



Supreme Court

FY 2027 Budget Hearing Presentation

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Dustin P. Rowe Chief Justice



The **Supreme Court's** historic and primary focus is to decide civil appellate cases. However, the court has additional duties of equal importance. Pursuant to Article 7, §4 of the Oklahoma Constitution, the court has administrative responsibility for the entire Oklahoma judicial system. The court establishes the rules for all courts in Oklahoma.

Oklahoma has a unified bar. Membership in the Oklahoma Bar Association is required in order to practice law in Oklahoma. The court sets the rules for admission to the bar and for the ethical practice of law and administers appropriate discipline in cases of attorney misconduct.

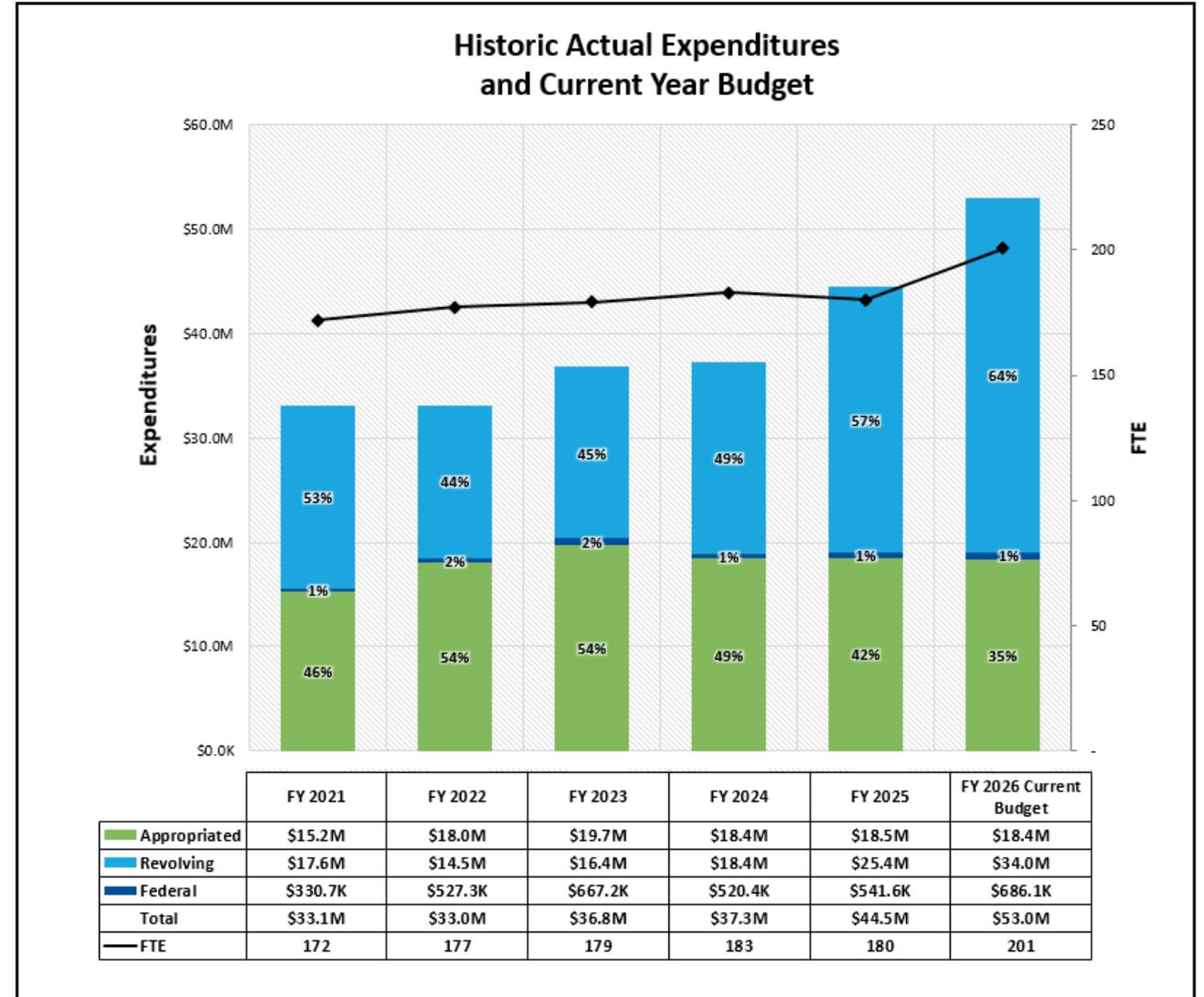
In recent years, the Supreme Court has been vested with further responsibilities by the Legislature, including appeals of expungement orders, decisions of the Oklahoma Securities Commission, victim protective orders, original and exclusive jurisdiction over bond approvals, and final orders on the nonpayment of child support.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court works closely with the federal judiciary. The Court is often called upon to answer federal certified questions pursuant to the Uniform Certification of Questions of Law Act, 20 O.S. 2011 §1601, et seq. Certified questions are issues raised in a federal case for which there is no Oklahoma law, and the Oklahoma Supreme Court is called upon to settle the issue.

