

**Legislative Appropriations Request**

**For Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027**

**Submitted to the  
Office of the Governor, Budget Division  
and the Legislative Budget Board**

**by**

**Fourteenth Court of Appeals**

**August 16, 2024**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Administrator’s Statement.....	1-3
Organizational Chart.....	1. A.
Certificate of Dual Submission.....	1. B.
Budget Overview.....	1-1
Summary of Base Request By Strategy.....	2. A.
Summary of Base Request By Method of Finance.....	2. B.
Summary of Base Request By Object of Expense.....	2. C.
Operating Cost Detail Base Request.....	2. C.1.
Summary of Base Request Objective Outcomes.....	2. D.
Summary of Exceptional Items Request.....	2. E.
Summary of Total Request By Strategy.....	2. F.
Summary of Total Request Objective Outcomes.....	2. G.
Strategy Request.....	3. A.
Rider Revisions and Additions Request.....	3. B.
Exceptional Items Request Schedule.....	4. A.
Exceptional Items Strategy Allocation Schedule.....	4. B.
Exceptional Items Strategy Request.....	4. C.
Historically Underutilized Business Supporting Schedule.....	6. A.
Estimated Total of All Agency Funds Outside the GAA Bill Pattern.....	6. H.

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**234 Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston**

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**COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FOURTEENTH DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

The core function of Texas intermediate appellate courts is to process, review, and decide by written opinion appeals from trial courts in civil and criminal cases. The courts of appeals are also tasked with resolving numerous original proceedings in the form of petitions seeking mandamus and habeas corpus relief, many of which involve voluminous records, that must be decided on an expedited basis.

Since 1983 until August 2024, the work of the courts of appeals has been accomplished by 80 justices statewide. Effective September 1, 2024, the Fifteenth Court of Appeals will become operational, increasing the total number of intermediate appellate court justices to 83 for the next biennium.

Since 1983, the population of Texas has nearly doubled. Population growth across the State and the magnitude of annual case filings, in concert with an ever-increasing number of case types requiring expedited review, make clear that the courts of appeals need sufficient resources to manage their busy dockets and provide the high quality of justice to which the citizens of Texas are entitled. In that regard, case filings in the Texas intermediate courts of appeals have returned to pre-pandemic levels. Adequate funding for the intermediate courts of appeals is essential for maintaining and providing cost-effective service to the citizens of Texas.

A key component to handling the ever-increasing workload without additional justices has been the employment of a highly skilled and trained professional workforce, including appellate lawyers and clerical staff, who assist the justices in processing complex cases, researching and drafting orders and opinions, disposing of voluminous motions, and managing accelerated and emergency matters. Appellate work requires specialized knowledge and significant experience, and the courts constantly face competition from higher-paying private practice and government legal jobs for skilled attorneys and staff. Specialized technological skills are also necessary to understand and operate the complex case management system currently used by the courts. Hiring and retaining qualified support staff is critical to the courts' ability to manage their dockets and efficiently resolve the cases before them.

The courts of appeals, collectively, began in the 79th and 80th Legislative Sessions to work toward a zero-based budget model referred to as "Similar Funding for Same-Sized Courts." This budget model quantified the funding required to meet the personnel and operational needs of the courts, thus enabling the courts to accomplish their core function and meet their performance measures. The Similar Funding for Same-Sized Courts initiative was fully funded for the first time in 2015, and the courts had been operating under the same zero-based budget model and funding levels until the 88th Legislative Session when the Legislature increased the budgets for the intermediate appellate courts. The intermediate appellate courts are appreciative of the increased funding received last session.

Even with the increase in funding for the intermediate appellate courts from the 88th Legislative Session, the courts continue to lag behind in funding. With the growth in Texas population and the expansion of the Texas business environment, the demands of the core function of the courts have required higher-skilled and higher-salary positions in order to adequately serve the citizens of Texas. Further, the intermediate appellate courts have seen an increase in case activity that is a direct result of Operation Lone Star. Additionally, operating costs for necessary resources such as Westlaw/LexisNexis and other administrative needs have increased dramatically.

Funding for all courts of appeals (including the new Fifteenth Court of Appeals) comprises less than 0.04% of the State budget as a whole. Yet, on average, 96.5% of each appellate court's budget is dedicated to salaries and benefits. Without additional funding, appellate courts will be unable to attract and retain the highly trained and skilled support staff with the specialized knowledge and relevant experience critical to the courts' function. Without sufficient qualified staff, courts cannot comply with Legislative mandates to give accelerated and preferential treatment to certain appeals, such as parental-termination and juvenile-certification appeals under the Family Code, mental-health appeals under the Health and Safety Code, and interlocutory appeals under the Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

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**234 Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston**

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Respectfully, additional funding is now necessary to ensure the efficient administration of justice going forward.

**EXCEPTIONAL ITEM #1:**

**ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION**

Even after the increased funding received in the 88th Legislative Session, attorneys and staff of the intermediate appellate courts remain impacted in many ways by increasing costs due to inflation. Their buying power for goods and services has diminished and, at some courts, has resulted in attrition by those seeking higher-paying jobs that are often paid by other governmental entities that can pay more than the intermediate appellate courts. If salaries are not increased, the courts risk losing more personnel that will be costly to replace. Training takes time and will impact the ability of the courts to meet the current and expected demands as we navigate continued population growth and increased case filings attributed to a booming business environment and state efforts to secure the Texas border.

Respectfully, the intermediate appellate courts join with the Texas Supreme Court and the other Article IV Courts and Agencies in requesting a six percent (6%) increase in general revenue appropriations to help absorb the continuing impact of inflation and the increased demands placed on the courts, as well as maintaining and recruiting a strong, experience, and efficient judicial workforce. Thus, the Fourteenth Court of Appeals requests this additional 6% to foster the business model adopted by the courts of appeals of equal funding for the same sized courts. Deviating from that model risks reversion to historic and potentially detrimental modes of individualized court funding focused less on the needs of Texas and the appellate judiciary as a whole.

**EXCEPTIONAL ITEM #2: JUDICIAL PAY INCREASE DUE TO CHANGE IN TENURE**

4 number of Justices will merit an increase in judicial pay due to reaching the next tier as provided in Texas Government Code section 659.012.

**SPECIAL PROVISIONS/RIDER EXCEPTION REQUESTS:**

The courts of appeals also request the following with regard to the SPECIAL PROVISIONS – JUDICIARY found in Article IV (beginning at p. IV-42 of the General Appropriations Act for the 2024-25 Biennium) concerning across-the-board riders:

1. Retain Special Provisions – Judiciary, Sec. 3, Appellate Court Exemptions pertaining to the following Article IX riders: Section 6.10, Limitations on State Employment Levels, Section 6.13, Performance Standards, Section 14.03, Transfers – Capital Budget, and Section 3.04, Scheduled Exempt Positions.
2. Retain Special Provisions – Judiciary, Sec. 5, Interagency Contracts for Assigned Judges for Appellate Courts
3. Retain Special Provisions – Judiciary, Sec. 6, Appellate Court Transfer Authority

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**234 Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston**

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Historically, the Legislature has granted the courts exemption from certain limitations in the General Appropriations Act. The Legislature has also granted the courts the authority to carry over unexpended budget balances between years within the biennium. The flexibility afforded by these measures enhances the courts' management ability, and we seek continuation of these budget features.

**ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT:**

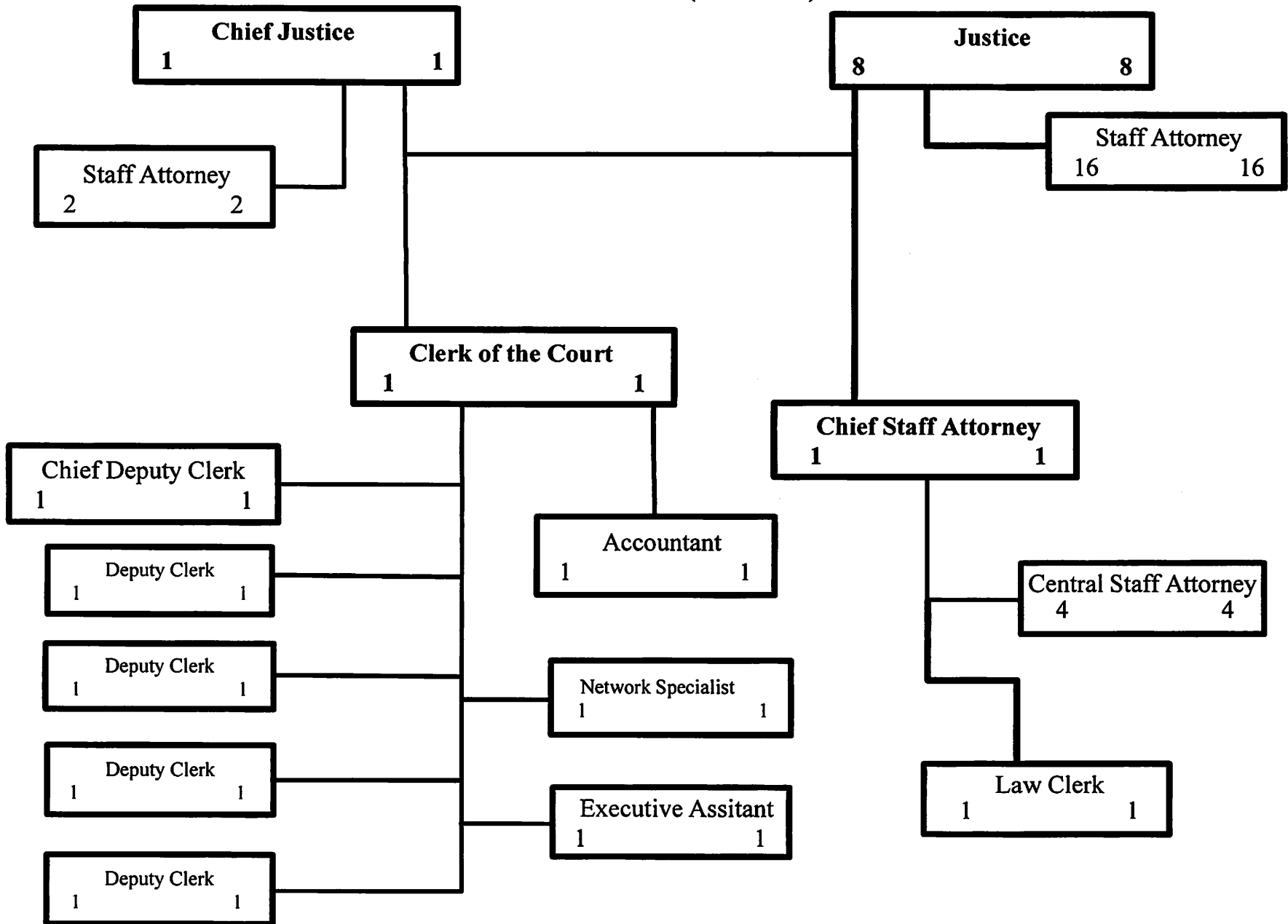
In order for the courts of appeals to function efficiently, it is vital that the Office of Court Administration (OCA) be adequately funded. The courts of appeals rely on many of the services provided by OCA and, therefore, the courts of appeals fully support the exceptional items the OCA requests as part of its funding. More specifically, the courts of appeals strongly support the request for funding related to the acquisition of a new appellate case management system to replace the current system known as TAMES as well as a case-level data system.

If the Legislature appropriates a cost-of-living increase to state employees, the courts of appeals request that all court employees be included in any such cost-of-living increase.

Finally, the courts of appeals wish to express appreciation to and support for the Judicial Compensation Commission and the Legislature's efforts to strengthen the justice system by increasing judicial salaries to attract and retain a strong judiciary. The courts of appeals request the Legislature implement the Judicial Compensation Commission's recommendations for an increase in judicial compensation.

Note: on Appropriated Receipts – At the direction of the LBB & Governor's Office, this Court has included appropriated receipts in the amount of \$8,219 reflecting reimbursement for copies of opinions and other court documents. These amounts are merely an offset for additional expenses incurred by the Court and do not constitute additional funds available for general expenditures for the Court. The amount can vary significantly from year to year.

**Organizational Chart  
Fourteenth Court of Appeals  
2022-2023 (2024-2025)**





**Budget Overview - Biennial Amounts**  
**89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1**  
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

234 Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston  
Appropriation Years: 2026-27

	GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS		GR DEDICATED		FEDERAL FUNDS		OTHER FUNDS		ALL FUNDS		EXCEPTIONAL ITEM FUNDS
	2024-25	2026-27	2024-25	2026-27	2024-25	2026-27	2024-25	2026-27	2024-25	2026-27	2026-27
	<b>Goal: 1. Appellate Court Operations</b>										
1.1.1. Appellate Court Operations	8,407,142	8,633,010					437,086	357,086	8,844,228	8,990,096	517,980
1.1.2. Appellate Justice Salaries	2,679,124	2,688,198					546,700	546,700	3,225,824	3,234,898	22,021
<b>Total, Goal</b>	<b>11,086,266</b>	<b>11,321,208</b>					<b>983,786</b>	<b>903,786</b>	<b>12,070,052</b>	<b>12,224,994</b>	<b>540,001</b>
<b>Total, Agency</b>	<b>11,086,266</b>	<b>11,321,208</b>					<b>983,786</b>	<b>903,786</b>	<b>12,070,052</b>	<b>12,224,994</b>	<b>540,001</b>
<b>Total FTEs</b>									<b>42.0</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>



2.A. Summary of Base Request by Strategy

8/15/2024 4:01:12PM

89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1

Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

234 Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

Goal / Objective / STRATEGY	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	Req 2026	Req 2027
<b>1</b> Appellate Court Operations					
<b>1</b> Appellate Court Operations					
<b>1</b> APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	3,533,513	4,332,735	4,511,493	4,495,048	4,495,048
<b>2</b> APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	1,591,488	1,608,375	1,617,449	1,617,449	1,617,449
TOTAL, GOAL <b>1</b>	<b>\$5,125,001</b>	<b>\$5,941,110</b>	<b>\$6,128,942</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>
TOTAL, AGENCY STRATEGY REQUEST	<b>\$5,125,001</b>	<b>\$5,941,110</b>	<b>\$6,128,942</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>
TOTAL, AGENCY RIDER APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST*				\$0	\$0
GRAND TOTAL, AGENCY REQUEST	<b>\$5,125,001</b>	<b>\$5,941,110</b>	<b>\$6,128,942</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>

2.A. Summary of Base Request by Strategy

8/15/2024 4:01:12PM

89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1

Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

234 Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

<u>Goal / Objective / STRATEGY</u>	<u>Exp 2023</u>	<u>Est 2024</u>	<u>Bud 2025</u>	<u>Req 2026</u>	<u>Req 2027</u>
<b>METHOD OF FINANCING:</b>					
<b>General Revenue Funds:</b>					
1 General Revenue Fund	4,603,013	5,459,217	5,627,049	5,660,604	5,660,604
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,603,013</b>	<b>\$5,459,217</b>	<b>\$5,627,049</b>	<b>\$5,660,604</b>	<b>\$5,660,604</b>
<b>Other Funds:</b>					
573 Judicial Fund	273,350	273,350	273,350	273,350	273,350
666 Appropriated Receipts	8,219	11,539	11,539	11,539	11,539
777 Interagency Contracts	240,419	197,004	217,004	167,004	167,004
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$521,988</b>	<b>\$481,893</b>	<b>\$501,893</b>	<b>\$451,893</b>	<b>\$451,893</b>
<b>TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING</b>	<b>\$5,125,001</b>	<b>\$5,941,110</b>	<b>\$6,128,942</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>

\*Rider appropriations for the historical years are included in the strategy amounts.

