

COURTS OF APPEALS, DISTRICT COURTS, AND OTHER JUDICIAL SERVICES

Court Security

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT REQUIREMENTS

Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation	\$892,032,000
Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriation Request	\$920,929,000
Requested Increase from Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation	\$28,897,000

APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE

COURTS OF APPEALS, DISTRICT COURTS, AND OTHER JUDICIAL SERVICES

**COURT SECURITY
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, incident to the provision of protective guard services for United States courthouses and other facilities housing Federal court or Administrative Office of the United States Courts operations, the procurement, installation, and maintenance of security systems and equipment for United States courthouses and other facilities housing Federal court or Administrative Office of the United States Courts operations, building ingress-egress control, inspection of mail and packages, directed security patrols, perimeter security, basic security services provided by the Federal Protective Service, and other similar activities as authorized by section 1010 of the Judicial Improvement and Access to Justice Act (Public Law 100-702), [\$892,032,000]~~\$920,929,000~~ of which not to exceed [\$20,000,000]~~\$30,000,000~~ shall remain available until expended, to be expended directly or transferred to the United States Marshals Service, which shall be responsible for administering the Judicial Facility Security Program consistent with standards or guidelines agreed to by the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and the Attorney General: Provided, That funds made available under this heading may be used for managing a Judiciary-wide program to facilitate security and emergency management services among the Judiciary, United States Marshals Service, Federal Protective Service, General Services Administration, other Federal agencies, state and local governments and the public; and for purposes authorized by the Daniel Aderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-263, Division C, Title LIX, subtitle D) and 28 U.S.C. 604(a)(24).

(Division E, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 – P.L. 119-75)

Explanation of Changes

The judiciary proposes to increase the no-year transfer limitation in appropriations language from \$20 million to \$30 million in order to keep pace with increases to the total appropriation in the account. This limitation was last increased in FY 2017, when the enacted limitation was 3.6 percent of the court security appropriation. Increasing the limitation to \$30 million would increase the limit from 2.2 percent to 3.3 percent of the FY 2027 request level.

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST
COURT SECURITY
FISCAL YEAR 2027
(Dollar amounts in thousands)**

<u>Page</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2027 Resource Requirements:</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	FY 2026 Total Available Resources (Annual Appropriation, Supplemental Funds, Prior Year Funds)	104.5	926,784
	Total FY 2026 Obligations	104.5	926,784
	Less Encumbered Carryforward from FY 2025 into FY 2026	-	(7,325)
	Less Unencumbered Carryforward and Recoveries from Prior Years into FY 2026	-	(9,205)
	Less FY 2026 Obligations Associated with Courthouse Hardening Supplemental Funds	-	(18,222)
	Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation	104.5	892,032
	 <u>A. Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services:</u>		
	Pay and Benefits Adjustments		
7.15	1. Annualization of January 2026 Pay Adjustment (1.0% non-law enforcement, 3.8% law enforcement for 3 months)	-	65
7.15	2. Promotions and Within-grade Increases	-	170
	3. Benefits Adjustments		
7.15	a. Health Benefits Increases	-	103
7.15	b. FICA Adjustment	-	9
7.16	c. FERS Adjustment	-	(105)
7.16	4. FY 2027 Court Security Officer (CSO) Contract and Wage Rate Adjustments (3.0%)	-	16,889
7.16	5. Annualization for new USMS positions	0.5	148
7.16	6. Inflationary Increases in Charges for Contracts, Services, Supplies, and Equipment	-	851
7.16	7. Increase in GSA Space Rental Costs	-	162
	8. Changes in Federal Protective Service (FPS) Security Charges		
7.16	a. Increase in Basic Security Charges	-	995
7.17	b. Increase in Building-specific Security Charges	-	1,960
7.17	9. Adjustments to Base Requirements for Security Systems and Equipment	-	2,650
	Subtotal, Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services	0.5	23,897
	Total Current Services Appropriation Required	105.0	915,929
	 <u>B. Program Increases:</u>		
7.20	10. FPS Countermeasure Projects	-	5,000
	Subtotal, Program Increases	-	5,000
	 Total Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriation Required	105.0	920,929
	Total Appropriation Increase, Fiscal Year 2026 to Fiscal Year 2027	0.5	28,897
	 <u>Financing the Fiscal Year 2027 Request:</u>		
	Total Appropriation Required	105.0	920,929
7.20	11. Anticipated Unencumbered Carryforward from FY 2026 and Prior Years into FY 2027	-	9,205
	Estimated Obligations, Fiscal Year 2027	105.0	930,134

