

House Committee on Judiciary

**Vermont
Judiciary** FY24 Budget Overview

February 22, 2023

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Overview of FY24 Judiciary Budget

- Budget pressures in Governor's Recommended Budget:

\$52,997,805	FY23 Judiciary GF Budget
\$ 3,289,518	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%)
\$57,246,863	FY24 Gov Rec. GF Budget

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Summary of FY24 Judiciary Budget Pressures

Budget pressures not in Governor's Recommended Budget:

- **\$344,136** One Judge and one Law Clerk
- **\$812,000** Eleven new court staff positions
- **\$698,503** Sheriff Rate of \$51/hr (\$300k over Gov. Rec.)

- **\$4,680,000*** **Modernization of Judiciary IT Network**

*One-Time Funding – Budget Adjustment Act Request

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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

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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 given the backlogs, remote hearings, expungement processes and e-filing realities
- Eleven new court staff positions are based on court operations needs across the state

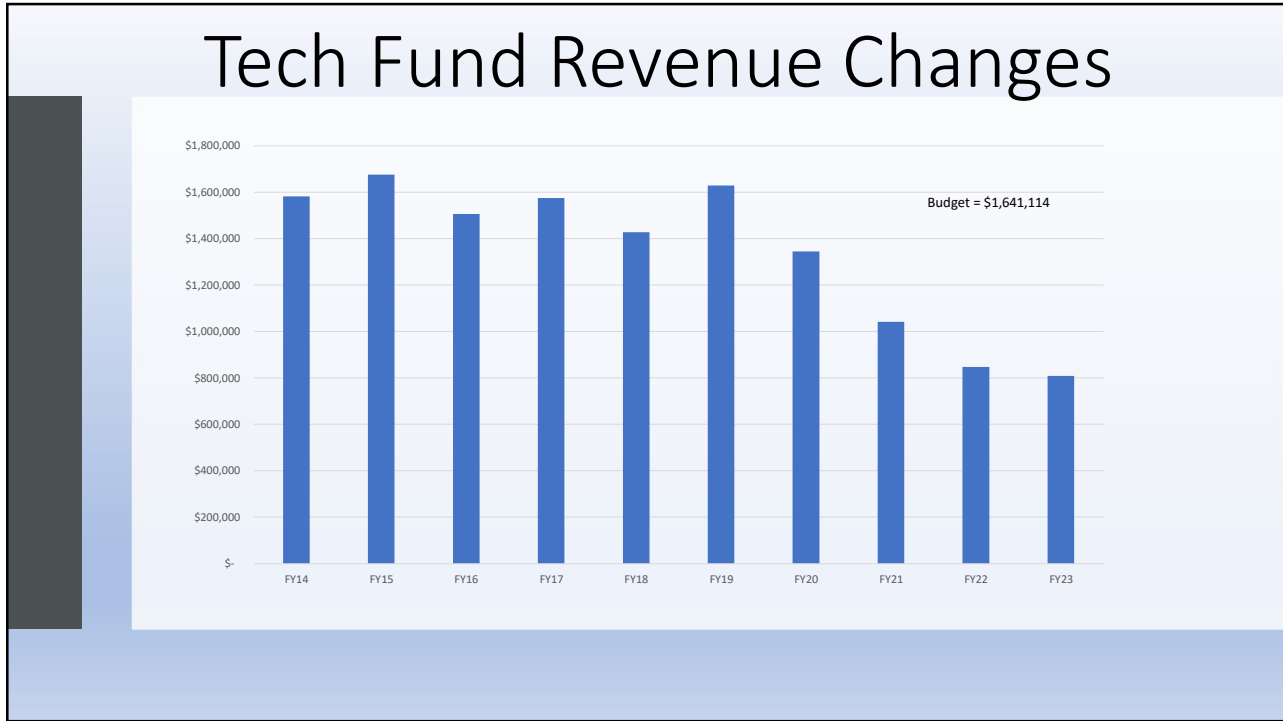
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Increase to Sheriff Rates

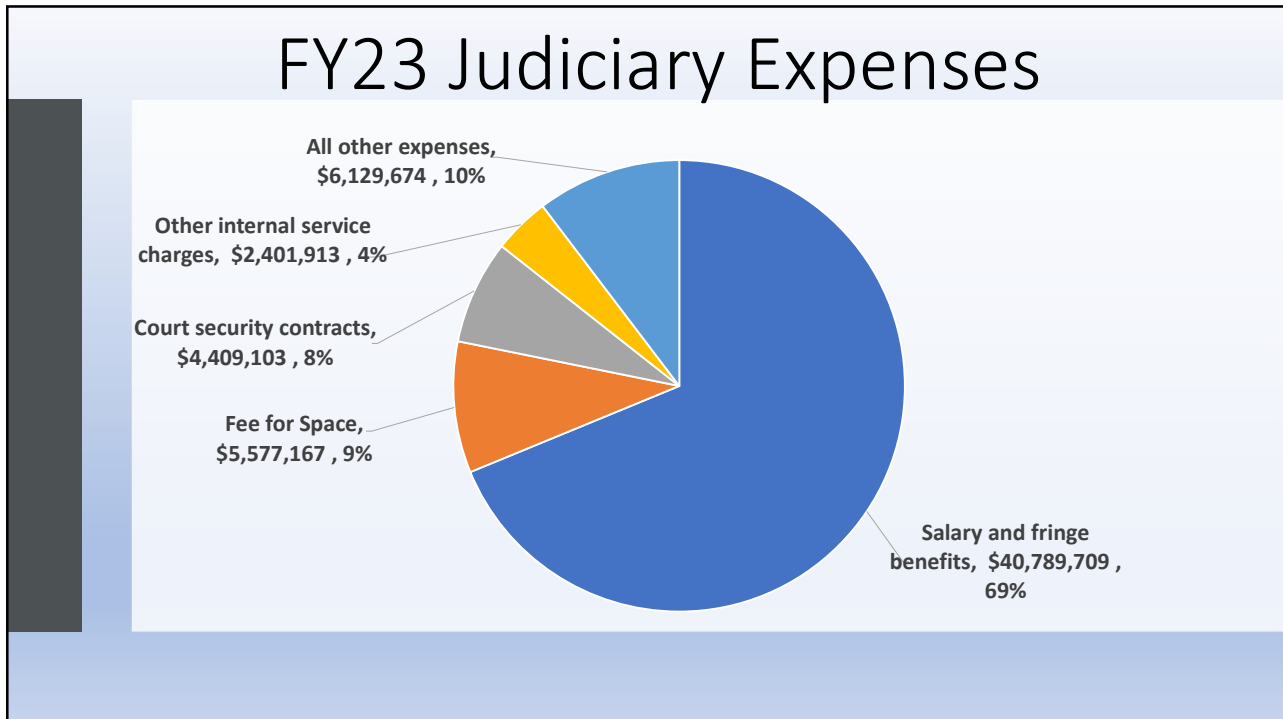
- Judiciary is pass-through
- Last year's increase to \$45/hr rate reduced security in FY23
- Need to maintain 40 Sheriff FTEs and 10 Security Guard FTEs

	Current	Gov. Rec.		Sheriff Request
Hourly Rate	\$ 45.00	\$ 47.50	\$ 50.00	\$ 51.00
% Increase		5.56%	11.11%	13.33%
Funding Increase Required		\$ 407,449	\$ 615,345	\$ 698,503

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