

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 needed to perform functions essential to community safety and to timely and efficiently resolve disputes. The people of Kansas, through Article 3, Section 1 of our Constitution, granted the Supreme Court general administrative authority for 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 2026.

On behalf of the entire Judicial Branch, I express deep gratitude for the Legislature's work to strengthen the court system during the last several sessions. You and your colleagues addressed uncompetitive judge pay and invested in the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) by adding positions that will strengthen its services to district courts across Kansas. We are profoundly grateful for your work.

I sincerely express my deepest gratitude to the Legislature for the help provided at the end of 2023 and in the 2024 legislative session due to the cyberattack on the Judicial Branch. The Branch was faced with an unprecedented challenge that tested our workforce and required significant operational changes as staff navigated bringing our systems back online in the safest way possible. This caused unexpected expenses, and the Legislature answered our necessary request for additional funding. We are also incredibly thankful for that support.

Our last several budget requests focused on salaries and positions. We focused on these aspects to ensure the core of the Judicial Branch, our workforce, was supported sufficiently. This year's budget request focuses on five main goals:

1. Improving operations to ensure that Kansas courts are ensuring access to justice and providing the best services possible. Toward that goal, we ask for funds for a digital evidence display and storage solution, to expand our speech to text software pilot, to expand grant funding used to support innovative programs initiated by local courts, to add municipal court training opportunities, and to translate more court forms.
2. Dedicating funding to support specialty courts.
3. Providing for a five percent cost of living adjustment for judicial branch employees.
4. Bolstering our information technology and cybersecurity frameworks of the judicial branch.
5. Continuing support for building a Kansas Judicial Learning Center to be housed in the Kansas Judicial Center.

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Our first request includes funding for several different programs as the courts find innovative ways to better respond to the needs of our fellow Kansans who expect and deserve a modern judicial system. These funding requests include:

- Funding to implement a digital evidence solution to allow litigants to upload digital evidentiary files to courts, and for the courts to securely save those files as a record in the case. A Digital Evidence Advisory Group of judges, court employees, and attorneys recommended to the Supreme Court that it request funding for this much needed solution.
- Additional funding to expand the speech to text software pilot project by adding additional licenses to assist district courts in establishing a written record in lieu of an official court reporter. This innovation is necessary because of the increasing shortage of official court reporters across the state.
- Increasing the Access to Justice grant and establishing an Innovative Approaches grant. We request an increase in the Access to Justice grant raising the total grant fund from \$900,000 to \$1.1 million due to an increased demand for this grant funding. This grant specifically targets innovation in civil law procedures. We also ask the Legislature to help establish the Innovative Approaches grant with funding of \$200,000. This would create a competitive grant for innovative resolution of criminal issues through programs like expungement efforts.
- Funding to provide additional training for municipal court judges and staff. A 2023 Municipal Court Study performed by the National Center for State Courts emphasized the urgent need for more municipal judge training.
- Assistance in establishing annual funding for translating court forms into languages other than English to ensure the branch complies with federal law mandates about language access.

Our second request asks the Legislature for dedicated funding for specialty courts. K.S.A. 20-173c establishes the Specialty Court Resources Fund to support the operations of specialty courts, including administrative costs. This fund was set up in tandem with the Supreme Court Specialty Court Funding Advisory Committee, which is tasked with reviewing current funding structures and making recommendations. The committee members include legislators. The committee recommends the state dedicate funding to be spent on specialty court operations when grant funding is not available, including for salaries and wages for non-FTE positions, travel for staff, and attendance at committee meetings. Specialty courts have grown to be a crucial forum for many district courts to reduce recidivism in their communities. Dedicated funding will help ensure these programs can continue.

With the assistance of the Legislature, we were able to raise our non-judge employees' salaries to market rate in 2021 and to ease inflationary pressures in subsequent years with cost-of-living increases. Our third budget request seeks a five percent cost of living increase for all non-judge employees. The Judicial Branch understands the need for an updated salary study and is working with an external vendor to conduct a branch-wide salary study. The last study was completed in 2017. While this study is being conducted, the branch feels it necessary to ask for this cost-of-living increase to ensure that employee salaries do not fall below market wages. These salary increases have been crucial for recruitment and retention of our workforce.

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Our fourth request will help augment our efforts to strengthen our cybersecurity defenses. While the October 2023 cybersecurity incident caused disruptions in the judicial branch, it was also an opportunity to perform an intensive, system-wide review of our internal systems by utilizing outside experts who helped restore our system. Using recommendations from those experts and our OJA information technology systems team, our budget

request asks for hardware and software that will enhance security and provide efficiencies throughout the system. Additionally, the judicial branch continues to broaden its services to court users through different technology interfaces and our budget reflects needed upgrades including an e-filing interface for self-represented litigants, updating the attorney admissions systems, and an upgraded public portal for access to court documents.

Lastly, I ask you for your continued support for the Kansas Judicial Learning Center. Last year, we received funding to begin the planning and architectural proposals to convert a portion 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 funding for the renovations and planning and construction of exhibits. I am incredibly excited for this addition and am certain it will add great value to all Kansans and other visitors who come to Topeka and the Capitol complex.

As I close, I am proud to report to you that the Kansas judicial branch is growing stronger. The Branch was tested this past year, and I am confident that because of the investments made in our personnel and systems we were able to respond in a way that put the safety of Kansans first and ensured the court system continued to function during that time. 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 collaborating with you as we continue our partnership to strengthen the Kansas Judicial Branch.

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, as required by K.S.A. 75-3721. The Court urges the Legislature to adopt the submitted budget.

Respectfully submitted,



Marla Luckert
Chief Justice

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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 according to K.S.A. 75-3721.

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 2025 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.

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Revenue collected by district and appellate courts for the benefit of state government totaled more than \$47.4 million in FY 2024. 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)	\$17,507,042
Judicial Branch surcharge (K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 28-177)	\$7,260,572
Fines, penalties, and forfeitures (K.S.A. 20-2801; 20-350)	\$14,949,831
Law Enforcement Training Center Fund (K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 20-362)	\$1,790,853
Marriage License fees (K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 23-2510)	\$1,024,298
Correctional Supervision Fund (K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 21-6607)	\$899,072
Drivers' License Reinstatement fees (K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 8-2110)	\$736,396
KBI-DNA Database Fee Fund (K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 75-724)	\$848,884
Community Corrections Supervision Fee Fund (K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 8-1567)	\$449,584
Indigent Defense Services Application fee (K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 22-4529)	\$697,368
Indigent Defense Services Bond Forfeiture fees (K.S.A. 20-350)	\$748,765
State General Fund (K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 28-170; K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 32-1049a)	\$295,391
Other	<u>\$276,669</u>
Total	\$ 47,484,725

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.

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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, and FY 2025.

This historic change brought immediate and profound results. Employee morale improved greatly, and the funding strengthened the court system's ability to attract and retain well-qualified employees.

Acknowledging this steady support for employee salaries, we cannot lose ground after legislative leaders, the governor, and staff worked hard to strengthen our workforce. Inflation continues to reduce the market competitiveness of the employee salaries we can offer. Our budget includes a request to increase employee salaries by five percent, an amount designed to offset inflationary pressures eroding our market rate salaries. I respectfully ask the governor and legislature to increase judicial branch employee salaries by this amount so that we may maintain market rate pay. To ensure we are maintaining market rate pay, the Office of Judicial Administration plans to contract with a vendor to conduct a salary study. The last salary study was performed in 2017 and renewing this study will provide a current analysis that considers today's market forces and salaries and accounts for economic trends to ensure our employee salaries are maintained at a competitive rate. While we await the results of that study, our budget requests a five percent cost of living increase for non-judge employees to ensure the impactful gains in the past fiscal years are not eroded.

Judicial Salaries

For many years, salaries for Kansas judges were below market. But 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

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federal court, perform the same job duties as do 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 2026 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 2026 budget includes two assumptions: (1) that the federal four percent COLA for January 2025 will be adopted, and (2) there will be a federal 2.9 percent COLA beginning January 1, 2026. These assumptions are subject to change based on the federal appropriations process. Note: the FY 2025 salary adjustment will take effect January 1, 2025.

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Below are current judge salaries and proposed salaries in the budget for FY 2026:

	Current Salary	January 1, 2025 Salary*	January 1, 2026 Salary*
Supreme Court			
Chief Justice	\$172,821	\$237,469	\$244,125
Justice	\$168,598	\$227,970	\$234,360
Court of Appeals			
Chief Judge	\$167,164	\$218,471	\$224,595
Judge	\$163,156	\$208,973	\$214,830
District Court			
Chief Judge	\$150,422	\$199,474	\$205,065
District Judge	\$148,912	\$189,975	\$195,300
District Magistrate Judge	\$76,601	\$104,486	\$107,415

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

Additional Employee Positions

After more than a decade of almost no growth in employee and judicial positions, in FY 2022 and FY 2023 the Kansas judicial branch asked the legislature to address some of our most critical shortages. The legislature responded by creating new court service officer and judicial positions, as well as a few administrative support personnel. We thank the legislature for recognizing the need for these positions. The third area where our courts have long been understaffed and, thus struggle to provide the online and in-person services your constituents expect, is in the judicial branch's administrative office staffing. This includes our employees who work with cyber-security, technology, financial oversight, payment processing, litigant and juror services, access to justice, education of employees and judges, human resource support, and the myriads of other front facing and behind the scenes services that are essential to efficient operation of courthouses across the state. The legislature answered our request for additional positions for the Office of Judicial Administration for FY 2024 and we are incredibly thankful for these additional positions to support cybersecurity, IT, and district court relations.

eCourt

The judicial branch continues to develop and implement its statewide electronic court system (eCourt) with implementation accomplished as of the date of this budget submission in 30 of the 31 judicial districts. Implementation of the centralized case management system in the district courts began in August 2019 and is scheduled to be completed statewide in November 2024 when Johnson County District Court comes online. The Kansas appellate system came online in July.

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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 available in one county are electronically processing case documents in other 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 104 counties across the state (and soon all 105). The eCourt initiative also includes 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 is occurring simultaneously with the rollout of the Odyssey centralized case management system.

Kansas Judicial Learning Center

In FY 2025, the legislature approved \$50,000 to begin the planning phase for a Kansas Judicial Learning Center. Before this request, 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 2026 budget includes funding to begin the architectural planning and renovations for the northwest corner of the judicial center and to begin to create exhibits. Future budget planning includes funding to renovate, repair, or replace exhibits as needed so the exhibits remain fresh and engaging. The initial plans also include a mock courtroom where students can play the role of judge, prosecutor, or defense attorney.

A Kansas Judicial Learning Center within the walls of the judicial center will create another focal point for the Capitol complex and encourage students from across Kansas to come to Topeka to learn more about the three branches of government, and the

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importance of a civic-minded community.

Strategic Goals

The judicial branch continues to experience enormous change as remote and electronic access to the judiciary expands and as access to justice initiatives take root. Through federal grant funds, the judicial branch was able to take advantage of advances in remote technology, applications, and software development to provide remote access to court hearings, electronic case filings, marriage license applications, and protection order filings.

These advances were made under the direction of the four overarching strategic goals embraced by the Kansas Judicial Branch:

- maximizing access to and promoting justice;
- encouraging innovation and harnessing technology;
- attracting and retaining an excellent workforce; and
- stewarding public resources.

These strategic goals will continue to guide the Kansas Judicial Branch in further modernizing branch operations and continuing to provide access to justice for Kansans.

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.

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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.

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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.

