



# **Operating Budget**

**For Fiscal Year 2026**

**Submitted to the  
Office of the Governor, Budget and Policy Division,  
and the Legislative Budget Board**

**by**

**Fifteenth Court of Appeals, Austin**

**December 1, 2025**

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## C E R T I F I C A T E

Agency Name Fifteenth Court of Appeals

This is to certify that the information contained in the agency operating budget filed with the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and the Office of the Governor, Budget and Policy Division, is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that the electronic submission to the LBB via the Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST) and the PDF file submitted via the LBB Document Submission application are identical.

Additionally, should it become likely at any time that unexpended balances will accrue for any account, the LBB and the Office of the Governor will be notified in writing in accordance with Senate Bill 1, Article IX, Section 7.01, Eighty-ninth Legislature, Regular Session, 2025.

Chief Executive Office or Presiding Judge

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Scott Brister".

Signature

Printed Name

Chief Justice

Title

December 1, 2025

Date

Board or Commission Chair

Signature

Printed Name

Title

Date

Chief Financial Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Chris Prine".

Printed Name

Clerk of the Court

Title

December 1, 2025

Date

**Budget Overview**  
**89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget**  
**Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)**

235 Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin

	GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS				ALL FUNDS			
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026
<b>Goal: 1. Appellate Court Operations</b>								
1.1.1. Appellate Court Operations	1,391,448	4,886,304					1,391,448	4,886,304
1.1.2. Appellate Justice Salaries	532,000	767,500					532,000	767,500
<b>Total, Goal</b>	<b>1,923,448</b>	<b>5,653,804</b>					<b>1,923,448</b>	<b>5,653,804</b>
<b>Total, Agency</b>	<b>1,923,448</b>	<b>5,653,804</b>					<b>1,923,448</b>	<b>5,653,804</b>
<b>Total FTEs</b>							<b>16.0</b>	<b>16.0</b>

**2.A. Summary of Budget By Strategy**

89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget  
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE : 2/5/2026  
TIME : 12:43:49PM

Agency code: 235

Agency name: **Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin**

<b>Goal/Objective/STRATEGY</b>	<b>EXP 2024</b>	<b>EXP 2025</b>	<b>BUD 2026</b>
<b>1 Appellate Court Operations</b>			
1 <i>Appellate Court Operations</i>			
1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	\$0	\$1,391,448	\$4,886,304
2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	\$0	\$532,000	\$767,500
<b>TOTAL, GOAL 1</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,923,448</b>	<b>\$5,653,804</b>

**2.A. Summary of Budget By Strategy**

89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget  
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE : 2/5/2026  
TIME : 12:43:49PM

Agency code: 235

Agency name: Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin

<b>Goal/Objective/STRATEGY</b>	<b>EXP 2024</b>	<b>EXP 2025</b>	<b>BUD 2026</b>
<b>General Revenue Funds:</b>			
1 General Revenue Fund	\$0	\$1,923,448	\$5,653,804
	\$0	\$1,923,448	\$5,653,804
<b>TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,923,448</b>	<b>\$5,653,804</b>
<b>FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>16.0</b>

**2.B. Summary of Budget By Method of Finance**  
 89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: **2/5/2026**  
 TIME **12:44:17PM**

Agency code: **235**

Agency name: **Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin**

<b>METHOD OF FINANCING</b>	<b>Exp 2024</b>	<b>Exp 2025</b>	<b>Bud 2026</b>
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**GENERAL REVENUE**

**1** General Revenue Fund

*REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS*

Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)	\$0	\$2,327,569	\$3,800,321
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**Comments:** Art. IV Special Provisions, Section 10(a).

*RIDER APPROPRIATION*

SB 293, Article IX Sec. 18.83(f) in the GAA (SB1, 89R, page IX-120)	\$0	\$0	\$154,388
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**Comments:** 25% increase in pay for certain judges and linked to the base pay of a district judge authorized by Government Code, Section 659.012

GAA (SB1, 89R, page IX-120)	\$0	\$0	\$63,540
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**Comments:** SB 293, Article IX Sec. 18.83(f)

*TRANSFERS*

General Appropriations Act 26-27 Art. IX Sec. 17.15	\$0	\$1,317,684	\$0
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**Comments:** General Appropriations Act 26-27 Art. IX Sec. 17.15  
 L40 - 6% Salary increase for attorneys

*LAPSED APPROPRIATIONS*

89th Legislature HB 500 Section 9.04, Texas Constitution Article III. Section 49-G Government Code, Section 403.021 403.071	\$0	\$(86,250)	\$0
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**Comments:** Lapse a committed budget for Judges Salaries

*UNEXPENDED BALANCES AUTHORITY*

HB500, 89th Leg. Reg. Session	\$0	\$(1,635,555)	\$1,635,555
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**Comments:** HB500 89R, Sec. 9.04, and Art. IX, Sec. 17.16 GAA FY26-27 UB

**2.B. Summary of Budget By Method of Finance**  
 89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: **2/5/2026**  
 TIME **12:44:17PM**

