

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL  
Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request**

**Christopher Brickell,  
Executive Director**



*Photo Credit: Amy Tucker*



# *Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request*

## **V E R M O N T C R I M I N A L J U S T I C E C O U N C I L**

**Christopher Brickell, Executive Director**

*Budget Development*

*Holly S. Ferrant, AoA Chief Financial Officer*

*Jason Pinard, AoA Deputy Chief Financial Officer*

*Harmony Wilder, Finance Director II*

*Harley Oliver, Finance Director II*

*Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request  
table of content highlights*

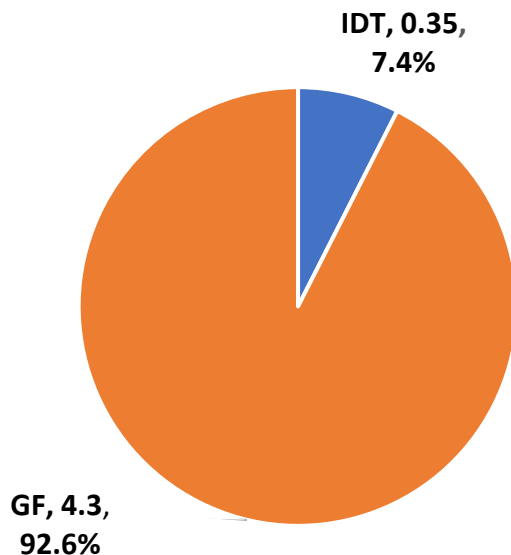
**V E R M O N T  
C R I M I N A L J U S T I C E  
C O U N C I L**

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Agency of Administration,  
Criminal Justice Council  
FY 2027 Governor's Recommend Budget

**MISSION:** The mission of the Vermont Criminal Justice Council is to enhance public safety and promote law enforcement excellence by establishing policies, certification standards, training, and resources that embrace best practices in criminal justice to meet the needs of the communities we serve.

**Governor's Recommended Budget FY  
2027 (\$ millions)**



## FY 2027 SUMMARY & HIGHLIGHTS

- The Criminal Justice Council presents a \$71,443 or 1.68% increase in the General Fund budget.
- The Criminal Justice Council presents a \$43,527 or 11.11% increase in the Inter-Departmental Transfer Fund budget.
- In the FY2027 budget the Criminal Justice Council has 2 Exempt and 14 Classified positions.
- The Vacancy Savings rate in FY2025 was 10.7% and YTD in FY2026 it's 12.5%.



## VCJC/VPA Budget Program Highlights



**\$4.38M**

FY27 Proposed General  
Fund Appropriation



**\$347K**

IDT Funds



**16**

VPAS staff



**8K**

Website Users



**4.5K**

Facebook Followers



**726**

Instagram Followers



**82**

State, Local, County,  
Agencies Supported



**96%**

Agency Compliance  
With 20 VSA 2366

### FY27 Budget \$4.38M

The VCJC budget submitted for approval is designed to keep the Academy fully operational and able to meet its core training mission. This funding ensures continuity in preparing and supporting new and current law enforcement officers across Vermont. With additional resources in the future, the Academy would be well positioned to further integrate and expand critical initiatives such as officer wellness, curriculum development in de-escalation and Identity-Based Responsivity, and systems that strengthen compliance, data quality, and community partnerships. These enhancements would help ensure training remains safe, defensible, and responsive to community needs. The Academy's work contributes to a healthier, more diverse law enforcement workforce and supports workforce development statewide. In addition, the Academy's residential facility provides housing for all attendees, helping officers transition into their careers despite Vermont's challenging housing market.

