LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST
For Fiscal Years 2028 and 2029

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

by

SIXTH COURT OF APPEALS
Texarkana

August 7, 2026

SIXTH COURT OF APPEALS, #226

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90TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION ADMINSTRATOR'S STATEMENT
For Fiscal Years 2028 and 2029

ADMINISTRATOR'S STATEMENT

The core function of Texas' intermediate appellate courts is to process, review, and decide by written opinion every appeal that is filed with them from trial courts, in civil and criminal cases, across numerous counties. These appeals include every substantive area of civil and criminal law—except for death penalty cases—and many of them must be decided on an expedited basis as mandated by the Legislature and the rules of appellate procedure.

The courts of appeals must also resolve a large number of original proceedings each fiscal year seeking extraordinary relief—such as a writ of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, injunction, or quo warranto. Original proceedings, which are often filed during the pendency of litigation, commonly have voluminous records and must also be decided on an expedited basis. And many of them include a request for emergency temporary relief which must be addressed immediately.

Against this backdrop, Texas has gained more residents than any other state during the 21st century. Since 2000, the population of Texas has increased by more than 52%. More than 31 million people now live in Texas. And the vast majority are adults who look to the judiciary for resolution of their disputes as guaranteed by our Constitution. The Legislature has responded to this big increase in population by creating nearly 200 new trial courts across Texas. And the Bench and the Bar have taken important steps to increase access to justice for all Texans.

New case filings in the courts of appeals began to return to their pre-COVID levels in fiscal year 2022. During the next three fiscal years (FY '23, FY '24, and FY '25), new case filings in the courts of appeals increased each fiscal year by between 4% to 8%. This is consistent with the increase in new cases experienced by the federal courts of appeals from 2022 to 2025 at nearly 4.4%.

This all changed for Texas' courts of appeals in fiscal year 2026. New case filings are increasing in FY '26 from FY '25 by 20%. And they are increasing by about 30% from FY '24—which was the last fiscal year before the 89th Legislative Session. See Administrator's Statement Exhibit #1 – Table – New Cases Filed by Fiscal Year. When equalization transfers are taken into account, every court of appeals in Texas (except the 15th court which has different jurisdictional requirements) is experiencing these large increases in new case filings—which are anticipated to continue for the foreseeable future. See Administrator's Statement Exhibit #2 – Table – New Cases Filed by Fiscal Year – After Transfers.

Two important components of this big increase in new case filings are original proceedings and pro se appeals. Together, they constitute 54% of the new cases filed in the courts of appeals in FY '26.

Original proceedings are increasing in FY '26 from FY '25 by 49%, and they are increasing in FY '26 from FY '24 by 83%. See Administrator's Statement Exhibit #3 – Table – Original Proceedings.

Meanwhile, pro se appeals are increasing in FY '26 from FY '25 by 36%, and they are increasing in FY '26 from FY '24 by 68%. See Administrator's Statement Exhibit #3 – Table – New Cases Filed by Pro Se Litigants. Yet, in the face of this dramatic growth, the number of staff attorneys (and other staff) at the courts of appeals who assist the justices with their workload has remained largely the same.

A key factor in handling the increasing workload without additional justices is the employment of highly skilled and trained staff attorneys (and other staff). They maximize the productivity of justices by processing complex cases, researching and drafting preliminary drafts of orders and opinions, disposing of voluminous motions, and managing accelerated and emergency matters.

The large population growth across the State and the magnitude of new case filings, in concert with an ever-increasing number of case types requiring expedited review, make it clear that the courts of appeals require additional staff attorneys, and/or other staff, to manage their growing dockets and to efficiently provide the timely, high-quality justice to which all citizens of Texas are entitled.

In that regard, 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 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.

Based upon a template of same-size courts, the courts of appeals are now asking the Legislature for additional staff attorneys, and/or other staff, to match the nearly 30% increase in new case filings since FY '24—subject to the particularized request of each court of appeals. See Administrator's Statement Exhibit #4 – Table – Template of Same-Sized Courts.

Without a sufficient number of qualified staff attorneys, and/or other staff, the courts of appeals are largely unable to handle the increasing volume of new case filings each fiscal year and 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) and also comply with the legislatively mandated Clearance Rate requirement.

The courts of appeals are appreciative of the increased funding for existing staff attorneys received last session. It is important and enables the courts of appeals to hire and retain qualified individuals for their existing staff attorney positions, and other staff. The courts of appeals are now faced with the need to increase the number of their staff attorney positions, and/or other staff, in order to keep pace with the growth of Texas and the large increase in new case filings. But they currently lack the funding to do so.

And now the courts of appeals have been instructed to reduce their base appropriation request for the 2028–29 biennium by 3%. Unlike other state agencies, 96.5% of each court of appeals' budget, on average, is dedicated to salaries and benefits. This budget reduction would thus result in a disproportionate and highly negative impact on the courts of appeals. The only way to absorb such a budget reduction is to cut court staff. This is counter-intuitive and unsustainable in light of the substantial increase in new case filings. Additionally, there is virtually no benefit to the State from a 3% budget cut on the courts of appeals. Indeed, funding for all of the courts of appeals comprises less than 0.04% of the State budget as a whole. And a 3% budget cut on the courts of appeals would approximately yield only a 0.002% reduction in the entire State budget.

Mindful of that, and of the critical role that the courts of appeals perform for all Texans, additional funding for additional staff attorneys, and/or other staff, as specifically requested by each court of appeals, is now necessary for the courts of appeals to ensure the efficient and timely administration of justice going forward.

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EXCEPTIONAL ITEM #1: RESTORE THE 3% BUDGET CUT.

To address the highly negative and disproportionate impact of the required 3% reduction on the courts' funding, especially in light of the substantial increase in new case filings in Fiscal Year '26, the courts of appeals respectfully submit Exceptional Item #1 requesting the restoration of the 3% budget reduction so that their baseline funding will be the Fiscal Year 2027 budgeted levels. The Sixth Court of Appeals therefore respectfully requests a restoration to General Revenue funding in the amount of $134,107.

EXCEPTIONAL ITEM #2: ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME STAFF ATTORNEYS.

Due to the substantial increase in new case filings that the courts of appeals are experiencing in FY '26, and which are expected to continue for the foreseeable future, and, based on the template of same-size courts above, the Sixth Court of Appeals respectfully submits its Exceptional Item # 2 in which it requests funding for 4 additional full-time staff attorneys.