SUMMARY

DA 402

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Summary by Program Program Description	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Adjusted Budget Request	FY 2026 Base Budget Request	FY 2026 Agency Change Packages	FY 2026 Adjusted Budget Request	null
01031 Administrative Costs	11,819,586	12,465,005	12,927,409	3,801,341	16,728,750	0
04011 Supreme Court	5,449,763	5,590,809	5,739,957	191,380	5,931,337	0
04012 Court of Appeals	7,623,874	7,566,060	7,785,985	208,453	7,994,438	0
04013 Clerk of Appellate Courts	929,353	1,082,562	1,099,891	41,890	1,141,781	0
04014 Appellate Reporter	1,097,477	1,097,518	1,115,848	43,909	1,159,757	0
04015 Law Library	711,106	883,665	913,693	3,669,445	4,583,138	0
04016 eCourt	5,036,490	8,291,395	9,244,185	895,266	10,139,451	0
04017 Municipal Court Training	197,506	238,280	247,896	84,181	332,077	0
04018 Alternative Dispute Resolution	4,159	192	3,512	0	3,512	0
04021 Education Services	479,729	628,754	696,584	115,000	811,584	0
04095 Information Security	0	3,827,652	2,583,396	379,129	2,962,525	0
04098 Data Processing	8,733,236	12,425,847	10,761,858	2,365,771	13,127,629	0
04111 Judges of District Courts	45,526,608	53,589,111	63,614,145	0	63,614,145	0
04112 Nonjudicial Personnel	106,714,583	111,265,865	114,138,129	5,023,766	119,161,895	0
04114 CASA & CRB Programs	391,844	418,048	396,713	0	396,713	0
04115 Court Improvements (Fed Grants)	407,358	394,051	417,526	13,916	431,442	0
04116 Correctional Supervision	678,735	732,660	748,898	13,682	762,580	0
04117 Child Support Enforcement	1,094,719	994,093	974,121	53,186	1,027,307	0
06111 Commission on Judicial Quals	36,809	16,075	33,643	0	33,643	0
06112 Judicial Nominating Commission	13,368	13,274	20,982	0	20,982	0
06113 Board of Law Examiners	515,769	609,722	724,663	10,930	735,593	0
06114 Board of Examiners-Court Reporters	10,113	8,264	8,964	0	8,964	0
A0142 Audio/Visual Upgrades	586,251	440,139	24,000	0	24,000	0
A0143 Technology Upgrades	605,833	0	0	0	0	0
A0144 IT	377,395	0	0	0	0	0

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Summary by Program Program Description	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Adjusted Budget Request	FY 2026 Base Budget Request	FY 2026 Agency Change Packages	FY 2026 Adjusted Budget Request	null
infrastructure Modernization						
Total by Program:	199,041,664	222,579,041	234,221,998	16,911,245	251,133,243	0

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Agency: Judiciary
 Agcy No: 00677
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Division of the Budget
 KANSAS

Summary by Funding Source	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Adjusted Budget Request	FY 2026 Base Budget Request	FY 2026 Agency Change Packages	FY 2026 Adjusted Budget Request	null
Fund Description						
1000 State General Fund	186,480,146	211,850,874	225,770,041	13,811,245	239,581,286	0
2106 Library Report Ff	37,510	11,000	11,000	0	11,000	0
2126 Dispute Resolution Fd	4,159	192	3,512	33,333	36,845	0
2158 Docket Fee Fund	4,723,415	154,793	1,500,000	0	1,500,000	0
2229 Jdcl Br Nonjdcl Stry Intv Fd	237,103	240,000	240,000	0	240,000	0
2324 Judicial Branch Education Fd	197,506	238,280	247,896	0	247,896	0
2389 Judicial Br Nonjdcl Stry Adj F	4,575	0	0	0	0	0
2398 Dist Magistrt Judge Supp Comp	215,710	218,324	218,324	0	218,324	0
2465 Correctional Supervision Fund	678,735	732,660	748,898	33,333	782,231	0
2543 Duplicate Law Book Fd	972	1,000	1,000	0	1,000	0
2681 93.563-Child Sprt Enfrmnt	1,094,719	994,093	974,121	0	974,121	0
2714 Sji Grant Fund	242,500	251,000	0	0	0	0
2724 Bar Admission Ff	515,769	609,722	724,663	0	724,663	0
2725 Court Reporters Ff	10,113	8,264	8,964	33,334	42,298	0
2791 Electronic Filing And Management Fund	116,056	1,500,000	1,500,000	0	1,500,000	0
2879 Specialty Court Resources Fund	0	0	0	3,000,000	3,000,000	0
3057 16.738-Ed Byrne Mem Jsct Asst	88,246	180,104	120,500	0	120,500	0
3189 Natl Crim Hst Imprv Prg	1,341,473	3,299,529	533,000	0	533,000	0
3214 16.588-Violnc Agnst Women-Arra	78,996	141,649	108,500	0	108,500	0
3654 Discretionary Grant Program Fund	225,670	264,316	265,212	0	265,212	0
3756 Amer Rescue Plan State Relief	1,569,479	440,139	24,000	0	24,000	0
3922 Bja Vet Treat Crt Disc Grt Fd	379,610	516,003	270,128	0	270,128	0
3942 93.586-St Court Impv Prg	407,358	509,051	555,526	0	555,526	0
7317 Perm Fams-Fam/Child Invest Fd	391,844	418,048	396,713	0	396,713	0
Total by Funding	199,041,664	222,579,041	234,221,998	16,911,245	251,133,243	0

EXPLANATION OF RECEIPTS ESTIMATES

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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 2025 and FY 2026 are shown below, along with the actual receipts for FY 2024.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Clerks' Fees	\$17,468,403	\$17,500,000	\$17,500,000

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Library Report Fee Fund – 2106

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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 2023, as well as projected revenues for FY 2024 and FY 2025, 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 2024	Volumes	Subscribers	Estimated FY 2025	Volumes	Subscribers	Estimated FY 2026
<i>Kansas Reports</i>	\$17,940	2	142	\$16,505	2	132	\$15,185
<i>Court of Appeals Reports</i>	\$11,160	2	142	\$10,265	2	132	\$9,445
Advance Sheet	\$1,095			\$1,005			\$925
Rules	\$1,400			\$1,290			\$1,185
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$31,595</u>			<u>\$29,065</u>			<u>\$26,740</u>

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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 2024 and estimated amounts for FY 2025 and FY 2026 are shown below.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Registrations	\$11,575	\$11,000	\$11,000

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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 2024 and estimated amounts for FY 2025 and FY 2026 are shown below.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$80,279	\$75,880	\$0

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Judicial Branch Nonjudicial Salary Initiative Fund – 2229

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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 2025 and FY 2026 as well as actual amounts for FY 2024 are shown below.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Collection Fees	\$151,368	\$155,000	\$160,000
Crossover Youth Practice Model Coordinator	\$87,056	\$88,000	\$90,000
Total	<u>\$238,424</u>	<u>\$243,000</u>	<u>\$250,000</u>

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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 2025 and FY 2026 are shown below along with the actual receipts for FY 2024.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Municipal Violation Fees	\$143,571	\$160,000	\$160,000

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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 2025 and FY 2026 are shown below along with the actual receipts for FY 2024.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Interest Income	\$24,364	\$25,000	\$25,000

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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 10th Judicial District (Johnson County), the 5th Judicial District (Lyon and Chase Counties), the 21st Judicial District (Riley County), and the 3rd Judicial District (Shawnee County) provide additional compensation to district magistrate judges.

Estimated amounts for FY 2025 and FY 2026 are shown below along with the actual receipts for FY 2024.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Remittance From Counties	\$205,800	\$210,000	\$210,000

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Correctional Supervision Fund – 2465

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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 2025 and FY 2026 along with the actual receipts for FY 2024.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Probation Fees Collected	\$899,073	\$895,000	\$895,000
Times	58.33%	58.33%	58.33%
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$524,429</u>	<u>\$522,054</u>	<u>\$522,054</u>

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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 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Receipts	\$831	\$1,000	\$1,000

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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 2024 timestudy to calculate the expenses reimbursable for FY 2025.

Estimated amounts for FY 2025 and FY 2026 are shown below along with the actual receipts for FY 2024.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Reimbursement from DCF	\$904,652	\$975,000	\$975,000

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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 four grants from the State Justice Institute. One grant funds OJA engagement in the Georgetown Judicial Innovative Fellowship (JIF) Program in a study of self-represented litigant (SRL) electronic filing needs in Kansas and to design an SRL e-filing system that will meet the those needs. The second grant allows OJA to engage the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to assist in it's 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. The third and fourth grants also allow OJA to engage NCSC to conduction organizational assessments of both OJA and 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 mee the demands of the current and projected workloads.

Estimated amounts for FY 2025 and FY 2026 are shown below along with the actual receipts for FY 2024.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Receipts	\$120,971	\$386,279	\$0

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Bar Admission Fee Fund – 2724

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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 2024, as well as estimates for FY 2025 and FY 2026 are itemized below.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>		<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>		<u>Estimated FY 2026</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	195	\$136,500	215	\$150,500	215	\$150,500
Written Exams (with Late Fee) @ \$900	36	\$32,400	40	\$36,000	40	\$36,000
Temporary Permits @ \$100	51	\$5,100	56	\$5,600	56	\$5,600
Temporary Permit (with Late Fee) @ \$150						
Legal Interns @ \$50	124	\$6,200	136	\$6,800	136	\$6,800
Rule 717, 719 and 721 @ \$1,250	193	\$241,250	212	\$265,000	212	\$265,000
Subtotal Receipts		\$421,450		\$463,900		\$463,900
Less 10% Adjustment		(\$42,145)		(\$46,390)		(\$46,390)
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$375,795		\$417,510		\$417,510

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Court Reporter Fund – 2725

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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 2024 and the estimated receipts for FY 2025 and FY 2026 are shown below.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>		<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>		<u>Estimated FY 2026</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	30	\$3,750	20	\$2,500	20	\$2,500
Status Change @ \$25						
Annual Renewal Fee @ \$50	185	\$9,250	180	\$9,000	180	\$9,000
Annual Renewal Fee @ \$25 (Inactive)	15	\$375	13	\$325	13	\$325
Late Fee @ \$50	2	\$100	2	\$100	2	\$100
Late Fee @ \$25	9	\$225	6	\$150	6	\$150
Adjustment		(\$125)				
Subtotal Receipts		\$13,575		\$12,075		\$12,075
Less 10%		(\$1,357)		(\$1,208)		(\$1,208)
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$12,218		\$10,867		\$10,867

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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 2025 and FY 2026, and actual deposits for FY 2024 are shown below:

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Clerks’ Fees	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Recovery of Prior FY Expenses	<u>\$8,769</u>		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$1,508,769		

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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 2025 and FY 2026 are shown below along with the actual receipts for FY 2024.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Receipts	\$88,683	\$180,976	\$120,500

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Federal Grants Fund - 3082

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The Federal Grants Fund (3082) 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 Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant (ICJR) to provide training on items directly related to improvement of domestic and sexual violence law.

Estimated amounts for FY 2025 and FY 2026 are shown below, along with the actual receipts for FY 2024.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Receipts	\$0	\$0	\$0

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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 2025 and FY 2026 are shown below, along with the actual receipts for FY 2024.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Receipts	\$1,218,363	\$3,423,638	\$533,000

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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 2025 and FY 2026 are shown below, along with the actual receipts for FY 2024.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Receipts	\$39,512	\$181,133	\$108,500

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Byrne Discretionary Grant Program Fund - 3654

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The 18th 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 18th 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 18th 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 2025 and FY 2026 are shown below, along with the actual receipts for FY 2024.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Receipts	\$201,606	\$288,799	\$265,212

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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 2025 and FY 2026 are shown below, along with the actual receipts for FY 2024.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Receipts	\$0	\$0	\$0

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Justice Reinvestment Initiative - 3804

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The Justice Reinvestment Initiative Fund (3804) 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.

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation provides OJA with an updated list of offense codes every year. Initially there was no way to automatically import all the offense codes; it was a manual process. Due to the number of updates needed, the process was extremely time consuming. The manual process also created the potential for errors when reporting criminal histories if incorrect offenses were added to a case at filing. The Justice Reinvestment Initiative Grant allows OJA to fund development in its centralized case management system so that all of the codes could be imported at once using a spreadsheet file.

Estimated amounts for FY 2025 and FY 2026 are shown below, along with the actual receipts for FY 2024.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Receipts	\$0	\$0	\$0

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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 2022 BJA FY 2022 Veterans Treatment Court Discretionary Grant Program to fund the establishment of new Veteran Treatment Courts (VTCs), enhance programming already occurring in existing VTCs, hire a statewide Specialty Court Coordinator, and expand the technical assistance provided by the Kansas Office of Judicial Administration.

