



Operating Budget

For Fiscal Year 2026

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

by

Fifteenth Court of Appeals, Austin

December 1, 2025

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CERTIFICATE

Agency Name Fifteenth Court of Appeals

This is to certify that the information contained in the agency operating budget filed with the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and the Office of the Governor, Budget and Policy Division, is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that the electronic submission to the LBB via the Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST) and the PDF file submitted via the LBB Document Submission application are identical.

Additionally, should it become likely at any time that unexpended balances will accrue for any account, the LBB and the Office of the Governor will be notified in writing in accordance with Senate Bill 1, Article IX, Section 7.01, Eighty-ninth Legislature, Regular Session, 2025.

Chief Executive Office or Presiding Judge

Signature

Scott Brister

Printed Name

Chief Justice

Title

December 1, 2025

Date _____

Board or Commission Chair

Signature

Printed Name

Title

Date _____

Chief Financial Officer

Signature

Chris Prine

Printed Name

Clerk of the Court

Title

December 1, 2025

Date _____

Budget Overview

89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget

Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

235 Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin

	GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS								ALL FUNDS	
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026
Goal: 1. Appellate Court Operations										
1.1.1. Appellate Court Operations	1,523,905	4,886,304							1,523,905	4,886,304
1.1.2. Appellate Justice Salaries	580,889	767,500							580,889	767,500
Total, Goal	2,104,794	5,653,804							2,104,794	5,653,804
Total, Agency	2,104,794	5,653,804							2,104,794	5,653,804
Total FTEs									16.0	16.0

2.A. Summary of Budget By Strategy

DATE : 11/21/2025
TIME : 2:30:38PM

89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

Agency code: 235 Agency name: Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin

Goal/Objective/STRATEGY	EXP 2024	EXP 2025	BUD 2026
1 Appellate Court Operations			
1 Appellate Court Operations			
1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	\$0	\$1,523,905	\$4,886,304
2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	\$0	\$580,889	\$767,500
TOTAL, GOAL 1	\$0	\$2,104,794	\$5,653,804

2.A. Summary of Budget By Strategy

DATE : 11/21/2025
TIME : 2:30:38PM

89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

Agency code:	235	Agency name:	Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin
Goal/Objective/STRATEGY	EXP 2024	EXP 2025	BUD 2026
General Revenue Funds:			
1 General Revenue Fund	\$0	\$2,104,794	\$5,653,804
	\$0	\$2,104,794	\$5,653,804
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	\$0	\$2,104,794	\$5,653,804
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS	0.0	16.0	16.0

2.B. Summary of Budget By Method of Finance
89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: **11/21/2025**
TIME: **2:31:01PM**

Agency code: **235** Agency name: **Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin**

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2024	Exp 2025	Bud 2026
<u>GENERAL REVENUE</u>			
<u>1</u> General Revenue Fund			
<i>REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS</i>			
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)	\$0	\$2,104,794	\$0
Comments: Art. IV Special Provisions, Section 10(a).			
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)	\$0	\$0	\$3,800,321
Comments: The bill pattern represents an estimated 100% of the agency's estimated total available funds for the biennium.			
<i>RIDER APPROPRIATION</i>			
SB 293, Article IX Sec. 18.83(f) in the GAA (SB1, 89R, page IX-120)	\$0	\$0	\$154,388
Comments: 25% increase in pay for certain judges and linked to the base pay of a district judge authorized by Government Code, Section 659.012			
<i>TRANSFERS</i>			
88th Legislature, GAA, Art. IV, Special Provision Sec. 10	\$0	\$1,317,683	\$1,317,683
Comments: 88th Legislature, GAA, Art. IV, Special Provision Sec. 10			
General Appropriations Act 26-27 Art. IX Sec. 17.15	\$0	\$0	\$63,540
Comments: General Appropriations Act 26-27 Art. IX Sec. 17.15 L40 - 6% Salary increase for attorneys			
HB 500, 89th Leg, Regular Session	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>LAPSED APPROPRIATIONS</i>			
88th Legislature, GAA, Art. IV, Special Provision Sec. 10	\$0	\$120	\$0
Comments: 88th Legislature, GAA, Art. IV, Special Provision Sec. 10			
<i>UNEXPENDED BALANCES AUTHORITY</i>			

2.B. Summary of Budget By Method of Finance
89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: **11/21/2025**
TIME: **2:31:01PM**

