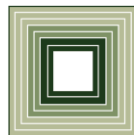


Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on
Justice and Public Safety

Administrative Office of the Courts

March 19, 2019



FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION
A Staff Agency of the North Carolina General Assembly

JPS - AOC

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

Administrative arm of the unified court system

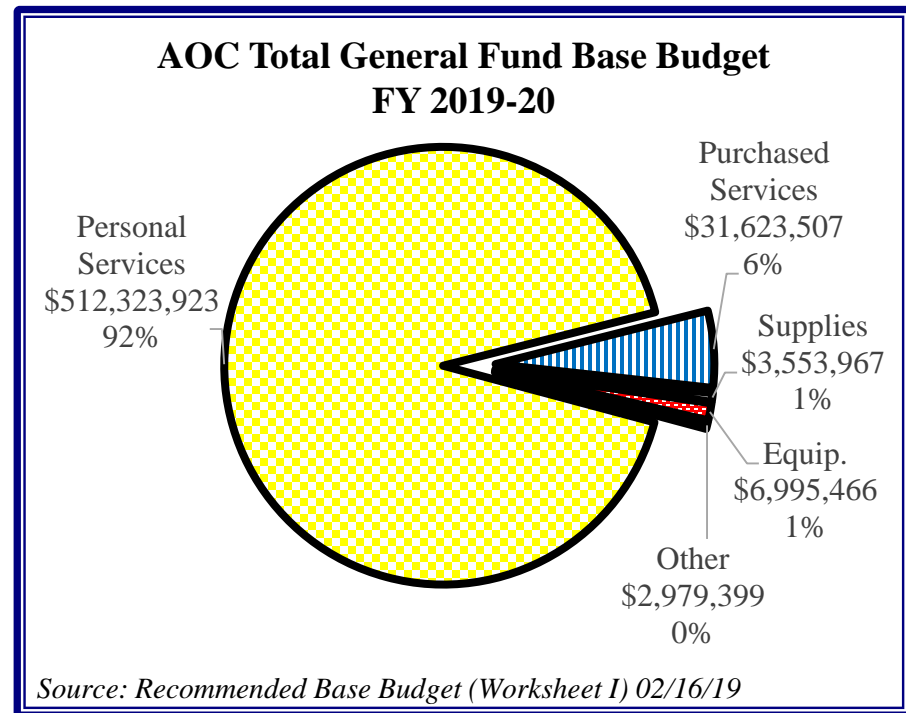
Cheri Beasley, Chief Justice

McKinley Wooten, Interim Director of AOC

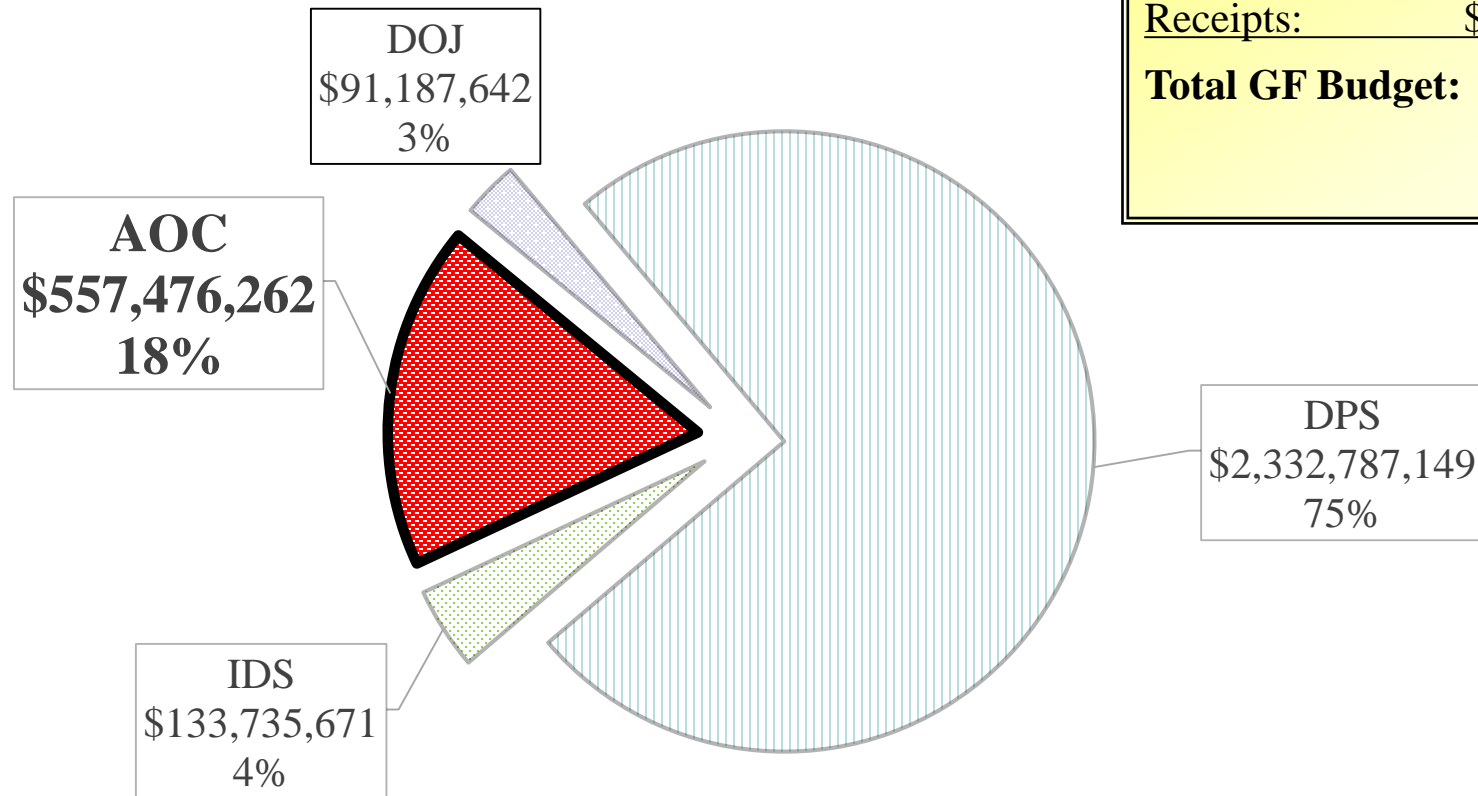
Includes:

- Supreme Court and Court of Appeals
- Superior courts
- District courts
- District Attorneys
- Magistrates
- Clerks

Total General Fund Budget: \$557.5 million
Total FTE Positions: 5,962.54



JPS General Fund Base Budget by Agency FY 2019-20

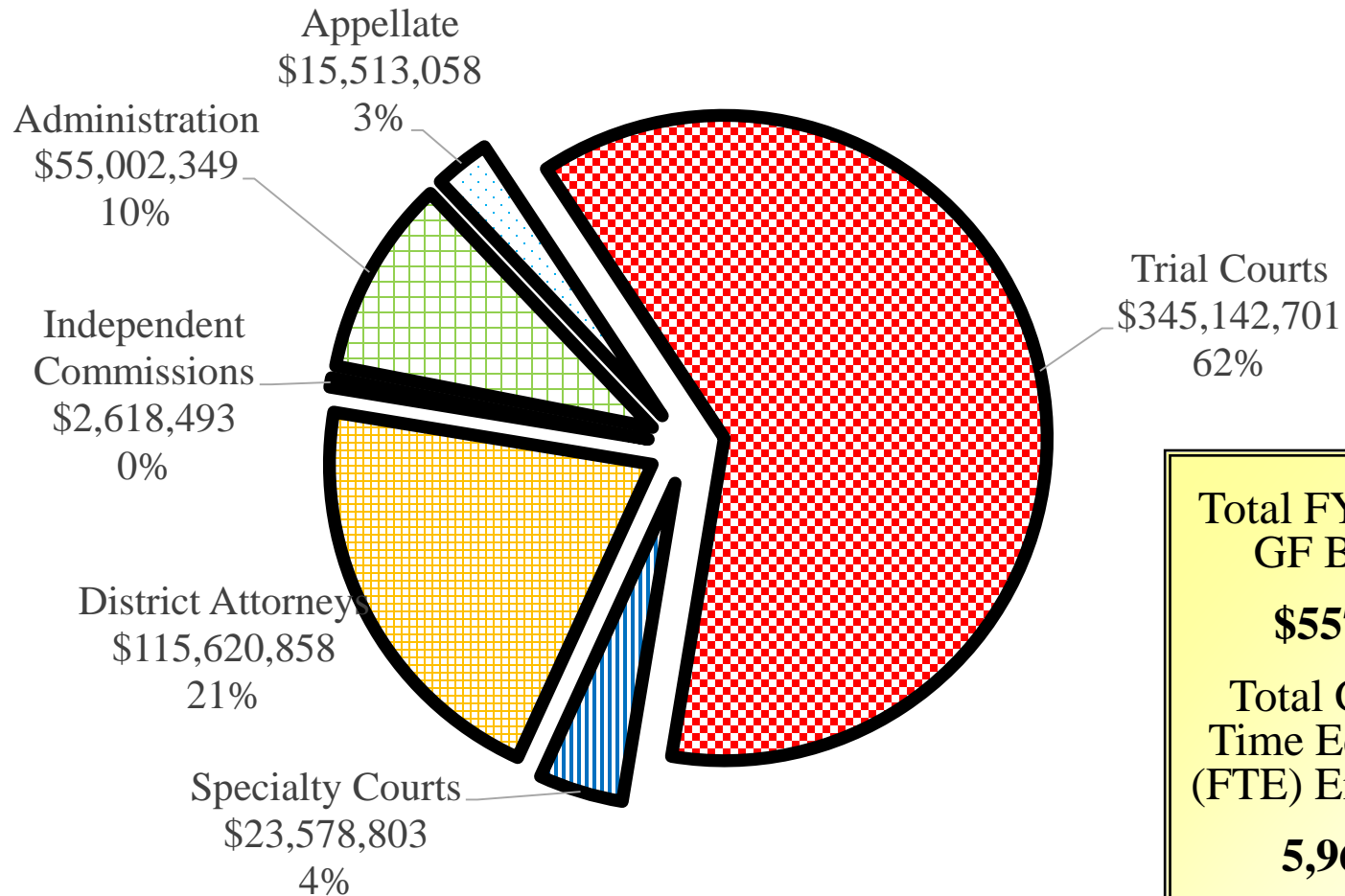


Appropriation: \$2.8 billion
Receipts: \$310 million
Total GF Budget: \$3.1 billion

