042	712,079	715,959
Court Services Officer II	40	1.00	82,293	84,350	84,350
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
District Court Administrator II	59	1.00	108,226	115,916	115,916
Official Court Reporter	36	2.00	149,261	152,992	152,992
Secretary I	18	2.00	96,188	98,592	98,592
Trial Court Clerk II	18	12.00	462,746	531,222	534,372
Trial Court Clerk III	21	2.00	96,468	103,397	103,397
<b>TOTAL</b>		42.00	2,368,072	2,511,492	2,540,144

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 12					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	54,369	55,727	55,727
Clerk of District Court I	31	5.00	374,663	285,886	290,670
Clerk of District Court II	35	1.00		67,739	67,739
Court Services Officer I	36	3.00	163,977	208,312	208,312
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	88,225	92,959	92,959
Secretary II	21	1.00	56,736	39,690	42,109
Trial Court Clerk II	18	7.50	315,317	321,596	327,115
<b>TOTAL</b>		19.50	1,053,287	1,071,909	1,084,631

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 13					
Administrative Assistant	23	5.00	257,406	266,037	266,037
Clerk of District Court II	35	2.00	135,676	139,065	141,949
Court Services Officer I	36	7.00	454,867	463,386	468,836
Court Services Officer II	40	2.00	128,204	161,666	161,666
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	77,369	92,959	92,959
District Court Administrator II	59	1.00	109,224	124,773	124,773
Official Court Reporter	36	3.00	195,360	213,716	213,716
Secretary I	18	1.00	41,548	42,588	43,092
Secretary II	21	1.00	51,759	53,052	53,052
Trial Court Clerk II	18	11.00	414,112	468,070	470,583
Trial Court Clerk III	21	2.00	92,898	102,002	102,002
<b>TOTAL</b>		36.00	1,958,423	2,127,314	2,138,665

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 14					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	54,369	55,727	55,727
Clerk of District Court I	31	1.00	60,492	62,941	62,941
Clerk of District Court III	41	1.00	78,391	80,350	80,350
Court Services Officer I	36	6.00	409,689	431,633	433,185
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
Official Court Reporter	36	1.00	132,325	76,496	76,496
Secretary I	18	2.00	89,490	91,728	95,951
Secretary II	21	1.00		40,080	42,110
Trial Court Clerk II	18	8.00	306,621	307,255	362,552
Trial Court Clerk III	21	2.00	99,911	102,409	106,105
<b>TOTAL</b>		24.00	1,321,980	1,341,578	1,408,376

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 15					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	67,109	51,807	51,807
Clerk of District Court I	31	6.00	370,016	372,114	375,620
Clerk of District Court III	41	1.00	84,352	86,461	86,461
Court Services Officer I	36	4.00	266,950	281,356	281,356
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
District Court Administrator I	55	1.00	91,409	97,671	97,671
Secretary II	21	0.50	24,076	24,871	24,871
Transcriptionist	23	1.50	67,625	72,265	72,405
Trial Court Clerk II	18	9.00	289,170	379,003	385,931
<b>TOTAL</b>		25.00	1,351,399	1,458,507	1,469,081



# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 16					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	50,542	51,807	53,164
Chief Clerk Administrator	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
Clerk of District Court I	31	5.00	284,227	300,762	302,804
Court Services Officer I	36	5.00	355,205	370,976	370,976
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
Official Court Reporter	36	1.00	55,794	60,635	60,635
Secretary I	18	2.00	74,063	83,684	83,684
Transcriptionist	23	2.00	104,911	110,177	110,177
Trial Court Clerk II	18	12.00	460,079	544,001	547,465
<b>TOTAL</b>		30.00	1,566,205	1,707,960	1,714,823

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 17					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	34,019	45,330	45,330
Clerk of District Court I	31	5.00	294,409	291,538	295,964
Chief Clerk Administrator	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
Court Services Officer I	36	2.00	141,472	147,628	147,628
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
Trial Court Clerk II	18	6.00	240,907	245,113	249,380
<b>TOTAL</b>		16.00	892,191	915,527	924,220

