



OKLAHOMA

**Council on
Judicial Complaints**

Council on Judicial Complaints

FY 2027 Budget Hearing Presentation

Submitted by: Taylor Henderson, Executive Director

Council on Judicial Complaints



Taylor Henderson
Executive Director



Chairman
Rick Rose



Vice Chair
Angela Ailles Bahm



Member
Zack Taylor



The **Council on Judicial Complaints** is the investigatory arm of a three-tiered disciplinary system designed to address judicial misconduct. Judicial misconduct includes specific violations set forth in the Oklahoma Constitution such as oppression and corruption, violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct, and other state law.

Founded in 1974, the Council was originally a subdivision of the Supreme Court; however, in 1999 the Council became an executive branch agency. Today, the Council on Judicial Complaints is comprised of 3 divisions for budgeting purposes: 1) General Operations, to include both judicial misconduct investigations and financial administration; 2) Judicial Education; and 3) IT.

The Council is comprised of 3 members appointed by the Speaker of the House, Senate President Pro Tempore, and the Oklahoma Bar Association to five-year terms. The Agency employs three full time employees.

Agency Vision, Mission and Core Values

Vision: To better the administration of justice in this state by preserving the principles of justice.

Mission: To efficiently and impartially investigate complaints regarding the conduct of persons holding judicial positions and to determine if such complaints should be the subject of an action before the Court on the Judiciary, the Oklahoma Supreme Court, or should be dismissed.

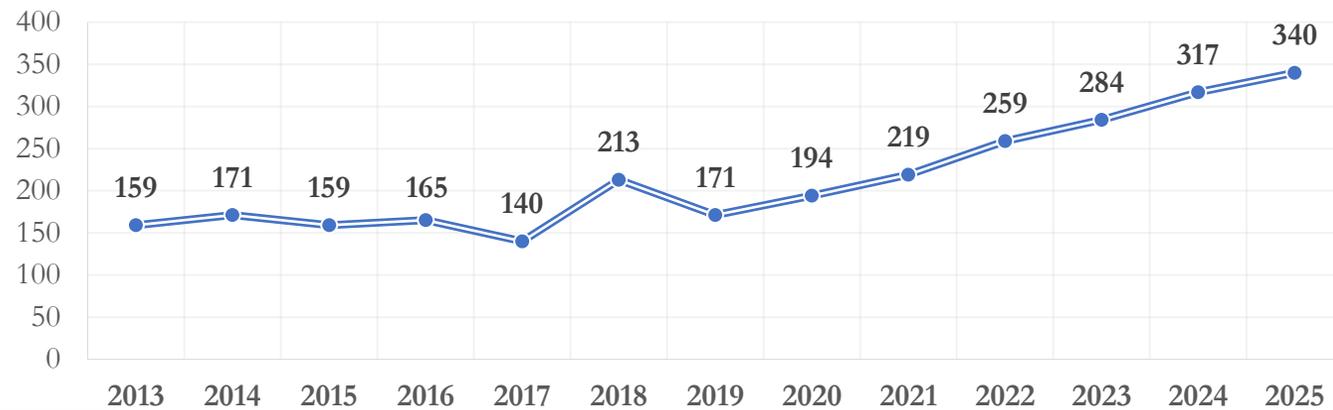
Core Values: impartiality, public confidence, and integrity.



Agency Goals and Key Performance Metrics

Goal	Metric	FY 25 Target*	FY 25 Actuals	FY 26 Target
1 Fairly and efficiently investigate complaints of judicial misconduct	Percentage of complaints issued a disposition within 90 days of receipt of the complaint	90%	72%	90%
2 Facilitate a more educated and informed judiciary	Number of judicial officers reached	300	200	300

●=Number of Complaints Filed Since 2015



Analysis of Agency Challenges

	Challenge Description	Current Actions <small>(Briefly describe how the agency is currently addressing the challenge.)</small>	Planned Actions <small>(Briefly describe how the agency plans to address the challenge going forward.)</small>
1	Increased # of Complaints	Hired full-time general counsel to investigate complaints	Continually re-evaluating all agency processes to identify efficiencies

●=Number of Complaints Filed Since 2015



Projects for FY 2027

2026 Judicial College for New & Incoming Judges

Since 2018, the Council on Judicial Complaints has coordinated and funded a 5-day training for new and incoming judges following the judicial elections in non-presidential election years. The training provides an opportunity to establish the standards expected of a judicial officer in various respects and to provide tools and resources necessary for success. The training takes place prior to the newly elected judges set to be sworn-in, but is also geared toward judges who have taken the bench within the last 4 years. The 2026 Judicial College for New & Incoming Judges is slated to take place the first week of December 2026.



