

VERMONT JUDICIARY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
APRIL 16, 2021

Patricia Gabel, Esq., State Court Administrator
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1

Budget Materials Include:

- **Vermont Judicial Branch Trends**
- **Vermont Judiciary Annual Statistical Report for FY2020**
- **FY22 Budget Overview**
- **Budget Upward Pressures**



2

Transforming Judicial Branch

- **NG-CMS**
 - Final 11 counties converted in FY21
- **CHINS Reform Activities**
 - Judicial Master and Regional Treatment Docket Pilot
 - System Evaluation by VCSC
- **Pandemic Response**
 - Remote Hearings
 - Remote Work
- **Expungements**
- **Judiciary Access and Resource Center**



3

Statistical Report:

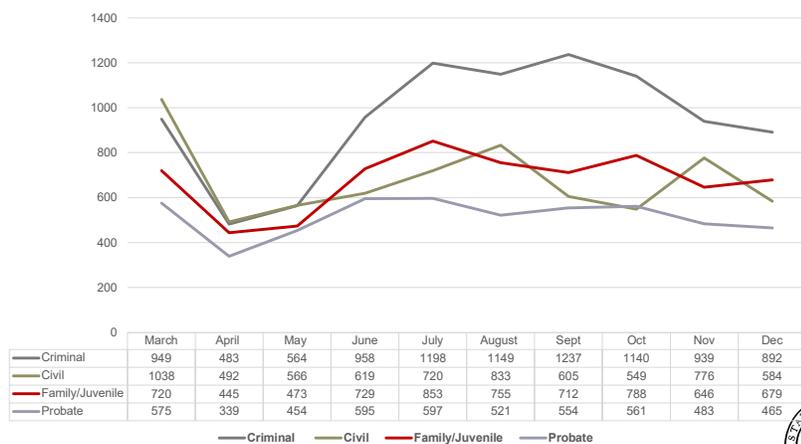
- The Judiciary's FY20 Annual Statistical Report is different from prior years' reports.
- This is principally because the case-level data on which the analysis depends was not available in all cases.
- This is due to the phased transition of the trial courts from the Judiciary's legacy case management system (VTADS) to its Next-Generation Case Management System (Odyssey), which occurred between June 2019 and February 2021.



4

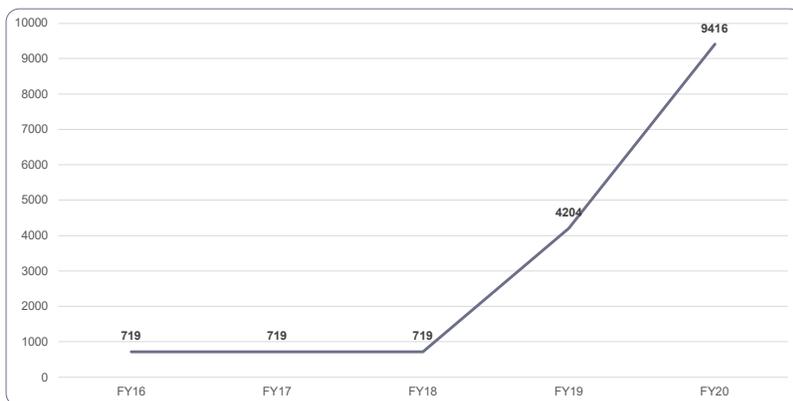
Statistical Trends:

Criminal, Civil, Family/Juvenile, and Probate Cases Filed, March 2020 - December 2020

