

1 AN ACT making appropriations for the operations, maintenance, support, and  
 2 functioning of the Judicial Branch of the government of the Commonwealth of Kentucky  
 3 and its various officers, boards, commissions, subdivisions, and other state-supported  
 4 activities.

5 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

6 ➔Section 1. The Judicial Branch Budget is as follows:

7 **PART I**

8 **OPERATING BUDGET**

9 **(1) Funds Appropriations:** There is appropriated out of the General Fund,  
 10 Restricted Funds accounts, or Federal Funds accounts for the fiscal year beginning July 1,  
 11 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending  
 12 June 30, 2027, and for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2027, and ending June 30, 2028,  
 13 the following sums to be used for the purposes of the Judicial Branch of the government  
 14 of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, including the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals,  
 15 Circuit Court, Family Court, District Court, the Administrative Office of the Courts,  
 16 Judicial Retirement, Local Facilities Fund, Local Facilities Use Allowance Contingency  
 17 Fund, and for services performed by the Circuit Court Clerks' offices, including both  
 18 Circuit and District Court support.

19 **A. JUDICIAL BRANCH**

20 **Budget Units**

21 **1. COURT OF JUSTICE**

22 **a. Court Operations and Administration**

	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>
24 General Fund	-0-	344,440,300	348,471,700
25 Restricted Funds	13,629,600	57,506,000	57,853,700
26 Federal Funds	-0-	1,546,600	1,391,000
27 TOTAL	13,629,600	403,492,900	407,716,400

1           **(1) Full Funding of Current Services:** Included in the above General Fund  
2 appropriation is \$5,000,000 in each fiscal year to support additional judgeships  
3 established in the 2022 Regular Session.

4           **(2) Funds Required to Maintain Mandated Services:** Included in the above  
5 General Fund appropriation is \$7,561,000 in fiscal year 2026-2027 and \$7,200,000 in  
6 fiscal year 2027-2028 to maintain mandated services including information technology  
7 subscription fees, audio/visual system upgrades, and contractor rate increases.

8           **(3) Civil Filing Fees:** Pursuant to its authority, if the Supreme Court increases  
9 civil filing fees, the additional income resulting from the fee increases, not to exceed  
10 \$20,468,100 in each fiscal year, shall be deposited into a trust and agency account for  
11 court operations and salaries for non-elected personnel. Any revenue generated by the  
12 increase in excess of the \$20,468,100 in each fiscal year shall be deposited into the  
13 General Fund. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall prepare a report with  
14 recommendations for changes to civil filing fees, including but not limited to the amount  
15 of revenue generated from any proposed changes, the use of any additional revenue  
16 generated, the number of Circuit and District Court filings for the prior three years, and a  
17 schedule for any future changes to fee structure. The report shall be submitted to the  
18 Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue by October 1, 2027.

19           **(4) Utilization of Video Arraignment Technology:** (a) Notwithstanding any  
20 statute to the contrary, courts shall use the video arraignment system set forth in 2021 Ky.  
21 Acts ch. 194, sec. 14(1)(a), when available.

22           (b) Notwithstanding any statute to the contrary, if a court does not use the video  
23 arraignment system referenced in paragraph (a) of this subsection, when available, the  
24 Administrative Office of the Courts shall be responsible for the costs associated with  
25 transporting prisoners to and from arraignments. The Administrative Office of the Courts  
26 shall prepare a report to be submitted to the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations  
27 and Revenue by October 1, 2027, detailing the utilization of the video arraignment

1 system, including identifying any impediments that decrease utilization, by courtroom  
 2 and by judge.

3 **(5) Operating Expense Reduction:** The State Auditor has identified that in fiscal  
 4 year 2024-2025, the Judicial Branch spent \$5,088,350 on the expense code Other (E399).  
 5 The Chief Justice and the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts shall  
 6 prepare a report detailing the expenditures on expense code Other (E399) including, but  
 7 not limited to drug testing, cloud services, and information technology services. The  
 8 Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts shall submit the report to the Interim  
 9 Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue by October 1, 2026.