Source: Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

FY 2019-20 AOC Base Budget

Total Requirements by Fund

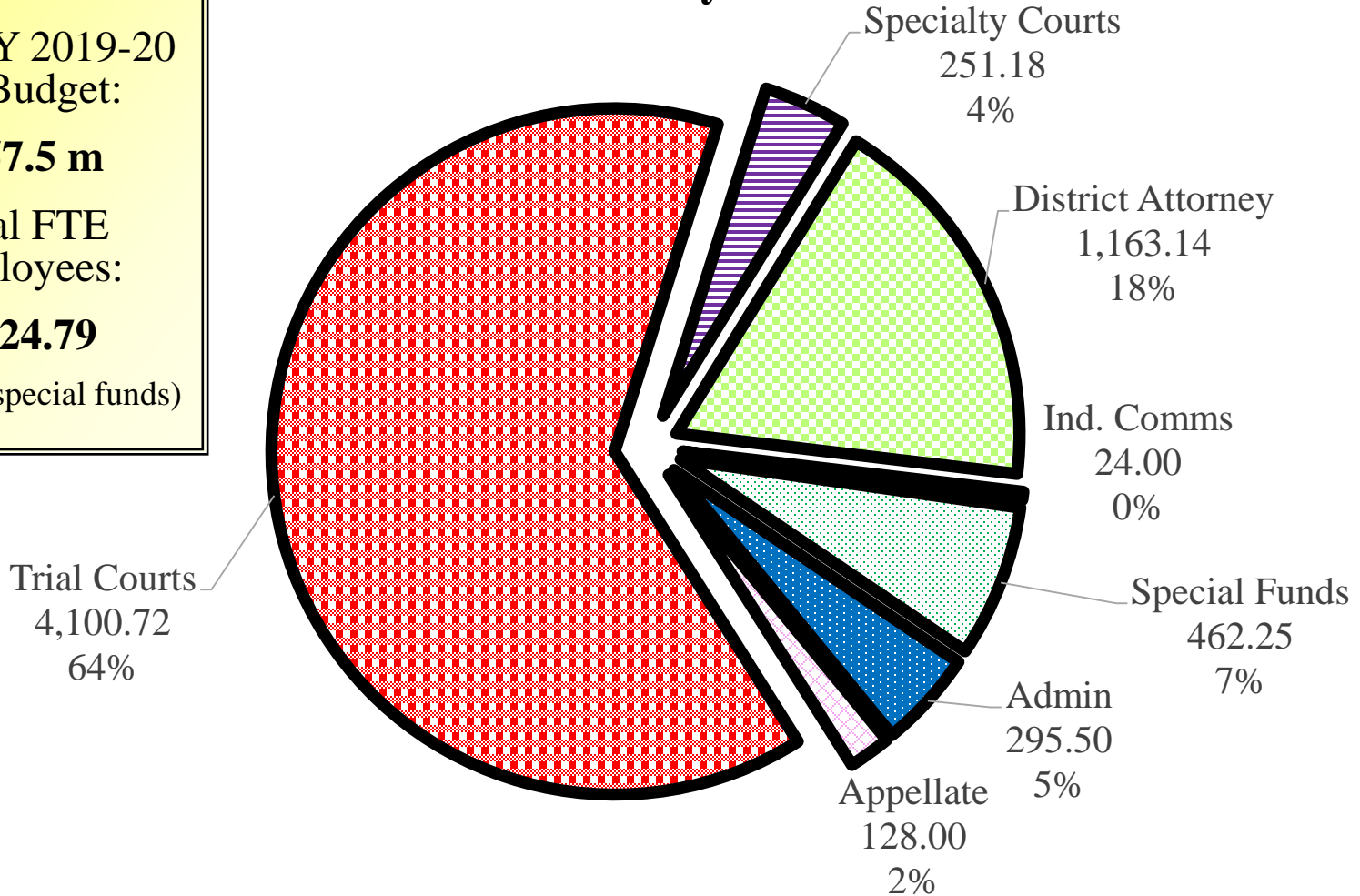


Source: Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

FY 2019-20 AOC Base Budget

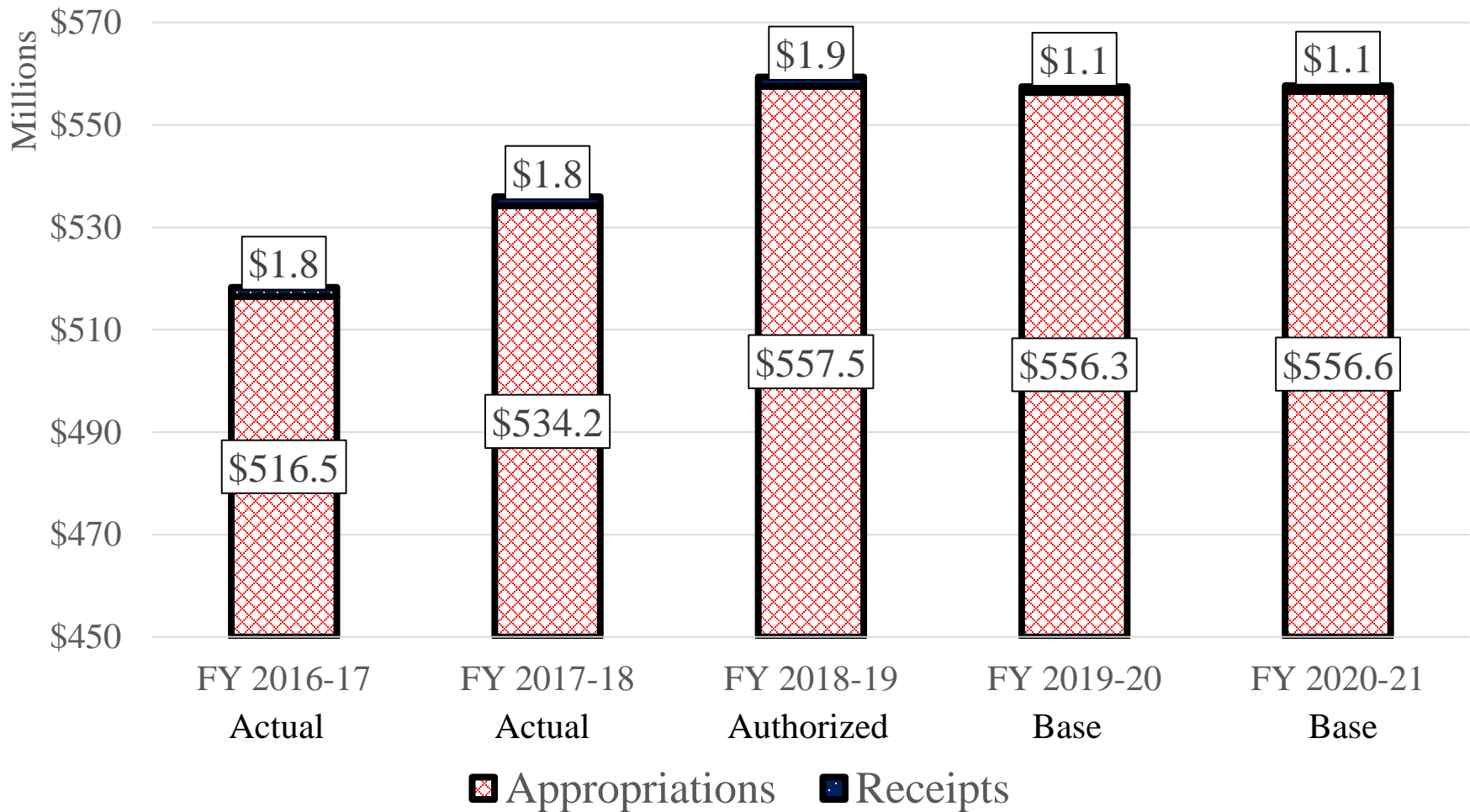
Total FY 2019-20
GF Budget:
\$557.5 m
Total FTE
Employees:
6,424.79
(includes special funds)

Total FTE by Fund



Source: Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

AOC Budget History



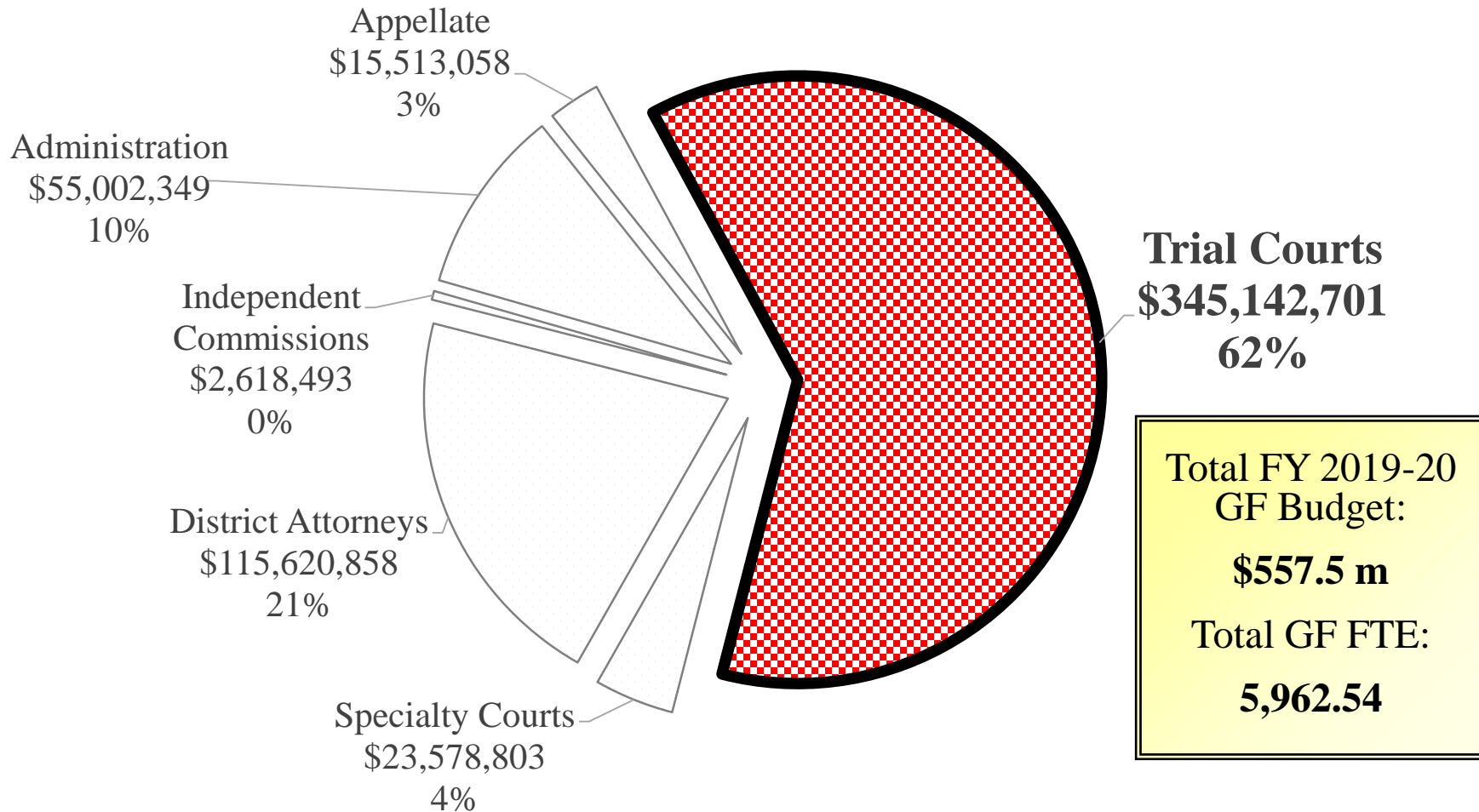
Source: NCAS, Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

AOC Trial Courts



FY 2019-20 AOC Base Budget

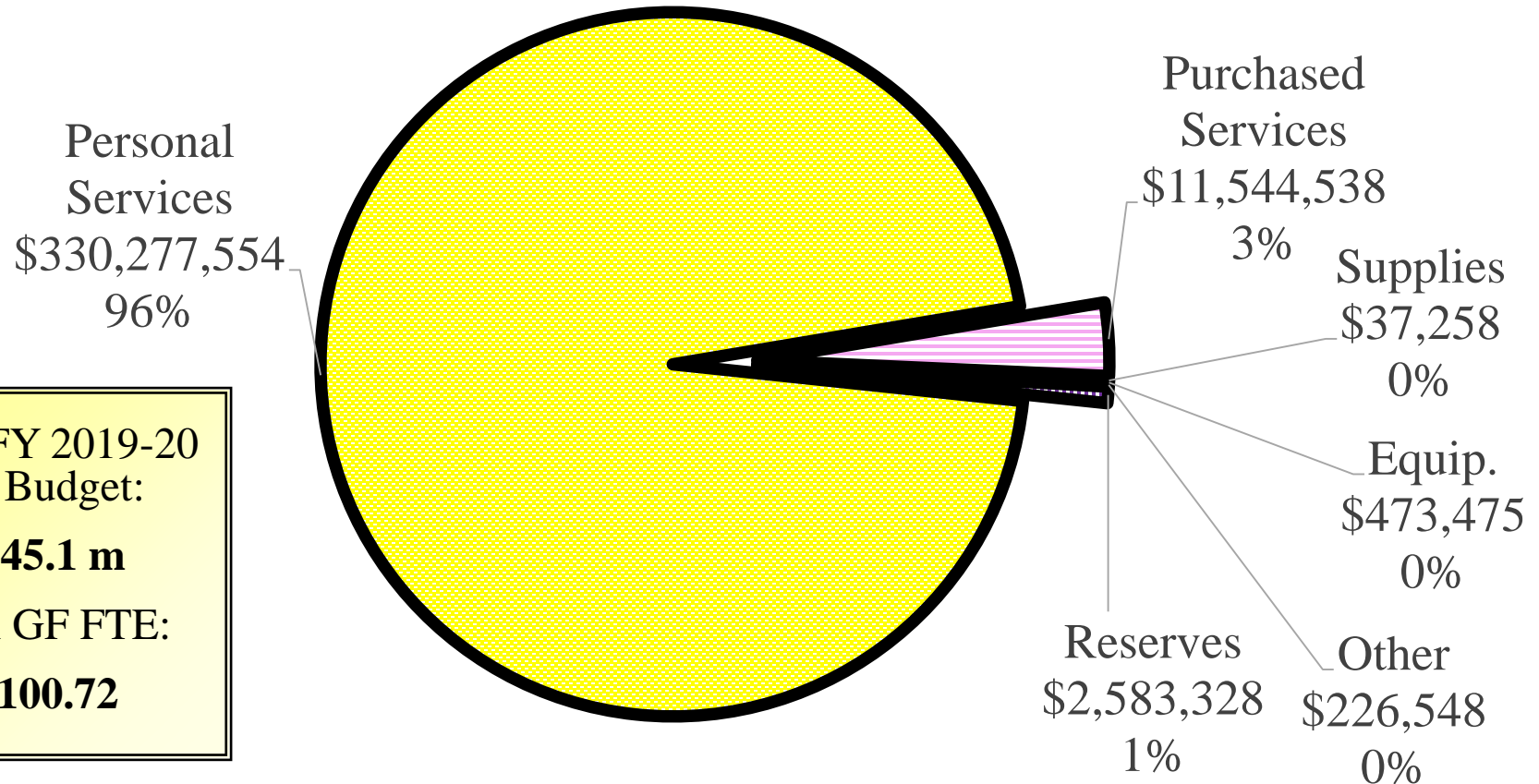
Total Requirements by Fund



Source: Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

AOC Trial Courts Base Budget, FY 2019-20

Total Requirements by Purpose



Total FY 2019-20
GF Budget:

