



Kentucky Judicial Branch

Interim Joint Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice & Judiciary

July 1, 2026

Chief Justice Lambert's Challenge

Find a way to reduce operating expense without impacting frontline services

Solution = Statewide Program REORGANIZATION

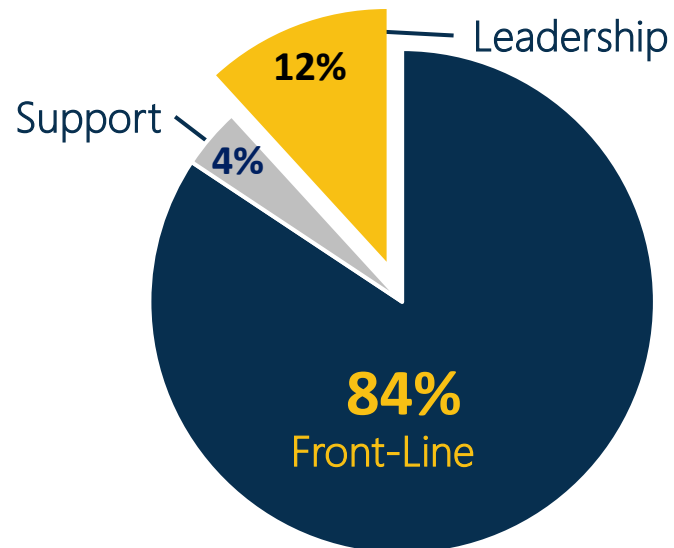


Judicial Branch Solution

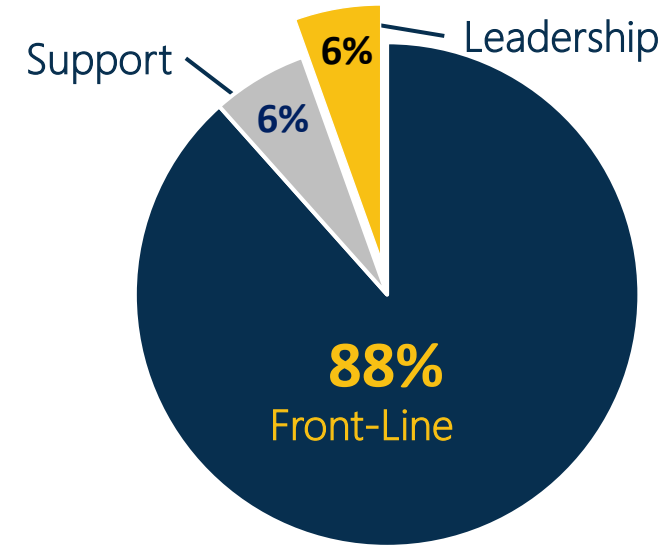
Reduce mid-level management roles Enhance front line resources

- Family & Juvenile Services, Court Designated Workers Program, Pretrial Services and Specialty Courts
- 72% of the AOC workforce
- A significant share of the operating budget

Previous Structure of the Office of Statewide Programs



New Structure of the Office of Statewide Programs





Judicial Branch Solution

Reorganization Statistics – At a Glance

170

Positions Identified for Elimination

Primarily include mid-level supervisor roles and specialty positions

109

New Positions Created

Positions support regional model, evening/weekend operations, and strengthen front-line support

110

Employees Offered Vacant Positions

All tenured employees affected have been offered placement into a vacant tenured position

All Statewide Programs employees have had the opportunity to apply to competitive vacancies during the month of June

24

Employees Chose Voluntary Separation

This includes planned retirements and resignations

All remaining vacancies will be posted externally in mid-July. Internal employees may continue to apply.



Judicial Branch Solution

Specialty Courts

Consists of



Drug Court



Veterans
Treatment Court



Mental Health
Court

Initiatives

- ✓ Reduction in mid-level management and specialized positions
- ✓ Shift treatment costs to service recipients and existing healthcare resources
- ✓ Preserve access to essential participant services
- ✓ Actively working on cost-saving solutions with drug testing workgroup



Judicial Branch Solution

Family & Juvenile Services (FJS)

Consists of



Court Designated
Workers (CDWs) Program



Citizen Foster Care
Review Board (CFCRB)

Initiatives

- ✓ Reduce mid-level management and specialty positions
- ✓ Provide support during the hours that support is needed
 - Create dedicated 2nd- and 3rd-shift Court Designated Worker positions
 - Provide more consistent 24/7 coverage for judges and court partners
- ✓ Reduce on-call burden for day-shift staff and supervisors
- ✓ Strengthen responsiveness and service continuity
- ✓ Focus on efficiently meeting legislative requirements, including new from 2026 RS