**2.B. Summary of Base Request by Method of Finance**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

8/15/2024 4:01:34PM

Agency code: **234** Agency name: **Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston**

<b>METHOD OF FINANCING</b>	<b>Exp 2023</b>	<b>Est 2024</b>	<b>Bud 2025</b>	<b>Req 2026</b>	<b>Req 2027</b>
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**GENERAL REVENUE**

**1 General Revenue Fund**

*REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS*

Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2022-23 GAA)

\$4,574,818	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)

\$0	\$5,459,217	\$5,627,049	\$0	\$0
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Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)

\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,660,604	\$5,660,604
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**Comments: 2026-2027 BL Request**

*TRANSFERS*

SB 30, 88th Leg, Regular Session

\$25,952	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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**Comments: 5% Salary Adjustments**

*LAPSED APPROPRIATIONS*

Strategy A.1.2 Appellate Judge Salary

\$(8,217)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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2.B. Summary of Base Request by Method of Finance  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

8/15/2024 4:01:34PM

Agency code: 234 Agency name: Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	Req 2026	Req 2027
<b><u>GENERAL REVENUE</u></b>					
Comments: reduction in judicial tenure					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2022-23 GAA)	\$ (3,918)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<i>UNEXPENDED BALANCES AUTHORITY</i>					
A.1.1. Appellate Court Operations (2022-23 GAA)	\$ 14,378	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>TOTAL, General Revenue Fund</b>	<b>\$ 4,603,013</b>	<b>\$ 5,459,217</b>	<b>\$ 5,627,049</b>	<b>\$ 5,660,604</b>	<b>\$ 5,660,604</b>
<b>TOTAL, ALL GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 4,603,013</b>	<b>\$ 5,459,217</b>	<b>\$ 5,627,049</b>	<b>\$ 5,660,604</b>	<b>\$ 5,660,604</b>

**OTHER FUNDS**

573 Judicial Fund No. 573

*REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS*

Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2022-23 GAA)

	\$ 273,350	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
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Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)

**2.B. Summary of Base Request by Method of Finance**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

8/15/2024 4:01:34PM

Agency code: **234** Agency name: **Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston**

<b>METHOD OF FINANCING</b>		<b>Exp 2023</b>	<b>Est 2024</b>	<b>Bud 2025</b>	<b>Req 2026</b>	<b>Req 2027</b>
<b><u>OTHER FUNDS</u></b>						
		\$0	\$273,350	\$273,350	\$0	\$0
	Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)					
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$273,350	\$273,350
	Comments: 2026-27 BL Request					
<b>TOTAL,</b>	<b>Judicial Fund No. 573</b>					
		\$273,350	\$273,350	\$273,350	\$273,350	\$273,350
<b><u>666</u></b>	<b>Appropriated Receipts</b>					
	<i>REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS</i>					
	Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2022-23 GAA)					
		\$11,539	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)					
		\$0	\$11,539	\$11,539	\$0	\$0
	Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)					
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,539	\$11,539
	<i>RIDER APPROPRIATION</i>					

2.B. Summary of Base Request by Method of Finance  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

8/15/2024 4:01:34PM

Agency code: 234 Agency name: Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

METHOD OF FINANCING		Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	Req 2026	Req 2027
<b><u>OTHER FUNDS</u></b>						
Art IX, Sec 8.02, Reimbursements and Payments (2022-23 GAA)		\$(3,320)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL,</b>	<b>Appropriated Receipts</b>	<b>\$8,219</b>	<b>\$11,539</b>	<b>\$11,539</b>	<b>\$11,539</b>	<b>\$11,539</b>
<b><u>777</u> Interagency Contracts</b>						
<i>REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS</i>						
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2022-23 GAA)		\$167,004	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)		\$0	\$167,004	\$167,004	\$0	\$0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$167,004	\$167,004
<i>RIDER APPROPRIATION</i>						
Art IX, Sec 8.02, Reimbursements and Payments (2022-23 GAA)		\$73,415	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**2.B. Summary of Base Request by Method of Finance**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

8/15/2024 4:01:34PM

Agency code: **234** Agency name: **Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston**

<b>METHOD OF FINANCING</b>		<b>Exp 2023</b>	<b>Est 2024</b>	<b>Bud 2025</b>	<b>Req 2026</b>	<b>Req 2027</b>
<b><u>OTHER FUNDS</u></b>						
Art IX, Sec 8.02, Reimbursements and Payments (2024-25 GAA)						
		\$0	\$30,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL,</b>	<b>Interagency Contracts</b>	<b>\$240,419</b>	<b>\$197,004</b>	<b>\$217,004</b>	<b>\$167,004</b>	<b>\$167,004</b>
<b>TOTAL, ALL</b>	<b>OTHER FUNDS</b>	<b>\$521,988</b>	<b>\$481,893</b>	<b>\$501,893</b>	<b>\$451,893</b>	<b>\$451,893</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$5,125,001</b>	<b>\$5,941,110</b>	<b>\$6,128,942</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>

**2.B. Summary of Base Request by Method of Finance**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

8/15/2024 4:01:34PM

Agency code: 234

Agency name: Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	Req 2026	Req 2027
<b>FULL-TIME-EQUIVALENT POSITIONS</b>					
<b>REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS</b>					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2022-23 GAA)	44.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)	0.0	44.0	44.0	0.0	0.0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA) Comments: 2026-2027 BL Request	0.0	0.0	0.0	44.0	44.0
<b>UNAUTHORIZED NUMBER OVER (BELOW) CAP</b>					
Unauthorized Number over/below cap Comments: change in position availability	(4.8)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unauthorized number over/below cap Comments: available positions filled and positions created	0.0	(1.6)	(2.0)	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL, ADJUSTED FTES</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>44.0</b>

**NUMBER OF 100% FEDERALLY FUNDED  
FTEs**



2.C. Summary of Base Request by Object of Expense  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

8/15/2024 4:01:57PM

234 Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

OBJECT OF EXPENSE	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	BL 2026	BL 2027
1001 SALARIES AND WAGES	\$4,454,644	\$5,201,526	\$5,427,832	\$5,524,014	\$5,524,014
1002 OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	\$451,435	\$468,095	\$416,650	\$284,368	\$284,368
2001 PROFESSIONAL FEES AND SERVICES	\$4,291	\$584	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
2003 CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES	\$691	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
2004 UTILITIES	\$3,220	\$3,255	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
2005 TRAVEL	\$0	\$1,092	\$500	\$500	\$500
2006 RENT - BUILDING	\$43,290	\$39,960	\$39,960	\$39,960	\$39,960
2007 RENT - MACHINE AND OTHER	\$0	\$210	\$500	\$500	\$500
2009 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	\$167,430	\$226,388	\$237,000	\$256,655	\$256,655
<b>OOE Total (Excluding Riders)</b>	<b>\$5,125,001</b>	<b>\$5,941,110</b>	<b>\$6,128,942</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>
<b>OOE Total (Riders)</b>					
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$5,125,001</b>	<b>\$5,941,110</b>	<b>\$6,128,942</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>