Estimated amounts for FY 2025 and FY 2026 are shown below, along with the actual receipts for FY 2024.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Receipts	\$381,359	\$520,000	\$342,433

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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 2025 and FY 2026 are shown below, along with the actual receipts for FY 2024.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Receipts	\$399,543	\$518,798	\$555,526

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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 2025 and FY 2026 are shown below, along with the actual receipts for FY 2024.

	<u>Actual FY 2024</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2025</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2026</u>
Birth Certificate Copies	\$370,092	\$380,000	\$385,000

ENHANCEMENT REQUESTS

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FY 2026 Requested Enhancements:

Learning Center. We request \$3.7 million in Capital Improvement funding to create a Judicial Branch Learning Center in the Supreme Court Law Library. 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. We plan to confer with them to gather ideas and what we can anticipate for development costs. This project will be implemented in two phases with plans to update exhibits in the future.

IT Development Projects. We request \$1.7 million for several information technology development projects. Funding would be used to develop a single replacement database for tracking credentialing information related to dispute resolution providers, court services officers, and official court reporters. A portion of this project would be funded from the associated special revenue funds. Also requested is enhancement funding to implement 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. We request enhancement funding to upgrade and move the antiquated employee performance management system to a subscription service to allow us to use review templates, track review progress, report performance data, and schedule workflows. OJA must maintain Payment Card Industry (PCI) compliance to handle and process credit card payments. OJA currently meets PCI Data Security Standard v3.2.1 and is seeking to advance to v4.0.1. We request enhancement funding to purchase software and scanning of vendors to meet the requirements of the new standard.

Funding would also be used to develop a replacement for the current judicial branch intranet to be hosted in the cloud. We also request funding for development fees and annual hosting to build and maintain a robust search of appellate opinions, Supreme Court rules, and Supreme Court orders for the new judicial branch website. Enhancement funding is requested to replace our current public access web portal, which provides access to court documents for the public and our justice partners. The existing portal is close to reaching its end of life, so we are working to ensure a seamless transition and continued service for public access.

Software and Training. We request a funding enhancement of \$841,000 for several software purchase and training items. Included in this category are enhancement expenditures for additional training programs including:

- Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) to help district courts further develop functional plans and to provide regional trainings for municipal court judges and staff.

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Software enhancement requests include:

- A software-based learning management platform to deliver educational courses and training programs. This software would include a mechanism for confirming and tracking program completion to ensure compliance with certification or continuing education requirements.
- Expand the Speech-to-Text Software pilot project to help district courts when an official court reporter is not available.
- Increased annual costs for Microsoft software licenses and a variety of other software license purchases and expansions for information security and compliance needs.
- Software needs that include Nessus scanning, endpoint management, inventory tools, system status, compliance and monitoring tools, and an upgrade to the current Avamar backup solution to the virtual edition.
- Software licenses to securely store and connect data about systems owned or supported by the judicial branch information technology or information security areas. A software tool that includes a more modern ticketing system for resolving user issues and change management tracking tools to help deliver IT services.
- Increased funding for cost increases for all VMware products, including VxRail and vSphere, that resulted when Broadcom purchased VMware last fall.
- Funding to begin working toward compliance with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework standards, as required by 2024 House Sub. for SB 291 by July 1, 2028, and other planning required by the legislation.

IT Support and Hardware. We request \$447,800 for several support options for our Information Services staff and to purchase of IT hardware. Included in this request is funding for:

- contracting with temporary technical staff to augment permanent staff to move forward on a variety of technology projects.
- securing a Security Operations Center (SOC) service to provide 24-7 network monitoring, log management, threat detection and intelligence, incident investigation and response.
- contracting for annual maintenance support to ensure continuous and reliable functionality of essential audio-visual equipment at the Kansas Judicial Center.
- purchasing an additional load balancer, which will allow OJA to attain high availability of services across data center sites moving forward.
- contracting for IT consulting to assist with technology strategy, decision making, analytics and improvement for the Information Services staff.

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. Currently, there is no money in this fund. We request a transfer of \$3.0 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

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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.

Access to Justice Initiatives. The Kansas Supreme Court's four-prong strategic plan incorporates the goal of maximizing access to and promoting justice. For more than 20 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. We request enhancement funding totaling \$800,000 for access to justice initiatives.

- \$200,000 to create a competitive grant for innovative resolution of criminal issues, including expungement efforts and alternative dispute resolution, as well as certain civil matters such as guardianship and child welfare. This grant would be in addition to the existing Access to Justice civil grant.
- \$200,000 to increase the existing Access to Justice Grant award amount from \$900,000 to \$1.1 million in FY 2026.
- \$350,000 to develop an interface to allow self-represented litigants to efile, including moving the Kansas Protection Order Portal and the Marriage License Portal from their existing locations to the new interface.
- \$50,000 to translate various court forms into languages other than English to provide increased access to justice and help the judicial branch meet language access obligations under federal law.

Nonjudicial Salary Increase. To maintain a well-functioning judiciary by retaining and recruiting qualified employees, we respectfully request a \$6.5 million enhancement to increase employee salaries by 5% for FY 2026. We cannot lose ground after legislative leaders, the governor, and staff worked hard to strengthen our workforce. Inflation continues to reduce the competitiveness of the employee salaries we can offer, and our request is designed to offset inflationary pressures eroding our market rate salaries.

APPELLATE COURTS

04000

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Appellate Courts
Appellate Court - 04000

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Program Name: Appellate Courts	Program Priority: 1
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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

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Appellate Court - 04000

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Program Name: Appellate Courts	Program Priority: 1
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Subprogram Name	Priority	Required by Statute?	Statutory Basis	Maintenance of Effort Requirement	Purpose	Consequences of not Funding
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, the highest Kansas 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 on 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. 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.

Appellate Court
Supreme Court – 04011

5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$496,650

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 COVID-19 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 \$150,000 for FY 2026 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. And lastly, NCSC continues to serve as a valuable resource for information about federal grants.

NCSC projects benefiting the judicial branch include weighted caseload studies, collections improvement, a language access survey, website redesign research, strategic planning, a classification and compensation study for employees, and a compensation study for judges. Recently, in FY 2018, NCSC performed a weighted workload study for court services officers. In FY 2019, a weighted caseload study for district court clerks was performed. Weighted caseload studies for judges of the district court, administrative assistants, and court reporters were completed in FY 2021.

5300 - Commodities

FY 2026 Request: \$12,427

Expenses include the *Kansas Legal Directories* and office supplies.

5400 – Capital Outlay

FY 2026 Request: \$8,000

Expenses include computer supplies.

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Appellate Courts
Court of Appeals – 04012

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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 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 2022, 1,060 new appeals were docketed with the Court of Appeals. In addition, 7,554 written motions were filed with the court. The judges of the Court of Appeals filed 781 formal written opinions in 2022. 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.

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Court of Appeals – 04012

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5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$256,644

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 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 2026 Request: \$9,218

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.

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Appellate Courts
Appellate Clerk – 04013

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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's Office docketed over 1,200 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 prepares 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.

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**Appellate Courts
Appellate Clerk – 04013**

When requested by the appellate courts, the Clerk orders case records from the district courts throughout the state. After the appellate judges complete their review of the records, the records are returned to the district courts. Mailing hard copy records back to the district courts can involve a large number of documents resulting in a substantial postage cost.

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.

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Appellate Courts
Appellate Clerk – 04013

5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$145,543

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 for 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.

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Appellate Courts
Appellate Clerk – 04013

5300 – Commodities

FY 2026 Request: \$4,836

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

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Appellate Courts

Appellate Reporter – 04014

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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 by 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 will be posted online in PDF format and updated on the Judicial Branch website, along with all amended and new Supreme Court Rules.

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Appellate Reporter – 04014

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5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$201,893

Expenditures in this category include office communication expenses. Another major expenditure for this category are printing costs. The Appellate Reporter is responsible for publishing advance sheets and bound volumes of Kansas Supreme Court and Court of Appeals opinions. 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 \$185,000 for FY 2026.

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 of new index and reporting methods on a national scale. Also included in expenditures is Westlaw access.

5300 - Commodities

FY 2026 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.

58400 NARRATIVE INFORMATION

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Appellate Courts

Supreme Court Law Library – 04015

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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 manners. 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 composing lists of serial and loose-leaf services, exchanging cataloging information, and sharing expensive, seldom-used resources.

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.

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Supreme Court Law Library – 04015

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Some initiatives the library is currently working on and will be implementing 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 service 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.

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5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$138,891

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 of the periodicals and many other legal materials including Kansas and federal documents. All of 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 2026 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.

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5400 – Capital Outlay

FY 2026 Request: \$4,217,205

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.

This request also includes enhancement funding of \$3.7 million for the Judicial Branch Library Learning Center. The Kansas Judicial Center has many visitors throughout the year who have questions about the Judicial Branch, some of which include the structure of the Judicial Branch, the cases heard by the courts, how a case flows through the appeals process, and how the Judicial Branch interacts with the other branches of government. Many of these visitors are school-aged children are visiting the Judicial Branch as part of a civics lesson. Educating and inspiring the next generation of citizens, attorneys, judges, legislators, and community leaders is essential to the success of our state. The first floor learning center would utilize an interactive learning environment that would provide visitors information about all three branches of government and their function within government. Several states have developed or are in the process of developing a Judicial Branch Learning Center for their state, and we plan to collaborate with them on ideas and confer with them on development costs. This project will be implemented in two phases with ongoing future updates of exhibits planned.

The Judicial Branch formed a committee comprised of members from all three branches of government and other interested parties, including members of the Department of Administration, Kansas State Historical Society, and the Kansas Board of Education. The Office of Judicial Administration staff have met with architects who are preparing renderings and committee members have toured the state archives and began communication with other states that have similar centers.

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eCourt – 04016

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ECOURT

The Supreme Court is nearing the completion of 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 fully statewide electronic environment. We have also upgraded the eFiling system and implemented a new eFiling system specifically for the Appellate courts. Additionally, a web-based public access portal has been launched, 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.

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 join the centralized payment center as they join the centralized case management system. As of November 2024, every district court will be using the centralized payment center.

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 10th Judicial District will be the last district court, and the largest, 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 stakeholders.

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5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$5,868,894

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. In addition, this category includes funding for the statewide jury management system.

Included is an enhancement request for funding for 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 2026 Request: \$3,129

This request includes funding various office supplies relate to eCourt.

5400 - Capital Outlay

FY 2026 Request: \$993,729

This request includes funding for eCourt systems.

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Municipal Court Training and Judicial Certification - 04017

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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 2025 and FY 2026 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.

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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.

Regional Trainings

A quarterly regional trainings program could 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. As a result, the Office of Judicial Administration requests enhancement funding to offer regional trainings in FY 2026 to implement these trainings.

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

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5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$211,462

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. This includes enhancement funding for regional training programs.

5300 – Commodities

FY 2026 Request: \$66,041

Expenditures in this category relate to the purchase of educational materials. This includes enhancement funding for regional training programs.

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Alternative Dispute Resolution – 04018

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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.

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 2023, 258 mediators, 56 domestic conciliators, 26 parenting coordinators, and 33 case managers were approved to accept dispute resolution service referrals from Kansas district courts. All judicial districts use one or more dispute resolution methods.

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Alternative Dispute Resolution – 04018

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5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 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 2026 Request: \$50

Travel related commodities are the only expenditure in this category.

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

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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, 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.

Centralized Court Payment Center

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

A first step was to obtain banking services. In consultation with the State Treasurer's office, OJA determined it more efficient to have a separate bank account for the Judicial Branch. We issued a request for proposals for banking services and awarded a contract to US Bank in April 2019.

The Center began processing payments in August 2019 as the first six counties transitioned to the new case management system. Currently, there are 104 counties (109 district courts) and the appellate courts using the Center. The final court, Johnson County, will shift to the Center as they transition to the centralized case management system later this calendar year.

After courts move to the centralized case management system, court clerks will continue to receipt any over-the-counter payments. However, many other financial-related tasks are taken over by the Center as the work moves from a decentralized case management system to a centralized system. All checks are issued by the Center and the Center receives and processes all mailed payments and electronic payments made through an online portal or e-flex. Daily and monthly reconciliations and unclaimed property procedures are performed at the Center and the Center assumes responsibility for running collection processing jobs, including issuing collection notices, and sending cases to authorized collections vendors and those payments from collection vendors are sent to the Center. All the work being done at the Center was previously done by individual counties. Centralizing payments allows the Branch to utilize best practices and achieve efficiencies system-wide.

