

**COMMITTEE MINUTES for
JUSTICE SYSTEM APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Date: *February 9, 2026*

Location: *RM 19*

Convened: *3:00 PM*

Adjourned: *4:00 PM*

Attendance Roll Call:

Present: Representatives Lohse-CH, Thompson, M.-VC, Ramirez-RM, Dieken, Golding, Lawler, Madison, Vondran, Wessel-Kroeschell

Absent:

Excused:

The meeting commenced at 3:02 PM and was called to order by Chairman Lohse. Roll call was taken with all members present. Chairman Lohse made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting without objection. Chairman Lohse gave opening remarks before introducing State Court Administrator Robert Gast. Mr. Gast gave a presentation regarding the Iowa Judicial Branch's budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2027, beginning with an overview of the branch's current activity and highlighting accomplishments from the previous fiscal year. Mr. Gast made a request of a \$6,209,592 total increase in appropriations for the Judicial Branch, including a 4.3% salary increase for judicial officers, a 2.6% salary increase for contracted Judicial Branch employees, and wage compression for long-standing employees. Mr. Gast also discussed the branch's need for magistrate modernization and proposed both financial and legislative requests to address magistrate-related issues. Chairman Lohse, Vice Chair Thompson, Ranking Member Ramirez, committee members Rep. Lawler, Rep. Golding, Rep. Dieken, Rep. Wessel-Kroeschell, and Rep. Vondran made comments and/or asked questions of Mr. Gast and Judicial Branch Legislative Liaison Caitlin Jarzen. With no further business to come before the committee, Representative Wessel-Kroeschell motioned to adjourn at 4:01 PM.

Representative Brian K. Lohse

Grace Lohse, Committee Secretary