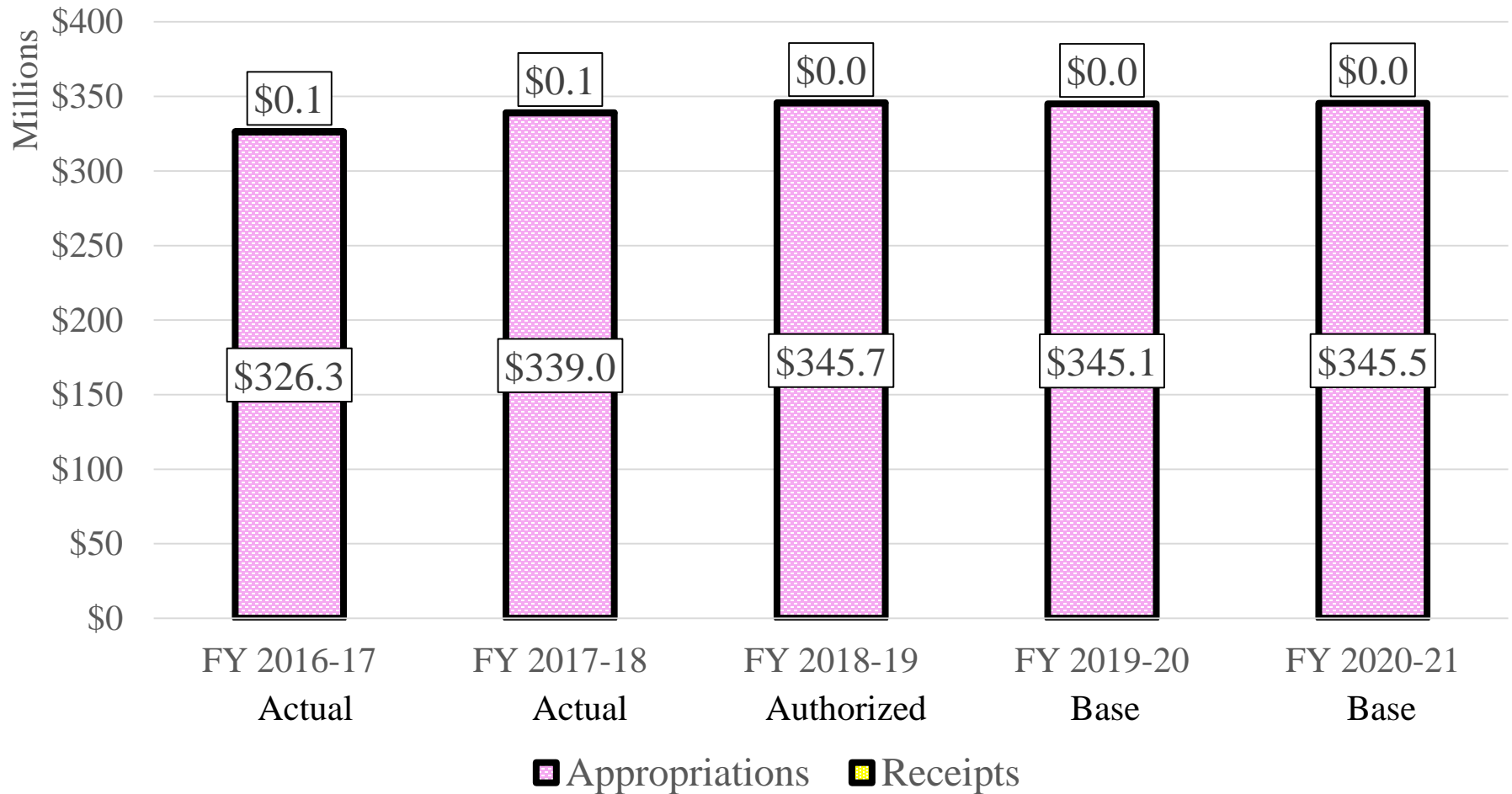
\$345.1 m

Total GF FTE:

4,100.72

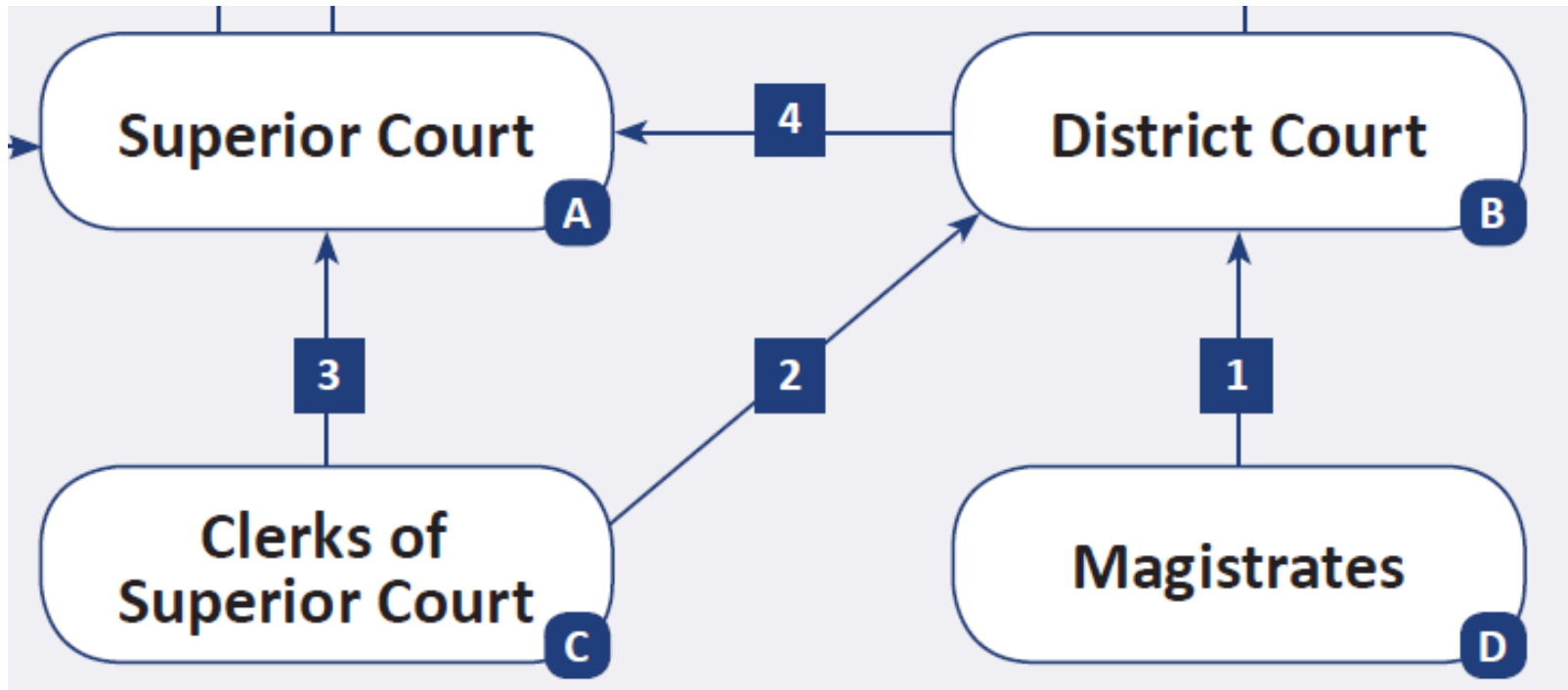
Source: Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

AOC Trial Courts Budget History



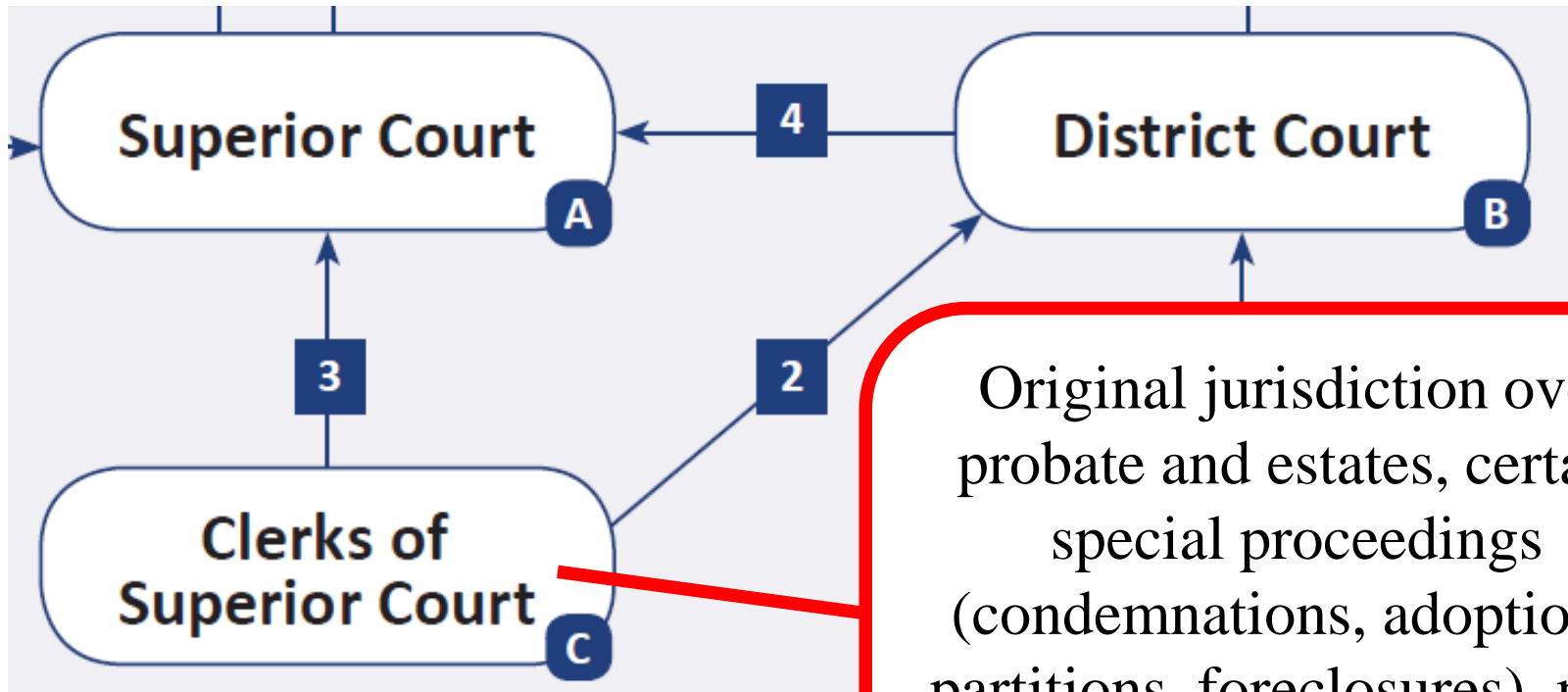
Source: NCAS, Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

NC Trial Courts



Source: AOC Annual Report, FY 2017-18

Clerks of Superior Court



Original jurisdiction over probate and estates, certain special proceedings (condemnations, adoptions, partitions, foreclosures), may accept guilty pleas or admissions of responsibility

Source: AOC Annual Report, FY 2017-18

Clerks of Superior Court

- Administrative, clerical, and recordkeeping functions of trial courts
- Clerk is Judge of Probate
- Collection and disbursement of court costs (fees, fines, forfeitures, restitution)



Source: BEACON, G.S. 7A-100 to 7A-114

Clerks of Superior Court FTE

Clerks of Superior Court: 100 FTE

Assistant Clerks (Division Chiefs): 637.75 FTE

Deputy Clerks: 2,076.47 FTE

Office Staff: 3.33 FTE

Conference of Clerks: 1 FTE

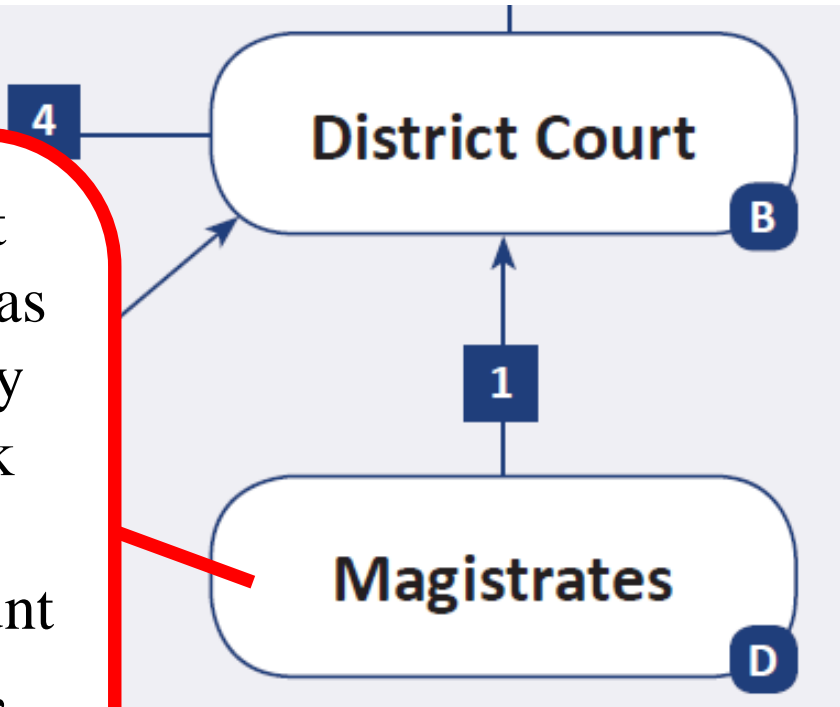
TOTAL: 2,818.55 FTE (inc. special funds)



Source: BEACON

Magistrates

Original jurisdiction to accept certain misdemeanor guilty pleas and admission of responsibility to infractions, worthless check misdemeanors of \$2k or less, small claims in which the amount in controversy is \$10k or less, valuation of property in certain estate cases



