

UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE
Salaries and Expenses
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT REQUIREMENTS

	Mandatory	Discretionary	Total
Total Fiscal Year 2025 Enacted Appropriation	\$2,516,000	\$21,260,000	\$23,776,000
Total Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation Request	\$2,553,000	\$22,375,000	\$24,928,000
Total Requested Increase from Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriation	\$37,000	\$1,115,000	\$1,152,000

APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE

UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries of officers and employees of the court, services, and necessary expenses of the court, as authorized by law, [\$21,260,000]\$22,375,000 . In addition, there are appropriated such sums as may be necessary under current law for the salaries of the chief judge and judges of the court.

Based on enactment of the FY 2025 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act (P.L. 119-4), the judiciary’s starting point for developing its FY 2026 budget request reflects bill language and appropriations levels enacted in the FY 2024 Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill (division B, title III, P.L. 118-47).

SUMMARY OF REQUEST
UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
FY 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Fiscal Year 2026 Resource Requirements:

	Mandatory		Discretionary		Total	
	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fiscal Year 2025 Assumed Obligations	9	2,516	68	22,678	77	25,194
Obligations of Judiciary Information Technology Fund Balances	-	-	-	(1,418)	-	(1,418)
Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations.....	9	2,516	68	21,260	77	23,776

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No. Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services:

A. Judges

Pay and Benefit Adjustments

3.9	1. Annualization of 2025 Pay Adjustment (1.7% for three months).....	-	10	-	-	-	10
3.9	2. Benefits Increases	-					
	a. Health Benefits.....	-	23	-	-	-	23
	b. FICA Adjustment.....	-	4	-	-	-	4

B. Personnel

Pay and Benefit Adjustments

3.10	3. Annualization of 2025 Pay Adjustment (2.0% for three months).....	-	-	-	42	-	42
3.10	4. Promotions and Within-grade Increases.....	-	-	-	62	-	62
3.10	5. Benefits Increases						
	a. Health Benefits.....	-	-	-	259	-	259
	b. FICA Adjustment.....	-	-	-	4	-	4

C. Other Adjustments

General Inflationary Adjustments

3.10	6. Inflationary Increases in Charges for Contracts, Services, Supplies, and Equipment.....	-	-	-	55	-	55
3.11	7. GSA Rent Increase.....	-	-	-	156	-	156
3.11	8. Increase in FPS Basic/Building Specific Security Surcharges.....	-	-	-	10	-	10
	Subtotal, Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services.....	-	37	-	588	-	625

D. Program Increase

3.11	9. Courthouse Security (Re-request).....	-	-	-	527	-	527
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FY 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	Mandatory		Discretionary		Total	
	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Subtotal, Program Increases.....	-	-	-	527	-	527
Total Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation Required.....	9	2,553	68	22,375	77	24,928
Total Appropriation Change, Fiscal Year 2025 to Fiscal Year 2026.....	-	37	-	1,115	-	1,152

	Total Appropriation Required, Fiscal Year 2026.....	9	2,553	68	22,375	77	24,928
3.11	Obligations of Judiciary Information Technology Fund Balances	-	-	-	130	-	130
	Total Estimated Obligations, Fiscal Year 2026.....	9	2,553	68	22,505	77	25,058

**UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE
SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

Obligations by Activity (\$000)

Activity	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request
Salaries and Expenses, Total Obligations	24,559	25,194	25,058
Unobligated Balance, Start of Year			
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	-1,765	-1,488	-100
Deposits and Other Adjustments:			
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	-1,110	-	-
Prior Year Recoveries	-71	-30	-30
Unobligated Balance, End of Year			
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	1,488	100	-
<i>Subtotal, Other Obligations</i>	<i>-1,458</i>	<i>-1,418</i>	<i>-130</i>
Direct Obligations	23,101	23,776	24,928
Unobligated Balance, End of Year	366	-	-
Offsetting Collections	-	-	-
Appropriation Required (Direct)	23,467	23,776	24,928
Appropriation Required - Mandatory	2,207	2,516	2,553
Appropriation Required - Discretionary	21,260	21,260	22,375

Object Classification (\$000)

