

PAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Rewa Zakharia, Proxy for Attorney General Russell Coleman
Courtney Baxter, Commonwealth's Attorney 12th Judicial Circuit
Jackie Steele, Commonwealth's Attorney, 27th Judicial Circuit
Brian Wright, Commonwealth's Attorney 29th Judicial Circuit
Joe Ross, Logan County Attorney
Martin Hatfield, Pulaski County Attorney
John Estill, Mason County Attorney
Jenny Oldham, Hardin County Attorney
Lisa Foley, Citizen Member

PAC/OAG STAFF PRESENT

Bobby Stokes
Gina Carey
Patricia Wise
Penny Quatman
Jenny True-Reed
Julie Cox
Susan Blake
Alyssa Logan
Samantha Bracco
Destiny Bray
Chad Coleman
Tammy Eversole
Amanda Ciejko
Chris Adams
Letitia Baker

GUESTS PRESENT

Angela Evans, Fayette County Attorney
Gerina Whethers, Commonwealth's Attorney 30th Judicial Circuit
Andrew Daley, 30th Judicial Circuit
Karen Young, 30th Judicial Circuit
Ashton McKenzie, Commonwealth's Attorney 21st Judicial Circuit
Kori Bumgarner, Commonwealth's Attorney 8th Judicial Circuit
John VanMeter, Commonwealth's Attorney 6th Judicial Circuit
Mary Tobin, 14th Judicial Circuit
Dudley Cotton, Jefferson County
Jocelyn Hohman, Hardin County

Mike Lindsay, Commonwealth's Attorney 49th Judicial Circuit
Amanda Troutman Hernandez, Commonwealth's Attorney 55th Judicial Circuit
Brian Goettl, Jessamine County

Pursuant to KRS 15.100(2), Executive Director, Bobby Stokes called the roll. After the roll was called, a quorum was announced, and the meeting was called to order. He welcomed everyone to the April 17th, 2026 PAC meeting and reminded everyone to be sure to sign-in.

Bobby Stokes directed the Council to review the meeting minutes from Friday, March 20, 2026 PAC meeting for approval. Jackie Steele made a motion to approve the March 20, 2026 minutes. The motion was seconded by Jenny Oldham and passed by voice vote.

Bobby Stokes directed the Council to review the special meeting minutes from Thursday, April 2, 2026 Special PAC meeting for approval. Jackie Steele made a motion to approve the April 2, 2026 minutes, the motion was seconded by Jenny Oldham passed by voice vote.

Bobby Stokes directed the Council to review the special meeting minutes from Monday, April 6, 2026 Special PAC meeting for approval. Jackie Steele made a motion to approve the April 6, 2026 minutes, the motion was seconded by Jenny Oldham passed by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE

TRAINING UPDATE

Susan Blake reported that the Leadership Challenge held in March was very well received. The summary of the evaluations were provided to the Council in the meeting materials. Susan plans to survey the prosecutors to determine interest in scheduling another course.

Susan Blake stated that the one-day Evidence Bootcamp was held on April 16, 2026 with 29 attendees and 14 faculty members. The course covered 38 problems based on a scenario to allow the attendees to practice introducing evidence and arguing for admission and responding to objections. Quotes are being requested for a fall course. Evaluations will be reviewed and provided at the next meeting and the feedback was very positive.

Susan Blake noted that the *Kentucky Evidence Courtroom Manuals* discussed at the last meeting were ordered. We ended up with 85 books ordered. Some were distributed at

the Evidence course, and some were distributed at the Council meeting. The rest will be shipped to those who ordered them.

Susan Blake stated that the August conference planning is underway with plans to send out registration in June. We are still waiting to get approval and clarification so we can sign the contract for the basic training in December.

Susan Blake reported that the contract with Attorney Derrick Wright is in the process of being renewed, so he will be able to continue to provide PAC with employment law guidance for another year.

CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPDATE

Chad Coleman reported that the rollout is ongoing. The project initially launched with five offices and has now expanded to ten. Three training sessions are scheduled for next week, and approximately thirty additional offices are in the process of being scheduled.