2.C.1. Operating Costs Detail ~ Base Request

Date: 8/15/2024

Time: 4:11:29PM

89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

Agency Code: 234 Agency: Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

BASE REQUEST STRATEGY: 1-1-1 Appellate Court Operations

Code	Type of Expense	Expended	Estimated	Budgeted	Requested	Requested
2	Postage	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
6	Registrations/Training	0	2,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
7	Subscriptions/Periodicals	1,330	1,500	1,500	2,500	2,500
12	Maintenance & Repair - Equipment	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
13	Furniture & Equipment (Expensed)	0	10,000	10,000	15,000	10,000
24	Freight/Delivery	106	250	500	1,000	1,000
26	Books (expensed)	52,694	60,929	65,000	70,000	75,000
27	Membership Dues	16,773	18,500	18,500	19,000	20,000
28	Liability Insurance	12,242	16,289	18,000	18,000	18,000
35	Computer Equip./Software, Non-cap	1,360	5,971	6,000	6,000	6,000
39	Computer Equipment - Non Capital	26,149	30,000	16,000	16,000	15,000
45	Telephone/Communication Services	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
64	SORM Assessment	14,208	4,721	5,000	5,000	5,000
94	Awards	602	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
187	1% salary benefits fee	27,491	35,550	45,000	48,828	48,828
195	Payroll Health Insurance Contrib.	14,475	19,178	25,000	28,827	28,827
	<b>Total, Operating Costs</b>	<b>\$167,430</b>	<b>\$226,388</b>	<b>\$237,000</b>	<b>\$256,655</b>	<b>\$256,655</b>

**2.D. Summary of Base Request Objective Outcomes**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation system of Texas (ABEST)

8/15/2024 4:02:26PM

**234 Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston**

<i>Goal/ Objective / Outcome</i>	<b>Exp 2023</b>	<b>Est 2024</b>	<b>Bud 2025</b>	<b>BL 2026</b>	<b>BL 2027</b>
1 Appellate Court Operations					
1 Appellate Court Operations					
<b>KEY</b> 1 Clearance Rate	97.21%	95.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
<b>KEY</b> 2 Percentage of Cases Under Submission for Less Than One Year	98.18%	99.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
<b>KEY</b> 3 Percentage of Cases Pending for Less Than Two Years	99.58%	99.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

**2.E. Summary of Exceptional Items Request**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: 8/15/2024  
 TIME : 4:02:51PM

Agency code: 234

Agency name: **Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston**

Priority	Item	2026			2027			Biennium	
		GR and GR/GR Dedicated	All Funds	FTEs	GR and GR Dedicated	All Funds	FTEs	GR and GR Dedicated	All Funds
1	Inflation and Recruitment-Staff	\$258,990	\$258,990		\$258,990	\$258,990		\$517,980	\$517,980
2	Judicial Tenure Increase	\$0	\$0		\$22,021	\$22,021		\$22,021	\$22,021
<b>Total, Exceptional Items Request</b>		<b>\$258,990</b>	<b>\$258,990</b>		<b>\$281,011</b>	<b>\$281,011</b>		<b>\$540,001</b>	<b>\$540,001</b>
<b>Method of Financing</b>									
	General Revenue	\$258,990	\$258,990		\$281,011	\$281,011		\$540,001	\$540,001
	General Revenue - Dedicated								
	Federal Funds								
	Other Funds								
		<b>\$258,990</b>	<b>\$258,990</b>		<b>\$281,011</b>	<b>\$281,011</b>		<b>\$540,001</b>	<b>\$540,001</b>

**Full Time Equivalent Positions**

**Number of 100% Federally Funded FTEs**

**2.F. Summary of Total Request by Strategy**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE : 8/15/2024  
 TIME : 4:03:12PM

Agency code: 234	Agency name: Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston					
<i>Goal/Objective/STRATEGY</i>	Base 2026	Base 2027	Exceptional 2026	Exceptional 2027	Total Request 2026	Total Request 2027
<b>1 Appellate Court Operations</b>						
<i>1 Appellate Court Operations</i>						
1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	\$4,495,048	\$4,495,048	\$258,990	\$258,990	\$4,754,038	\$4,754,038
2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	1,617,449	1,617,449	0	22,021	1,617,449	1,639,470
<b>TOTAL, GOAL 1</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>	<b>\$258,990</b>	<b>\$281,011</b>	<b>\$6,371,487</b>	<b>\$6,393,508</b>
<b>TOTAL, AGENCY STRATEGY REQUEST</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>	<b>\$258,990</b>	<b>\$281,011</b>	<b>\$6,371,487</b>	<b>\$6,393,508</b>
<b>TOTAL, AGENCY RIDER APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST</b>						
<b>GRAND TOTAL, AGENCY REQUEST</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>	<b>\$258,990</b>	<b>\$281,011</b>	<b>\$6,371,487</b>	<b>\$6,393,508</b>

**2.F. Summary of Total Request by Strategy**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE : 8/15/2024  
 TIME : 4:03:12PM

Agency code: 234		Agency name: Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston					
<i>Goal/Objective/STRATEGY</i>		Base 2026	Base 2027	Exceptional 2026	Exceptional 2027	Total Request 2026	Total Request 2027
<b>General Revenue Funds:</b>							
1	General Revenue Fund	\$5,660,604	\$5,660,604	\$258,990	\$281,011	\$5,919,594	\$5,941,615
		<b>\$5,660,604</b>	<b>\$5,660,604</b>	<b>\$258,990</b>	<b>\$281,011</b>	<b>\$5,919,594</b>	<b>\$5,941,615</b>
<b>Other Funds:</b>							
573	Judicial Fund	273,350	273,350	0	0	273,350	273,350
666	Appropriated Receipts	11,539	11,539	0	0	11,539	11,539
777	Interagency Contracts	167,004	167,004	0	0	167,004	167,004
		<b>\$451,893</b>	<b>\$451,893</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$451,893</b>	<b>\$451,893</b>
<b>TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING</b>		<b>\$6,112,497</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>	<b>\$258,990</b>	<b>\$281,011</b>	<b>\$6,371,487</b>	<b>\$6,393,508</b>
<b>FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS</b>		<b>44.0</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>44.0</b>

**2.G. Summary of Total Request Objective Outcomes**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation system of Texas (ABEST)

Date : 8/15/2024  
 Time: 4:03:35PM

Agency code: 234                      Agency name: Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

Goal/ Objective / Outcome

		<b>BL 2026</b>	<b>BL 2027</b>	<b>Excp 2026</b>	<b>Excp 2027</b>	<b>Total Request 2026</b>	<b>Total Request 2027</b>
1	Appellate Court Operations						
1	<i>Appellate Court Operations</i>						
<b>KEY</b>	<b>1 Clearance Rate</b>						
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
<b>KEY</b>	<b>2 Percentage of Cases Under Submission for Less Than One Year</b>						
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
<b>KEY</b>	<b>3 Percentage of Cases Pending for Less Than Two Years</b>						
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

**3.A. Strategy Request**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

8/15/2024 4:07:36PM

**234 Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston**

GOAL: 1 Appellate Court Operations  
 OBJECTIVE: 1 Appellate Court Operations  
 STRATEGY: 1 Appellate Court Operations

