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TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Timothy Lueders-Dumont, Esq., SAS Executive Director

DATE: April 6, 2026

SUBJECT: SAS FY27 Budget Priorities

FY 27. SAS Priority #1: *Elimination of Vacancy Savings* to avoid reduction of SAS staff (see below). The House-passed budget currently addresses this request (as of April 6, 2026).

- State's Attorneys: \$330,392
- Victim Advocates: \$123,205
- Sheriffs: \$139,235

FY 27. SAS Priority #2: *Operating Expenses*.

- Requesting \$100,000 over and above the Governor's recommend to address critical SAS operational gaps, with a particular focus on mental health experts for competency and hospitalization matters in homicide cases. This allocation would also assist in covering Transport Deputy overtime driven by the increase in jury trials, in-person hearings, and the potential for additional accountability court time and backlog efforts.¹ The House-passed budget does not address this request (as of April 6, 2026).

FY 27. SAS Priority #3: *Cost estimates if additional positions are awarded*. All salary and benefit costs are inclusive of projected union contract settlement impact for FY27. Salary estimates below were calculated using actual internal/comparable salaries within title, for an estimate. Payroll costs were average salary at 40 hours per week, plus FICA, FMLI, life ins, childcare tax, EAP. Benefit costs were retirement, dental LTD, and average cost for State insurance.

- SAS Victim Advocates: \$144,968 per employee (4 requested)
- SAS Legal Assistants: \$130,961 per employee (3 requested)
- SAS Secretaries: \$124,680 per employee (3 requested)

NOTE: if accountability docket programming is expanded, see SAS memo here: [W~Tim Lueders-Dumont~SAS Recommendations Concerning Accountability and Judicial System Improvement~2-13-2026.pdf](#).

¹ See further explanation here: [W~Tim Lueders-Dumont~SAS Memo position vacancies in FY26-FY27~1-30-2026.pdf](#).