Agency code: **235**

Agency name: **Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin**

<b>METHOD OF FINANCING</b>		<b>Exp 2024</b>	<b>Exp 2025</b>	<b>Bud 2026</b>
<b>TOTAL,</b>	<b>General Revenue Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,923,448</b>	<b>\$5,653,804</b>
<b>TOTAL, ALL</b>	<b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,923,448</b>	<b>\$5,653,804</b>
<b><u>OTHER FUNDS</u></b>				
<b>777</b>	<b>Interagency Contracts</b>			
<i>REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS</i>				
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)		\$0	\$17,660	\$(18,760)
<b>Comments:</b> IAC between OCA and COA for MOU Lease at the Houston Court House for 15th Court Of Appeals				
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)		\$0	\$(17,660)	\$18,760
<b>Comments:</b> IAC between OCA and COA for MOU Lease at the Houston Courthouse for 15th Court Of Appeals				
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)		\$0	\$(250)	\$250
<b>Comments:</b> IAC between SPD and 15th Court of Appeals				
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)		\$0	\$250	\$(250)
<b>Comments:</b> IAC between SPD and 15th Court of Appeals				
<b>TOTAL,</b>	<b>Interagency Contracts</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL, ALL</b>	<b>OTHER FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				
		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,923,448</b>	<b>\$5,653,804</b>

**2.B. Summary of Budget By Method of Finance**  
89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget  
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: **2/5/2026**  
TIME **12:44:17PM**

Agency code: **235**

Agency name: **Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin**

<b>METHOD OF FINANCING</b>	<b>Exp 2024</b>	<b>Exp 2025</b>	<b>Bud 2026</b>
<b>FULL-TIME-EQUIVALENT POSITIONS</b>			
REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS			
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)	0.0	17.0	0.0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)	0.0	0.0	19.0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)	0.0	(1.0)	0.0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)	0.0	0.0	(3.0)
<b>TOTAL, ADJUSTED FTEs</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>16.0</b>

**NUMBER OF 100% FEDERALLY FUNDED FTEs**

**2.C. Summary of Budget By Object of Expense**  
89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget  
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: 2/5/2026  
TIME 12:44:45PM

Agency code: **235**

Agency name: **Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin**

<b>OBJECT OF EXPENSE</b>		<b>EXP 2024</b>	<b>EXP 2025</b>	<b>BUD 2026</b>
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	\$0	\$1,772,864	\$2,315,000
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	\$0	\$74,947	\$125,000
2001	PROFESSIONAL FEES AND SERVICES	\$0	\$665	\$600
2003	CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES	\$0	\$2,333	\$4,000
2004	UTILITIES	\$0	\$1,170	\$4,500
2005	TRAVEL	\$0	\$6,068	\$12,000
2006	RENT - BUILDING	\$0	\$16,780	\$18,250
2007	RENT - MACHINE AND OTHER	\$0	\$3,900	\$4,550
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	\$0	\$44,721	\$2,329,904
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$0	\$0	\$840,000
<b>Agency Total</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,923,448</b>	<b>\$5,653,804</b>

**3.A. Strategy Level Detail**

89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget  
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: 2/5/2026  
 TIME: 12:45:35PM

Agency code: **235** Agency name: **Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin**

GOAL: 1 Appellate Court Operations  
 OBJECTIVE: 1 Appellate Court Operations  
 STRATEGY: 1 Appellate Court Operations

Service Categories:

Service: 01 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

<b>CODE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>EXP 2024</b>	<b>EXP 2025</b>	<b>BUD 2026</b>
<b>Efficiency Measures:</b>				
KEY 1	Clearance Rate	0.00 %	53.40 %	95.00 %
KEY 2	Percentage of Cases Under Submission for Less Than One Year	0.00 %	100.00 %	95.00 %
KEY 3	Percentage of Cases Under Submission for Less Than Two Years	0.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %
<b>Explanatory/Input Measures:</b>				
1	Number of Cases Filed	0.00	135.00	150.00
2	Number of Cases Transferred In	0.00	142.00	135.00
3	Number of Cases Transferred OUT	0.00	23.00	15.00
4	Number of Cases Disposed	0.00	140.00	195.00
<b>Objects of Expense:</b>				
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	\$0	\$1,253,048	\$1,570,000
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	\$0	\$65,867	\$110,000
2001	PROFESSIONAL FEES AND SERVICES	\$0	\$665	\$600
2003	CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES	\$0	\$2,333	\$4,000
2004	UTILITIES	\$0	\$1,170	\$4,500
2005	TRAVEL	\$0	\$6,068	\$12,000
2006	RENT - BUILDING	\$0	\$16,780	\$18,250
2007	RENT - MACHINE AND OTHER	\$0	\$3,900	\$4,550
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	\$0	\$41,617	\$2,322,404
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$0	\$0	\$840,000
<b>TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,391,448</b>	<b>\$4,886,304</b>
<b>Method of Financing:</b>				
1	General Revenue Fund	\$0	\$1,391,448	\$4,886,304

**3.A. Strategy Level Detail**

89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget  
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: 2/5/2026  
TIME: 12:45:35PM

