

FY 2026-27 Budget Briefing Summary

Department of Law

The Department of Law represents and defends the legal interests of the people of the State of Colorado and serves as the legal counsel and advisor to state agencies. The elected Attorney General serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Law.

Summary of Request

Department of Law

Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
FY 2025-26 Appropriation						
SB 25-206 Long Bill	\$152,099,782	\$28,849,741	\$25,514,253	\$93,800,797	\$3,934,991	665.4
Other legislation	327,786	0	0	327,786	0	1.4
Total	\$152,427,568	\$28,849,741	\$25,514,253	\$94,128,583	\$3,934,991	666.8
FY 2026-27 Requested Appropriation						
FY 2025-26 Appropriation	\$152,427,568	\$28,849,741	\$25,514,253	\$94,128,583	\$3,934,991	666.8
No prioritized requests	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Employee compensation common policies	7,172,129	1,711,508	1,148,818	4,094,492	217,311	0.0
Prior year actions	3,967,402	2,447,512	13,121	1,506,345	424	3.8
Operating common policies	814,655	76,940	-66,596	782,655	21,656	0.0
Reflect auto theft prevention grant	154,821	0	0	154,821	0	1.0
Impacts driven by other agencies	16,868	4,739	2,114	9,484	531	0.0
Technical adjustments	55,205	85,612	-12,025	-15,747	-2,635	0.0
Total	\$164,608,648	\$33,176,052	\$26,599,685	\$100,660,633	\$4,172,278	671.6
Increase/-Decrease	\$12,181,080	\$4,326,311	\$1,085,432	\$6,532,050	\$237,287	4.8
Percentage Change	8.0%	15.0%	4.3%	6.9%	6.0%	0.0

No prioritized requests: The request does not include any prioritized requests or “decision items” for the Department of Law, however, they anticipate to submit a budget amendment for an additional year of leased space due to the Carr building construction preventing it from fully accessing all space it expects to occupy. Last year, the General Assembly provided a one-time \$600,000 increase that included about \$160,000 General Fund. Negotiations are ongoing which is why the request submission is delayed.

Employee compensation common policies: The request includes a net increase of \$7.2 million for employee compensation common policies. A common policy refers to general policies applied consistently to all departments.

Employee compensation common policies

Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
Salary survey	\$3,281,573	\$787,890	\$458,067	\$1,958,695	\$76,921	0.0
Health, life, and dental	2,896,608	693,961	499,539	1,587,851	115,257	0.0
Unfunded liability amortization payments	613,869	149,114	138,846	305,741	20,168	0.0
Step plan	313,629	62,611	30,995	216,107	3,916	0.0
PERA direct distribution	34,528	10,177	14,151	10,200	0	0.0
Paid family and medical leave insurance	27,625	6,711	6,248	13,758	908	0.0
Short-term disability	4,297	1,044	972	2,140	141	0.0
Total	\$7,172,129	\$1,711,508	\$1,148,818	\$4,094,492	\$217,311	0.0

Prior year actions: The request includes a net increase of \$4.0 million for the impact of prior year budget decisions and legislation.

