

JUDICIAL BRANCH

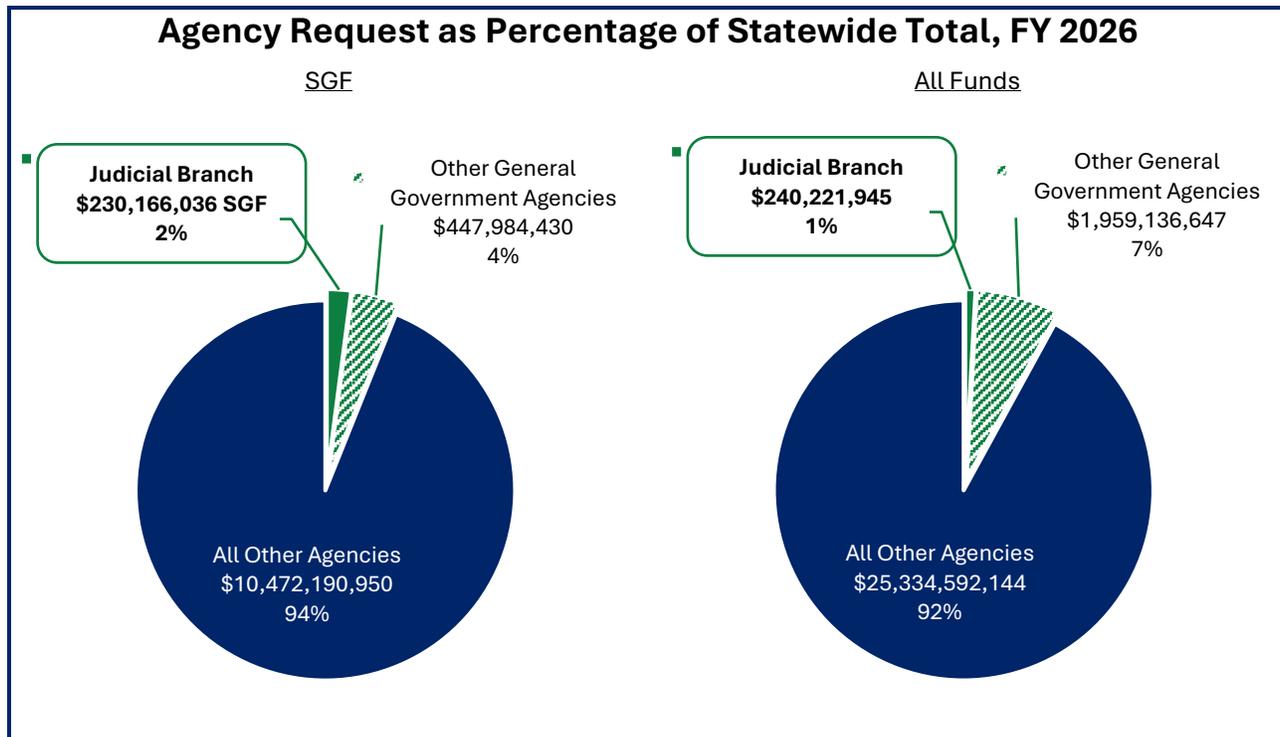
Budget Summary – Agency Request

Executive Summary

The *Kansas Constitution* vests the judicial power of the State in one court of justice, which is divided into the Supreme Court, district courts, and other courts as provided by law. The Supreme Court has general administrative authority over all the courts in the state. The Judicial Branch’s budget includes funding for the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, personnel costs of the district courts and some funding for technology, and a number of judicial and professional review boards and commissions. Most non-salary costs of the district courts are funded by the counties. While individual counties pay operating expenses for district courts, pursuant to [KSA 20-348](#), the agency pays the salaries of all Judicial Branch judges and employees. Under this funding structure, the state appropriation for the pay of all judicial personnel accounted for approximately 89.3 percent of all Judicial Branch expenditures in FY 2025.

The Judicial Branch submits its budget directly to the Legislature under [KSA 20-158](#) and provides it to the Director of the Budget to include in *The Governor's Budget Report* under [KSA 75-3721](#).

Expenditures by Fiscal Year and Version				
		SGF	All Funds	Note
FY 2024 Actual	\$	186,480,044	\$ 199,391,826	Actual expenditures
FY 2025 Actual		211,254,701	220,565,960	Actual expenditures
FY 2026 Approved		230,166,036	240,221,945	2025 SB 125
FY 2026 Agency		230,166,036	240,221,945	Revised estimate, submitted September 2025
FY 2027 Agency		236,217,539	246,149,859	Agency request, submitted September 2025



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Budget and Policy Snapshot

The tables below provide a selection of items that inform the agency budget request. These items include **supplemental and enhancement requests** (NEW), adjustments related to **reappropriated funds** (E), **language-only policy changes** requested for inclusion in legislation, changes in **federal or state policy** that impact agency funding, and other budgetary items.