Description	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request
11 Personnel Compensation	9,115	10,235	10,349
12 Personnel Benefits	2,709	3,202	3,492
21 Travel	86	100	102
22 Transportation of Things	17	21	21
23 Rent, Communications, and Utilities			
<i>Rental Payments to GSA</i>	7,860	7,820	7,976
<i>Communications, Utilities & Misc. Charges</i>	22	23	24
24 Printing and Reproduction	2	3	3
25 Other Services	1,966	2,112	2,163
26 Supplies and Materials	42	25	26
31 Equipment	172	235	772
91 Undefined Disbursements	1,110	-	-
Direct Obligations	23,101	23,776	24,928
Other Obligations (JITF Obligations)	1,458	1,418	130
Total Obligations	24,559	25,194	25,058

UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Salaries & Expenses

Relation of Obligations to Outlays (\$000)

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request	Difference (+) or (-)
Obligations Incurred	23,101	23,776	24,928	1,152
Obligated Balance, Start of Year	2,205	2,305	2,337	32
Adjustment of Prior Year Activity	(201)	-	-	-
Obligated Balance, End of Year	(2,305)	(2,320)	(2,394)	(74)
Total Outlays	22,800	23,761	24,871	1,110
Less Offsets	-	-	-	-
Net Outlays	22,800	23,761	24,871	1,110

Personnel Summary

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request	Difference (+) or (-)
Full-time Equivalents (FTEs)	67	77	77	-

UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Summary of Mandatory Costs (\$000)

	<u>FY 2025</u>		<u>FY 2026</u>		
	<u>No. of Judgeships</u>	<u>Compensation and Benefits</u>	<u>No. of Judgeships</u>	<u>Compensation and Benefits</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Article III Judges	9	2,516	9	2,553	37

GENERAL STATEMENT AND INFORMATION

The United States Court of International Trade (the Court), with nine authorized Article III judgeships, has exclusive nationwide jurisdiction of civil actions against the United States, its agencies and officers, and certain civil actions brought by the United States, arising out of import transactions and the administration and enforcement of the federal customs and international trade laws. In keeping with its national jurisdiction, sessions of the Court may be held throughout the country.

The funds requested in this account are for the salaries of the judges and supporting personnel of the Court of International Trade, located in Manhattan, New York, and the necessary operating expenses of the Court. These operating expenses include internal courthouse security, Federal Protective Service (FPS) surcharges for basic and building-specific security services, General Services Administration (GSA) rent charges, travel, equipment maintenance contracts, cyclical maintenance of the facility, printing and binding, general office supplies, purchase or repair of office equipment and furniture, access to legal research databases, and acquisition and maintenance of legal reference materials.

The fiscal year (FY) 2026 request for the Court of International Trade totals \$24,928,000 to support the operations of the Court at current service levels and to make improvements in the physical security of the court's facilities. The request includes \$2,553,000 for mandatory appropriations and \$22,375,000 for discretionary appropriations.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 APPROPRIATION

Based on enactment of the FY 2025 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act (P.L. 119-4), the judiciary's starting point for developing its FY 2026 budget request reflects bill language and appropriations levels enacted in the FY 2024 Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill (division B, title III, P.L. 118-47). The FY 2025 enacted discretionary funding level of \$21,260,000 represents a reduction of \$1,524,000 from the judiciary's FY 2025 conference appeal, which would delay the implementation of critical physical security initiatives, prevent replacement of outdated or failing security system equipment, and require the Court to leave certain critical positions vacant.

The table below provides caseload data of the Court for FY 2020 through FY 2024.

Civil Action Cases

Fiscal Year	Pending Beginning of Year	Filed	Terminated	Pending End of Year
2020	1,083	3,670	482	4,271
2021	4,271	781	362	4,690
2022	4,690	373	418	4,645
2023	4,645	273	290	4,628
2024	4,628	252	259	4,621

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

The FY 2026 budget request for the Court includes \$2,553,000 for mandatory appropriations and \$22,375,000 for discretionary appropriations. The discretionary request is a 5.2 percent increase over the FY 2025 enacted appropriation of \$21,260,000. The total increase reflects the necessary adjustments to base to maintain current services, and the Court requests one program increase in FY 2026.

ADJUSTMENTS TO BASE TO MAINTAIN CURRENT SERVICES

The following narrative provides information and justification for each of the adjustments to base for the Court.

A. JUDGES

Pay and Benefit Adjustments

1. Annualization of 2025 pay adjustment

Mandatory Increase: \$10,000

The requested increase provides for the annualized costs of the 2025 pay adjustment of 1.7 percent for judges, effective as of January 2025. The requested increase provides for the cost associated with three months of the 2025 pay increase (from October to December 2025) in FY 2026.