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

General Counsel

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

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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 an enhanced Caseload Management Reporting System (CMRS) as well as the Odyssey 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 accurate and timely reporting 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 20 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 assist Kansans who cannot afford traditional legal services and help meet the needs of self-represented litigants within the court system.

In FY 2025, the Kansas Supreme Court awarded access to justice grants to four organizations: Building Peace, Inc., Kansas Holistic Defenders, KC Digital Drive and Kansas Legal Services (KLS).

Building Peace is using grant funds to continue the “Juvenile Offender-Victim Dialogue” project, which aims to provide a restorative justice option to Douglas County’s existing juvenile diversion program. The program will use mediators to facilitate victim-offender dialogue, with the goal of creating a mutually agreed resolution that meets the satisfaction of the victim and avoids the need for the prosecutor to press charges against the juvenile.

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Kansas Holistic Defenders is using grant funds for a project to provide pro bono representation in eviction cases, with the potential for 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.

KC Digital Drive is using grant funds to develop an improved version of an expungement assistance application and develop a new guardianship and conservatorship assistance tool. In addition, KC Digital Drive is using grant funds on a software platform to provide client intake and pro bono attorney coordination for self-help centers and legal assistance organizations.

KLS is a longstanding access to justice grant recipient. In FY 2024, KLS is using grant funds to staff a toll-free phone line to answer questions from court patrons and to hold “legal aid days” at court-based self-help centers throughout Kansas. These services effectively serve litigants who need brief legal advice and help relieve overburdened frontline staff in Kansas courthouses. KLS will also use grant funds to provide full representation to certain stakeholders within the foster care system.

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 projects include planning regular trainings for court staff and judges on special issues surrounding self-represented litigants and developing a virtual statewide help center that all Kansans will be able to access online.

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.

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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 430 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 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.

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 continues to work with KDEM, FEMA, and the National Center for State Courts to provide assistance to district court personnel in COOP planning.

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The Supreme Court also continues to review and update security and emergency procedures for the Kansas Judicial Center in Topeka. A Judicial Center security committee develops and recommends security policy and procedures. The committee includes Judicial Center staff and representatives of the Kansas Highway Patrol Capitol Police and Office of Facilities and Property Management. The committee created a five-year plan to schedule drills, tests, and exercises. 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 these assessments and best practices. A subcommittee of the Judicial Center security committee developed a COOP document for the offices within the Judicial Center. In addition, OJA staff supported creation and completion of COOP documents for courts in all 105 counties.

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 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. Currently, this work is spread across different departments and a whole host of employees. By combining these different areas into one credentialing and compliance department, the goal is to standardize the similar processes and recordkeeping systems, capitalize on uniform software used in automation, and become more efficient in streamlining operations. This will benefit the public by having a single department that handles regulatory activities. Overall principles of fairness, consistency, and transparency should be applied to all the credentialing processes that OJA oversees, and bringing those processes into a single department will help ensure those principles are applied uniformly.

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Other Special Programs and Projects

Specialty Courts

Several Kansas judicial districts operate specialty courts, also known as treatment or problem-solving courts. These include drug, veterans, mental health, youth, and truancy courts. Currently there are 19 specialty courts operating in district courts. The Supreme Court and OJA continue to examine the effectiveness of specialty courts. In March 2023, OJA hired a statewide specialty court program manager to support these efforts.

In January 2021, the Supreme Court adopted Rule 191 which created the Specialty Court Committee. This committee is charged with making recommendations to the Supreme Court regarding the development and administration of specialty courts in Kansas district courts.

K.S.A. 20-173 which, created the Specialty Court Funding Advisory Committee tasked with overseeing the financial aspects of specialty courts. The committee's responsibilities also include evaluating resources available for the assessment and treatment of individuals participating in specialty courts, seeking out grants, funds, and resources to support their operation, and recommending allocations among the various specialty courts in operation across the state. Membership spans the three branches of government.

OJA provides support and technical assistance to each of these committees.

Workshare

Workshare will allow all courts using the new 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 2024, workshare clerks completed 6,800 hours of work for counties outside their home districts. The following are examples of activities of workshare clerks:

- Adding an image of the citation to eCourt so judges and court staff have access to the charging document;
- Assisting with eFilings in the bigger volume courts;
- Assisting with statistical reports;
- Assisting with preparing records on appeal; and
- Assisting with answering phones and processing returned mail for the CPC.

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Protection Portal

In fiscal year 2023, 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, 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 29,000 petitions have been filed through KSPOP since its launch in late 2020, and about 38% 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.

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5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$5,340,761

Communication costs, based on historical expenditures and estimates provided by the Division of the Budget, are a major expense paid from this code. Also paid from this code 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 code. 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.

Also included are enhancement request for funding Specialty Courts and access to justice initiative to translate forms.

5300 – Commodities

FY 2026 Request: \$68,781

The major expense is office supplies.

5400 – Capital Outlay

FY 2026 Request: \$762,000

\$300,000 is requested for the second phase of the garden level refresh. The Judicial Branch has plans for some needed changes on the lower level (often called the garden level) of the Kansas Judicial Center. It also intends to assess the current and future needs for the garden level. The planned renovations result from a change of traffic flow and use after completing other building projects. The Judicial Branch completed two of these projects at the end of FY 2023. First, the Judicial Council relocated from the first floor to the garden level. The garden level was previously an employee work space with few public visitors but will now be frequented by Judicial Council committee members. Second, the Judicial Branch completed the initial installation of compact shelving in the library stacks on the garden level, which will permit more efficient use of that area. Completed projects—such as the Learning Center and the remodel of the Court of Appeals attorney offices—also impact the need to reconfigure some garden level spaces. The planned, first phase will include installation of additional compact shelving. Another portion of the first phase is the addition of two individual bathrooms and showers, which will serve the Judicial Center, the garden level common area, and the gym. Phase 2 includes updates to office spaces, common areas and signage to reflect changes. Also included is funding for various IT, physical security upgrades and office equipment. Enhancement funding for Specialty Courts is also included in the request.

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Judicial Costs – 01031

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5500 – Grants and Aid

FY 2026 Request: \$1,300,000

The budget reflects a grant of \$1,100,000 for FY 2026 for the Access to Justice Program, this includes the base grant amount of \$900,000 and an increase of \$200,000 in enhanced funding. This grant award reached nearly \$1.3 million in 2007 before being reduced. The enhancement request will increase the total award amount from \$900,000 to \$1,100,000 in FY 2026. Also included in the enhancement request of \$200,000 to create a competitive grant for innovative resolution of criminal issues, including expungement efforts and alternative dispute resolution, as well as certain civil matters such as guardianship and child welfare. This grant would be in addition to the existing Access to Justice civil grant.

INFORMATION SERVICES

SUPPORT 04090

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Information Services

Subprogram narrative table: 04090

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Program Name: Information Services Support	Program Priority: 1
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Subprogram Name	Priority	Required by Statute?	Statutory Basis	Maintenance of Effort Requirement	Purpose	Consequences of not Funding
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.

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Information Services Support

Information Services – 04098

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INFORMATION SERVICES

The judicial branch continues to advance its strategic goals of enhancing efficiency and productivity through the strategic use of information technology. This includes implementing integrated solutions that support both new and existing technologies across the enterprise.

Website and Search Functionality

The goal for the judicial branch website is to migrate it to a new, modern platform that enhances functionality and user experience. As part of this plan, we will implement a robust search feature, enabling users to efficiently locate appellate opinions, Supreme Court rules, and Supreme Court orders. The overall improvements will ensure that the website meets the needs of the public and legal professionals by providing streamlined access to important legal information and enhancing the site's usability and performance.

Centralized Case Management System Initiatives

To ensure continued access to court documents for the public and our justice partners, OJA is planning to replace the current public access web portal, which is nearing its end-of-life. We are actively exploring the best solutions to facilitate a seamless transition, aiming to maintain and enhance the accessibility and reliability of this critical resource. The new portal will provide improved usability and performance, ensuring that appropriate court documents are easily accessible to all users.

In addition to the portal replacement, significant advancements have been made in our eCourt systems this year with the upgrade of the eFiling system for the district courts and the development of the eFiling system for the appellate courts. This system securely streamlines the process of filing documents and accessing court services online. Furthermore, we successfully completed the migration of the appellate courts to our centralized case management system (CCMS) this year. Looking ahead, we are preparing for the final district court, Johnson County, to go live on the CCMS in November 2024, marking the completion of our statewide CCMS migration efforts. Additionally, we will be conducting a version upgrade to the CCMS in the coming year to further enhance its capabilities and ensure it continues to meet the evolving needs of our judicial processes.

Intranet Replacement

OJA is planning to develop a new intranet site for the judicial branch, which will be hosted in the cloud. This new platform aims to provide a more secure and accessible environment for internal communications and resources, ensuring that judicial branch staff have reliable access to essential information and tools.

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Web Conferencing and AV Support

OJA is committed to enhancing both security and operational support within the judicial branch. As part of this effort, we plan to transition all judicial branch staff from the current enterprise Zoom account to Zoom for Government. This move will align with stringent federal requirements, including FedRAMP and NIST standards, ensuring that sensitive data is protected and that the platform is tailored to the unique needs of government operations.

Additionally, to maintain continuous and reliable operation of essential audio-visual equipment at the Kansas Judicial Center, Kansas is establishing an annual maintenance support contract. This contract will offer comprehensive coverage, including phone support, on-site emergency responses, and hardware replacement, thereby minimizing downtime and ensuring consistent functionality.

Data Center and IT Infrastructure Enhancements

OJA is planning a series of critical upgrades and enhancements to our IT infrastructure to improve efficiency, resilience, and security. One of the key initiatives involves upgrading our current Avamar backup solution to the virtual edition. This transition will reduce hardware costs and decrease the data center footprint, leading to greater efficiency and better resource management.

In addition, Kansas is anticipating cost increases for all VMware products, including VxRail and vSphere, following Broadcom's acquisition of VMware. These increases are expected during the upcoming renewal period for products located in the KJC data center in FY 2025, with further increases likely in FY 2026 for products at the disaster recovery site data center.

As part of our efforts to modernize IT services, Kansas is planning to implement a new software tool to enhance our IT service management process. This goal is to also include an updated ticketing system for resolving user issues and change management tracking tools, significantly improving the efficiency and effectiveness of IT service delivery.

House Sub. for SB 291 Efforts

Progress is being made on the House Sub. for SB 291 initiatives, with a focus on enhancing cybersecurity and strengthening our IT infrastructure to align with modern security standards. A critical aspect of these efforts is the migration to the .gov domain, which will bolster the security and credibility of our online presence. Additionally, we are developing project costs related to managing and protecting district court endpoints and securing access to the KANWIN network, ensuring a comprehensive approach to safeguarding our digital assets.

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Information Services Support

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5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$4,985,953

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.

Included in this category are enhancement requests for a variety of items including:

- Expansion of the Speech-to-Text Software pilot project to help district courts when an official court reporter is not available;
- Upgrade and move the antiquated employee performance management system to a subscription service to allow us to use review templates, track review progress, report performance data, and schedule workflows;
- Annual maintenance support to ensure continuous and reliable functionality of essential audio-visual equipment at the Kansas Judicial Center;
- Contracting with temporary technical staff to augment permanent staff to move forward on a variety of technology projects;
- Increased annual costs for Microsoft software licenses and a variety of other software license purchases and expansions for information security and compliance needs; software needs that include Nessus scanning, endpoint management, inventory tools, system status, compliance and monitoring tools, and an upgrade to the current Avamar backup solution to the virtual edition;
- Software licenses to securely store and connect data about systems owned or supported by the judicial branch information technology or information security areas.
- A software tool that includes a more modern ticketing system for resolving user issues and change management tracking tools to help deliver IT services;
- Increased funding for cost increases for all VMware products, including VxRail and vSphere, that resulted when Broadcom purchased VMware last fall.
- Development of a replacement for the current judicial branch intranet to be hosted in the cloud;
- Development fees and annual hosting to build and maintain a robust search of appellate opinions, Supreme Court rules, and Supreme Court orders for the new judicial branch website;
- Replacement of our current public access web portal, which provides access to court documents for the public and our justice partners. The existing portal is close to reaching its end of life, so we are working to ensure a seamless transition and continued service for public access; and
- Contracting for IT consulting to assist with technology strategy, decision making, analytics and improvement for the Information Services staff.