Prior year actions

Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
HB 24-013 District Attorneys' salaries	\$4,378,971	\$4,378,971	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0
SB 24-010 Dental services compact	230,436	0	0	230,436	0	1.0
HB 24-1111 Cosmetology compact	192,030	0	0	192,030	0	0.8
SB 24-018 Physician assistant compact	153,624	0	0	153,624	0	0.7
HB 24-1002 Social work licensure compact	115,218	0	0	115,218	0	0.5
HB 24-1054 Jail standards	112,247	112,247	0	0	0	0.8
SB 25-130 Emergency services	85,335	0	0	85,335	0	0.3
SB 25-126 Uniform antitrust merger notices	61,382	61,382	0	0	0	0.0
HB 25-1267 Statewide emergency strategies	48,146	0	0	48,146	0	0.2
FY 25-26 Additional litigation resources	37,009	37,009	0	0	0	0.2
SB 24-141 Telehealth providers	6,401	0	0	6,401	0	0.0
FY 25-26 Salary survey	3,988	-634,848	5,272	633,139	425	0.0
FY 25-26 Step Plan	0	-83,299	7,849	75,451	-1	0.0
SB 25-305 Water quality permitting	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
HB 25-1239 Anti-discrimination Act	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
SB 25-244 Reduce ADA State Funding	-1,363,783	-1,363,783	0	0	0	0.0
SB25-304 Sex assault kit backlog	-60,167	-60,167	0	0	0	-0.5
HB 25-1154 Community services enterprise	-33,435	0	0	-33,435	0	-0.2
Total	\$3,967,402	\$2,447,512	\$13,121	\$1,506,345	\$424	3.8

Operating common policies: The request includes a net increase of \$0.8 million for operating common policies.

Operating common policies

Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
Resetting indirect cost base	\$328,512	\$0	\$328,512	\$0	\$0	0.0
Departmental indirect cost adjustment	327,642	0	-470,055	775,164	22,533	0.0
Legal services	122,824	47,088	75,736	0	0	0.0
Workers' compensation	99,080	30,568	11,679	53,904	2,929	0.0
Office of Information Technology services	57,045	26,598	4,718	24,693	1,036	0.0

Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
State accounting system (CORE)	45,684	12,972	5,689	25,595	1,428	0.0
Attorney licensing and education	17,658	7,330	-218	10,136	410	0.0
Administrative law judge services	2,252	0	2,252	0	0	0.0
Digital trunked radios	1,342	891	266	185	0	0.0
Risk management & property	-179,195	-45,143	-23,851	-104,196	-6,005	0.0
Vehicle lease payments	-8,189	-3,364	-1,324	-2,826	-675	0.0
Total	\$814,655	\$76,940	-\$66,596	\$782,655	\$21,656	0.0

Reflect auto theft prevention grant: The request includes an increase of \$154,821 reappropriated funds that appear for informational purposes to reflect updated award expectations from the Auto Theft Prevention Grant Program from the Department of Public Safety.

Impacts driven by other agencies: The request includes a net increase of \$16,868 for requests from other state agencies. These are also called “non-prioritized requests.” The amount shown in the table below applies only to this department and does not necessarily reflect the total value of the request.

Impacts driven by other agencies

Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
NP State accounting system (CORE) staff	\$20,800	\$5,843	\$2,607	\$11,695	\$655	0.0
NP SB24-205 AI compliance	2,993	841	375	1,683	94	0.0
NP Statewide enable AI	1,501	422	188	844	47	0.0
NP IT efficiencies	-8,426	-2,367	-1,056	-4,738	-265	0.0
Total	\$16,868	\$4,739	\$2,114	\$9,484	\$531	0.0

Technical adjustments: The request includes a net increase of \$55,205, including \$85,612 General Fund, for three adjustments that are technical in nature. The change is comprised of two net-zero fund source adjustments and an increase of \$55,205 total funds related to an escalation clause in the leased space contract.

Issues Presented

This is a summary of the briefing issues presented to the Joint Budget Committee by their dedicated non-partisan staff.

Budget reduction options: The Executive Budget Request did not include reductions to the Department of Law budget. This issue brief reviews additional options identified by staff to assist budget balancing.

Major litigation pending against the state: Provides a summary of major litigation pending against the state that could result in at least \$5 million in liability.

For More Information

JBC Staff Analyst:

Scott Philip Thompson
(303) 866-4957
Scott.Thompson@coleg.gov

To read the entire briefing: Go to <https://content.leg.colorado.gov/content/budget#budget-documents-section> to use the budget document search tool. Select this department's name under Department/Topic, "Briefing" under Type, and select a Start date and End date to show documents released in November and December of 2025.