

Agency Name:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination		
Agency Code:	E210	Section:	60



Fiscal Year FY 2026-2027
Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

OPERATING REQUESTS (FORM B1)	For FY 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	☒	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	☐	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
	☐	Not requesting any changes.
NON-RECURRING REQUESTS (FORM B2)	For FY 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	☐	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
	☐	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	☒	Not requesting any changes.
CAPITAL REQUESTS (FORM C)	For FY 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	☐	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
	☒	Not requesting any changes.
PROVISOS (FORM D)	For FY 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	☒	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
	☐	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	☐	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency’s preferred contacts for this year’s budget process.

PRIMARY CONTACT: SECONDARY CONTACT:	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
	Lisa H. Catalanotto	(803) 343-0765	lisacatalanotto@cpc.sc.gov
	Coyet D. Greene	(803) 832-8273	cgreene@cpc.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2026-2027 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

SIGN/DATE: TYPE/PRINT NAME:	<u>Agency Director</u>	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

Agency Name:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination
Agency Code:	E210
Section:	60

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Solicitor Technology and Digital Storage	6,000,000	0	0	0	6,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Agency Attorney and Staff Retention	70,000	0	0	0	70,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Lease of Office Space in State-Owned Building	53,575	0	0	0	53,575	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			6,123,575	0	0	0	6,123,575	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	1
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Solicitor Technology and Digital Storage
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$6,000,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$6,000,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
		Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
		Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
		Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
		Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
		Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	X	IT Technology/Security related
		HR/Personnel Related

Consulted DTO during development

Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
		Education, Training, and Human Development
		Healthy and Safe Families
		Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
		Public Infrastructure and Economic Development

X Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Strategy: Support the programmatic and administrative operations of the Offices of Solicitor. Accountability: Recurring technology funding for maintenance, support, and licensing expenses associated with software applications and systems and for increased data storage needs. Funding will enable the Offices of Circuit Solicitor to continue software service and use contracts and to increase and maintain adequate data storage.
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

	Funds will be distributed to the sixteen Offices of Circuit Solicitor for expenditure with
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RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	third-party IT vendors.
	<i>What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?</i>
JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	\$6,000,000 in recurring funding is requested for maintenance, support, and licensing expenses associated with software applications and systems and for increased data storage needs in the Offices of Circuit Solicitor. In 2022 (FY 23), the General Assembly provided \$9,600,000 in one-time funding for the replacement and upgrade of technology and software applications and for the initial maintenance, support and/or licensing expenses associated therewith. Recurring funding is now needed for the annual fees to continue these services. In addition, data storage and accessibility demands have continued to increase. Recurring funding is needed to support increased costs for additional data storage and enhanced capabilities to securely collect, review, share, and receive digital evidence. Digital evidence is now a substantial part of every criminal case. Without the requested funding, solicitors’ offices will be unable to effectively manage that digital evidence. Annual IT services that recurring funds will be used for include: • Software maintenance and support • Application licenses and user fees • Cloud provider services • Additional data storage for digital evidence and case files • Interface / Integration connectivity • Transcription services
	<i>Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.</i>

Agency Name:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination		
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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	2
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Agency Attorney and Staff Retention
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$70,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$70,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
		Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
		Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
		Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
		Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
		Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
		IT Technology/Security related
	X	HR/Personnel Related
		Consulted DTO during development
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
		Education, Training, and Human Development
		Healthy and Safe Families
		Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
		Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Strategy 1.1: Operate in an effective and efficient manner with available resources and seek funding for the additional staff and resources needed to accomplish the mission of the agency. Strategy 1.2: Strengthen and modernize the collection, analysis and distribution of meaningful criminal justice data. Strategy 1.3: Support the programmatic and administrative operations of the Offices of Solicitor. Strategy 2.1: Develop, coordinate, and conduct regular training and continuing education for Circuit Solicitors, prosecutors, and staff. Strategy 2.2: Improve accessibility of legal training and assistance to prosecution
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staff statewide.

