

Dennis Milligan
Auditor of State



230 State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201

State of Arkansas

February 26, 2024

Honorable Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair
Honorable Lane Jean, Co-Chair
Joint Budget Committee
Arkansas General Assembly
One Capital Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Dismang and Representative Jean:

Last fiscal year, I requested an increase for the District Judge Travel Expense appropriation line item. The total appropriated for that line item was \$75,000. Attached to this letter is a detailed report showing the expenditures of individual judges and when they made their reimbursement request.

My staff has reported that some judges hold receipts and submit several months' worth of travel reimbursements at one time. I believe that a better process would be to require all receipts and travel expenditures to be submitted within 60 days of when the expense occurred. This would help my office keep you better informed of the monetary status of the budget instead of me having to come before you to request an appropriation increase.

As of January 31, 2024, \$38,525.09 from the appropriated \$65,000.00 has been spent in this line item, or 59.3% of the budget. That percentage is near where I would expect it to be at this time of year. However, that is dependent upon whether all parties have submitted their travel expense reimbursements for seven out of twelve months of the fiscal year, which is why I am respectfully making these requests:

1. Please increase the District Judge Travel Expense appropriation line amount from \$65,000 to \$80,000 for FY2025 and subsequent years.
2. Add special language associated with this appropriation to make clear that my office can require travel receipts be submitted within 60 days of when the expense occurred. That language is below:

Section 10. Special Language. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. JUDICIAL DISBURSEMENTS. The Auditor of State shall be disbursing officer for the funds appropriated for Travel Expense Reimbursements for Judges herein. Disbursement of funds shall be subject to review by the Auditor of State for accuracy and consistency with applicable travel guidelines. Any request for

reimbursement under the DISTRICT JUDGES TRAVEL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT line item must be submitted to the Auditor of State within sixty (60) days of end date for the underlying travel or expense.

I appreciate your consideration of these requests. Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dennis Milligan".

