

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

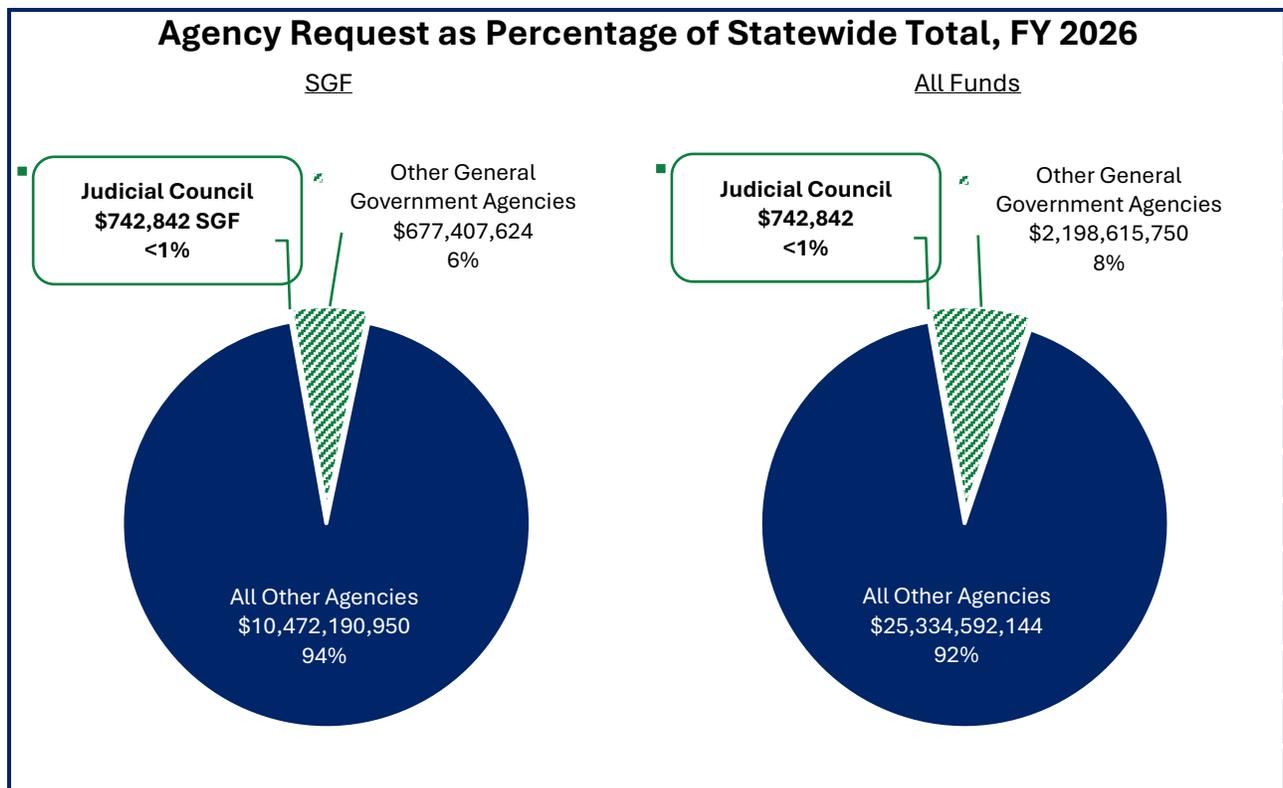
Budget Summary – Agency Request

Executive Summary

The Judicial Council was created by the 1927 Legislature to study and make recommendations on the legal system in Kansas, namely the administration of justice. The ten-member Council is composed of one Kansas Supreme Court justice, one judge on the Court of Appeals, two district judges, two legislators, and four attorneys. The agency employs five full-time staff.