Accountability: Additional recurring funding is needed to support existing staff through pay increases that are reflective of the pay given to similar positions with similar responsibilities at other state agencies and county and local governments. Performance measures include the ability to accomplish the agency's mission and basic services, meet the demands for legal assistance and education, and support the programmatic and administrative operations of the Offices of Solicitor. Pay increases will conform with the State's new classification and compensation system effective June 2, 2025.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination (SCCPC) employees

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

The SCCPC requests **\$70,000 (\$52,650 Salary / \$17,350 Fringe)** in recurring appropriations to increase the salaries of attorneys and staff to remain competitive with other state agencies, as well as county and local governments.

The SCCPC and the Offices of Circuit Solicitor rely on the highly qualified and experienced staff at the SCCPC to meet the agency's mission of improving South Carolina's criminal justice system and enhancing the professionalism, effectiveness, and efficiency of South Carolina's sixteen (16) elected circuit solicitors and their staff of over 1,160 prosecutors, investigators, victim advocates, diversion and treatment court coordinators, paralegals, technology staff, and other administrative professional through training, legal assistance, programmatic support, data analysis, and collaboration with criminal justice stakeholders.

Providing funding for these positions will permit the SCCPC to be more competitive in the hiring process and increase its ability to recruit and retain top talent and experience for its workforce, and to provide expert training, legal advice and support for prosecutors and other staff in the Offices of Circuit Solicitor.

The increases will be applied to the agency's eight (8) state-funded FTEs which include three (3) attorneys, two (2) IT/technology staff, and three (3) non-attorney support staff.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	3
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Lease of Office Space in State-Owned Building
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$53,575 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$53,575
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
		Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
		Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
		Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
		Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
		Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	X	IT Technology/Security related
		HR/Personnel Related
	X	Consulted DTO during development
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
		Education, Training, and Human Development
		Healthy and Safe Families
		Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
		Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Strategy 1.1: Operate in an effective and efficient manner with available resources and seek funding for the additional staff and resources needed to accomplish the mission of the agency.
	Strategy 1.3: Support the programmatic and administrative operations of the Offices of Solicitor.
	Strategy 2.1: Develop, coordinate, and conduct regular training and continuing education for Circuit Solicitors, prosecutors, and staff.
	Strategy 2.2: Improve accessibility of legal training and assistance to prosecution staff statewide.
	Accountability: Recurring funding is needed to lease additional state-owned office

space adjacent to the agency's existing office space in the Wade Hampton Building basement. The additional space will allow the agency to meet increased demands for specialized trainings and meetings and will provide sufficient workspace to accommodate any foreseeable staff growth as the agency's existing office space is fully utilized.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

The Department of Administration

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

The SCCPC requests \$53,575 in recurring appropriations to lease additional office space that has become available adjacent to the agency's existing office space in the state-owned Wade Hampton Building on the State House Complex.

The SCCPC moved from non-state property to the basement of the Wade Hampton Building in February 2012 under a lease with the Department of Administration. Most recently, the Department of Administration, Office of Human Resources (OHR) has leased the office space next to the SCCPC's existing office space in the basement level of the Wade Hampton Building. OHR is moving to another location, vacating the space leased in the Wade Hampton Building. The Department of Administration (Admin) seeks to lease this space to another tenant and begin collecting rent on it in January 2026.

The SCCPC would like to lease the space vacated by OHR and must do so before the end of calendar year 2025 or Admin will lease the space to another tenant. The SCCPC intends to rent and take occupancy of the vacated OHR space so that Admin does not rent the space to another entity and will use carryforward funds for rent and associated costs owed for January - June 2026.

The additional office space being leased is 2,933 usable square feet (SF). Including the building common area allocated for rent purposes among all Wade Hampton Building tenants, the total rentable area of the space is approximately 3,381 SF and is the area used to calculate rent owed. Admin's annual rent rate for all state-owned office space, including the basement of the Wade Hampton Building, is \$11.29 per SF.