10 **(6) Support for Current Services:** Pursuant to KRS 27A.055(4), included in the  
 11 above Restricted Funds appropriation is \$13,629,600 in fiscal year 2025-2026 to support  
 12 the Court Operations and Administration budget unit and replace, in part, reduced  
 13 revenues received by the Master Commissioner’s Fund established in KRS 31A.010(4).  
 14 Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any portion of these funds that have not been expended by  
 15 the end of fiscal year 2025-2026 shall not lapse and shall carry forward into fiscal year  
 16 2026-2027, and any portion of these funds that have not been expended by the end of  
 17 fiscal year 2026-2027 shall not lapse and shall carry forward into fiscal year 2027-2028.

18 **b. Local Facilities Fund**

	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>
19 General Fund	-0-	136,303,000	149,205,200
20 Restricted Funds	8,910,400	8,380,000	380,000
21 TOTAL	8,910,400	144,683,000	149,585,200

22  
 23 **(1) Uninsured Costs Due to Flooding:** Pursuant to KRS 27A.055(4), included in  
 24 the above Restricted Funds appropriation is \$8,910,400 in fiscal year 2025-2026 for file  
 25 restoration, remediation, and repairs due to flooding in Franklin and Hardin Counties.  
 26 Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any unexpended funds shall not lapse and shall carry  
 27 forward.

1           **(2) Local Facility Projects:** Included in the above General Fund appropriation is  
2 \$13,652,200 in fiscal year 2027-2028 to support the use allowance costs for five judicial  
3 centers authorized by the 2024 General Assembly.

4           **(3) Funding of Current Services:** Included in the above General Fund  
5 appropriation is \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year to fund current services.

6           **(4) Boyle County Temporary Space and Fit-up:** Pursuant to KRS 27A.055(4),  
7 included in the above Restricted Funds appropriation is \$5,260,000 in fiscal year 2026-  
8 2027 and \$260,000 in fiscal year 2027-2028 for leased space and fit-up for all court and  
9 clerk functions.

10           **(5) Boyle County - Use Allowance:** Included in the above General Fund  
11 appropriation is \$192,300 in each fiscal year to support use allowance for Boyle County.

12           **(6) Bell County Temporary Space and Fit-up:** Pursuant to KRS 27A.055(4),  
13 included in the above Restricted Funds appropriation is \$3,120,000 in fiscal year 2026-  
14 2027 and \$120,000 in fiscal year 2027-2028 for leased space and fit-up for all court and  
15 clerk functions.

16           **(7) Bell County Use Allowance and Equipment:** Included in the above General  
17 Fund appropriation is \$2,806,100 in fiscal year 2026-2027 to support use allowance and  
18 equipment and \$2,056,100 in fiscal year 2027-2028 to support use allowance. The  
19 Administrative Office of the Courts shall pursue any and all potential claims for liability  
20 associated with damages stemming from subpar construction of the Bell County Judicial  
21 Center.

22           **(8) Local Court Facility Compensation:** Included in the above General Fund  
23 appropriation are moneys to compensate local units of government for providing court  
24 space and for costs incurred in the development of local court facilities as defined in KRS  
25 Chapter 26A and provided for in Part II, Capital Projects Budget, of this Act, and to  
26 perform all other acts required or authorized by KRS Chapter 26A.

27           **(9) Use Allowance Payments to Counties:** Pursuant to KRS 26A.090(2),

1 beginning with court facility construction or renovation projects authorized by the 2000  
2 Regular Session of the General Assembly and all subsequent court facility projects, use  
3 allowance payments are restricted to the court's proportional share of the annual principal  
4 and interest costs in connection with the construction or renovation of the facility, not to  
5 exceed the authorized annual use allowance.

6 **(10) Court Facility Maintenance Fund:** (a) Notwithstanding KRS  
7 26A.090(2), when there is no debt on court facility construction or renovation projects  
8 authorized prior to the 2000 Regular Session of the General Assembly, use allowance is  
9 restricted to compensation equal to two percent annually of capital costs to be paid to the  
10 county unit of government and two percent annually to be retained by the Administrative  
11 Office of the Courts and directed to a separate fund specifically for maintenance of court  
12 facilities.

13 (b) The fund created pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection shall be used for  
14 routine, ongoing, planned, and unanticipated maintenance for court facilities.

