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Overview of Fiscal Year 2025 Legislative Budget

Prepared by:

Scott Moore Legislative Finance Manager

February 14, 2024

Table of Contents

Legislative Branch Budgets by Department	1
Memorandum to the Joint Legislative Management Committee Dated 11/29/23	2
Memorandum to the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore 01/17/24	6
Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Legislative Operating Budget Comparison	8
Fiscal Year 2025 Legislative Operating Budget – Legislature Detail	9
Fiscal Year 2025 Legislative Operating Budget – Legislative Counsel Detail	10
Fiscal Year 2025 Legislative Operating Budget – Legislative IT Detail	11
Fiscal Year 2025 Legislative Operating Budget – Joint Fiscal Office Detail	12
Fiscal Year 2025 Legislative Operating Budget – Sergeant at Arms Detail	13

L	egislative	Branch	Budgets	bv	Department
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			Change in	
	FY24	FY25	Dollar	Change in
Department	Appropriation	Recommended	Amount	Percentage
Legislature	\$10,547,718	\$11,465,442	\$917,724	8.70%
Legislative Counsel	\$3,924,777	\$4,148,066	\$223,289	5.69%
Legislative IT	\$1,943,447	\$2,241,214	\$297,767	15.32%
Joint Fiscal Office	\$2,708,940	\$2,809,179	\$100,239	3.70%
Sgt. At Arms	\$1,534,761	\$1,663,504	\$128,743	8.39%
Subtotal:	\$20,659,643	\$22,327,405	\$1,667,762	8.07%
FY25 Reversion		(\$813,754)	(\$813,754)	
Total:	\$20,659,643	\$21,513,651	\$854,008	4.1%



STATE OF VERMONT JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Legislative Management Committee

From: Scott Moore, Legislative Finance Manager, Joint Fiscal Office

Cc: Legislative Branch Department Heads

Date: November 29, 2023

Subject: FY 2025 Legislative Branch Budgets

2 V.S.A. §42(a)(1) states that the Joint Legislative Management Committee shall:

- (1) prepare a proposed budget for the Legislative Branch that includes a budget for each legislative office;
- (2) approve requests for new, permanent positions in staff offices as appropriate, for inclusion in the proposed Legislative Branch budget;
- (3) approve the reallocation of existing positions among staff offices, as appropriate;
- (4) approve and adopt policies that apply across the Legislative Branch, including compensation and benefits plans, personnel policies, and policies relating to information technology; and
 - (5) attend to other relevant management and oversight matters.

This memo contains the proposed Legislative branch appropriations for FY 2025. These budgets have been prepared by the Joint Fiscal Office in collaboration with legislative branch departments. Summary budget figures are shown below.

FY 2024 Legislative Branch Budget	\$20,659,643
FY 2025 Legislative Branch Budget	\$22,279,123
Dollar change (FY 2024 to FY 2025) Percent change (FY 2024 to FY 2025)	\$1,619,480 +7.84%
Proposed FY 2025 Reversions	\$813,754
Percent change after reversions	+3.9%

The growth in legislative budgets from FY 2024 to FY 2025 primarily reflects the increased costs of providing base services. Approximately 70% of overall budget growth is associated with increases to the following: health care premiums, the State-share for the defined contribution plan, legislator expense reimbursement rates, costs for Internal Service Funds, annualized costs of the most recent Pay Act, and new FY 2025 payroll taxes for Paid Family Medical Leave and Child Care Contribution. There are also increases in IT operating expenses, including those for hardware, software, and software licenses. A small amount of growth is driven by new costs associated with other miscellaneous items such as additional funding for staff professional development and an Emergency Alert System for the Capitol Police.

The remaining 30% of budget growth is associated with replacing the Document Management system, a retainer for a contracted analyst to look at matters of compensation, and staffing requests for the conversion of existing positions and the creation of additional positions.