Source: AOC Annual Report, FY 2017-18

Magistrates



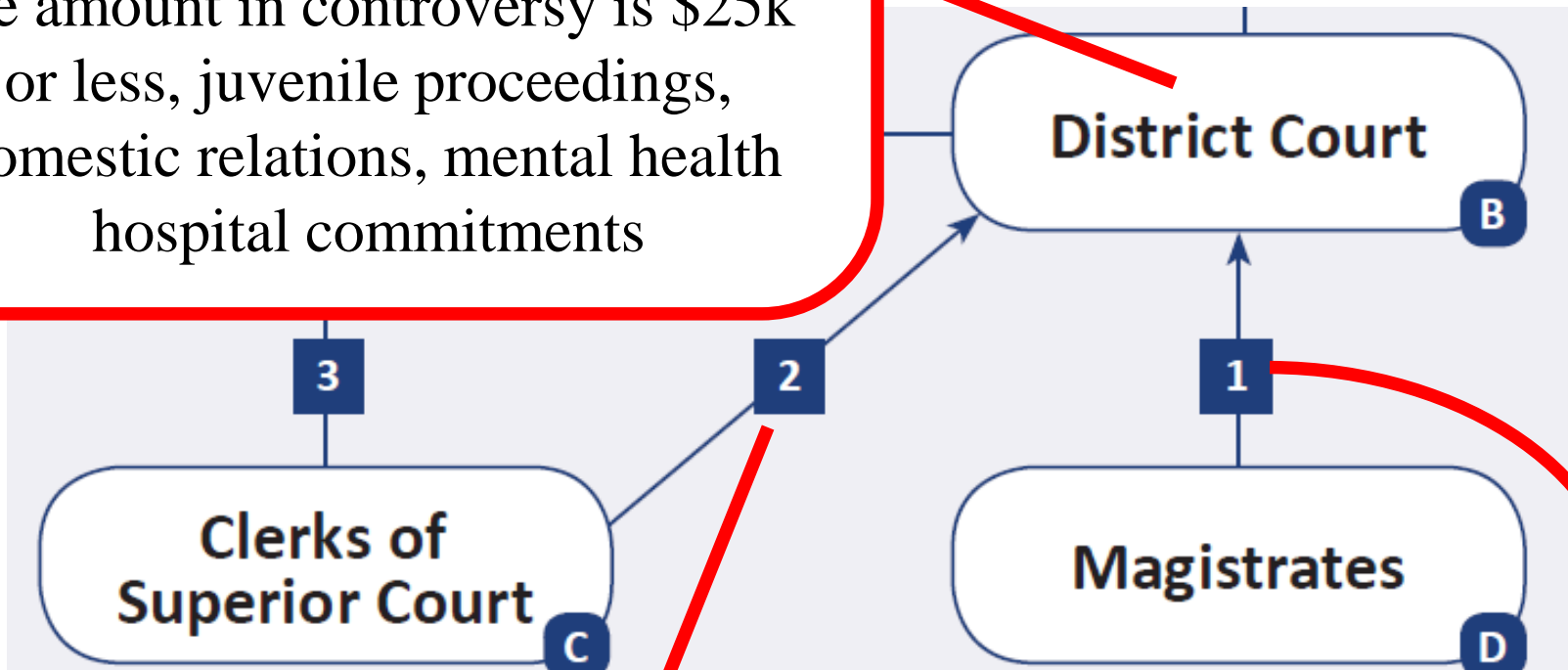
- Minimum of 3 magistrates per county
- Authority flows through district court
- Appointment:
 - Clerk of Superior Court nominates
 - Senior Resident Superior Court Judge appoints
 - Chief District Court Judge manages
- Step Plan – 6 Steps:
 - Entry Pay - \$38,620
 - Step Six - \$59,929 to \$61,670

672.6 FTE

Source: BEACON, G.S. 7A-170 to 7A-178

Original jurisdiction over misdemeanor cases, probable cause hearings, guilty/no contest in certain felony cases, civil cases in which the amount in controversy is \$25k or less, juvenile proceedings, domestic relations, mental health hospital commitments

District Court



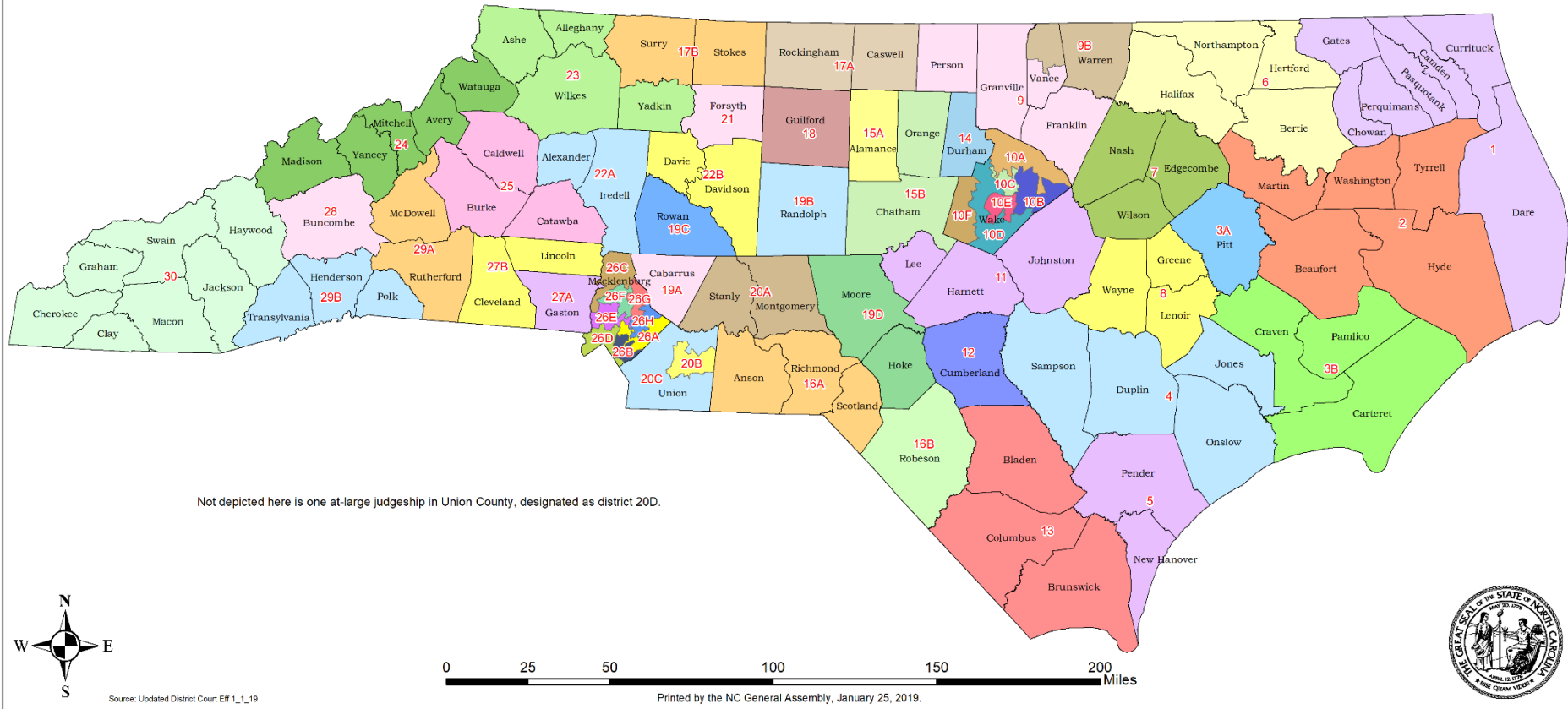
Appeals involving adoptions, foreclosures of certain jurisdictional amounts

Appeals for de novo proceedings

Source: AOC Annual Report, FY 2017-18

G.S. 7A-133, District Court, Effective 1/1/19

As modified in 2018 Session Laws



41 District Court Districts
273 District Court Judges

District Court FTE

District Court Judges: 273.0 FTE

Judicial Assistants: 53.5 FTE

Trial Court Coordinators: 34.0 FTE

Custody Mediation: 57.31 FTE

Family Court: 43.75 FTE

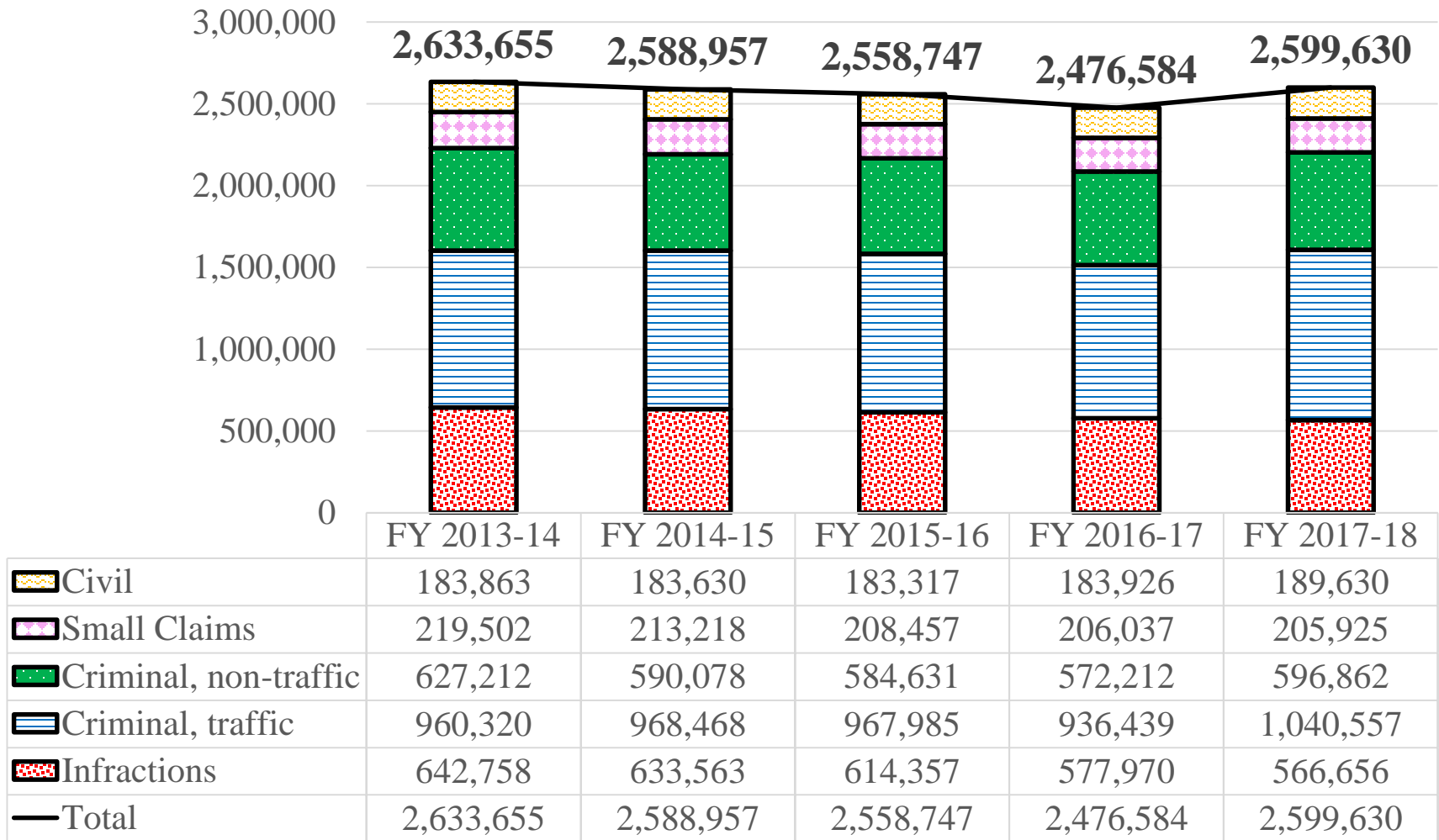
Veterans Treatment Court: 4.5 FTE

Other staff: 7.25 FTE

TOTAL: 473.31 FTE (inc. special funds)

Source: BEACON

District Court Dispositions



Source: AOC Annual Reports

District Court By The Numbers

Criminal Cases Disposed, FY 2017-18:

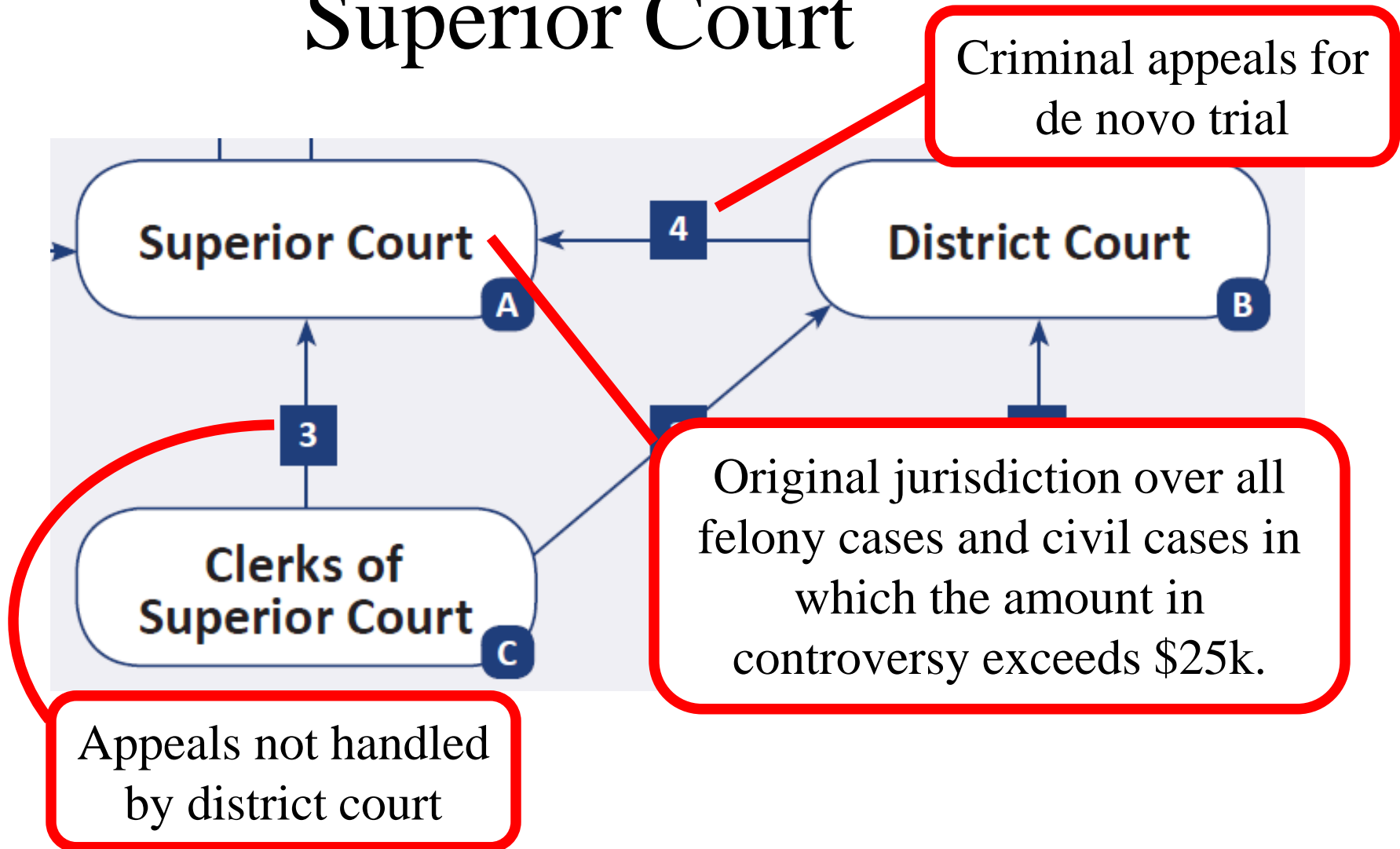
- Total: 1,637,419
- Mecklenburg: 246,004 (15%)
- Mecklenburg/Wake/Guilford/Forsyth/Cumberland: 549,428 (33.6%)
- Hyde: 793 (0.0005%)