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 18					
Accounting Technician	21	2.00	93,564	106,105	106,105
Administrative Assistant	23	32.00	1,675,723	1,717,327	1,731,418
Administrative Support Specialist	26	1.00	58,404	59,864	59,864
Clerk of District Court IV	50	1.00	97,608	106,724	106,724
Court Management Analyst	50	1.00	104,969	107,594	107,594
Court Program Analyst	44	1.00	76,150	76,612	76,612
Court Services Administrative Officer	50	1.00	104,969	107,594	107,594
Court Services Officer I	36	46.50	3,095,463	3,302,404	3,305,448
Court Services Officer II	40	8.00	638,525	657,290	658,436
Court Services Officer III	44	4.00	361,722	371,837	371,837
District Court Administrator III	63	1.00	124,831	136,597	136,597
Managing Court Reporter	40	2.00	163,737	168,700	168,700
Official Court Reporter	36	21.00	1,117,203	1,384,027	1,469,280
Secretary II	21	7.00	341,049	358,692	359,544
Transcriptionist	23	3.00	151,101	137,823	137,823
Trial Court Clerk II	18	58.00	2,163,495	2,529,691	2,538,138
Trial Court Clerk III	21	12.00	601,081	611,823	593,439
Trial Court Clerk IV	27	11.00	508,425	641,193	642,739
Trial Court Clerk V	34	2.00	118,675	127,464	127,464
<b>TOTAL</b>		214.50	11,596,694	12,709,361	12,805,356

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 19					
Account Clerk II	18	1.00	44,745	48,894	48,894
Administrative Assistant	23	2.00	103,763	109,193	109,193
Clerk of District Court III	41	1.00	78,391	84,575	84,575
Court Services Officer I	36	4.00	279,720	271,734	271,734
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
Official Court Reporter	36	1.00	63,650	66,088	66,088
Transcriptionist	23	1.00	47,002	50,271	50,271
Trial Court Clerk II	18	5.00	203,671	218,572	224,008
Trial Court Clerk III	21	1.00	51,759	53,053	53,053
<b>TOTAL</b>		17.00	963,393	995,339	1,000,775

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 20					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	56,314	55,727	55,727
Clerk of District Court I	31	4.00	241,669	251,114	252,661
Clerk of District Court II	35	1.00	67,756	69,451	73,621
Court Services Officer I	36	6.00	357,875	398,033	401,953
Court Services Officer II	40	1.00	82,293	84,350	84,350
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
District Court Administrator II	59	1.00	100,243	107,804	107,804
Official Court Reporter	36	1.00	74,630	76,496	76,496
Secretary I	18	0.50	20,192	19,315	19,315
Secretary II	21	3.00	144,483	145,991	145,991
Trial Court Clerk II	18	16.00	578,729	687,030	709,467
Trial Court Clerk III	21	1.00	51,759	53,053	53,053
<b>TOTAL</b>		36.50	1,866,635	2,041,323	2,073,397

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 21					
Administrative Assistant	23	3.00	145,885	150,339	150,339
Clerk of District Court I	31	1.00	66,088	67,739	67,739
Clerk of District Court II	35	1.00	62,880	64,451	65,797
Court Services Officer I	36	5.00	357,764	370,006	373,926
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
District Court Administrator I	55	1.00	93,230	97,671	97,671
Official Court Reporter	36	2.00	140,337	147,628	147,628
Secretary II	21	1.00	51,759	53,052	53,052
Trial Court Clerk II	18	10.50	402,471	463,193	463,590
Trial Court Clerk III	21	2.00	99,911	102,409	103,262
<b>TOTAL</b>		27.50	1,511,017	1,609,447	1,615,963

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 22					
Administrative Assistant	23	2.00	96,363	102,547	102,547
Clerk of District Court I	31	3.00	167,608	184,134	184,134
Clerk of District Court III	41	1.00	84,352	86,461	86,461
Court Services Officer I	36	6.00	406,916	421,072	423,400
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	78,335	80,294	83,339
Official Court Reporter	36	2.00	135,196	137,128	142,578
Trial Court Clerk II	18	8.50	346,362	360,377	400,819
<b>TOTAL</b>		23.50	1,315,132	1,372,013	1,423,278

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 23					
Administrative Assistant	23	2.00	103,550	107,534	107,534
Clerk of District Court I	31	3.00	176,812	188,684	188,684
Clerk of District Court II	35	1.00	63,368	69,451	69,451
Court Services Officer I	36	3.00	212,155	219,080	219,080
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	84,278	86,384	88,155
District Court Administrator I	55	1.00	108,097	121,660	121,660
Official Court Reporter	36	1.00	74,630	76,496	76,496
Trial Court Clerk II	18	8.00	331,563	349,480	354,501
<b>TOTAL</b>		20.00	1,154,453	1,218,769	1,225,561



# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 24					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	54,369	55,727	55,727
Clerk of District Court I	31	5.00	287,797	305,373	305,373
Clerk of District Court III	41	1.00	72,968	80,350	80,350
Court Services Officer I	36	3.00	208,984	219,080	219,080
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
Secretary I	18	1.50	65,519	67,158	70,530
Transcriptionist	23	1.00	50,542	51,807	54,823
Trial Court Clerk II	18	6.00	243,128	251,861	256,379
Trial Court Clerk III	21	1.00	51,759	53,053	53,053
<b>TOTAL</b>		20.50	1,125,758	1,177,368	1,188,274