FY 2025 Staffing Requests:

- 1) Transfer one vacant position from Legislative Counsel to Human Resources. The Directors of Legislative Counsel and Human Resources request that one vacant full-time exempt position at Legislative Counsel be transferred to Human Resources. This will provide Human Resources with an attorney to focus specifically on human resource related issues, relieving that workload from the Office of Legislative Counsel and alleviating some of the pressure on the Director of Human Resources.
- 2) Convert one Capitol Police Officer to Sergeant. The Sergeant at Arms requests the conversion of one vacant Capitol Police Officer to the position of Sergeant. This position will provide additional supervisory coverage.
- 3) Convert two session-only Law Clerk positions into one year-round position. Legislative Counsel requests that two session-only Law Clerk positions be converted into one exempt full-time year-round position. This will enhance recruitment, give Legislative Counsel attorneys legal support year-round, and help alleviate increasing workload pressures.
- 4) Create one IT position for a new Audio-Visual Specialist. The IT Department requests an additional full-time position to assist in the maintenance and support of Audio-Visual systems. The increased reliance on technology has put additional pressure on IT. This position will help address this increased workload and allow for specialization in this area of technology.

Budget Pressures:

- 1) Compensation and benefits changes: Legislators and some legislative staff received 3.9% salary increases based on the annual Pay Act. Additionally, the State-share cost for the defined contribution plan rose from 11.75% to 16.34%. Health care premiums also increased 15% from FY 2024.
- 2) New payroll taxes: The FY 2025 budget includes Paid Family Medical Leave and Child Care Contribution payroll taxes that are new in FY 2025.
- 3) Legislator expense reimbursements: Reimbursement rates are driven by federal reimbursement rates. The federal lodging reimbursement rate, which is put out by the General Services Administration (GSA), increased on October 1, 2023, from \$134 per night to \$162 per night.
- 4) Internal Service Fund changes: The budget instructions from the Executive branch advised departments to build in 3% increases for all Internal Service Fund costs (e.g. fee-for-space, VISION, worker's compensation, etc.).

Reversions:

The Legislative branch budget package includes proposed reversions from departments totaling \$813,754 to cover the FY 2025 funding request.

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Department	FY24 Appropriation	FY25 Request	Change in Dollar Amount	Change in Percentage
Legislature*	\$10,547,718	\$11,432,776	\$885,058	8.39%
Legislative Counsel	\$3,924,777	\$4,154,628	\$229,851	5.86%
Legislative IT	\$1,943,447	\$2,236,082	\$292,635	15.06%
Joint Fiscal Office	\$2,708,940	\$2,802,507	\$93,567	3.45%
Sgt. At Arms	\$1,534,761	\$1,653,132	\$118,371	7.71%
Subtotal:	\$20,659,643	\$22,279,125	\$1,619,482	7.84%
FY25 Reversion		(\$813,754)	(\$813,754)	
Total:	\$20,659,643	\$21,465,371	\$805,728	3.9%

^{*}The Legislature budget includes funding for the General Assembly, House Clerk, Senate Secretary, leadership positions, Office of Legislative Operations, and the Office of Human Resources.

Proposed Motions:

- 1. Transfer vacant position from Legislative Counsel to Human Resources: Move to support the transfer of an existing vacant position from Legislative Counsel to the Human Resources Department.
- **2.** Convert one Capitol Police Officer to Sergeant: Move to support the conversion of a vacant Capitol Police Officer position to a Sergeant position.
- 3. Convert two session-only Law Clerk positions into one year-round position: Move to consolidate two session-only positions to create one full-time exempt position for use by Legislative Counsel.
- **4.** Create one IT position: Move to create one full-time exempt position for use by IT for an Audio-Visual Specialist.
- **5. FY 2025 Budgets**: Move to support the proposed FY 2025 Legislative branch appropriations as presented to the Joint Legislative Management Committee on November 29, 2023, and require that the Chair and Vice-Chair be notified of any substantial changes prior to the Executive branch budget recommendation to determine whether formal review by the Committee is necessary.