Agency code: **235** Agency name: **Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin**

METHOD OF FINANCING		Exp 2024	Exp 2025	Bud 2026
HB 500, 89th Leg, Regular Session		\$0	\$317,872	\$317,872
Comments: HB500 89R, Sec. 9.04, and Art. IX, Sec. 17.16 GAA FY26-27 UB of Total Funds				
Art IX, Sec 14.05, UB Authority within the Same Biennium (2026-27 GAA)		\$0	\$(1,635,675)	\$0
Comments: Art IX, Sec 14.05, UB Authority within the Same Biennium (2026-27 GAA)				
TOTAL,	General Revenue Fund			
		\$0	\$2,104,794	\$5,653,804
TOTAL, ALL	GENERAL REVENUE			
		\$0	\$2,104,794	\$5,653,804

OTHER FUNDS

777 Interagency Contracts

REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS

Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)		\$0	\$17,660	\$(18,760)
Comments: IAC between OCA and COA for MOU Lease at the Houston Court House for 15th Court Of Appeals				
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)		\$0	\$(17,660)	\$18,760
Comments: IAC between OCA and COA for MOU Lease at the Houston Courthouse for 15th Court Of Appeals				
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)		\$0	\$(250)	\$250
Comments: IAC between SPD and 15th Court of Appeals				
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)		\$0	\$250	\$(250)
Comments: IAC between SPD and 15th Court of Appeals				

2.B. Summary of Budget By Method of Finance
89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: **11/21/2025**
TIME: **2:31:01PM**

Agency code: **235** Agency name: **Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin**

METHOD OF FINANCING		Exp 2024	Exp 2025	Bud 2026
TOTAL,	Interagency Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL, ALL	OTHER FUNDS	\$0	\$0	\$0
GRAND TOTAL		\$0	\$2,104,794	\$5,653,804

FULL-TIME-EQUIVALENT POSITIONS

REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS				
	Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)	0.0	17.0	0.0
	Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)	0.0	0.0	19.0
	Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)	0.0	(1.0)	0.0
	Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)	0.0	0.0	(3.0)
TOTAL, ADJUSTED FTES		0.0	16.0	16.0

NUMBER OF 100% FEDERALLY FUNDED FTES

2.C. Summary of Budget By Object of Expense
89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: 11/21/2025

TIME: 2:33:48PM

Agency code: 235

Agency name: Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin

OBJECT OF EXPENSE		EXP 2024	EXP 2025	BUD 2026
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	\$0	\$1,936,584	\$2,315,000
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	\$0	\$109,834	\$125,000
2001	PROFESSIONAL FEES AND SERVICES	\$0	\$665	\$600
2003	CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES	\$0	\$2,333	\$4,000
2004	UTILITIES	\$0	\$1,219	\$4,500
2005	TRAVEL	\$0	\$6,067	\$12,000
2006	RENT - BUILDING	\$0	\$995	\$18,250
2007	RENT - MACHINE AND OTHER	\$0	\$3,889	\$4,550
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	\$0	\$43,208	\$2,329,904
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$0	\$0	\$840,000
Agency Total		\$0	\$2,104,794	\$5,653,804

3.A. Strategy Level Detail

DATE: 11/21/2025

TIME: 2:35:44PM

89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

Agency code: **235** Agency name: **Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin**

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 2024	EXP 2025	BUD 2026
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Efficiency Measures:

KEY 1	Clearance Rate	0.00 %	53.40 %	95.00 %
KEY 2	Percentage of Cases Under Submission for Less Than One Year	0.00 %	100.00 %	95.00 %
KEY 3	Percentage of Cases Under Submission for Less Than Two Years	0.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %

Explanatory/Input Measures:

1	Number of Cases Filed	0.00	135.00	150.00
2	Number of Cases Transferred In	0.00	142.00	135.00
3	Number of Cases Transferred OUT	0.00	23.00	15.00
4	Number of Cases Disposed	0.00	140.00	195.00

Objects of Expense:

1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	\$0	\$1,369,018	\$1,570,000
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	\$0	\$99,929	\$110,000
2001	PROFESSIONAL FEES AND SERVICES	\$0	\$665	\$600
2003	CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES	\$0	\$2,333	\$4,000
2004	UTILITIES	\$0	\$1,219	\$4,500
2005	TRAVEL	\$0	\$6,067	\$12,000
2006	RENT - BUILDING	\$0	\$995	\$18,250
2007	RENT - MACHINE AND OTHER	\$0	\$3,889	\$4,550
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	\$0	\$39,790	\$2,322,404
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$0	\$0	\$840,000
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		\$0	\$1,523,905	\$4,886,304