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 25					
Administrative Assistant	23	4.00	184,562	197,104	197,104
Clerk of District Court I	31	5.00	300,916	319,674	319,674
Clerk of District Court II	35	1.00	79,722	74,614	74,614
Court Services Officer I	36	6.00	372,199	411,825	411,825
Court Services Officer II	40	1.00	67,596	75,164	75,164
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
District Court Administrator II	59	1.00	99,678	105,173	105,173
Official Court Reporter	36	1.00	74,630	76,496	76,496
Secretary II	21	1.50	53,344	72,270	98,034
Transcriptionist	23	0.50	23,501	24,089	25,624
Trial Court Clerk II	18	10.00	454,173	439,768	449,203
Trial Court Clerk III	21	2.00	87,592	106,105	106,105
<b>TOTAL</b>		34.00	1,888,605	1,995,241	2,031,975

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 26					
Administrative Assistant	23	2.00	86,790	98,209	98,209
Chief Clerk Administrator	44	1.00	82,380	86,385	86,385
Clerk of District Court I	31	4.00	243,299	255,742	255,742
Clerk of District Court II	35	1.00	67,834	74,614	74,614
Court Services Officer I	36	4.00	227,451	264,102	264,102
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
Secretary I	18	1.00	38,742	42,588	42,588
Transcriptionist	23	2.00	104,911	107,534	107,534
Trial Court Clerk II	18	11.50	485,061	510,164	513,566
Trial Court Clerk III	21	1.00	48,152	49,356	49,356
<b>TOTAL</b>		28.50	1,475,312	1,581,653	1,585,055

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 27					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	54,369	55,727	55,727
Chief Clerk Administrator	44	1.00	80,881	86,385	86,385
Court Services Officer I	36	11.00	765,539	799,711	804,250
Court Services Officer II	40	2.00	164,586	151,274	157,147
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
Official Court Reporter	36	2.00	148,947	152,992	152,992
Secretary I	18	1.00	48,094	49,296	49,296
Secretary II	21	3.00	96,638	138,358	141,343
Transcriptionist	23	1.00	42,988	48,177	48,177
Trial Court Clerk II	18	10.00	402,192	439,318	443,476
Trial Court Clerk III	21	2.00	88,422	98,713	102,125
Trial Court Clerk IV	27	1.00	55,680	57,071	57,071
<b>TOTAL</b>		36.00	2,039,028	2,169,981	2,190,948

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 28					
Administrative Assistant	23	7.00	355,087	369,534	369,674
Clerk of District Court I	31	1.00	61,406	62,941	63,125
Clerk of District Court II	35	1.00	72,796	74,614	74,614
Court Services Officer I	36	8.00	539,399	575,868	575,868
Court Services Officer II	40	2.00	164,586	168,701	168,701
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
District Court Administrator II	59	1.00	108,227	115,916	115,916
Managing Court Reporter	40	1.00	77,872	84,350	84,350
Official Court Reporter	36	2.00	149,261	152,992	152,992
Secretary I	18	2.00	92,839	95,160	95,160
Transcriptionist	23	2.00	65,983	96,354	99,425
Trial Court Clerk II	18	13.00	578,781	600,703	603,097
Trial Court Clerk III	21	2.00	103,517	106,105	106,105
Trial Court Clerk IV	27	1.00	59,865	61,360	61,360
<b>TOTAL</b>		44.00	2,520,311	2,657,557	2,663,346

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
<b>JUDICIAL DISTRICT 29</b>					
Account Clerk II	18	0.50	24,047	24,648	24,648
Administrative Assistant	23	17.00	869,571	907,220	912,257
Administrative Support Specialist	26	1.00	58,404	59,865	59,865
Clerk of District Court IV	50	1.00	90,734	99,217	99,217
Court Services Administrative Officer	50	1.00	104,969	107,594	107,594
Court Services Officer I	36	29.00	1,908,373	2,009,751	2,019,107
Court Services Officer II	40	5.00	374,983	398,281	398,510
Court Services Officer III	44	4.00	360,696	371,837	371,837
District Court Administrator III	63	1.00	134,366	137,725	142,976
Managing Court Reporter	40	1.00	82,293	84,350	84,350
Official Court Reporter	36	7.00	337,932	480,981	491,383
Secretary I	18	4.00	179,284	173,928	175,440
Secretary II	21	1.00	43,784	53,052	53,052
Transcriptionist	23	3.00	123,164	140,736	144,698
Trial Court Clerk II	18	20.00	841,003	1,049,481	892,708
Trial Court Clerk III	21	7.00	331,755	399,300	356,728
Trial Court Clerk IV	27	6.00	334,788	363,871	367,500
Trial Court Clerk V	34	1.00	64,527	57,090	57,090
<b>TOTAL</b>		109.50	6,264,673	6,918,927	6,758,960