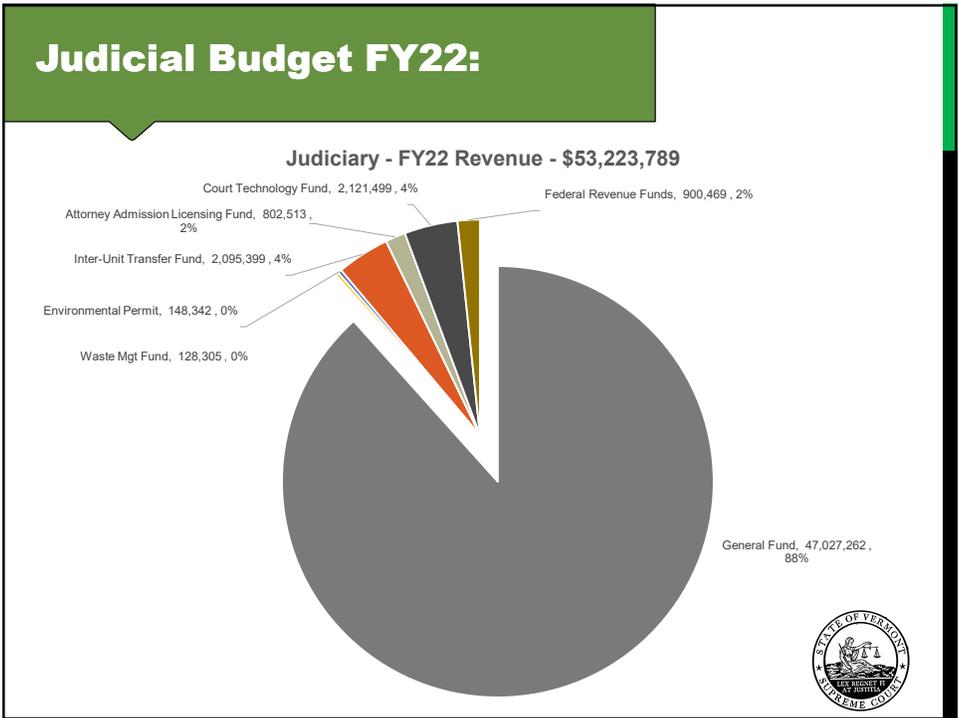


5

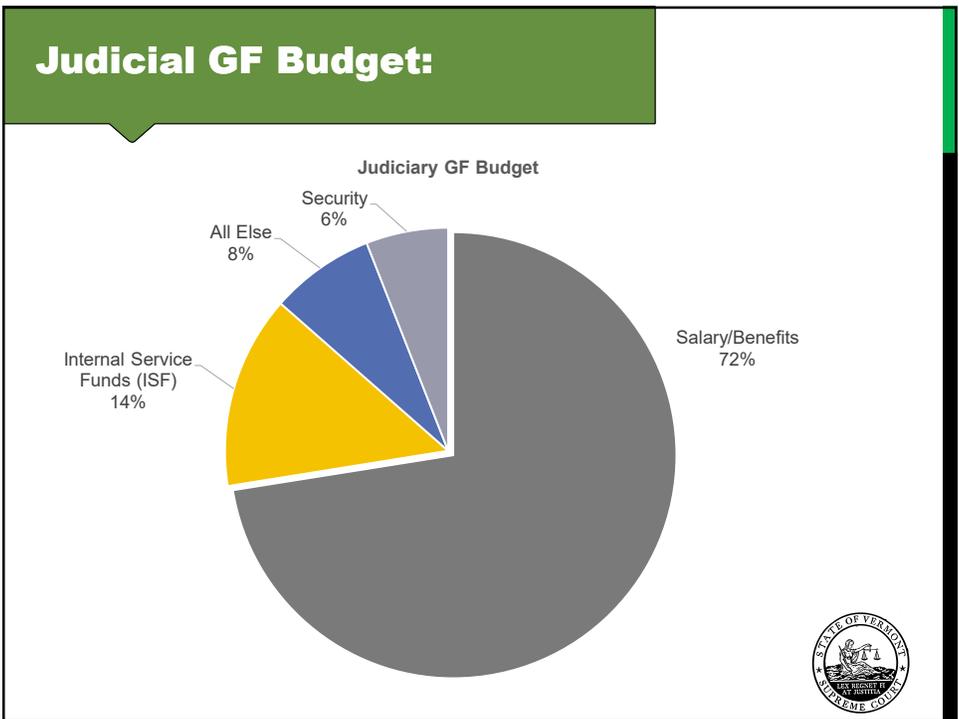
Expungement Orders Issued:



6



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8

FY22 Gov. Rec. Judiciary Budget

\$46,927,245	FY21 Judiciary GF
\$ 100,017	Increase for ISF expenses
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\$47,027,262	Total Gov. Rec. Judiciary GF Budget

- 0.2 % increase
- No new Judiciary funding
- Does not address any upward pressures
- Does not address backlog

“Maintenance mode” budget at a time when
nothing is in maintenance mode



9

Overview of FY22 Judiciary Budget

Statewide budget pressures include:

- **\$560,564** **Roll-Up of FY21 Pay Act – Incl. in House Version**
- **\$500,000** **Reinstatement of base GF budget**
- **\$350,000** **Anticipated Title IV-D Reduction**
- **\$250,000** **VLRB decision – Amended since House Version**
- **\$300,000** **Decrease in Tech Fund ***
- **\$150,000** **Two Security Positions (contracted)**
- **\$250,000** **Sheriff Increase**