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

Explanation of Changes and Trends

The increase in revolving fund expenditures for FY25 and FY26 is primarily attributable to the Family Representation and Advocacy Program.



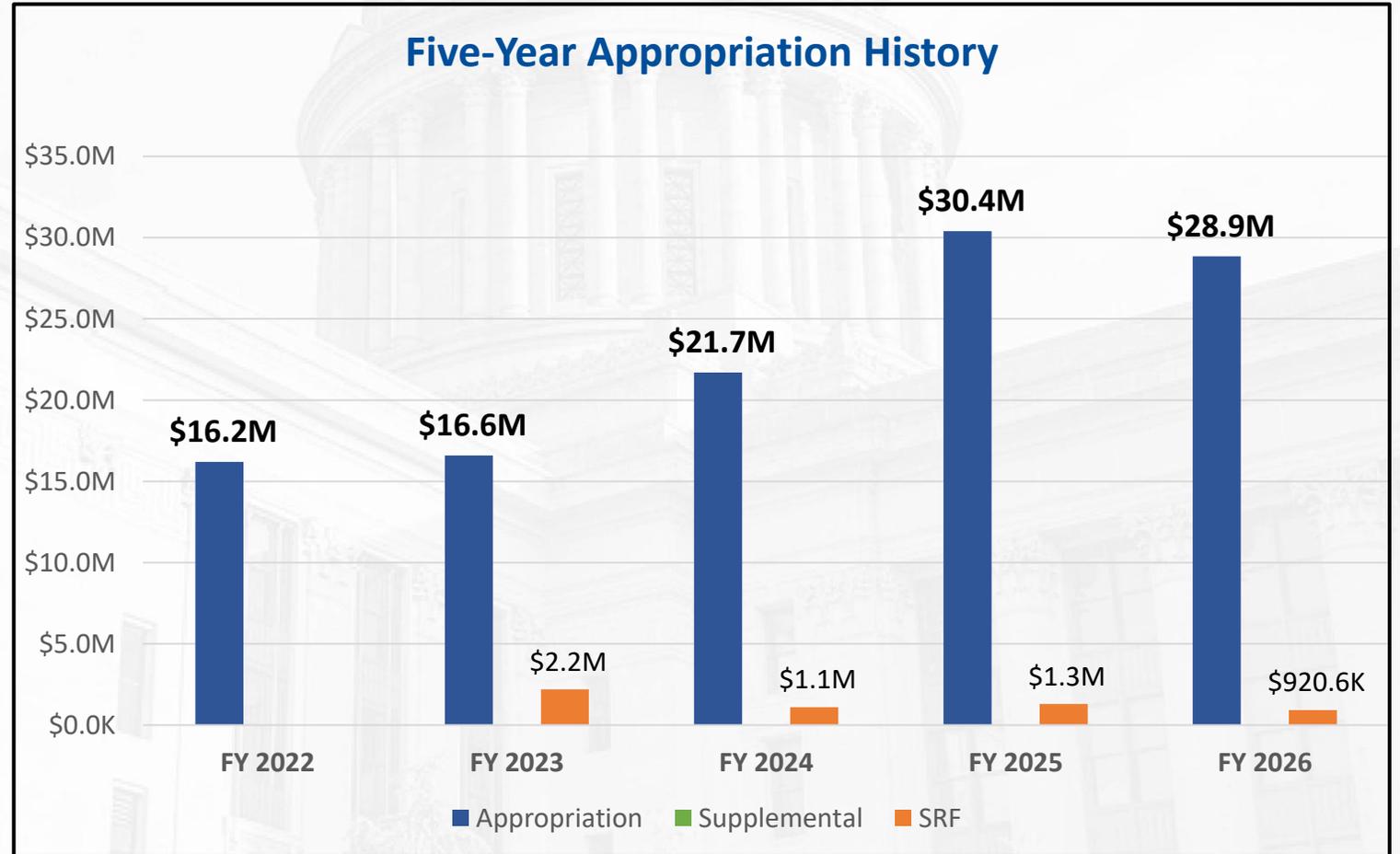


FY 2026 Budgeted Full Time Equivalents (FTE)