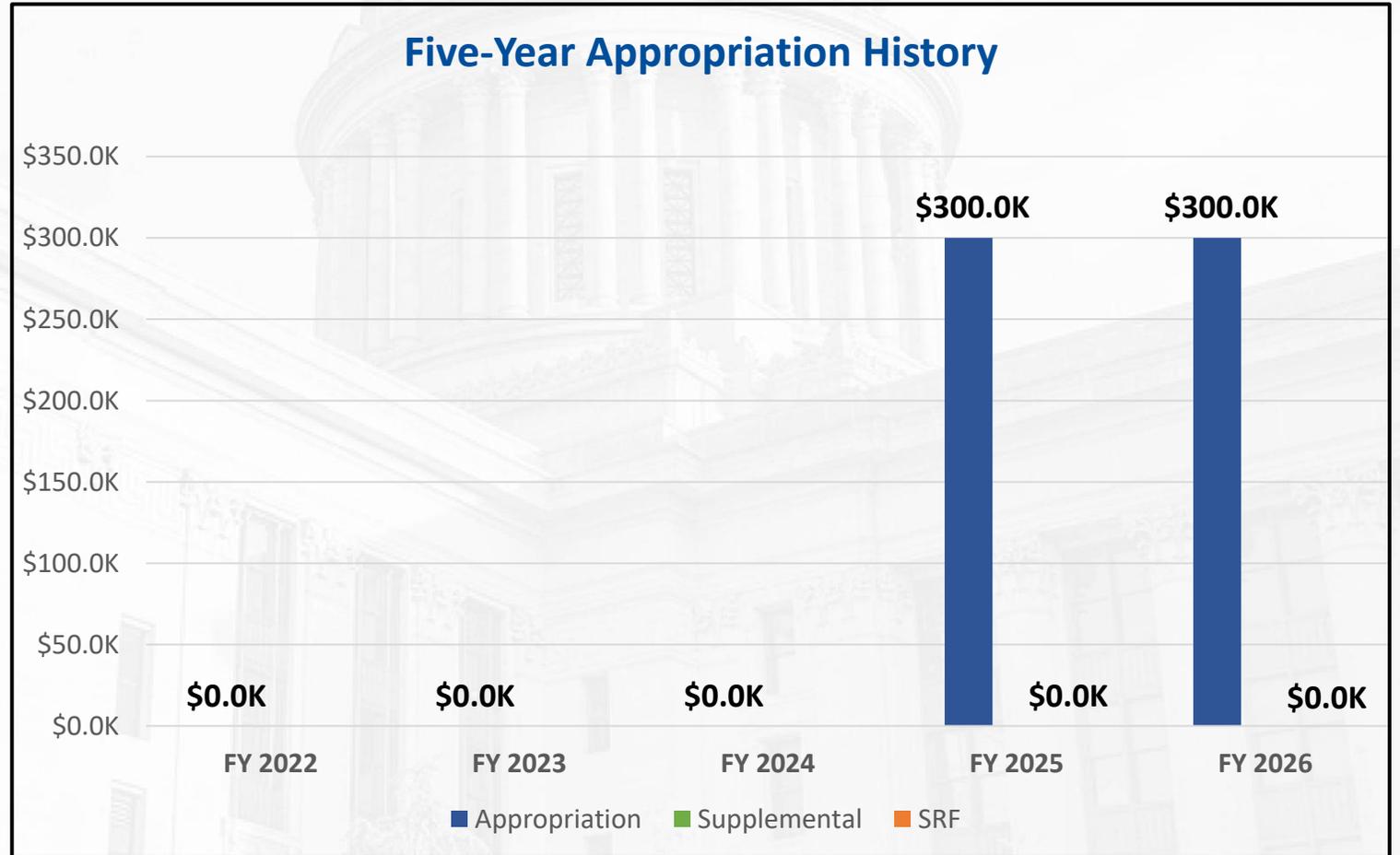


FY 2026 Budgeted Full Time Equivalents (FTE)

	FY 2026 Budgeted FTE
Total FTE	3
Supervisor FTE	1
Supervisors to Total FTE Ratio (%)	.33%
Current Budgeted but Unfilled FTE	0