- **\$2,360,564** **5% increase**

* Tech Fund FY21 estimated decrease \$550,000



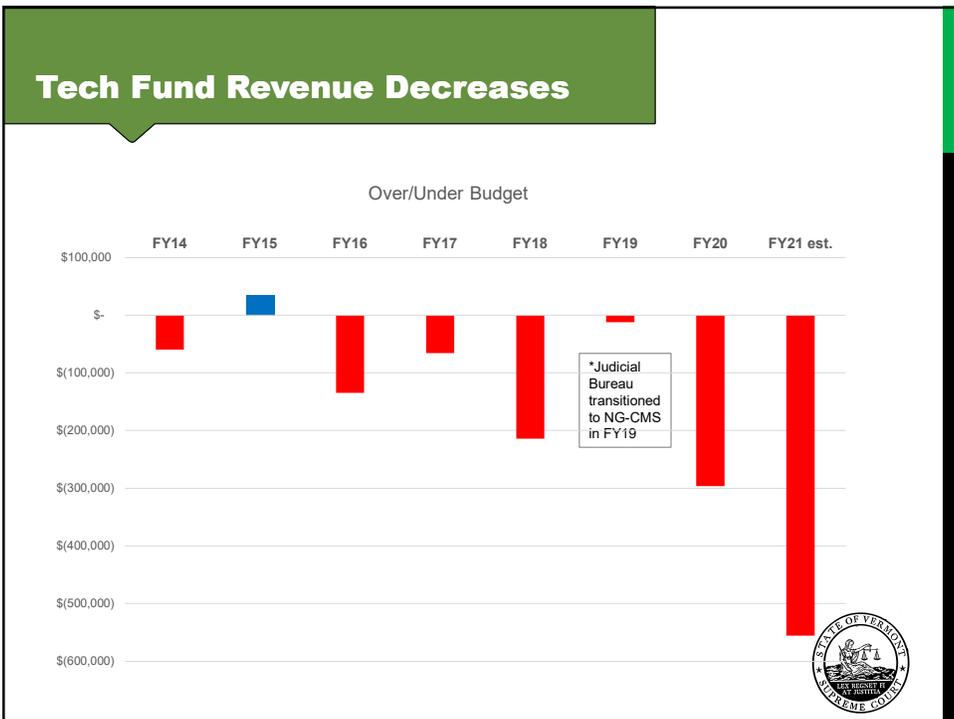
10

VLRB Decision

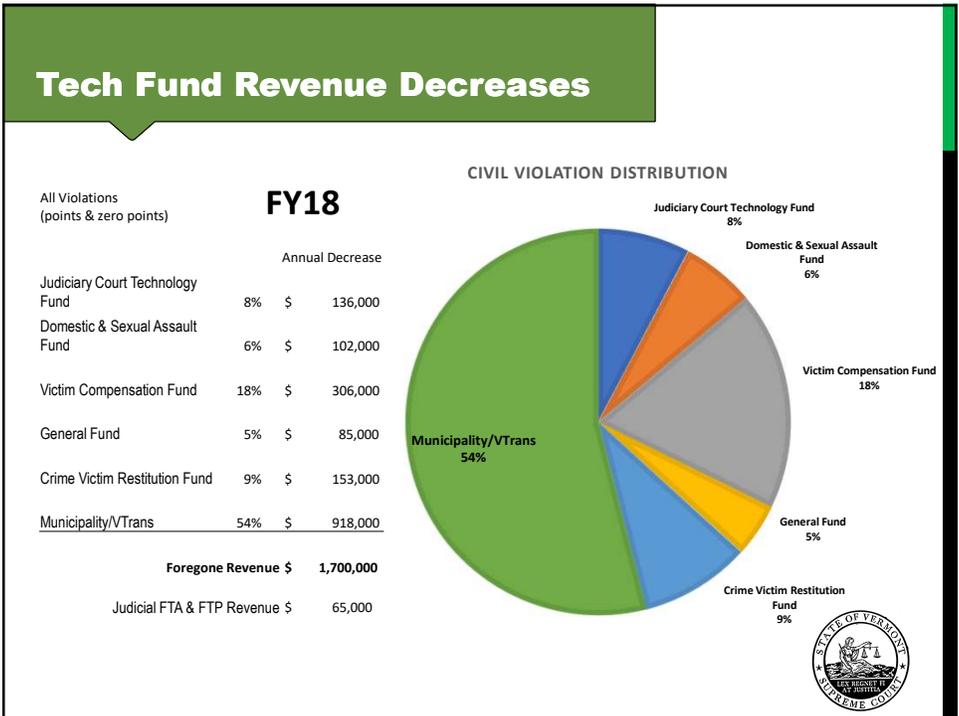
- No definition of “temporary” employment
- VT Labor Relations Board determined the 2 years at quarter time should be the maximum limit for “temporary”
- Eight staff identified to convert to limited service
- Negotiating with VSEA on transition plan
- Judiciary will absorb FY21 costs and use unfilled CRF limited service position numbers



11



12



13

Security Positions

Two Security Positions

- **Network of courthouse security is understaffed**
- **Washington Criminal staff increased by 2 just to maintain operations**
- **Costello staff using temporary staff that need to convert to limited service (VLRB Decision)**
- **Windham has no law enforcement presence**



14

Security Rates

Increase to security hourly rates needed:

- Sheriffs are experiencing recruitment problems
- Reduced hours in Bennington Civil to afford rate increase
- Judicial rates range from \$29 to \$33 per hour
- BGS rates start at \$50 per hour
- Roads contracts can be \$70 to \$90 per hour



15

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Questions?

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16