2. Benefits increases

a. Health benefits

Mandatory Increase: \$23,000

Based on information from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), agency health benefit premium contributions are projected to increase by an average of 5.0 percent in January 2025 and 10.1 percent January 2026. The requested increase annualizes the 2025 premium increase and includes a nine-month provision for the increase anticipated for FY 2026.

b. FICA adjustment

Mandatory Increase: \$4,000

Based on information from the Social Security Administration, employer contributions to the Old Age, Survivor, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) portion of the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) tax increased in 2025. The salary cap for OASDI increased from \$168,600 to \$176,100 in January 2025. The requested amount is needed to pay the judiciary's contribution in FY 2026.

B. PERSONNEL

Pay and Benefit Adjustments

3. Annualization of 2025 pay adjustment

Requested Increase: \$42,000

The requested increase provides for the annualized costs of the 2025 pay adjustment of 2.0 percent, effective January 2025. The requested increase provides for the cost associated with three months of the 2025 pay increase (from October to December 2025) in FY 2026.

4. Promotions and within-grade increases

Requested Increase: \$62,000

The requested increase provides for promotions and within-grade increases for personnel. The salary plan for judicial support personnel provides for periodic within-grade increases for staff who receive a performance rating of satisfactory or higher.

5. Benefits increases

a. Health benefits

Requested Increase: \$259,000

Based on information from OPM, health benefit premium contributions are projected to increase by an average of 5.0 percent in January 2025 and 10.1 percent in January 2026. The requested increase annualizes the 2025 premium increase and includes a nine-month provision for the increase anticipated for FY 2026.

b. FICA adjustment

Requested Increase: \$4,000

Based on information from the Social Security Administration, employer contributions to the OASDI portion of the FICA tax increased in 2025. The salary cap for OASDI increased from \$168,600 to \$176,100 in January 2025. The requested amount is needed to pay the judiciary's contribution in FY 2026.

C. OTHER ADJUSTMENTS

General Inflationary Adjustments

6. Inflationary increases in charges for contracts, services, supplies, and equipment

Requested Increase: \$55,000

Consistent with guidance from OMB, the requested increase is required to fund inflationary adjustments of 2.1 percent for operating expenses such as travel, communications, printing, contractual services, supplies and materials, and furniture and equipment.

7. GSA rent increase

Requested Increase: \$156,000

This request represents an FY 2026 2.0 percent inflationary increase in the cost of General Services Administration (GSA) space rental charges.

8. Increase in Federal Protective Service (FPS) basic/ building specific security surcharges

Requested Increase: \$10,000

Based on the Department of Homeland Security's FPS's estimate, this requested increase is required in basic and building specific security surcharge costs expected in FY 2026. The building specific security surcharges provide for the Court's pro rata share of installing, operating, and maintaining the enhanced security for the Federal Complex in lower Manhattan.

D. PROGRAM INCREASE

9. Courthouse Security (Re-request)

Requested Increase: \$527,000

This request will fund the replacement, installation, and implementation of various critical courthouse security systems. The requested funds will update and integrate the Physical Access Control System (PACS); replace failing security cameras; add necessary duress alarm and intrusion detection systems within the building; and add emergency entry control devices for sensitive areas.

FINANCING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 REQUEST

Obligations of Electronic Public Access Receipts (EPA) and Judiciary Information Technology Fund (JITF) Balances

Estimated Obligations: \$130,000

At the beginning of FY 2025, \$1,518,000 was available in carryforward balances from the JITF, including \$30,000 from EPA receipts. Of this amount, the Court is planning to use \$1,418,000 during FY 2025 to:

- install audio/video technology for use in courtrooms;
- license and maintain the court's IT hardware and software applications;
- replace network switches that have reached end of life;

- maintain and support digital recording systems, data network and voice connections, Virtual Private Network System (VPN), Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP), and Judiciary Data Communications Network (DCN); and
- procure computer desktop systems and laptops according to the judiciary's cyclical replacement program.

At the beginning of FY 2026, the Court anticipates that \$130,000 will be available in carryforward balances into the JTF, including \$30,000 of EPA receipts. These funds will be used to continue the Court's information technology initiatives as described above and to support its short-term and long-term IT needs.