These tables are not intended to be a comprehensive list of changes in the agency budget request. For more detail on individual fiscal year requests, please refer to the [FY 2026 Analysis](#) and [FY 2027 Analysis](#) sections later in this document.

FY 2026

Item	Amount	Source	Note
 SGF Reappropriation	\$ 5,320	SGF	SB 125 excludes the Judiciary Branch from the 1.5 percent lapse of SGF reappropriations.

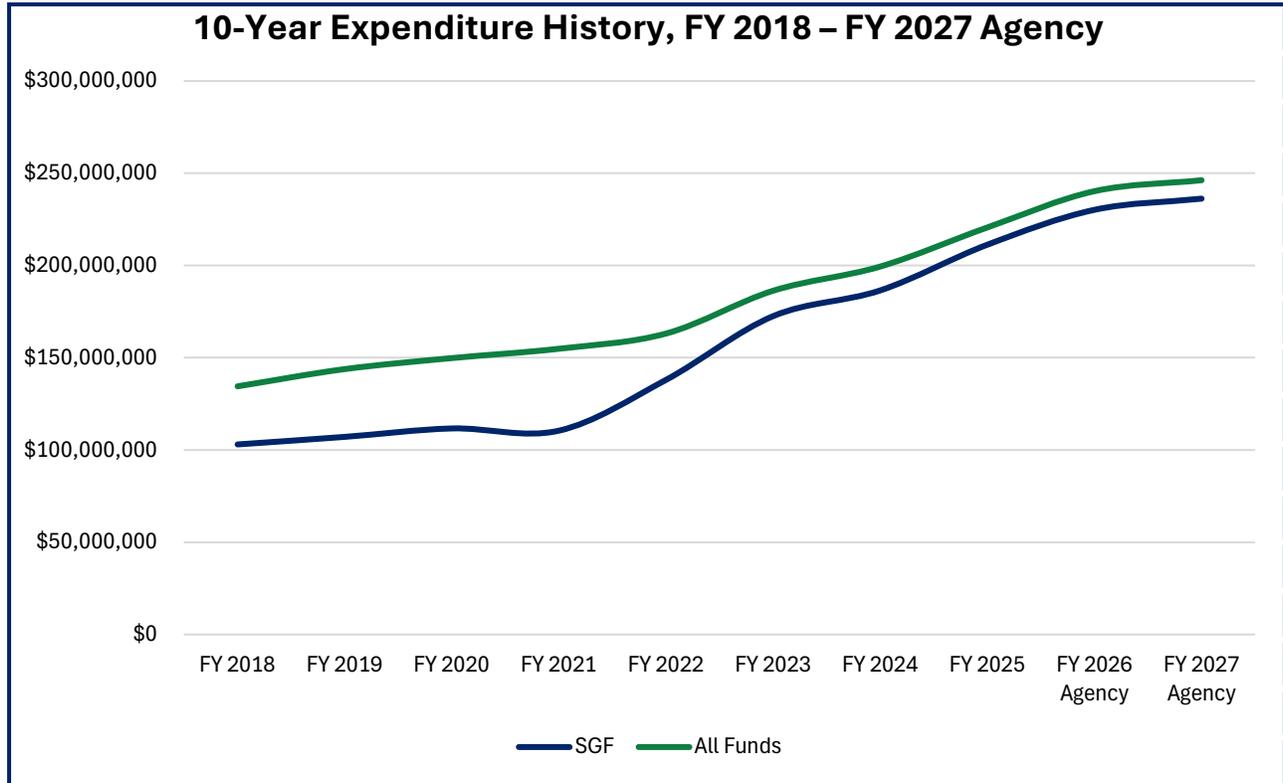
FY 2027

Item	Amount	Source	Note
 Learning Center	\$ 300,000	SGF	Interactive exhibit within the Judicial Center.
 Specialty Courts – Funding	1,045,000	SGF / Specialty Court Resources Fund	Transfer from the SGF to the Specialty Court Resources Fund.
 Specialty Courts – FTE	-	N/A	Authorization for 3.0 FTE positions.
 Court Services Juvenile Coordinator	103,296	SGF	Includes funding for 1.0 FTE position.
 Rural Justice Initiative	886,795	SGF	Includes funding for 1.0 FTE position.
 Non-Judicial Salary Increase	3,251,859	SGF	2.5 percent salary increase.