COURTS OF APPEALS, DISTRICT COURTS, AND OTHER JUDICIAL SERVICES
COURT SECURITY
Obligations by Activity (\$000)

Activity	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
Total Obligations	804,037	926,784	930,134
Unobligated Balance, Start of Year:			
Court Security (no-year funding)	(24,596)	(16,530)	(9,205)
Emergency Supplemental (no-year) ¹	(55,961)	(18,222)	-
PY Recoveries	(2,221)	-	-
Transfers to Court Security No-year Account	(18,669)	(9,205)	(9,205)
Unobligated Balance, End of Year:			
Court Security (expiring annual)	12,820	-	-
Emergency Supplemental (no-year) ¹	18,222	-	-
Court Security (no-year)	16,530	9,205	9,205
Appropriation	750,163	892,032	920,929

¹ Congress provided \$112.5 million in supplemental no-year funding for courthouse hardening in the FY 2023 Continuing Resolution. A balance remained at the end of FY 2025, which continues to be obligated until the funding is fully exhausted.

Obligations by Budget Object Class (\$000)

Description	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
11.1 Full-Time Permanent	11,949	13,435	13,398
11.3 Full-Time Temporary Positions	488	518	517
12.1 Civilian Personnel Benefits	4,899	5,522	5,743
21.0 Travel and Transportation of Persons	734	1,514	1,545
22.0 Transportation of Things	28	45	46
23.1 Rental Payments to GSA	6,793	7,081	7,230
23.2 Rental Payments to Other	5	6	6
23.3 Communications, Utilities, and Miscellaneous Charges	1,728	1,802	1,840
25.1 Advisory and Assistance Services	1,803	1,841	1,880
25.2 Other Services from Non-Federal Sources	19,612	20,024	20,445
25.3 Other Goods and Services from Federal Sources	101,905	104,962	111,260
25.4 Operation and Maintenance of Facilities	538,133	656,193	668,598
25.7 Operation and Maintenance of Equipment	39,219	40,043	40,883
26.0 Supplies and Materials	213	2,274	2,322
31.0 Equipment	52,206	53,302	54,422
32.0 Land and Structures	24,323	18,222	-
42.0 Insurance Claims and Indemnities	-	-	-
Direct Obligations	804,037	926,784	930,134

**COURTS OF APPEALS, DISTRICT COURTS, AND OTHER JUDICIAL SERVICES
COURT SECURITY**

Relation of Direct Obligations to Outlays (\$000)

	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
Direct Obligations	804,037	926,784	930,134
Obligated Balance, Start of Year	337,318	326,361	382,086
Adjustments for Prior Year Activity	(7,384)	0	0
Obligated Balance, End of Year	(326,361)	(382,086)	(387,421)
Total Outlays	807,610	871,059	924,798
Less Offsets	(2,101)	(2,122)	(2,143)
Net Outlays	805,509	868,937	922,655

Personnel Summary

	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
Full-time Equivalents (USMS FTE)	84.0	104.5	105.0

GENERAL STATEMENT AND INFORMATION

The Court Security appropriation funds the necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, incident to the provision of protective guard services, and the procurement, installation, and maintenance of security systems and equipment for United States (U.S.) courthouses and other facilities housing federal court operations. This includes building access control, inspection of mail and packages, directed security patrols, perimeter security, other similar activities as authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 604(a)(22), and managing a judiciary-wide program to facilitate security and emergency management services among the judiciary, U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), Federal Protective Service (FPS), General Services Administration (GSA), other federal agencies, state and local governments, and the public.

Federal courthouses are often the most visible symbols of the U.S. government presence in communities outside of Washington, D.C., and, as such, may be vulnerable to terrorist attacks. In addition, the judicial process compels the attendance of alleged and convicted criminals to its facilities daily, which invites additional risks. At the same time, witnesses, jurors, family members of the alleged or convicted criminals, members of the Bar of the Court, the press, court employees, and the public must be able to enter and use the buildings. Maintaining the proper balance between ensuring an open court system and having secure court facilities is a complex task given the increasing number of threats against the federal judiciary.