As part of the agreement with AOC, nondisclosure agreements (NDAs) are now required. NDAs are currently being collected for users with existing accounts, and all new users must submit a signed NDA before an account can be created. This is necessary due to the use of CourtNet data.

Chad also noted that work continues on the text service. There are currently issues verifying government agency status with the provider, but it is expected that this will be resolved soon. Once resolved, the text service should be fully operational.

PAC STAFF PAYROLL CERTIFICATIONS

Bobby Stokes directed the Council to review the March 15, 2026; though April 15, 2026 PAC/UPS staff payroll certifications in the folders provided for approval.

Jackie Steele made a motion to approve March 15th, 2026, through April 15th, 2026 PAC/UPS staff payroll certifications, the motion was seconded by Courtney Baxter and passed by voice vote.

BUDGET

FY2026 BUDGET UPDATE

Gina Carey reported that as fiscal year 2026 comes to a close and the final quarter is underway, PAC staff is still awaiting direction from the State Budget Director's Office regarding the portion of House Bill 500 that impacts fourth-quarter travel expenditures. No guidance has been issued to date. Gina confirmed she reached out to verify whether

any communication had been released and as of the meeting date, no communication has been sent. In the meantime, operations continue as usual until further direction is provided.

Gina Carey also noted the resignation of the PAC Staff Grant and Travel Administrator position which will likely impact PAC travel processing, which could cause delays and may further complicate travel-related matters.

Regarding budget utilization, Gina Carey shared that Bobby Stokes had sent a reminder for offices to submit their requests. County Attorneys continue to lag behind in using their operating funds, while Commonwealth's Attorneys are more fully utilizing theirs, though some funds remain in personnel due to vacancies.

Gina Carey introduced a potential purchase for consideration in the current fiscal year that was being used on a trial basis in a few of the offices. The product, Rev.com, is a transcription software used for tasks such as transcribing jail calls. Interest was gauged through a survey, and approximately 51 licenses are being considered. The cost would be \$1,300 per license, totaling approximately \$67,000 for the current fiscal year.

Gina Carey noted that the software could potentially offset some court reporter expenses, which are typically budgeted at around \$30,000 annually, though this has

not been definitively determined. Funds are available in the current fiscal year to support the purchase if approved.

Gina Carey emphasized that this is a subscription service, meaning the cost would carry forward into future fiscal years. She also noted that purchasing fewer licenses would increase the cost per license.

Gina Carey asked if the County Attorneys may also be interested in Rev.com and agreed that pricing could be explored further if there is sufficient interest. It was noted that Rev.com has the capability to perform both transcription and video editing services. Additionally, Rev.com is CJIS-compliant, with all data encrypted and stored in isolated silos, meaning the data is not used for AI training. A key concern raised was data security, specifically whether Rev.com is a U.S. based company. Chris Adams assured the Council that Rev.com is an American-based company and that all data is stored within the United States.

Before making a decision on Rev.com, Gina Carey explained there was another potential product available that could do what Rev.com does as well as provide cloud storage for discovery. The product is called Axon Justice. After meeting with an Axon representative in February with a few Commonwealth's Attorneys in attendance, Gina requested a quote from the company for the Axon Justice product. The initial quote was for a 10-year period at \$1.4M per year. Purchasing staff requested a requote to

reduce the scope from all employees of the Commonwealth's Attorneys offices to about one half or 300 licenses. The revised quote was approximately \$580,000 annually, increasing by about \$20,000 each year over year.

The Axon Justice product offers more than transcription services similar to Rev.com. It also includes a comprehensive evidence and storage management platform with features such as:

- Unlimited cloud storage
- AI-generated summaries of body camera footage
- Keyword search within recordings
- Automatic transcription of audio
- Redaction tools

It was clarified that Axon can work with multiple body camera systems, not just its own, making it a broader evidence management solution.