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 30					
Administrative Assistant	23	3.00	107,923	147,555	150,626
Clerk of District Court I	31	4.00	250,669	256,934	259,658
Clerk of District Court II	35	1.00	62,880	74,614	74,614
Court Services Officer I	36	7.00	481,624	511,426	512,202
Court Services Officer II	40	1.00	82,293	84,350	84,350
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	83,439	85,213	85,213
District Court Administrator II	59	1.00	108,227	124,773	124,773
Official Court Reporter	36	1.00	60,278	60,632	66,082
Secretary I	18	1.00	48,094	49,296	49,296
Trial Court Clerk II	18	14.00	593,895	620,960	625,874
<b>TOTAL</b>		34.00	1,879,322	2,015,753	2,032,688

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 31					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	54,369	55,727	55,727
Chief Clerk Administrator	44	1.00	90,692	92,959	92,959
Clerk of District Court I	31	2.00	121,303	126,254	126,254
Clerk of District Court II	35	1.00	72,796	74,614	74,614
Court Services Officer I	36	8.00	557,253	584,886	590,250
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	85,856	92,959	92,959
Official Court Reporter	36	3.00	200,820	203,219	204,577
Secretary I	18	2.00	83,096	85,176	88,578
Secretary II	21	3.00	154,860	159,157	159,157
Transcriptionist	23	1.00		44,221	48,173
Trial Court Clerk II	18	10.00	437,450	458,421	458,422
<b>TOTAL</b>		33.00	1,858,495	1,977,593	1,991,670



# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
POSITION SUMMARY					
Account Clerk II	18	1.50	68,792	73,542	73,542
Accounting Technician	21	4.00	186,426	201,288	201,992
Administrative Assistant	23	173.50	8,741,352	9,076,496	9,125,220
Administrative Program Manager	40	2.00	153,315	159,514	159,514
Administrative Support Specialist	26	3.00	156,323	166,731	166,731
Chief Clerk Administrator	44	6.00	526,029	544,606	544,606
Clerk of District Court I	31	62.00	3,760,233	3,801,139	3,830,901
Clerk of District Court II	35	24.00	1,562,700	1,686,779	1,695,179
Clerk of District Court III	41	6.00	476,845	498,547	498,547
Clerk of District Court IV	50	5.00	469,504	503,879	507,018
Court Management Analyst	50	1.00	104,969	107,594	107,594
Court Program Analyst	44	2.00	166,842	169,571	169,571
Court Services Administrative Officer	50	4.00	395,653	430,376	430,376
Court Services Officer I	36	323.50	21,333,128	22,667,927	22,823,282
Court Services Officer II	40	47.00	3,630,024	3,811,104	3,824,228
Court Services Officer III	44	43.00	3,792,086	3,939,267	3,944,083
District Court Administrator I	55	6.00	608,850	665,337	665,337
District Court Administrator II	59	8.00	873,064	944,560	952,843
District Court Administrator III	63	4.00	544,925	549,772	555,023
Managing Court Reporter	40	7.00	567,616	590,450	590,450
Official Court Reporter	36	82.00	4,845,975	5,471,633	5,714,193

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
POSITION SUMMARY (Continued)					
Programmer I	37	0.00	76,492	0	0
Programmer II	45	0.00	92,961	0	0
Project Manager	53	1.00	71,384	115,789	115,789
Records Clerk III	18	4.00	163,016	173,902	174,476
Secretary I	18	30.00	1,303,109	1,350,600	1,365,893
Secretary II	21	36.50	1,676,879	1,802,753	1,850,739
Transcriptionist	23	31.00	1,226,728	1,650,539	1,541,336
Trial Court Clerk II	18	420.50	16,408,890	18,524,602	18,582,561
Trial Court Clerk III	21	63.00	2,920,896	3,247,437	3,188,811
Trial Court Clerk IV	27	37.00	1,840,006	2,128,568	2,148,436
Trial Court Clerk V	34	4.00	249,859	257,352	257,352
Trial Court Coordinator	36	3.00	211,762	224,124	224,124
		1,444.50	79,206,633	85,535,778	86,029,747
SUB-TOTAL			79,206,633	85,535,778	86,029,747

# SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

## ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2027

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT - 4117

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2025 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2027 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
POSITION SUMMARY					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	54,369	55,727	55,727
Administrative Hearing Officer	55	5.00	284,570	527,987	534,467
District Court Administrator II	59	1.00	108,227	115,916	115,916
Secretary II	21	3.00	134,902	148,411	148,411
Trial Court Coordinator	36	1.00	55,339	61,406	61,406
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>		11.00	637,407	909,447	915,927
<b>TOTAL</b>		1,455.50	79,844,040	86,445,225	86,945,674