



State Court 1

2026 Operating and 5-Year CIP Budget Presentation

FY26 – Budget Requests

Presenter: Chief Judge V.T. McRae, State Court A
Date: August 7th, 2025

Vision, Mission & Values

Department Statements



Opportunities & Challenges

SUCSESSES

- Since taking Office in December of 2024, Judge McRae has had a total of 861 criminal cases have been filed before him. 686 cases have settled via plea, payment, dismissal, trial, etc.
- Compared to 982 criminal cases that have received final dispositions during the 23/24 fiscal year, Judge McRae is on pace to shatter that number in significantly less time.
- Since taking Office in December of 2024, Judge McRae inherited 1,087 civil cases. As of 7/23/2025, Judge McRae has settled 471 of these cases.
- Compared to 257 cases having settled during the 23/24 fiscal year, Judge McRae has doubled the Courts efficiency when handling civil cases.

OPPORTUNITIES

- We are excited to provide accessibility to the Courts for Rockdale County citizens.
- Veterans Court: Establishing a Veterans Accountability Court with the support of Veteran Organizations, the Community, and the State.
- Night Traffic Court: Citizens do not have to take off work during the day and provides more opportunity to appear before the Court.
- Jail Court: Citizens in the Rockdale County jail will have ample opportunity to be heard in front of a Judge without waiting numerous days to be heard.
- Social Justice Reform: Pre-Trial Diversion is a program for first time offenders. They will participate in a supervised program focused on education and treating conditions to deter future criminal activity.

CHALLENGES

- To continue to reduce the backlog of cases that are currently awaiting a Court date.
- Provide Competitive pay to attract top talent.

FY25 Goals & Initiatives

Department's Reimagine Rockdale Strategic Plan

Access: Provide timely access to courts, by placing cases on calendars, Night Court, Jail Court,

Equity: Give all cases equal due process and attention

Innovation: Use technology (Maximize use of videoconferencing); Social Justice Reform, Pre-Trial Diversion, Establishing a Veterans Accountability Court.

Operating Budget Summary

*Report Provided by Finance

	Budget FY 2025	Proposed FY 2026	Change
Total Operating Expenses	\$147,900	\$170,710	\$22,810
Total Personnel Services & Benefits	\$498,244	\$654,113	\$155,869
Total Est. Budget impact	\$646,144	\$824,823	\$178,679

Operating Budget Request

Changes of \$5,000 or greater listed below.

	Description	FY25 Budget	FY26 Cost	Amount Change
Technical Services	Court Reporters	\$21,000	\$30,000	\$9,000
Dues & Fees	State Court Bailiffs / Fees	\$23,000	\$30,000	\$7,000

Operating Budget Request Justification

Requests

Technical Services

\$9,000

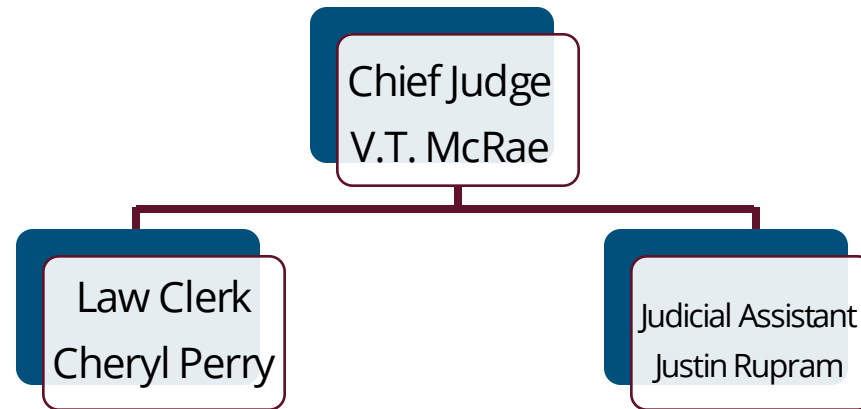
- We are asking for a \$9,000 increase to the Technical Services budget. As you are aware, there was a vacant State Court Judge position that has now been filled by Chief Judge V.T. McRae. Since Chief Judge McRae was appointed by Governor Kemp, Court proceedings have increased compared to last year when the Judge's position was vacant. With the implementation of Veterans Court, Night Court, and additional Court proceedings, there is a need to schedule additional Court personnel. The current budget is not enough for court proceedings we plan to have and additional court proceeding in the future. Court reporters get paid from the Technical Services budget line. They are essential to record the transcribe the dialogue of all most court proceedings as required by statute. The Budget needs to reflect enough so that there are ample funds for Court proceedings to run smoothly, effectively, and without an issue.