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Summary of Expenditures



Fiscal Year	SGF		All Funds		FTE	CPI-U*
	Amount	Change (%)	Amount	Change (%)		
FY 2018	\$ 102,992,279	(1.9)	\$ 134,508,401	1.0	1,864.60	0.2
FY 2019	107,089,705	4.0	143,832,408	6.9	1,868.00	--
FY 2020	111,656,700	4.3	149,801,549	4.2	1,868.00	0.8
FY 2021	110,454,531	(1.1)	154,871,064	3.4	1,868.00	2.4
FY 2022	137,998,899	24.9	163,100,291	5.3	1,938.00	9.2
FY 2023	172,534,073	25.0	186,293,473	14.2	2,002.00	5.8
FY 2024	186,480,044	8.1	199,391,826	7.0	2,010.50	3.0
FY 2025	211,254,701	13.3	220,565,960	10.6	2,035.00	3.0
FY 2026 Agency	230,166,036	9.0	240,221,945	8.9	2,038.50	2.8
FY 2027 Agency	236,217,539	2.6	246,149,859	2.5	2,043.50	2.4

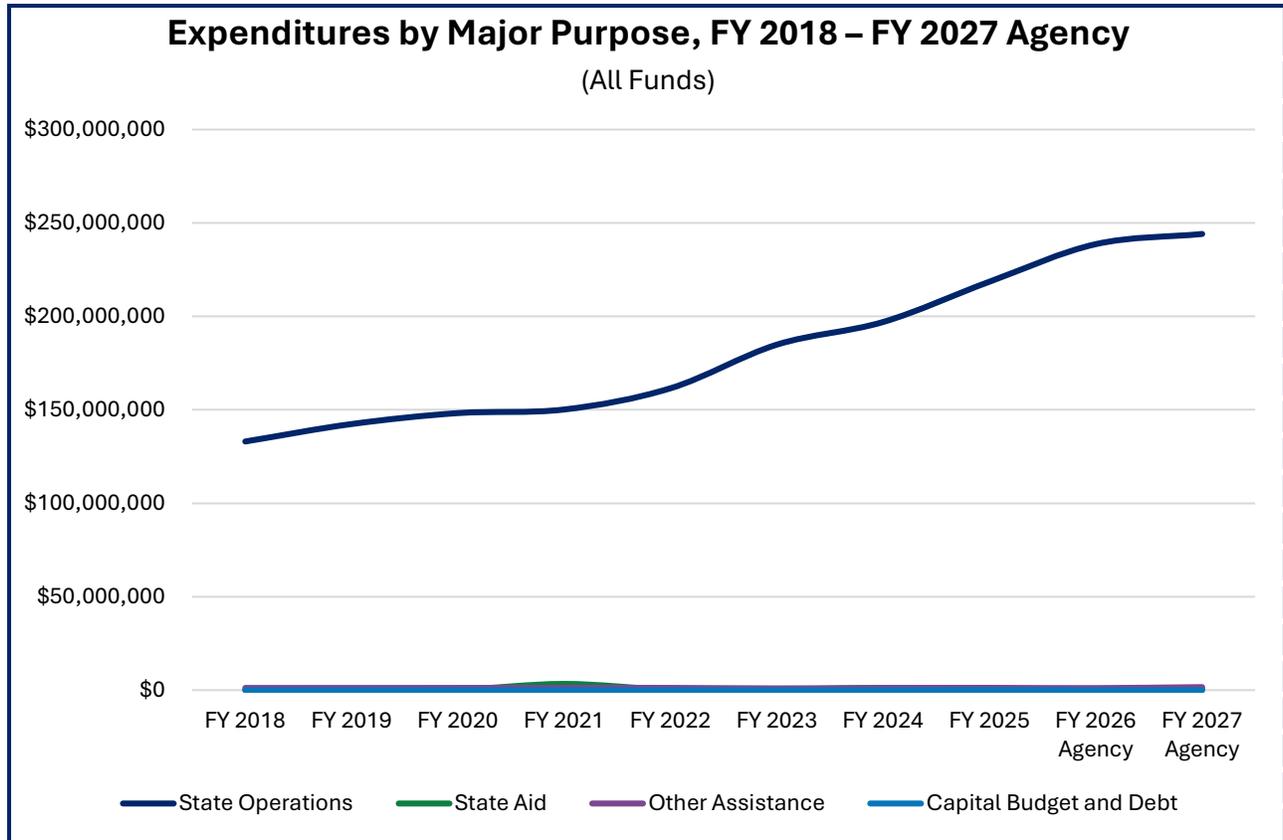
5-Year Change (FY 2023–2027)	\$ 63,683,466	36.9	\$ 59,856,386	32.1	41.50	11.6
10-Year Change (FY 2018–2027)	133,225,260	129.4	111,641,458	83.0	178.90	33.1
3-Year Average** (FY 2023–2025)	190,089,606	N/A	202,083,753	N/A	2,015.83	N/A

* Note : Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers estimate FY 2026–2027 is from the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group.