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Information Services – 04098**

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5300 - Commodities

FY 2026 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 account code.

5400 - Capital Outlay

FY 2026 Request: \$292,853

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

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Information Security

Information Security – 04095

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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. Due to the events of the past year as well as the requirements in 2024 House Sub. for SB 291 that IT and cyber security expenditures be separated out, the decision was made to create a separate program for Information Security.

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.

PCI DSS Compliance v4+

The PCI DSS (Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard) 4.0+ includes several updates and controls which aid in protecting the information that is used to facilitate digital payments. The latest major revision, v4.0, takes full effect in the coming months and we must take proactive steps to maintain compliance.

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 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 expanding the infrastructure providing these systems, whether locally or otherwise, improves availability, adds capacity for recovery, and diversifies options for secure access.

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Information Security
Information Security – 04095

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5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$2,233,777

This category includes charges associated with the Information Security team, including software licenses and related maintenance. This category also includes professional services for this items that are necessary to contract with outside vendors. Also included are enhancement requests to secure a Security Operations Center (SOC) service to provide 24-7 network monitoring, log management, threat detection and intelligence, incident investigation and response and purchase an additional load balancer, which will allow OJA to attain high availability of services across data center sites. Moving forward OJA must maintain Payment Card Industry (PCI) compliance to handle and process credit card payments. OJA currently meets PCI Data Security Standard v3.2.1 and is seeking to advance to v4.0.1. We request enhancement funding to purchase software and scanning of vendors to meet the requirements of the new standard. Additionally, enhancement funding is requested to begin working toward compliance with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework standards, as required by 2024 House Sub. for SB 291 by July 1, 2028, and other planning required by the legislation.

5300 - Commodities

FY 2026 Request: \$35,283

The primary expenditures in this category are office supplies.

5400 - Capital Outlay

FY 2026 Request: \$10,000

This category exclusively contains enhancement funding to begin planning required in 2024 House Sub. for SB 291.

EDUCATION SERVICES

04020

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Education Services

Education Services – 04020

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

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Education Services

Education Services - 04021

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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 in order 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 2025 and FY 2026 we will continue to focus on increasing in person opportunities while maintaining the efficiencies captured with virtual learning. We have experienced cost increases for all aspects of training since resuming pre-covid activities 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. As such, FY 2025 and FY 2026 expenditures are projected to rise accordingly.

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 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 trainings planned for spring 2025. These trainings will afford judges the opportunities to address specific issues, legal challenges and community needs that unique to their area. In more recent years, additional educational opportunities have been offered via webinar.

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Education Services

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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 trainings are 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.

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 trainings on these specialized topics.

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.

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The American Bar Association and Conference of Chief Justices developed a National Judicial Outreach Week, which is always scheduled in March. This program encourages active and retired judges to not only invite their communities to their courthouses, but to also go into their communities to meet with the public and provide education on the court system. As part of our outreach and education efforts, the Office of Judicial Administration is coordinating the participation in this program for FY 2025 and FY 2026. The Court plans to further increase the public education offerings provided in the upcoming fiscal years.

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:

- Access to Justice Committee
- Admissions Review Committee
- Child Support Guidelines Advisory Committee
- eCourt Steering Committees & Subcommittees
- Judges Assistance Committee
- Language Access Committee
- Specialty Court Committee

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Education Services

Education Services - 04021

Special Ad Hoc Committees

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

Ad Hoc Court Record Committee
Rural Justice Initiative Committee

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Education Services

Education Services - 04021

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5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$675,423

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. Included in the request is funding for regional trainings to minimize travel time for the participants and allows for targeted topics as well as advancement of collaborative efforts.

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. Included in this category are enhancement expenditures for additional training programs including Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) to assist district courts in further development of a functional plan and a software-based learning management platform to facilitate the delivery of educational courses and training programs. Additionally, this software would provide mechanism for confirming and tracking the completion of a program to ensure compliance with any certification or continuing education requirements.

5300 – Commodities

FY 2026 Request: \$136,161

Expenditures in this category relate to the purchase of materials for educational opportunities as well as funding for regional trainings. This request includes enhancement fund for additional training programs.

DISTRICT COURTS

04100

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District Courts
Summary – 04100

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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.

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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 19 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 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.

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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 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.

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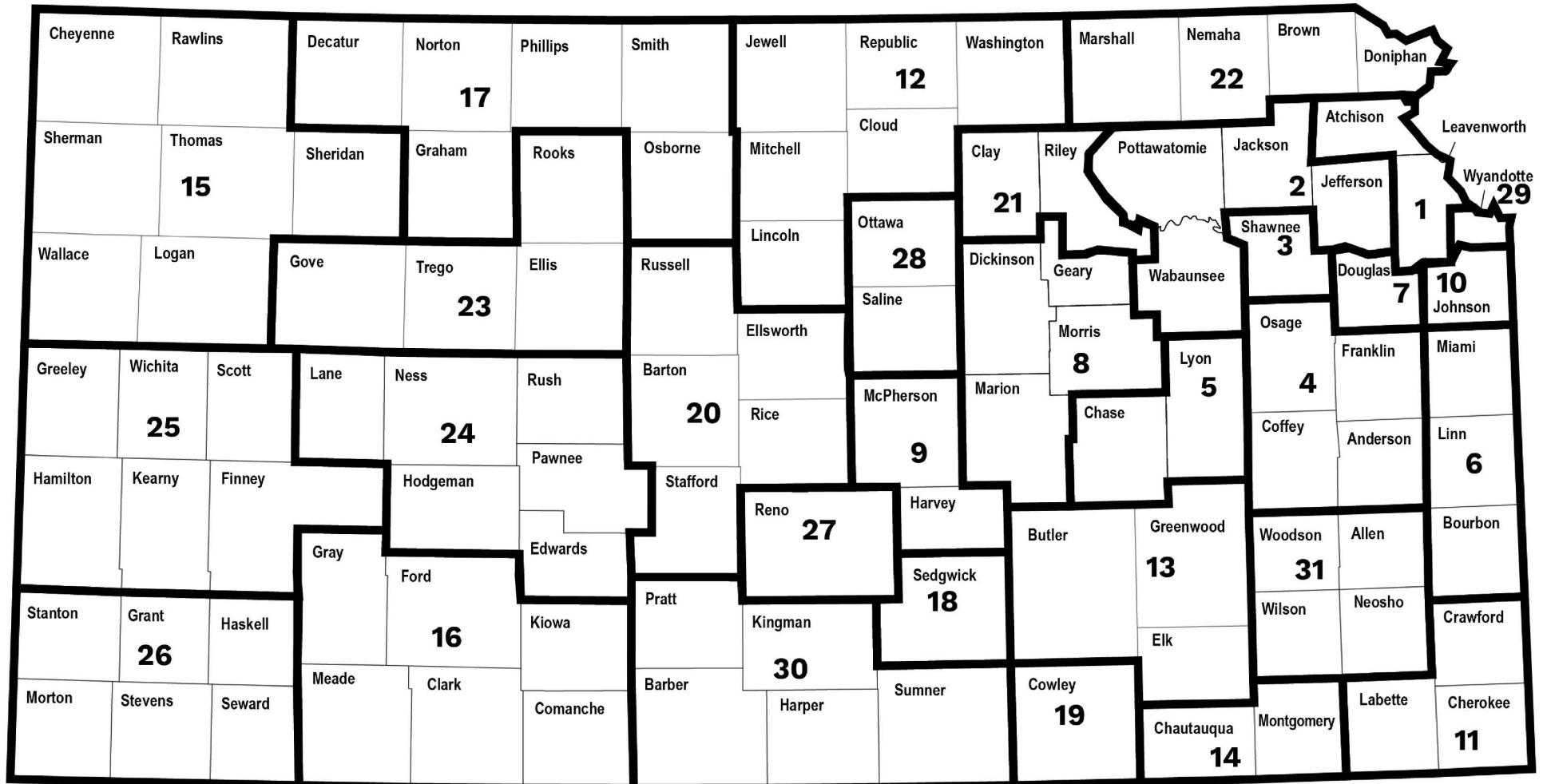
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Kansas Judicial Districts



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<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		

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District Courts
Summary – 04100

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Program Name: District Courts	Program Priority: 1
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Subprogram Name	Priority	Required by Statute?	Statutory Basis	Maintenance of Effort Requirement	Purpose	Consequences of not Funding
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

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District Courts
District Judges – 04111

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DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

5100 - Salaries and Wages

FY 2026 Request: \$63,318,014

Currently, there are 269 district court judicial positions across the Kansas Judicial Branch, including 182 district judge 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.

In FY 2020 the Judicial Branch contracted with the National Center for State Courts to perform a weighted workload study for judges of the district court. This study was previously performed in 2011. The study collected three types of data: (1) actual worktime recorded by judges statewide; (2) a survey of all judges requesting their assessment of the extent to which they have adequate time to perform their duties in a timely and high-quality manner; and (3) qualitative feedback from focus group sessions held remotely due to the pandemic. The worktime data was translated to workload measures based on case types. The study was completed in FY 2021 and revealed that Kansas needed an additional 20 net positions. However, that net increase includes a reduction of positions in judicial districts that would violate state statute. Judicial positions are set by Kansas statutes, which require at least one judge in each of the 105 counties throughout the state. Office of Judicial Administration staff reached out to chief judges to discuss their needs under the weighted workload study report, and it was determined that 14 district judges and 9 district magistrate judges were needed along with supporting staff. The 2022 Legislature created those new judgeships, along with support staff, and funded those new positions. As of submission of this budget, the additional judge positions have been filled.

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 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.

5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$295,862

Expenses include postage costs for mailing or shipping documents to district courts.

A major expense 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

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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.

5200 – Commodities

FY 2026 Request: \$269

Expenses include stationary and other miscellaneous office supplies.

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DISTRICT COURT EMPLOYEES

The current Judicial Branch pay plan was implemented in FY 2001. It was developed with the intent to avoid disruptions from employee turnover, and it assumed annual adjustments to keep salaries competitive. Inadequate pay raises that occurred through FY 2008 eroded gains made by implementing the pay plan. To correct this problem, the 2008 Legislature approved a 15.75 percent increase to be appropriated over three years. But only the first year of that increase (5.25 percent) was funded. From FY 2010 until FY 2018, Judicial Branch employees did not receive any pay increase other than a 2 percent cost of living adjustment in FY 2015 – which was substantially eroded by increases to employees' share of pension and other benefit costs.

Given this history, in 2016 the Judicial Branch – with the aid of a State Justice Institute grant – contracted with the experts of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) for an employee classification and compensation study. The 2017 Legislature appropriated a much-needed 2.5 percent across-the-board pay increase for employees. The 2018 Legislature later appropriated a 5 percent increase to the employee pay pool for Judicial Branch employees. The 2018 increase was allocated to employee positions by the Supreme Court based on the 2017 updated data to the classification and compensation study. Data from the salary and compensation study was updated in 2018 and was adjusted to reflect the increase in the consumer price index during fiscal years 2019, 2020, and 2021. The 2019 Legislature appropriated another 2.5 percent across-the-board pay increase for employees. The 2021 Legislature appropriated historic salary increases to bring all employees to full market pay based on updated data to the study. 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. Keeping up with market value and cost increases the Judicial Branch is requesting an enhancement funding for a 5 percent pay increase for non-judge employees for FY 2026.

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 2025 is earmarked for salaries.

Court services officers (CSOs) are important to the safety and well-being of all Kansans. They are probation officers for adults and juveniles who are sentenced to probation for their crimes. They conduct criminal history checks, prepare 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, CSOs provide dispute resolution services for child custody disputes or 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-stamps court documents, enter them into the case management system, scan and file them, retrieve them, and safely store them. As e-filing is

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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, and disburse those monies 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.