Dues & Fees

\$7,000

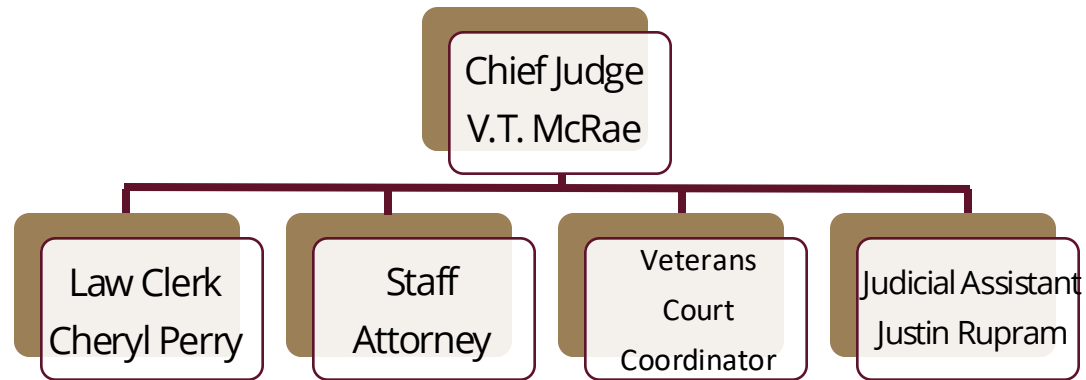
- We are asking for a \$7,000 increase to the Dues & Fees budget. As you are aware, there was a vacant State Court Judge position that has now been filled by Chief Judge V.T. McRae. Since Chief Judge McRae was appointed by Governor Kemp, Court proceedings have increased compared to last year when the Judge's position was vacant. With the implementation of Veterans Court, Night Court, and additional Court proceedings, there is a need to schedule additional Court personal. The current budget is not enough for court proceedings we plan to have and additional court proceeding in the future. The Dues & Fees budget is used to pay the Civilian Bailiffs. Civilian Bailiffs are a necessary part of the Court proceeding. Civilian Bailiffs ensure that the Courtroom is safe for the Judge and other Court personnel. They also provide stability and ensure that Court proceeds efficiently without any disruptions. The Budget needs to reflect enough so that there are ample funds for Court proceedings to run smoothly, effectively, and without an issue.

Current Organization Chart



Proposed Organization Chart

Fiscal Year 2026



Personnel Changes

Personnel Budget Request

FY25 Budgeted Department Total- 3

FY26 Requested Additional Personnel – 2

Job Title	Fund	Division	FTE or PT	Head Count	Request Type	Salary +40% Benefits
Staff Attorney	2301	State Court	FTE	1	New Position	117,989.87
Coordinator, Veterans Court	2301	State Court	PT	1	New Position	50,000
					Total Est. Budget impact	\$167,989.87

New Department Total (w/Request)- 5

Personnel Budget Request Justification

New Position Requests

Staff Attorney

New Position - \$117,989.87

Need to acquire best qualified talent for Rockdale County. With the increased case load and growth of Rockdale County needs fully qualified, experienced, staff attorney.

Veterans Court Coordinator

New Position - \$50,000

Need to acquire best qualified talent for Rockdale County. With the establishment of Veteran's Court, Rockdale County needs fully qualified, experienced, Veterans Court Coordinator.



Thank You