As of March 2026, there continues to be a significant increase in hostile communications directed at the judiciary. According to USMS statistics, hostile communications increased by more than 50 percent in fiscal year (FY) 2025. USMS reported 808 incidents of significant concern as potential threats, violence, or danger directed at federal judges, 564 of which were classified as threats to specific federal judges after initial investigations occurred. These communications and threats underline the importance of ensuring that the Court Security account is fully resourced to protect courthouses, other court-occupied facilities, and their occupants.

The FY 2027 Court Security appropriation request of \$920.9 million will provide the appropriate level of security at existing court facilities as well as new and renovated facilities. The requested funds will also allow the judiciary to reinvigorate and make progress on several existing major strategic security initiatives that returned to full funding levels in FY 2026 after two years of flat funding for this account, including equipment modernization and cyclical replacement for physical access control systems (PACS), video management systems (VMS), and other equipment; additional Vulnerability Management Program (VMP) requirements; USMS staffing requirements; and court security officer (CSO) requirements.

SECURING THE COURTS

Court security is provided jointly by the Department of Justice's (DOJ) USMS and the Department of Homeland Security's FPS. By statute, the USMS has primary responsibility for the security of the federal judiciary, including the safe conduct of court proceedings, as well as the security of federal judges and court personnel at court facilities and off-site. The security that FPS provides may include, to varying degrees, entry screening, perimeter patrols, garage access control, and mail and package screening.

USMS PROTECTION

The USMS is responsible for the security of the judiciary (28 U.S.C. §§ 564, 566), including securing prisoners; conducting protective investigations on threats against judges and other judiciary personnel; providing protective details when necessary; and providing security for witnesses and high threat trials. This mission is funded by DOJ/USMS operating funds.

The USMS is also responsible for the day-to-day management of the Judicial Facility Security Program (JFSP), which is funded solely by the judiciary's Court Security appropriation. The JFSP is a collaborative effort between the judiciary and the USMS to ensure the integrity of the judicial process by providing secure facilities in which to conduct judicial business. To support the JFSP, funding from the Court Security appropriation is transferred to the USMS, which is responsible for administering the JFSP consistent with standards and guidelines agreed to by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AO) Director and the Attorney General.

JFSP ensures:

1. adequate CSO presence at new, renovated, and existing court facilities;
2. effective security screening and/or access control systems are in place for judiciary facilities housing judges, probation and pretrial services offices, and other federal court operations; and
3. timely installation and maintenance of required security systems and equipment at new, renovated, and existing courthouses.

CSOs and security systems and equipment are key aspects of providing physical security to the courts. Together, they are an integral part of the USMS's security plan to prevent and deter violence that can undermine the effectiveness, viability, and integrity of the judicial process and erode public confidence in the judicial system.

FPS SECURITY

FPS is the primary federal agency responsible for patrolling and protecting the perimeter of GSA-controlled facilities and enforcing federal laws and regulations in those facilities. FPS has two types of facility-related security charges on government facilities, including those occupied by the judiciary:

- “basic” security charge, to provide FPS with general funding to operate; and
- “building-specific” security charge, to reimburse FPS for FPS-provided, site-specific contract guards and security systems and equipment.

Perimeter Security Pilot Program

The judiciary’s FY 2008 appropriations bill authorized the USMS to establish a perimeter security pilot program to consolidate the responsibility for perimeter security guarding and security systems and equipment under the district U.S. Marshal, who is supported by the judiciary-funded and USMS-administered JFSP. The pilot was implemented at seven courthouses in FY 2009. An eighth courthouse was added in FY 2015. At the pilot locations, the USMS is responsible for all interior and perimeter security.

The pilot was designed to address several issues, including:

- the bifurcated systems of two security providers - the FPS and the USMS - providing physical security at many federal courthouses;
- problems with FPS security equipment not functioning for extended periods; and
- a lack of national standards for determining how many FPS guards are needed to provide adequate security at federal facilities, including courthouses.

The response to the pilot from judges, court unit executives, and district USMS office staff has been uniformly positive. The benefits of the program include improved quality of security services, improved security coverage, unified command and control over courthouse physical security, improved communication, and improved stewardship and monitoring of security equipment.

Each year since the pilot began, the judiciary’s annual appropriations bills have authorized the pilot project to continue. The judiciary’s FY 2027 appropriation request includes language to continue the pilot (see *Administrative Provisions*, page 12.1). The judiciary will continue to explore additional sites and evaluate the cost-effectiveness of expanding the pilot to more locations.