Court reporters are vital to district courts. They record and transcribe verbatim reports of judicial trials, conferences, and hearings. They also administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses, and they mark exhibits offered as evidence. Because of an increasing shortage of court reporters and advances in technology, district courts have been using digital recording software 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 made. Spurred by the necessity for remote hearings, federal coronavirus emergency supplemental funding and coronavirus relief funding helped provide district courts with upgrades in audiovisual technology, which in turn provided the infrastructure for this software to be used.

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5100 - Salaries and Wages

FY 2026 Request: \$118,707,546

The state is responsible for all Judicial Branch district court salaries, while counties fund operating expenses for local courts.

5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$262,292

Major expenditures are travel and subsistence and communications. Other large expenditures are drug testing for the specialty courts.

5300 – Commodities

FY 2026 Request: \$71,557

The major expenditure is urine analysis supplies for the specialty courts. Other expenditures include stationary and other miscellaneous office supplies.

5500 – Aid to Local Units

FY 2026 Request: \$120,500

The major expenditure is distribution of federal grant funds to the Board of Indigents Defense Services and the Sedgwick County Department of Corrections related to the 18th District Veterans Treatment Court.

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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 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 investigate facts, conditions, and circumstances affecting the welfare of abused and neglected children. A CASA volunteer is appointed to advocate for the best interests of the child and helps 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.

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5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$1,533

Travel costs are a major expenditure in this code.

5500 – Grants and Aid

FY 2026 Request: \$325,672

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 2026 to Citizen Review Boards and Court Appointed Special Advocate programs from the Permanent Families account.

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Court Improvement program – 04115

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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 in three categories: basic costs to administer the program, training, and data collection and analysis. Data collection and analysis grant funding is used to provide accounting and case management system enhancements. Training 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 these grants.

In recent years, during April and August, OJA has sponsored trainings for judges, prosecutors, attorneys representing children and other child welfare partners. These workshops focused on the permanency planning, quality legal representation, and crossover youth with nationally recognized 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 is planning a webinar series for child welfare partners on the Indian Child Welfare Act.

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5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$86,552

A major expense in this category is communication costs based on historical expenditures and estimates provided by the Division of the Budget. Monies from this category will also be funded from the Child Welfare-Federal Grant Fund for Juvenile Offender and Child in Need of Care Code.

Books for court personnel and others dealing with child welfare issues. Expenditures include the printing of training manuals, informational cards, brochures, calendars, and bench cards.

Travel costs for regional trainings by staff members to the various judicial districts is included in this code.

5300 – Commodities

FY 2026 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.

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Correctional Supervision – 04116

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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 300 officers are trained in the use 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. Bauman Consulting Group trains court services officers to administer the WRNA. The University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute trains court services officers to administer the LSCMI.

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. In order for someone to receive treatment in under SB 123 they have to be eligible, part of that eligibility is to have a Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASS) administered. Beginning in FY 2025, all court service officers will be 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 will be done at the same time as the risk and needs assessment. This streamlined process will create a consistent statewide practices, and assist the KSSC with billing.

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Correctional Supervision – 04116

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5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$501,623

Major expenditures in this category include funding for the supervision module for the new Odyssey case management system and 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 2026 Request: \$59,750

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

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Child Support Enforcement – 04117

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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, 2020, and can be found at www.kscourts.org. 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.

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5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$1,241

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

COVID-19

21660

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Covid-19
Subprogram narrative table

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Program Name: COVID-19	Program Priority: 1
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Subprogram Name	Priority	Required by Statute?	Statutory Basis	Maintenance of Effort Requirement	Purpose	Consequences of not Funding
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.

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Covid-19

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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 2025 and FY 2026 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 the A/V, technology, and IT infrastructure of the judicial branch in FY 2025 and FY 2026.

JUDICIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REVIEW

06100

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Judicial and Professional Review
Subprogram Narrative Table – 06100

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Program Name: Judicial and Professional Review	Program Priority: 1
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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

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Judicial Conduct - 06111

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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:

James S. Cooper, (Chair), Lawrence
Allen G. Glendenning (Vice Chair), Great Bend
Hon. Bradley E. Ambrosier, Elkhart
Hon. Brenda M. Cameron, Olathe
Terrence J. Campbell, Lawrence
Hon. Robert W. Fairchild, Lawrence
Tonda Jones Hill, Lawrence
Hon. Paula D. Hofaker, Lawrence
Norman R. Kelly, Salina
Rosemary Kolich, S.C.L., Leavenworth
Susan Lynn, Iola
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

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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).

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 2024, approximately 900 complaints and inquiries were processed.

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5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$33,443

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. There is no geographic limitation on appointment. Three members are from Topeka, one member is from Lakin, and one member is from Leavenworth. It is not known how often the panel will be required to meet. The panel met four times in FY 2024.

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 2026 Request: \$200

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.

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Nominating Commission – 06112

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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 2025, elections will be held in the Fourth 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 2025, 4 Judicial Districts will have special elections for at least one lawyer position.

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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.

5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$19,482

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 2026 Request: \$1,500

This category includes the purchase of election supplies.

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Law Examiners – 06113

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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 FY 2024, there were 624 applications filed with attorney admissions, which includes 37 applications for temporary permits, 165 applications for legal intern permits, 240 applications for the written exam, including those that have re-applied to sit again, 102 applications for Uniform Bar Exam transfer, 68 applications for admission by reciprocity, 9 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.

In 2018, the Board approved the implementation of an electronic bar application system (EBAS). In FY 2020 a Request for Proposals was issued and a vendor was chosen. The project was not successful, and a new vendor will be selected in FY 2025.

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

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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 Hon.

Jacy J. Hurst, Lawrence

Peter S. Johnston, Salina

Anne Emert, Kansas City, KS

Ann Elliott, McPherson, KS

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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 2026 Request: \$351,443

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 Madison, WI, to attend the UBE grading conference after each examination. A portion of the expenses in this code is 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.

Rental Space. 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 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 February 2024. The July 2020-2023 exams were held at the University of Kansas. In July 2024, 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.

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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 2024 which totals \$30,000.

Character and fitness questions are arising 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 2026 Request: \$6,974

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 2026 Request \$82,500

Expenditures include computer programs and computer supplies.

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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

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5200 – Contractual Services

FY 2026 Request: \$8,964

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.

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.

Judge Position Information

1st Judicial District

Judicial Department No. 3

Counties: Atchison
Leavenworth

Judicial Positions:

District Judges – 7

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

District Magistrate Judges - 0

2nd 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 – Jefferson
Position 2 – Pottawatomie
Position 3 – Wabaunsee

3rd 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

4th 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 – Coffey

5th 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

6th 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 – Miami
Division 5 – Bourbon
Division 6 - Miami

District Magistrate Judges – 1

Position 1 – Bourbon

7th Judicial District

Judicial Department No. 3

Counties: Douglas

Judicial Positions:

District Judges – 7

Divisions 1-7 – Douglas

District Magistrate Judges – 0

8th 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

9th 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

10th 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

11th 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

12th Judicial District

Judicial Department No. 1

Counties: Cloud

Jewell

Lincoln

Mitchell

Republic

Washington

Judicial Positions:

District Judges – 1

Division 1 – Washington

District Magistrate Judges – 6

Position 1 – Cloud

Position 2 – Jewell

Position 3 – Lincoln

Position 4 – Mitchell

Position 5 – Republic

Position 6 – Washington

13th 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

14th 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 -

District Magistrate Judges – 1

- Position 1 – Chautauqua

15th 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

16th 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

17th Judicial District

Judicial Department No. 1

Counties: Decatur
Graham
Norton
Osborne
Phillips
Smith

Judicial Positions:

District Judges – 2

- Division 1 – Norton
- Division 2 - Phillips

District Magistrate Judges – 5

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

18th Judicial District

Judicial Department No. 5

Counties: Sedgwick

Judicial Positions:

District Judges – 30

- Divisions 1-30 – Sedgwick

District Magistrate Judges – 1

- Position 1 - Sedgwick

19th 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

20th 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

21st 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

22nd 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

23rd 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

24th 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

25th 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 – Finney

26th 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

27th Judicial District

Judicial Department No. 6

Counties: Reno

Judicial Positions:

District Judges – 4

Division 1-4 – Reno

District Magistrate Judges – 1

Position 1 – Reno

28th Judicial District

Judicial Department No. 1

Counties: Ottawa
 Saline

Judicial Positions:

District Judges – 6

Division 1-4 – Saline
Division 5
Division 6

District Magistrate Judges – 2

Position 1 – Ottawa
Position 2 - Saline

29th Judicial District

Judicial Department No. 3

Counties: Wyandotte

Judicial Positions:

District Judges – 16

Divisions 1-16 – Wyandotte

District Magistrate Judges – 0

30th 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

31st Judicial District

Judicial Department No. 4

Counties: Allen
 Neosho
 Wilson
 Woodson

Judicial Positions:

District Judges – 4

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

District Magistrate Judges – 3

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

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 1					
Administrative Assistant	23	7.00	348,869	373,217	373,216
Clerk of District Court II	35	2.00	124,415	130,637	137,851
Court Services Officer I	36	10.00	600,218	645,318	667,861
Court Services Officer II	40	1.00	78,375	82,293	82,293
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
District Court Administrator I	51	1.00	102,469	107,592	107,592
Official Court Reporter	36	1.00		59,157	64,476
Secretary II	21	1.00	45,860	49,679	49,679
Transcriptionist	23	1.00	48,135	52,897	52,897
Trial Court Clerk II	18	15.00	571,237	653,355	656,966
Trial Court Clerk III	21	2.00	98,588	103,517	103,517
Veteran Treatment Court Coordinator	29		12,971	84,277	84,277
TOTAL		42.00	2,117,511	2,432,631	2,471,317

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 2					
Administrative Assistant	23	2.00	102,067	97,496	101,371
Clerk of District Court I	31	3.00	157,134	167,836	167,836
Clerk of District Court III	41	1.00	63,197	78,391	78,391
Court Services Officer I	36	5.00	329,104	344,042	349,074
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	87,494	84,277	84,277
Official Court Reporter	36	2.00	137,168	147,853	147,853
Secretary II	21	1.00	90,989	51,759	51,759
Trial Court Clerk II	18	9.50	313,730	396,603	404,688
TOTAL		24.50	1,280,883	1,368,257	1,385,249

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 3					
Administrative Assistant	23	19.00	881,705	939,903	945,718
Clerk of District Court IV	47	1.00	80,336	84,352	90,243
Court Services Administrative Officer	50	1.00	99,971	104,969	104,969
Court Services Officer I	36	28.00	1,633,613	1,840,176	1,866,645
Court Services Officer II	40	6.00	470,247	487,945	487,945
Court Services Officer III	44	3.00	259,122	272,077	272,077
District Court Administrator III	63	1.00	124,300	134,366	134,366
Managing Court Reporter	40	1.00	78,374	82,293	82,293
Official Court Reporter	36	8.00	474,053	548,594	556,970
Programmer I	37		72,850		
Programmer II	45		163,235		
Records Clerk III	18	4.00	152,987	171,022	171,513
Secretary I	18	3.00	126,988	131,908	131,908
Transcriptionist	23	1.00	29,783	46,361	46,361
Trial Court Clerk II	18	37.00	1,238,977	1,569,699	1,582,572
Trial Court Clerk III	21	6.00	295,764	310,552	310,552

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 3 (Continued)					
Trial Court Clerk IV	27	7.00	320,397	387,574	391,755
Trial Court Clerk V	31	1.00	62,941	66,088	66,088
TOTAL			6,565,643	7,177,879	7,241,975

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 4					
Administrative Assistant	23	3.00	155,339	163,107	163,107
Clerk of District Court I	31	2.00	102,197	112,783	112,783
Clerk of District Court II	35	2.00	129,678	140,552	140,552
Court Services Officer I	36	6.00	368,567	403,472	410,097
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	80,265	84,277	90,692
District Court Administrator I	51	1.00	102,469	107,592	107,592
Official Court Reporter	36	2.00	142,152	149,261	149,261
Secretary II	21	1.00	41,710	51,759	51,759
Transcriptionist	23	1.00	62,913	54,369	54,369
Trial Court Clerk II	18	13.00	497,768	546,493	557,565
TOTAL		32.00	1,683,058	1,813,665	1,837,777