Dennis Milligan
Auditor of State

FY 2023 District Judges Travel Expenses

| FY23 | Jul-22 | Aug-22 | Sep-22 | Oct-22 | Nov-22 | Dec-22 | Jan-23 | Feb-23 | Mar-23 | Apr-23 | May-23 | Jun-23 | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Ramsey, Dale | \$ 518.96 | \$ 452.92 | \$ 461.24 | \$ 901.68 | | \$ 467.48 | \$ 499.72 | \$ 381.68 | \$ 452.40 | \$ 904.80 | | \$ 965.12 | \$ 6,006.00 |
| Mueller, Brian | \$ 469.04 | \$ 551.72 | \$ 492.96 | \$ 459.16 | \$ 492.96 | \$ 474.76 | \$ 358.80 | \$ 551.72 | \$ 376.48 | \$ 551.72 | \$ 492.96 | \$ 551.72 | \$ 5,824.00 |
| Thrailkill, Dan | \$ 501.80 | \$ 393.64 | \$ 519.48 | \$ 481.52 | \$ 276.12 | \$ 419.64 | \$ 189.80 | \$ 427.44 | \$ 367.12 | \$ 438.36 | \$ 396.24 | \$ 757.64 | \$ 5,168.80 |
| Capp, Sarah | \$ 389.48 | \$ 336.44 | \$ 461.24 | \$ 361.92 | \$ 393.64 | \$ 346.84 | \$ 266.24 | \$ 312.52 | \$ 437.32 | \$ 440.96 | \$ 312.52 | \$ 698.36 | \$ 4,757.48 |
| Carter, Jason | \$ 1,293.02 | | | \$ 795.60 | | | | \$ 919.36 | | | | \$ 1,261.52 | \$ 4,269.50 |
| Johnson, Mark | \$ 605.28 | | | \$ 656.24 | \$ 384.80 | \$ 365.04 | | \$ 342.16 | \$ 343.20 | \$ 339.56 | | \$ 347.88 | \$ 3,384.16 |
| Wynne, Thomas | | \$ 1,561.52 | | | | | | | | \$ 1,295.84 | \$ 49.92 | | \$ 2,907.28 |
| Hunter, Ron | \$ 203.01 | \$ 203.01 | \$ 203.01 | \$ 203.01 | \$ 203.01 | \$ 203.01 | \$ 385.22 | \$ 203.01 | \$ 203.01 | \$ 406.02 | | \$ 406.02 | \$ 2,821.34 |
| Graham, David | \$ 366.08 | \$ 472.68 | \$ 274.56 | \$ 379.60 | \$ 394.68 | \$ 402.48 | \$ 293.28 | \$ (293.28) | | | | | \$ 2,290.08 |
| Derrick, Mark | \$ 206.44 | \$ 175.76 | \$ 165.36 | \$ 206.96 | \$ 206.44 | \$ 206.44 | \$ 165.36 | \$ 188.76 | \$ 165.36 | \$ 224.12 | \$ 165.36 | \$ 183.56 | \$ 2,259.92 |
| Phillips, Ryan | | | | | | | | | \$ 851.24 | \$ 459.16 | \$ 488.80 | | \$ 1,799.20 |
| Anderson, Bruce | \$ 424.80 | | | | | \$ 546.00 | | \$ 234.00 | | \$ 249.60 | | \$ 218.40 | \$ 1,672.80 |
| Stidham, David | | \$ 827.83 | \$ 295.98 | | | \$ 192.82 | | \$ 65.21 | \$ 65.21 | \$ 130.42 | \$ 65.21 | | \$ 1,642.68 |
| French, Melinda | \$ 407.16 | | | \$ 411.84 | | | \$ 373.36 | | | \$ 411.84 | | | \$ 1,604.20 |
| Potter, Thomas | | | | \$ 469.04 | | | \$ 508.56 | | | \$ 614.64 | | | \$ 1,592.24 |
| Boyce, Henry | | | | | | | | \$ 1,070.76 | \$ 90.48 | \$ 90.48 | \$ 59.28 | \$ 90.48 | \$ 1,401.48 |
| Nations, Graham | \$ 385.84 | | | \$ 291.72 | | | \$ 324.48 | | | \$ 371.80 | | | \$ 1,373.84 |
| Green, Phillip | | \$ 397.28 | | | | | \$ 395.20 | | | | \$ 528.32 | | \$ 1,320.80 |
| Thorne, Fredrick | \$ 310.56 | | | \$ 353.60 | | | \$ 320.32 | | | \$ 334.88 | | | \$ 1,319.36 |
| Clawson, Charles JR II | | | | | | | | | | | \$ 1,188.72 | \$ 71.76 | \$ 1,260.48 |
| Inman-Campbell, | \$ 211.12 | | \$ 92.56 | \$ 135.20 | \$ 194.48 | \$ 135.20 | | \$ 135.20 | \$ 92.56 | \$ 92.56 | \$ 92.56 | \$ 92.56 | \$ 1,349.92 |
| Bigger, Alexander | | | | \$ 299.00 | | | \$ 438.88 | | | \$ 429.52 | | | \$ 1,167.40 |
| Gibson, Billy Jack | \$ 129.48 | | | | | | \$ 234.00 | | \$ 260.00 | | \$ 416.00 | | \$ 1,039.48 |
| Smith, Teresa M | | | \$ 105.04 | \$ 64.48 | \$ 89.44 | \$ 81.12 | \$ 162.24 | \$ 113.36 | \$ 96.72 | \$ 105.04 | \$ 64.48 | \$ 96.72 | \$ 978.64 |
| Kennedy, Eric R | \$ 347.24 | | | | | | | | \$ 413.92 | | \$ 112.32 | \$ 56.16 | \$ 929.64 |
| Carnahan, Chris | | | | | | | | | | \$ 911.04 | | | \$ 911.04 |
| Baker, Charles | \$ 106.70 | | \$ 242.94 | | | | | \$ 119.86 | | \$ 321.93 | | | \$ 791.43 |
| Wagoner, Michael | \$ 133.64 | | | \$ 174.20 | | \$ 134.16 | | | \$ 134.16 | \$ 134.16 | | | \$ 710.32 |
| Bunch, Ray | | | | \$ 262.60 | | \$ 223.60 | | | | | \$ 206.96 | | \$ 693.16 |
| Stephenson, Terra | | | | | | | \$ 337.48 | | | | | \$ 262.08 | \$ 599.56 |
| Langston, Lydia Shannon | | | | \$ 509.60 | | | | | | | | | \$ 509.60 |
| Carnahan, Chris | | | | | | | | | | | \$ 148.72 | | \$ 148.72 |
| Taylor, Chaney | | | | | \$ 145.60 | | | | | | | | \$ 145.60 |
| Leverett, Mark | | | | | | | | | | | \$ 46.80 | | \$ 46.80 |
| MEALS | \$ 380.65 | \$ 282.95 | \$ 304.81 | \$ 357.62 | \$ 244.54 | \$ 228.37 | \$ 218.46 | \$ 264.97 | \$ 284.69 | \$ 260.86 | \$ 206.38 | \$ 415.10 | \$ 3,449.40 |
| TOTAL matches AASIS | \$ 7,390.30 | \$ 5,655.75 | \$ 3,619.18 | \$ 7,774.59 | \$ 3,025.71 | \$ 4,426.96 | \$ 5,471.40 | \$ 5,036.73 | \$ 4,633.87 | \$ 9,519.31 | \$ 5,041.55 | \$ 6,551.00 | \$ 68,146.35 |

Stricken language will be deleted and underlined language will be added.

