

# **Greenbook**

## **LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget**

### **Court of Claims of Ohio**

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# LBO Greenbook

## Court of Claims of Ohio

### Quick look...

- The Court of Claims hears claims against the state, handles public records claims, and hears appeals of Attorney General crime victims compensation decisions.
- Total agency appropriations: \$5.1 million in FY 2026 and \$5.3 million in FY 2027.
- Sources of the budget: GRF (87.7%) and state non-GRF (12.3%).

Fund Group	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
General Revenue (GRF)	\$9,732,447	\$12,631,390	\$4,463,374	\$4,668,266
Dedicated Purpose (DPF)	\$500,236	\$608,225	\$624,900	\$652,622
Total	\$10,232,683	\$13,239,614	\$5,088,274	\$5,320,888
% change	--	29.4%	-61.6%	4.6%
GRF % change	--	29.8%	-64.7%	4.6%

### Agency overview

The Court of Claims, established in 1975, is the only statutory court with statewide jurisdiction. Prior to its creation, there was no forum for civil actions filed against the state of Ohio. The Court of Claims' duties include:

- Adjudicating civil actions filed against the state;
- Hearing appeals from decisions made by the Attorney General on claims allowed under the Victims of Crime Law;
- Hearing complaints alleging a denial of access to public records;
- Acting as the state's fiduciary agent for processing claims of wrongful imprisonment; and
- New under the budget, appointing receivers for counties, townships, and municipal corporations in fiscal emergency, upon petition by the Attorney General.

For the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium, the Court's budget will support the equivalent of approximately 28 full-time staff positions. Over 80% of the Court's operating expenses are typically allocated for personal services (e.g., payroll).

### Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget

The Court's budget consists of five appropriation line items (ALIs), three of which are supported by the General Revenue Fund (GRF), and two by Dedicated Purpose Fund (DPF) line items. One line item – Wrongful Imprisonment Compensation – is appropriated on an as-needed basis, generally via Controlling Board authorization.

## Operating Expenses (ALI 015321)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>GRF ALI 015321, Operating Expenses</b>					
\$2,697,825	\$2,926,671	\$2,599,052	\$3,051,598	\$3,318,213	\$3,468,684
% change	8.5%	-11.2%	17.4%	8.7%	4.5%

The expenses of operating the Court, primarily the Court's Civil Division, are paid with money appropriated to this GRF line item. Historically, the majority of this line item – between 80% and 90% – is expended for personal services (payroll).

## Wrongful Imprisonment Compensation (ALI 015402)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>GRF ALI 015402, Wrongful Imprisonment Compensation</b>					
\$8,534,147	\$8,911,372	\$6,154,335	\$8,506,597	\$0	\$0
% change	4.4%	-30.9%	38.2%	-100.0%	0.0%

The Court of Claims acts as the state's fiduciary agent for processing claims of wrongful imprisonment. When a wrongful imprisonment judgment has been rendered in a court of common pleas, the Controlling Board, upon certification by the Court of Claims, transfers the sum necessary to pay that judgment to the Court's GRF line item 015402, Wrongful Imprisonment Compensation. Since the Controlling Board provides the money for such judgments on an as-needed basis, the Court's line item does not receive a direct appropriation through the main operating appropriations act enacted by each General Assembly. However, once the expenditure is made, the amounts are tracked as spending by the Court. While the budget makes no appropriation, this information is included for background for the reader.

## Public Records Adjudication (ALIs 015403 and 015604)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>GRF ALI 015403, Public Records Adjudication</b>					
\$910,408	\$1,003,656	\$979,059	\$1,073,194	\$1,145,161	\$1,199,582
<b>DPF Fund 5TE0 ALI 015604, Public Records</b>					
\$9,200	\$1,200	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$2,800	\$2,800
Public Records Total	\$1,004,856	\$985,059	\$1,075,194	\$1,147,961	\$1,202,382
% change	9.3%	-2.0%	9.2%	6.8%	4.7%

The expenses of the Court's Public Records Adjudication Program, which hears complaints alleging a denial of access to public records, is funded by the two line items displayed in the table immediately above.

DPF line item 015604, Public Records, draws its appropriation from the Public Records Fund (Fund 5TE0), which consists of all filing fees for public records cases. From FY 2020-FY 2025, revenue credited to the fund ranged from roughly \$1,600 to \$4,100 annually.

### **CLA Victims of Crime (ALI 015603)**

<b>FY 2022 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2023 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2024 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2025 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2026 Appropriation</b>	<b>FY 2027 Appropriation</b>
<b>DPF Fund 5K20 ALI 015603, CLA Victims of Crime</b>					
\$534,212	\$545,675	\$494,236	\$606,225	\$622,100	\$649,822
% change	2.1%	-9.4%	22.7%	2.6%	4.5%

This line item pays for: (1) the compensation of judges of the Court of Claims necessary to hear and determine appeals from the Office of the Attorney General, and (2) the compensation of any personnel of the Court of Claims needed to administer their appellate duties and responsibilities. Its appropriation is supported by cash transferred by the Office of Budget and Management from the Victims of Crime/Reparations Fund (Fund 4020), which is used by the Office of the Attorney General.