Service Categories:

Service: 01      Income: A.2      Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	BL 2026	BL 2027
<b>Output Measures:</b>						
1	Number of Civil Cases Disposed	787.00	730.00	750.00	770.00	790.00
2	Number of Criminal Cases Disposed	326.00	310.00	280.00	300.00	320.00
<b>Explanatory/Input Measures:</b>						
1	Number of Civil Cases Filed	620.00	665.00	670.00	700.00	730.00
2	Number of Criminal Cases Filed	280.00	244.00	260.00	280.00	300.00
3	Number of Cases Transferred in	71.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Number of Cases Transferred out	3.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Objects of Expense:</b>						
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	\$2,897,267	\$3,627,519	\$3,844,751	\$3,940,933	\$3,940,933
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	\$417,324	\$433,727	\$382,282	\$250,000	\$250,000
2001	PROFESSIONAL FEES AND SERVICES	\$4,291	\$584	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
2003	CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES	\$691	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
2004	UTILITIES	\$3,220	\$3,255	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
2005	TRAVEL	\$0	\$1,092	\$500	\$500	\$500
2006	RENT - BUILDING	\$43,290	\$39,960	\$39,960	\$39,960	\$39,960
2007	RENT - MACHINE AND OTHER	\$0	\$210	\$500	\$500	\$500
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	\$167,430	\$226,388	\$237,000	\$256,655	\$256,655



**3.A. Strategy Request**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

8/15/2024 4:07:36PM

**234 Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston**

GOAL: 1 Appellate Court Operations  
 OBJECTIVE: 1 Appellate Court Operations  
 STRATEGY: 1 Appellate Court Operations

Service Categories:

Service: 01      Income: A.2      Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	BL 2026	BL 2027
<b>TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE</b>		<b>\$3,533,513</b>	<b>\$4,332,735</b>	<b>\$4,511,493</b>	<b>\$4,495,048</b>	<b>\$4,495,048</b>
<b>Method of Financing:</b>						
1	General Revenue Fund	\$3,284,875	\$4,124,192	\$4,282,950	\$4,316,505	\$4,316,505
<b>SUBTOTAL, MOF (GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS)</b>		<b>\$3,284,875</b>	<b>\$4,124,192</b>	<b>\$4,282,950</b>	<b>\$4,316,505</b>	<b>\$4,316,505</b>
<b>Method of Financing:</b>						
666	Appropriated Receipts	\$8,219	\$11,539	\$11,539	\$11,539	\$11,539
777	Interagency Contracts	\$240,419	\$197,004	\$217,004	\$167,004	\$167,004
<b>SUBTOTAL, MOF (OTHER FUNDS)</b>		<b>\$248,638</b>	<b>\$208,543</b>	<b>\$228,543</b>	<b>\$178,543</b>	<b>\$178,543</b>
<b>TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (INCLUDING RIDERS)</b>					<b>\$4,495,048</b>	<b>\$4,495,048</b>
<b>TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (EXCLUDING RIDERS)</b>		<b>\$3,533,513</b>	<b>\$4,332,735</b>	<b>\$4,511,493</b>	<b>\$4,495,048</b>	<b>\$4,495,048</b>
<b>FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:</b>		<b>30.2</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>35.0</b>
<b>STRATEGY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:</b>						

**3.A. Strategy Request**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

8/15/2024 4:07:36PM

**234 Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston**

GOAL: 1 Appellate Court Operations  
 OBJECTIVE: 1 Appellate Court Operations  
 STRATEGY: 1 Appellate Court Operations

Service Categories:

Service: 01      Income: A.2      Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	BL 2026	BL 2027
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The Fourteenth Court of Appeals was created in 1967 by amendment to the Article 1817, V.T.C.S. pursuant to the authority granted by Article 5, Section 1, Texas Constitution. This court has intermediate appellate jurisdiction in civil cases in which the judgment rendered exceeds \$100, exclusive of costs, and, effective September 1, 1981, in criminal cases, except those in which the death penalty has been assessed.

In FY2019 Strategy A.1.2. was requested and approved to be part of the GAA in FY2020 separating out Judicial Salaries, therefore the 0573 fund in now reflected in Strategy A.1.2.

**EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY:**

Courts of Appeals are by nature, small agencies with highly specialized staff . The main factor which drives this strategy is the need to attract and retain highly trained and knowledgeable professional staff to work on an increasing caseload.

**EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE (includes Rider amounts):**

<u>STRATEGY BIENNIAL TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</u>		<u>BIENNIAL</u>	<u>EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE</u>	
Base Spending (Est 2024 + Bud 2025)	Baseline Request (BL 2026 + BL 2027)	CHANGE	\$ Amount	Explanation(s) of Amount (must specify MOFs and FTEs)
\$8,844,228	\$8,990,096	\$145,868	\$145,868	Fund 001 difference is 5% Salary adjustment funding between biennium's.
			\$145,868	<b>Total of Explanation of Biennial Change</b>

**3.A. Strategy Request**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

8/15/2024 4:07:36PM

**234 Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston**

GOAL: 1 Appellate Court Operations  
 OBJECTIVE: 1 Appellate Court Operations  
 STRATEGY: 2 Appellate Justice Salaries. Estimated and Nontransferable

Service Categories:

Service: NA      Income: NA      Age: NA

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	BL 2026	BL 2027
<b>Objects of Expense:</b>						
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	\$1,557,377	\$1,574,007	\$1,583,081	\$1,583,081	\$1,583,081
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	\$34,111	\$34,368	\$34,368	\$34,368	\$34,368
<b>TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE</b>		<b>\$1,591,488</b>	<b>\$1,608,375</b>	<b>\$1,617,449</b>	<b>\$1,617,449</b>	<b>\$1,617,449</b>
<b>Method of Financing:</b>						
1	General Revenue Fund	\$1,318,138	\$1,335,025	\$1,344,099	\$1,344,099	\$1,344,099
<b>SUBTOTAL, MOF (GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS)</b>		<b>\$1,318,138</b>	<b>\$1,335,025</b>	<b>\$1,344,099</b>	<b>\$1,344,099</b>	<b>\$1,344,099</b>
<b>Method of Financing:</b>						
573	Judicial Fund	\$273,350	\$273,350	\$273,350	\$273,350	\$273,350
<b>SUBTOTAL, MOF (OTHER FUNDS)</b>		<b>\$273,350</b>	<b>\$273,350</b>	<b>\$273,350</b>	<b>\$273,350</b>	<b>\$273,350</b>
<b>TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (INCLUDING RIDERS)</b>					<b>\$1,617,449</b>	<b>\$1,617,449</b>
<b>TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (EXCLUDING RIDERS)</b>		<b>\$1,591,488</b>	<b>\$1,608,375</b>	<b>\$1,617,449</b>	<b>\$1,617,449</b>	<b>\$1,617,449</b>
<b>FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:</b>		<b>9.0</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>9.0</b>

**3.A. Strategy Request**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

8/15/2024 4:07:36PM

**234 Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston**

GOAL: 1 Appellate Court Operations  
 OBJECTIVE: 1 Appellate Court Operations Service Categories:  
 STRATEGY: 2 Appellate Justice Salaries. Estimated and Nontransferable Service: NA Income: NA Age: NA

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2023	Est 2024	Bud 2025	BL 2026	BL 2027
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**STRATEGY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

In FY2019 Strategy A.1.2. was requested and approved to be part of the GAA in FY2020, therefore there are no expenditures or funding represented for Strategy A.1.2.

**EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY:**

Approximately one-third of the courts' General Revenue funding is dedicated to Strategy A.1.2. (judicial salaries). As judicial salaries are set by statute, the courts are unable to make any reduction to that portion of their budgets. Consequently, any budget reduction to this strategy must be applied only to the remaining two-thirds of the courts' General Revenue: Strategy A.1.1. (appellate court operations) and would effectively result in a budget cut to the court that is significantly higher than the cuts directed to other State agencies.

**EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE (includes Rider amounts):**

<u>STRATEGY BIENNIAL TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</u>		<u>BIENNIAL CHANGE</u>	<u>EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE</u>	
<u>Base Spending (Est 2024 + Bud 2025)</u>	<u>Baseline Request (BL 2026 + BL 2027)</u>		<u>\$ Amount</u>	<u>Explanation(s) of Amount (must specify MOFs and FTEs)</u>
\$3,225,824	\$3,234,898	\$9,074	\$9,074	change in judicial tenure
			<u>\$9,074</u>	<b>Total of Explanation of Biennial Change</b>

**3.A. Strategy Request**  
89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

8/15/2024 4:07:36PM

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**SUMMARY TOTALS:**

<b>OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:</b>	<b>\$5,125,001</b>	<b>\$5,941,110</b>	<b>\$6,128,942</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>
<b>METHODS OF FINANCE (INCLUDING RIDERS):</b>				<b>\$6,112,497</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>
<b>METHODS OF FINANCE (EXCLUDING RIDERS):</b>	<b>\$5,125,001</b>	<b>\$5,941,110</b>	<b>\$6,128,942</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>	<b>\$6,112,497</b>
<b>FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>44.0</b>

### 3.B. Rider Revisions and Additions Request

<b>Agency Code:</b> 234	<b>Agency Name:</b> Fourteenth Court of Appeals, District, _____	<b>Prepared By:</b> Esthefania Rodriguez/Deborah M. Young	<b>Date:</b> 08/16/2024	<b>Request Level:</b> Baseline
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<b>Current Rider Number</b>	<b>Page Number in 2024-2025 GAA</b>	<b>Proposed Rider Language</b>
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### 3.B. Rider Revisions and Additions Request (continued)

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5 IV-43 **Sec. 5. Interagency Contracts for Assigned Judges for Appellate Courts.** Out of funds appropriated in this Article to Strategies A.1.1., Appellate Court Operations, the Supreme Court of Texas, the Court of Criminal Appeals, or any of the 15 Courts of Appeals may enter into a contract with the Office of the Comptroller for fiscal years ~~2024~~2026 and ~~2025~~2027, for the purpose of reimbursing the Comptroller for amounts expended for judges assigned under Chapter 74, Government Code to hear cases of the appellate courts. It is the intent of the Legislature that any amounts reimbursed under this contract for judges assigned to the appellate courts are in addition to amounts appropriated for the use of assigned judges in Strategy A.1.3. Visiting Judges – Appellate in the Judiciary Section, Comptroller’s Department.

*Updating rider to include the 15<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals and adjust the years for the 2026-2027 biennium.*

7 IV-43 **Sec. 7. Schedule of Exempt Positions** <sup>1, 2, 3, 4</sup>

No change to sections (a), (b), and (c).

(d) **Information Listing – Judicial and Prosecutor Compensation.** Government Code §659.012, Judicial Salaries, and Section 46.003, Compensation of State Prosecutors, establish a tiered, tenure-based compensation structure for certain judges and professional prosecutor positions that is linked to the base salary of a district judge as set by the General Appropriations Act and adjusts depending on the judge’s or professional prosecutor’s tenure. Consistent with Government Code Section 46.003 and Section 659.012, for their first four years of service, district judges earn a base salary set by the General Appropriations Act and certain other judges or the and professional prosecutors earns a base salary that is a certain percentage of the base salary of a district judge, subject to certain other statutory limitations. The base salary for justices on the 1<sup>st</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals is 110% of a district judge’s base salary and the base salary for a justice on the 15<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals is \$5,000 less than 120% of the state base salary of a district judge. The base salary for justices on the Supreme Court and judges on the Court of Criminal Appeals is 120% of the base salary of a district judge. When their tenure is between 4-8 years of service, the judge or professional prosecutor earns 110 percent of the judge or prosecutor’s base salary. With 8 or more years of tenure, the judge or professional prosecutor’s salary is 120 percent of the judge or professional prosecutor’s base salary. County prosecutors receive a supplement from the state that is provided to the county in an amount based on a formula that includes the base salary of a district judge with comparable years of service and the number of counties served by the state prosecutor in the county. The table below shows the base salary amounts for each state judge and prosecutor position that are dependent on years of service within each tier.

*Amending language to provide clarification on judicial and prosecutor compensation.*

**3.B. Rider Revisions and Additions Request  
(continued)**

7

IV-44

<b>Judge / Prosecutor</b>	<b>Court / Judicial District / State Agency</b>	<b>Base Salary (0-4 years)</b>	<b>(4-8 years)</b>	<b>(8+ years)</b>
Chief Justice Presiding Judge	Supreme Court Court of Criminal Appeals	\$170,500	\$187,300	\$204,100
Justice Judge	Supreme Court Court of Criminal Appeals	\$168,000	\$184,800	\$201,600
Chief Justice	1 <sup>st</sup> – 14th Court of Appeals	\$156,500	\$172,150	\$187,800
Justice Judge	1 <sup>st</sup> – 14th Court of Appeals	\$154,000	\$169,400	\$184,800
<u>Chief Justice</u>	<u>15<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals</u>	<u>\$165,500</u>	<u>\$181,800</u>	<u>\$198,100</u>
<u>Justice Judge</u>	<u>15<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals</u>	<u>\$163,000</u>	<u>\$179,300</u>	<u>\$195,600</u>
Associate Judge	Child Protection Court Child Support Court	\$126,000	\$138,600	\$151,200
Business Court Judge	Business Court	\$140,000	\$154,000	\$168,000
District Judge	District Court	\$140,000	\$154,000	\$168,000
State Prosecuting Attorney	Office of the State Prosecuting Attorney	\$140,000	\$154,000	\$168,000
Professional Prosecutors	Judicial Districts	\$140,000	\$154,000	\$168,000
District Attorneys	Judicial Districts	\$112,000	\$123,200	\$134,400
County Prosecutors	Constitutional County Court	\$23,334 to \$70,000	\$25,667 to \$77,000	\$28,001 to \$84,000

*The schedule in Rider 7. Schedule of Exempt Positions needs to be amended to break out the judge salaries for the 15<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals, which differs from the other intermediate appellate courts.*