The SCCPC will use the additional space to accommodate increased training and meeting needs. A primary function of the SCCPC is to provide training for South Carolina's sixteen (16) elected Circuit Solicitors and their staff of over 1,160 prosecutors, investigators, victim advocates, diversion and treatment court coordinators, paralegals, technology staff, and other administrative professionals. The SCCPC also offers trainings that are open to law enforcement officers, judges, and state and local government attorneys. During FY 25, the SCCPC offered 163.57 hours of continuing education opportunities through thirty-two (32) training programs. The in-person trainings that can be held in the agency's existing training and meeting space are limited to a small audience of less than twenty people. The additional space will allow for larger audiences for in-person trainings.

The additional space will also provide workspaces for visiting solicitors and other solicitor staff and will support future staff growth within the agency. The SCCPC's existing office space is at maximum capacity as it fully utilized by its current staff.

The following is an itemization of the estimated recurring annual costs associated with leasing the additional space:

Rent: \$38,172
Energy Charges: \$6,900 - \$7,500
Building Security Surcharge: \$4,100
DTO Network Service Charge: \$ 3,803

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

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FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	117.157
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark “NEW”).

TITLE	GP: Employee Retention and Recruitment
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	II. Offices of Circuit Solicitors
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	N/A
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Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2026-2027? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION	Delete
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	Commission on Indigent Defense: Removal of Reporting Requirement
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	DELETE - 117.157 (GP: Employee Retention and Recruitment) Existing proviso requires the Circuit Solicitor and Circuit Public Defender for each judicial circuit to provide semi-annual reports on pending warrants to the Commission on Prosecution Coordination and the Commission on Indigent Defense. The report requires the inclusion of the number and age of pending warrants, as well as the number of warrant dispositions. Additionally, the report requires an explanation of the utilization of funds, steps taken to retain employees, and information on how these measures will assist with reducing the number and age of warrants pending. The semi-annual reports are to be provided to the Judicial Branch’s Chief Administrative Judges for Circuit Court, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Governor’s Office. SCCPC REQUEST: DELETE proviso to eliminate duplication of reporting efforts. The reporting of pending warrants required of the Circuit Solicitors and Commission on Prosecution Coordination by this proviso is already being collected and reported centrally by the SC Judicial Branch and is publicly available on its website. All warrants are received and handled by the Offices of Circuit Solicitor. The proviso also requires the reporting of the “utilization of the funds distributed among the circuits, steps taken to retain current employees, the number of new FTEs that have been hired, and information obtained from circuits on how these measures will go towards reducing both the number and aging warrants pending.” This proviso was first added in the 2023 Appropriations Act and was related to additional recurring funding appropriated for FY 24 for the recruitment and retention of prosecutors and public defenders in the Offices of Circuit Solicitor and Offices of Public Defender. Since then, the Circuit Solicitors have applied the additional funding that was appropriated in that year towards the retention of experienced prosecutors and have successfully increased the number of prosecutors in their offices statewide by 71 to 456 total prosecutors compared to 385 prosecutors in July 2023. Also, since the proviso requires reporting semi-annually, there have been five reports submitted that describe the efforts the Circuit Solicitors have implemented to retain current employees (salary adjustments) and how having additional staff and retaining experienced staff helps with addressing their dockets. These explanations remain consistent and the benefits of having experienced and more staffing in the solicitors’ offices will remain the same. Additionally, the recruitment and retention efforts of both the SCCPC and the Circuit Solicitors are also reported in the SCCPC’s annual Accountability Report.
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Since the increased recurring funding appropriated by the General Assembly in FY 23 is being fully utilized, the benefits of the funding have been fully explained, and the information requested on pending warrants is already being collected by and is available through the Judicial Branch, the Circuit Solicitors respectfully request the deletion of Proviso 117.157.