The group discussed whether using both Axon and Rev.com would be redundant. While Rev.com provides transcription services at a lower cost (approximately \$1,300 per license annually), Axon offers a more comprehensive, integrated system. The consensus was that Axon could help address significant storage challenges, particularly for large files such as body camera footage and digital evidence.

Funding considerations were reviewed. The legislature allocated funding for cloud storage under House Bill 500, it was also noted that funding remains in the case management budget which could also help support implementation of Axon Justice. Gina noted that if the Council were to approve the contract with Axon, staff could begin procurement and purchasing in the current fiscal year if approval to transfer funds from personnel to operating budgets was granted from the State Budget Director's office. If approved, implementation could begin in June; otherwise, it would begin July 1.

Concerns were raised about long-term commitment and data migration. PAC procurement staff noted that while contracts cannot exceed the biennium (two years), extensions up to ten years are possible. It was also noted that if the system is later discontinued, a plan would be required to transfer large volumes of stored data.

It was discussed that Axon could be useful for the County Attorneys as well so Gina stated that she would send out a survey to the County Attorneys to gauge interest and get a quote for the County Attorneys to consider at the next PAC meeting.

The group agreed to monitor its transcription capabilities and revisit Rev.com later if needed. Jackie Steele made a motion to approve Axon, the motion was seconded by Brian Wright and passed by voice vote.

The question was posed about using Asset Forfeiture to purchase the subscription for Rev.com and it was deemed acceptable.

Gina Carey then reported that several existing large storage servers in the 30th JC office are nearing the end of their warranties, with at least one expiring Monday, April 20, 2026. Chris Adams had been working with staff in the 30th to get a quote for a replacement solution. A couple of options were considered using state price contracts. The most cost effective proposal was to replace them with one large-capacity system (approximately 2.5 petabytes) at a cost of \$230,000. Despite the potential benefits of Axon's cloud storage, local storage will still be necessary due to just sheer volume of data that would need to be moved. Gina stating that it was her understanding after discussions with Chris Adams that it would take at a minimum weeks to move the existing data.

The question was brought up if funding is available in the current fiscal year for this project, Gina Carey stated that this would first need PAC approval, then Office of State Budget Director approval to move funding from personnel to capital outlay, and then Finance Cabinet approval to add to the price contract with Insight for purchasing.

Brian Wright made a motion to proceed with the server replacement in the 30th Judicial Circuit, contingent upon required budget approvals, the motion was seconded by Courtney Baxter, and passed by voice vote.

The group also discussed the duplication of evidence storage between county and Commonwealth's Attorneys. While no immediate solution was identified, it was suggested that future systems or vendor capabilities, potentially including Axon, or the new case management system, could allow for shared access or more efficient data management.

Gina Carey requested approval for the payment of the registration fee for Harry Rothgerber's attendance at the Commonwealth's Attorneys Association meeting. Courtney Baxter made a motion to approve with a second by Brian Wright, motion was passed by voice vote.

Gina Carey then asked for approval for two staff members (Tammy Eversole and Amanda Ciejkko) to attend the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing conference in Cleveland, OH in August, with a total estimated cost of \$5,000. Joe Ross made a motion to approve with a second by Martin Hatfield, motion was passed by voice vote.

FISCAL 27-28 UPDATE

Gina Carey directed members to the handout for fiscal year 2027 budget. It was noted that the County Attorneys' Westlaw and Clear contracts with Thomson Reuters are still valid through next fiscal year so no immediate action is required. The contract for the Commonwealth's Attorneys legal research will be addressed at the May meeting.

It was reported that House Bill 500, the Executive Budget Bill provided a continuation budget with a line item zero percent salary increase for both staff and elected officials. Gina stated that the Unified Prosecutorial System was the only Executive Branch agency not afforded the two percent pay increase per year. Despite entering the budget process with more than \$4 million deficit for the Commonwealth's Attorneys, exceeding the cost of one full payroll, the final outcome ensured no layoffs. Additionally, funding was included to support the existing Salary Classification and Compensation Plan, allowing eligible personnel the option to remain with the Unified Prosecutorial System with the option continue progressing through classification levels.