The agency regularly identifies general areas of improvement and assigns projects to standing advisory committees made up of legislators, judges, attorneys, and other persons from various backgrounds. On occasion, the Judicial Council will create *ad hoc* committees to study specific legal issues, such as defendant competency in municipal court cases. Once the Judicial Council receives and reviews the work product of these committees, appropriate action is taken. In addition to hosting a variety of committees, the agency provides hundreds of legal forms to the public on its website, and authors and distributes publications that cover many legal topics.

Expenditures by Fiscal Year and Version				
	SGF	All Funds	Note	
FY 2024 Actual	\$ 653,096	\$ 653,096	Actual expenditures	
FY 2025 Actual	704,775	704,775	Actual expenditures	
FY 2026 Approved	771,006	771,006	2025 SB 125	
FY 2026 Agency	742,842	742,842	Revised estimate, submitted September 2025	
FY 2027 Agency	747,485	747,485	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** () , adjustments related to **reappropriated funds** () , **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

The agency does not have any significant budget or policy changes in FY 2026.

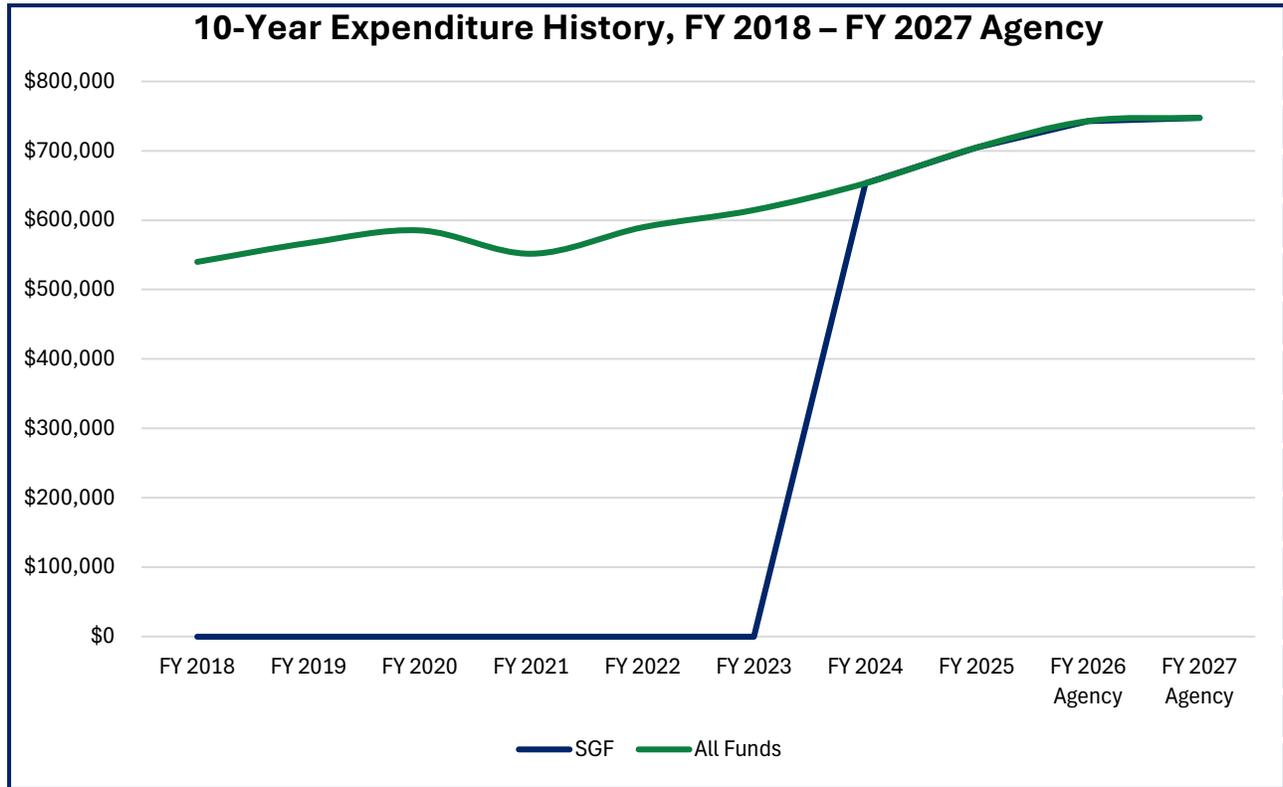
FY 2027

Item	Amount	Source	Note
Hospitality Spending Authority	\$ -	SGF	Add language authorizing the agency to expend funds on official hospitality for committee members.

