

Senate Committee on Appropriations

**Vermont  
Judiciary**

FY24 Budget Overview

February 3, 2023

# Overview of FY24 Judiciary Budget

- Budget pressures in Governor's Recommended Budget:

**\$52,997,805**

**FY23 Judiciary GF Budget**

**\$ 3,362,652** Estimated Annualization of Pay Act

**\$ 559,540** Statewide changes to internal service charges

**\$ 400,000** Security contracts rate increase

**\$ 4,322,192** Total Increase (8%)

**\$57,319,997**

**FY24 Gov Rec. GF Budget**

# Summary of FY24 Judiciary Budget Pressures

- **Budget pressures not in Governor's Recommended Budget:**
- **\$500,000** Reinstatement of base GF budget
- **\$344,136** One Judge and one Law Clerk
- **\$812,000** Eleven new court staff positions
- **\$698,503** Sheriff Rate of \$51/hr (\$ 300,000 above Gov. Rec.)
  
- **\$4,680,000\*** **Modernization of Judiciary IT Network**

\*One-Time Funding

# One Judge and One Law Clerk      \$344,136

- An additional judge is necessary :
  - to address significant backlog of cases
  - will serve to address filings and conduct hearings/trials so that necessary time frames may be met on an ongoing basis
  - to provide citizens greater access to judicial resources across all geographic regions
- An additional law clerk will :
  - promote efficiency, timeliness, and access to the courts and justice by better facilitating the substantive support that judges need and use every day.
  - Address the demand and need for law clerk assistance that has consistently and substantially outstripped supply

Eleven Staff Positions

\$812,000

- Courts have been understaffed since before the pandemic
- Courts have had backlogs since before the pandemic
- The pandemic exacerbated backlog numbers
- Court staff increases are necessary to address the backlog
- Eleven new court staff positions are based on court operations needs across the state

# Increase to Sheriff Rates

- Judiciary is a financial pass-through
- Last year's increase to \$45/hr rate reduced security in FY23
- Need to maintain current levels of security

	Current	Gov. Rec.	Sheriff Request
Hourly Rate	\$ 45.00	\$ 47.50	\$ 51.00
% Increase		5.56%	13.33%
Funding Increase Required		\$ 407,449	\$ 698,503