FY 2027-28 Budget Briefing Summary

Law

The Attorney General is one of five independently elected constitutional officers of the State. As the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Law, the Attorney General 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 Department's FY 2026-27 appropriation represents approximately 0.3 percent of statewide operating appropriations and 0.2 percent of statewide General Fund appropriations.

Summary of Request

Department of Local Affairs

Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
FY 2026-27 Appropriation						
HB 26-1410 Long Bill	$163,772,155	$32,101,148	$29,786,740	$98,011,365	$3,872,902	667.1
Other legislation	1,144,378	196,190	38,916	909,272	0	4.5
Total	$164,916,533	$32,297,338	$29,825,656	$98,920,637	$3,872,902	671.6
FY 2027-28 Requested Appropriation						
FY 2026-27 Appropriation	$164,916,533	$32,297,338	$29,825,656	$98,920,637	$3,872,902	671.6
R1 Medicaid Fraud Control Unit FTE	684,037	171,010	0	0	513,027	3.7
R2 Colorado River Basins litigation funding	4,093,066	0	4,093,066	0	0	0.0
R3 FY28 Budget reductions	-883,900	-308,900	-575,000	0	0	-4.0
Employee compensation common policies	6,244,072	2,148,115	-74,412	4,148,664	21,705	0.0
Indirect cost adjustment	718,010	0	455,091	262,919	0	0.0
Prior year actions	605,045	10,353	94,354	489,469	10,869	-1.3
Technical adjustments	412,857	-566,058	64,215	907,838	6,862	1.0
Operating common policies	287,865	-113,718	320,331	81,540	-288	0.0
Total	$177,077,585	$33,638,140	$34,203,301	$104,811,067	$4,425,077	671.0
Increase/-Decrease	$12,161,052	$1,340,802	$4,377,645	$5,890,430	$552,175	-0.6
Percentage Change	7.4%	4.2%	14.7%	6.0%	14.3%	-0.1%

Changes are assumed to be ongoing unless otherwise noted.

R1 Medicaid Fraud Control Unit FTE: The request includes funding to increase the number of people working in the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. The request is the Department's response to a change in behavior from the

federal Health and Human Services (HHS) annual review, which issued a conditional recertification of the program. It is the assessment of HHS that based on the total Medicaid budget for the state, the Department should have approximately 34 staff members to work against fraud.

This changes the appropriation by:

- FY 2027-28: $0.7 million total funds and 3.7 FTE, including $171,010 General Fund.
- FY 2028-29: $1.2 million total funds and 7.7 FTE, including $0.3 million General Fund.
- FY 2029-30: $1.3 million total funds and 8.0 FTE, including $0.3 million General Fund.

R2 Colorado River Basins litigation funding: The request includes funding from the Colorado Water Conservation Board Litigation Account ("Litigation Account") to continue support of ongoing litigation or threatened litigation involving waters of Colorado. The Department indicates that the annual Water Projects bill will include transfers to the Litigation Account intended to fund this budget request.

- FY 2027-28 and ongoing: $4.1 million cash funds.

R3 FY28 Budget reductions: The request includes three budget reduction proposals: (1) ending the Appellate Unit's fellow attorney program that supported 4.0 FTE, (2) eliminating some of the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund appropriated to the P.O.S.T. Board, and a reduction related to supporting ongoing tobacco settlement enforcement.

FY 2027-28 and ongoing: $0.9 million total funds and 4.0 FTE, including $0.3 million General Fund.

Employee compensation common policies: The request includes a net increase of $6.3 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
Health, life, and dental	$2,987,844	$1,152,426	-$38,535	$1,888,435	-$14,482	0.0
Salary survey	2,336,193	567,444	206,052	1,521,259	41,438	0.0
Step plan	979,228	281,376	118,262	571,656	7,934	0.0
PERA direct distribution	42,169	33,429	-47,398	56,138	0	0.0
Unfunded liability amortization payments	-97,583	107,477	-297,501	104,999	-12,558	0.0
Paid family and medical leave insurance	-3,271	5,160	-13,233	5,345	-543	0.0
Short-term disability	-508	803	-2,059	832	-84	0.0
Total	$6,244,072	$2,148,115	-$74,412	$4,148,664	$21,705	0.0

Indirect cost adjustment: The request includes increases to the amount of cash and reappropriated funds collected by the Department to fund centralized administration of the Department.