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Summary of Expenditures



Fiscal Year	SGF		All Funds		FTE	CPI-U* Change (%)
	Amount	Change (%)	Amount	Change (%)		
FY 2018	\$ -	--	\$ 539,735	(0.5)	5.00	0.2
FY 2019	-	--	567,052	5.1	5.00	--
FY 2020	-	--	585,106	3.2	5.00	0.8
FY 2021	-	--	551,493	(5.7)	5.00	2.4
FY 2022	-	--	589,600	6.9	5.00	9.2
FY 2023	-	--	614,508	4.2	5.00	5.8
FY 2024	653,096	--	653,096	6.3	5.00	3.0
FY 2025	704,777	7.9	704,777	7.9	5.00	3.0
FY 2026 Agency	742,842	5.4	742,842	5.4	5.00	2.8
FY 2027 Agency	747,485	0.6	747,485	0.6	5.00	2.4

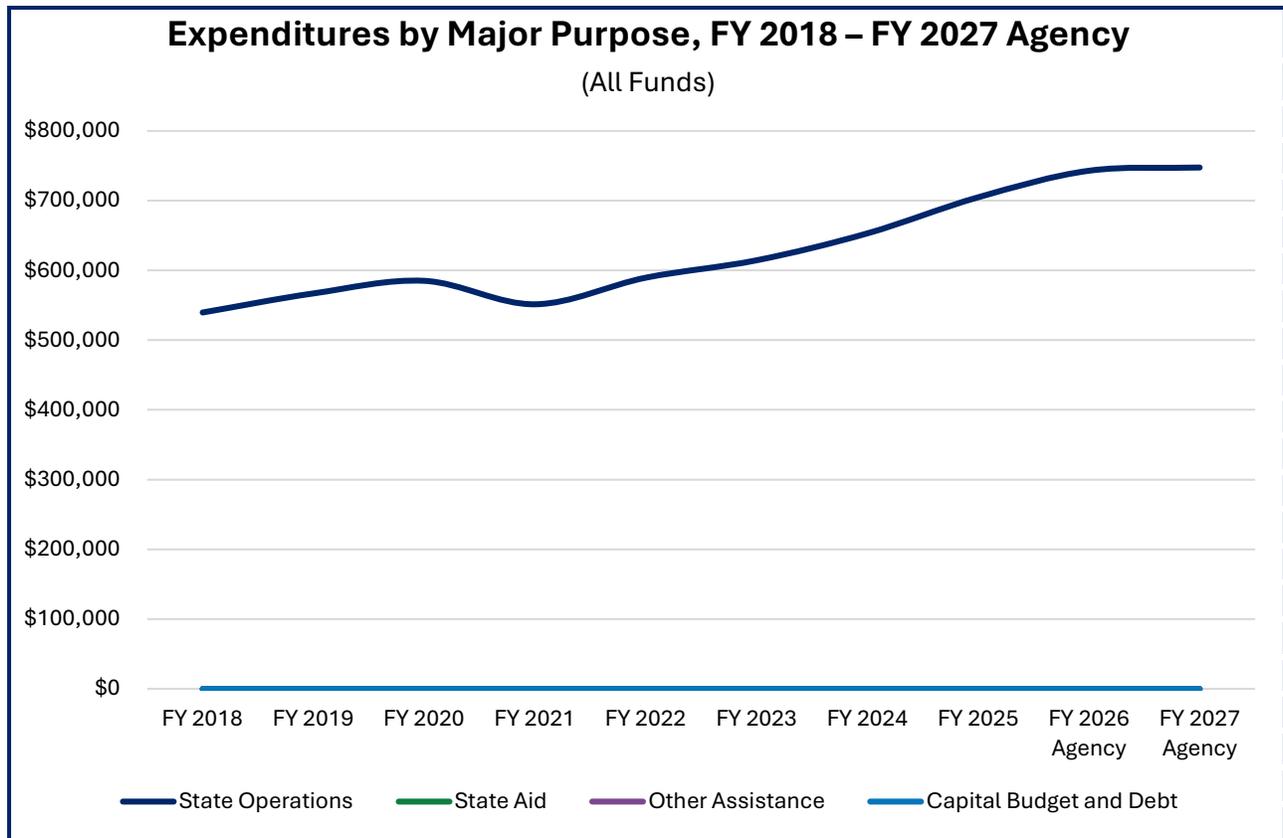
5-Year Change (FY 2023–2027)	\$ 747,485	--	\$ 132,977	21.6	-	11.6
10-Year Change (FY 2018–2027)	747,485	--	207,750	38.5	-	33.1
3-Year Average** (FY 2023–2025)	452,624	N/A	657,460	N/A	5.00	N/A