FISCAL YEAR 2026 APPROPRIATIONS

The judiciary's starting point for developing its FY 2027 budget request reflects bill language and appropriations levels enacted in the FY 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 119-75). The FY 2026 enacted level of \$892.0 million for the Court Security account is effectively equal to the judiciary's FY 2026 Conference Appeal.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES FOR FY 2027

Courthouse Hardening

In FY 2022 and FY 2023, Congress provided appropriations to fund enhanced security measures to protect judges and the judicial process, including supplemental funding to harden court facilities against individuals and groups attempting to breach court facilities and disrupt the judicial process. The judiciary received \$15.1 million in the FY 2022 Court Security appropriation and \$112.5 million in supplemental no-year funding in the initial FY 2023 Continuing Resolution (P.L. 117-180), for a total of \$127.5 million for courthouse hardening.

The judiciary continues to implement this supplemental funding and is working with the USMS, FPS, and GSA to analyze the security measures needed to harden each courthouse. Projects include both primary courthouses and multi-tenant federal facilities, as well as single buildings and multi-facility campus locations. Depending on the configuration of an individual courthouse, the following building features are initial measures to stop individuals and groups from breaching court facilities and disrupting the judicial process:

- Windows – replace with (or add, as appropriate) break-resistant glass or glass coverings for pedestrian accessible windows (windows that can be accessed without ladders or climbing);
- Exterior doors – harden exterior doors with break-resistant glass, roll down gates, and other capabilities, as needed;
- Automatic exterior door locks – install automatic door locks that can be engaged by the security officers at their guard stations and from the control room; and
- Fencing – deploy anti-scalable fencing, where needed, to protect the perimeter of the facility.

While every effort will be made to harden as many facilities as possible with available resources, priority is based on the following factors:

- The amount of judicial activity in the courthouse, as determined by the number of judges resident in the building and the caseload of the district/circuit;
- Information regarding incidents which have damaged courthouses during recent periods of civil unrest and proximity of the courthouse to locations that are the site of protests, including incidents of violent civil unrest or violent response to peaceful protest;
- Information from federal law enforcement agencies that the courthouses are in communities or locations where civil unrest has been or could be directed against federal courthouses;
- The design and construction of the facility and the extent to which these elements are already incorporated into the facility as part of its construction; and

The ability to make cost-effective improvements to harden the facility perimeter, including barriers to these efforts such as the historic fabric of the facility and historic preservation requirements. As of March 3, 2026, the Judiciary obligated \$125.7 million of the \$127.5 million in funds appropriated by Congress for enhanced security measures. This includes all \$15.1 million of the FY 2022 annual court security appropriations funding and \$110.6 million of the supplemental funds. These funds are obligated as part of GSA’s required procurement process, which includes an architectural design and development stage, followed by construction. Currently, the hardening project at the Mark O. Hatfield Courthouse in Portland, Oregon; the Edward J. Schwartz Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in San Diego, California; and the Phillip Burton Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco, California have been completed. The remaining 64 out of 67 total hardening projects are in different stages of the design and construction phase. Of those, 35 projects are currently fully funded for design and construction, while the remaining 29 have only been funded for design. The enacted FY 2026 appropriation included \$6.6 million to support this initiative and the FY 2027 budget request includes a \$0.1 million adjustment to base, for a total courthouse hardening budget of \$6.7 million.

Vulnerability Management Program (VMP)

As a result of the July 2020 fatal attack at a New Jersey federal judge’s home and increasing threats against federal judges generally, the judiciary and the USMS reviewed existing vulnerabilities impacting judges’ security and identified the need to reduce judges’ online footprints and the ready availability of judges’ personally identifiable information (PII). In FY 2022, the judiciary received approval from the Appropriations Committees to reprogram \$7.9 million within the Court Security program to implement a VMP to address these risks. In addition, the FY 2022 appropriation included language authorizing the use of court security funds for identifying, redacting,

and reducing PII on the internet of judges and relatives who live at the judge's domicile. Enactment of the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-263) in December 2022 provided the judiciary with permanent PII removal authority.