These additional staff attorneys are necessary because the Sixth Court of Appeals has experienced a 2% increase in new case filings from FY '25 to FY '26, and a 9% increase from FY '24 to FY '26. More significantly, after transfers, the Sixth Court of Appeals has experienced a 15% increase in new case filing from FY '25 to FY '26, and a 23% increase from FY '24 to FY'26. These increases are beyond the current capacity of the Sixth Court of Appeals to handle and comply with the 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) and also comply with the legislatively mandated Clearance Rate requirement.

See Administrator's Statement Exhibit #5 – Table – Additional Full-Time Staff Attorneys for the breakdown of the total anticipated expense for these requested FTEs in Biennium 2028–29 for the Sixth Court of Appeals.

EXCEPTIONAL ITEM #3: RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF JUDICIAL-BRANCH STAFF .

Recruiting and retaining excellent judicial-branch staff is essential to the fair and efficient administration of justice in Texas. The rising cost of living combined with the draw of more lucrative employment at other government agencies and the private sector continue to create staffing challenges for the courts. The courts of appeals join with the Supreme Court of Texas and the other Article IV courts and agencies in requesting a 3% annual increase in staff pay throughout the Article IV courts and agencies in Fiscal Year '28 and also in Fiscal Year '29 to help maintain the judicial branch's position in the competitive market for talented, qualified, and experienced lawyers and other staff. The Sixth Court of Appeals, in conjunction with the rest of the judicial branch, therefore, requests a 3% increase in staff salaries in Fiscal Year '28 and an additional 3% increase in Fiscal Year '29.

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 2026-27 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.

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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

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.

4. Add Special Provision – Mileage Reimbursement for Appellate Court Justices.

Appellate court justices that travel for official state business in a personal vehicle should be exempt from the requirement to complete a comparison worksheet showing that mileage reimbursement for travel in a personal vehicle is more cost-effective than the use of a rental car (as is currently the case for children's court and business court staff who travel regularly for official state business). (See Article IV Appropriation for OCA, Texas Judicial Council – Item No. 7 entitled “Mileage Reimbursement for Children's Courts and Business Court Staff).

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, the Sixth Court of Appeals has included appropriated receipts in the amount of $2,000, 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.

Administrator's Statement Exhibit #1

New Cases Filed by Fiscal Year

	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26 (Projected)	Difference from FY 25 to FY26	% Difference	Difference from FY 24 to FY26	% Difference	
1st/Houston	952	1,042	1,293	251	24%	341	36%	
2nd/Fort Worth	1,000	1,133	1,411	278	25%	411	41%	
3rd/Austin	922	940	1,193	253	27%	271	29%	
4th/San Antonio	861	864	951	87	10%	90	10%	
5th/Dallas	1,451	1,629	1,896	267	16%	445	31%	
6th/Texarkana	253	269	275	6	2%	22	9%	
7th/Amarillo	308	287	311	24	8%	3	1%	
8th/El Paso	337	221	283	62	28%	-54	-16%	Unusual, one-month spike occurred
9th/Beaumont	408	473	568	95	20%	160	39%	
10th/Waco	444	443	567	124	28%	123	28%	
11th/Eastland	300	290	358	68	23%	58	19%	
12th/Tyler	320	290	351	61	21%	31	10%	
13th/Corpus Christi	509	552	698	146	26%	189	37%	
14th/Houston	923	1,073	1,328	255	24%	405	44%	
15th/Statewide	N/A	135	120	-15	-11%	N/A	N/A	
Total FYTD	**8,988**	**9,641**	**11,603**	**1,962**	**20%**	**2,615**	**29%**	

Administrator's Statement Exhibit #2

New Cases Filed by Fiscal Year - After Transfers

	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26 (Projected)	Difference from FY 25 to FY26	% Difference	Difference from FY 24 to FY26	% Difference	
1st/Houston	981	1,060	1,305	245	23%	324	33%	
2nd/Fort Worth	863	921	1,053	132	14%	190	22%	
3rd/Austin	732	834	879	45	5%	147	20%	
4th/San Antonio	644	782	931	149	19%	287	44%	
5th/Dallas	1,490	1,614	1,817	203	13%	327	22%	
6th/Texarkana	308	330	380	50	15%	72	23%	
7th/Amarillo	431	399	545	146	37%	114	26%	
8th/El Paso	453	319	428	109	34%	-25	-6%	Unusual, one-month spike occurred
9th/Beaumont	417	472	531	59	13%	114	27%	
10th/Waco	322	374	461	87	23%	139	43%	
11th/Eastland	325	330	411	81	25%	86	26%	
12th/Tyler	363	299	427	128	43%	64	18%	
13th/Corpus Christi	626	665	875	210	32%	249	40%	
14th/Houston	950	1,079	1,315	236	22%	365	38%	
15th/Statewide	N/A	254	244	-10	-4%	N/A	N/A	
Total FYTD	**8,905**	**9,732**	**11,602**	**1,870**	**19%**	**2,697**	**30%**	

Administrator's Statement Exhibit #3

Original Proceedings

Court	22	23	24	25	FY 26 (projected)	Difference from FY 25 to FY26	% Difference	Difference from FY 24 to FY26	% Difference
1	221	176	176	186	252	66	36%	76	43%
2	80	55	97	120	200	80	66%	103	106%
3	144	113	122	159	261	102	64%	139	114%
4	112	112	115	141	199	58	41%	84	73%
5	214	228	225	297	465	168	56%	240	106%
6	31	29	19	38	49	11	28%	30	157%
7	59	38	40	25	23	-2	-7%	-17	-42%
8	29	26	29	49	87	38	78%	58	201%
9	46	56	51	49	82	33	66%	31	60%
10	86	81	58	58	115	57	99%	57	99%
11	48	45	30	34	39	5	15%	9	30%
12	39	58	36	45	58	13	29%	22	61%
13	90	97	90	115	190	75	65%	100	111%
14	219	178	159	187	239	52	28%	80	50%
15	N/A	N/A	N/A	32	26	-6	-18%	N/A	N/A
Total original proceedings filed	**1,418**	**1,292**	**1,247**	**1,535**	**2,286**	**751**	**49%**	**1,039**	**83%**
New cases filed	**8,034**	**8,668**	**8,988**	**9,641**	**11,603**				
Orig proceedings as % of new cases filed	**18%**	**15%**	**14%**	**16%**	**20%**				