Agency code: **235** Agency name: **Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin**

GOAL: 1 Appellate Court Operations

OBJECTIVE: 1 Appellate Court Operations

Service Categories:

STRATEGY: 1 Appellate Court Operations

Service: 01 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

<b>CODE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>EXP 2024</b>	<b>EXP 2025</b>	<b>BUD 2026</b>
	<b>SUBTOTAL, MOF (GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,391,448</b>	<b>\$4,886,304</b>
	<b>TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE :</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,391,448</b>	<b>\$4,886,304</b>
	<b>FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>13.0</b>

**3.A. Strategy Level Detail**

89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget  
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: 2/5/2026  
TIME: 12:45:35PM

Agency code: **235** Agency name: **Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin**

GOAL: 1 Appellate Court Operations

OBJECTIVE: 1 Appellate Court Operations

Service Categories:

STRATEGY: 2 Appellate Justice Salaries. Estimated And Nontransferable

Service: NA Income: NA Age: NA

<b>CODE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>EXP 2024</b>	<b>EXP 2025</b>	<b>BUD 2026</b>
<b>Objects of Expense:</b>				
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	\$0	\$519,816	\$745,000
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	\$0	\$9,080	\$15,000
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	\$0	\$3,104	\$7,500
<b>TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$532,000</b>	<b>\$767,500</b>
<b>Method of Financing:</b>				
1	General Revenue Fund	\$0	\$532,000	\$767,500
<b>SUBTOTAL, MOF (GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS)</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$532,000</b>	<b>\$767,500</b>
<b>TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE :</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$532,000</b>	<b>\$767,500</b>
<b>FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>

**3.A. Strategy Level Detail**

89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget  
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: 2/5/2026  
TIME: 12:45:35PM

**SUMMARY TOTALS:**

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:	\$0	\$1,923,448	\$5,653,804
METHODS OF FINANCE :	\$0	\$1,923,448	\$5,653,804
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:	0.0	16.0	16.0

**Capital Budget Allocation to Strategies**  
89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget  
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: 2/5/2026  
TIME: 12:48:02PM

Agency code: **235** Agency name: **Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin**

**Category Code/Name**

*Project Sequence/Project Id/Name*

Goal/Obj/Str	Strategy Name	EXP 2024	EXP 2025	BUD 2026
<b>5003 Repair or Rehabilitation of Buildings and Facilities</b>				
1/1	<i>Court Room Build Out</i>			
Capital	1-1-1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	0	0	\$840,000
	TOTAL, PROJECT	\$0	\$0	\$840,000
	<b>TOTAL CAPITAL, ALL PROJECTS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$840,000</b>
	<b>TOTAL INFORMATIONAL, ALL PROJECTS</b>			
	<b>TOTAL, ALL PROJECTS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$840,000</b>

Agency code: **235**

Agency name: **Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin**

**Category Code / Category Name**

*Project Sequence/Project Id/ Name*

**OOE / TOF / MOF CODE**

**EXP 2024**

**EXP 2025**

**BUD 2026**

**5003 Repair or Rehabilitation of Buildings and Facilities**

*1/1 Capitol Project for The 15th Court of Appeals*

**OBJECTS OF EXPENSE**

**Capital**

5000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES		\$0	\$0	\$840,000
Capital Subtotal OOE, Project	1	\$0	\$0	\$840,000
Subtotal OOE, Project	1	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$840,000</b>
<b>TYPE OF FINANCING</b>				
<u><b>Capital</b></u>				
CA 1 General Revenue Fund		\$0	\$0	\$840,000
Capital Subtotal TOF, Project	1	\$0	\$0	\$840,000
Subtotal TOF, Project	1	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$840,000</b>
Capital Subtotal, Category	5003	\$0	\$0	\$840,000
Informational Subtotal, Category	5003			
<b>Total, Category</b>	<b>5003</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$840,000</b>

**AGENCY TOTAL -CAPITAL**

**AGENCY TOTAL -INFORMATIONAL**

**AGENCY TOTAL**

**\$0**

**\$0**

**\$840,000**

**\$0**

**\$840,000**

**METHOD OF FINANCING:**

**Capital**

1 General Revenue Fund		\$0	\$0	\$840,000
Total, Method of Financing-Capital		\$0	\$0	\$840,000
<b>Total, Method of Financing</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$840,000</b>

4.A. Capital Budget Project Schedule  
89th Regular Session, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget  
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

DATE: 2/5/2026  
TIME : 12:47:40PM

Agency code: 235

Agency name: Fifteenth Court of Appeals District, Austin

**Category Code / Category Name**

*Project Sequence/Project Id/ Name*

OOE / TOF / MOF CODE	EXP 2024	EXP 2025	BUD 2026
<b>TYPE OF FINANCING:</b>			
<u>Capital</u>			
CA CURRENT APPROPRIATIONS	\$0	\$0	\$840,000
Total, Type of Financing-Capital	\$0	\$0	\$840,000
<b>Total,Type of Financing</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$840,000</b>