

ARTICLE IV

JUDICIARY

KEY BUDGET ITEMS

The proposed budgets for the courts and judicial agencies total \$334.9 million for the 2000-01 biennium from all fund sources. Compared to the 1998-99 biennial spending level, the proposed budgets represent a \$13 million increase, or 4.0 percent. Proposed amounts from general revenue total \$288.7 million, a \$6.4 million increase, or 2.3 percent over the 1998-99 biennial spending level. The proposed funding level will allow the judiciary to continue operating effectively for the 2000-01 biennium.

Fourteen Appellate Courts

Includes \$1.4 million in general revenue to eliminate case backlogs at the First, Fifth, and Fourteenth Courts of Appeals with more attorneys and support staff. These courts all have backlogs exceeding 700 cases. Additional employees will process more cases each year, thereby reducing and eventually eliminating the backlogs.

Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council

Includes \$4.2 million in general revenue for Phase II of the Judicial Committee on Information Technology's (JCIT's) technology implementation project.