** Note : Reflects the three most recent years of actuals data.

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Expenditures by Category, FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency
(All Funds)

	FY 2026 Agency % of Total	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency
State Operations						
Salaries and Wages	90.2 %	\$ 181,521,479	\$ 197,043,244	\$ 216,732,741	\$ 216,732,741	\$ 221,898,995
Contractual Services	7.7	13,183,994	17,656,731	18,766,178	18,382,490	19,647,453
Commodities	0.2	284,292	371,792	456,714	422,430	458,617
Capital Outlay	1.0	1,651,212	3,437,589	2,390,820	2,404,820	1,693,709
Operating Adjustments	--	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	99.1 %	\$ 196,640,977	\$ 218,509,356	\$ 238,346,453	\$ 237,942,481	\$ 243,698,774
State Aid and Assistance						
Aid to Locals	0.2 %	\$ 1,244,507	\$ 738,191	\$ 470,172	\$ 554,464	\$ 551,085
Other Assistance	0.5	1,156,342	1,237,516	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,600,000
Subtotal	0.7 %	\$ 2,400,849	\$ 1,975,707	\$ 1,570,172	\$ 1,654,464	\$ 2,151,085
Capital Budget and Debt						
Capital Improvements	0.3 %	\$ 350,000	\$ 80,897	\$ 300,000	\$ 625,000	\$ 300,000
Debt Service Principal	--	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service Interest	--	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	0.3 %	\$ 350,000	\$ 80,897	\$ 300,000	\$ 625,000	\$ 300,000
Reappropriations	-- %	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,320	\$ -	\$ -
GRAND TOTAL	100.0 %	\$ 199,391,826	\$ 220,565,960	\$ 240,221,945	\$ 240,221,945	\$ 246,149,859

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State Operations

Expenditures by Classification, FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency						
(State Operations, All Funds)						
	FY 2026 Agency % of Total	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency
Salaries and Wages						
Employee Pay	68.8 %	\$ 133,110,250	\$ 144,133,574	\$ 168,158,120	\$ 165,350,166	\$ 169,146,862
Employee Benefits	25.2	48,411,229	52,909,670	57,727,887	60,535,841	61,922,716
Shrinkage	(3.8)	-	-	(9,153,266)	(9,153,266)	(9,170,583)
Subtotal	90.2 %	\$ 181,521,479	\$ 197,043,244	\$ 216,732,741	\$ 216,732,741	\$ 221,898,995
Contractual Services						
Communication	0.2 %	\$ 518,084	\$ 566,006	\$ 576,700	\$ 538,200	\$ 523,020
Fees (Professional)	2.7	5,489,178	4,896,997	7,116,346	6,491,114	4,574,720
Fees (Other Services)	0.5	499,630	611,750	971,471	1,136,471	1,420,174
Freight and Express	0.1	15,366	19,555	25,074	25,076	23,709
Printing and Advertising	0.1	207,438	319,328	281,306	298,306	370,108
Rent and Leases	1.6	2,268,995	5,223,679	3,101,722	3,953,303	4,236,192
Repair and Servicing	1.8	2,969,598	4,337,193	4,358,960	4,358,960	6,746,576
Travel and Subsistence	0.5	1,018,610	1,036,486	1,340,576	1,246,576	1,307,206
Utilities	--	-	-	-	-	-
Other	0.1	197,095	645,737	994,023	334,484	445,748
Subtotal	7.7 %	\$ 13,183,994	\$ 17,656,731	\$ 18,766,178	\$ 18,382,490	\$ 19,647,453
Commodities						
Clothing	0.1 %	\$ 842	\$ 2,831	\$ 565	\$ 565	\$ 565
Equipment and Parts	0.1	194	8,975	217	217	217
Food	0.1	138,119	195,142	175,939	175,939	208,643
Fuel	--	-	-	-	-	-
Motor Vehicle Parts	0.1	4,759	4,861	4,640	4,640	4,700
Supplies (Office)	0.1	49,539	62,049	126,242	126,242	91,604
Supplies (Professional)	0.1	81,970	90,334	146,947	112,663	147,973
Supplies (Research)	--	-	-	-	-	-
Other	0.1	8,869	7,600	2,164	2,164	4,915
Subtotal	0.2 %	\$ 284,292	\$ 371,792	\$ 456,714	\$ 422,430	\$ 458,617
Capital Outlay						
Books	0.2 %	\$ 448,476	\$ 471,020	\$ 257,738	\$ 557,738	\$ 486,752
Computer Hardware	0.3	151,014	655,187	-	762,853	600,457
Computer Software	0.4	662,364	1,727,935	1,832,229	1,076,229	598,500
Equipment, Furniture	0.1	213,252	580,505	8,000	8,000	8,000
Information Processing	--	176,106	1,493	292,853	-	-
Telecommunications	--	-	1,449	-	-	-
Other	--	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	1.0 %	\$ 1,651,212	\$ 3,437,589	\$ 2,390,820	\$ 2,404,820	\$ 1,693,709
Operating Adjustments	-- %	\$ -				
TOTAL	99.1 %	\$ 196,640,977	\$ 218,509,356	\$ 238,346,453	\$ 237,942,481	\$ 243,698,774