## VCJC/VPA Budget Program Highlights



**\$6,700**

Level III Tuition Per Recruit



**27,544**

Meals Served



**705**

Level III Training Hours



**1,070**

Certified Level III Law Enforcement Officers



**456**

Certified Level II Law Enforcement Officers



**74**

Act 56 Cases Received



**13**

Stipulated Agreements or hearings



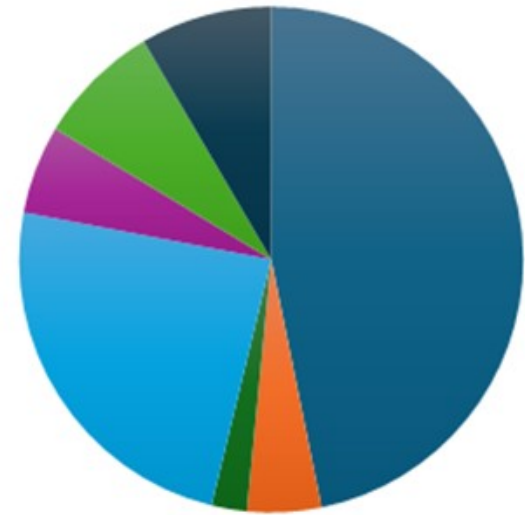
**101**

Council & Committee Meetings



**39**

Online and Offsite In-Service Trainings



### FY27 Budget \$4.38M Breakdown by Category

- **51% - Salaries and Benefits**
- **05% - Contracts & Other Personnel Services**
- **02% - IT/Telecom**
- **26% - Fee for Space**
- **06% - Supplies and Operations**
- **09% - Food**
- **09% - IDT**



# FY27 Funding Requests

- Language Access: Request for \$30,000 one-time funding.
- Understanding fiscal conservation for the FY27 appropriation the VCJC focused their request on a one-time appropriation for language access translation of the new statutory policy for expunged records as well as critical policies such as Use of Force.
- The VCJC also requires the completion of the Curriculum Review and development contract for that was recommended by the Governor.



# Council Successes

- Updated Professional Regulation Procedures
- Written Entrance Test selected and Implemented
- Acadis RMS system implementation
- Continuation of Curriculum Review and Rewrite
- IACP Women's Leadership Institute
- Hosted Naturalization Ceremony
- Booth at Fair Haven HS Career Fair, National Night Out, and Pride Festival.
- Hired FIP Instructor
- Provided mandatory FIP training to all law enforcement and also a Neurodivergence in-service training.
- Hired an Attorney
- Canine Patrol and Detection Schools were completed
- Identity Based Policing JTA completed
- Translated the FIP policy into 14 languages and ASL as well as a statement to communities.
- Continued contract with O2X for officer wellness as part of the overall strategy for officer recruitment and retention.





## Council Successes (Continued)

- Graduated 74 Level III officers, and 54 Level II officers integrated trauma informed phase 1 practices and overall wellness processes for new recruits in the residential program.
- Hosted legislators at the Academy for a tour and explanation of our programs.
- Conducted 6 in-house agency training and policy compliance audits
- NHTSA Assessment to review Highway Safety program.
- Increased training and FTO for Level I and II officers
- Conducted the FIP Policy Review
- Conducted Death Investigation school, Background Investigation School, Internal Affairs School, and Instructor training schools.
- Staff attended De-escalation Train the Trainer program as part of a de-escalation initiative.
- Alternate Pathways Subcommittee creation, meetings, and recommendations.
- Voted on Annual Training Requirements
- Updated Canine Standards
- Draft procedure approved for 20 VSA 2359
- Updated Council rules

## VCJC/VPA Future Pressures



### Wellness Program \$200,000

- Injury Prevention
- Stress Management
- Mental Wellness
- Nutrition and Sleep Management



### De-Escalation Curriculum \$250,000

- Federal Grant Approval
- Curriculum Development
- Instructor Training
- Research and Supplies
- Policy Assessment



### IBR Curriculum \$100,000

- Continued Collaboration and Integration
- Instructor Training
- Online training development
- Regional community and LEO training



### Legal Services for Hearings \$125,000

- Contracts for Hearing Officers
- Per Diem costs for Council Members
- Transcripts and fees for witnesses
- Cost of appeals

