

# Washington State Judicial Branch

## 2025-27 Biennial Budget

### Lease Rate Adjustments

**Agency:** Court of Appeals

**Decision Package Code/Title:** 8L – Lease Rate Adjustments

**Agency Recommendation Summary Text:**

The Court of Appeals requests \$142,000 ongoing for increasing lease costs (Divisions I & II) and for building operations and maintenance expenses (Division III). (General Fund – State)

**Fiscal Summary:**

	FY 2026	FY 2027	Biennial	FY 2028	FY 2029	Biennial
<b>Staffing</b>						
FTEs	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Operating Expenditures</b>						
Fund 001-1	\$60,000	\$82,000	<b>\$142,000</b>	\$82,000	\$82,000	<b>\$164,000</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>						
	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>\$82,000</b>	<b>\$142,000</b>	<b>\$82,000</b>	<b>\$82,000</b>	<b>\$164,000</b>

**Package Description:**

This request will fund increasing facility costs for the Court of Appeals during the 2025 – 27 biennium.

The Department of Enterprise Services renewed the Court’s facility lease for Division I (Seattle) in June 2021.

- FY 2026 = \$0
- FY 2027 = Lease contract renegotiations in 2026 will require a supplemental budget request from Division I during the 2026 Legislative Session based upon the new contract.
- Total = \$0

The Division II (Tacoma) lease escalates each year.

- FY 2026 = \$40,000
- FY 2027 = \$62,000
- Total = \$102,000

Division III (Spokane) owns its facility. Inflation and supply chain concerns are driving cost increases; vendors are already notifying the Court of higher rates in the future. Estimated cost increases of four percent were used for this budget request.

- FY 2026 = \$20,000
- FY 2027 = \$20,000
- Total = \$40,000

**Fully describe and quantify expected impacts on state residents.**

Funding the budget request will allow the Court to continue providing access to justice and appellate court services.

**Explain what alternatives were explored by the agency and why this was the best option chosen.**

The costs and disruption of relocation or changing suppliers are prohibitive.

**What are the consequences of not funding this request?**

The Court will be unable to fully pay contractual, monthly rent payments. For Division III, building maintenance would have to be deferred to cover ongoing, non-discretionary operational costs.

**Is this an expansion or alteration of a current program or service?**

No.

**Decision Package expenditure, FTE and revenue assumptions:**

<b>Expenditures by Object</b>	<b><u>FY 2026</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2027</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2028</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2029</u></b>
Goods and Services	60,000	82,000	82,000	82,000
<b>Total Objects</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>82,000</b>	<b>82,000</b>	<b>82,000</b>

**How does the package relate to the Judicial Branch principal policy objectives?**

In order to provide accessibility to the Court and Clerk's Office, the Court of Appeals must have "storefront" facilities to support walk in traffic and court operations. The Court of Appeals courtroom must be accessible to the lawyers, litigants, other state agencies, and the general public to resolve cases.

**How does the package impact equity in the state?**

**Address any target populations or communities that will benefit from this proposal.**

This proposal will continue to provide court access for all populations and communities across the state.

**Describe the how the agency conducted community outreach and engagement.**

No community outreach was conducted to prepare this budget package.

**Consider which target populations or communities would be disproportionately impacted by this proposal.**

**Explain why and how these equity impacts will be mitigated.**

No negative impact anticipated.

**Are there impacts to other governmental entities?**

Not applicable.

**Stakeholder response:**

Not applicable.

**Are there legal or administrative mandates that require this package to be funded?**

Yes, lease and maintenance contracts have been signed.

**Does current law need to be changed to successfully implement this package?**

No.

**Are there impacts to state facilities?**

Division III would benefit from consistent building maintenance to keep their facility in good repair.

Court of Appeals  
Maintenance Level – 8L – Lease Rate Adjustments

**Are there other supporting materials that strengthen the case for this request?**

No.

**Are there information technology impacts?**

No.

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