New Cases Filed by Pro Se Litigants

Court	22	23	24	25	FY 26 (projected)	Difference from FY 25 to FY26	% Difference	Difference from FY 24 to FY26	% Difference
1	242	228	226	289	357	68	24%	131	58%
2	198	221	267	334	439	105	31%	172	64%
3	205	202	229	320	447	127	40%	218	95%
4	144	151	141	201	265	64	32%	124	88%
5	373	420	527	600	728	128	21%	201	38%
6	42	50	39	67	95	28	41%	56	142%
7	122	119	90	108	124	16	15%	34	37%
8	61	66	70	62	158	96	154%	88	125%
9	73	99	86	97	177	80	83%	91	106%
10	144	120	118	125	191	66	53%	73	62%
11	110	103	93	103	95	-9	-8%	2	2%
12	77	56	77	72	92	20	28%	15	20%
13	136	148	148	167	254	87	52%	106	72%
14	252	246	236	321	429	108	34%	193	82%
15	N/A	N/A	N/A	33	89	56	169%	N/A	N/A
Total cases filed by pro se litigants	**2,179**	**2,229**	**2,347**	**2,899**	**3,939**	**1,040**	**36%**	**1,592**	**68%**
New cases filed	**8,034**	**8,668**	**8,988**	**9,641**	**11,603**				
% of new cases filed by pro se litigants	**27%**	**26%**	**26%**	**30%**	**34%**				

Administrator's Statement Exhibit #4

Template of Same-Sized Courts

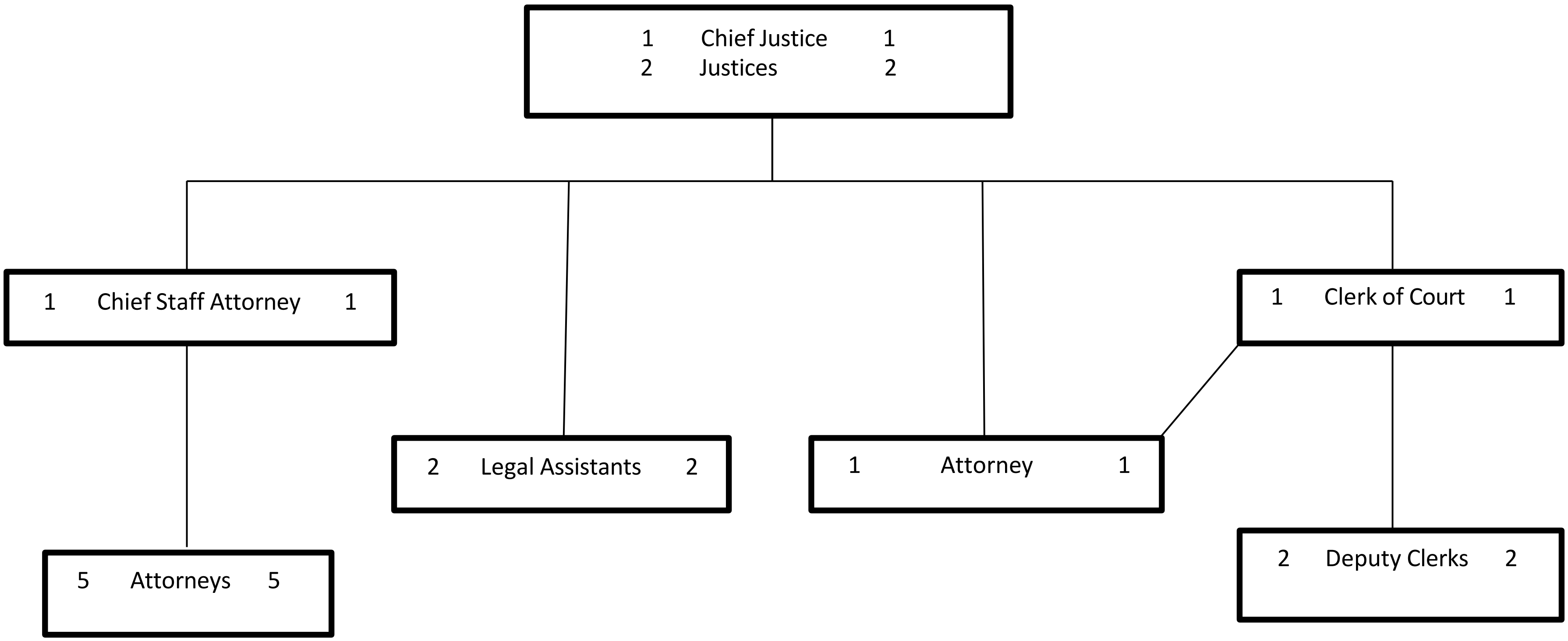
COURT SIZE	NUMBER OF NEW STAFF ATTORNEYS AND/OR STAFF
13 JUSTICES	9
9 JUSTICES	8
6-7 JUSTICES	6
3-4 JUSTICES	4

Administrator's Statement Exhibit 5

	Item	FTE Qty	Qty	Unit Cost	FY 2028	FY 2029	Total		FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032
1001	Salaries and Wages (See detail tab)	**4**	**4**	**$ 142,000**	$ 568,000	$ 568,000	**$ 1,136,000**	1001	$ 568,000	$ 568,000	$ 568,000
1002	Other Personnel Costs (Longevity)	**4**	**4**	**$ 240**	$ 960	$ 960	**$ 1,920**	1002	$ 960	$ 960	$ 960
2001	Professional Fees	**4**	**4**	**$ 1,000**	$ 4,000	$ 4,000	**$ 8,000**	2001	$ 4,000	$ 4,000	$ 4,000
2003	Consumables	**4**	**4**	**$ 500**	$ 2,000	$ 2,000	**$ 4,000**	2003	$ 2,000	$ 2,000	$ 2,000
2005	Travel	**4**	**4**	**$ 1,000**	$ 4,000	$ 4,000	**$ 8,000**	2005	$ 4,000	$ 4,000	$ 4,000
2009	Other Operating Expense (including IT)	**4**	**4**		$ 95,425	$ 26,065	**$ 121,490**	2009	$ 26,065	$ 39,265	$ 26,065
					$ 674,385	$ 605,025	**$ 1,279,410**		$ 605,025	$ 618,225	$ 605,025

Sixth Court of Appeals
Organizational Chart

2027 (2028-29)



CERTIFICATE

Agency Name Sixth Court of Appeals

This is to certify that the information contained in the agency Legislative Appropriations Request 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 House Bill 1, Article IX, Section 7.01, Eighty-eighth Legislature, Regular Session, 2023.