	FY 2026 Budgeted FTE
Total FTE	200.5
Supervisor FTE	40
Supervisors to Total FTE Ratio (%)	20%
Current Budgeted but Unfilled FTE	21

Appropriation History

Fiscal Year	Legislated Appropriation (\$) (Includes supplementals and SRF/ARPA.)
FY 2022	\$17,737,724
FY 2023	\$18,824,470
FY 2024	\$22,936,451
FY 2025	\$31,006,909
FY 2026	\$29,452,391



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



Financial Resource Analysis

Carryover	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Total appropriated carryover amount expended (\$)	\$3,740,365	\$1,959,234	\$1,079,296	\$982,463

Historical Cash Balances	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Year End Revolving Fund Cash Balances <i>(All Revolving Funds)</i>	\$20,756,322	\$26,876,000	\$28,906,822	\$34,081,199

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 (\$)
#210	Supreme Court Administrative	\$2,154,455	\$2,004,455
#		\$	\$
#		\$	\$
#		\$	\$
#		\$	\$
#		\$	\$
	Total Unrestricted Revolving Fund Cash balance:	\$	\$



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>
Staff Salary Increases	\$480,476	\$128,968	\$609,444	\$609,444	Yes	
Family Representation and Advocacy Program	\$4,600,000	\$5,900,000	\$10,500,000	\$6,456,046	Yes	Program has not been implemented in all 77 counties.
Computer Replacement		\$675,850	\$675,850	\$675,850	Yes	
Computers- one time		\$325,000	\$325,000	\$325,000	No	
Judicial Data Center Infrastructure- power and cooling system		\$1,325,811	\$1,325,811	\$0	No	Equipment not available in FY25. Install will occur in FY26.
Phone system upgrade		\$365,000	\$365,000	\$365,000	No	
Judicial Training		\$80,000	\$80,000	\$10,000	Yes	Working to pinpoint the most applicable training.
Reduce for debt service annual adjustment		\$(29,012)	\$(29,012)		No	
Totals	\$5,080,476	\$8,771,617	\$13,852,093	\$6,936,522		



**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>
Funding removal - Computers Replacement and Phone System	\$(690,000)	No		
Funding removal - Power and Cooling system	\$(1,325,811)	No		
OCIA Debt Service Adjustment	\$(53,502)	No		
National Center for State Courts Dues	\$180,000	Yes	Yes	
Judicial Salary Increase	\$324,509	Yes	Yes	
Total adjustment	\$(1,565,254)			



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

Incremental & Supplemental Request Summary

Request Name		FY 2027 Incremental Appropriation Request Amount (\$) {or FY 2026 for Supplementals}	Type of Request: Recurring, One-time, or Supplemental
1	Judicial Salary Increase	\$924,235	Recurring
2	Staff Salary Increase	\$1,004,634	Recurring
3	Judicial Security Officer	\$122,553	Recurring
4	Family Representation and Advocacy Program	\$1,833,333	Recurring
5	Payoff of Lease 2015B	\$(1,536,250)	Recurring



(1) Incremental Budget Request

Name of Request: Judicial Salary Increase	
Type: Recurring	\$924,235
Describe why these funds are needed. The Board on Judicial Compensation recommended a 17.58% judicial salary increase. This increase will help attract the best and brightest to serve in the Judiciary and will put our judicial salaries in line with the regional average.	



(2) Incremental Budget Request

Name of Request: Staff Salary Increase	
Type: Recurring	\$1,004,634
Describe why these funds are needed. In an effort to attract and retain qualified court staff within the Supreme Court, a salary increase is necessary.	



(3) Incremental Budget Request

Name of Request: Judicial Security Officer	
Type: Recurring	\$122,553
Describe why these funds are needed. Create a new position for a Judicial Security Officer. This position will coordinate judicial security statewide and develop court security and emergency preparedness measures for the Oklahoma Judiciary.	



(4) Incremental Budget Request

Name of Request: Family Representation and Advocacy Program	
Type: Recurring	\$1,833,333
Describe why these funds are needed. The Family Representation and Advocacy Program continues to roll out services to counties across the state. To be fully funded, \$5.5 million in appropriated dollars are needed. The Courts are requesting 1/3 of this amount over the next three years. Funds in the revolving fund not used during the ramp up phase will be used until the program is fully funded.	