MEMORANDUM

To: President Pro Tempore Phil Baruth, ex-officio member, Joint Legislative

Management Committee

Speaker Jill Krowinski, ex-officio member, Joint Legislative Management

PHONE: (802) 828-2295

FAX: (802) 828-2483

Committee

From: Scott Moore, Legislative Finance Manager

Cc: Legislative Department Heads

Date: January 17, 2024

Subject: Fiscal Year 2025 Legislative Branch Budget Update

This memo explains changes to the legislative branch fiscal year 2025 budgets since they were approved by the Joint Legislative Management Committee (JLMC) on November 29, 2023.

The changes are as follows:

• Internal Service Fund costs will increase in fiscal year 2025. These costs include fee-for-space, worker's compensation, and general liability insurance. This resulted in a \$48,280 increase in budgets across the branch. The Joint Fiscal Office received notice of this increase on December 22, 2023.

The Administration will provide supplemental General Fund allocations to meet these new Internal Service Fund costs, as indicated in the Governor's fiscal year 2025 budget instructions. The new fiscal year 2025 budgets for legislative branch departments are shown below:

Department	JLMC-Approved Budget (11/29/23)	Adjusted Budget (12/22/23)	Difference
General Assembly	\$11,432,776	\$11,465,442	+ \$32,666
Legislative Counsel	\$4,154,628	\$4,148,066	- \$6,562
Legislative IT	\$2,236,082	\$2,241,214	+ \$5,132
Joint Fiscal Office	\$2,802,507	\$2,809,179	+ \$6,672
Sergeant at Arms	\$1,653,132	\$1,663,504	+ \$10,372
Total	\$22,279,125	\$22,327,405	+ \$48,280

This update is provided in accordance with the motion the Joint Legislative Management Committee passed on November 29, 2023. The motion is included below.

"Move to support the proposed fiscal year 2025 Legislative branch appropriations as presented to the Joint Legislative Management Committee on November 29, 2023, <u>and require that the Chair and Vice-Chair be notified of any substantial changes prior to the Executive branch budget recommendation to determine whether formal review by the Committee is necessary."</u>

In summary, the change in the budget from November to now is due to internal service fund cost increases which will be covered by a supplemental General Fund allocation.

FY 2024 & FY 2025 Legislative Operating Budget Comparison

		FY 24	FY 25 Budget with	FY 24 to FY	FY 24 to FY
		Appropriation	Additional ISF Fees	25 Change \$	25 Change %
Legislature		\$10,547,718	\$11,465,442	\$917,724	8.70%
Legislative Counsel		\$3,924,777	\$4,148,066	\$223,289	5.69%
Legislative IT		\$1,943,447	\$2,241,214	\$297,767	15.32%
Joint Fiscal Office		\$2,708,940	\$2,809,179	\$100,239	3.70%
Sgt. At Arms		\$1,534,761	\$1,663,504	\$128,743	8.39%
	Total:	\$20,659,643	\$22,327,405	\$1,667,762	8.07%
15% Increase in Health Premiums		\$205,901	12%		
3.9% Increase in Salaries		\$366,695	22%		
Defined Contribution Increase from 11.75% to 16.34%		\$100,111	6%		
New for FY 25: FMLI 0.3711% & Childcare 0.33%		\$49,742	3%		
Increase in Internal Service Funds		\$108,227	6%		
Increase in Per Diem for Lodging		\$201,600	12%		
RAVE Mobile Security System		\$8,100	0%		
Misc		\$140,866	8%		
		\$1,181,242	71%		
LEG - HR: New In house HR Attorney		\$174,786	10%		
LC: 2 Session Only Law Clerks into 1 Year Round Position		\$46,944	3%		
IT: New IT Audio/Visual Position		\$125,000	7%		
SGT: Conversion of 1 Officer to Sgt		\$42,290	3%		
LEG - HR: Contracted Compensation Analyst		\$37,500	2%		
IT: DM Replacement Subscription		\$60,000	4%		
		\$486,520	29%		