* Note : Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers estimate for 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	83.1 %	\$ 576,611	\$ 612,798	\$ 637,398	\$ 617,448	\$ 603,631
Contractual Services	14.7	62,845	85,490	95,077	109,264	133,325
Commodities	1.4	8,315	2,882	4,745	10,508	4,828
Capital Outlay	0.8	5,325	3,607	5,622	5,622	5,701
Operating Adjustments	--	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	100.0 %	\$ 653,096	\$ 704,777	\$ 742,842	\$ 742,842	\$ 747,485
State Aid and Assistance						
Aid to Locals	-- %	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Assistance	--	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	-- %	\$ -				
Capital Budget and Debt						
Capital Improvements	-- %	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Debt Service Principal	--	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service Interest	--	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	-- %	\$ -				
Reappropriations	-- %	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,164	\$ -	\$ -
GRAND TOTAL	100.0 %	\$ 653,096	\$ 704,777	\$ 771,006	\$ 742,842	\$ 747,485

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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	62.6 %	\$ 428,519	\$ 463,841	\$ 475,102	\$ 465,380	\$ 440,677
Employee Benefits	20.5	148,092	148,957	162,296	152,068	162,954
Shrinkage	--	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	83.1 %	\$ 576,611	\$ 612,798	\$ 637,398	\$ 617,448	\$ 603,631
Contractual Services						
Communication	1.2 %	\$ 6,290	\$ 12,306	\$ 8,447	\$ 8,698	\$ 13,817
Fees (Professional)	0.7	4,932	1,500	5,207	5,207	5,332
Fees (Other Services)	1.6	11,099	13,788	11,718	12,034	12,323
Freight and Express	0.3	2,164	2,253	2,418	2,418	3,918
Printing and Advertising	1.1	13,527	14,734	18,866	8,216	26,556
Rent and Leases	0.5	3,168	3,005	3,344	3,344	3,424
Repair and Servicing	4.4	1,118	8,848	9,381	32,692	22,548
Travel and Subsistence	4.2	16,951	22,445	30,196	31,351	37,103
Utilities	--	-	-	-	-	-
Other	0.7	3,596	6,611	5,500	5,304	8,304
Subtotal	14.7 %	\$ 62,845	\$ 85,490	\$ 95,077	\$ 109,264	\$ 133,325
Commodities						
Clothing	-- %	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment and Parts	--	-	-	30	-	-
Food	--	-	-	-	-	-
Fuel	--	-	-	-	-	-
Motor Vehicle Parts	--	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies (Office)	0.5	7,648	2,491	4,011	4,011	4,107
Supplies (Professional)	0.1	667	391	704	704	721
Supplies (Research)	--	-	-	-	-	-
Other	0.8	-	-	-	5,793	-
Subtotal	1.4 %	\$ 8,315	\$ 2,882	\$ 4,745	\$ 10,508	\$ 4,828
Capital Outlay						
Books	-- %	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Computer Hardware	0.3	2,928	2,312	5,622	2,312	2,312
Computer Software	0.4	1,252	1,295	-	3,310	3,389
Equipment, Furniture	--	531	-	-	-	-
Information Processing	--	614	-	-	-	-
Telecommunications	--	-	-	-	-	-
Other	--	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	0.8 %	\$ 5,325	\$ 3,607	\$ 5,622	\$ 5,622	\$ 5,701
Operating Adjustments	-- %	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	100.0 %	\$ 653,096	\$ 704,777	\$ 742,842	\$ 742,842	\$ 747,485

