

JUDICIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

August 15, 2025

8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Matheson Courthouse - Conference Room A

450 S. State Street Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Meeting held through WebEx and in person

Chief Justice Matthew B. Durrant, Presiding

Members:

Chief Justice Matthew B. Durrant,
Chair
Hon. David Mortensen, Vice Chair
Hon. Suchada Bazzelle (WebEx)
Hon. Brian Brower
Hon. Jon Carpenter (WebEx)
Hon. Samuel Chiara
Hon. Rita Cornish
Hon. Michael DiReda
Hon. Susan Eisenman
Hon. Michael Leavitt
Hon. Angela Fannesbeck (WebEx)
Hon. James Gardner
Hon. Thomas Low
Hon. Brendan McCullagh
Hon. Amber Mettler
Justice Paige Petersen
Kristin K. Woods

AOC Staff:

Ron Gordon
Neira Siaperas
Michael Drechsel
Keisa Williams
Nick Stiles
Shane Bahr
Sonia Sweeney
James Peters
Bart Olsen
Brody Arishita
Jon Puente
Keri Sargent
Michael Samantha Starks
Tina Sweet
Karl Sweeney
Alisha Johnson
Kelly Moreira
Suzette Deans

Presenters:

Steven Allred
Dr. Robbi Foxxe
Tucker Samuelsen
Chris Morgan
Linda Ekker
Amy Hernandez
Shonna Thomas
Jessica Vazquez-Leavitt
Judge Craig Hall
Katy Burke
Cris Seabury
Janine Liebert
Jordan Murray
Jonathan Marks
Marketa Heslop
Jessica Mann
Ryan Davidso

Guests:

Brett Folkman
Judge Jason Nelson
Kim Zimmerman
Cindy Schut

Excused:

1. WELCOME AND THE APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Judge David Mortensen)

Judge Mortensen welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that Chief Justice Durrant would be joining shortly. He then asked if there were any questions or comments on the previous month's minutes; none were raised.

Motion: Judge Jon Carpenter made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Judge Samuel Chiara seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. FY 2027 ANNUAL BUDGET PLANNING OVERVIEW (Ron Gordon)

Ron Gordon provided an overview of the budget process and recognized the finance team for their work in preparing for the annual budget meeting. He explained that all requests had been ranked by the Juvenile, District, and Appellate Boards of Judges, as well as the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee (BFMC). The Judicial Council will determine which requests to adopt as priorities for the Judiciary and advance to the Legislature. The prioritized requests will be presented during the 2026 legislative session, with funding effective July 1, 2026 (FY 2027), if approved.

Legislature's Approach to FY 2027 Budget (Steven Allred)

Steven Allred, Deputy Fiscal Analyst, reported that the FY26 state budget totals about \$38 billion, with \$11.8 billion in the discretionary General Fund and Income Tax Fund - the primary source for Judiciary funding. Federal funds now make up 27% of the budget, down from more than 30% during the pandemic.

In November 2024, the Legislature projected \$324 million in new ongoing revenues and \$88 million in one-time revenues, but those funds were already committed before the session began. By February, updated estimates reduced revenues by \$112 million, while Medicaid and Alcoholic Beverage Services faced additional shortfalls. To fill the gap, lawmakers swept balances from multiple accounts, including Medicaid, higher education, and capital improvements. At the same time, they approved an income tax rate cut from 4.55% to 4.5%, reducing revenues by about \$150 million.

Utah Economic Outlook (Dr. Robbi Foxxe)

Dr. Robbi Foxxe reported on national and state economic conditions, noting that while the economy remains resilient, warning signs point to slower growth. A recession is not the baseline expectation, but its likelihood has increased. She highlighted tariffs as a key risk, with recent expansions creating uncertainty and the potential for rising consumer prices as businesses struggle to absorb costs. She also emphasized the impact of immigration shifts on labor markets, particularly in construction, agriculture, hospitality, and childcare. Recent federal revisions showed weaker national job growth than expected, though Utah continues to report strong growth and low unemployment. Inflation, which had been easing, is now edging upward, complicating the Federal Reserve's ability to cut rates. Dr. Foxxe concluded that while Utah's outlook remains stronger than the national average, economic indicators are more mixed than last year, and downside risks have increased.