Judicial Branch Solution

Pretrial Services

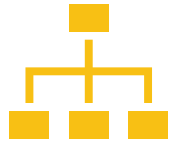
Initiatives

- ✓ Reduce mid-level management and specialty positions
- ✓ Expand staff capabilities across the pretrial process through cross-training
- ✓ Increase front-line support and expand comprehensive client service capability
- ✓ Reduce burdens between varying shifts
- ✓ Enhance information quality for judicial bail determinations through sole-source information



Judicial Branch Solution

Outcomes



Create a consistent, efficient model of program management



Refocus and realign resources



Strengthen front-line services and accountability through a regional service model



Estimated general fund savings: \$3 million



Judicial Branch Capital Construction Projects

Danny Rhoades

Executive Officer, Department of Court Facilities



Judicial Branch Capital Construction

Oldham County Courthouse Renovation and Addition

- Square footage: 53,838
- Final Certificate of Occupancy was received: **January 2026**
- Open for Business: **March 2026**
- Ceremonial Dedication was held in **April 2026**





Judicial Branch Capital Construction

Bath County Judicial Center

- Square footage: 21,500
- Temporary Certificate of Occupancy: **February 2026**
- Final Certificate of Occupancy received: **May 2026**
- Open for Business: **April 2026**
- Ceremonial Dedication will be held on **July 21st, 2026**





Judicial Branch Capital Construction

Scott County Hall of Justice

- Square footage: 68,500
- Phase D: Construction 63% Complete
- Expected Completion: **December 2026**





Judicial Branch Capital Construction

Crittenden County Judicial Center

- Square footage: 23,050
- Phase D: Construction 39% Complete
- Expected completion: **January 2027**





Judicial Branch Capital Construction

Barren County Judicial Center

- Square Footage: 58,329
- Phase D: Construction 10% Complete
- Expected Completion: **April 2028**





Judicial Branch Capital Construction

Jessamine County Judicial Center

- Square footage: 56,500
- Phase D: Construction 8% Complete
- Expected Completion: **August 2028**





Judicial Branch Capital Construction

Clinton County Judicial Center

- Square Footage: 31,177
- Design Phase C-CM:
Subcontracts Awarded
- An early site and foundation package was completed: **June 2026**
- Expected Completion:
Summer 2028





Judicial Branch Capital Construction

Butler County Judicial Center

- Square Footage: 24,000
- Design Phase C-CM:
Subcontracts Bidding
- Expected Completion:
Summer 2028





Judicial Branch Capital Construction

Leslie County Judicial Center

- Square footage: 25,000
- Design Phase C:
Construction Document Development
- Demolition of existing structures on site currently underway





Judicial Branch Capital Construction

Graves County Judicial Center

- Square Footage: 30,000
- Design Phase A: Schematic Design
- Site purchased at the corner of Broadway and 7th Street.
- Preliminary site studies have begun on subsurface and environmental considerations.