Gina Carey noted that she had included a DRAFT Tentative budget for both the Commonwealth's and County Attorneys in their folders for review. The proposed budgets reflect known expenditures, with unconfirmed items noted separately.

With regards to the Commonwealth's Attorney budget, it is anticipated that Justice funding for the Rocket Docket program, previously \$2 million annually over the past four years, may be reduced by as much as ten percent or \$200,000. As a result of this projected shortfall, she incorporated the need to make up the difference in the budget included in the packets.

Gina also noted that training and scholarship funding remain consistent with the prior year. However, limitations may arise due to language requiring reductions in travel and training expenditures in the next biennium, regardless of funding source, including grants or asset forfeiture funds.

Funding for criminal law books was left blank on the County and Commonwealth's budgets, it was noted that we spend approximately \$45,000 annually for the green books but many of these resources are now accessible digitally through Westlaw or legislative websites, and stated that the Council may consider reallocating these funds if physical materials are no longer necessary.

The software licensing and maintenance category includes funding for cloud storage and other systems, including the anticipated implementation of Axon. Operating expenses for PAC staff also account for the potential transition to a consolidated workspace, though this is not yet confirmed. Funding for DocksuShare has been removed as it is being phased out since it will be part of the case management plan and the case management project funding remains at the same level as fiscal year

2026. The current Commonwealth's Attorneys draft reflects an estimated remaining balance of \$21,000.

It was emphasized that these budgets are preliminary and will not be approved until finalized. Final figures are pending confirmation of the retirement rate by the Office of the State Budget Director. She noted that the retirement rate always has a significant impact on the Unified Prosecutorial System and any changes could result in a surplus or deficit.

A similar overview was provided for the County Attorneys' budget. Similar to the Commonwealth's Attorneys, it includes a zero percent salary increase but provides sufficient funding to maintain current staffing levels and allow for classification changes for staff where applicable and requested by the elected official. The Actuarially Accrued Liability Contribution (retirement obligations for individuals not on our payroll) remain funded at FY26 levels per the Legislature.

Rocket Docket funding for County Attorneys continues to be supported through the general fund. The unemployment budget has been increased in anticipation of potential impacts from the upcoming election cycle. Individual operating budgets remain unchanged.

Training funding has been increased to accommodate required Basic Training for Newly Elected County Attorneys in December. Additionally, she asked the Council if they wanted to continue covering the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) dues for County Attorneys similar to the Commonwealth's Attorneys' budget. The consensus was yes, so she will leave that line item in the final budget for consideration.

PAC staff operating expenses are the exact same as those of the Commonwealth's Attorneys.

Gina Carey reminded the Council that the budgets remain in draft form, with a final draft presented for consideration at the May meeting. Members were encouraged to provide feedback and identify any missing items prior to finalization.

A discussion was held regarding the continued purchase of hard copy criminal law books. Joe Ross stated a preference for maintaining physical copies for quick reference, particularly in courtroom settings. Others noted that while the books remain useful, especially outside of desk work, there may be an opportunity to reduce the total number of copies ordered.

Gina noted, however, that reducing the quantity of books may not result in significant cost savings, as pricing tends to increase when order volume decreases. Historically, offices have been surveyed to determine how many copies they require, and orders

are adjusted accordingly. The group agreed to explore requesting a reduced quantity to evaluate potential cost impacts.

The discussion then turned to dues for the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) dues. It was clarified that a single invoice is typically paid annually to cover dues for elected Commonwealth's Attorneys and County Attorneys. While dues have not always been budgeted for County Attorneys in prior years, it was noted that maintaining membership can provide cost savings on training opportunities. The general consensus was to continue covering NDAA dues at this time.

Concerns were raised regarding operating expenses for County Attorneys' offices. It was observed that smaller offices may struggle to fully utilize their allocated operating budgets, while larger offices have no difficulty expending those funds. As a result, a tiered approach to operating allocations based on office size or need was suggested for further consideration.