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Fiscal Session, 2024
4

A Bill

DRAFT JAR/RJA
HOUSE BILL

5 By: Joint Budget Committee
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR EXPENSES OF THE
9 JUDICIAL BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE AUDITOR OF
10 STATE - GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS, ARKANSAS SENATE AND
11 ARKANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
12 ENDING JUNE 30, 2025; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13
14

Subtitle

15 THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION ACT FOR THE
16 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR.
17
18
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
21

22 SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - AUDITOR OF STATE DISBURSEMENTS. There is
23 hereby appropriated, to the Auditor of State, to be payable from the
24 Constitutional Officers Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of
25 the Auditor of State - General Appropriations for the fiscal year ending June
26 30, 2025, the following:
27

| 28 ITEM | FISCAL YEAR |
|---|-------------------------|
| 29 <u>NO.</u> | <u>2024-2025</u> |
| 30 (01) SPECIAL/RECALLED JUDGES FOR THE | |
| 31 CIRCUIT COURTS | \$350,000 |
| 32 (02) TRIAL JUDGES EXPENSES | 400,000 |
| 33 (03) DISTRICT JUDGES TRAVEL EXPENSE | |
| 34 REIMBURSEMENT | <u>65,000</u> |
| 35 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED | <u><u>\$815,000</u></u> |

36

DRAFT

1/29/2024 9:22:45 AM JAR028

1 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. There is hereby
2 appropriated, to the Arkansas House of Representatives, to be payable from
3 the Constitutional Officers Fund, for reimbursements to Representatives for
4 interim expenses incurred as authorized by law of the Arkansas House of
5 Representatives for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

| 7 ITEM | FISCAL YEAR |
|---|------------------|
| 8 <u>NO.</u> | <u>2024-2025</u> |
| 9 (01) INTERIM EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS FOR 10 REPRESENTATIVES | <u>\$368,000</u> |

11
12 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS SENATE. There is hereby
13 appropriated, to the Arkansas Senate, to be payable from the Constitutional
14 Officers Fund, for reimbursements to Senators for interim expenses incurred
15 as authorized by law of the Arkansas Senate for the fiscal year ending June
16 30, 2025, the following:

| 18 ITEM | FISCAL YEAR |
|---|------------------|
| 19 <u>NO.</u> | <u>2024-2025</u> |
| 20 (01) INTERIM EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS FOR 21 SENATORS | <u>\$200,000</u> |

22
23 SECTION 4. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
24 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
25 DISBURSING OFFICER. The Auditor of State shall be disbursing officer for the
26 funds appropriated for Auditor of State Disbursements herein.

27
28 SECTION 5. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
29 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. SENATE
30 DISBURSEMENTS. The Secretary of the Senate shall be disbursing officer for
31 the funds appropriated for Interim Expense Reimbursements for Senators
32 herein.

33
34 SECTION 6. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
35 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. HOUSE
36 DISBURSEMENTS. The Chief of Staff or his designee of the House of

1 Representatives shall be disbursing officer for the funds appropriated for
2 Interim Expense Reimbursements for Representatives herein.

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4 SECTION 7. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
5 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. HOUSE
6 INTERIM EXPENSE DISBURSEMENTS. The appropriations authorized for House of
7 Representatives shall be used for making reimbursements for interim expenses
8 incurred by members of the House of Representatives.

9

10 SECTION 8. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
11 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. SENATE
12 INTERIM EXPENSE DISBURSEMENTS. The appropriations authorized for Arkansas
13 Senate shall be used for making reimbursements for interim expenses incurred
14 by members of the Senate.

15

16 SECTION 9. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
17 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
18 LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTE. Members of the preceding General Assembly and the
19 newly elected members of the House of Representatives and Senate shall be
20 eligible to attend the biennial Institute of Legislative Procedure and shall
21 be entitled, upon filing claim therefore, to per diem in the amount fixed by
22 law for members of the General Assembly to receive for attendance at
23 Legislative sessions, for each day in attending the biennial Institute of
24 Legislative Procedure plus mileage for traveling from their place of
25 residence to the biennial Institute of Legislative Procedure and return.

26

27 SECTION 10. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
28 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. JUDICIAL
29 DISBURSEMENTS. The Auditor of State shall be disbursing officer for the
30 funds appropriated for Travel Expense Reimbursements for Judges herein.
31 Disbursement of funds shall be subject to review by the Auditor of State for
32 accuracy and consistency with applicable travel guidelines.

33

34 SECTION 11. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
35 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
36 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for

1 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
2 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
3 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
4 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
5 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.
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7 SECTION 12. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
8 General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits
9 the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the
10 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2024 is essential to the operation of
11 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
12 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
13 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2024 could work irreparable harm
14 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
15 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
16 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
17 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2024.
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