Civil Cases Disposed, FY 2017-18:

- Total: 189,630
- Mecklenburg: 20,841 (11%)
- Mecklenburg/Wake/Guilford/Forsyth/Cumberland : 62,076 (32.7%)
- Hyde: 54 (0.0003%)

Source: AOC Activity Reports, FY 2017-18

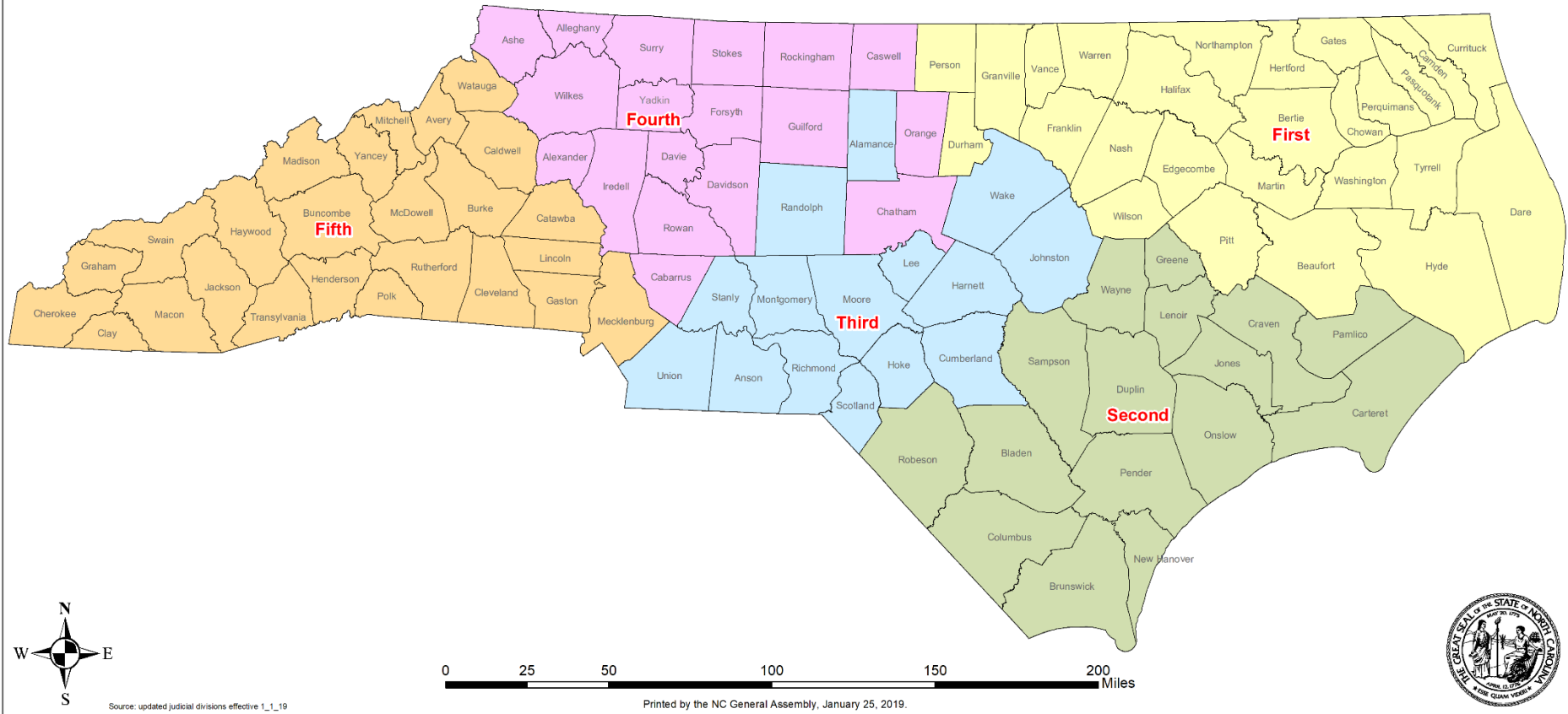
Superior Court



Source: AOC Annual Report, FY 2017-18

G.S. 7A-41, Judicial Divisions, Effective 1/1/19

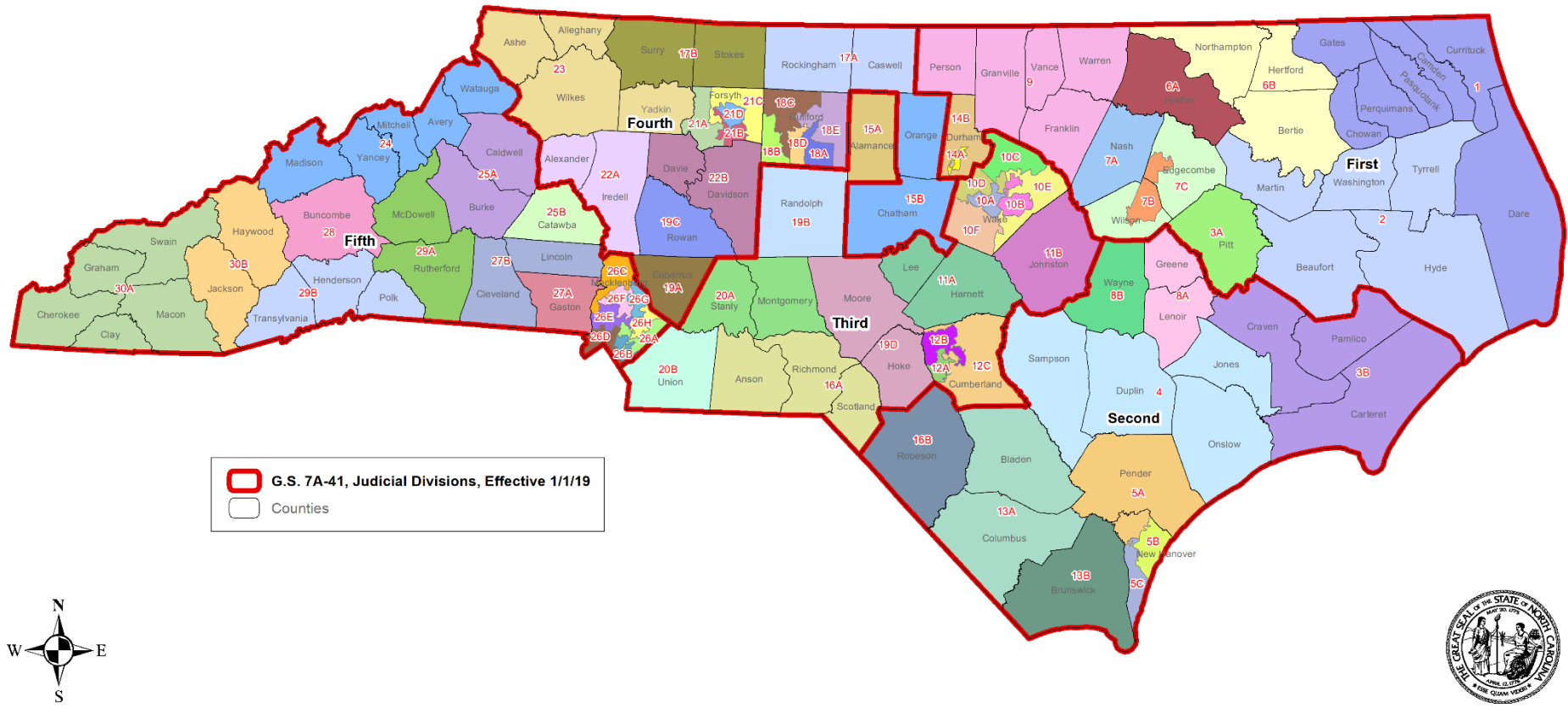
As modified in 2018 Session Laws



5 Superior Court Judicial Divisions

G.S. 7A-41, Superior Court, Effective 1/1/19

As modified in 2018 Session Laws



5 Superior Court Judicial Divisions
48 Superior Court Districts
107 Superior Court Judges

Superior Court FTE

Elected Superior Court Judges: 97.0 FTE

Special Superior Court Judges: 10.0 FTE

Judicial Assistants: 43.5 FTE

Trial Court Administrators: 8.0 FTE

Trial Court Coordinators: 43.0 FTE

Resident Court Reporters: 77.0 FTE

Research Assistants: 10.0 FTE

Other staff: 12.75 FTE

TOTAL: 301.25 FTE (inc. special funds)

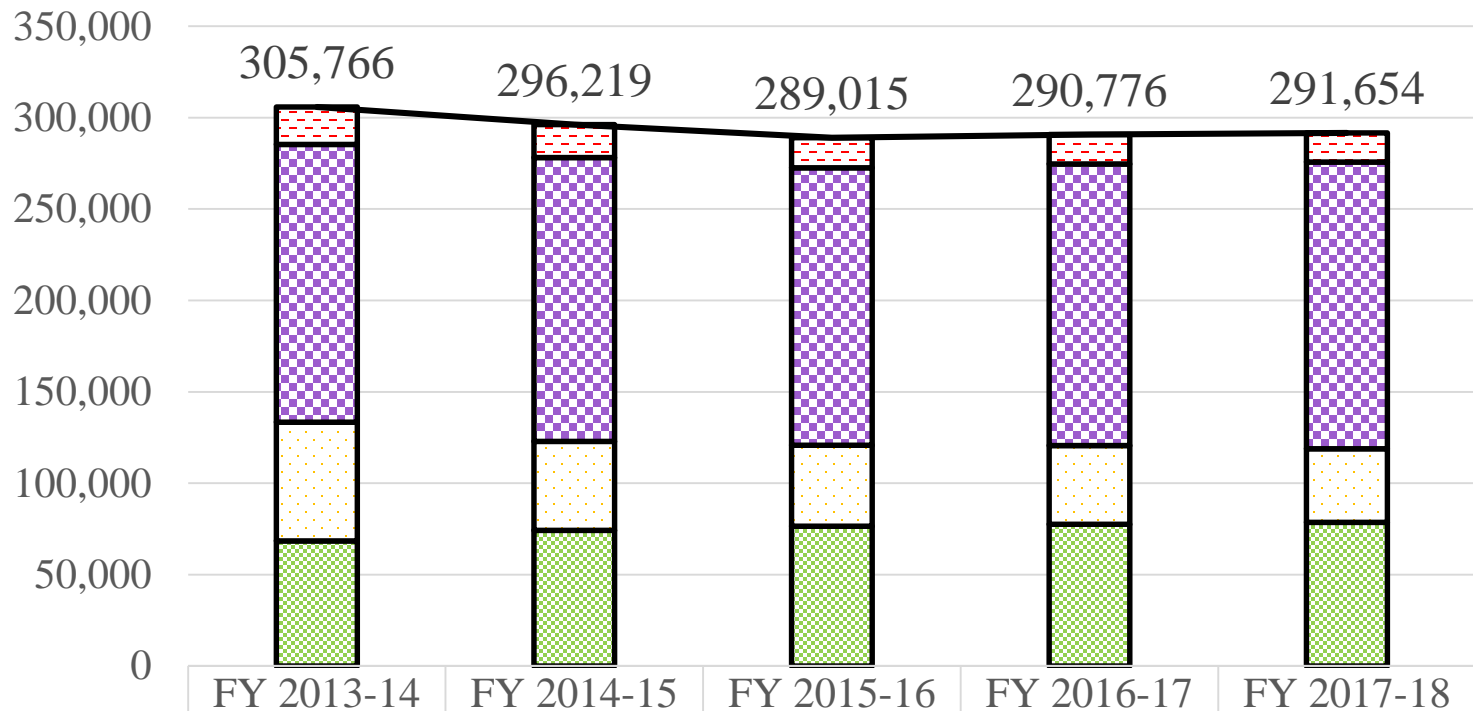
Source: BEACON




Business Court

- Special venue of civil Superior Court
- Complex and significant issues of corporate and commercial law assigned to a special judge
- 5 Special SCJs are designated Business Court Judges
- 5 Business Courts in NC:
 - Wake, Guilford, Forsyth, Mecklenburg (2 venues)
- At the end of CY 2018:
 - 324 pending cases
 - After consolidation – 206 pending cases
 - 173 new cases filed
 - 142 cases closed