Chief Executive Office or Presiding Judge

Scott Stevens
Signature

Scott E. Stevens
Printed Name

Chief Justice
Title

August 7, 2026
Date

Board or Commission Chair

Signature

Printed Name

Title

Date

Chief Financial Officer

Paul D. Caver, Jr.
Signature

Paul D. Caver, Jr.
Printed Name

Clerk of the Court
Title

August 7, 2026
Date

226 Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana

Appropriation Years: 2028-29

	GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS		GR DEDICATED		FEDERAL FUNDS		OTHER FUNDS		ALL FUNDS		EXCEPTIONAL ITEM FUNDS
	2026-27	2028-29	2026-27	2028-29	2026-27	2028-29	2026-27	2028-29	2026-27	2028-29	2028-29
Goal: 1. Appellate Court Operations											
1.1.1. Appellate Court Operations	3,346,068	3,171,711					4,000	4,000	3,350,068	3,175,711	1,502,113
1.1.2. Appellate Justice Salaries	1,124,160	1,164,410					184,900	184,900	1,309,060	1,349,310	
Total, Goal	**4,470,228**	**4,336,121**					**188,900**	**188,900**	**4,659,128**	**4,525,021**	**1,502,113**
Total, Agency	**4,470,228**	**4,336,121**					**188,900**	**188,900**	**4,659,128**	**4,525,021**	**1,502,113**
Total FTEs									**15.0**	**15.0**	**4.0**

226 Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana

Goal / *Objective* / STRATEGY	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	Req 2028	Req 2029
1 Appellate Court Operations					
1 Appellate Court Operations					
1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	1,583,518	1,675,259	1,674,809	1,587,856	1,587,855
2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	484,951	631,767	677,293	674,655	674,655
TOTAL, GOAL 1	**$2,068,469**	**$2,307,026**	**$2,352,102**	**$2,262,511**	**$2,262,510**
TOTAL, AGENCY STRATEGY REQUEST	**$2,068,469**	**$2,307,026**	**$2,352,102**	**$2,262,511**	**$2,262,510**
TOTAL, AGENCY RIDER APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST*				**$0**	**$0**
GRAND TOTAL, AGENCY REQUEST	**$2,068,469**	**$2,307,026**	**$2,352,102**	**$2,262,511**	**$2,262,510**

226 Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana

Goal / *Objective* / STRATEGY	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	Req 2028	Req 2029
METHOD OF FINANCING:					
General Revenue Funds:					
1 General Revenue Fund	1,974,939	2,212,576	2,257,652	2,168,061	2,168,060
SUBTOTAL	**$1,974,939**	**$2,212,576**	**$2,257,652**	**$2,168,061**	**$2,168,060**
Other Funds:					
573 Judicial Fund	92,450	92,450	92,450	92,450	92,450
666 Appropriated Receipts	1,080	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
SUBTOTAL	**$93,530**	**$94,450**	**$94,450**	**$94,450**	**$94,450**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$2,068,469**	**$2,307,026**	**$2,352,102**	**$2,262,511**	**$2,262,510**

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

Agency code: **226** Agency name: **Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana**

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	Req 2028	Req 2029
GENERAL REVENUE					
1 General Revenue Fund					
REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)	$1,985,353	$0	$0	$0	$0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)	$0	$2,027,413	$2,072,489	$0	$0
RIDER APPROPRIATION					
SB 1, 89th Leg., R.S., Art IX, Sec. 18.83, Contingency for SB 293	$0	$130,325	$130,325	$0	$0
Comments: 25% judicial pay increase					
TRANSFERS					
Art IX, Sec 17.16, Appropriation for a Salary Increase for General State Employees (2024-25 GAA)	$11,500	$0	$0	$0	$0
Comments: 5 percent salary increase effective July 1, 2023					
Art IX, Sec 17.15, Appropriation for a Salary Increase for Licensed Attorneys in Certain Positions					

Agency code: **226** Agency name: **Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana**

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	Req 2028	Req 2029
GENERAL REVENUE					
	$0	$54,838	$54,838	$0	$0
LAPSED APPROPRIATIONS					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)	$(294)	$0	$0	$0	$0
Comments: Lapse of regular appropriations					
UNEXPENDED BALANCES AUTHORITY					
HB 1, 88th Leg., R.S., Art IV, Special Provision, Sec. 9, Unexpended Balance Authority	$43,925	$0	$0	$0	$0
Comments: Transfer of unexpended and uobligated Strategy A.1.1 funds to the next fiscal year within the same biennium					
BASE ADJUSTMENT					
Strategy A.1.2 Appellate Justice Salaries, Estimated and Nontransferable	$(65,545)	$0	$0	$0	$0
Comments: Lapse of estimated and nontransferable Strategy A.1.2 funds due to judge tenure change.					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table	$0	$0	$0	$2,168,061	$2,168,060

Agency code: **226** Agency name: **Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana**

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	Req 2028	Req 2029
GENERAL REVENUE					
TOTAL, General Revenue Fund	**$1,974,939**	**$2,212,576**	**$2,257,652**	**$2,168,061**	**$2,168,060**
TOTAL, ALL GENERAL REVENUE	**$1,974,939**	**$2,212,576**	**$2,257,652**	**$2,168,061**	**$2,168,060**
OTHER FUNDS					
573 Judicial Fund No. 573					
REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)	$92,450	$0	$0	$0	$0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)	$0	$92,450	$92,450	$0	$0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table	$0	$0	$0	$92,450	$92,450
TOTAL, Judicial Fund No. 573	**$92,450**	**$92,450**	**$92,450**	**$92,450**	**$92,450**
666 Appropriated Receipts					
REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS					

Agency code: **226** Agency name: **Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana**