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 5					
Administrative Assistant	23	3.00	146,190	155,740	155,740
Clerk of District Court I	31	1.00	54,369	57,087	58,582
Clerk of District Court II	35	1.00	59,885	66,631	66,631
Court Services Officer I	36	5.00	331,619	352,843	357,386
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
District Court Administrator I	51	1.00	102,469	107,592	107,592
Official Court Reporter	36	2.00	137,168	145,436	145,436
Secretary I	18	1.00	42,615	44,745	45,390
Trial Court Clerk II	18	11.50	475,202	514,640	517,346
TOTAL		26.50	1,435,891	1,535,406	1,544,795

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 6					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	51,780	54,369	54,369
Chief Clerk Administrator	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
Clerk of District Court I	31	2.00	119,274	123,176	123,176
Court Services Officer I	36	6.00	338,943	397,072	401,236
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
Official Court Reporter	36	1.00	56,963	59,157	64,476
Secretary II	21	5.00	212,769	237,759	240,010
Transcriptionist	23	1.00	40,932	47,002	47,002
Trial Court Clerk II	18	9.00	336,949	386,512	388,847
Trial Court Clerk III	21	2.00	95,946	99,911	99,911
TOTAL		29.00	1,426,304	1,586,342	1,600,411

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 7					
Administrative Assistant	23	7.00	284,574	327,865	332,286
Clerk of District Court IV	47	1.00	92,204	97,608	97,608
Court Services Officer I	36	8.00	511,709	553,486	558,279
Court Services Officer II	40	1.00	63,303	82,293	82,293
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	80,265	88,225	88,225
District Court Administrator II	59	1.00	124,775	131,013	131,013
Official Court Reporter	36	6.00	349,443	406,161	408,820
Secretary II	21	0.50	24,647	25,879	25,879
Trial Court Clerk II	18	10.00	395,994	432,448	435,522
Trial Court Clerk III	21	2.00	89,717	96,304	96,304
Trial Court Clerk IV	27	1.00	57,013	59,864	59,864
TOTAL		38.50	2,073,644	2,301,146	2,316,093

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 8					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	99,974	54,369	54,369
Clerk of District Court II	35	3.00	194,100	208,472	208,472
Court Services Officer I	36	10.00	652,105	685,065	707,454
Court Services Officer II	40	2.00	156,749	164,586	164,586
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
Secretary I	18	1.00	30,248	48,094	48,094
Secretary II	21	1.00	1,896	51,759	51,759
Transcriptionist	23	2.50	117,399	128,555	128,555
Trial Court Clerk II	18	18.50	700,736	788,796	801,280
Trial Court Clerk III	21	3.00	135,912	148,063	148,063
TOTAL		43.00	2,175,493	2,368,451	2,403,324

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 9					
Administrative Assistant	23	4.00	192,879	195,374	197,417
Clerk of District Court II	35	2.00	130,750	140,552	140,552
Court Services Officer I	36	6.00	375,918	382,972	389,407
Court Services Officer II	40	2.00	138,236	158,773	158,773
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	83,052	90,692	90,692
District Court Administrator I	51	1.00	103,916	100,027	100,027
Official Court Reporter	36	1.00	71,076	59,157	64,476
Secretary II	21	2.00	91,004	93,263	93,263
Transcriptionist	23	2.00	43,504	98,444	101,371
Trial Court Clerk II	18	9.00	317,686	369,169	375,870
Trial Court Clerk III	21	1.00	49,294	51,759	51,759
TOTAL		31.00	1,597,315	1,740,182	1,763,607

SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2026

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 10					
Accounting Technician	21	2.00	71,686	92,862	92,862
Administrative Assistant	23	31.00	1,470,322	1,587,648	1,598,434
Administrative Program Manager	40	2.00	82,783	153,315	156,044
Clerk of District Court IV	47	1.00	86,414	90,734	90,734
Court Management Analyst	50	1.00	86,374	94,405	94,405
Court Program Analyst	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
Court Services Administrative Officer	50	1.00	99,971	104,969	104,969
Court Services Officer I	36	57.00	3,430,764	3,754,432	3,825,500
Court Services Officer II	40	11.00	728,021	854,477	864,398
Court Services Officer III	44	5.00	420,462	423,103	423,103
District Court Administrator III	63	1.00	118,887	127,765	127,765
Managing Court Reporter	40	2.00	156,749	164,586	164,586
Official Court Reporter	36	10.00	500,041	658,320	674,224
Programmer I	37	1.00	72,850	76,492	76,492
Programmer II	45	1.00	88,535	92,961	92,961
Secretary I	18	5.50	197,164	222,013	224,196
Secretary II	21	1.00	49,294	51,759	51,759
Trial Court Clerk II	18	23.50	596,302	929,147	958,926
Trial Court Clerk III	21	7.00	268,898	333,786	333,786
Trial Court Clerk IV	27	9.00	409,844	485,724	488,138
Trial Court Coordinator	33	4.00	183,012	263,848	263,848
TOTAL		177.00	9,204,747	10,653,038	10,797,822

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ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2026

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 11					
Administrative Assistant	23	8.00	369,131	400,984	404,374
Clerk of District Court II	35	3.00	186,571	198,557	202,870
Court Services Officer I	36	10.00	610,662	705,289	712,418
Court Services Officer II	40	1.00	78,374	82,293	82,293
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
District Court Administrator I	51	1.00	102,469	107,592	107,592
Official Court Reporter	36	2.00	142,151	149,261	149,261
Secretary I	18	2.00	88,934	96,188	96,188
Trial Court Clerk II	18	12.00	420,270	506,994	513,422
Trial Court Clerk III	21	2.00	91,874	96,601	96,601
TOTAL			2,176,810	2,434,451	2,455,711

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 12					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	51,780	54,369	54,369
Clerk of District Court I	31	5.00	283,170	303,439	310,082
Clerk of District Court III	41	1.00	74,657	78,391	78,391
Court Services Officer I	36	3.00	148,809	192,828	198,147
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	75,703	84,277	84,277
Secretary II	21	1.00	49,294	51,759	51,759
Trial Court Clerk II	18	7.50	300,217	325,439	337,857
TOTAL		19.50	983,630	1,090,502	1,114,882

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 13					
Administrative Assistant	23	5.00	240,467	255,764	258,760
Clerk of District Court II	35	2.00	123,517	135,676	135,676
Court Services Officer I	36	8.00	539,299	570,898	584,032
Court Services Officer II	40	1.00	78,374	82,293	82,293
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
District Court Administrator I	51	1.00	98,201	107,592	107,592
Official Court Reporter	36	3.00	203,557	215,819	215,819
Secretary I	18	1.00	36,886	41,548	41,548
Secretary II	21	1.00	49,294	51,759	51,759
Trial Court Clerk II	18	11.00	377,304	445,650	449,954
Trial Court Clerk III	21	2.00	95,635	99,911	99,911
TOTAL		36.00	1,928,908	2,097,602	2,118,036

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 14					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	51,780	54,369	54,369
Clerk of District Court I	31	1.00	54,369	60,908	60,908
Clerk of District Court III	41	1.00	71,481	78,391	78,391
Court Services Officer I	36	6.00	383,481	412,491	412,491
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
Official Court Reporter	36	3.00	142,151	208,418	213,737
Secretary I	18	2.00	85,230	89,490	89,490
Secretary II	21	1.00		41,084	44,710
Trial Court Clerk II	18	8.00	278,042	329,674	332,835
Trial Court Clerk III	21	2.00	95,154	99,911	100,187
TOTAL		26.00	1,248,062	1,465,428	1,477,810

SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 15					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	45,607	50,542	50,542
Clerk of District Court I	31	6.00	353,891	373,813	375,794
Clerk of District Court III	41	1.00	80,336	84,352	84,352
Court Services Officer I	36	4.00	247,729	267,455	269,348
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
District Court Administrator I	51	1.00	79,564	91,697	91,697
Secretary II	21	0.50	22,930	12,038	24,700
Transcriptionist	23	1.50	30,041	67,576	67,576
Trial Court Clerk II	18	8.50	354,548	366,585	368,921
TOTAL		24.50	1,301,020	1,404,750	1,423,622

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 16					
Administrative Assistant	23	2.00	97,377	101,084	103,881
Chief Clerk Administrator	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
Clerk of District Court I	31	5.00	291,111	303,081	307,757
Court Services Officer I	36	5.00	331,055	356,061	360,603
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
Official Court Reporter	36	1.00	71,144	74,630	74,630
Secretary I	18	2.00	73,480	82,314	82,314
Transcriptionist	23	1.00	51,780	54,369	54,369
Trial Court Clerk II	18	12.00	492,010	526,330	529,895
TOTAL		30.00	1,580,705	1,679,253	1,694,833

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 17					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	48,135	50,984	50,984
Clerk of District Court I	31	5.00	296,174	303,613	303,945
Chief Clerk Administrator	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
Court Services Officer I	36	2.00	132,482	141,945	141,945
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
Trial Court Clerk II	18	6.00	230,660	251,821	251,821
TOTAL			880,199	929,747	930,079

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 18					
Account Clerk II	18	1.00	42,646	44,745	45,775
Accounting Technician	21	2.00	98,689	103,518	103,518
Administrative Assistant	23	32.00	1,578,065	1,676,544	1,684,345
Administrative Support Specialist	26	1.00	55,670	58,404	58,404
Clerk of District Court IV	47	1.00	93,059	97,608	97,608
Court Management Analyst	50	1.00	100,067	104,969	104,969
Court Program Analyst	44	1.00	86,457	90,692	90,692
Court Services Administrative Officer	50	1.00	100,067	104,969	104,969
Court Services Officer I	36	46.50	2,945,308	3,091,658	3,139,179
Court Services Officer II	40	8.00	626,995	658,345	658,345
Court Services Officer III	44	4.00	361,622	441,104	441,104
District Court Administrator III	63	1.00	119,087	124,831	133,999
Managing Court Reporter	40	2.00	151,212	164,363	164,363
Official Court Reporter	36	22.50	1,189,928	1,529,762	1,564,601
PC Support Coordinator	40		72,925		
PC Support Specialist	37		54,420		
Programmer I	37		140,764		
Programmer II	45		171,350		
Secretary II	21	7.00	335,452	377,213	380,820
Transcriptionist	23	3.00	92,781	141,619	141,619

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 18 (Continued)					
Trial Court Clerk II	18	58.00	2,122,286	2,431,591	2,468,579
Trial Court Clerk III	21	14.00	566,461	681,830	686,602
Trial Court Clerk IV	27	9.00	420,760	506,097	511,635
Trial Court Clerk V	31	2.00	115,318	126,829	126,829
TOTAL		217.00	11,641,389	12,556,691	12,707,955

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 19					
Account Clerk II	18	1.00	42,615	44,745	48,094
Administrative Assistant	23	2.00	96,271	104,175	106,236
Clerk of District Court III	41	1.00	74,657	78,391	82,976
Court Services Officer I	36	4.00	264,961	283,134	286,555
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
Official Court Reporter	36	1.00	46,453	64,124	64,124
Transcriptionist	23	1.00	44,764	47,002	49,317
Trial Court Clerk II	18	5.00	198,726	214,134	222,371
Trial Court Clerk III	21	1.00	49,294	51,759	51,759
TOTAL		17.00	904,115	978,156	1,002,124

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 20					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	51,779	54,369	54,369
Clerk of District Court I	31	4.00	212,590	241,669	245,323
Clerk of District Court II	35	1.00	64,530	67,756	67,756
Court Services Officer I	36	6.00	314,936	383,816	387,223
Court Services Officer II	40	1.00	78,374	82,293	82,293
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
District Court Administrator I	51	1.00	88,535	100,027	100,027
Official Court Reporter	36	1.00	71,076	74,631	74,630
Secretary I	18	0.50	19,785	20,774	21,205
Secretary II	21	3.00	137,733	148,063	148,063
Trial Court Clerk II	18	16.00	538,326	659,261	681,252
Trial Court Clerk III	21	1.00	49,294	51,759	51,759
TOTAL		36.50	1,713,332	1,975,110	2,004,592