It was agreed that additional data should be reviewed before making any changes. Gina Carey will provide a historical analysis of operating expenditures by office at the next meeting to inform future decisions.

Gina Carey then addressed the Rocket Docket program and the typical process of soliciting applications and appointing a review committee. Given current budget constraints, including a reduction in Justice funding, members were asked to consider whether to continue the application process in its current form. It was noted that funding levels are effectively flat or reduced, limiting the ability to expand programs. It was also noted that the County Attorneys did not have to absorb any short fall other than an increase in retirement rate if necessary.

Members expressed interest in reviewing performance data for existing programs to determine whether any are not meeting expectations. It was agreed that this data would be distributed to Council members for review prior to making decisions about continuing, modifying, or discontinuing programs.

Brian Wright brought up staffing trends related to SCCP. Gina Carey noted that turnover among Commonwealth's Attorneys has decreased compared to prior years, vacancies still occur, often with longer gaps before positions are finally filled again. She stated that the upcoming election cycle may further impact staffing levels on the County Attorneys budget, particularly as individuals transition between roles. Budget estimates were developed conservatively, with the expectation that more accurate projections can be made following the primary and general elections.

SALARY CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION REQUESTS

Gina Carey directed the Council to the SCCP request sheet in their folders.
Joe Ross made motion to approve all of the SCCP requests for the County Attorneys with a second from Jenny Oldham; motion passed by voice vote.
Jackie Steele made motion to approve all of the SCCP requests for the Commonwealth's Attorneys with a second from Courtney Baxter; motion passed by voice vote.

Gina made note that, for the 41st Circuit, the Rocket Docket program will be transferred from Clay County to the 41st Circuit. This change is expected to result in cost savings for the County Attorney Rocket Docket budget while creating an approximate \$12,000 increase on the Commonwealth's Attorney Rocket Docket budget. Members acknowledged the update.

Gina further noted that the Rocket Docket application for the current year will be revised and require re-signature.

Additionally, Joe Ross noted that previously tabled SCCP requests included on the sheets in the packet that were just approved were intended to be retroactive to April 1.

LEASES

A. 2nd Judicial Circuit

Bobby Stokes stated that 2nd Judicial Circuit has reported that the Judge Executive has notified Real Properties that they plan to increase the rent for the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney. The increase will be approximately \$5,000 from the \$35,000 from 2022 to \$40,916.00 based upon the Consumer Price Index over the past five years.

Jackie Steele made a motion to approve the lease increase for the 2nd Judicial Circuit. The motion was seconded by Courtney Baxter and passed by voice vote.

B. 15th Judicial Circuit

Bobby Stokes informed the Council that the 15th Judicial Circuit had the opportunity to increase their office space by utilizing the space on the second floor of their building which recently became available. Due to the layout of the office, it is in the best interest of the office to lease this space instead of having the owner lease it to a private individual which may pose potential conflicts of interest or safety concerns due to its close proximity. The annual increase for the rent reimbursement would be \$6,000 annually and would be temporary until a permanent lease is put in place through the bid process with Real Properties.

Courtney Baxter made a motion to approve the lease increase for the 15th Judicial Circuit. The motion was seconded by Brian Wright and passed by voice vote.

EXPERT

A. 30th Judicial Circuit Expert Funding Request

The 30th Judicial Circuit requested PAC Council approval for expert witness funds in the amount of \$17,000 for Weston Brown, an expert in Tesla automobiles for case 24-CR-0370 v, Adam Todd Sanders. Andrew Daley from the 30th Judicial Circuit stated regarding the Expert Witness request for the 30th Judicial Circuit that the Tesla expert is necessary because they believe based on text messages the Defendant was sending shortly after the crash that he was going to place blame for the crash on the car's auto-pilot system. Based upon the investigation, it is believed that the car did not have the auto-pilot capability enabled; however, none of LMPD's Traffic Unit, Digital Forensic Unit, or Kentucky State Police believed they were qualified to testify as such. Expert Weston Brown was recommended by Lt. Hunter Martin at KSP as someone who would be qualified to offer such testimony as he can assist in accident reconstruction with autonomous vehicles. Jenny True-Reed previously approved \$5,500.00 for expert funding in this case for toxicologist Dr. Glenn Farr.

