

HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution 2026-02-001 Authorizing a Salary Supplement for Senior Staff Attorney and Associated Budget Adjustments

DATE: December 5, 2025

☐ **RECOMMENDATION**

☐ **POLICY DISCUSSION**

BUDGET INFORMATION:

☐ **STATUS REPORT**

ANNUAL- \$20,880

☐ **OTHER**

CAPITAL-

PRESENTED BY:

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON: January 20, 2026

PURPOSE: To consider approval of Resolution 2026-02-001 authorizing a salary supplement for the Senior Staff Attorney serving the Mountain Judicial Circuit and to authorize associated budget adjustments funded through savings realized from the elimination of locally funded judicial supplements.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY: House Bill 85 restructured the funding model for Superior Court Judges by shifting primary responsibility for judicial salaries to the State of Georgia and eliminating county-funded judicial supplements. As a result, counties within the Mountain Judicial Circuit no longer bear the cost of judicial salary supplements, creating savings within the circuit's shared budget.

Following these legislative changes, the Superior Court Judges of the Mountain Judicial Circuit evaluated staffing and operational needs within the circuit. The Judges have requested a salary supplement for the Senior Staff Attorney position in order to establish and maintain a long-term, career-level role. The Judges have indicated that this adjustment would support continuity of operations, mentorship of newer clerks, and management of complex legal research and case-related responsibilities.

FACTS AND ISSUES:

- The proposed Senior Staff Attorney salary supplement totals \$20,880 annually.
 - Funding for this supplement would be derived from savings realized due to the elimination of locally funded judicial supplements under House Bill 85.
 - This request is not mandated by House Bill 85 and represents a discretionary policy and budget decision of the Board of Commissioners.
 - Approval would adjust the allocation of shared Mountain Judicial Circuit operating expenses among Habersham, Rabun, Banks, and Stephens Counties.
 - Even with approval of this supplement, the total shared cost to the participating counties will reflect an overall decrease compared to prior years when judicial supplements were locally funded.
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OPTIONS:

- 1) Approve the requested \$20,880 salary supplement for the Senior Staff Attorney and authorize the associated budget adjustments.
 - 2) Deny the request.
 - 3) Provide an alternative as directed by the Board.
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RECOMMENDED SAMPLE MOTION “Move to approve Resolution 2026-02-001 authorizing a \$20,880 salary supplement for the Senior Staff Attorney position, funded through savings resulting from the elimination of judicial supplements, and authorize the associated budget adjustments.”

DEPARTMENT:

Prepared by:

Director: _____

**ADMINISTRATIVE
COMMENTS:**_____

_____ **DATE:** _____

County Manager