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State Aid

Expenditures by Classification, FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency						
(State Aid, All Funds)						
	FY 2026 Agency % of Total	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency
State Aid						
Federal Aid Payments	0.1 %	\$ 1,053,423	\$ 328,780	\$ 144,500	\$ 26,705	\$ 12,360
State Aid Payments	0.2	191,084	409,411	325,672	527,759	538,725
TOTAL	0.2 %	\$ 1,244,507	\$ 738,191	\$ 470,172	\$ 554,464	\$ 551,085

Other Assistance

Expenditures by Classification, FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency						
(Other Assistance, All Funds)						
	FY 2026 Agency % of Total	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency
Other Assistance						
State Aid Payments	-- %	\$ 356,342	\$ 337,516	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -
Other	0.5	800,000	900,000	900,000	1,100,000	1,600,000
TOTAL	0.5 %	\$ 1,156,342	\$ 1,237,516	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,600,000

Capital Budget and Debt

Expenditures by Classification, FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency						
(Capital Budget and Debt, All Funds)						
	FY 2026 Agency % of Total	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency
Capital Improvements						
Buildings	0.3 %	\$ 350,000	\$ 80,897	\$ 300,000	\$ 625,000	\$ 300,000
Highways and Bridges	--	-	-	-	-	-
Land	--	-	-	-	-	-
Nonstructural	--	-	-	-	-	-
Other	--	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	0.3 %	\$ 350,000	\$ 80,897	\$ 300,000	\$ 625,000	\$ 300,000
Debt Service	-- %	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	0.3 %	\$ 350,000	\$ 80,897	\$ 300,000	\$ 625,000	\$ 300,000

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Expenditures by Program

Expenditures by Program, FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency						
(All Funds)						
	FY 2026 Agency % of Total	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency
Judicial Administration	5.3 %	\$ 11,726,645	\$ 12,350,732	\$ 14,880,682	\$ 12,617,032	\$ 13,046,020
Appellate Courts	12.2	20,792,567	26,690,592	26,144,477	29,346,562	29,093,120
District Courts	75.4	154,813,847	165,368,863	182,735,680	181,185,493	187,570,299
Education Services	0.3	479,729	586,181	696,584	696,584	696,584
Information Services	6.2	10,652,979	14,746,045	14,665,328	14,946,351	14,791,255
Judicial and Prof. Review	0.3	576,059	742,650	793,874	804,923	652,581
Capital Improvements	0.3	350,000	80,897	300,000	625,000	300,000
Reappropriations	--	-	-	5,320	-	-
TOTAL	100.0 %	\$ 199,391,826	\$ 220,565,960	\$ 240,221,945	\$ 240,221,945	\$ 246,149,859

FTE Positions by Program, FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency						
	FY 2026 Agency % of Total	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency
Judicial Administration	3.4 %	70.3	73.3	73.3	68.5	70.5
Appellate Courts	7.9	121.0	143.0	143.0	161.0	161.0
District Courts	85.3	1,764.2	1,741.7	1,741.7	1,739.1	1,742.1
Education Services	--	--	--	--	--	--
Information Services	3.3	52.0	74.0	74.0	67.0	67.0
Judicial and Prof. Review	0.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Capital Improvements	--	--	--	--	--	--
TOTAL	100.0 %	2,010.5	2,035.0	2,035.0	2,038.5	2,043.5

Expenditures by Fund

Expenditures by Fund, FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency						
	FY 2026 Agency % of Total	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency
State General Fund	95.8 %	\$ 186,480,044	\$ 211,254,701	\$ 230,166,036	\$ 230,166,036	\$ 236,217,539
Docket Fee Fund	0.6	4,723,415	1,496,056	1,539,080	1,388,316	-
Electronic Filing Fund	--	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Funds	0.3	563,392	687,891	750,040	730,985	592,677
Federal Funds	1.0	4,441,096	3,518,342	1,882,046	2,506,841	1,556,665
All Other Funds	2.3	3,183,879	3,608,970	5,884,743	5,429,767	7,782,978
TOTAL	100.0 %	\$ 199,391,826	\$ 220,565,960	\$ 240,221,945	\$ 240,221,945	\$ 246,149,859

Judicial Branch Surcharge

[2025 SB 125](#) extends the Judicial Branch surcharge on various docket fees through the end of FY 2027. Without the extension, the surcharge would have sunset at the end of FY 2025. Pursuant to [2022 HB 2541](#), the surcharge on docket fees received are deposited into the SGF.