Source: AOC Report on NC Business Court, FY 2017-18

Superior Court Dispositions



	Civil	20,424	17,956	16,514	16,095	15,990
	All Criminal	151,892	155,404	151,745	154,022	156,754
	Special Proceedings	65,024	48,638	44,289	43,102	40,394
	Estates	68,426	74,221	76,467	77,557	78,516
	Total	305,766	296,219	289,015	290,776	291,654

Source: AOC Annual Reports

Superior Court By The Numbers

Criminal Cases Disposed, FY 2017-18:

- Total: 156,754
- Mecklenburg: 15,734 (10.0%)
- Mecklenburg/Wake/Guilford/Forsyth/Cumberland: 40,137 (25.6%)
- Hyde: 75 (0.0005%)

Civil Cases Disposed, FY 2017-18:

- Total: 15,990
- Mecklenburg: 2,491 (15.6%)
- Mecklenburg/Wake/Guilford/Forsyth/Cumberland : 6,589 (41.2%)
- Hyde: 7 (0.0004%)

Source: AOC Activity Reports, FY 2017-18

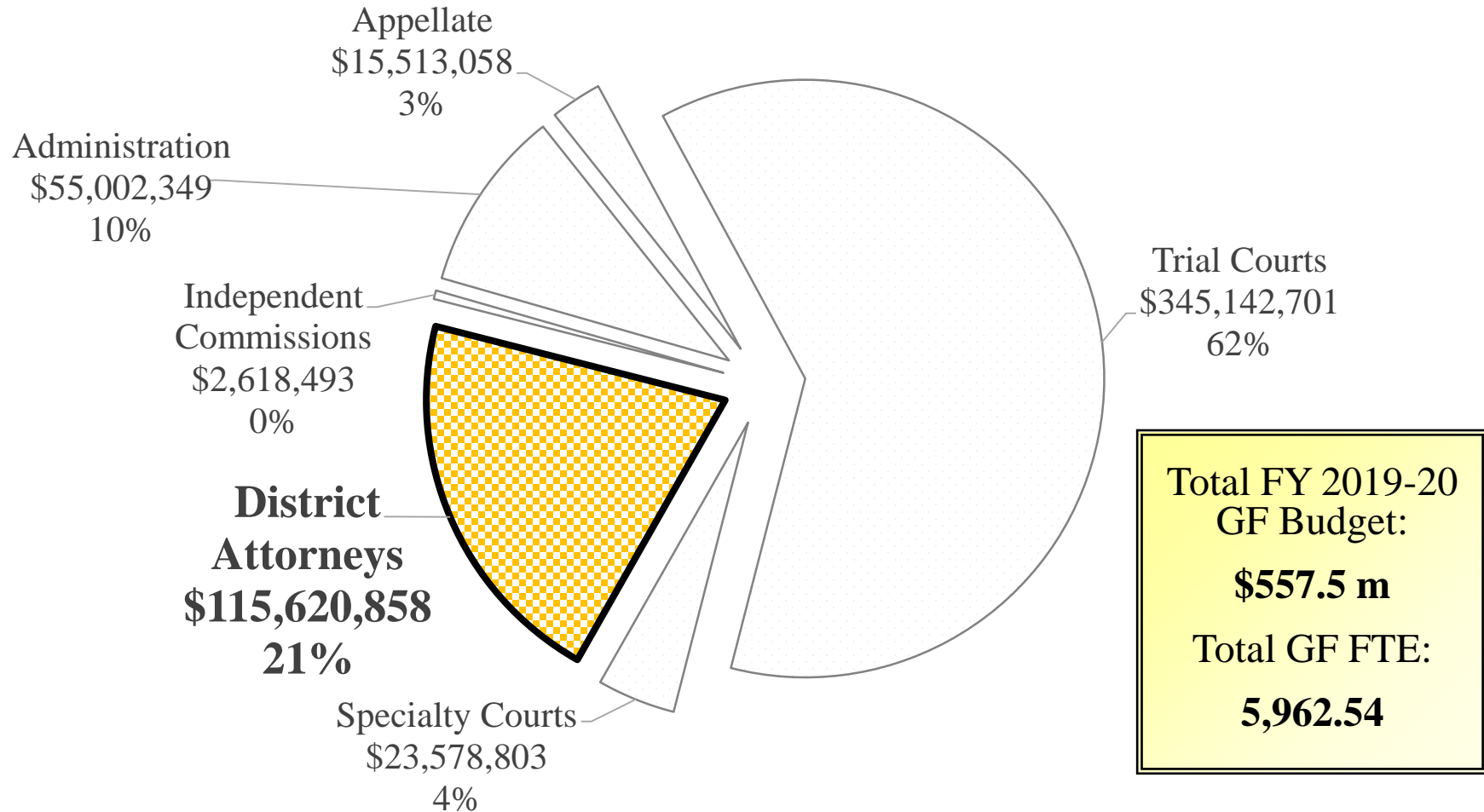
AOC

District Attorneys



FY 2019-20 AOC Base Budget

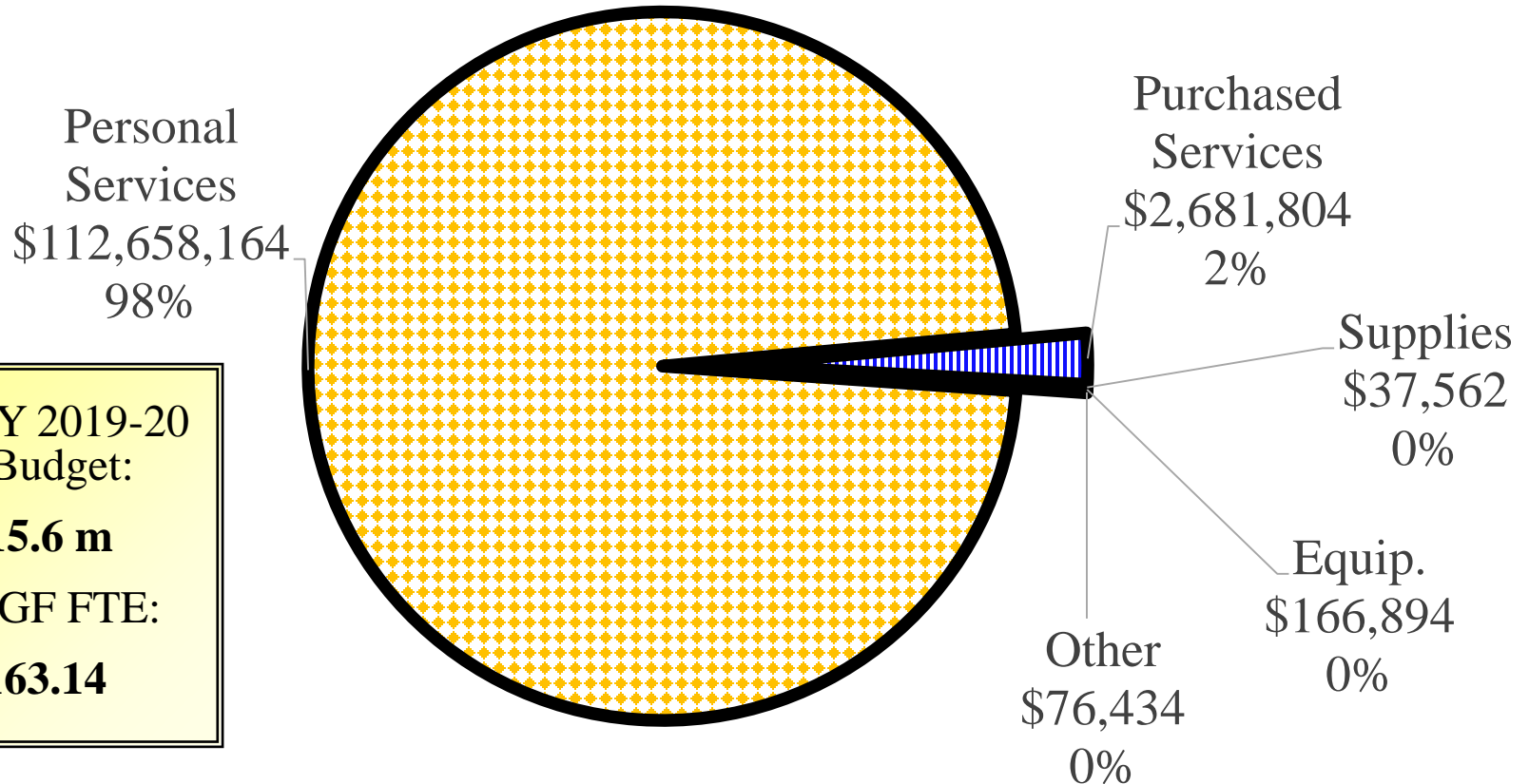
Total Requirements by Fund



Source: Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

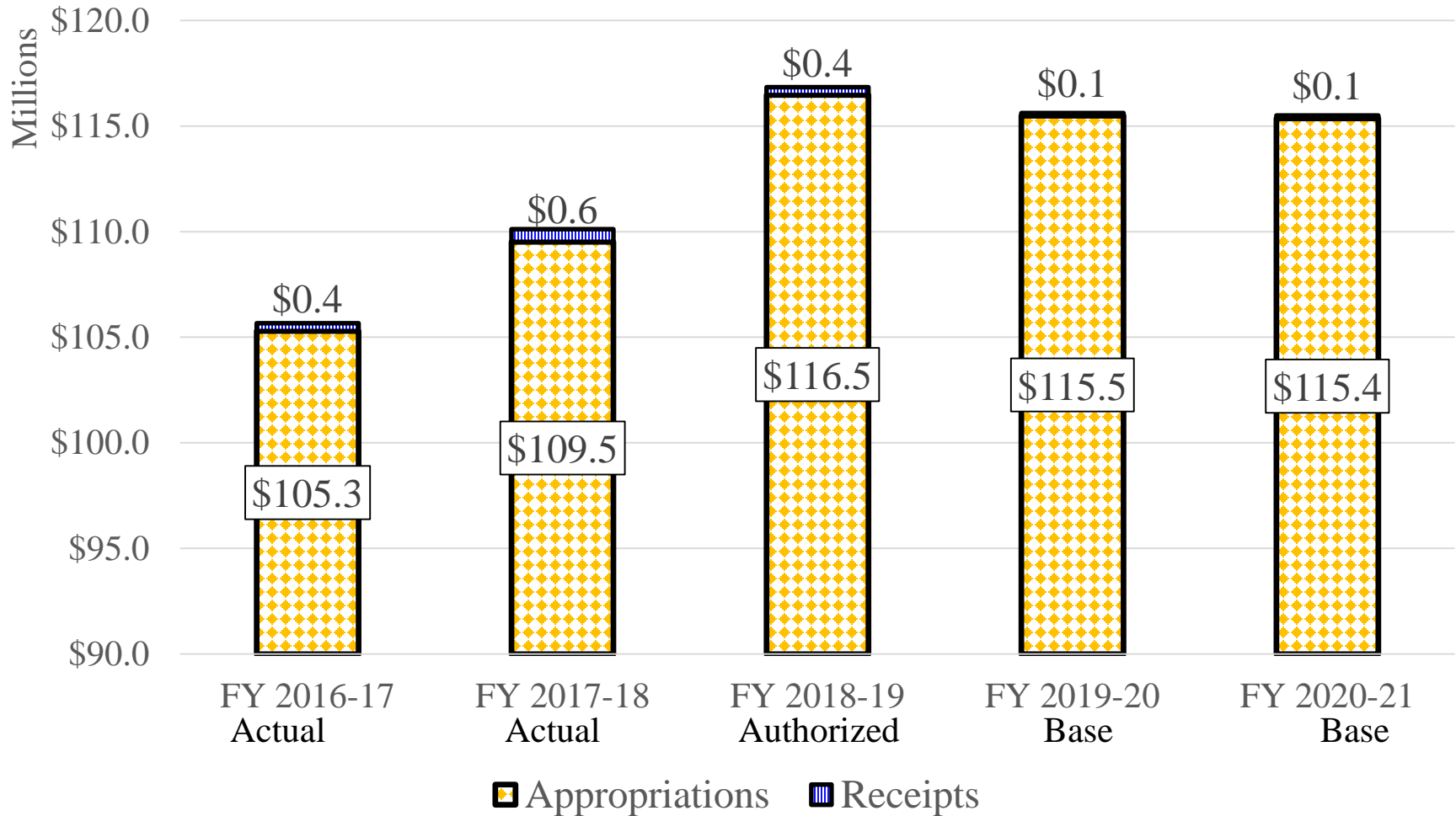
AOC DA Base Budget, FY 2019-20

Total Requirements by Purpose



Source: Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

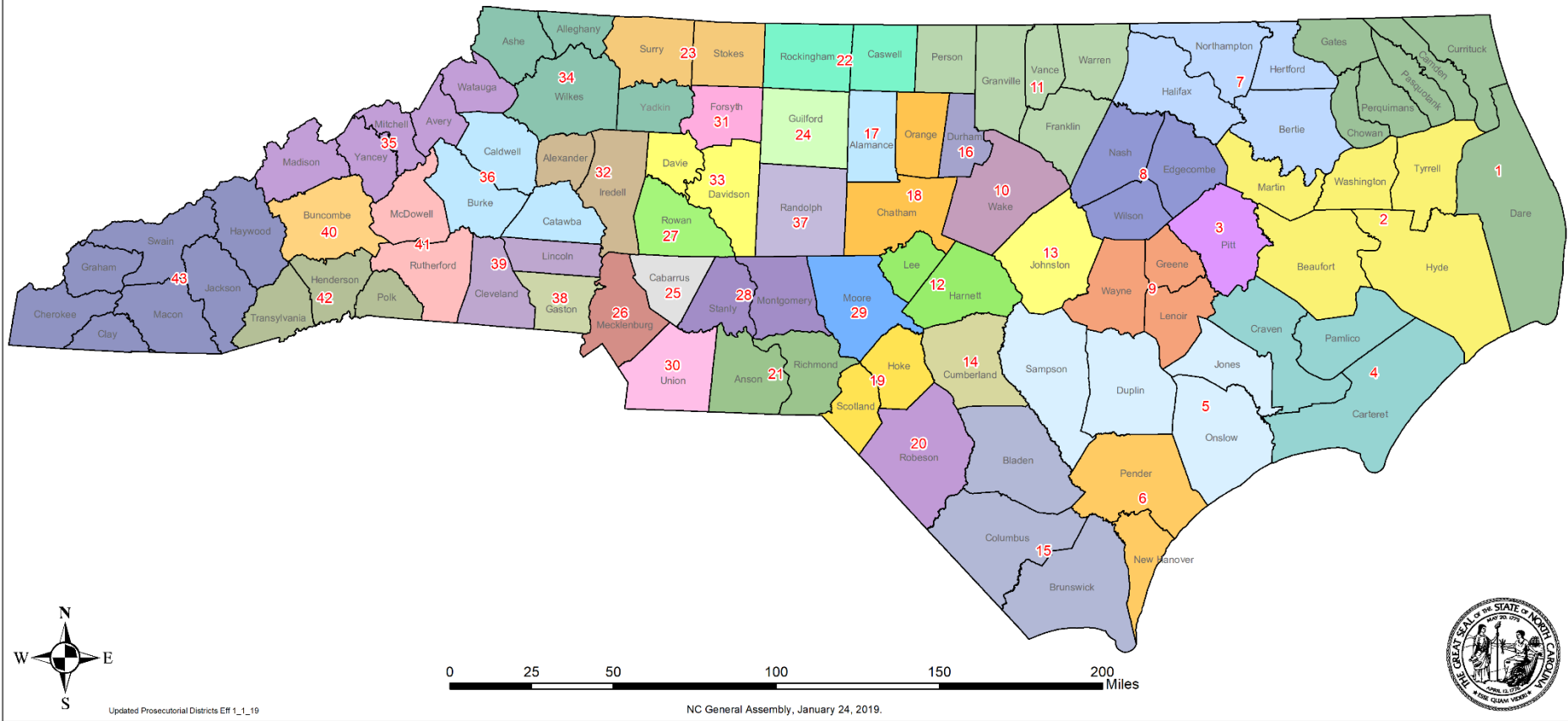