Jackie Steele made a motion to approve the 30th Judicial Circuit's request to fund the request for Weston Brown in the amount of \$17,000, Brian Wright seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote.

B. 35th Judicial Circuit Expert Funding Request

The 35th Judicial Circuit requested \$40,000 for the travel and testimony for expert witnesses for case 23CR238 from NMS Labs. Three witnesses Dr. Kacindo, Rachael Beemer, and Shelby Morgan are requested to testify and their expenses covered with this amount requested.

Jackie Steele made a motion to approve the expert witnesses for the 35th Judicial Circuit. Brian Wright seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote. This request will be forwarded to the Office of the Attorney General for processing and payment.

PERSONNEL REQUESTS

NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUIRED

1. Maureen Leamy, Commonwealth's Attorney 3rd Judicial Circuit, requested approval to establish a temporary quarter-time Law Clerk position with no additional funds, to

be paid with asset forfeiture funds effective May 1, 2026 through August 15, 2026.

Jackie Steele made a motion to approve the request A1, the motion was seconded by Courtney Baxter and passed by voice vote.

2. Shane Young, Commonwealth's Attorney 9th Judicial Circuit, requested approval to establish two (2) temporary quarter-time Intern positions with no additional funds, to be paid with asset forfeiture funds effective May 1, 2026 through August 15, 2026.

Jackie Steele made a motion to approve the request A2, the motion was seconded by Courtney Baxter and passed by voice vote.

3. Kyle Williamson, Commonwealth's Attorney for the 10th Judicial Circuit, requested approval to reclassify a part-time Administrative Specialist I position to a full-time Administrative Specialist I position with no additional funds effective May 1, 2026.

Jackie Steele made a motion to approve the request A3, the motion was seconded by Courtney Baxter and passed by voice vote.

4. Kimberly Baird, Commonwealth's Attorney for the 22nd Judicial Circuit, requested approval to:

- A. Reallocate a full-time Paralegal I position to a full-time Law Clerk position and then revert to an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney I position upon successful competition of Bar exam effective June 1, 2025.
- B. Reallocate a full-time Victim Advocate I position to a full-time Law Clerk position and then revert to an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney I position upon successful competition of Bar exam effective June 1, 2025.

Jackie Steele made a motion to approve the request A4, the motion was seconded by Courtney Baxter and passed by voice vote.

5. Amanda Hernandez Troutman, Commonwealth's Attorney 55th Judicial Circuit, requested approval to reallocate a part-time Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney IV position to a full-time First Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney II position with no additional funds effective June 1, 2026.

Jackie Steele made a motion to approve the request A5, the motion was seconded by Courtney Baxter and passed by voice vote.

6. Carrie Ovey-Wiggins, Commonwealth's Attorney 56th Judicial Circuit, requested approval to establish a temporary quarter-time Administrative Specialist I position with no additional funds, to be paid with asset forfeiture funds effective May 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026.

Jackie Steele made a motion to approve the request A6, the motion was seconded by Courtney Baxter and passed by voice vote.

7. Sidney Durham, Meade County Attorney, requested approval to establish a quarter-time Administrative Specialist III position with no additional funds effective May 16, 2026.

Martin Hatfield made a motion to approve the request A7, the motion was seconded by Jenny Oldham and passed by voice vote.

TABLED ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUIRED

1. Jordon Dallas Turner, Boone County Attorney, requested approval to reallocate a full-time Victim Advocate I position to a full-time Victim Advocate III position effective April 1, 2026 position to maintain current salary.

Joe Ross made a motion to approve the request B1, the motion was seconded by Jenny Oldham and passed by voice vote.

ADJOURN

Jackie Steele made a motion to adjourn at 11:24 AM EDT; the motion was seconded by Courtney Baxter and passed by voice vote.