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Budget Summary – Agency Request

FY 2026 Analysis

Summary of Agency Budget Request, FY 2026					
	SGF	All Other Funds	Total	FTE	Positions
Approved, FY 2026					
1. 2025 SB 125, without Reappropriations	\$ 230,160,716	\$ 10,055,909	\$ 240,216,625		2,035.0
Reappropriations					
2. State General Fund	\$ 5,320	\$ -	\$ 5,320		--
Subtotal – Approved, with Reappropriations	\$ 230,166,036	\$ 10,055,909	\$ 240,221,945		--
Supplemental Requests					
No Supplemental Requests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		--
Other Changes					
3. Learning Center	\$ 325,000	\$ -	\$ 325,000		--
4. All Other Adjustments	(325,000)	-	(325,000)		3.5
Subtotal – Other Changes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		3.5
TOTAL – Agency Revised Estimate	\$ 230,166,036	\$ 10,055,909	\$ 240,221,945		2,038.5

Approved Budget

1. 2025 SB 125

The 2025 Legislature passed, and the Governor enacted, one bill appropriating and adjusting funding for state agencies. For the Judicial Branch, this totaled \$240.2 million, including \$230.2 million SGF, in FY 2026. The approved budget includes a transfer of \$1.5 million SGF into the Specialty Court Resources Fund, for specialty court operations.

Reappropriations

2. SGF Reappropriation

The agency reappropriated \$5,320 in unspent SGF funds from FY 2025 to FY 2026 for judicial operations that the agency plans to expend for the same purpose in FY 2026.

Other Changes

3. Learning Center

Over the past few years, the Judicial Branch has explored the possibility of creating a judicial learning center within the Judicial Center’s Law Library. In FY 2025, agency staff began preparatory work—meeting with architects to prepare design renders, touring state archives, and communicating with other states with similar learning centers. During the 2025 Legislative Session, the agency requested \$3.7 million SGF to create a student-focused interactive Learning Center—this request was not approved. During the 2025 Interim, the Judicial Branch reduced the amount requested for the learning center and expanded the length of time in which it will take to complete the interactive exhibits. The revised plan was presented to, and approved by, the Joint Committee on State Building Construction on August 28, 2025.

As such, the revised estimate includes \$325,000 SGF in ongoing expenditures for the development and construction of one interactive learning exhibit within the Law Library in FY 2026. This adjustment

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is not considered a request for supplemental or enhancement funding as the Judicial Branch reduced anticipated contractual services expenditures for the Office of Judicial Administration by \$325,000 SGF to fund the interactive learning center projects.

The current plan is for interactive exhibits to provide information about the history, processes, and relationships of the three branches of government with a focus on the work of the judicial system. However, the prolonged development process will allow the Judicial Branch to use this first exhibit as a model for what future exhibits could feature. The Judicial Branch plans for exhibits to be transportable, meaning they could be temporarily installed at locations throughout the state, including the Statehouse.

4. All Other Adjustments

Although the amount of the Judicial Branch's revised estimate does not change monetarily from the previously approved amount, there are several adjustments across categories of expenditure that relate to capital improvement projects for the Judicial Center. The Judicial Branch reduced contractual services expenditures for the Office of Judicial Administration by \$325,000 SGF to fund the interactive learning center projects. Similarly, the Judicial Branch reclassified \$300,000 SGF in capital outlay expenditures as capital improvement expenditures that were previously approved for the completion of the Garden Level remodel of the Judicial Center in FY 2026.

Likewise, there are net-zero adjustments within categories of expenditures that are mainly related to the Judicial Branch shifting funding to more accurately reflect the work that is being completed. For example, the Judicial Branch shifted personnel from the Information Services Support program and the Office of Judicial Administration to the eCourt program of the Appellate Courts because the personnel frequently work on tasks related to the online Odyssey case management system. As such, funding associated with the Odyssey personnel was also shifted to the eCourt program of the Appellate Courts.

The revised estimate also includes an increase of 3.5 FTE positions¹, for a total of 2,038.5 FTE positions, in FY 2026. These adjustments are related to specialty court operations (3.0 FTE) and a part-time position associated with the Elder Justice Innovation Grant (0.5 FTE). The request for specialty court operations positions stem from the agency's previous request to the 2025 Legislature to transfer \$3.0 million SGF to the Specialty Court Resources Fund for specialty court operations, including personnel costs. The 2025 Legislature partially approved the request, transferring \$1.5 million SGF. According to the agency, this funding request did not include additional FTE positions because the Kansas Supreme Court's Specialty Court Committee did not have sufficient time to determine how to expend the transferred funds. As such, the agency requests an additional 3.0 FTE positions in FY 2026, to reconcile the previously approved amount for operations and personnel costs. The agency indicates these additional positions are intended to serve as a stopgap while the 2026 Legislature evaluates the agency's enhancement request for permanent specialty court positions for FY 2027.

¹ Note: The agency indicates these additional positions were inputted into the budgeting system as non-FTE positions to reflect non-SGF funded temporary positions in FY 2026.