FY 2025 Filings and Disposition Count (Tucker Samuelson)

Tucker Samuelson presented an overview of court filings, time-to-disposition trends, and the weighted caseload studies. He noted record appellate filings, with the Supreme Court filings rebounding and the Court of Appeals setting another record high year. Justice court filings were stable overall. In juvenile courts, delinquency filings held steady while child welfare cases declined, though specialty hearings such as at-risk non-citizen matters increased. Filings in district courts showed the sharpest growth, particularly in felony filings, civil cases, probate cases, and search warrants, which have tripled over the last decade. Jury trials have nearly returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Weighted caseload analysis confirmed that nearly all district courts justify additional judges. While juvenile court demand dipped slightly, some districts still face significant need. Mr. Samuelson emphasized that the weighted caseload model shows the minimum required judges and does not account for population growth, underscoring that the Judiciary is operating at unsustainable levels and reinforcing the need for more judicial resources.

Introduction to Budget Requests Prioritization Process (Karl Sweeney)

Karl Sweeney reviewed historical budget request trends, noting that starting in 2024, the Judiciary shifted from submitting only its top judicial officer needs to presenting the full weighted caseload needs. He emphasized that the Judiciary’s funding requests have been most successful when aligned with priorities shared by other state agencies. Mr. Sweeney explained that the Judiciary’s share of the State’s General Fund spending has dropped from 5.13% in FY 2011 to 4.46% in FY 2024. If funding had kept pace, the Judiciary would have about \$25 million more today - enough to cover the FY 2027 requests.

FY 2026 Legislative Budget Requests (BFMC-Recommended Priority Order)

CORE Courthouse Workforce - \$6,008,300 ongoing

This request seeks funding to address persistent 20% turnover among the Judiciary’s core courthouse workforce (judicial assistants, probation officers, managers, administrative staff). High turnover erodes institutional knowledge and strains operations, especially since training new judicial assistants takes 18-24 months to reach full competency. That lengthy training period is often needed because these roles require mastery of complex procedures, technology systems, and legal processes - skills critical to keeping court operations accurate and efficient.

The \$6 million request reflects the full amount needed to stabilize staffing, with the Council already redirecting \$1 million in turnover savings toward this effort. The goal is to present the Legislature with the true cost of solving the problem, rather than partial measures that fail to reduce turnover.

Judicial Officers and Support Staff - \$9,211,600 ongoing; \$1,380,000 one-time

Comprehensive Utah judicial workload studies show a need for 10 new judges (eight district; one juvenile, and one Court of Appeals), four commissioners, and support staff. One-time funding is also needed to finish a shelled courtroom in Tooele County.

Juvenile Court Judge (1)	4 th District – Juab, Millard, Utah, Wasatch
District Court Judges (8)	1 st District – Box Elder, Cache, and Rich
	2 nd District – Davis, Morgan, Weber
	3 rd District x3 – Salt Lake, Summit, Tooele
	4 th District – Juab, Millard, Utah, Wasatch
	5 th District – Beaver, Iron, Washington
	6 th District – Garfield, Kane, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, Wayne
Commissioners (4)	2 nd District – Davis, Morgan, Weber
	3 rd District x2 – Salt Lake, Summit, Tooele
	4 th District – Juab, Millard, Utah, Wasatch
Court of Appeals Judge (1)	Statewide

This year's request consolidates all judicial officer needs into a single request to show the Judiciary's total need while preserving flexibility in the request. Data demonstrates the system requires roughly three new judges annually just to avoid falling further behind, though the Judiciary is unlikely to secure the full number in one session. Flexibility allows pursuit of legislative support wherever it arises.

The Council discussed advocacy strategies, including engaging legislators to frame the need as serving their constituents, enlisting local and specialty bar groups to emphasize case delays, and linking the request to broader legislative priorities such as reducing crime and improving efficiency.

Training Coordinator Position - \$102,300 ongoing

The Sixth District covers a large geographical area (six counties and over 16,000 square miles), creating unique challenges in consistently training court staff. The Sixth District is currently the only judicial district without a training coordinator, a position that has proved essential in all other districts in maintaining a fully trained workforce. Training coordinators help employees understand and execute court operations and procedures and help employees properly implement legislative changes. A training coordinator position in the Sixth District would significantly enhance the ability to support staff development and promote efficiency while enhancing the ability to advance justice across the district.