VMP serves as a resource to judges on ways to enhance their personal security and the security of court personnel and facilities. The program is intended to create situational awareness across security specialties, active and coordinated preventative measures, consistent information sharing, and advanced analytic capabilities. To accomplish this, the program created two new branches within the AO's Judiciary Security Division: (1) Judiciary Security Operations, which led to the formation of the Judiciary Security Officer program; and (2) Threat Management Branch (TMB), focused on the implementation of the Daniel Anderl Act. Together, these two branches provide a suite of staffing and solutions to support the following activities:

- Facilitating security services, at the circuit and district level, among the judiciary, USMS, FPS, GSA, and other appropriate federal and local law enforcement agencies;
- Training and creating national standards for appointed emergency management coordinators and others tasked with emergency management and related duties within local courts and circuits;
- Redacting eligible PII from government databases, data aggregators, and the internet;
- Enrolling judges (and other covered individuals) into the PII reduction and redaction program;
- Tracking the status of any pending requests made by judges for removal of covered information under the Daniel Anderl Act;
- Monitoring web-based activities (e.g., social media, dark web) for mentions of covered information and risks to the judiciary;
- Monitoring, analyzing, and reporting, through improved information sharing with federal and state public safety and security agencies, judiciary risks and vulnerabilities; and
- Educating judges and other judiciary personnel on the need to minimize online information about themselves and their family members.

The full-year cost of implementing the VMP in FY 2023 was \$10.5 million. This funding supported 19 federal employee positions and contractual services, providing a mix of professional and technical services to implement the Daniel Anderl Act. In FY 2024, the total cost increased to \$14.8 million, with \$10.6 million allocated to the TMB and the implementation of the Daniel Anderl Act. In FY 2025 and FY 2026, the VMP costs were \$13.9 million and \$19.3 million, respectively. The FY 2027 budget request totals \$19.8 million. Encompassing the entirety of the program, the FY 2027 request will fund 21 federal employee positions, contractual services, and multiple IT based services within the Judiciary Security Division required to meet workload demands.

Security Systems

Physical Access Control Systems (PACS)

PACS are designed to ensure that unauthorized and potentially dangerous people do not gain entry to court facilities, and only judges, authorized federal employees, and contractors can access secure interior court space. USMS issues cards to authorized persons to manage facility access using automated card readers. Many of the current PACS are fragile and failing, or in danger of failing, due to aging equipment and outdated software no longer supported by the vendor. The judiciary worked with the USMS to develop a risk-based strategy that focuses resources on the highest priority PACS requirements, addressing facilities with the greatest need in a timeframe that avoids system failures. In addition, the strategy incorporates a refreshment cycle for PACS to ensure the program is sustainable in the future.

Consistent with that strategy, the judiciary gradually increased PACS funding by approximately \$5.0 million each year to reach \$42.0 million in annual funding in FY 2022. However, due to flat funding in FY 2024 and FY 2025, upgrades and refreshes of PACS were substantially delayed. The enacted FY 2026 appropriation restored funding to \$45.1 million, which will support significant investment in replacing outdated systems in the near-term. The FY 2027 budget request includes a \$0.9 million adjustment to base, for a total PACS budget of \$46.0 million. With this funding, the USMS plans to implement a PACS strategy focusing on smaller scale PACS projects starting in FY 2026 to upgrade existing equipment with new or functional card readers, leveraging existing cable and power infrastructure.

Video Management Systems (VMS)

VMS are the camera systems that allow the USMS to monitor doors, hallways, courtrooms, and other court space. If VMS fails, the USMS control room operators lose viewing capability of all closed-circuit television (CCTV) coverage within a facility, crippling the USMS's ability to visually assess potential threats. The loss of camera views and control capability makes a facility particularly vulnerable. Like the PACS lifecycle challenges, most existing VMS have exceeded their useful life expectancies, are at risk of failure, and are no longer supported by the manufacturers. Further, most judiciary VMS are analog systems, and these systems need to be upgraded to digital internet protocol-based systems. Using the PACS funding strategy as a model, the judiciary sought funding as part of a multiyear approach with VMS.

The judiciary started with \$6.3 million in FY 2020 and by FY 2023, annual funding reached \$25.8 million. However, due to flat funding in FY 2024 and FY 2025, upgrades and refresh of VMS were substantially delayed. The enacted FY 2026 appropriation did restore funding, however, the VMS projects have been put on hold while the USMS concentrates on the focused PACS strategy mentioned above. Accordingly, VMS funding has been realigned to other systems and equipment, while leaving \$2.0 million for potential VMS requirements in FY 2026.