15 (c) Notwithstanding KRS 45.750, any maintenance project estimated to cost  
16 \$3,000,000 or less for a local court facility is not considered to be a capital project  
17 requiring authorization of the General Assembly in the Judicial Branch Budget and may  
18 be completed using funds appropriated to the Judicial Branch for maintenance of local  
19 facilities or other agency funds of the Judicial Branch. The Administrative Office of the  
20 Courts shall report any maintenance project estimated to cost between \$1,000,000 and  
21 \$3,000,000 to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee.

22 **(11) Maintenance Pool:** Included in the above General Fund appropriation is  
23 \$3,000,000 in each fiscal year to create a maintenance pool for planned and unanticipated  
24 non-capital projects for local courthouses and judicial centers.

25 **(12) Asset Preservation Pool - HVAC, Roof, and Electrical Upgrades:** The  
26 Administrative Office of the Courts shall prepare a report on the Asset Preservation -  
27 HVAC, Roof, Electrical project authorized in 2024 Ky. Acts ch. 148, Part II, A., 1., 007.,

1 including but not limited to the projects funded in the asset preservation pool, the current  
 2 status of each project and projected completion date, and the amount expended on each  
 3 project and for the pool in total. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall submit this  
 4 report on a quarterly basis beginning November 1, 2026, to the Interim Joint Committee  
 5 on Appropriations and Revenue.

6 **(13) Asset Preservation Pool - Renovations:** The Administrative Office of the  
 7 Courts shall prepare a report on the Asset Preservation - Renovations project authorized  
 8 in 2024 Ky. Acts ch. 148, Part II, A., 1., 008., including but not limited to the projects  
 9 funded in the asset preservation pool, the current status of each project and projected  
 10 completion date, and the amount expended on each project and for the pool in total. The  
 11 Administrative Office of the Courts shall submit this report on a quarterly basis  
 12 beginning November 1, 2026, to the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and  
 13 Revenue.

14 **c. Local Facilities Use Allowance Contingency Fund**

15 **(1) Funds Carry Forward:** Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any unexpended  
 16 balance remaining at the close of fiscal year 2025-2026 shall not lapse and shall continue  
 17 into fiscal year 2026-2027, and any unexpended balance remaining at the close of fiscal  
 18 year 2026-2027 shall not lapse and shall continue into fiscal year 2027-2028 to provide  
 19 for cost overruns in authorized court facilities projects not to exceed 15 percent of the use  
 20 allowance in accordance with KRS Chapter 26A.

21 **TOTAL – COURT OF JUSTICE**

22	General Fund	-0-	480,743,300	497,676,900
23	Restricted Funds	22,540,000	65,886,000	58,233,700
24	Federal Funds	-0-	1,546,600	1,391,000
25	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,540,000</b>	<b>548,175,900</b>	<b>557,301,600</b>

26 **2. JUDICIAL FORM RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

27 **2026-27**                      **2027-28**



1 Oversight Committee and in accordance with the other requirements of KRS 45.760(7).  
2 Moneys may be transferred to the allotment account of any capital project only after  
3 submission of the project to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee and in  
4 accordance with the other requirements of KRS 45.760(6). As required by KRS 45.760,  
5 all capital construction items authorized in this Act shall be constructed in accordance  
6 with this Act, supporting documentation considered by the General Assembly, and  
7 Judicial Branch budget records. Any modifications to the scope of a capital construction  
8 project or to a lease shall be reported to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight  
9 Committee before execution.

10 **(3) Deferred Funding:** General Fund support to provide operating costs of  
11 \$1,911,000 and \$3,000,000 for nonrecurring equipment and furniture for five projects  
12 authorized by the 2024 General Assembly is deferred to the 2028-2030 fiscal biennium.

13 **(4) Court Facility Planning Process:** A feasibility study completed by a  
14 certified architect not otherwise involved with the project shall be provided to the Project  
15 Development Board to assist in making a determination whether the needs of the  
16 community and the Court of Justice can best be met through the construction of a  
17 freestanding building, or through an addition and/or renovation of the existing court  
18 facility.