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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	\$ 742,842	\$ -	\$ 742,842	5.0	
Reappropriations					
2. State General Fund	\$ 28,164	\$ -	\$ 28,164	--	
3. SGF Reappropriations Agency Lapse	(28,164)	-	(28,164)	--	
Subtotal – Approved, with Reappropriations	\$ 742,842	\$ -	\$ 742,842	--	
Supplemental Requests					
No Supplemental Requests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	--	
Other Changes					
4. All Other Adjustments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	--	
TOTAL – Agency Revised Estimate	\$ 742,842	\$ -	\$ 742,842	5.0	

Approved Budget

1. 2025 SB 125

The 2025 Legislature passed, and the Governor enacted, one bill appropriating and adjusting funding for state agencies. The approved budget for this agency includes \$12,814 SGF to provide salary increases for most state employees based on the Department of Administration's market survey.

Reappropriations

2. SGF Reappropriation

The agency reappropriated \$28,164 in unspent SGF funds from FY 2025 to FY 2026. According to the agency, expenditures budgeted for in-person committee meetings were reduced because some meetings were conducted virtually.

3. SGF Reappropriations Agency Lapse

In preparing its budget submission, the agency reviewed its funding needs in FY 2026 and lapsed the \$28,164 SGF that reappropriated from FY 2025.

Other Changes

4. All Other Adjustments

Although the agency's revised estimate is otherwise unchanged from the approved amount in FY 2026, the estimate includes changes within individual categories of expenditure, and additional appropriations in FY 2026 would not be needed.

For example, the agency's revised estimate includes a decrease of \$19,950 SGF for salaries and wages in FY 2026. Specifically, the agency is reducing the budgeted amount for pay of regular unclassified employees (\$12,321), primarily due to the retirement of the former Executive Director. Similarly, the agency anticipates that expenditures for leave payment assessments and longevity pay

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and most fringe benefits will decrease (\$11,763), while expenditures for group health insurance increase (\$135).

The agency estimate includes an increase in the pay of temporary unclassified employees (\$3,999), which is how the agency budgets for the per diem and subsistence payments to committee members.¹ When compared with the previously approved amount in FY 2026, the Judicial Council is budgeting for 15 additional full committee meetings and 10 additional subcommittee meetings, for a total of 70 full committee meetings and 24 subcommittee meetings for FY 2027. However, the agency does not know how many committee meetings will be held virtually, nor how many committee members will elect to not receive their per diem and subsistence payments, which makes it difficult for the agency to accurately budget for these expenses.

The reduction in salaries and wages spending is offset entirely by an increase in contractual services (\$14,187 SGF) and commodities (\$5,763 SGF) expenditures. The adjustment for contractual services is due to website hosting fees and the implementation of an online payment portal to collect revenue from the sale of publications. The agency notes that there were approximately 171,000 unique visitors in FY 2025, which the agency contributes to the legal forms maintained on the website. The adjustment for commodities is due to the agency replenishing the supply of custom binders provided to individuals upon purchase of legal publications from the agency.²

¹ Per KSA 75-3212, committee members receive a per diem compensation of \$35 for each day of actual attendance at meetings.