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	Req 2028	Req 2029
OTHER FUNDS					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)	$4,000	$0	$0	$0	$0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)	$0	$2,000	$2,000	$0	$0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table	$0	$0	$0	$2,000	$2,000
LAPSED APPROPRIATIONS					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)	$(2,920)	$0	$0	$0	$0
Comments: Collections less than the Regular Appropriations amount					
TOTAL, Appropriated Receipts	**$1,080**	**$2,000**	**$2,000**	**$2,000**	**$2,000**
TOTAL, ALL OTHER FUNDS	**$93,530**	**$94,450**	**$94,450**	**$94,450**	**$94,450**
GRAND TOTAL	**$2,068,469**	**$2,307,026**	**$2,352,102**	**$2,262,511**	**$2,262,510**

Agency code: **226** Agency name: **Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana**

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	Req 2028	Req 2029
FULL-TIME-EQUIVALENT POSITIONS					
REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)	0.0	15.0	15.0	0.0	0.0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	15.0
UNAUTHORIZED NUMBER OVER (BELOW) CAP					
Unauthorized Number Over (Below) Cap	(0.2)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL, ADJUSTED FTES	**14.8**	**15.0**	**15.0**	**15.0**	**15.0**
NUMBER OF 100% FEDERALLY FUNDED FTEs	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

226 Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana

OBJECT OF EXPENSE	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
1001 SALARIES AND WAGES	$1,819,436	$2,067,938	$2,159,339	$2,081,954	$2,081,953
1002 OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	$128,924	$130,409	$64,840	$43,938	$43,938
2005 TRAVEL	$15,295	$5,855	$23,000	$23,000	$23,000
2009 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	$104,814	$102,824	$104,923	$113,619	$113,619
OOE Total (Excluding Riders)	**$2,068,469**	**$2,307,026**	**$2,352,102**	**$2,262,511**	**$2,262,510**
OOE Total (Riders)					
Grand Total	**$2,068,469**	**$2,307,026**	**$2,352,102**	**$2,262,511**	**$2,262,510**

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

Code	Type of Expense	Expended	Estimated	Budgeted	Requested	Requested
5	Westlaw/Lexis	$29,552	$30,994	$32,500	$36,000	$36,000
26	Books (expensed)	32,216	36,199	36,000	38,000	38,000
27	Membership Dues	2,682	0	2,000	3,000	3,000
51	Other Operating Expenses	14,904	8,345	5,794	7,000	7,000
64	SORM Assessment	1,805	1,445	1,900	1,900	1,900
213	ERS 1% & .5%	18,854	19,690	20,210	21,039	21,039
	Total, Operating Costs	**$100,013**	**$96,673**	**$98,404**	**$106,939**	**$106,939**

BASE REQUEST STRATEGY: 1-1-2 Appellate Justice Salaries. Estimated and Nontransferable

Code	Type of Expense	Expended	Estimated	Budgeted	Requested	Requested
195	Payroll Health Insurance Contrib.	$4,801	$6,256	$6,706	$6,680	$6,680
	Total, Operating Costs	**$4,801**	**$6,256**	**$6,706**	**$6,680**	**$6,680**

2.D. Summary of Base Request Objective Outcomes

90th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1
Automated Budget and Evaluation system of Texas (ABEST)

226 Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana

Goal/ *Objective* / **Outcome**			**Exp 2025**	**Est 2026**	**Bud 2027**	**BL 2028**	**BL 2029**
1	Appellate Court Operations						
	1	*Appellate Court Operations*					
KEY	**1**	**Clearance Rate**					
			100.28%	95.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
KEY	**2**	**Percentage of Cases Under Submission for Less Than One Year**					
			100.00%	99.56%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
KEY	**3**	**Percentage of Cases Pending for Less Than Two Years**					
			100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

DATE: **8/7/2026**
TIME : **5:08:03PM**

Agency code: **226** Agency name: **Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana**

		2028			2029			Biennium	
Priority	**Item**	**GR and GR/GR Dedicated**	**All Funds**	**FTEs**	**GR and GR Dedicated**	**All Funds**	**FTEs**	**GR and GR Dedicated**	**All Funds**
1	Restore 3% Budget Cut	$67,054	$67,054	0.0	$67,053	$67,053	0.0	$134,107	$134,107
2	Additional Staff Attorneys	$674,385	$674,385	4.0	$605,025	$605,025	4.0	$1,279,410	$1,279,410
3	Increase in Staff Salaries	$44,298	$44,298	0.0	$44,298	$44,298	0.0	$88,596	$88,596
Total, Exceptional Items Request		**$785,737**	**$785,737**	**4.0**	**$716,376**	**$716,376**	**4.0**	**$1,502,113**	**$1,502,113**
Method of Financing									
General Revenue		$785,737	$785,737		$716,376	$716,376		$1,502,113	$1,502,113
General Revenue - Dedicated									
Federal Funds									
Other Funds									
		$785,737	**$785,737**		**$716,376**	**$716,376**		**$1,502,113**	**$1,502,113**
Full Time Equivalent Positions				**4.0**			**4.0**		
Number of 100% Federally Funded FTEs				**0.0**			**0.0**		

Agency code: **226** Agency name: **Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana**

Goal/*Objective*/**STRATEGY**	**Base 2028**	**Base 2029**	**Exceptional 2028**	**Exceptional 2029**	**Total Request 2028**	**Total Request 2029**
1 Appellate Court Operations						
1 *Appellate Court Operations*						
1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	$1,587,856	$1,587,855	$785,737	$716,376	$2,373,593	$2,304,231
2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	674,655	674,655	0	0	674,655	674,655
TOTAL, GOAL 1	**$2,262,511**	**$2,262,510**	**$785,737**	**$716,376**	**$3,048,248**	**$2,978,886**
TOTAL, AGENCY STRATEGY REQUEST	**$2,262,511**	**$2,262,510**	**$785,737**	**$716,376**	**$3,048,248**	**$2,978,886**
TOTAL, AGENCY RIDER APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST						
GRAND TOTAL, AGENCY REQUEST	**$2,262,511**	**$2,262,510**	**$785,737**	**$716,376**	**$3,048,248**	**$2,978,886**

Agency code: **226** Agency name: **Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana**

Goal/*Objective*/**STRATEGY**	**Base 2028**	**Base 2029**	**Exceptional 2028**	**Exceptional 2029**	**Total Request 2028**	**Total Request 2029**
General Revenue Funds:						
1 General Revenue Fund	$2,168,061	$2,168,060	$785,737	$716,376	$2,953,798	$2,884,436
	$2,168,061	**$2,168,060**	**$785,737**	**$716,376**	**$2,953,798**	**$2,884,436**
Other Funds:						
573 Judicial Fund	92,450	92,450	0	0	92,450	92,450
666 Appropriated Receipts	2,000	2,000	0	0	2,000	2,000
	$94,450	**$94,450**	**$0**	**$0**	**$94,450**	**$94,450**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$2,262,511**	**$2,262,510**	**$785,737**	**$716,376**	**$3,048,248**	**$2,978,886**
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS	**15.0**	**15.0**	**4.0**	**4.0**	**19.0**	**19.0**

