



Judicial Branch Budget Proposal

Christopher Stanley, CGFM – Chief Financial and Management Officer, AOC
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Developing the Proposal



April 5: In anticipation of the tighter budget year, Chief Justice González sends a branch-wide email requesting that budget requestors ***prioritize their requests***.

June 3: In a message to state government leaders, OFM Director David Schumacher warns that in the face of lower revenues and the prospect of impacts from ballot initiatives, budget requests should be focused on “...***the maintenance of current programs, but not growth***.” (emphasis added)

June 28: Judicial branch budget packages are submitted to the AOC Comptroller, and budget staff immediately go to work editing and refining the requests.

August 12: Christopher Stanley, Chief Financial & Management Officer for AOC, presents a recommended budget package to the AOC Executive Team for review.

September 5: Recommendations from the AOC Executive Team are presented to BJA’s Budget & Funding Committee for review.

September 20: Recommendations from the AOC Executive Team are presented to the Board for Judicial Administration for review.

The Budget Decision Matrix



Urgency: How was the package prioritized by the submitting individual/organization?

Consequence Severity: When reading the package, how severe was the consequence if funding for the package was not received?

Consequence Likelihood: When reading the package, how likely was the stated consequence going to occur?

Continuing Program or New: Does the request continue existing funding or does it request a new or larger investment of funds?

$((\text{Severity} \times \text{Likelihood}) + \text{Urgency}) * \text{Continuing vs New}$

Administrative Office of the Courts: 2025-27 Biennial Budget Request



Support Trial Courts

Right-Size Staff & Program Operations

Maintain IT Infrastructure

1. Maintain Judicial Education
2. Continue Securing Small & Rural Courts
3. Fund New Judge in Asotin/Columbia/Garfield Superior Court
4. Fund New Judge in Skagit Superior Court
5. Continue Data for Justice Initiative
6. Sustain Courtroom Technology
7. Preserve Court User Self-Help Centers
8. Continue Civil Protection Order Support for Judges
9. Fund Judicial Needs Estimate

1. Continue Funding Blake Implementation
2. Retain & Recruit Staff with Competitive Salaries
3. Fulfill Water Rights Adjudication Obligation
4. Stabilize Interpreter Reimbursement Program
5. Provide Equal Access for Indigent Litigants
6. Support Court Management and Operations
7. Expand Court Research Capacity
8. Improve Family Law and Domestic Violence Research
9. Enhance Behavioral Health Program

1. Migrate Court Reporting Tools to the Cloud
2. Continue Transition to Cloud-Based Services
3. Continue Funding Data Quality Initiative
4. Fully Support the CLJ-CMS Project

Building the 2025-27 Budget Request



April 8	Chief Justice launches the process with an email to the branch; AOC distributes budget instructions
June 28	Decision Packages (with cover sheets) due to AOC
July – August	Finalize and approve Decision Packages:
	AOC conducts initial review and makes collaborative edits with subject matter experts (rolling deadlines)
Mid-August	AOC finalizes all Decision Packages and assembles full budget request to Legislature.
Aug 23	JISC reviews and recommends IT Decision Packages to Supreme Court
Early Sept	Budget and Funding Committee of the Board for Judicial Administration reviews and recommends non-IT Decision Packages to BJA
Mid-Late Sept	BJA reviews makes recommendations to Supreme Court Budget Committee Supreme Court reviews recommendations and approves final budget package submission.
October 14	Branch budget published.