CSOs and FPS

Resource needs for court security are affected by increasing costs for CSO and FPS services. The minimum CSO hourly wage rates are determined by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and vary around the country based on an annual assessment of the prevailing wage rates paid for occupations like the CSO category of service in a specific locality. CSO wages are also adjusted through collective bargaining agreements negotiated between CSO contractors and unions. Under Service Contract Labor Standards (41 U.S.C. 6701-6707), USMS vendors must pay the contract CSOs the hourly rates determined by the DOL unless a collective bargaining agreement is in place. On average, CSO hourly contract rate costs are expected to increase by 3.0 percent in FY 2027.

Building-specific charges are based on FPS-provided countermeasures for a specific building and are charged to all federal tenants in the building in direct proportion to each customer agency's percentage of federal occupancy. Most buildings have a facility security committee (FSC), which consults with and seeks recommendations from FPS on new or revised countermeasures. A tenant agency cannot avoid a building-specific charge if a majority of FSC members endorse a countermeasure. FPS maintains records of these operating expenditures on a building-by-building basis. These expenses are based on FPS projections and may be adjusted as a result of the judiciary's regular review of FPS charges. FPS charges are expected to increase by 3.0 percent in FY 2027.

Building-specific expenses include¹:

- Facility contract guards, both fixed post and roving, assigned to a specific building; and

¹ In courthouse facilities, FPS contract guards and security device expenses are usually limited to the perimeter of the building because security for interior judicial space is provided by the USMS.

- Purchase, installation, and maintenance of perimeter security devices such as cameras, alarms, motion detectors, and other physical security features.

**Table 7.1
Court Security Program Summary**

	FY 2026 Final			FY 2027 Request		
	\$000	CSO Positions	FTE	\$000	CSO Positions	FTE
Court Security Officers	562,975	4,784.5		579,864	4,784.5	
Federal Protective Service Charges	100,045			108,000		
Systems and Equipment ¹	188,184			165,287		
Program Administration	75,580		104.5	76,983		105
Total Direct Obligations	926,784			930,134		
<i>Prior Year Carryforward</i>						
Systems and Equipment Slippage (Encumbered)	(7,325)			-		
Program Administration Slippage (Encumbered)	-			-		
Systems and Equipment Savings (Unencumbered)	(9,205)			(9,205)		
<i>Supplemental</i>	-					
Obligations Associated with Courthouse Hardening Supplemental Funds ¹	(18,222)			-		
Discretionary Appropriation	892,032			920,929		

¹ Congress provided \$112.5 million in supplemental no-year funding for courthouse hardening in the FY 2023 Continuing Resolution. A balance of \$18.2M remained at the end of FY 2025, which continues to be obligated until the funding is fully exhausted.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE RECOMMENDATIONS

The narrative found here satisfies the 31 U.S.C. § 720(b)(2) requirement to inform the House and Senate Appropriations Committee on actions taken in response to Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendations.

GAO Study on Judicial Security and Privacy

Report: On February 14, 2024, GAO issued *Federal Judiciary: Action Needed to Assess Effectiveness of Program to Protect Judges' Personal Information (GAO-24-106865SU)*, a report designated as Law Enforcement Sensitive and not published publicly. The study was a congressional mandate in the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2022, Pub. Law No. 117-263 (Anderl Act).

Issues Examined: The federal judiciary's actions taken to identify and protect judges' PII since the passage of the Anderl Act. GAO evaluated the AO's PII Reduction and Redaction Program, which was developed to assist judges with securing the protections provided in the Anderl Act.

Recommendations: GAO made one recommendation for the AO to establish specific and measurable objectives to assess its PII Reduction and Redaction Program's effectiveness.

Actions: The AO implemented a program evaluation process for the PII Reduction and Redaction Program, and GAO closed the report recommendation as implemented in March 2025.

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

The judiciary requests \$920.9 million for Court Security in FY 2027, a 3.2 percent increase over the enacted FY 2026 appropriation of \$892.0 million. The FY 2027 request reflects the necessary adjustments to base to maintain current services, with one program increase for FPS security countermeasure projects. The majority of the funding in this request is transferred to the USMS, which is responsible for administering the JFSP.

A. ADJUSTMENTS TO BASE TO MAINTAIN CURRENT SERVICES

Pay and Benefits Adjustments

1. Annualization of 2026 pay adjustment

Requested Increase: \$65,000

The requested increase provides for the annualized costs of the 2026 pay adjustment of 1.0 percent, and 3.8 percent for USMS law enforcement, effective in January 2026. The requested increase provides for the cost associated with three months of the 2026 pay increase (from October to December 2026) in FY 2027.

2. Promotions and within-grade increases

Requested Increase: \$170,000

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.