Method of Financing:

1	General Revenue Fund	\$0	\$1,523,905	\$4,886,304
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3.A. Strategy Level Detail

DATE: 11/21/2025

TIME: 2:35:44PM

89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

Agency code: 235 Agency name: Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin

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 2024	EXP 2025	BUD 2026
SUBTOTAL, MOF (GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS)		\$0	\$1,523,905	\$4,886,304
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE :		\$0	\$1,523,905	\$4,886,304
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:		0.0	13.0	13.0

3.A. Strategy Level Detail

DATE: 11/21/2025

TIME: 2:35:44PM

89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

Agency code: 235 Agency name: Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin

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 2024	EXP 2025	BUD 2026
Objects of Expense:				
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	\$0	\$567,566	\$745,000
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	\$0	\$9,905	\$15,000
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	\$0	\$3,418	\$7,500
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		\$0	\$580,889	\$767,500
Method of Financing:				
1	General Revenue Fund	\$0	\$580,889	\$767,500
SUBTOTAL, MOF (GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS)		\$0	\$580,889	\$767,500
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE :		\$0	\$580,889	\$767,500
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:		0.0	3.0	3.0

3.A. Strategy Level Detail

89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: 11/21/2025

TIME: 2:35:44PM

SUMMARY TOTALS:

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:	\$0	\$2,104,794	\$5,653,804
METHODS OF FINANCE :	\$0	\$2,104,794	\$5,653,804
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:	0.0	16.0	16.0

Agency code: 235

Agency name: Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin

Category Code / Category Name

Project Sequence/Project Id/ Name

OOE / TOF / MOF CODE

EXP 2024

EXP 2025

BUD 2026

5003 Repair or Rehabilitation of Buildings and Facilities

1/1 Capitol Project for The 15th Court of Appeals

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE

Capital

5000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

\$0

\$0

\$840,000

Capital Subtotal OOE, Project 1

\$0

\$0

\$840,000

Subtotal OOE, Project 1

\$0

\$0

\$840,000

TYPE OF FINANCING

Capital

CA 1 General Revenue Fund

\$0

\$0

\$840,000

Capital Subtotal TOF, Project 1

\$0

\$0

\$840,000

Subtotal TOF, Project 1

\$0

\$0

\$840,000

Capital Subtotal, Category 5003

\$0

\$0

\$840,000

Informational Subtotal, Category 5003

Total, Category 5003

\$0

\$0

\$840,000

AGENCY TOTAL -CAPITAL

\$0

\$0

\$840,000

AGENCY TOTAL -INFORMATIONAL

AGENCY TOTAL

\$0

\$0

\$840,000

METHOD OF FINANCING:

Capital

1 General Revenue Fund

\$0

\$0

\$840,000

Total, Method of Financing-Capital

\$0

\$0

\$840,000

Total, Method of Financing

\$0

\$0

\$840,000

Agency code: 235 Agency name: Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin

Category Code / Category Name

Project Sequence/Project Id/ Name

OOE / TOF / MOF CODE	EXP 2024	EXP 2025	BUD 2026
TYPE OF FINANCING:			
<u>Capital</u>			
CA CURRENT APPROPRIATIONS	\$0	\$0	\$840,000
Total, Type of Financing-Capital	\$0	\$0	\$840,000
Total,Type of Financing	\$0	\$0	\$840,000

Capital Budget Allocation to Strategies
89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: 11/21/2025
TIME: 10:19:26AM

Agency code: 235 Agency name: Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin

Category Code/Name					
Project Sequence/Project Id/Name					
Goal/Obj/Str	Strategy Name		EXP 2024	EXP 2025	BUD 2026
5003 Repair or Rehabilitation of Buildings and Facilities					
1/1	Court Room Build Out				
Capital	1-1-1	APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	0	0	\$840,000
		TOTAL, PROJECT	\$0	\$0	\$840,000
		TOTAL CAPITAL, ALL PROJECTS	\$0	\$0	\$840,000
		TOTAL INFORMATIONAL, ALL PROJECTS			
		TOTAL, ALL PROJECTS	\$0	\$0	\$840,000