## Future Pressures

These initiatives position the Academy to lead the next generation of professional, resilient, and community-centered policing professionals in Vermont. By continuing to embed recruit and officer wellness training as a core component of instruction, expanding access to de-escalation training through statewide in-service programs, and integrating IBR curriculum, the Academy can strengthen public safety while deepening trust with the communities it serves. Sustained investment in these areas creates meaningful opportunities to enhance officer resilience, support sound decision-making, and improve outcomes during critical encounters. Expanded de-escalation training promotes safer interactions for both officers and the public, while IBR curriculum advances transparency, accountability, and strong community partnerships. Together, these initiatives support safer Vermont communities and reinforce a modern, effective community policing model that is prepared to meet future challenges. Statutory requirements related to unprofessional conduct mandate hearings and stipulations for officer certification matters. These proceedings have resulted in a growing number of unfunded costs, limiting the Academy's ability to allocate resources toward new initiatives or projects.

## Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Development Form: Criminal Justice Council

	General \$\$	Interdept'l Transfer \$\$	Total \$\$
<b>Approp #1 [2170010000]: Criminal Justice Council FY 2026 Approp</b>	<b>4,260,265</b>	<b>390,852</b>	<b>4,651,117</b>
Other Changes: (Please insert changes to your base appropriation that occurred after the passage of the FY 2026 budget)			0
<b>FY 2026 Other Changes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Approp. After FY 2026 Other Changes</b>	<b>4,260,265</b>	<b>390,852</b>	<b>4,651,117</b>
<b>CURRENT SERVICE LEVEL/CURRENT LAW</b>	<b>71,443</b>	<b>(43,527)</b>	<b>27,916</b>
<i>Personal Services</i>	<i>175,150</i>	<i>8,676</i>	<i>183,826</i>
500000: Salary & Wages: Classified Employees	104,864	5,492	110,356
500010: Salary & Wages: Exempt Employees			
501500: Health Insurance: Classified Employees	16,932	3,743	20,675
501510: Health Insurances: Exempt Employees			
502000: Retirement: Classified Employees	40,476	1,582	42,058
502010: Retirement: Exempt Employees			
All Other Employee Payroll Related Fringe Benefits	2,203	(292)	1,911
504040: VT Family & Medical Leave Insurance Premium	(509)	21	(488)
504045: Child Care Contribution	1,486	25	1,511
505200: Workers' Compensation Insurance Premium	3,010		3,010
508000: Vacancy Turnover Savings	66,002		66,002
Other adjustments to Personal Service expense account codes:	(59,314)	(1,895)	(61,209)
			0
			0
			0
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	<i>(103,707)</i>	<i>(52,203)</i>	<i>(155,910)</i>
515010: Fee-for-Space Charge	(95,441)		(95,441)
516000: Insurance Other Than Employee Benefits	(44)		(44)
516010: Insurance - General Liability	369		369
516671: VISION/ISD	4,881		4,881
516685: ADS Allocated Charge	49,159		49,159
519006: Human Resources Services	1,261		1,261
523620: Single Audit Allocation	25		25
Other adjustemnts to Operating Expense account codes:	(63,917)	(52,203)	(116,120)
			0
			0
			0
<i>Grants</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
			0
			0
			0
			0
			0
			0
			0
<b>Subtotal of Increases/Decreases</b>	<b>71,443</b>	<b>(43,527)</b>	<b>27,916</b>
<b>FY 2027 Governor Recommend</b>	<b>4,331,708</b>	<b>347,325</b>	<b>4,679,033</b>

<b>Criminal Justice Council FY 2026 Appropriation</b>	<b>4,260,265</b>	<b>390,852</b>	<b>4,651,117</b>
<b>Reductions and Other Changes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>FY 2026 Total After Other Changes</b>	<b>4,260,265</b>	<b>390,852</b>	<b>4,651,117</b>
<b>TOTAL INCREASES/DECREASES</b>	<b>71,443</b>	<b>(43,527)</b>	<b>27,916</b>
<b>Criminal Justice Council FY 2027 Governor Recommend</b>	<b>4,331,708</b>	<b>347,325</b>	<b>4,679,033</b>