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 21					
Administrative Assistant	23	3.00	141,307	148,373	152,185
Clerk of District Court I	31	1.00	62,941	66,088	66,088
Clerk of District Court II	35	1.00	56,504	62,880	62,880
Court Services Officer I	36	5.00	340,725	357,764	361,361
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
District Court Administrator I	51	1.00	83,480	92,961	92,961
Official Court Reporter	36	2.00	132,481	140,810	140,810
Secretary II	21	1.00	49,294	51,759	51,759
Trial Court Clerk II	18	10.50	399,626	453,106	457,842
Trial Court Clerk III	21	2.00	95,154	99,911	99,911
TOTAL		27.50	1,447,886	1,564,344	1,576,489

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 22					
Administrative Assistant	23	2.00	90,740	96,645	99,589
Clerk of District Court I	31	3.00	162,232	174,509	174,509
Clerk of District Court III	41	1.00	75,160	84,352	84,352
Court Services Officer I	36	6.00	376,058	407,164	411,518
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	71,988	78,335	78,335
Official Court Reporter	36	2.00	142,151	149,261	149,261
Trial Court Clerk II	18	9.00	345,748	394,146	400,116
TOTAL		24.00	1,264,077	1,384,412	1,397,680

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 23					
Administrative Assistant	23	2.00	95,524	104,911	104,911
Clerk of District Court I	31	3.00	177,102	176,811	180,963
Clerk of District Court II	35	1.00	59,885	63,818	63,818
Court Services Officer I	36	3.00	187,496	212,682	212,682
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	80,265	84,278	84,277
District Court Administrator I	51	1.00	102,469	107,592	107,592
Official Court Reporter	36	1.00	71,076	74,631	74,631
Trial Court Clerk II	18	8.00	329,384	340,789	341,280
TOTAL			1,103,201	1,165,512	1,170,154

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 24					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	51,780	54,369	54,369
Chief Clerk Administrator	44	1.00		73,803	71,931
Clerk of District Court I	31	5.00	276,185	290,192	290,856
Clerk of District Court III	41	1.00	69,329	72,796	73,441
Court Services Officer I	36	3.00	181,407	209,323	209,323
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
Secretary I	18	1.50	62,069	65,519	65,519
Transcriptionist	23	1.00	48,135	50,542	50,542
Trial Court Clerk II	18	6.00	216,653	249,223	254,798
Trial Court Clerk III	21	1.00	49,294	51,759	51,759
TOTAL		21.50	1,041,226	1,208,218	1,213,230

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 25					
Administrative Assistant	23	4.00	188,656	194,003	199,868
Clerk of District Court I	31	5.00	284,529	301,414	311,423
Clerk of District Court II	35	1.00	69,328	72,796	72,796
Court Services Officer I	36	5.00	398,788	348,213	355,216
Court Services Officer II	40	2.00	75,360	146,996	152,726
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
District Court Administrator I	51	1.00	98,065	97,310	97,310
Official Court Reporter	36	1.00	71,076	74,630	74,630
Secretary II	21	1.50	59,773	67,064	67,064
Transcriptionist	23	0.50	22,119	23,501	23,501
Trial Court Clerk II	18	12.00	413,797	510,727	517,496
Trial Court Clerk III	21	2.00	98,588	103,517	103,517
TOTAL			1,866,453	2,030,863	2,066,239

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 26					
Administrative Assistant	23	2.00	81,156	90,127	96,727
Chief Clerk Administrator	44	1.00	72,961	82,906	82,906
Clerk of District Court I	31	4.00	229,193	243,027	246,680
Clerk of District Court II	35	1.00	64,530	68,337	68,337
Court Services Officer I	36	4.00	151,760	249,721	257,253
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
Secretary I	18	1.00	35,025	38,846	38,846
Transcriptionist	23	2.00	95,746	104,911	104,911
Trial Court Clerk II	18	11.50	449,416	488,251	499,808
Trial Court Clerk III	21	1.00	43,589	48,152	48,152
TOTAL			1,309,750	1,504,970	1,534,312

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 27					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	91,584	54,369	54,369
Clerk of District Court III	41	1.00	74,575	78,391	78,391
Court Services Officer I	36	11.00	707,465	764,390	777,450
Court Services Officer II	40	2.00	156,749	164,586	164,586
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
Official Court Reporter	36	3.00	142,151	208,418	213,737
Secretary I	18	1.00	45,804	48,094	48,094
Secretary II	21	3.00	45,860	127,400	137,571
Transcriptionist	23	1.00	32,492	43,566	43,566
Trial Court Clerk II	18	10.00	407,113	426,365	427,964
Trial Court Clerk III	21	2.00	82,056	96,304	99,355
Trial Court Clerk IV	27	1.00	53,027	55,679	56,967
TOTAL		37.00	1,925,250	2,158,254	2,192,742

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 28					
Administrative Assistant	23	7.00	334,486	355,385	357,700
Clerk of District Court I	31	1.00	58,481	61,406	61,406
Clerk of District Court II	35	1.00	69,328	72,796	72,796
Court Services Officer I	36	8.00	460,418	545,757	558,060
Court Services Officer II	40	2.00	156,749	164,586	164,586
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
District Court Administrator I	51	1.00	102,469	107,592	107,592
Official Court Reporter	36	3.00	213,227	223,891	223,891
Secretary I	18	2.00	87,072	92,839	92,839
Transcriptionist	23	2.00	12,052	90,128	94,004
Trial Court Clerk II	18	13.00	526,204	581,749	585,853
Trial Court Clerk III	21	2.00	98,588	103,517	103,517
Trial Court Clerk IV	27	1.00	57,013	59,865	59,864
TOTAL		44.00	2,262,461	2,550,203	2,572,800

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 29					
Account Clerk II	18	0.50	21,755	24,047	24,047
Accounting Technician	21		38,804		
Administrative Assistant	23	17.00	830,955	871,138	881,437
Administrative Support Specialist	26	1.00	55,623	58,404	58,404
Clerk of District Court IV	47	1.00	86,414	90,734	90,734
Court Program Analyst	44		15,683	78,335	78,335
Court Services Administrative Officer	50	1.00	99,971	104,969	104,969
Court Services Officer I	36	29.00	1,839,500	1,929,928	1,954,932
Court Services Officer II	40	5.00	378,869	383,192	388,923
Court Services Officer III	44	4.00	336,065	361,288	361,288
District Court Administrator III	63	1.00	127,968	134,366	134,366
Managing Court Reporter	40	1.00	78,374	82,293	82,293
Official Court Reporter	36	8.00	414,402	545,391	561,346
Secretary I	18	4.00	167,883	179,283	179,283
Secretary II	21	1.00	45,010	72,830	72,830
Transcriptionist	23	2.00	80,352	90,168	91,121
Trial Court Clerk II	18	21.00	842,424	922,692	937,427
Trial Court Clerk III	21	7.00	332,031	359,815	359,815
Trial Court Clerk IV	27	6.00	278,660	343,551	343,551
Trial Court Clerk V	31	1.00	62,941	66,088	66,088
Veteran Treatment Court Mentor Coordinator			74		
TOTAL		110.50	6,133,758	6,698,512	6,771,189

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ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2026

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 30					
Administrative Assistant	23	2.00	96,042	101,371	101,371
Clerk of District Court I	31	4.00	235,509	250,669	250,669
Clerk of District Court II	35	1.00	59,885	63,068	63,068
Court Services Officer I	36	7.00	450,732	485,507	492,511
Court Services Officer II	40	1.00	78,374	82,293	82,293
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	80,265	88,472	88,472
District Court Administrator I	51	1.00	102,469	107,592	107,592
Official Court Reporter	36	1.00	66,514	74,630	74,630
Secretary I	18	1.00	45,804	48,094	48,094
Trial Court Clerk II	18	14.00	569,162	610,707	621,134
TOTAL		33.00	1,784,756	1,912,403	1,929,834

SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2026

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 31					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	51,780	54,369	54,369
Chief Clerk Administrator	44	1.00	86,374	90,692	90,692
Clerk of District Court I	31	2.00	108,898	121,628	121,628
Clerk of District Court II	35	1.00	69,328	72,796	72,796
Court Services Officer I	36	8.00	529,629	557,723	568,726
Court Services Officer III	44	1.00	80,265	86,498	86,498
Official Court Reporter	36	3.00	186,080	213,737	213,737
Secretary I	18	2.00	76,191	83,096	83,096
Secretary II	21	3.00	147,882	155,276	155,276
Transcriptionist	23	1.00	9,958	43,127	47,002
Trial Court Clerk II	18	10.00	411,005	446,882	450,692
TOTAL		33.00	1,757,390	1,925,824	1,944,512

SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2026

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
POSITION SUMMARY					
Account Clerk II	18	2.50	107,016	113,537	117,916
Accounting Technician	21	4.00	209,179	196,380	196,380
Administrative Assistant	23	174.00	8,418,101	8,877,332	8,955,151
Administrative Program Manager	40	2.00	82,783	153,315	156,044
Administrative Support Specialist	26	2.00	111,293	116,808	116,808
Chief Clerk Administrator	44	6.00	418,457	519,477	517,605
Clerk of District Court I	31	62.00	3,519,349	3,733,149	3,770,408
Clerk of District Court II	35	23.00	1,462,234	1,565,324	1,576,851
Clerk of District Court III	41	8.00	583,392	633,455	638,685
Clerk of District Court IV	47	5.00	438,427	461,036	466,927
Court Management Analyst	50	2.00	186,441	199,374	199,374
Court Program Analyst	44	2.00	188,514	259,719	259,719
Court Services Administrative Officer	50	4.00	399,980	419,876	419,876
Court Services Officer I	36	324.50	20,115,260	21,832,625	22,183,912
Court Services Officer II	40	46.00	3,343,149	3,677,244	3,698,626
Court Services Officer III	44	43.00	3,651,565	3,899,359	3,905,773
District Court Administrator I	51	13.00	1,269,044	1,342,758	1,342,758
District Court Administrator II	59	1.00	124,775	131,013	131,013
District Court Administrator III	63	4.00	490,242	521,328	530,496
Managing Court Reporter	40	6.00	464,709	493,535	493,535
Official Court Reporter	36	90.50	5,173,682	6,255,140	6,359,467

SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2026

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CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
POSITION SUMMARY (Continued)					
PC Support Coordinator	40	0.00	72,925	0	0
PC Support Specialist	37	0.00	54,420	0	0
Programmer I	37	1.00	286,464	76,492	76,492
Programmer II	45	1.00	423,120	92,961	92,961
Records Clerk III	18	4.00	152,987	171,022	171,513
Secretary I	18	30.50	1,221,178	1,332,845	1,336,104
Secretary II	21	35.50	1,500,691	1,769,861	1,802,178
Transcriptionist	23	24.50	862,886	1,184,137	1,198,083
Trial Court Clerk II	18	425.00	15,667,502	18,068,978	18,330,899
Trial Court Clerk III	21	62.00	2,781,131	3,088,638	3,096,737
Trial Court Clerk IV	27	34.00	1,596,714	1,898,354	1,911,774
Trial Court Clerk V	31	4.00	241,200	259,005	259,005
Trial Court Coordinator	33	4.00	183,012	263,848	263,848
Veteran Treatment Court Coordinator	44	0.00	12,971	84,277	84,277
Veteran Treatment Court Mentor Coordinator		0.00	74	0	0
		1,450.00	75,814,867	83,692,202	84,661,195
SUB-TOTAL			75,814,867	83,692,202	84,661,195

SALARY AND WAGE SUMMARY

ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2026

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CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT - 4117

CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT	GRADE	NO.	FY 2024 ACTUAL AMOUNT	FY 2025 ESTIMATED AMOUNT	FY 2026 ESTIMATED AMOUNT
POSITION SUMMARY					
Administrative Assistant	23	1.00	1,992	54,369	54,369
Administrative Hearing Officer	55	5.00	525,681	560,987	560,986
District Court Administrator I	51	1.00	102,469	107,592	107,592
Secretary II	21	3.00	178,510	133,946	140,087
Trial Court Coordinator	23	1.00	16,099	55,563	55,563
SUB-TOTAL		11.00	824,751	912,457	918,597
TOTAL		1,461.00	76,639,618	84,604,659	85,579,792