Integrated Domestic Violence Court Project - \$1,972,600 ongoing; \$1,285,000 one-time

Domestic violence represents a significant threat to the health, safety, and wellbeing of Utah's families. To effectively address domestic violence, the Judiciary proposes implementing the Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) Court in Tooele County. IDV Court uses a "one judge, one family" model and seeks to improve safety for victims and their children, hold defendants accountable, and reduce domestic violence recidivism. IDV Court accomplishes these goals with a judge and staff who have advanced domestic violence training, a dedicated Guardian ad Litem attorney to assess the risk of abuse for children, legal representation for litigants, treatment resources, and supervised visitation when necessary.

Domestic Violence Courts - \$618,550 ongoing

The efforts of Grand County and Wasatch County to improve their response to domestic violence by implementing Domestic Violence Courts have been undermined by a lack of resources. For Domestic Violence Courts to operate effectively and improve outcomes in domestic violence cases, defendants must be able to access treatment resources. This funding would make necessary treatment resources available including domestic violence treatment, substance use treatment, and mental health treatment. Funding would also allow Grand County and Wasatch County to share a full-time Domestic Violence Court Coordinator to attend to the many details and logistics involved in operating a Domestic Violence Court.

Guardianship Signature Program Funding - \$667,550 ongoing

Utah law (Utah Code 75-5-303(2)) ensures the right to counsel for individuals facing guardianship proceedings. However, if the individual and their parents are indigent, no dedicated resources exist to secure legal representation. Efforts to address this need through attorney volunteerism have fallen short, with 62% of qualifying cases lacking attorney involvement. This

funding would support a program manager and the equivalent of two FTE contract attorneys experienced in guardianship matters to support the allegedly incapacitated individuals through the process.

Prioritization of FY 2027 Legislative Budget Requests (Karl Sweeney and Alisha Johnson)

The Budget and Fiscal Management Committee's recommendation was presented as a starting point, with adjustments possible after further discussion. The Council affirmed workforce recruitment and retention as the top priority. On other items, members considered whether domestic violence funding should be ranked higher but agreed to keep it below broader system-wide requests. The Sixth District training coordinator remained a separate item, since smaller requests may sometimes succeed through legislative reallocations, though such outcomes are uncertain. Finally, funding for the Guardianship Signature Program Attorney Pass-Through was not ranked, as it fulfills a statutory requirement.

Motion: Judge Micheal Leavitt made a motion to adopt the BFMC priority order of the budget requests. Judge Rita Cornish seconded the motion, which passed unanimously

Judicial Council Priorities:

- 1) Core Courthouse Workforce Recruit and Retain
 - 2) Judicial Officers and Support Staff
 - 3) Sixth District Training Coordinator
 - 4) Integrated Domestic Violence Court Funding - Tooele
 - 5) Specialized Domestic Violence Court Funding - Wasatch and Grand Co.
- (N/A) Guardianship Signature Program Attorney Pass-Through

3. CHAIR'S REPORT (Chief Justice Matthew B. Durrant):

Chief Justice Durrant reported that a meeting has been scheduled with Senate President Adams and that he will update the Council at the next meeting.

4. STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT (Ron Gordon):

Mr. Gordon thanked Neira Siaperas, Bart Olsen, the AOC directors, and staff for their support during his absence. He announced that Hilary Wood has left for the private sector and her position has been restructured into an Executive Support Coordinator role, now filled by Esme Blanco. Ms. Blanco will assist with numerous initiatives including the senior judge program and system review implementation.

He reported progress from the Judiciary's AI subcommittees, with recommendations expected by September. Mr. Gordon and Chief Justice Durrant also met with the Elected Officials and Judicial Compensation Commission (EJCC) regarding judicial compensation. They noted a significant decline in applications for judicial vacancies, though Utah's pay ranking has improved into the top 10 nationally. The Commission expressed support for cost-of-living adjustments but was cautious about recommending larger increases.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Management Committee:

Nothing to report.

Budget and Fiscal Management Committee:

The work of the committee will be discussed later in the meeting.

Liaison Committee:

Judge Thomas Low reported on a recent legislative meeting. Lawmakers noted the absence of a clear and standardized process on case reassignments when judges recuse or retire, emphasizing the need for greater transparency. The committee recommended that Policy and Planning consider developing such a rule with input from presiding judges.