Judicial Branch Capital Construction

Projects in Pre-Design

Caldwell County Judicial Center

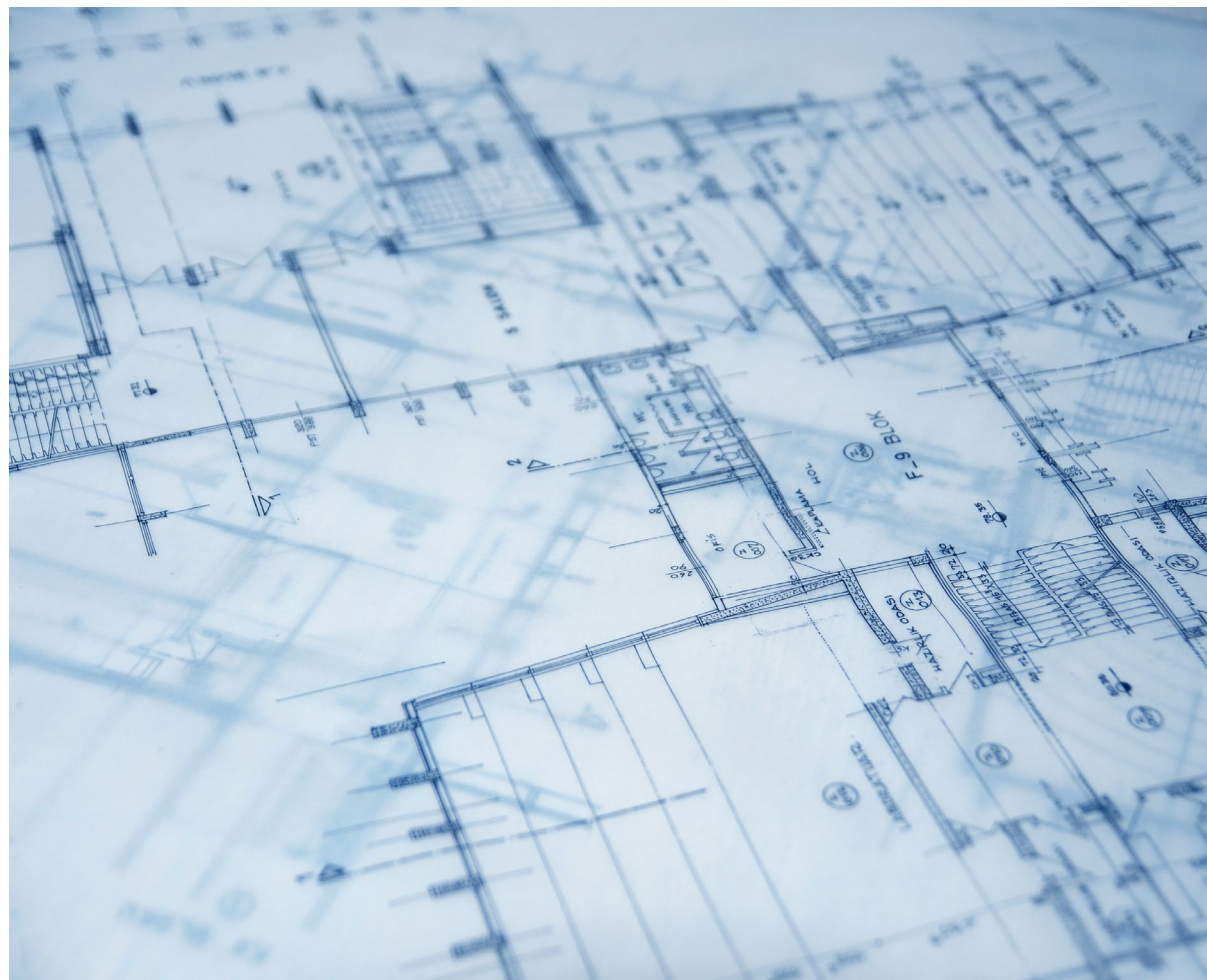
- Architect Selected
- Construction Manager Selection Ongoing
- Site Selection Ongoing

Clark County Judicial Center

- Architect Selected
- Construction Manager Selection Ongoing

Greenup County Judicial Center

- Architect, Construction Manager, and Financial Advisor Selected
- Site Selection Ongoing





Knox County Judicial Center

- Architect Selected
- Construction Manager Selection Ongoing
- Site Selection Ongoing

Owsley County Judicial Center

- Architect Selected
- Construction Manager Selection Ongoing
- Site Selection Ongoing





Judicial Branch Capital Construction

Court of Appeals Building

- Square footage: 21,500
- Design Phase C: Construction Document Development
- Anticipated to go to bid in **July 2026**
- Groundbreaking Ceremony scheduled for **August 11, 2026** in conjunction with the 50th anniversary celebration of the enactment of the 1976 Judicial Article.





Judicial Branch Capital Construction

Boyle County Current Status

- Boyle County will be managing this roof replacement and cupola repair project with AOC oversight. Project is intended to address potential safety concerns.
- Tate, Hill, Jacobs Architects and Poage Engineers are providing design services.
- Cupola repairs are scheduled to start in August 2026. Roof replacement will follow.
- AOC has located temporary space for court operations and is working with the landlord to retrofit the space.





Judicial Branch Capital Construction

Bell County Current Status

- Contract for preliminary abatement of mold concerns within the facility has already been issued.
- Modified PDB to be established.
- Design Services will be procured for the renovations of building envelope, interior repairs, and upgrades to the mechanical/electrical/plumbing systems.
- Identification of potential temporary space needs for court operations and what locations may be available for use.





Thank you for your time.

We hope you'll join us as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the 1976 Judicial Article and celebrate the groundbreaking of the new Court of Appeals building.

Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026