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FY 2027 Analysis

Summary of Agency Budget Request, FY 2027					
	SGF	All Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	
Approved, FY 2026					
1. 2025 SB 125, without Reappropriations	\$ 230,160,716	\$ 10,055,909	\$ 240,216,625	2,035.0	
2. One-Time Adjustments	(300,000)	-	(300,000)	--	
Subtotal – Approved with Adjustments	\$ 229,860,716	\$ 10,055,909	\$ 239,916,625	2,035.0	
Enhancement Requests					
3. Learning Center	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ 300,000	--	
4. Specialty Courts – Funding	-	1,045,000	1,045,000	--	
5. Specialty Courts – FTE Positions	-	-	-	3.0	
6. Court Services Juvenile Coordinator	103,296	-	103,296	1.0	
7. Rural Justice Initiative	886,795	-	886,795	1.0	
8. Non-Judge Salary Increase	3,251,859	-	3,251,859	--	
9. Hospitality Language	-	-	-	--	
Subtotal – Enhancements	\$ 4,541,950	\$ 1,045,000	\$ 5,586,950	5.0	
Other Changes					
10. Salaries and Wages	\$ 2,905,707	\$ (1,197,903)	\$ 1,707,804	--	
11. All Other Adjustments	(1,090,834)	29,314	(1,061,520)	3.5	
Subtotal – Other Changes	\$ 1,814,873	\$ (1,168,589)	\$ 646,284	3.5	
TOTAL – Agency Request	\$ 236,217,539	\$ 9,932,320	\$ 246,149,859	2,043.5	

Approved Budget

1. 2025 SB 125

The 2025 Legislature approved \$240.2 million, including \$230.2 million SGF, in expenditures for the Judicial Branch in FY 2026. The approved budget includes the following appropriations:

- **Pay Plan – Non-Judge Employees:** The 2025 Legislature approved \$3.2 million, including \$3.1 million SGF, to provide salary increases for most state employees in FY 2026. The Pay Plan included a 2.5 percent increase for non-judge employees at the Judicial Branch, to be distributed as a merit pool.
- **Specialty Courts:** The 2025 Legislature approved transferring \$1.5 million SGF to the Specialty Court Resources Fund, for specialty court operations.

2. One-Time Adjustments

The approved budget includes expenditures in FY 2026 that are not included in the agency allocation for FY 2027. These expenditures are not included for FY 2027 as to better provide a point of comparison. For this agency, this adjustment includes \$300,000 SGF to reconfigure the Judicial Center Garden Level.

Enhancement Requests

The agency requests \$5.6 million, including \$4.5 million SGF, in enhancement funding for FY 2027.

3. Learning Center

During the 2025 Interim, the agency reduced estimated project costs for an interactive learning center within the Kansas Judicial Center by expanding the time frame to install and complete interactive exhibits within the Judicial Center. As such, the Judicial Branch requests \$300,000 SGF to further the

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creation and installation of one interactive learning exhibit within the Supreme Court Law Library of the Judicial Center for FY 2027. Under the revised capital improvement plan, the interactive learning center would be implemented exhibit-by-exhibit until the Judicial Branch determines the project is complete.

4. Specialty Courts – Funding

Specialty courts, or treatment courts, have specialized dockets that utilize therapeutic and/or problem-solving procedures to address underlying factors, such as mental illness, that may contribute to an individual's involvement in the criminal justice system. According to the agency, specialty courts, such as [Adult Drug Courts](#) and [Veteran Treatment Courts](#), reduce recidivism in communities and thereby reduce the number of matters heard over time by district courts.

During the 2024 Interim, the [Specialty Court Funding Advisory Committee](#) recommended the State dedicate funding to specialty court operations when grant funding is unavailable. While some specialty courts operate on non-renewable federal implementation grants, the Judicial Branch notes that grant moneys to sustain treatment court programs are not frequently available. Previously, the 2025 Legislature approved a \$1.5 million transfer from the SGF to the Specialty Court Resources Fund for specialty court operations, including salaries and wages and other personnel costs, in FY 2026.

The agency request includes a continuation of the \$1.5 million transfer for FY 2027. The funds would go toward services requested by district judges: grants to district courts (\$450,000), a drug testing subsidy (\$300,000), statewide training and technical assistance (\$135,000), electronic monitoring services (\$120,000), program materials and equipment (\$20,000), and printed materials on recovery (\$20,000) for FY 2027. According to the agency, the remaining \$455,000 would go toward many of the same services for FY 2028, including program materials and a drug testing subsidy.

5. Specialty Courts – FTE Positions

The Judicial Branch request includes an additional 3.0 FTE Regional Specialty Court Coordinator positions for FY 2027. The agency is not requesting funding for the salaries and wages for the positions because the Judicial Branch is planning to fund the positions through the SGF transfer mentioned above to the Specialty Court Resources Fund authorized by 2025 SB 125. Specifically, the agency is budgeting \$322,970 for the salaries and wages of 3.0 FTE Regional Specialty Court Coordinator positions for FY 2027 using the funds previously transferred to the agency.

