

# Senate Finance & Appropriations General Government Subcommittee

Governor's Budget Items for Supreme Court

Karl R. Hade – Executive Secretary



Office of the Executive Secretary  
Supreme Court of Virginia



# Sustaining & Advancing Court IT Services

## **\$1.0 Million each year of the biennium**

- To assist with rising software subscription/licensing costs and hardware maintenance costs
- Experiencing significant renewal increases combined with reduced revenue from the Court Technology Fund
- OES supports over 5,000 users with PCs, printers, Microsoft Office, email, Judicial websites, videoconferencing and over 100 in-house developed applications/interfaces



# Judicial Video Conferencing Renewal & Expansion

**FY27 - \$1,107,964 and 1 FTE**

**FY28 - \$2,263,141 and 2 FTEs**

- Funding needed to replace over 1300 video units over a 2 year period
- Currently installed in courts, magistrate offices, regional jails, detention centers
- Video systems are over 15 years old and falling out of support
- Current systems cannot meet the growing needs of courts
- Supports over 30,000 video calls per month



# Establish a Security Operations Center (SOC)

**FY27 - \$688,452 and 2 FTEs**

**FY28 - \$1,081,084 and 4 FTEs**

- Public bodies in the Commonwealth are required to establish a SOC per the Security Standards established by VITA.
- Needed to provide 24/7 monitoring against cyber threats. Funding needed for monitoring services and personnel to detect, respond to and mitigate threats in real time.
- We experience numerous attempts to hack into our networks every day
- Increasing sophistication and number of attacks against Federal and State Court systems
- In 2025, Federal Pacer system suffered a major compromise. There have also been recent breaches of Court Case Management systems in Los Angeles County, Kansas, Georgia, Texas, Alaska, and Pennsylvania



# Increase Guardians Ad Litem (GAL) Compensation

## **\$1.5 Million each year of the biennium**

- Continue to see a decline in the number of attorneys willing to take these assignments to represent children, parents and incapacitated persons
- GALs for children down from 1171 in 2020 to 828 in 2025 and for incapacitated persons down from 444 to 298 over the same time period
- Compensation cited as the number one reason for getting off the certified list
- Last year, General Assembly increased the out of court rate from \$55/hr to \$57.50/hr and the in-court rate from \$75/hr to \$78.50/hr
- Requested \$3.0 million/yr from Governor to raise to \$65/hr out of court and \$90/hr in-court
- \$1.5 million will provide funding for \$61.25/hr out of court and \$84.25 for in-court



# Supplement Drug Offender Assessment Fund

**\$157,828 each year of the biennium**

- Fund was created in 2019 to provide funding for two positions to support specialty dockets throughout the Commonwealth
- In 2019, received \$175,321 from this fund
- In 2025, received only \$75,526 in funding, result of changes in marijuana laws
- Total cost (salaries & benefits) for these positions is now \$233,354



# Increase Criminal Fund & IMC Appropriation

**\$20,416,189 each year of the biennium**

- In 2025, Fees for court-appointed attorneys were raised
- Expenditures increased by \$19.1 Million in FY2025
- Expenditures increased by 28.55% from January-June 2025, driven by increased payments for court-appointed attorneys
- This is the projected amount needed to ensure adequate funding over the next two fiscal years