Legislators also raised the idea of consolidating judicial districts to increase judicial mobility and broaden applicant pools. Judge Low suggested placing this on a future Council agenda for further review.

Finally, legislators indicated that new courthouse funding requests should be supported by courtroom utilization studies. The National Center for State Courts has been engaged to conduct a study, though results will not be available before the upcoming session.

Policy, Planning, and Technology Committee:

Nothing to report.

Bar Commission:

Nothing to report.

6. BUDGET AND GRANTS (Karl Sweeney, Alisha Johnson):

Alisha Johnson presented the financial reports.

FY 2025 Ongoing Turnover Savings

#		Prior Month Forecast	Actual	Forecasted	Change in Forecast
		Amount @ YE	Amount YTD	Amount @ YE	Amount @ YE
	Net Carried over Ongoing Savings (finalized from FY 2024)	140,594	140,594	140,594	-
	Ongoing Turnover Savings FY 2025 (actual year-to-date, Salary Differential only)	903,348	903,348	903,348	-
1	Ongoing Turnover Savings FY 2025 (forecast \$65,000 / month x 0 month, Salary Differential only)	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL SALARY RELATED ONGOING SAVINGS	1,043,942	1,043,942	1,043,942	-
	Benefit Differential Savings FY 2025 (will be recognized in this row starting in Q4)	115,119	171,366	171,366	56,248
	TOTAL SAVINGS	1,159,061	1,215,309	1,215,309	56,248
2	2025 Annual Authorized Hot Spot Raises	(200,000)	(200,000)	(200,000)	-
	TOTAL USES	(200,000)	(200,000)	(200,000)	-
	Total Actual/Forecasted Unencumbered Turnover Savings for FY 2025	959,061	1,015,309	1,015,309	56,248

FY One-time Turnover Savings

#		Funding Type	Actual Amount
	One Time Turnover Savings (from actual payroll data versus budget as of PPE 07/04/2025)	Internal Savings	2,979,881
	Est. One Time Savings for remaining pay hours (0 @ \$1,500 / pay hour)	Internal Savings (Est.)	-
	Total Potential One Time Savings		2,979,881

Prior Report Totals (as of PPE 06/20/2025)

3,072,760

FY 2025 Year End Request and Forecasted Available One-time funds

Forecasted Available One-time Funds			
Description	Funding Type	Amount	
Sources of YE 2025 Funds			
* Turnover Savings as of PPE 07/04/2025	Turnover Savings	2,979,881	
Turnover savings Estimate for the rest of the year (\$1,500 x 0 pay hours)	Turnover Savings	-	
Total Potential One Time Turnover Savings		2,979,881	
Less: Judicial Council Delegated to State Court Administrator for Discretionary Use		(250,000)	
(a) Total Potential One Time Turnover Savings Less Discretionary Use		2,729,881	
Operational Savings from TCE / AOC Budgets			
Operational Savings from IT Budget - unused Carryforward Request	Internal Operating Savings	1,254,719	
Reserve Balance (balance from FY 2024 Carryforward)	Judicial Council Reserve	847	
Unclaimed property claims (received)	Additional Revenue Received	741,488	
Prior year adjustments - impact on current year operations (Hyrum and OFA)	Adjustments to CY Operations	(90,000)	
Uses to balance - maximize carryforward for Facilities / minimize use of CCCF	Balancing Entries	(554,134)	
(b) Total Operational Savings, Reserve, Unclaimed Property and Prior Year Adjustments		1,502,919	
(c) Total of Turnover Savings & Operational Savings = (a) + (b)		4,232,800	
Uses of YE 2025 Funds			
(d) Carryforward into FY 2026	FY 2026 Carryforward	(3,700,000)	
Total Potential One Time Savings = (c) less Carryforward (d)		532,800	
Less: Judicial Council Requests Previously Approved			
Less: Judicial Council Current Month Spending Requests		-	
Remaining Forecasted Funds Available for FY 2025 YE Spending Requests, CCCF, etc.		-	