Of the \$1.5 million transfer to the Specialty Court Resources Fund that occurred on July 1, 2025, the Judicial Branch is budgeting \$651,933 for specialty courts in FY 2026. The Judicial Branch states that the remaining funds will be expended in FY 2027 on salaries and wages for the requested 3.0 FTE positions (\$322,970), drug testing services (\$150,000), and travel and training (\$60,000). Any remaining funds would be expended in FY 2028 on salaries and wages for the 3.0 FTE positions (\$315,097).

Thus, the agency requests an additional 3.0 FTE positions for FY 2027. The agency indicates that, if this request is approved, the 3.0 FTE positions included in its FY 2026 revised estimate as a stopgap would be removed so that positions are not double counted for FY 2027.

6. Court Services Juvenile Coordinator

The agency requests \$103,296 SGF in enhancement funding and 1.0 FTE position to create and fill a Court Services Juvenile Coordinator position for FY 2027. According to the Judicial Branch, there are several internal questions related to juvenile justice services, such as the [Court Appointed Special Advocates](#) program. The agency would like a dedicated position to coordinate and field internal questions related to these issues. This position would also assist with gathering juvenile-specific data.

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7. Rural Justice Initiative

[2025 SB 214](#)² would, among other provisions, create the Rural Justice Initiative for law school loan repayments for existing attorneys. The agency requests \$886,795 SGF to implement the provisions of SB 214. This amount includes:

- \$700,000 SGF to begin repayment of loans;
- \$103,295 SGF and 1.0 FTE position to create and fill a position to oversee the program. This amount incorporates the 2.5 percent increase discussed in Item 8 below;
- \$75,000 SGF for printing and advertising costs; and
- \$8,500 SGF for other outreach efforts.

This amount does not include loan program funding for students at Washburn University and the University of Kansas because the agency does not anticipate those expenditures until after FY 2027.

8. Non-Judge Salary Increase

The agency states that although recent salary increases have strengthened the judicial workforce in Kansas, the cost –of living is making those adjustments less impactful. During the 2025 Interim, the Judicial Branch hired a vendor to complete a salary study in order to ensure positions remain competitive. Accordingly, the Judicial Branch requests \$3.5 million SGF in enhancement funding for FY 2027 to provide salary increases based upon the results of the salary study. This amount is equal to a 2.5 percent across-the-board increase for non-judge employees.

9. Hospitality Language

Due to the Judicial Branch transitioning funding sources from fee funds to the SGF, the agency experienced an issue concerning use of SGF appropriations to pay for food for non-judicial staff at training events in FY 2026. As such, the agency requests the following proviso language be included in the appropriations bill to allow such expenditures to be processed for FY 2027:

- (a) There is appropriated for the above agency from the state general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

Operating expenditures (including official hospitality) (677-00-1000-0103) \$XX.

Other Changes

10. Salaries and Wages

Absent the enhancement requests, the Judicial Branch requests an additional \$1.7 million, including \$2.9 million SGF, for salaries and wages for FY 2027. Although the agency anticipates overall expenditures for salaries and wages will increase, the agency estimates a decrease (\$2.0 million) in employee pay due to turnover. However, this anticipated decrease would be entirely offset by an estimated increase for employer contributions to fringe benefits (\$3.7 million), including \$1.8 million for group health insurance and \$1.5 million for judicial retirement contributions.

11. All Other Adjustments

The agency request includes a decrease of \$1.1 million, including \$1,090,834 SGF, for all other adjustments for FY 2027. This is largely due to the agency reducing capital outlay expenditures (\$997,111) for software within the Appellate Courts and the Office of Judicial Administration. There are also reductions to the following categories of expenditure due to actual usage and costs: contractual services (\$207,225) and commodities (\$38,097). Although there is also a reduction in other assistance

² [2025 SB 214](#) was requested for introduction by the Kansas Supreme Court and builds on the recommendations of its [Rural Justice Initiative Committee](#). The Committee’s final report was presented to the Legislature in January 2025.

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to qualified non-state organizations (\$200,000), this is partially offset by an expected increase in state aid to local governments (\$80,913). Further, there are a variety of adjustments throughout various programs within the agency request that do not result in additional monetary adjustments for FY 2027. For example, the agency shifts contractual service expenditures from the Office of Judicial Administration (\$1.7 million) to the Information Services Support (\$1.0 million) for software maintenance and rental, and to the District Courts (\$705,259) for other professional fees.

Also included within the agency's all other adjustments is an increase of 3.5 FTE positions, for a total of 2,043.5 FTE positions, for FY 2027. These changes are the same as those identified in the [FY 2026 Analysis](#)—0.5 FTE positions for a part-time position associated with the Elder Justice Innovation Grant, and 3.0 FTE positions as a temporary stopgap for specialty court operations. The Judicial Branch indicates it could not delete the positions from the budgeting system for FY 2027 and that, if the enhancement request for Regional Specialty Court Coordinator positions is approved for FY 2027, the 3.0 FTE positions identified here would be deleted.