



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Memorandum

January 19, 2026

TO: Joint Technology Committee

FROM: Samantha Falco, Research Analyst, 303-866-4794

SUBJECT: JTC Staff Analysis of JBC-Referred FY 2026-27 Operating Budget Request
Colorado Judicial Department R-06 IT Infrastructure

Summary

The Judicial Department is requesting an increase of \$6.7 million in cash fund spending authority from the Judicial Department Information Technology (IT) Cash Fund. Additionally, the department is requesting a three-year spending authority for \$3.1 million of the requested amount.

Request Details

The Judicial Department is requesting to increase the department's IT Infrastructure operating line by \$6.7 million in FY 2026-27, and annualizing to \$7.5 million in FY 2027-28. In FY 2025-26, the operating appropriation totaled \$24.0 million, \$23.1 million of which was cash funded. The department provided the following breakdown for the requested increase:

- **Software inflation costs:** \$250,000, citing an industry-wide 9 to 14 percent price increase;
- **Audio and visual technology:** \$2.4 million in FY 2026-27 and \$4.7 million in FY 2027-28 and ongoing to fund the permanent audio and visual technology in each courtroom as a result of COVID-19;
- **Data center hardware:** \$3.1 million in FY 2026-27 with a three-year spending authority and \$460,000 in FY 2027-28 and ongoing to update the department's data center hardware;

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- **Security:** \$740,000 in FY 2026-27 and \$1.5 million in FY 2027-28 for increased security costs on the Deepwatch Security platform, F5 Distributed Cloud Software, and Cisco Security Enterprise Agreement.

The department included a request for three-year spending authority for the data center hardware update. Currently, the department is implementing the Case Management System, and states the spending authority extension will help ensure the successful implementation of the new system and subsequent migration of many other critical applications.

Committee Options

The JTC has three options for committee action when it reviews an operating budget request and makes a recommendation to the JBC. The JTC can:

- recommend the request to the JBC for funding with no concerns;
- recommend the request to the JBC for funding with concerns; or
- not recommend the request for funding.