Updated 08/05/2025

#	One-time Spending Plan Requests	Adjusted Requests Amount	Judicial Council Approved Amount
1	Various Construction Projects (FY 2025) Contingency (10%) (NOT NEEDED)	\$ -	-
2	All Rise Utah Welcome Dinner	\$ -	10,000
3	Q1 / Q2 Performance Bonus	\$ -	156,000
4	Replacement of EMV Credit Card Devices	\$ -	36,500
5	Reimbursement from Trust Account Interest Earnings	\$ -	(36,500)
6	Purchasing Utah Code and Court Rules per CJA 3-413	\$ -	30,000
7	Mitigate Laptop Price Increases	\$ -	300,000
8	Bridge Replacement LMS System Go-Live	\$ -	27,700
8	Increase in Secondary Language Stipend	\$ -	9,100
Current Month One-time Spending Requests		-	-
Previously Approved 1x FY 2024 YE Spending Request		-	532,800

FY 2026 Carryforward and Ongoing Requests

Ongoing Turnover Savings carried over from FY 2024	One Time	Ongoing
Forecasted YE Ongoing Turnover Savings from FY 2025		\$ 140,594
Subtotal		\$ 1,074,715
Unobligated Fiscal Note Funds - District Court (net)	\$ (10,500)	\$ 20,800
Unobligated Fiscal Note Funds - Juvenile Court	\$ (5,200)	\$ 15,700
Unobligated Fiscal Note Funds - Admin	\$ -	\$ -
Additional Legislative Appropriation	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000
Wellness Council Portion of Carryforward		
Expected Carryforward Amount from Fiscal Year 2025	\$ 3,700,000	\$ -
Total Available Funding	\$ 3,684,300	\$ 2,251,809
Less: Judicial Council Delegated to State Court Administrator for Discretionary Use		\$ (200,000)
Less: Director of Finance and State Court Admin. Reserves to meet Investing in our People Commitments	\$ (100,000)	\$ (100,000)
Net Ongoing TOS Available for Use	\$ 3,584,300	\$ 1,951,809

Ongoing Requests

Recommend Approve and Fund Immediately		Presented - Judicial Council Approved	
		One Time	Ongoing
1	Investing in Our People - Ron Gordon and Neira Siaperas		\$ 1,745,900
2	Additional Training Coordinator - 3rd District - Mark Paradise - Fund now		\$ 97,300
Subtotal to Approve and Fund Immediately		\$ -	\$ 1,843,200
Balance Remaining After Judicial Council Approvals			\$ 108,609
Balance Remaining Inclusive of "Presented"		\$ 108,609	
Recommend Approve and Defer Funding			
(hold until Ongoing Funding net of Commitments / Reserves Exceeds Requested Amounts)			
3	8th District Probation Training Coordinator - Russ Pearson	\$ 52,500	
4	ICI Expenses - Sonia Sweeney	\$ 7,000	
Subtotal to Defer Funding until FY 2026		\$ -	\$ 59,500

Carryforward One Time Requests

Presented		Judicial Council Approved	
One Time	Ongoing	One Time	Ongoing
1 Investing in Our People - Ron Gordon and Neira Siaperas	\$ 1,334,600	\$ 1,334,600	
2* Courts Eco Pass Program - Karl Sweeney	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	
3* Education Assistance Program - Kelly Moreira	\$ 85,000	\$ 85,000	
4* HR Applicant Tracking - Jeremy Marsh	\$ 20,900	\$ 20,900	
5* IT Stipend for Technology Subject Matter Experts - Todd Eaton and Taz Hatch	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	
6* IT Replacement Inventory - Todd Eaton	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	
7* Network / System Maintenance - Staff Augmentation - Todd Eaton and Chris Talbot	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	
8* IT Webex Virtual Hearing Improvement Project - Brody Arishita	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	
9* Retention of Contract Developers - Brody Arishita	\$ 682,000	\$ 682,000	
10* Base Employee Incentive Awards - Bart Olsen, Erin Rhead, and Alisha Johnson	\$ 280,000	\$ 280,000	
11* Wellness Program - Tava - Neira Seripas	\$ 103,100	\$ 103,100	
12* FY 26 Q1/Q2 (paid in 12/2025) Performance Bonus - Bart Olsen and Karl Sweeney	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	
13* Utah Code Purchase - Kaden Taylor	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	
X ICI Expenses - Sonia Sweeney (See ongoing Approve and Defer above)	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	
14* Annual All Rise Outreach - Jonathan Puente	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	
Subtotal	\$ 3,583,600	\$ -	\$ -
Balance Remaining After Judicial Council Approvals		\$ 700	
+ Balance Remaining Inclusive of "Presented" (for Ongoing net of Presented Fund Immediately)		\$ 108,609	