Agency code: **226** Agency name: **Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana**

Goal/ *Objective* / **Outcome**		**BL 2028**	**BL 2029**	**Excp 2028**	**Excp 2029**	**Total Request 2028**	**Total Request 2029**
1	Appellate Court Operations						
1	*Appellate Court Operations*						
KEY	**1 Clearance Rate**						
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
KEY	**2 Percentage of Cases Under Submission for Less Than One Year**						
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
KEY	**3 Percentage of Cases Pending for Less Than Two Years**						
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

226 Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana

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 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
Output Measures:						
1	Number of Civil Cases Disposed	111.00	139.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
2	Number of Criminal Cases Disposed	247.00	228.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
Explanatory/Input Measures:						
1	Number of Civil Cases Filed	99.00	115.00	90.00	100.00	100.00
2	Number of Criminal Cases Filed	170.00	160.00	185.00	185.00	185.00
3	Number of Cases Transferred in	61.00	105.00	50.00	75.00	75.00
4	Number of Cases Transferred out	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Objects of Expense:						
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	$1,339,286	$1,442,427	$1,488,752	$1,413,979	$1,413,978
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	$128,924	$130,409	$64,840	$43,938	$43,938
2005	TRAVEL	$15,295	$5,855	$23,000	$23,000	$23,000
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	$100,013	$96,568	$98,217	$106,939	$106,939
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$1,583,518**	**$1,675,259**	**$1,674,809**	**$1,587,856**	**$1,587,855**
Method of Financing:						
1	General Revenue Fund	$1,582,438	$1,673,259	$1,672,809	$1,585,856	$1,585,855

226 Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana

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 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
SUBTOTAL, MOF (GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS)		**$1,582,438**	**$1,673,259**	**$1,672,809**	**$1,585,856**	**$1,585,855**
Method of Financing:						
666	Appropriated Receipts	$1,080	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
SUBTOTAL, MOF (OTHER FUNDS)		**$1,080**	**$2,000**	**$2,000**	**$2,000**	**$2,000**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (INCLUDING RIDERS)					**$1,587,856**	**$1,587,855**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (EXCLUDING RIDERS)		**$1,583,518**	**$1,675,259**	**$1,674,809**	**$1,587,856**	**$1,587,855**
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:		**11.8**	**12.0**	**12.0**	**12.0**	**12.0**

STRATEGY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The Sixth Court of Appeals was created in 1907 by amendment to Article 1817, V.T.C.S., pursuant to authority granted by Article 5, Section 1, of the Texas Constitution. The Court has intermediate appellate jurisdiction in civil cases where the judgment rendered exceeds $100, exclusive of costs, and other civil proceedings as provided by law, and in criminal cases, except in post-conviction writs of habeas corpus and where the death penalty has been imposed. The Court has jurisdiction in nineteen counties.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY:

Courts of Appeals are, by nature, small entities with highly specialized staff. The main factor which drives this strategy is the need to attract and retain, over the long term, highly trained and knowledgeable staff to work on an increasingly complex and accelerated caseload and dispense justice in a fair and efficient manner.

226 Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana

GOAL: 1 Appellate Court Operations
OBJECTIVE: 1 Appellate Court Operations — Service Categories:
STRATEGY: 1 Appellate Court Operations — Service: 01 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029

EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE (includes Rider amounts):

STRATEGY BIENNIAL TOTAL - ALL FUNDS		BIENNIAL	EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE	
Base Spending (Est 2026 + Bud 2027)	Baseline Request (BL 2028 + BL 2029)	CHANGE	$ Amount	Explanation(s) of Amount (must specify MOFs and FTEs)
$3,350,068	$3,175,711	$(174,357)	$(174,357)	This amount represents the required 3% baseline reduction of $134,107, plus a reduction of an additional $40,250, which was required to be added to GR spending to cover judicial salaries.
			$(174,357)	**Total of Explanation of Biennial Change**

226 Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana

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 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
Objects of Expense:						
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	$480,150	$625,511	$670,587	$667,975	$667,975
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	$4,801	$6,256	$6,706	$6,680	$6,680
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$484,951**	**$631,767**	**$677,293**	**$674,655**	**$674,655**
Method of Financing:						
1	General Revenue Fund	$392,501	$539,317	$584,843	$582,205	$582,205
SUBTOTAL, MOF (GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS)		**$392,501**	**$539,317**	**$584,843**	**$582,205**	**$582,205**
Method of Financing:						
573	Judicial Fund	$92,450	$92,450	$92,450	$92,450	$92,450
SUBTOTAL, MOF (OTHER FUNDS)		**$92,450**	**$92,450**	**$92,450**	**$92,450**	**$92,450**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (INCLUDING RIDERS)					**$674,655**	**$674,655**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (EXCLUDING RIDERS)		**$484,951**	**$631,767**	**$677,293**	**$674,655**	**$674,655**
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:		**3.0**	**3.0**	**3.0**	**3.0**	**3.0**

226 Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana

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 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029

STRATEGY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The 86th Legislature established current levels of judicial compensation that are fixed by statute and added Strategy A.1.2., Appellate Justice Salaries, which holds estimated and nontransferable funds that are dedicated to judicial salaries and cannot be spent on any other category of appellate court operations.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY:

Judicial salaries are established by statute and cannot be reduced by the court. The court cannot predict with certainty the exact funding needs for judicial salaries in the future due to unforeseeable changes to the composition of the court that may arise as a result of elections, resignations, retirements, or deaths. The estimated and nontransferable funds in Strategy A.1.2. are expected to fluctuate throughout the biennium due to changes in the makeup of the court.

EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE (includes Rider amounts):

STRATEGY BIENNIAL TOTAL - ALL FUNDS		BIENNIAL	EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE	
Base Spending (Est 2026 + Bud 2027)	Baseline Request (BL 2028 + BL 2029)	CHANGE	$ Amount	Explanation(s) of Amount (must specify MOFs and FTEs)
$1,309,060	$1,349,310	$40,250	$40,250	Due to the years of service of the current justices on the court, the justices salaries, which are statutorily mandated, are expected to increase by this amount.
			$40,250	**Total of Explanation of Biennial Change**

SUMMARY TOTALS:

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:	**$2,068,469**	**$2,307,026**	**$2,352,102**	**$2,262,511**	**$2,262,510**
METHODS OF FINANCE (INCLUDING RIDERS):				**$2,262,511**	**$2,262,510**
METHODS OF FINANCE (EXCLUDING RIDERS):	**$2,068,469**	**$2,307,026**	**$2,352,102**	**$2,262,511**	**$2,262,510**
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:	**14.8**	**15.0**	**15.0**	**15.0**	**15.0**

3.B. Rider Revisions and Additions Request

Agency Code:	Agency Name:	Prepared By:	Date:	Request Level:
226	Court of Appeals, District			Baseline

Current Rider Number	Page Number in 2026–2027 GAA	Proposed Rider Language
2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8		**No changes recommended for Riders 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8**
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 ~~2026~~2028 and ~~2027~~2029, 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. ***Adjusting the years in the rider for the 2028-2029 biennium.***
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, 15 Courts of Appeals, Office of Court Administration, Office of Capital and Forensic Writs, Office of the State Prosecuting Attorney, State Commission on Judicial Conduct, and State Law Library as of August 31, ~~2026~~2028, are appropriated to the respective court or agency for the fiscal year beginning September 1, ~~2026~~2028, for the same purpose. ***Updating the rider to adjust the years for the 2028-2029 biennium.***
701	IV	**Mileage Reimbursement for Appellate Court Staff.** Appellate court staff who travel regularly to hear case dockets may be reimbursed for mileage at the state-approved rate when they travel for official state business in a personal vehicle. These staff are also exempt from the requirement to complete a comparison worksheet showing that mileage reimbursement for travel in a personal vehicle is more cost-effective than the use of a rental car.

Requesting addition of the cost comparison exemption for the appellate courts that is afforded to the other court personnel within the judiciary.

Agency code: **226** Agency name: **Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Restoration of 3% Budget Cut
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

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	67,054	67,053
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$67,054**	**$67,053**

METHOD OF FINANCING:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1	General Revenue Fund	67,054	67,053
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$67,054**	**$67,053**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

To address the highly negative and disproportionate impact of the required 3% reduction on the courts' funding, especially in light of the substantial increase in new case filings in Fiscal Year '26, the courts of appeals respectfully submit Exceptional Item #1 requesting the restoration of the 3% budget reduction so that their baseline funding will be the Fiscal Year 2027 budgeted levels. The Sixth Court of Appeals therefore respectfully requests a restoration to General Revenue funding in the amount of $134,107.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

Unlike other state agencies, 96.5% of each court of appeals' budget, on average, is dedicated to salaries and benefits. This budget reduction would thus result in a disproportionate and highly negative impact on the courts of appeals. The only way to absorb such a budget reduction is to cut court staff. This is counter-intuitive and unsustainable in light of the substantial increase in new case filings.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

Agency code: **226** Agency name: **Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Additional Full-Time Staff Attorneys Due to the Substantial Increase in New Case Filings
Item Priority: 2
IT Component: No
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: No
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 01-01-01 Appellate Court Operations

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	568,000	568,000
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	960	960
2005	TRAVEL	4,000	4,000
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	101,425	32,065
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$674,385**	**$605,025**

METHOD OF FINANCING:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1	General Revenue Fund	674,385	605,025
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$674,385**	**$605,025**
	FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS (FTE):	4.00	4.00

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

Due to the substantial increase in new case filings that the courts of appeals are experiencing in FY '26, and which are expected to continue for the foreseeable future, and based on the template of same-size courts above, the Sixth Court of Appeals respectfully submits its Exceptional Item #2, in which it requests funding for 4 additional, full-time staff attorneys.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

These additional staff attorneys are necessary because the Sixth Court of Appeals has experienced a 2% increase in new case filings from FY ’25 to FY ’26. And a 9% increase from FY ’24 to FY ‘26. More significantly, after transfers, the Sixth Court of Appeals has experienced a 15% increase in new case filing from FY ’25 to FY ’26, and a 23% increase from FY ’24 to FY’26. These increases are beyond the current capacity of the Sixth Court of Appeals to handle and comply with the 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) and also comply with the legislatively mandated Clearance Rate requirement.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

Agency code: **226** Agency name: **Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

The addition of full-time FTEs will result in continuing salary and other incidental costs.

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$605,025	$618,225	$605,025

Agency code: **226** Agency name: **Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Increase in Staff Salaries
Item Priority: 3
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

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	44,298	44,298
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$44,298**	**$44,298**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	44,298	44,298
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$44,298**	**$44,298**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

Recruiting and retaining excellent judicial-branch staff is essential to the fair and efficient administration of justice in Texas. The rising cost of living combined with the draw of more lucrative employment at other government agencies and the private sector continue to create staffing challenges for the courts. A 3% annual increase in staff pay throughout the Article IV courts and agencies would help maintain the judicial branch's position in the competitive market for talented, qualified, and experienced lawyers and staff. In conjunction with the rest of the judicial branch, the Sixth Court of Appeals requests a 3% increase in staff salaries in Fiscal Year 28 and an additional 3% increase in Fiscal Year 29.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

The rising cost of living combined with the draw of more lucrative employment at other government agencies and the private sector continue to create staffing challenges for the courts.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

Agency code: **226** Agency name: **Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana**

Code Description		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
Item Name:	Restoration of 3% Budget Cut		
Allocation to Strategy:	1-1-1 Appellate Court Operations		
STRATEGY IMPACT ON OUTCOME MEASURES:			
1	Clearance Rate	100.00%	100.00%
2	Percentage of Cases Under Submission for Less Than One Year	100.00%	100.00%
3	Percentage of Cases Pending for Less Than Two Years	100.00%	100.00%
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	67,054	67,053
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$67,054**	**$67,053**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	67,054	67,053
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING		**$67,054**	**$67,053**
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS (FTE):		0.0	0.0

Agency code: **226** Agency name: **Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana**