FY2025 Legislative Budget

	2/14/2025	FY24	FY25	FY25
		1 124	JLMC	1 123
			Approved	
			Prior to	Including
			Additional	Additional
		Appropriation	ISF Fees	ISF Fees
	SOURCES OF FUNDS			
1	General fund appropriation	10,547,718	10,864,150	10,864,150
2	TOTAL SOURCES	10,547,718	10,864,150	10,864,150
	USES OF FUNDS			
	Personal Services			
3	Member session salaries	2,681,749	2,764,533	2,764,533
4	Member interim meetings salaries	105,000	110,000	110,000
5	Member FICA & Payroll	276,575	367,267	367,267
6	Leg staff salaries	1,867,749	2,132,154	2,132,154
7	Leg staff benefits	844,935	951,191	951,191
8	Catamount	5,000	5,000	5,000
9	Unemployment	20,000	20,000	20,000
10	Worker's Compensation	43,950	45,269	47,987
11	Contract services/consultants	40,000	77,500	77,500
12	Contract services for Farmer's Night		10,000	10,000
13	Interns/Overtime/Other personal services	12,000	15,000	15,000
_	Subtotal Personal Services	5,896,958	6,497,914	6,500,632
14	oublotal i craonal ocividea	3,030,330	0,437,314	0,500,032
	Operating Expenses			
15	Equipment, repairs & maintenance	30,000	30,000	30,000
16	Fee for space	1,299,798	1,338,792	1,356,325
17	Organization dues	310,000	310,000	310,000
18	Communications	10,000	10,000	10,000
19	Advertising	10,000	10,000	10,000
20	Printing and binding	140,000	140,000	140,000
21	Copying	145,000	145,000	145,000
22	Postage and mailing	4,000	4,000	4,000
23	Liability Insurance	24,796	25,540	30,956
24	Property Insurance	4,238	4,365	4,827
25	Registrations for meetings	20,000	20,000	20,000
26	Member session expenses (in-state)	2,205,000	2,458,600	2,458,600
27	Member interim expenses (in state)	70,000	60,000	60,000
28	Leg staff in-state expenses	25,000	25,000	25,000
29	Members out-state travel (conferences)	45,000	40,000	40,000
30	Leg staff training and conferences	25,000 25,000	25,000	25,000
31	Non-employee expenses	13,500	13,500	13,500
32	Office supplies, books, other payments	81,500	81,500	81,500
33	Administrative (VISION)	187,928	189,368	195,905
34	Administrative (Violett) Administrative (Audit)	107,520	4,197	4,197
	Subtotal Operating Expenses	4,650,760	4,934,862	4,964,810
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36	TOTAL USES	10,547,718	11,432,776	11,465,442

FY2025 Legislative Counsel Budget

	FY24	FY25	FY25
		JLMC	
		Approved	
		Prior to	Including
		Additional ISF	Additional ISF
	Appropriation	Fees	Fees
SOURCES OF FUNDS			
1 General fund appropriation	3,918,777	4,042,520	4,042,520
2 TOTAL SOURCES	3,918,777	4,042,520	4,042,520
USES OF FUNDS			
Personal Services			
3 Full-Time Staff Salaries	2,286,262	2,343,980	2,343,980
4 Session Staff Salaries	137,500		69,457
5 Overtime	2,500		2,500
6 FICA/Medicare	184,959		184,627
7 State payroll taxes - childcare	-	7,964	7,964
8 FMLI	-	8,699	8,699
9 Health insurance	533,955		647,812
10 Retirement	432,258	•	528,464
11 Dental	25,948	•	27,330
12 Life insurance	8,560	*	8,781
13 Disability	3,876	•	3,985
14 Employee assistance program	792	839	839
15 Worker's Compensation	7,953		8,729
16 Unemployment Compensation	2,500	2,500	2,500
17 Catamount Health	1,000	1,000	1,000
18 Other personal services	10,000	10,000	10,000
19 Subtotal Personal Services	3,638,063	3,856,130	3,856,667
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Operating Expenses	010.007	010 000	010 511
20 Fee for space	213,207	219,603	210,511
21 VISION	18,073	*	18,929
22 Single Audit allocation	500	4,137	4,137
23 Insurances Liability	23,634	24,343	25,163
24 Insurances Property	-	-	859
25 Advertising	1,000	1,000	1,000
26 Licensing	5,800	5,800	5,800
27 Books & Subscriptions	4,500	4,500	4,500
28 Office Supplies	1,000	1,000	1,000
29 Office Equipment	2,000	2,000	2,000
30 In-State Travel and Training	2,000 15,000	2,000 15,000	2,000 15,000
Out-of-State Travel and Training Other payments, adjustments	15,000	15,000 500	15,000
Other payments, adjustments Subtotal Operating Expenses	286,714	298,498	500 291,399
Cubicial Operating Expenses	200,7 14	290,490	231,333
34 TOTAL USES	3,924,777	4,154,628	4,148,066

