



JUDICIAL BRANCH

FY 2027 PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
November 14, 2025

Door Openers

Interpreter shortfall

Switch-funds from Court Security to GF (JP & CCP)

Leased space for the Office of State Court Collections Enforcement

Lease escalators, fleet costs

Personnel Annualizations

Judicial Information Center

Infrastructure, Hardware, Application Environments

Information Security

Business Solutions

Development

Helpdesk

Training

Audio/Visual, Videoconferencing, Telecom

CASCADE

Unified Civil e-Filing, Case Management, Document Management *On-Time and In-Budget*

Phase 1 will Go-Live December 2026:

- Court of Chancery
- Superior Court
- Court of Common Pleas
- Justice of the Peace

Phase 2 will Go-Live December 2028:

- Family Court

Judicial Information Center



Request #1: 2.0 Desktop Technicians, one each for Kent and Sussex County. Each county currently only has a single Technician.



Request #2: 1.0 Network Manager to manage the Network, Telecom/Audio-Visual, and Security Teams.



Other JIC requests: additional **Technology Maintenance funds** and **1.0 Project Manager**.

FAMILY COURT

Request: 2.0 Electronic Court Reporters

Partial list of duties:

- Ensures that testimony is being accurately captured
- Logs case information
- Tests equipment for proper operation





Court of Common Pleas

**Request: 1.0 FTE MA III
(Community Court Coordinator)
to replace grant-funded
contractual position**

- Position manages daily operations, including participant screening, case management and filing
- Federal funding has decreased and is uncertain



Superior Court

Request: 2.0 FTEs, Complex Commercial Litigation Law Clerk

- The Division handles cases that would otherwise go to the Court of Chancery
- Specialized focus
- Currently 5 judges and 3 full-time law clerks



Justice of the Peace Court

**Request: 1.0 FTE
Operations Manager**

- There are currently two Operations Managers for three counties
- This position would focus on Kent County while also having statewide responsibilities



Superior Court

Request: 1.0 FTE Human Resources Supervisor

- Superior Court has 2 HR Advisors and over 300 staff across 3 counties
- Will allow for a permanent in-house HR representative in Kent and Sussex Counties

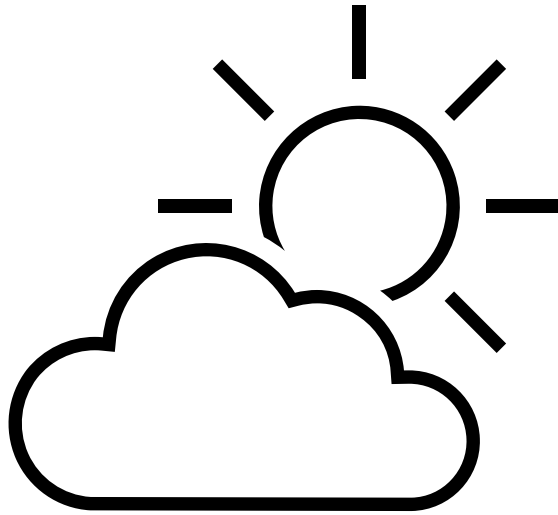
Administrative Office of the Courts

Request: Increase in
Contractual Services

- To support a more robust solution for Judicial Privacy



If the Forecast Brightens



- JP Court: 2.0 Judicial Case Processors
- AOC: 1.0 Training and Education Specialist III
- Family Court: 1.0 Family Service Program Support Administrator
- Court of Common Pleas: DUI, Drug Court increase to meet national standards of testing
- JP Court: Kiosks for 24/7 court operations
- Family Court: Increased ASF spending authority for existing personnel expenditures



Custom House

Custom House

- Steel erection will continue over the next few months
- Substantial completion anticipated August 2025



LLWJC

- **Request: \$2 million** to create a safe drop-off location for courthouse visitors
- The changes to Alico Road has led to drop-off of courthouse visitors into busy traffic on North King Street



Sussex County Courthouse

Request: \$2,965,200
in renovations to
maximize space and
efficiency for Court of
Common Pleas and
Superior Court



Justice of the Peace Court



Request: \$4 million to merge the Middletown and Smyrna facilities to improve space needs and staffing efficiencies



Branch-wide

Request: \$300.0 for replacement of discontinued 800 MHz radios

- Model currently in use is being discontinued and no longer supported
- Branch has a total of 200 radios, not all of which will need to be immediately replaced
- This funding request would allow the replacement of approximately 50 radios



Security Audit

Recommendations from a recent branch-wide security audit are being reviewed and prioritized.

Work on some recommendations is already being done.

Other recommendations will require funding; costs are being determined.



Sussex County Family Court Courthouse

RIBBON-CUTTING WAS
NOVEMBER 13, 2025



Sussex County Family Court Courthouse

RIBBON-CUTTING WAS NOVEMBER 13, 2025



Kent County Family Court Courthouse

SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION ANTICIPATED SUMMER 2025



Budget Realities

Working together with our State partners, the Judicial Branch will contribute to the responsible solutions for upcoming budget challenges.



Thank You!