

**SUPREME COURT OF VERMONT  
OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR**

**GREGG MOUSLEY**  
Chief of Finance and Administration  
[Gregg.Mousley@vtcourts.gov](mailto:Gregg.Mousley@vtcourts.gov)

**Telephone** (802) 917-3691



**Mailing Address**  
Office of the Court Administrator  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-0701  
[www.vermontjudiciary.org](http://www.vermontjudiciary.org)

**TO:** Rep. Robin Scheu, Chair of House Committee on Appropriations

**FROM:** Gregg Mousley, Chief, Finance and Administration *GM*

**DATE:** December 15, 2025

**RE:** Judiciary FY26 Budget Adjustment Request

Thank you for the opportunity to present our FY26 Budget Adjustment Request to your Committee. The Judiciary experienced two unexpected adjustments in FY26, one regarding an increase in the sheriff rate of pay for courthouse security and the other regarding costs associated with a three-month pilot docket in Burlington that Governor Scott proposed in October 2025 and that was implemented in November 2025. The two unexpected adjustments result in a total Budget Adjustment Request of \$687,282. The Judiciary also requests the conversion of 26 limited-service positions into permanent positions. This request has no budget impact because the 26 positions are already funded in our base appropriation.

**Judicial Pressures:**

Sheriff Contract Rate Increase	\$558,566
Pilot Docket Costs	\$128,716
<u>Conversion of 26 LS Positions</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total	\$687,282

**Sheriff Contract Rate Increase                      \$558,566**

The Judiciary had budgeted a 4% increase in the hourly rate paid for a Sheriff's Deputy for courthouse security, raising the previous rate of \$51/hr to \$54/hr. However, when final contracts were negotiated, the rate needed to maintain the current level of security in Vermont courthouses was \$57/hr. This represented an additional \$3/hr rate that equated to a 7.5% increase over the previous year for a total cost increase of \$558,566. This increase was an unexpected expense. Even with this higher rate, we experienced the loss of another County Sheriff contract as they

were not able to recruit after a retirement. The Judiciary now contracts with eleven of the fourteen County Sheriffs. Two of those eleven County Sheriffs continue to struggle to provide the number of Deputies included in the contract for their county. We have been told to anticipate another large increase in the hourly rate as we approach the FY27 Budget contract.

**Pilot Docket (Burlington)                      \$128,716**

The Governor's Office invited the Judiciary and others to a meeting in October 2025 to discuss a proposal for a "Pilot Docket" in Chittenden County that would focus resources on criminal defendants with five or more cases pending. The proposal involved setting up a separate courtroom dedicated to that particular category of cases for a three-month trial period. Setting up a separate courtroom necessitates additional judge, security officer and courtroom operator resources. The Judiciary was told that the cost of the additional resources for the three-month period would be "covered". The pilot docket was implemented in early November 2025 and is projected to complete the pilot period at the end of the first week in February 2026. The cost for the Judiciary resources dedicated to the pilot docket for the timeline involved is \$128,716. This was an unexpected budget item.

**Conversion of Limited-Service Positions to Permanent**

In FY24, the Judiciary requested 26 positions in a variety of roles. The Legislature approved the positions and funded them in the base budget with General Funds. They termed the positions "limited-service" even though the positions were funded in our base budget. Unlike pandemic funded limited-service positions anticipated for a temporary duration, the need for these positions is permanent.

The statute that approved the 26 Judiciary positions also approved 9 Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs positions and provides as follows:

**Sec. E.100 POSITIONS**

(c) The establishment of 35 exempt limited-service positions is authorized in fiscal year 2025 as follows:

- (1) Judiciary:
  - (A) one Database Administrator;
  - (B) two IT Help Desk Analysts;
  - (C) two Centralized Service Analysts;
  - (D) 10 Judicial Assistants; and
  - (E) 11 Judicial Officer II's
- (2) Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs:
  - (A) seven Deputy State's Attorneys;
  - (B) one Victim Advocate; and
  - (C) one Legal Assistant.

Since that appropriation, the nine limited-service positions at the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs were converted to permanent positions. We would request the same treatment and request that the 26 positions (listed below) be converted to permanent positions. This will not have a budget impact since the 26 positions are all already funded in our base appropriation.

237462	Centralized Service Analyst	Burlington
237466	Centralized Service Analyst	Burlington
237467	Centralized Service Analyst	Montpelier
237468	Helpdesk Analyst III	Montpelier
237469	Helpdesk Analyst III	Montpelier
237470	IT Systems Administrator	Montpelier
237446	Judicial Assistant	Burlington
237454	Judicial Assistant	St Albans
237445	Judicial Assistant	Burlington
237450	Judicial Assistant	St Albans
237449	Judicial Assistant	Montpelier
237448	Judicial Assistant	Rutland
237453	Judicial Assistant	Burlington
237447	Judicial Assistant	Bennington
237452	Judicial Assistant	Newfane
237451	Judicial Assistant	Burlington
237463	Programs Manager	Montpelier
237465	Court Officer B	Newport
237458	Security & Safety Officer	St Albans
237455	Security & Safety Officer	Montpelier
237460	Security & Safety Officer	Montpelier
237464	Security & Safety Officer	Hyde Park
237457	Security & Safety Officer	Chelsea
237459	Security & Safety Officer	Bennington
237456	Security & Safety Officer	St Johnsbury
237461	Security & Safety Officer	St Albans

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to discussing these topics with you on Wednesday, December 17.

cc: Rep. Jim Harrison, Vice Chair, House Committee on Appropriations  
Rep. Tiffany Bluemle, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations  
Rep. Eileen Dickinson, House Committee on Appropriations  
Rep. John Kascenska, House Committee on Appropriations  
Rep. Wayne Laroche, House Committee on Appropriations

Rep. Michael Mrowicki, House Committee on Appropriations  
Rep. Michael Nigro, House Committee on Appropriations  
Rep. Trevor Squirrell, Clerk, House Committee on Appropriations  
Rep. Thomas Stevens, House Committee on Appropriations  
Rep. David Yacovone, House Committee on Appropriations  
Autumn Crabtree, Senior Staff Associate, House Committee on Appropriations