FY2025 Legislative Information Technology

		FY24	FY25 JLMC	FY25
			Approved	
			Prior to Additional	Including Additional
		Appropriation	ISF Fees	ISF Fees
	SOURCES OF FUNDS			
1	General fund appropriation	1,846,813	2,001,750	2,001,750
2	TOTAL SOURCES		2,001,750	2,001,750
	USES OF FUNDS			
	Personal Services			
3	Full-Time Staff Salaries	702,437	803,372	803,372
4	FICA/Medicare	55,237	63,084	63,084
5	State payroll taxes - childcare	-	2,651	2,651
6	FMLI	-	2,981	2,981
7	Health insurance	207,569	262,410	262,410
8	Retirement	162,982	196,854	196,854
9	Dental	8,432	10,147	10,147
10	Life insurance	3,519	4,025	4,025
11	Disability	1,194	1,366	1,366
12	Employee assistance program	264	302	302
13	Session Staff Salaries	19,617	18,935	18,935
14	Session Staff FICA	-	1,449	1,449
15	Overtime	500	500	500
16	Unemployment Compensation	1,500	1,500	1,500
17	Catamount Health	522	522	522
18	Worker's Compensation	1,030	1,058	1,079
19	Other personal services	2,500	2,500	2,500
20	Subtotal Personal Services	1,167,303	1,373,656	1,373,677
	Operating Expenses			
21	ADS Internet	95,634	95,754	99,866
22	Advertising	1,000	1,000	1,000
23	Fee for space	36,491	36,980	37,149
24	Insurance Other than Employee	321	330	334
25	Insurance General Liability	3,214	3,341	3,431
26	VISION	6,985	7,654	8,390
27	Single Audit allocation	500	500	500
28	Books & Subscriptions	500	500	500
29	Hardware	153,810	99,000	99,000
30	IT & Data Processing Supplies	23,780	24,500	24,500
31	IT Contracts and Services	112,561	60,000	60,000
32	Office Supplies, Equipment, Furniture	1,500	1,500	1,500
33	Repair & Maintenance - Hardware	14,739	20,139	20,139
34	Repair & Maintenance - Software	34,820	35,135	35,135
35	Services	19,100	104,501	104,501
36	Software Licenses	192,818	295,120	295,120
37	Telecommunications	11,472	56,472	56,472
38	Training	10,000	10,000	10,000
39	ADS Telephone	46,899	-	<u>-</u>
40	Out-of-State Travel	10,000	10,000	10,000
41	Subtotal Operating Expenses	776,144	862,426	867,537
42	TOTAL USES	1,943,447	2,236,082	2,241,214