3. Benefits adjustments

a. Health benefits increases

Requested Increase: \$103,000

Based on information from the Office of Personnel Management, health benefit premium contributions are projected to increase by an average of 10.1 percent in January 2026 and 5.0 percent in January 2027. The requested increase annualizes the 2026 premium increase and includes a nine-month provision for the increase anticipated for FY 2027.

b. FICA adjustment

Requested Increase: \$9,000

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 2026. The salary cap for OASDI increased from \$176,100 to \$184,500 in January 2026. The requested amount is needed to pay the judiciary's contribution in FY 2027, based on the annualized 2026 increase and the 2027 projected increase in the 2025 Social Security Trustees Report.

c. FERS adjustment

Requested Decrease: (\$105,000)

Consistent with guidance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), there is a projected decrease in the agency contribution rate to Federal Employees Retirement Systems (FERS) plans for FY 2027. For most employees, the agency contribution will decrease from 18.4 percent to 17.9 percent. Any FERS decrease is in accordance with revised estimates of the cost of providing benefits by the Board of Actuaries of the Civil Service Retirement and Disability System.

4. FY 2027 CSO contract and wage rate adjustments

Requested Increase: \$16,889,000

A total of \$16.9 million is requested for anticipated increases in the hourly rates and overtime pay for CSO contract services in FY 2027. The request is an average increase of 3.0 percent on a national basis over the FY 2026 projected levels.

5. Annualization of new USMS position FTE: 0.5

Requested Increase: \$148,000

In FY 2026, funding was provided for one additional Senior Inspector Deputy U.S. Marshal position at 0.5 FTE, to oversee and manage security services for the AO/National Court Security Branch. The FY 2027 request includes \$148,000 to cover the full-year cost for the position.

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

Requested Increase: \$851,000

Consistent with guidance from the 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. Increase in GSA space rental costs

Requested Increase: \$162,000

This request represents an FY 2027 2.0 percent inflationary increase in the cost of GSA space rental charges.

8. Changes in Federal Protective Service security charges

The FY 2027 FPS security current service estimate of \$103.0 million consists of basic security and building-specific security costs. This cost represents an increase of \$3.0 million from the FY 2026 estimate of \$100.0 million.

a. Increase in basic security charges: \$995,000

The FY 2027 request for basic security charges is \$34.9 million, which is \$1.0 million above the FY 2026 estimated level.

**b. Increase in building-specific security charges:
\$1,960,000**

The total FY 2027 request for building-specific security charges is \$68.1 million, which is \$2.0 million above the FY 2026 estimated level. The requested increase supports security countermeasure projects, such as tenant improvement projects that include the judiciary’s pro rata share.

9. Adjustments to base requirements for security systems and equipment

Requested Increase: \$2,650,000

The requested amount reflects a net increase of \$2.6 million for the security systems and equipment program, which includes a \$0.8 million decrease for new courthouse construction projects. Table 7.2 on page 7.19 and the following justification of changes provide further information regarding the judiciary's security systems and equipment funding requirements.

- *Courthouse Hardening*

Requested Increase: \$137,000

A net increase of \$137,000 is due to inflationary cost adjustments for Courthouse Hardening to ensure that the program continues its efforts to harden all resident courthouses (federally owned only; leased, postal-owned, and non-resident courthouses are excluded).

- *PACS/VMS*

Requested Increase: \$989,000

The increases of \$947,000 for PACS and \$42,000 for VMS are due primarily to inflationary cost adjustments. The USMS plans to implement smaller scale PACS projects starting in FY 2026 to bring these systems up to date. Given this approach and focus on PACS, VMS funding has been realigned to other systems and equipment.

- *Nationwide Maintenance Contract for Existing Security Systems and Equipment*

Requested Increase: \$648,000

The national contract for security systems installation provides for the maintenance of security systems located in all facilities nationwide, such as the repair of CCTV systems, access control systems, alarm systems, and other command and control center components. The contract also provides for off-site alarm monitoring for buildings without a 24-hour CSO presence and for repairs and preventive maintenance of x-ray machines. The increase is due primarily to inflationary cost adjustments.

- *Security Infrastructure for new courthouses*

Requested Decrease: (\$750,000)

For FY 2027, the judiciary’s request is reduced by \$750,000. This cost was a one-time requirement for screening equipment for five new courthouse construction projects that were fully funded in FY 2026. This non-recurring cost is not

included in the FY 2027 request, as these needs have been successfully addressed.