### 3.B. Rider Revisions and Additions Request (continued)

- 9 IV-44 **Sec. 9. Unexpended Balance Authority.** Any unexpended and unobligated balances remaining in non-estimated strategies at the Supreme Court of Texas, Court of Criminal Appeals, 4415 Courts of Appeals, Office of Court Administration, Office of Capital and Forensic Writs, Office of the State Prosecuting Attorney, and State Commission on Judicial Conduct as of August 31, 2024~~26~~, are appropriated to the respective court or agency for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2024~~26~~, for the same purpose.
- Updating the rider to include the 15<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals and to adjust the year for the 2026-2027 biennium.*
- 10 IV-44 **Sec. 10. Contingency for SB 1045**<sup>5,6</sup>
- (a) ~~Contingent on the enactment of Senate Bill 1045, Eighty-eighth Legislature, Regular Session, or similar legislation, relating to the creation of the Fifteenth Court of Appeals with jurisdiction over certain civil cases, the compensation of the justices of that court, and the jurisdiction of the courts of appeals in this state, General Revenue funds in the amount of \$2,397,807 and 17.0 FTEs in fiscal year 2024 and \$2,327,569 and 17.0 FTEs in the fiscal year 2025 are appropriated for the purpose of implementing the legislation.~~
- (b) ~~Upon the enactment of Senate Bill 1045, appropriations and FTEs identified above in subsection (a) shall be provided to the Fifteenth Court of Appeals in a new bill pattern for that purpose in Article IV, The Judiciary, of this Act. The bill pattern shall include:~~
- ~~(1) a Method of Financing with General Revenue appropriations in fiscal year 2025;~~
  - ~~(2) a Number of Full-Time Equivalents (FTE) in fiscal year 2025;~~
  - ~~(3) a Schedule of Exempt Positions including one Chief Justice and two Justices with salary caps in fiscal year 2025;~~
  - ~~(4) a strategy for Appellate Court Operations with amounts for that purpose in fiscal year 2025;~~
  - ~~(5) a strategy for Appellate Justice Salaries with amounts for that purpose that are estimated and nontransferable in fiscal year 2025;~~
  - ~~(6) a Performance Measure Targets rider including the following performance measures with targets of 100% attainment in fiscal year 2025;~~

**3.B. Rider Revisions and Additions Request  
(continued)**

- ~~(A) Clearance Rate;~~
- ~~(B) Percentage of Cases Under Submission for Less Than One Year; and~~
- ~~(C) Percentage of Cases Pending for Less Than Two Years.~~

*Rider is no longer needed. Bill pattern for the 15<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals is in place in the 2024-2025 GAA.*

**4.A. Exceptional Item Request Schedule**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: 8/15/2024  
 TIME: 4:09:21PM

Agency code: 234

Agency name: Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2026	Excp 2027
	Item Name: Judiciary - Wide Adjustment for Inflation, Retention and continued Recruitment		
	Item Priority: 1		
	IT Component: No		
	Anticipated Out-year Costs: No		
	Involve Contracts > \$50,000: No		
	Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 01-01-01 Appellate Court Operations		
 <b>OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:</b>			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	258,990	258,990
	<b>TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$258,990</b>	<b>\$258,990</b>
 <b>METHOD OF FINANCING:</b>			
1	General Revenue Fund	258,990	258,990
	<b>TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING</b>	<b>\$258,990</b>	<b>\$258,990</b>

**DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:**

The intermediate appellate courts join with the Texas Supreme Court and the other Article IV Courts and Agencies in requesting a six percent (6%) increase in general revenue appropriations to help absorb the continuing impact of inflation and the increased demands placed on the courts, as well as maintaining and recruiting a strong, experience, and efficient judicial workforce. Thus, the Fourteenth Court of Appeals requests this additional 6% to foster the business model adopted by the courts of appeals of equal funding for the same sized courts. Deviating from that model risks reversion to historic and potentially detrimental modes of individualized court funding focused less on the needs of Texas and the appellate judiciary as a whole.

**EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:**

Courts of Appeals are relatively small entities with specialized staffing requirements. The core function of the courts is to process and review appeals and original proceedings from civil and criminal trial courts. This requires a highly skilled and trained professional workforce of appellate court lawyers who assist the judges of the court in disposing of cases and researching and writing opinions. Loss of experienced court lawyers creates difficulties in timely processing of and disposing of appeals and in maintaining professional business practices. This exceptional item would allow the court to operate at historical performance measure levels while maintaining the highest quality of legal analysis. The citizens of Texas deserve no less.

**PCLS TRACKING KEY:**

4.A. Exceptional Item Request Schedule  
89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: 8/15/2024  
TIME: 4:09:21PM

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Agency code: 234

Agency name: Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

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**CODE DESCRIPTION**

**Excp 2026**

**Excp 2027**

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**4.A. Exceptional Item Request Schedule**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: 8/15/2024  
 TIME: 4:09:21PM

Agency code: 234

Agency name: Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2026	Excp 2027
	<p><b>Item Name:</b> This exceptional item would increase the calculated amount on the estimated and nontransferable funds allocated to Strategy A.1.2.</p> <p><b>Item Priority:</b> 2</p> <p><b>IT Component:</b> No</p> <p><b>Anticipated Out-year Costs:</b> No</p> <p><b>Involve Contracts &gt; \$50,000:</b> No</p> <p><b>Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies:</b></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">01-01-01 Appellate Court Operations</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">01-01-02 Appellate Justice Salaries. Estimated and Nontransferable</p>		
<b>OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:</b>			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	0	22,021
	<b>TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$22,021</b>
<b>METHOD OF FINANCING:</b>			
1	General Revenue Fund	0	22,021
	<b>TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$22,021</b>

**DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:**

This is based on the court's General Revenue funding that is dedicated to Strategy A.1.2. (judicial salaries). The requested amount is calculated on the estimated and nontransferable funds allocated to Strategy A.1.2. The calculated amount on judicial salaries amounts to an estimated \$135,328 per month for Fiscal Year 2026 and \$137,919 per month for Fiscal Year 2027, the court would be at a deficit once all judicial salaries increase. If the increase in judicial salaries is not augmented, the court will have to reduce staffing. This is crucial because 96.5 % of the court's budget is dedicated to staffing, leaving very little discretionary funds to achieve any reductions. Any reduction in staffing will result in failure to meet performance standards, including (1) a reduction in dispositions of appeals, preventing the courts from clearing older cases and reaching the disposition target of 100% of new appeals filed in the biennium, and (2) an increase in the time for which appeals remain pending.

**EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:**

Courts of Appeals are relatively small entities with specialized staffing requirements. The core function of the courts is to process and review appeals and original proceedings from civil and criminal trial courts. This requires a highly skilled and trained professional workforce of appellate court lawyers who assist the judges of the court in disposing of cases and researching and writing opinions. Loss of experienced court lawyers creates difficulties in timely processing of and disposing of appeals and in maintaining professional business practices. This exceptional item would allow the court to operate at historical performance measure levels while maintaining the highest quality of legal analysis. The citizens of Texas deserve no less.

**PCLS TRACKING KEY:**

**4.A. Exceptional Item Request Schedule**  
89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: 8/15/2024  
TIME: 4:09:21PM

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Agency code: 234

Agency name: Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

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**CODE DESCRIPTION**

**Excp 2026**

**Excp 2027**

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**4.B. Exceptional Items Strategy Allocation Schedule**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: 8/15/2024  
 TIME: 4:10:02PM

Agency code: 234 Agency name: Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

Code	Description	Excp 2026	Excp 2027
<b>Item Name:</b> Judiciary - Wide Adjustment for Inflation, Retention and continued Recruitment			
<b>Allocation to Strategy:</b> 1-1-1 Appellate Court Operations			
<b>OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:</b>			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	258,990	258,990
<b>TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE</b>		<b>\$258,990</b>	<b>\$258,990</b>
<b>METHOD OF FINANCING:</b>			
1	General Revenue Fund	258,990	258,990
<b>TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING</b>		<b>\$258,990</b>	<b>\$258,990</b>

4.B. Exceptional Items Strategy Allocation Schedule  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: 8/15/2024  
 TIME: 4:10:02PM

Agency code: 234 Agency name: Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