19 **(5) Local Facilities Use Allowance Contingency Fund:** For any court facility  
20 project which is occupied and use allowance funding is insufficient, the use allowance  
21 payments shall be approved from the Local Facilities Use Allowance Contingency Fund.  
22 If funds are not available in the Local Facilities Use Allowance Contingency Fund, the  
23 Chief Justice may transfer funds from other Judicial Branch accounts to make the  
24 necessary payments.

25 **(6) Facility Title:** Pursuant to KRS Chapter 26A, Hardin County shall accept title  
26 to the facility as set out in 2022 Ky. Acts ch. 162, Part II, A., 2., 004., Hardin County -  
27 HVAC Project, within six months of notification by the Administrative Office of the

1 Courts of the completion of the project. Notwithstanding KRS Chapter 26A.090(2), no  
 2 use allowance shall be provided for this facility if Hardin County does not accept title as  
 3 provided in this subsection.

#### 4 **A. JUDICIAL BRANCH**

5 <b>Budget Unit</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>
6 <b>1. LOCAL FACILITIES FUND</b>		
7 <b>Project</b>	<b>Project Scope</b>	
8 <b>001.</b> Boyle County - Roof Replacement	2,000,000	
9 <b>002.</b> Bell County - Renovation	20,910,000	
10 <b>2. LEASE AUTHORIZATIONS</b>		
11 <b>001.</b> Franklin County - Lease - Court of Appeals		
12 <b>002.</b> Jefferson County - Lease - Parking		
13 <b>003.</b> Madison County - Lease - Family Court		

#### 14 **PART III**

#### 15 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

16 **1. Expenditure Authority:** The Director of the Administrative Office of the  
 17 Courts, with the approval of the Chief Justice, may expend any of the funds appropriated  
 18 for court operations and administration in any lawful manner and for any legal purpose  
 19 that the Chief Justice shall authorize or direct. No executive agency of state government  
 20 shall have the power to restrict or limit the expenditure of funds appropriated to the  
 21 Judicial Branch of government, except that funds appropriated in this Act shall not be  
 22 expended for any purpose not specifically authorized by the General Assembly in this  
 23 Act. The Court of Justice shall prepare a report of actual expenditures citing specific  
 24 statutory or budgetary authorization for the reported expenditures and detailing  
 25 expenditures for the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Circuit Court, Family Court,  
 26 District Court, Administrative Office of the Courts, Judicial Retirement, Local Facilities  
 27 Fund, Local Facilities Use Allowance Contingency Fund, and for services performed by

1 the Circuit Court Clerks' offices. The Court of Justice shall provide this report on a  
2 quarterly basis to the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue.

3 **2. Severability of Budget Provisions:** Appropriation items and sums in this Act  
4 conform to KRS 48.311. If any section, any subsection, or any provision thereof shall be  
5 invalid or unconstitutional, the decision of the courts shall not affect or impair any of the  
6 remaining sections, subsections, or provisions.

7 **3. Duplicate Appropriations:** Any appropriation item and sum in this Act and  
8 in an appropriation provision in another Act of the 2026 Regular Session of the General  
9 Assembly which constitutes a duplicate appropriation shall be governed by KRS 48.312.

10 **4. Priority of Individual Appropriations:** KRS 48.313 shall control when a  
11 total or subtotal figure in this Act conflicts with the sum of the appropriations of which it  
12 consists.

13 **5. Carry Forward of Funds:** Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any unexpended  
14 balance remaining at the close of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, June 30, 2027,  
15 and June 30, 2028, shall not lapse and shall continue into the next fiscal year.

16 **6. Final Budget Document:** The Director of the Administrative Office of the  
17 Courts shall prepare a final budget document reflecting the 2026-2028 biennial budget of  
18 the Court of Justice. A copy shall be provided to the Legislative Research Commission,  
19 and an informational copy shall be furnished to the Finance and Administration Cabinet,  
20 within 60 days of the adjournment of the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

21 **7. Appropriations Revisions:** Notwithstanding KRS 48.630(10), no  
22 appropriation from any fund source shall exceed the sum specified in this Act until the  
23 Judicial Branch has documented the necessity, purpose, use, and source, and the  
24 documentation has been submitted to the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and  
25 Revenue at least 30 days in advance for its review and action. The Director of the  
26 Administrative Office of the Courts shall notify, on a timely basis, the Legislative  
27 Research Commission of the most current estimates of anticipated receipts for the

1 affected fiscal year and an accompanying statement which explains variations from the  
2 anticipated amount.