2/14/2025	FY24	FY25	FY25
	1 124	JLIVIC	1 123
		Approved	
		Prior to	Including
		Additional	Additional
SOURCES OF FUNDS	Appropriation	ISF Fees	ISF Fees
1 General fund appropriation	2,707,940	2,790,208	2,790,208
2 TOTAL SOURCES	2,707,940	2,790,208	2,790,208
2 TOTAL GOOTIGES		2,730,200	2,730,200
USES OF FUNDS			
Personal Services			
3 Salaries	1,487,413	1,501,152	1,501,152
4 Temp. Employees - Salary/FICA	25,000	26,000	26,000
5 FICA/Medicare	113,787	114,838	114,838
6 State payroll taxes - childcare	-	4,954	4,954
7 FMLI	_	5,571	5,571
8 Health insurance	251,850	281,496	281,496
9 Retirement	285,869	334,870	334,870
10 Dental	13,648	13,648	13,648
11 Life insurance	6,473	7,008	7,008
12 Disability	2,529	2,552	2,552
13 Employee assistance program	528	528	528
14 Employee tuition	2,500	2,500	2,500
15 Worker's Compensation	6,593	6,791	7,199
16 Catamount Health	500	500	500
17 Contract - Kavet	200,000	200,000	200,000
18 Contract - IT Project review	95,000	85,000	85,000
19 Contract - Office IT general	3,500	2,500	2,500
20 Contract - JFO website	2,500	1,500	1,500
21 Other personal services	20,000	20,000	20,000
23 Subtotal Personal Services	2,517,690	2,611,408	2,611,816
	,- ,	,- ,	, , , , ,
Operating Expenses			
24 Hardware & Software	42,000	46,307	46,307
25 Office Supplies and Equipment	7,000	5,000	5,000
26 Fee for space	55,835	57,510	64,857
27 Advertising	2,500	1,500	1,500
28 Printing & copying	1,500	-	-
29 Dues & subscriptions	20,000	20,000	20,000
30 Registrations	3,000	3,000	3,000
31 Insurances Liability	11,730	12,082	12,198
32 Insurances Property	480	494	442
33 In state travel expenses	1,500	3,000	3,000
Out of state travel expenses & training	24,000	20,000	20,000
35 Accounting (VISION)	15,908	16,385	15,238
36 Accounting (Audit)	797	821	821
Other payments, adjustments	5,000	5,000	5,000
38 Subtotal Operating Expenses	191,250	191,099	197,363
39 TOTAL USES	2,708,940	2,802,507	2,809,179

FY2025 Sergeant at Arms Budget

2/14/2023	FY24	FY25	FY25
SOURCES OF FUNDS	Appropriation	JLMC Approved Prior to Additional ISF Fees	Including Additional ISF Fees
1 General fund appropriation	1,534,761	1,580,804	1,580,804
2 TOTAL SOURCES	1,534,761	1,580,804	1,580,804
2 TOTAL GOOTIOLS	1,554,701	1,500,004	1,500,004
USES OF FUNDS			
Personal Services			
3 Salaries	844,948	787,525	787,525
4 Overtime	23,000	23,000	23,000
5 Temporary employees (includes pages)	126,676	113,583	113,583
6 FICA/Medicare	56,735	67,787	67,787
7 State payroll taxes - childcare	-	2,924	2,924
8 FMLI	-	2,867	2,867
9 Health insurance	138,945	238,704	238,704
10 Retirement	167,191	206,264	206,264
11 Dental	7,792	9,251	9,251
12 Life insurance	2,444	3,206	3,206
13 Disability	1,045	1,313	1,313
14 Employee assistance program	264	330	330
15 Worker's Compensation	9,207	9,483	10,053
16 Unemployment Compensation	2,500	2,500	2,500
17 Catamount Health	1,500	1,500	1,500
18 Sheriffs	15,000	15,000	15,000
19 Other Personal Services	5,000	5,000	5,000
20 Subtotal Personal Services	1,402,247	1,490,237	1,490,807
Operating Expenses			
21 Fee for space	8350	8,601	9,699
22 Uniforms	10000	15,000	15,000
23 Dues & Suscriptions	3000	11,000	11,000
24 Communications	23000	26,000	26,000
25 Office Supplies and Equipment	4500	4,500	4,500
26 Insurance Personal	3500	3,605	3,605
27 Insurance Liability	5454	5,618	6,675
28 Insurance Property	244	251	260
29 Legislative page expenses	11000	11,000	11,000
30 Travel and Training	15000	15,000	15,000
31 Accounting (Vision)	8166	8,411	16,049
32 Accounting (Audit)	300	309	309
33 Body Cameras - annual lease	22500	22,500	22,500
34 Security/Safety equipment	17500	23,000	23,000
35 RAVE Mobile Safety Subscription	-	8,100	8,100
36 Subtotal Operating Expenses	132,514	162,895	172,697
37 TOTAL USES	1,534,761	1,653,132	1,663,504