Appropriation History

Fiscal Year	Legislated Appropriation (\$) <i>(Includes supplementals and SRF/ARPA.)</i>
FY 2022	\$0
FY 2023	\$0
FY 2024	\$0
FY 2025	\$300,000
FY 2026	\$300,000



**Includes Supplemental and Statewide Recovery Fund (ARPA) appropriations.*

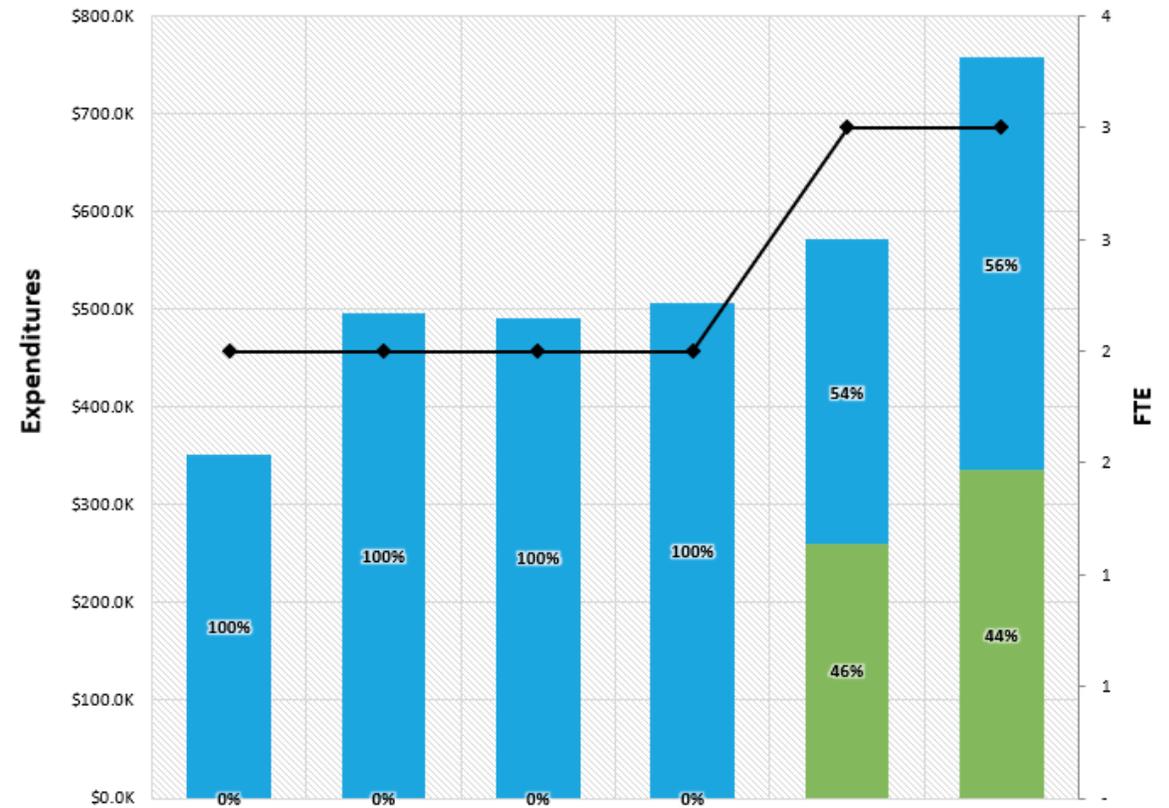


Total Historic Actual Expenditures (FY 2021-25) and Current Year Budget (FY 2026)

Explanation of Changes and Trends

Over the last 10 years, the number of complaints received by the agency has doubled and continues to increase year over year. This has caused the agency's operating expenses to increase accordingly. Historically, the agency employed contract legal counsel to perform investigations but beginning in FY23, this arrangement became untenable due to the number and scope of the investigations combined with an hourly legal fee. As a result, beginning in FY25, the agency transitioned to using a full time General Counsel for legal services and conducting its investigations. Simultaneously, the legislature began supplementing the agency's fee structure by appropriating \$300,000 in addition to the approximately \$375,000/year the agency receives from district court civil filing fees.