² In FY 2026, the agency will print and distribute supplements to the following publications: the [Kansas Appellate Practice Handbook 6th Edition](#), [Kansas Municipal Court Manual](#), and [Pattern Instructions for Kansas \(PIK\) – Criminal 4th Edition](#).

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FY 2027 Analysis

Summary of Agency Budget Request, FY 2027					
	SGF	All Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	
Approved, FY 2026					
2025 SB 125, without Reappropriations	\$ 742,842	\$ -	\$ 742,842	5.0	
Enhancement Requests					
No Enhancement Requests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	--	
Agency Changes					
1. Salaries and Wages	\$ (33,767)	\$ -	\$ (33,767)	--	
2. Hospitality Spending Authority	-	-	-	--	
3. All Other Adjustments	38,410	-	38,410	--	
Subtotal – Agency Changes	\$ 4,643	\$ -	\$ 4,643	--	
TOTAL – Agency Request	\$ 747,485	\$ -	\$ 747,485	5.0	

Agency Changes

1. Salaries and Wages

The agency request includes a decrease of **\$33,767 SGF** in salaries and wages for FY 2027. When compared with the previously approved amount, the agency is reducing the budgeted amount for pay of regular unclassified employees (\$35,064), primarily due to the retirement of the former Executive Director. Similarly, the agency anticipates that expenditures for leave payment assessments and most fringe benefits will decrease (\$10,825), while expenditures for group health insurance and unemployment compensation tax increase (\$10,123).

The agency estimate includes an increase in the pay of temporary unclassified employees (\$1,999), which is how the agency budgets for the per diem and subsistence payments to committee members. When compared with the previously approved amount in FY 2026, the Judicial Council is budgeting for 6 additional full committee meetings and 7 additional subcommittee meetings, for a total of 61 full committee meetings and 21 subcommittee meetings for FY 2027. However, the agency does not know how many committee meetings will be held virtually, nor how many committee members will elect to not receive their per diem and subsistence payments, which makes it difficult for the agency to accurately budget for these expenses.

2. Hospitality Spending Authority

The agency requests spending authority for official hospitality expenditures in the amount of \$5,000 for beverage and lunch expenses for committee members, beginning in FY 2027. According to the agency, beverages and food would only be provided for committee and advisory committee meetings that are held in-person for more than three hours and extend beyond midday. The agency notes members travel up to 12 hours round-trip to attend meetings. The Judicial Council states a large percentage of committee members waive their right to statutory compensation, thereby volunteering their time and expertise to attend in-person meetings in Topeka. This request would not increase the Judicial Council’s recommended SGF allocation for FY 2027.

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3. All Other Adjustments

Offsetting the salaries and wages adjustment identified above, the agency request includes **\$38,410 SGF** in additional spending for FY 2027.

Most of these adjustments are due to increases in contractual services spending (\$38,248). Of this amount, the agency is budgeting more for computer software maintenance and service (\$12,807) due to increased costs associated with website hosting fees and the implementation of an online pay portal to collect revenue from the sale of publications. Likewise, the agency is budgeting more for printing and binding (\$7,690) due to the agency planning to distribute four publications rather than three publications, though pricing fluctuations at the State Printer also contribute to the increase for FY 2027.³ Other changes include comparatively minor adjustments to commodities (\$83) and capital outlay (\$79) expenditures, primarily due to increased costs for office and computer supplies and computer software expenses, respectively.

³ For FY 2027, the agency will print and distribute supplements to the following publications: [Kansas Municipal Court Manual](#), [Kansas Probate Forms 3d](#), [PIK–Civil 4th Edition](#), and [PIK–Criminal 4th Edition](#).