AOC DA Budget History



Source: NCAS, Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

G.S. 7A-60, Prosecutorial Districts, Effective 1/1/19

As modified in 2018 Session Laws



43 District Attorneys
43 Prosecutorial Districts

District Attorney Responsibilities

- DAs are the elected representatives of the State in all criminal and some juvenile matters
- Prosecute all criminal cases filed in Superior and District Courts
- Advise local law enforcement
- Prepare the criminal trial docket (“calendaring”)

Source:

District Attorney FTE

Elected District Attorneys: 43 FTE

ADAs: 689.6 FTE

Legal Assistants: 427.38 FTE

Victim Services Coordinators: 150 FTE

Investigators: 42 FTE

DA Support Staff: 60 FTE

Conference of DAs: 4.5 FTE

Total: 1,416.48 FTE (inc. special funds)



Source: BEACON

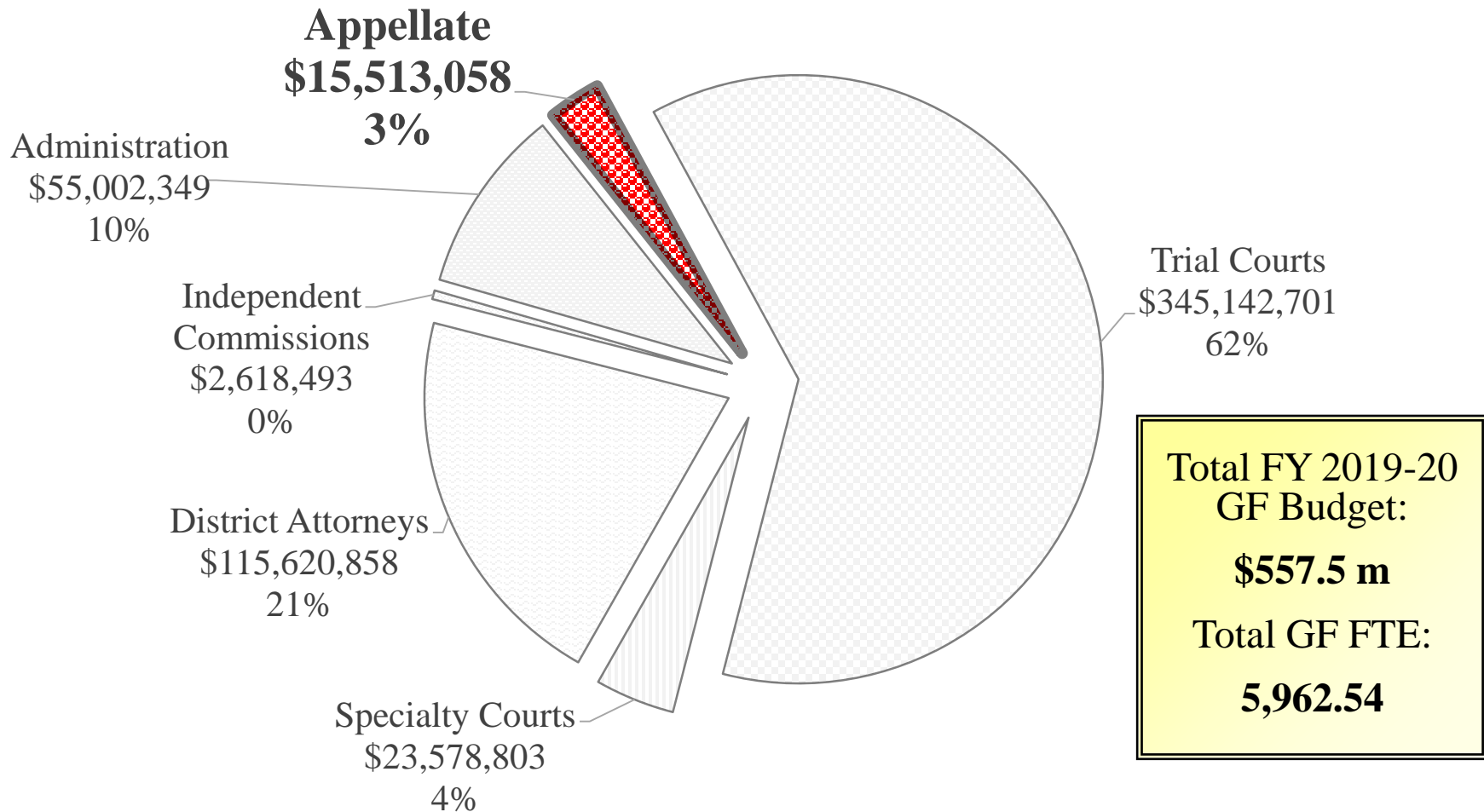
AOC

Appellate Courts



FY 2019-20 AOC Base Budget

Total Requirements by Fund



Source: Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

AOC Appellate Base Budget, FY 2019-20

Total Requirements by Purpose

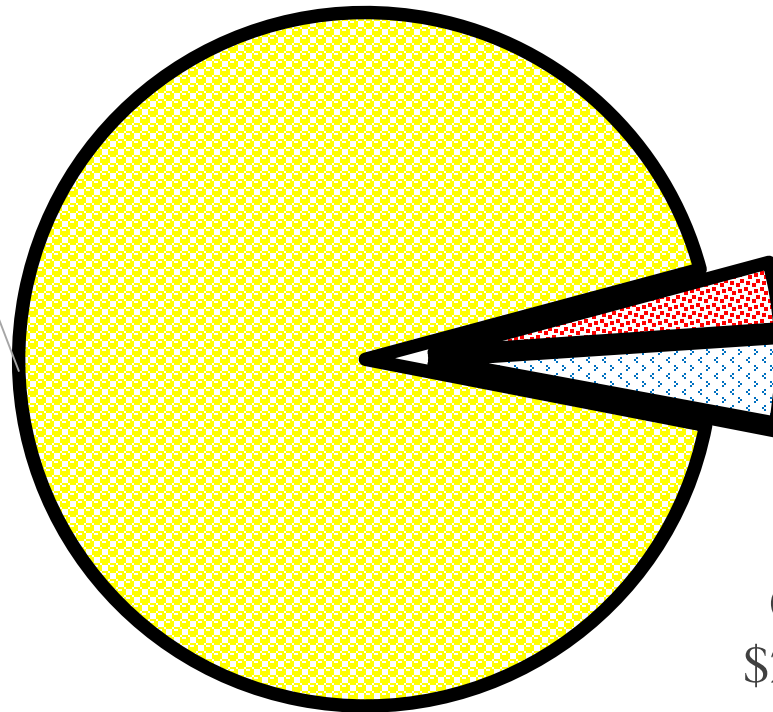
Personal
Services
\$14,390,521
93%

Total FY 2019-20
GF Budget:

\$15.5 m

Total GF FTE:

