

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Budget Committee Report

KLRD Analyst: Pratt
KLRD Summary: Vol. I, Pg. 134

DOB Analyst: Gunn
GBR Analysis: Vol. II, Pg. 228

Executive Summary

Summary of Total Expenditures, FY 2023 – FY 2027					
	SGF	All Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	
FY 2023 Actual	\$ -	\$ 614,508	\$ 614,508	5.0	
FY 2024 Actual	653,096	-	653,096	5.0	
FY 2025 Actual	704,777	-	704,777	5.0	
FY 2026					
Approved, with Reappropriations	\$ 771,006	\$ -	\$ 771,006	5.0	
Agency Revised Estimate	742,842	-	742,842	5.0	
Special Committee on the State Budget	742,842	-	742,842	5.0	
House Appropriations	742,842	-	742,842	5.0	
Senate Ways and Means	742,842	-	742,842	5.0	
Conference Committee*	-	-	-	-	
Governor's Recommendation	742,842	-	742,842	5.0	
FY 2027					
FY 2026 Approved, without Reappropriations	\$ 742,842	\$ -	\$ 742,842	5.0	
Agency Request	747,485	-	747,485	5.0	
Special Committee on the State Budget	747,485	-	747,485	5.0	
House Appropriations	747,485	-	747,485	5.0	
Senate Ways and Means	747,485	-	747,485	5.0	
Conference Committee*	-	-	-	-	
Governor's Recommendation	747,485	-	747,485	5.0	

* Note : This committee has not taken action on this agency's budget yet.

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.

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FY 2026

Summary of Legislative Recommendations, FY 2026					
	SGF	All Other Funds		Total	FTE Positions
Approved, with Reappropriations	\$ 771,006	\$ -		\$ 771,006	5.0
Agency Revised Estimate	742,842	-		742,842	5.0
Special Committee on the State Budget (SBC)					
<i>Change from Agency Revised Estimate</i>	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	-
TOTAL – Special Committee	\$ 742,842	\$ -		\$ 742,842	5.0
House Committees					
General Government Budget Appropriations	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	-
Committee of the Whole*	-	-		-	-
<i>Subtotal – House Change from SBC</i>	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	-
TOTAL – Current House Position	\$ 742,842	\$ -		\$ 742,842	5.0
Senate Committees					
Ways and Means [General Government]	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	-
Ways and Means	-	-		-	-
Committee of the Whole*	-	-		-	-
<i>Subtotal – Senate Change from SBC</i>	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	-
TOTAL – Current Senate Position	\$ 742,842	\$ -		\$ 742,842	5.0
Legislative Approved					
Conference Committee	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	-
Governor's Vetoes	-	-		-	-
Veto Overrides	-	-		-	-
<i>Subtotal – Approved Change from SBC</i>	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	-
GRAND TOTAL – Final Approved	\$ 742,842	\$ -		\$ 742,842	5.0

* Note : This committee has not taken action on this agency's budget yet.

Agency

The **agency** requests a revised estimate of \$742,842, which is unchanged from the approved amount without reappropriations. Although the agency carried over \$28,164 SGF in unspent funds from FY 2025 into FY 2026, the agency reviewed its funding needs and lapsed the full amount of reappropriations from FY 2025 into FY 2026.

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 that would not increase the appropriation amount in FY 2026. For example, the agency's revised estimate includes a decrease in the pay of regular unclassified employees due to the retirement of the former Executive Director. However, this reduction is offset by an increase in the pay of temporary unclassified employees and contractual services.

According to the agency, the increase in pay of temporary unclassified employees is due to the agency using that object code to budget for the per diem and subsistence payments to committee Kansas Legislative Research Department

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members. Per the agency, approximately 90.0 percent of committee members elect to not receive their subsistence payments, which makes it difficult for the agency to accurately budget for this expenses. In addition, the increase in contractual services is due to website hosting fees and the implementation of an online payment portal, as well as the agency replenishing the supply of custom binders provided to individuals upon purchase of legal publications from the agency.

Special Committee on the State Budget

The **Special Committee** concurs with the agency's revised estimate in FY 2026.

House Committees

House Committee on General Government Budget

The **House Committee on General Government Budget** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation in FY 2026.

House Committee on Appropriations

The **House Committee on Appropriations** concurs with the House Budget Committee's recommendation in FY 2026.

Senate Committees

Senate Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government Budget

The **Senate Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government Budget** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation in FY 2026.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The **Senate Committee on Ways and Means** concurs with the Senate Subcommittee's recommendation in FY 2026.

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FY 2027

Summary of Legislative Recommendations, FY 2027					
	SGF	All Other Funds		Total	FTE Positions
FY 2026 Approved, without Reappropriations	\$ 742,842	\$ -		\$ 742,842	5.0
Agency Request	747,485	-		747,485	5.0
Special Committee on the State Budget (SBC)					
<i>Change from Agency Request</i>	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	-
TOTAL – Special Committee	\$ 747,485	\$ -		\$ 747,485	5.0
House Committees					
General Government Budget	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	-
Appropriations	-	-		-	-
Committee of the Whole*	-	-		-	-
<i>Subtotal – House Change from SBC</i>	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	-
TOTAL – Current House Position	\$ 747,485	\$ -		\$ 747,485	5.0
Senate Committees					
Ways and Means [General Government]	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	-
Ways and Means	-	-		-	-
Committee of the Whole*	-	-		-	-
<i>Subtotal – Senate Change from SBC</i>	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	-
TOTAL – Current Senate Position	\$ 747,485	\$ -		\$ 747,485	5.0
Legislative Approved					
Conference Committee	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	-
Governor's Vetoes	-	-		-	-
Veto Overrides	-	-		-	-
<i>Subtotal – Approved Change from SBC</i>	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	-
GRAND TOTAL – Final Approved	\$ 747,485	\$ -		\$ 747,485	5.0

* Note : This committee has not taken action on this agency's budget yet.

Agency

The **agency** requests \$747,485 in expenditures for FY 2027. This is an increase of \$4,643, or 0.6 percent, above the amount approved by the 2025 Legislature.

Once again, the agency is budgeting less for the pay of regular unclassified employees due to the retirement of the former Executive Director. However, this reduction is offset by an increase in the pay of temporary unclassified employees due to the agency budgeting for the per diem and subsistence payments for committee members. The reduction in pay of regular employees is further offset by increases in contractual services expenditures due, in part, to the implementation of an online payment portal for the sale of publications, as well as the agency's plan to distribute four publications rather than three publications for FY 2027.

In addition to the overall increase in expenditures, the agency requests spending authority for official hospitality expenditures in the amount of \$5,000 for beverage and lunch expenses for committee members for FY 2027. This request would not increase the Judicial Council's recommended SGF

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allocation for FY 2027. According to the agency, beverages and food would be provided for committee meetings that are held in-person for more than three hours and extend beyond midday in order to compensate the committee members who elect not to receive their subsistence payments.

Special Committee on the State Budget

The **Special Committee** concurs with the agency request for FY 2027.

House Committees

House Committee on General Government Budget

The **House Committee on General Government Budget** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation for FY 2027.

House Committee on Appropriations

The **House Committee on Appropriations** concurs with the House Budget Committee's recommendation for FY 2027.

Senate Committees

Senate Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government Budget

The **Senate Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government Budget** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation for FY 2027.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The **Senate Committee on Ways and Means** concurs with the Senate Subcommittee's recommendation for FY 2027.