Historic Actual Expenditures and Current Year Budget



	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026 Current Budget
Appropriated	\$0.0K	\$0.0K	\$0.0K	\$0.0K	\$260.5K	\$335.5K
Revolving	\$352.2K	\$496.4K	\$491.2K	\$506.6K	\$310.6K	\$422.0K
Federal						
Total	\$352.2K	\$496.4K	\$491.2K	\$506.6K	\$571.1K	\$757.5K
FTE	2	2	2	2	3	3



Financial Resource Analysis

Carryover	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Total appropriated carryover amount expended (\$)	\$n/a – non appropriated			

Historical Cash Balances	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Year End Revolving Fund Cash Balances <i>(All Revolving Funds)</i>	\$740,867	\$621,844	\$514,519	\$595,034

Revolving Class Fund # <i>(Unrestricted only)</i>	Revolving Class Fund Name <i>(Unrestricted only)</i>	Current cash balance (\$)	Projected FY 2026 year-end cash balance (\$)
20000	COJC Revolving Fund	\$638,008	\$660,000
	Total Unrestricted Revolving Fund Cash balance:	\$638,008	\$660,000



Unrestricted funds are those that are not limited by state or federal law, rule, regulation, other legally binding method, or donor restriction.

FY 2024 – 2025 Appropriation Change Review

<i>Purpose of appropriation increase or decrease</i>	<i>Amount FY 2024</i>	<i>Amount FY 2025</i>	<i>Total amount received FY 2024 - 25</i>	<i>Total amount expended by 11/1/2025</i>	<i>Included in FY 2026 approp? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If not expended fully, please explain.</i>
Appropriation required to meet agency's expenditure needs (decreasing fee collection; increasing expenditures)	\$0	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$268,502	Yes	Budgeted FTE not filled for full fiscal year (filled 10 of 12 months)



**Do not include SRF / ARPA appropriation increases.*

FY 2026 Appropriation Change Review

<i>Purpose of appropriation increase or decrease</i>	<i>Amount of increase or decrease (\$)</i>	<i>Does this need to be included in your FY 2027 appropriation? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If yes, included in appropriation for same purpose? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If not included for same purpose, please explain.</i>
n/a no change	\$0			
Total adjustment	\$0			



**Do not include SRF / ARPA appropriation increases.*

Incremental & Supplemental Request Summary

Request Name		FY 2027 Incremental Appropriation Request Amount (\$)	Type of Request: Recurring, One-time, or Supplemental
1	General Operating Expenses	\$25,000	Recurring
2	2026 Judicial College for New & Incoming Judges	\$60,000	One-time (every 4 years)
3	Employee Salary Increases	\$40,000	Recurring



(1) Incremental Budget Request

General Operating Expenses	
Recurring	\$ 25,000
<p>The cost of the Council on Judicial Complaints' office space is set to increase by 44% on July 1, 2026 (from \$10,000/year to \$14,400/year).</p> <p>Additionally, as required by statute, the Council on Judicial Complaints investigates each and every complaint it receives. The number of complaints received by the agency continues to increase year over year. Accordingly, operating expenses associated with additional investigations and additional FTE have increased. In addition to salaries, these operating costs include postage, court reporter fees and transcripts, in-state travel, witness fees, board member compensation due to increased number of meetings, and office supplies.</p>	



(2) Incremental Budget Request

2026 Judicial College for New & Incoming Judges

One-Time (every 4 years)

\$60,000

Since 2018, the Council on Judicial Complaints has coordinated and funded a 5-day training for new and incoming judges following the judicial elections in non-presidential election years. The training provides an opportunity to establish the standards expected of a judicial officer in various respects and to provide tools and resources necessary for success. Additionally, the training establishes a mentorship program as a personal resource for the new judges going forward. The training takes place prior to the newly elected judges set to be sworn-in, but is also geared toward judges who have taken the bench within the last 4 years. The 2026 Judicial College for New & Incoming Judges is slated to take place the first week of December 2026.

Per 20 O.S. § 1651.1, the Council on Judicial Complaints is authorized to provide funding for the attendance and participation of state, municipal, and administrative judges in professional and educational programs, schools or conferences for the purpose of improving the quality of the Oklahoma Judiciary and to improve the administration of justice in this state. The Council may contract or partner with public or private entities or otherwise fund and participate in the development, implementation, and conduct of professional and educational programs for judges.



(3) Incremental Budget Request

Employee Salary Increases

Recurring

\$ 40,000

The Council on Judicial Complaints seeks to increase employee pay to the midpoint or above midpoint rate identified by the OMES compensation study and required by HCM 2025-1 and HB1794. It is a specific priority of the 3 Member Council that the current employees of the agency are properly compensated and incentivized to continue their employment at the agency.





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Thank you!

Questions: Contact Taylor Henderson at
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