NOTE: This proviso was previously numbered Proviso 117.161 in the 2025 Accountability Report for FY 2025-26.

Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

Existing Proviso: 117.157. (GP: Employee Retention and Recruitment) (A) For Fiscal Year 2025-26, the Circuit Solicitor and Circuit Public Defender for each judicial circuit shall provide to the Commission on Prosecution Coordination Director and the Commission on Indigent Defense Director, respectively, a report of current warrants pending. The report shall provide the total number of warrants pending in Circuit Court on July 1st of the preceding and current fiscal year, and the total number of warrants disposed of in the previous fiscal year. In addition, the report shall provide the aging categories for pending warrants as follows: (1) those pending 365 days or less; (2) those pending 366 days to 544 days; and (3) the number of warrants pending more than 545 days. Each circuit shall also submit on a semiannual basis an updated report on the current number of warrants pending.

(B) The Commission on Prosecution Coordination and the Commission on Indigent Defense shall semiannually report progress updates to the Chief Administrative Judge of each respective circuit handling the General Sessions docket, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Governor's Office. The report shall include the utilization of the funds distributed among the circuits, steps taken to retain current employees, the number of new FTEs that have been hired, and information obtained from circuits on how these measures will go towards reducing both the number and aging warrants pending.

Proposed Deletion: DELETE 117.157. (GP: Employee Retention and Recruitment) (A) For Fiscal Year 2025-26, the Circuit Solicitor and Circuit Public Defender for each judicial circuit shall provide to the Commission on Prosecution Coordination Director and the Commission on Indigent Defense Director, respectively, a report of current warrants pending. The report shall provide the total number of warrants pending in Circuit Court on July 1st of the preceding and current fiscal year, and the total number of warrants disposed of in the previous fiscal year. In addition, the report shall provide the aging categories for pending warrants as follows: (1) those pending 365 days or less; (2) those pending 366 days to 544 days; and (3) the number of warrants pending more than 545 days. Each circuit shall also submit on a semiannual basis an updated report on the current number of warrants pending.

(B) The Commission on Prosecution Coordination and the Commission on Indigent Defense shall semiannually report progress updates to the Chief Administrative Judge of each respective circuit handling the General Sessions docket, the Chairman of the

~~Senate Finance Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Governor's Office. The report shall include the utilization of the funds distributed among the circuits, steps taken to retain current employees, the number of new FTEs that have been hired, and information obtained from circuits on how these measures will go towards reducing both the number and aging warrants pending.~~

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination		
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FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	60.3
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark “NEW”).

TITLE	PCC: Judicial Circuits State Support
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	II. Offices of Circuit Solicitors
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	Judicial Circuits State Support
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Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2026-2027? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION	Amend
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	None
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	AMEND - 60.3. (PCC: Judicial Circuits State Support) Existing proviso requires distribution of Caseload Equalization Funding as follows: \$7,632,961 distributed on a per capita basis based upon the current official census, and the remaining \$2,919,041 distributed on a pro-rata basis. SCCPC REQUEST: AMEND proviso to increase the amounts referenced based on new funding requested and allocated in FY 27 for Judicial Circuits State Support. The distributions under the current proviso total \$10,552,002. For additional new recurring funding of \$6,000,000, the first \$1,600,000 shall be distributed on a per capita basis based upon the current official census. The remaining \$4,400,000 shall be distributed on a pro-rata basis among the sixteen circuit solicitors. With the additional recurring funding of \$6,000,000, the adjusted total recurring appropriation is \$16,552,002 and will be distributed such that \$9,232,961 will be distributed on a per capita basis based upon the current official census, and the remaining \$7,319,041 will be distributed on a pro-rata basis among the sixteen circuit solicitors.
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Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

General Fund: \$6,000,000 Recurring beginning in FY 27.