FY 2026 Year End Requests and Forecasted Available One-time Funds

Forecasted Available One-time Funds			# One-time Spending Plan Requests	Adjusted Requests Amount	Judicial Council Approved Amount
Description	Funding Type	Amount			
Sources of YE 2026 Funds					
• Turnover Savings as of PFE xx/xx/xxxx	Turnover Savings	-			
Turnover savings Estimate for the rest of the year (\$1,200 x 2088 pay hours)	Turnover Savings	2,505,600			
Total Potential One Time Turnover Savings		2,505,600			
Less: Judicial Council Delegated to State Court Administrator for Discretionary Use		(250,000)			
(a) Total Potential One Time Turnover Savings Less Discretionary Use		2,255,600			
Operational Savings from TCE / AOC Budgets - mid-year forecast	Internal Operating Savings	500,000			
Operational Savings from IT Budget - Timing of Contract Renewal Deferred to FY 27	Internal Operating Savings	400,000			
Reserve Balance (balance from FY 2025 Carryforward)	Judicial Council Reserve	700			
Use IT Budget Savings and Operational Savings to Increase Retro YOS Eligibility	Adjustments to CY Operations	(462,000)			
(b) Total Operational Savings, Reserve, Unclaimed Property and Prior Year Adjustments		438,700			
(c) Total of Turnover Savings & Operational Savings = (a) + (b)		2,694,300			
Uses of YE 2026 Funds					
(d) Carryforward into FY 2027 (Anticipate request to Legislature for \$3,200,000)	FY 2027 Carryforward	(2,694,300)			
Total Potential One Time Savings = (c) less Carryforward (d)		-			
Less: Judicial Council Requests Previously Approved					
Less: Judicial Council Current Month Spending Requests					
Remaining Forecasted Funds Available for FY 2026 YE Spending Requests, CCCF, etc.					
<small>Updated 07/30/2025</small>					
			Current Month One-time Spending Requests	-	
			Previously Approved 1x FY 2025 YE Spending Request		-

FY 2026 Ongoing Turnover Savings

#		Prior Month Forecast Amount @ YE	Actual Amount YTD	Forecasted Amount @ YE	Change in Forecast Amount @ YE
	Net Carried over Ongoing Savings (not finalized from FY 2025)	-	108,609	108,609	108,609
	Ongoing Turnover Savings FY 2026 (actual year-to-date, Salary Differential only)	-	77,824	77,824	77,824
1	Ongoing Turnover Savings FY 2026 (forecast \$65,000 / month x 11 month, Salary Differential only)	-	-	715,000	715,000
	TOTAL SALARY RELATED ONGOING SAVINGS	-	186,432	901,432	901,432
	Benefit Differential Savings FY 2026 (will be recognized in this row starting in Q4)	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL SAVINGS	-	186,432	901,432	901,432
2	2026 Annual Authorized Hot Spot Raises	-	(79,865)	(200,000)	(200,000)
	TOTAL USES	-	(79,865)	(200,000)	(200,000)
	Total Actual/Forecasted Unencumbered Turnover Savings for FY 2026	-	106,567	701,432	701,432

FY 2026 Ongoing Funding Net of Commitments/Reserves

For FY 2026, ongoing turnover savings from the first period totaled approximately \$77,824. Combined with the prior year's carryforward, this left about \$186,432 available. Current known commitments and reserves total \$670,000. Until the net cash balance of available ongoing funds is above zero, no deferred ongoing requests will be funded.