Code	Description	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
Item Name:	Additional Full-Time Staff Attorneys Due to the Substantial Increase in New Case Filings		
Allocation to Strategy:	1-1-1 Appellate Court Operations		
STRATEGY IMPACT ON OUTCOME MEASURES:			
1	Clearance Rate	100.00%	100.00%
2	Percentage of Cases Under Submission for Less Than One Year	100.00%	100.00%
3	Percentage of Cases Pending for Less Than Two Years	100.00%	100.00%
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	568,000	568,000
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	960	960
2005	TRAVEL	4,000	4,000
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	101,425	32,065
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$674,385**	**$605,025**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	674,385	605,025
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING		**$674,385**	**$605,025**
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS (FTE):		4.0	4.0

Agency code: **226** Agency name: **Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana**

Code Description		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
Item Name:	Increase in Staff Salaries		
Allocation to Strategy:	1-1-1 Appellate Court Operations		
STRATEGY IMPACT ON OUTCOME MEASURES:			
1	Clearance Rate	100.00%	100.00%
2	Percentage of Cases Under Submission for Less Than One Year	100.00%	100.00%
3	Percentage of Cases Pending for Less Than Two Years	100.00%	100.00%
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	44,298	44,298
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$44,298**	**$44,298**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	44,298	44,298
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING		**$44,298**	**$44,298**
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS (FTE):		0.0	0.0

Agency Code: **226** Agency name: **Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana**

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 2028**	**Excp 2029**
STRATEGY IMPACT ON OUTCOME MEASURES:			
1	Clearance Rate	100.00 %	100.00 %
2	Percentage of Cases Under Submission for Less Than One Year	100.00 %	100.00 %
3	Percentage of Cases Pending for Less Than Two Years	100.00 %	100.00 %
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	679,352	679,351
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	960	960
2005	TRAVEL	4,000	4,000
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	101,425	32,065
	Total, Objects of Expense	**$785,737**	**$716,376**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	785,737	716,376
	Total, Method of Finance	**$785,737**	**$716,376**
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS (FTE):		4.0	4.0

EXCEPTIONAL ITEM(S) INCLUDED IN STRATEGY:

Restoration of 3% Budget Cut

Additional Full-Time Staff Attorneys Due to the Substantial Increase in New Case Filings

Increase in Staff Salaries

Agency Code: **226** Agency: **Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana**

COMPARISON TO STATEWIDE HUB PROCUREMENT GOALS

A. Fiscal Year - HUB Expenditure Information

Statewide HUB Goals	Procurement Category	HUB Expenditures FY 2024 % Goal	% Actual	Diff	Actual $	Total Expenditures FY 2024	HUB Expenditures FY 2025 % Goal	% Actual	Diff	Actual $	Total Expenditures FY 2025
11.2%	Heavy Construction	0.0 %	0.0%	0.0%	$0	$0	0.0 %	0.0%	0.0%	$0	$0
21.1%	Building Construction	0.0 %	0.0%	0.0%	$0	$0	0.0 %	0.0%	0.0%	$0	$0
32.9%	Special Trade	0.0 %	0.0%	0.0%	$0	$0	0.0 %	0.0%	0.0%	$0	$0
23.7%	Professional Services	0.0 %	0.0%	0.0%	$0	$0	0.0 %	0.0%	0.0%	$0	$0
26.0%	Other Services	26.0 %	0.0%	-26.0%	$0	$24,204	26.0 %	0.0%	-26.0%	$0	$14,610
21.1%	Commodities	21.1 %	0.0%	-21.1%	$0	$5,520	21.1 %	0.0%	-21.1%	$0	$0
	Total Expenditures		**0.0%**		**$0**	**$29,724**		**0.0%**		**$0**	**$14,610**

B. Assessment of Attainment of HUB Procurement Goals

Attainment:

The Court did not attain either of the applicable statewide HUB procurement goals for FY24 or FY25.

Applicability:

The "Heavy Construction," "Building Construction," "Special Trade," and "Professional Services" categories were not applicable to court operation in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 since the court did not have any strategies or programs related to those categories.

Factors Affecting Attainment:

In fiscal years 2024 and 2025, the goal for "Other Services was not met since there were no HUB vendors for the court's legal research purchases. Library maintenance and legal research are sole source purchases and represent the bulk of the court's expenditures in this category.

The "Commodities" category was not met in 2024 as most of the court's expenditures in that category were for items on state contract or for specialized items not available from HUB vendors. This category was not met for 2025 as the court had no expenditures in the category during that year.

C. Good-Faith Efforts to Increase HUB Participation

Outreach Efforts and Mentor-Protégé Programs:

With limited personnel and minimal spending outside state contract items or sole source purchases, the court does not participate in outreach efforts. However, the court makes efforts to identify HUB vendors when feasible.

Agency Code: **226** Agency: **Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana**

HUB Program Staffing:

With only 15 employees, the court has no FTE staffing dedicated to increasing HUB participation

Current and Future Good-Faith Efforts:

The court continues to make good faith effort in giving HUB vendors preference when possible.

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

ESTIMATED GRAND TOTAL OF AGENCY FUNDS OUTSIDE THE 2028-29 GAA BILL PATTERN	**$ 184,000**

Appellate Judicial System Funds

Estimated Beginning Balance in FY 2026	$	102,583
Estimated Revenues FY 2026	$	39,000
Estimated Revenues FY 2027	$	42,000
FY 2024-25 Total	$	183,583
Estimated Beginning Balance in FY 2028	$	100,000
Estimated Revenues FY 2028	$	42,000
Estimated Revenues FY 2029	$	42,000
FY 2026-27 Total	$	184,000

Constitutional or Statutory Creation and Use of Funds:

Texas Government Code Sec. 22.229 --Appelllate Judicial System Fund. An appellate judicial system fund is established for each court of appeals. To fund the appellate judicial system, each county treasurer shall allocate to the fund the percentage of the local consolidated fiing fee provided by Section 135.101(b)(1) or 135.102(b)(1), Local Government Code. Funds received from such fees shall be used to assist the court of appeals in the processing of appeals and to defray costs and expenses incurred in the operaaion of the court of appeals.

Method of Calculation and Revenue Assumptions:

In accordance with the above referenced statute, the district and county clerks of the various courts in the 19 counties that make up the Sixth Court of Appeals District are to collect and remit a percentage of the filing fee on each civil suit filed in a county court, statutory county court, probate court, or district court. Each county in two appellate districts splits its funds between the two appellate courts. The number of civil suits filed determines the actual revenue received.