Prior year actions: The request includes a net increase of $0.6 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
FY 26-27 Step Plan	$776,518	$128,219	$94,111	$541,167	$13,021	0.0
SB 26-162 Railroad safety	106,992	0	$0	106,992	0	0.4

Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
HB 26-1326 PUC sunset	84,937	0	0	84,937	0	0.3
HB24-1059 Comp for Elected Officials	59,177	59,177	0	0	0	0.0
FY 26-27 Salary survey	33,487	-58,992	0	92,479	0	0.0
SB 26-163 Battery stewardships	23,404	0	0	23,404	0	0.1
SB 26-113 BHA licensing	16,616	0	0	16,616	0	0.1
HB 26-1425 Applied behavioral analysis reg.	14,240	0	0	14,240	0	0.0
Attorney registration & CLE adjustment	6,268	1	545	5,722	0	0.0
SB 18-200 PERA unfunded liability	2,187	-1,411	2,245	253	1,100	0.0
IT asset maintenance adjustment	1	-4,969	-2,547	10,769	-3,252	0.0
HB 26-1429 Admin public assistance	-264,338	0	0	-264,338	0	-1.1
SB 26-149 Justice to civil system	-83,082	0	0	-83,082	0	-0.4
SB 24-013 DA Salaries	-65,482	-65,482	0	0	0	0.0
SB 26-189 Automated decision tech	-46,190	-46,190	0	0	0	-0.4
SB 26-155 Homeowner's insurance access	-33,125	0	0	-33,125	0	-0.2
SB 26-141 Wildlife fees	-19,940	0	0	-19,940	0	-0.1
HB 26-1111 Pesticide disposal & recycling	-6,625	0	0	-6,625	0	0.0
Total	$605,045	$10,353	$94,354	$489,469	$10,869	-1.3

Technical adjustments: The request includes a net increase of $0.4 million for technical adjustments related to leased space, a refinance of General Fund with reappropriated funds for the appellate unit, POST Board FTE total, and to reflect an anticipated reduction to the auto theft prevention grant it is awarded from the Department of Public Safety.

Operating common policies: The request includes a net increase of $0.3 million for operating common policies.

Operating common policies

Item	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reapprop. Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
Risk management & property	$239,098	$65,411	$29,056	$138,257	$6,374	0.0
Legal services	172,968	-134,120	307,088	0	0	0.0
NP Statewide training system	13,938	0	0	13,938	0	0.0
State accounting system (CORE)	10,812	2,760	1,213	6,679	160	0.0
Digital trunked radios	5,256	1,884	5,758	-2,386	0	0.0
NP DPA Personnel Board	4,429	1,227	548	2,525	129	0.0
Office of Information Technology services	-136,699	-41,241	-18,582	-70,716	-6,160	0.0
Vehicle lease payments	-18,781	-8,297	-1,491	-8,993	0	0.0
Administrative law judge services	-2,580	0	-2,580	0	0	0.0
Workers' compensation	-576	-1,342	-679	2,236	-791	0.0
Total	$287,865	-$113,718	$320,331	$81,540	-$288	0.0

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. This issue brief reviews additional options identified by staff to assist with budget balancing.

Summary of recent settlements that exceed $1 million: This issue brief provides a summary of settlements the Department of Law has entered into that exceed $1 million. It also provides information from the Attorney General's Office on the intended purpose or restrictions on how the settlement funds may be expended.

Major litigation pending against the state: This issue brief provides a summary of major litigation pending against the state that could result in a liability of at least $5.0 million.

For More Information

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To read the entire briefing: Go to 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 2026.