Funding Sources		
Available Funds		Net Available
Ongoing Turnover Savings carried over from FY 2025		\$ 108,609
Actual Ongoing Turnover Savings from FY 2026 (as of period 1) - Note: Does not include CY benefits differential until Q4 or forecasted amounts		\$ 77,824
Total Available Ongoing Funding - Cash Basis		\$ 186,432
Commitments/Reserves		
1 Judicial Council Delegated to State Court Administrator for Discretionary Use in FY 26		\$ (200,000)
2 Obligated/Committed Funds Needed by June 30, 2026 for use in 7.1.2027 fiscal year for investing in our People		\$ (370,000)
3 Director of Finance and State Court Admin. reserves for assumption contingencies that enable meeting the investing in our People		\$ (100,000)
Ongoing Commitment		
Total Commitments/Reserves		\$ (670,000)
Net Available Ongoing Funding - Cash Basis (Deficit)		\$ (483,568)
Deferred Ongoing Requests		
Requests are deferred until Net Available Ongoing Funding - Cash Basis exceeds these requested amounts		Judicial Council Approved
8th District Probation Training Coordinator - Russ Pearson		\$ 52,500
Juvenile Court ICJ Funding Increase		\$ 7,000
Subtotal		\$ 59,500

ARPA Expenses as of Year End, FY 2025

	A Judicial Council Approved	B Actual FY 2022 Expended	C Actual FY 2023 Expended	D Actual FY 2024 Expended	E Actual FY 2025 Expended	F Total Expended Amount	G Balance Available	% Obligated
IT Access to Justice - Part I + II	12,373,400	3,042,468	4,613,255	3,075,857	1,071,136	11,802,715	570,685	100.00%
Courts Case Backlog - Part I + II	2,302,100	707,963	1,007,135	587,002	-	2,302,100	Completed in FY 2024	
Legal Sandbox Response to COVID	324,500	-	171,636	152,864	-	324,500	Completed in FY 2024	
TOTAL	15,000,000	3,750,431	5,792,027	3,815,722	1,071,136	14,429,315	570,685	
<i>Expenditures added since last report:</i>						387,768		

Grants

1. Request to Accept Funds SAFG (Jordan Murray and Katy Burke)

Jordan Murray reported that the Council previously approved a \$50,000 State Asset Forfeiture Grant (SAFG) request at its July 21 meeting. After follow-up discussions with CCJJ, the award was revised to \$45,000. He clarified that the reduction does not affect the scope of planned activities and is sufficient to cover the intended purposes.

2. GAP Request for MyCase Development Work (Jordan Murray and Janine Liebert)

Mr. Murray, joined by Janine Liebert, presented a proposal to apply for up to \$980,000 in one-time funding from the Utah Bar Foundation. The grant would support major enhancements to MyCase (to be rebranded “MyCourtCase”) and upgrades to MyPaperwork. Ms. Liebert explained that the current platform was built as a minimum viable product; the funding would add critical features, improve usability for self-represented litigants, and reduce staff workload.

The project would be implemented in three phases from 2025 through early 2027. Brody Arishita confirmed that IT can complete the work using existing resources and contractors, with efficiency gains expected through automation. While the final award is uncertain, the foundation encouraged submitting the full proposal as both an application and roadmap for improvements.

Motion: Judge Amber Metler made a motion to approve both grant requests. Judge Chiara seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

JWI Funded Interpreter Curriculum with USU (Jon Puente and Jessica Leavitt)

Jessica Leavitt reported on JWI funding for a partnership with Utah State University to address the shortage of certified Spanish interpreters. The project, initiated with support from Senator Escamilla, builds on USU’s experience in medical interpreter training and is designed to better prepare candidates for the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) certification exams. She noted that in the most recent testing cohort, 22 individuals took the oral exam, but none passed all three required sections. With the grant, USU will complete curriculum development by December 2025 and run two pilot training cohorts of about 50 participants each in 2026. Results from the first cohort will guide adjustments for the second, and future options may include tuition-based offerings or expanded access through USU’s regional centers.

Ron Gordon added that the shortage reflects both recruitment challenges and the rigor of the certification exam. As chair of the NCSC’s national committee on interpreter standards, he emphasized that other states share concerns about whether the test fairly measures competence. While interpreting is inherently difficult, there is concern the process may exclude capable

candidates. Mr. Gordon expressed interest in working with NCSC and other states to evaluate the exam and explore performance-based licensure pathways.