Federal: \$0

Other: \$0

The purpose of the additional appropriated technology funding for the Offices of Circuit Solicitor is for maintenance, support, and licensing expenses associated with software applications and systems and for increased data storage needs. Funding will enable the Offices of Circuit Solicitor to continue software service and use contracts and to increase and maintain adequate data storage. \$6,000,000 in new recurring funding will be distributed to the Circuit Solicitors with \$1,600,000 to be distributed on a per capita basis, and the remaining \$4,400,000 being distributed between the sixteen Offices of Circuit Solicitor on a pro-rata basis.

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

Existing Proviso: 60.3. (PCC: Judicial Circuits State Support) The amount appropriated and authorized in this section for Judicial Circuits (16) State Support shall be apportioned among the circuits. The first \$7,632,961 shall be distributed on a per capita basis based upon the current official census. The next \$2,919,041 shall be distributed on a pro-rata basis. Payment shall be made as soon after the beginning of each quarter as practical.

Proposed Amendment: AMEND 60.3. (PCC: Judicial Circuits State Support) The amount appropriated and authorized in this section for Judicial Circuits (16) State Support shall be apportioned among the circuits. The first ~~\$7,632,961~~ **\$9,232,961** shall be distributed on a per capita basis based upon the current official census. The next ~~\$2,919,041~~ **\$7,319,041** shall be distributed on a pro-rata basis. Payment shall be made as soon after the beginning of each quarter as practical.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

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**FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION
CONTINGENCY PLAN**

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
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AMOUNT	\$1,564,485
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What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.

ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	0 FTEs
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How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	The SCCPC retains only 4% of the state funds appropriated to the agency. The remainder is pass-through funding that is distributed as required to the Offices of Solicitor or other entities. The agency cannot absorb a 3% cut without the total elimination of staff and statutorily required support services for the Offices of Solicitor. Thus, a 3% General Fund Budget reduction would be taken from pass-through funding allocated to the Offices of Solicitor for attorney positions. A reduction in the State’s prosecutors at a time when there is a critical need to significantly increase the number of these positions would be devastating to the Offices of Circuit Solicitor and managing court schedules that are already difficult to manage would become more so.
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What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?

SUMMARY	A 3% reduction in General Funds currently appropriated to the agency would have to be taken from pass-through funding for the Offices of Circuit Solicitor. Only 4% of the appropriated funds sent to the SCCPC are retained by the agency with the remaining 96% being distributed to the sixteen Offices of Circuit Solicitor and the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families. Therefore, taking the reduction from the portion of funding retained by the SCCPC would result in elimination of all agency staff and operations. If the agency’s budget is reduced by 3%, the amount distributed to the Offices of Circuit Solicitor would be cut by \$1,564,485 and result in the loss of at least one attorney position in each circuit. Such a reduction in staffing would be an extremely difficult burden to bear at a time when additional attorney positions are required to manage existing caseloads and court schedules and would adversely impact the quality of justice received by the citizens of South Carolina.
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Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS	The SCCPC retains only 4% of state funding allocated to the agency, with the remainder distributed to the Offices of Circuit Solicitor or other entities. Cost and operating expense reductions totaling \$50,000 could not be sustained within the agency, which operates a single small office. As the workloads and staffing of the Offices of Solicitor continue to increase, additional responsibilities are being imposed upon prosecutors by the General Assembly and the courts, and the law and criminal procedure have become more complex, the service, training, project management, and reporting demands imposed upon the SCCPC have also increased. Any reduction in costs and operating expenses by more than \$50,000 would be taken from the funds distributed to the Offices of Solicitor and adversely impact their prosecutions, programs, and services.
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What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than \$50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

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FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE	Protection of Citizens and Communities through the Administration of Justice
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	Unknown
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What is the expected savings to South Carolina’s businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	☐	Repeal or revision of regulations.
	☐	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
	☐	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
	☒	Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION	Survey of sixteen Offices of Circuit Solicitor
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Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES	N/A
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Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

REDUCTION OF REGULATION	N/A
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Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