Code	Description	Excp 2026	Excp 2027
<b>Item Name:</b>		This exceptional item would increase the calculated amount on the estimated and nontransferable funds allocated to Strategy A.1.2.	
<b>Allocation to Strategy:</b>		1-1-1	Appellate Court Operations
<b>OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:</b>			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	0	0
<b>TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>METHOD OF FINANCING:</b>			
1	General Revenue Fund	0	0
<b>TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>



4.B. Exceptional Items Strategy Allocation Schedule  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: 8/15/2024  
 TIME: 4:10:02PM

Agency code: 234 Agency name: Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

Code	Description	Excp 2026	Excp 2027
<b>Item Name:</b>		This exceptional item would increase the calculated amount on the estimated and nontransferable funds allocated to Strategy A.1.2.	
<b>Allocation to Strategy:</b>		1-1-2	Appellate Justice Salaries. Estimated and Nontransferable
<b>OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:</b>			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	0	22,021
<b>TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$22,021</b>
<b>METHOD OF FINANCING:</b>			
1	General Revenue Fund	0	22,021
<b>TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$22,021</b>

**4.C. Exceptional Items Strategy Request**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

**DATE:** 8/15/2024  
**TIME:** 4:10:33PM

Agency Code: 234 Agency name: Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

GOAL: 1 Appellate Court Operations

OBJECTIVE: 1 Appellate Court Operations

STRATEGY: 1 Appellate Court Operations

Service Categories:

Service: 01 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE DESCRIPTION	Excp 2026	Excp 2027
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**STRATEGY IMPACT ON OUTCOME MEASURES:**

<u>1</u> Clearance Rate	100.00 %	100.00 %
<u>2</u> Percentage of Cases Under Submission for Less Than One Year	100.00 %	100.00 %
<u>3</u> Percentage of Cases Pending for Less Than Two Years	100.00 %	100.00 %

**OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:**

1001 SALARIES AND WAGES	258,990	258,990
<b>Total, Objects of Expense</b>	<b>\$258,990</b>	<b>\$258,990</b>

**METHOD OF FINANCING:**

1 General Revenue Fund	258,990	258,990
<b>Total, Method of Finance</b>	<b>\$258,990</b>	<b>\$258,990</b>

**EXCEPTIONAL ITEM(S) INCLUDED IN STRATEGY:**

Judiciary - Wide Adjustment for Inflation, Retention and continued Recruitment

This exceptional item would increase the calculated amount on the estimated and nontransferable funds allocated to Strategy A.1.2.

**4.C. Exceptional Items Strategy Request**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

**DATE:** 8/15/2024  
**TIME:** 4:10:33PM

Agency Code: 234 Agency name: Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

GOAL: 1 Appellate Court Operations

OBJECTIVE: 1 Appellate Court Operations

STRATEGY: 2 Appellate Justice Salaries. Estimated and Nontransferable

Service Categories:

Service: NA Income: NA Age: NA

CODE DESCRIPTION	Excp 2026	Excp 2027
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**OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:**

1001 SALARIES AND WAGES	0	22,021
<b>Total, Objects of Expense</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$22,021</b>

**METHOD OF FINANCING:**

1 General Revenue Fund	0	22,021
<b>Total, Method of Finance</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$22,021</b>

**EXCEPTIONAL ITEM(S) INCLUDED IN STRATEGY:**

This exceptional item would increase the calculated amount on the estimated and nontransferable funds allocated to Strategy A.1.2.

**6.A. Historically Underutilized Business Supporting Schedule**  
 89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

Date: 8/15/2024  
 Time: 4:11:13PM

Agency Code: 234 Agency: Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

COMPARISON TO STATEWIDE HUB PROCUREMENT GOALS

**A. Fiscal Year - HUB Expenditure Information**

Statewide HUB Goals	Procurement Category	% Goal	HUB Expenditures FY 2022			Total Expenditures FY 2022		HUB Expenditures FY 2023			Total Expenditures FY 2023	
			% Actual	Diff	Actual \$	% Goal	% Actual	Diff	Actual \$	% Goal		
26.0%	Other Services	26.0 %	0.0%	-26.0%	\$0	\$12,994	26.0 %	0.0%	-26.0%	\$0	\$6,826	
21.1%	Commodities	21.1 %	0.0%	-21.1%	\$0	\$1,520	0.0 %	0.0%	0.0%	\$0	\$28,200	
	<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>0.0%</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$14,514</b>		<b>0.0%</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$35,026</b>	

**B. Assessment of Attainment of HUB Procurement Goals**

**Attainment:**

The agency did not attain the statewide HUB procurement goals for Other Services and Commodities for FY2022 and FY2023.

**Applicability:**

The Heavy Construction, Building Construction, Special Trade and Professional Services categories are not applicable to agency operations in either Fiscal Year 2022 or 2023. The agency does not have any strategies or programs related to these categories.

**Factors Affecting Attainment:**

In Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023, the goal of Other Services and Commodities were not met due to the following:

- the lowest bid was from a non-HUB vendor
- TXSmartBuy offered a higher bid than the vendor's website

**C. Good-Faith Efforts to Increase HUB Participation**

**Outreach Efforts and Mentor-Protégé Programs:**

The agency made the following good faith efforts to comply with statewide HUB procurement goals:

- ensured that contract specifications, terms and conditions reflected the agency's requirements and did not impose unreasonable or unnecessary contract requirements
- gathered information on HUB vendors from the online system and contacted the vendor directly for a bid
- used the Statewide Procurement Division where applicable, not always resulting in the use of a HUB vendor

**HUB Program Staffing:**

The Court has a dedicated purchasing group that researches for HUB vendors and the TXSmartBuy website when purchasing is involved to make sure the agency is receiving the best bid and prioritizing the HUB Procurement program.

**6.A. Historically Underutilized Business Supporting Schedule**  
89th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1  
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

Date: 8/15/2024  
Time: 4:11:13PM

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Agency Code: 234 Agency: Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

**Current and Future Good-Faith Efforts:**

The Court supports the HUB procurement program and will continue to make a good faith efforts to meet HUB goals by giving HUB vendors preference for purchases when possible.

**6.H. Estimated Total of All Agency Funds Outside the GAA Bill Pattern  
Fourteenth Court of Appeals**

<b>ESTIMATED GRAND TOTAL OF AGENCY FUNDS OUTSIDE THE 2026-27 GAA BILL PATTERN</b>	<b>\$ 814,000</b>
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<b>Fund Name</b>	
Estimated Beginning Balance in FY 2024	
Estimated Revenues FY 2024	\$ 407,000
Estimated Revenues FY 2025	\$ 407,000
<b>FY 2024-25 Total</b>	<b>\$ 814,000</b>
Estimated Beginning Balance in FY 2026	\$ 407,000
Estimated Revenues FY 2026	\$ 407,000
Estimated Revenues FY 2027	
<b>FY 2026-27 Total</b>	<b>\$ 814,000</b>
<b>Constitutional or Statutory Creation and Use of Funds:</b>	
<p>Pursuant to section 22.202 of the Government code, counties other than Harris County composing the First and Fourteenth Court of Appeals Districts shall annually reimburse Harris County for the cost incurred by Harris County during its previous fiscal year for supplemental salaries and fringe benefits for the justices of those courts. In addition, these counties are also to provide reimbursement for furnishings, equipment, supplies, and utility expense for those courts.</p>	
<b>Method of Calculation and Revenue Assumptions:</b>	
<p>Each county is to pay a share based on the proportion of their population to the total population of all counties in these districts. To effectuate the billing and payment process, the Harris County Commissioners Court is required to furnish each county liable for expenses with a statement of that county's share. Furthermore, the statement must be approved by the Chief Justices of the Courts of Appeals.</p>	