- *Other Additional and Replacement Equipment*

Requested Increase: \$649,000

This program provides for general enhancements or upgrades to CCTV surveillance systems, alarm systems, and command and control centers in newly occupied space in existing court facilities and replaces outdated equipment in currently occupied space. The increase is due primarily to inflationary cost adjustments.

- *Miscellaneous Systems and Equipment*

Requested Increase: \$977,000

An inflationary increase of \$977,000 is requested for various systems and equipment requirements in FY 2027. This includes inflationary increases of:

- \$156,000 for GSA installation and maintenance;
- \$114,000 for the nationwide vehicle barrier maintenance contracts;
- \$421,000 for cyclical replacement of x-ray screening equipment and walk-through metal detectors;
- \$223,000 for perimeter security improvements;
- \$43,000 for CSO radios, accessories, repairs, and over-the-air re-key; and
- \$20,000 for equipment for probation and pretrial services offices and federal public defender organizations.

Table 7.2
Court Security Appropriation
Security Systems & Equipment Funding Summary
(\$000s)

Category	FY 2025 Financial Plan	FY 2026 Financial Plan	FY 2027 Adjustments to Base	FY 2027 Current Services	FY 2027 Request	Change FY 2026 to FY 2027
Courthouse Hardening - Infrastructure Improvements¹	-	6,550	137	6,687	6,687	137
PACS	13,008	45,098	947	46,045	46,045	947
VMS	9,485	2,000	42	2,042	2,042	42
Other Additional and Replacement Equipment (Excludes VMS)	8,896	30,881	649	31,530	31,530	649
Nationwide Maintenance Contract for Existing Security Systems and Equipment	18,397	30,849	648	31,497	31,497	648
New Courthouse Construction Projects	-	750	(750)	-	-	(750)
<u>Miscellaneous Systems and Equipment</u>						
<i>Perimeter Security Improvements</i>	3,574	10,606	223	10,829	10,829	223
<i>GSA Installation/Alterations</i>	4,687	7,438	156	7,594	7,594	156
<i>Cyclical Replacement of X-Ray Screening Equipment and Walk-Thru Metal Detectors</i>	3,727	20,033	421	20,454	20,454	421
<i>Nationwide Vehicle Barrier Maintenance Contract</i>	4,339	5,419	114	5,533	5,533	114
<i>Equipment for Probation, Pretrial Services, and Defender Services</i>	412	960	20	980	980	20
<i>CSO Radios, Accessories, Repairs and Over-the-Air-Re-key</i>	1,723	2,053	43	2,096	2,096	43
Total Miscellaneous Systems and Equipment	18,462	46,509	977	47,486	47,486	977
Total Security Systems and Equipment	68,248	162,637	2,650	165,287	165,287	2,650

¹ Congress provided \$112.5 million in supplemental no-year funding for courthouse hardening in the FY 2023 Continuing Resolution, which is not included in this table. The remaining \$18.2 million in supplemental funds will be obligated in FY 2026.

D. PROGRAM INCREASES

10. FPS Security Countermeasure Projects

Requested Increase: \$5,000,000

For FY 2027, the judiciary requests \$5.0 million to fund FPS security countermeasure projects. New GSA security standards issued in 2024 have significantly increased demands for FPS countermeasures beyond the original FY 2025 and FY 2026 budget forecasts. The countermeasures include building perimeter security cameras, building perimeter alarms systems, and protective service officers.

The judiciary provides funding to the FPS for certain security countermeasures. In April 2024, GSA issued an order, Baseline Minimum Security Standards in Federal Owned Facilities under the Jurisdiction, Custody and Control of the U.S. General Services Administration, requiring that each Facility Security Committee vote to approve and implement countermeasure recommendations related to perimeter cameras and perimeter alarm systems at all GSA-owned facilities. This order has led to more requests for funding to support camera and alarm systems replacement projects at 357 multi-tenant facilities housing courts and probation and pretrial services offices across the country.

E. FINANCING THE FY 2027 REQUEST

11. Anticipated unencumbered carryforward balances from FY 2026 and prior years into FY 2027

Estimated Funds Available: \$9,205,000

The judiciary projects \$9.2 million will be available through anticipated savings and prior-year recoveries to carry forward from FY 2026 into FY 2027 to offset partially the FY 2027 appropriation request for the Court Security program. The judiciary will advise the appropriations subcommittee staffs of changes to this estimate.