3 **8. Maximum Salary of Trial Commissioners:** Notwithstanding KRS  
4 24A.100(3), no trial commissioner shall be compensated at a rate greater than \$2,000 per  
5 year. No funding is provided for trial commissioners commissioned in counties with a  
6 residing District Judge.

7 **9. Authorized Personnel Complement:** On July 1, 2026, the Administrative  
8 Office of the Courts shall establish a record for each budget unit of authorized permanent  
9 full-time and all other positions based upon the enacted Judicial Budget of the  
10 Commonwealth and any adjustments authorized by provisions in this Act. The total  
11 number of filled permanent full-time and all other positions shall not exceed the  
12 authorized complements pursuant to this section. The Director of the Administrative  
13 Office of the Courts may request an increase in the number of authorized positions to the  
14 Chief Justice. Upon approval, the Administrative Office of the Courts may authorize the  
15 employment of individuals in addition to the authorized complement. A report of the  
16 actions authorized in this section shall be provided to the Interim Joint Committee on  
17 Appropriations and Revenue on a monthly basis.

18 **10. Debt Restructuring:** Notwithstanding any other provision of the Kentucky  
19 Revised Statutes, use allowance payments shall not be amended to reflect debt  
20 restructuring transactions undertaken by a county during the 2026-2028 fiscal biennium.

21 **11. Court Facility Maintenance Fund Report:** For each of the periods ending  
22 June 30, 2026, June 30, 2027, and June 30, 2028, the Director of the Administrative  
23 Office of the Courts shall prepare a court facility maintenance report. This report shall  
24 detail all court facility maintenance undertaken by the Court of Justice, to include any  
25 cost-sharing with counties, as well as detail regarding future maintenance needs. This  
26 report shall include a statewide expenditure summary followed by individual county  
27 expenditures detailing the state's and county's respective share of expenditures. The

1 Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide this report to the Interim Joint  
2 Committee on Appropriations and Revenue by September 15 of each fiscal year.

3 **12. Biennial Audits:** The Auditor of Public Accounts shall have the right to  
4 review, upon request, the accountant's work papers.

5 **13. Budgetary Restructuring:** The Court of Justice shall prepare a report to be  
6 submitted to the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue by September  
7 1 of each fiscal year detailing the existing budget processes of the Court of Justice and  
8 the actual expenditure of funds from the prior fiscal year and budgeted expenditures for  
9 the current fiscal year by fund source and individual location or office, for the Supreme  
10 Court, Court of Appeals, Circuit Court, Family Court, District Court, Administrative  
11 Office of the Courts, Judicial Retirement, Local Facilities Fund, Local Facilities Use  
12 Allowance Contingency Fund, and for services performed by the Circuit Court Clerks'  
13 offices.

14 **14. Unexpended Use Allowance:** Notwithstanding any provision of the  
15 Kentucky Revised Statutes, any General Fund moneys appropriated for project-related  
16 expenses or use allowance payments in fiscal years 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 that are  
17 not expended specifically for project-related expenses or use allowance payments in the  
18 fiscal year in which appropriated shall be transferred to the Budget Reserve Trust Fund  
19 Account (KRS 48.705).

20 **15. Salary Increase for Personnel:** Notwithstanding KRS 64.480(2), included in  
21 the General Fund, Restricted Funds, and Federal Funds appropriations in Part I of this  
22 Act are sufficient funds to support a two percent salary increase on the base salary and  
23 wages of each eligible employee effective July 1, 2026, and a two percent increase on the  
24 base salary or wages of each eligible employee effective July 1, 2027.

25 **16. Application for Federal Funds:** Notwithstanding any statute to the contrary,  
26 the Court of Justice shall report to the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and  
27 Revenue, within 30 days, any new federally funded programs for which funding had not

1 previously been awarded without authorization by the General Assembly.