7. CERTIFICATION OF TREATMENT COURTS (Katy Burke, Cris Seabury):

Katy Burke and Cris Seabury presented certification recommendations for several treatment courts, as required by UCJA Rule 4-409. Site visits, interviews, and document reviews were conducted. The following treatment courts met all certification criteria and were recommended for re-certification:

- Third District Veterans Treatment Court (Judge Teresa Welch)
- Third District – Salt Lake County Adult Recovery Court (Judge Todd Shaughnessy)
- Third District – Summit County Adult Recovery Court (Judge Richard Mrazik)
- Third District – Tooele County Adult Drug Court (Judge Douglas Hogan)
- Fourth District – Wasatch County Adult Drug Court (Judge Jennifer Mabey)

Two Second District Adult Drug Courts (Judges Cristina Ortega and Jason Nelson) were recommended for 90-day conditional certification due to deficiencies in eligibility and referral practices. Conditional approval allows these courts to continue operating while addressing the identified issues in coordination with the prosecutor's office.

Motion: Judge Brendan McCullagh made a motion to recertify Judge Welch's Veterans Treatment Court; Judge Shaughnessy's ARC court; Judge Mrazik's ARC court; and Judge Hogan's Adult Drug Court. Judge Michael DiReda seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Motion: Judge DiReda made a motion to approve 90-day conditional certification period of Judge Ortega's and Judge Nelson's Adult Drug Courts to allow the judges and their teams to address issues related to specific required criteria. Judge Cornish seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8. 2ND DISTRICT VETERAN TREATMENT COURT (Judge Craig Hall, Cris Seabury, Katy Burke):

Katy Burke, Cris Seabury, and Judge Hall presented an application for a new Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) in the Second District Court to serve veterans in Weber, Davis, and Morgan counties. Core stakeholders completed Justice for Vets Foundation Training in June 2025. The court will serve justice-involved veterans facing felony and/or Class A misdemeanor charges who are classified as high risk, high needs, with mental health and/or co-occurring substance use disorders. Treatment will be coordinated with VA services, and participants will receive in-court support from veteran mentors. The Treatment Court Coordinators recommended approval for a November 1, 2025 start date.

Motion: Judge DiReda made a motion to approve the establishment of the Second District Veterans Treatment Court, set to begin in November. Judge Susan Eisenman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

9. TRANSITION FROM OCAP TO MYPAPERWORK (Janine Liebert, Jonathan Marks):

Janine Liebert reported on the transition from the legacy OCAP system, which ended in July 2025 after 25 years of service. The new in-house platform, MyPaperwork, is more adaptable, mobile-friendly, and easier to maintain. The platform currently supports guided interviews for divorce,

parentage, protective orders, civil stalking injunctions, child protective orders, name and sex designation changes, and guardianship reporting.

Ms. Liebert highlighted collaboration with the Domestic Violence Program to develop a “helper interview” that guides users in selecting the correct protective order. Similar tools are planned for guardianship and other areas such as expungements and small claims. The next steps planned include expanding to additional case types and adding more guided interviews, with input from stakeholders. Efforts are also underway to expand language access options.

10. RULES FOR FINAL APPROVAL (Keisa Williams):

Keisa Williams presented proposed amendments to Rule 2-208. She noted that the Xchange fee increase referenced in paragraph seven is already in effect, and despite some objections during the comment period, the Policy, Planning, and Technology Committee did not recommend changes. Other amendments include raising FTR (for-the-record) fees, redefining “minimal” to cover transactions of \$10 or less, and clarifying that a “transaction” means one request for one or more records in the same case.

The District Attorney’s Office raised concerns about costs for producing records already available electronically. Council members agreed such issues could be addressed through legislative or evidentiary rule changes but found the current amendments appropriate.

Motion: Judge DiReda made a motion to approve the amendments to Rule 2-208 with an effective date of November 1, 2025. Judge Brian Brower seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

11. CONSENT CALENDAR (Chief Justice Matthew B. Durrant):

Motion: Judge James Gardner made a motion to approve the items on the consent calendar. Judge Cornish seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: Judge Eisenman made a motion to move into executive session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. Judge Cornish seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Executive session was held.

Motion: Judge Eisenman made a motion to authorize Mr. Gordon to refer the HR investigation discussed in executive session to the Judicial Conduct Commission. Judge McCullagh seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

13. CERTIFICATION OF COURT COMMISSIONERS (Chief Justice Durrant):

Motion: Judge Mortensen made a motion to certify court commissioners as discussed in a closed session. Judge Cornish seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

14. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