	The SCCPC is unable to identify any spending excess, fees, or fines that should be reduced, or any regulations that should be amended or eliminated. The SCCPC does not charge fees for the services provided; rather, it incurs expenses to provide its core services, and those expenses, particularly those related to technology and software, have increased, and continue to do so. The circuit solicitors receive revenue from fines and fees as directed by statute; however, those revenue collections have significantly declined. The five-year average annual revenue from court fines and fees distributions between FY 21 and FY 25 is \$1,586,132 less than the previous five-year average annual revenue between FY 15 and FY 19. Additionally, FY 25 revenue from statutory court fines and fees (\$4,931,856) is 27% less than in FY 15 (\$6,758,274), and the cumulative loss in revenue from court fines and fees for the solicitors’ offices since FY 19 (comparing the revenue collected that FY before COVID-19 began impacting court operations) through FY 25 is \$7,373,514. The solicitors’ revenue from court fees and fines, program participation fees, and application fees primarily support the solicitors’ diversion and drug/treatment court programs. The revenue losses experienced have resulted in reductions in staff to support the operation of diversion and treatment court programs and the number of persons that can be admitted into and served by these programs. In addition to court fee revenue losses, solicitors’ offices lose revenue from expungement
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application fees and diversion/drug court participation fees because of exemptions for payment of these fees. These programs must continue to operate with less revenue and cannot maintain adequate staffing for these programs as a result, which leads to declining participation in diversion programs and even further revenue losses. For expungements, the number of applications processed has increased while the revenue collected to process the applications has decreased.

While revenue losses continue to limit the operations and programs of the Offices of Circuit Solicitor, prosecutor caseloads continue to increase. The number of arrests in FY 10 compared to the five-year average of annual arrests between FY 20 - FY 24 has increased during that same length of time increased 11%. The difficulty and complexity of cases has also increased as more and more cases involve violent crimes.

SUMMARY

Perhaps the biggest change in criminal justice over the past ten years has been the use of technology by criminals. Cell phone and social media use is prevalent in our society and criminals take advantage of it. They use cell phones and social media to plan, execute, photograph, and publish their crimes. They also use technology to threaten, bully and exploit people. The Offices of Circuit Solicitor must continually implement the most current technology advances to keep pace with the technology used by criminals. The lack of sophisticated technology not only hinders the ability of solicitors to combat crime, but it also causes decreased efficiency, accessibility to case files and tracking capability that further compounds the increase in docket backlog. Additionally, the Offices of Circuit Solicitor must have adequate numbers of prosecutors and staff to handle the increased volume of criminal cases and the ability to retain experience and talent to handle increasingly complex cases.

Graciously, the State has recognized the technology and staffing needs of the Offices of Solicitor through the state budget. Since FY 23, \$9.6 Million non-recurring funding and \$18.7 Million recurring funding has been appropriated to the Offices of Solicitor to begin addressing these challenges.

The circuit solicitors have used the additional funds appropriated by the State since FY 23 for the replacement and upgrade of their case management systems, evidence management systems, increased data storage capability, basic and enhanced fiber connections and bandwidth to support internet connectivity, interface and integration connections with other systems, enhanced IT security, and other technology enhancements. This critical funding has also enabled the solicitors to provide salary increases for existing prosecutors for retention purposes and to hire additional attorneys to restore the efficient processing of cases. As of September 2025, the circuit solicitors have successfully increased the number of prosecutors in their offices statewide by 71 to 456 total prosecutors compared to 385 prosecutors in July 2023. The most recent new funding appropriated in FY 26 will also make an impact in hiring and retention of investigators, paralegals and victim advocates.

The state funding appropriated since FY 23 is already making an impact with addressing docket backlog. The circuit solicitors have made significant strides towards increasing the number of warrants and cases that are disposed of each year. Their success in increasing the number of annual warrant dispositions has also resulted in an 8% reduction in docket backlog statewide between the start of FY 23 and the close of FY 25.

Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?