2       **17. Operational Expenditures Data:** The Director of the Administrative Office  
3 of the Courts shall, by October 1, 2026, submit a report to the Legislative Oversight and  
4 Investigations Committee and the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and  
5 Revenue with the following information and data pertaining to the historical and  
6 projected operational expenditures for each budget unit:

7       (1) Identifying information of the budget unit; and

8       (2) A description of each program, function, service, or benefit provided by the  
9 budget unit, including but not limited to the following:

10       (a) Measurable outcome data for the program, function, service, or benefit  
11 provided in fiscal year 2025-2026 and projected for fiscal years 2026–2027 and 2027–  
12 2028 for programs, functions, services, or benefits that are statutorily mandated;

13       (b) Measurable outcome data for the program, function, service, or benefit  
14 provided in fiscal year 2025-2026 and projected for fiscal years 2026–2027 and 2027–  
15 2028 for programs, functions, services, or benefits that are not statutorily mandated;

16       (c) Identification of any contracts or grants with other state budget units or  
17 external providers engaged to provide or assist in providing the program, function,  
18 service, or benefit in fiscal years 2025-2026, 2026-2027, or 2027-2028;

19       (d) The number of full-time, part-time, and other filled positions assigned to the  
20 program, function, service, or benefit on July 1 of each fiscal year;

21       (e) The number and projected cost of all temporary manpower service personnel  
22 assigned to the program, function, service, or benefit as of July 1 each fiscal year;

23       (f) The actual expenditures, by fund source, for each program, function, service,  
24 or benefit for fiscal year 2025-2026;

25       (g) The projected expenditures, by fund source, by fiscal year, for each program,  
26 function, service, or benefit for fiscal years 2026-2027 and 2027-2028; and

27       (h) The actual balance of any Restricted Funds or Agency Trust Funds assigned

1 to the program, function, service, or benefit as of July 1, 2026, and projected to be on  
2 July 1, 2027, and July 1, 2028.

3 The information shall be submitted only in a format prescribed by the Legislative  
4 Oversight and Investigations Committee.

5 The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts shall, within 30 days,  
6 provide any follow-up or additional information on the programs, functions, services, or  
7 benefits requested by the Legislative Research Commission or a subcommittee thereof.

8 **18. Budget Implementation:** The General Assembly directs the Judicial Branch  
9 to carry out all appropriations and budgetary language provisions as contained in the  
10 Judicial Branch Budget. The Legislative Research Commission shall review quarterly  
11 expenditure data to determine if the Judicial Branch is out of compliance with this  
12 directive. If the Legislative Research Commission suspects that the Judicial Branch has  
13 acted in nonconformity with this section, the Legislative Research Commission may  
14 order an audit or review at the Judicial Branch's expense. Such audit findings, reviews,  
15 and reports shall be subject to the Kentucky Open Records Act. The Chief Justice shall  
16 provide, in the form and manner prescribed by the Legislative Research Commission, a  
17 comprehensive annual report, beginning September 1, 2026, to the Interim Joint  
18 Committee on Appropriations and Revenue detailing expenditures related to the  
19 appropriations contained within the budgetary language provisions for each budget unit  
20 within the Judicial Branch. If a budget unit does not expend the full General Fund  
21 appropriation contained within a budgetary language provision, the unexpended funds  
22 shall be transferred to the Budget Reserve Trust Fund Account (KRS 48.705).

23 **19. Budgetary Priorities:** Funds appropriated in this Act are deemed sufficient to  
24 maintain the mandatory functions of the Court of Justice. The Chief Justice shall  
25 prioritize the expenditure of funds to maintain current service levels of the constitutional  
26 functions of the Court of Justice and shall have the discretion to fund any additional  
27 functions to the extent funds are available. If, in the 2026-2028 fiscal biennium, the Chief

1 Justice identifies a budget shortfall, reductions shall be made to those functions not  
2 explicitly authorized by statute or the Constitution of Kentucky.

3 **PART IV**

4 **BUDGET REDUCTION OR SURPLUS EXPENDITURE PLAN**

5 The Judicial Branch shall participate in any Budget Reduction Plan or Surplus  
6 Expenditure Plan in accordance with KRS Chapter 48, except that obligations essential to  
7 the constitutional duties and use allowance of the Judicial Branch shall be exempt from  
8 any Budget Reduction Plan. The level of participation in a Budget Reduction Plan shall  
9 be at the discretion of the Chief Justice and shall not exceed the actual percentage of  
10 revenue shortfall.