128.0



Purchased
Services
\$481,125
3%

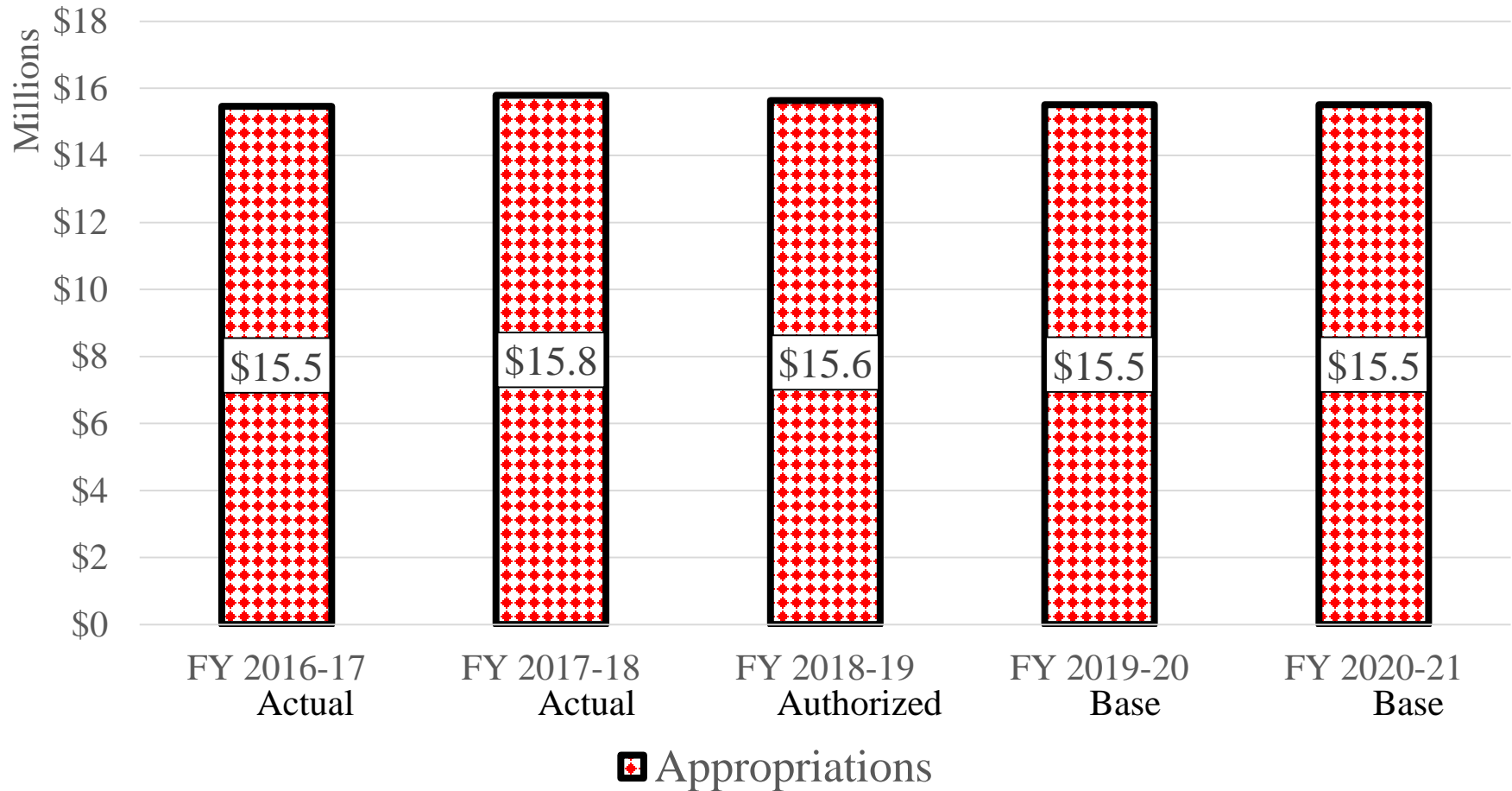
Supplies
\$5,097
0%

Equip.
\$614,308
4%

Other
\$22,007
0%

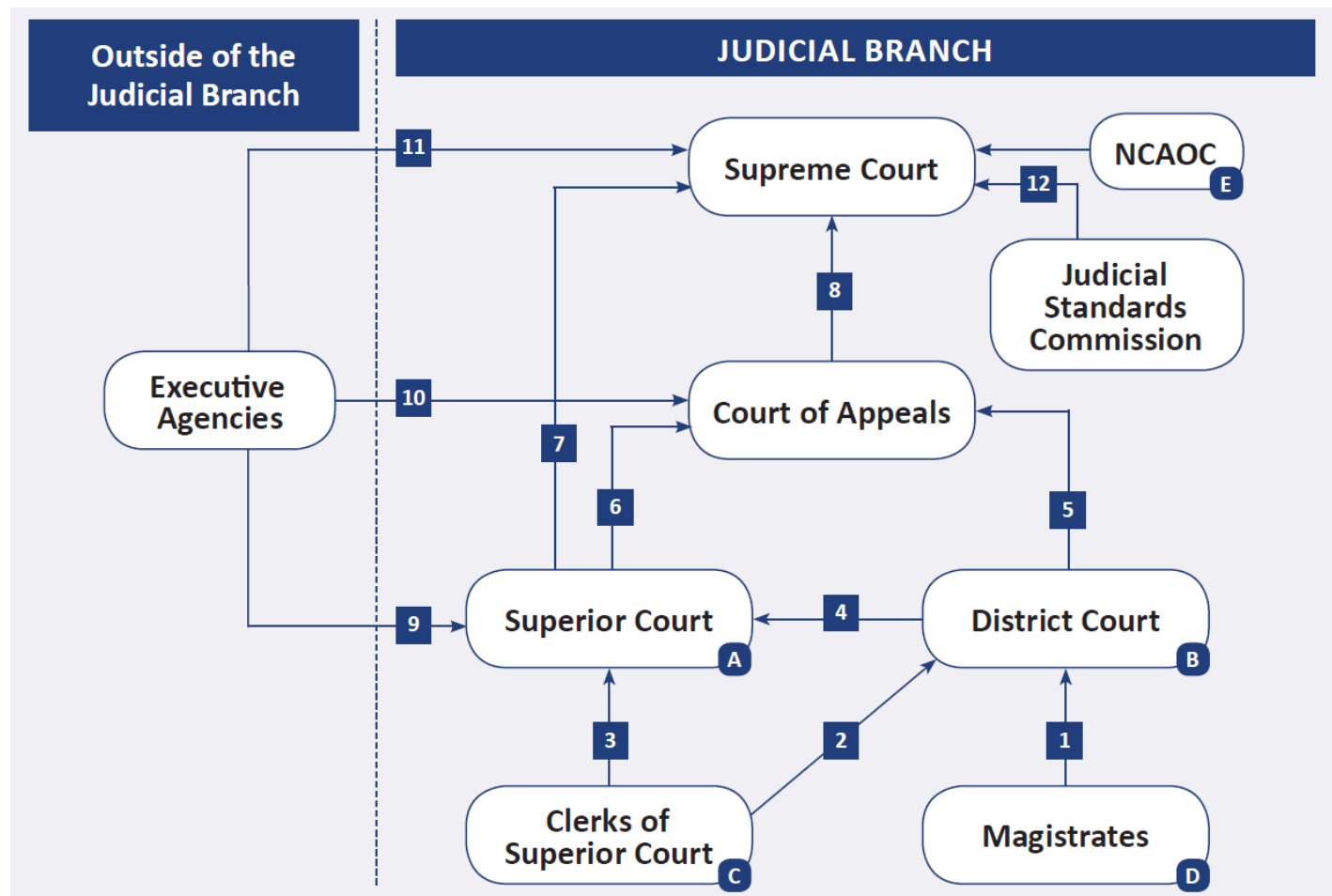
Source: Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

AOC Appellate Budget History



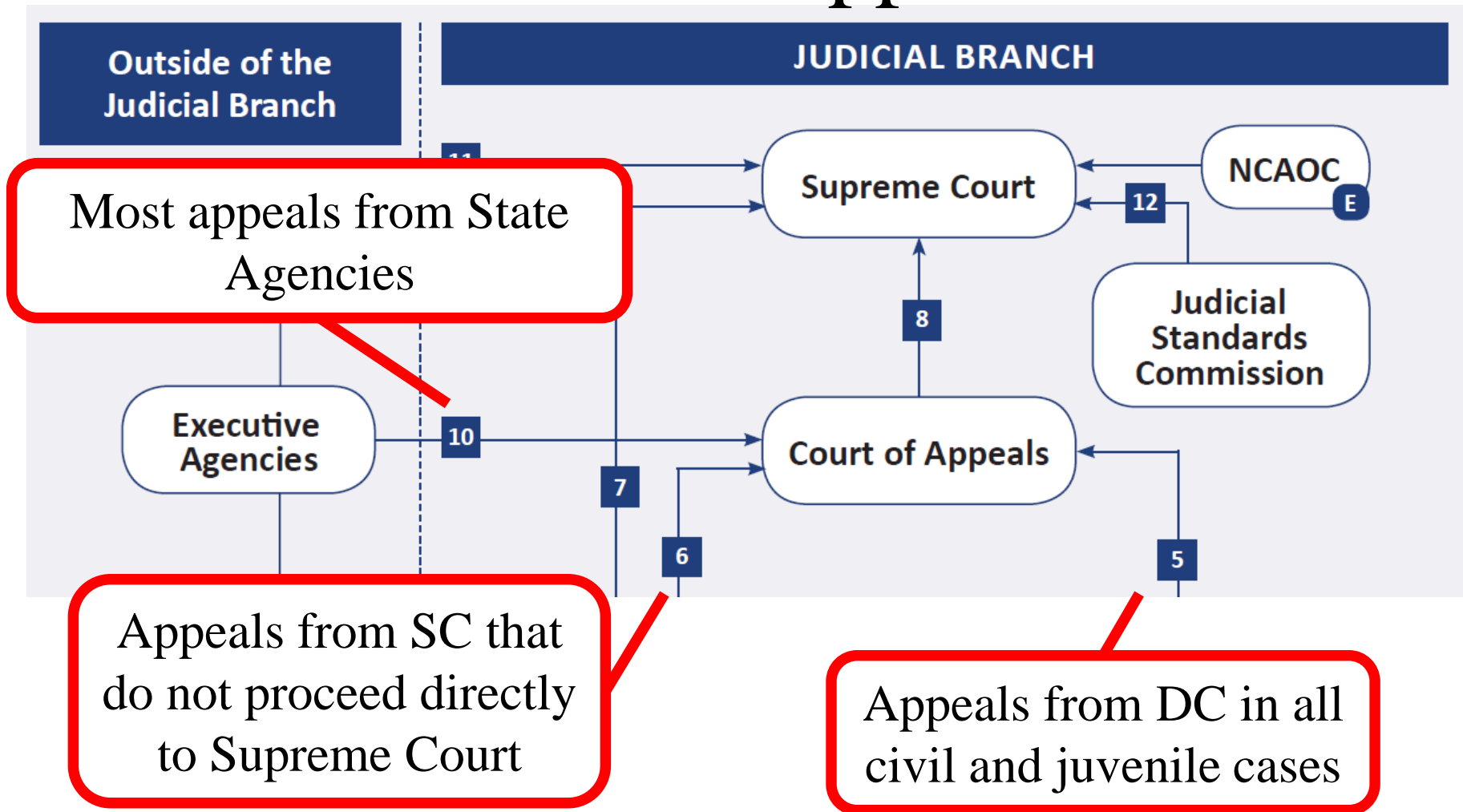
Source: NCAS, Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

NC Appellate Courts



Source: AOC Annual Report, FY 2017-18

Court of Appeals



Source: AOC Annual Report, FY 2017-18

Court of Appeals FTE

- Chief Judge Linda McGee
- 15 Judges of the Court of Appeals (inc. Chief)
- 30 Research Assistants
- 15 Executive Assistants
- 10 in Court of Appeals Clerk's Office
- 8 Staff Attorneys
- 5 Other: General Counsel, Legal Asst., Spec. Projects
- **Total: 83 FTE**

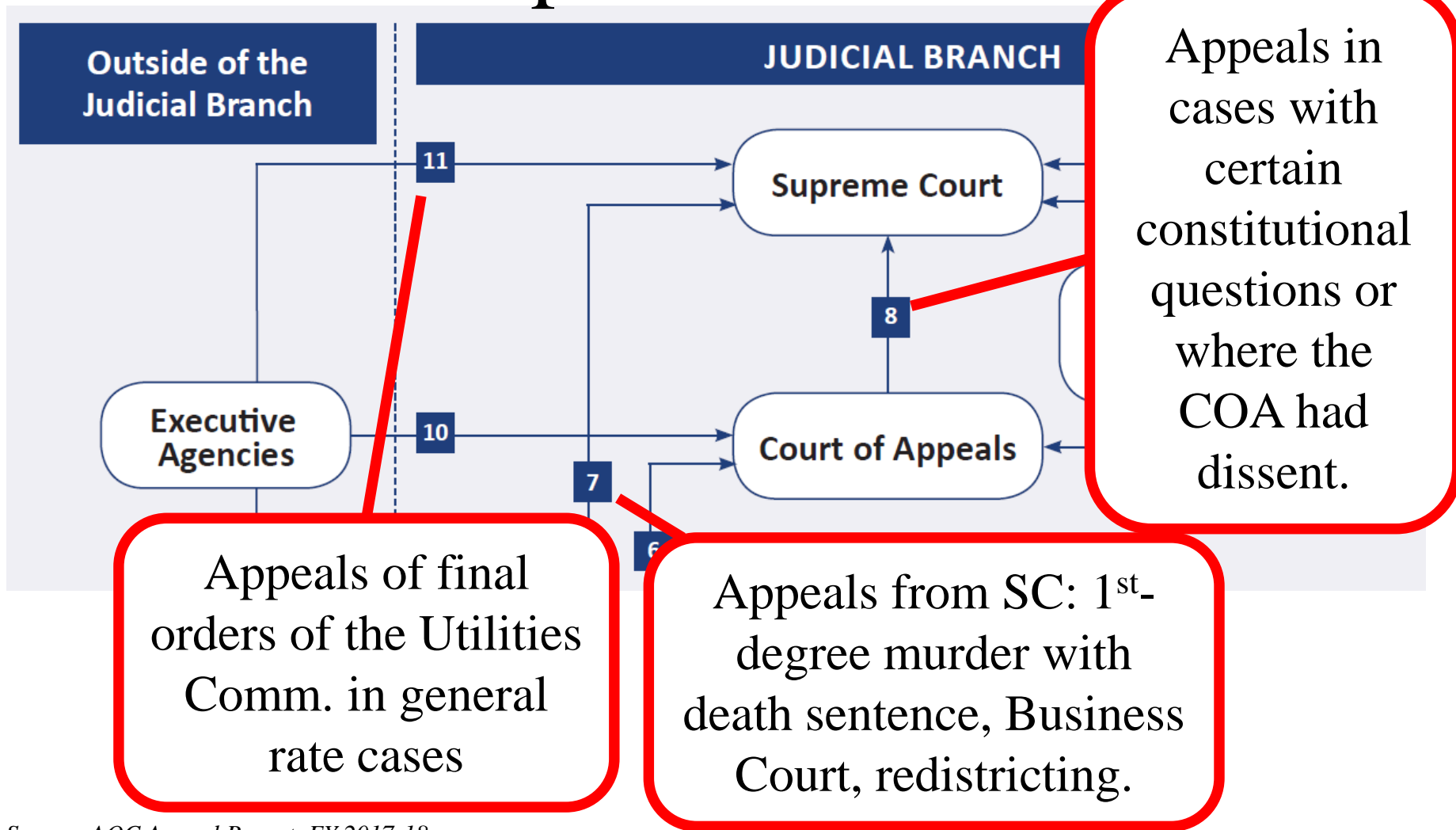
Source: BEACON

Court of Appeals Cases

- Civil and Juvenile Appeals from District Courts
- Appeals in non first-degree capital murder criminal cases from Superior Court
- State agency decisions: Industrial Commission, NC State Bar, Property Tax Commission, Insurance, HHS, DEQ, Utilities Commission (other than general rate cases)



Supreme Court



Source: AOC Annual Report, FY 2017-18

Supreme Court FTE

- Chief Justice Cheri Beasley
- 6 Associate Justices
- 14 Research Assistants
- 7 Executive Assistants
- 5 in Supreme Court Clerk's Office
- 22 Other Staff (Reporters, Library, Counsel, Marshals, IT, Print Shop)
- **Total: 55.5 FTE**

Source: BEACON

Supreme Court Cases

- Appeals from Superior Court:
 - First-degree defendant sentenced to death
 - Business Court
 - Redistricting cases
- Appeals from State agencies:
 - Final orders in Utilities Commission general rate cases
- Appeals from Court of Appeals:
 - Constitutional questions
 - Cases in which the Court of Appeals has had dissent
- Discretionary Review of Appeals:
 - Significant public interest
 - Legal principles of major significance
 - Delay would cause substantial harm
 - Court of Appeals docket is unusually full



Supreme Court Stats, FY 2017-18

	Cases Filed	Cases Disposed	Cases Pending
Petitions For Review			
Civil/Juvenile	211	216	65
Criminal (inc. death sentences)	300	276	85
Admin. Agency Decisions	2	3	2
Total Petitions For Review	513	495	152
Appeals			
Civil	55	63	30
Criminal (other than death sentences)	86	68	54
Criminal, defendant sentenced to death	1	4	2
Admin. Agency Decisions	0	1	0
Total Appeals	142	136	86
Other Proceedings			
Motions/Rule 16(b)	747	698	0

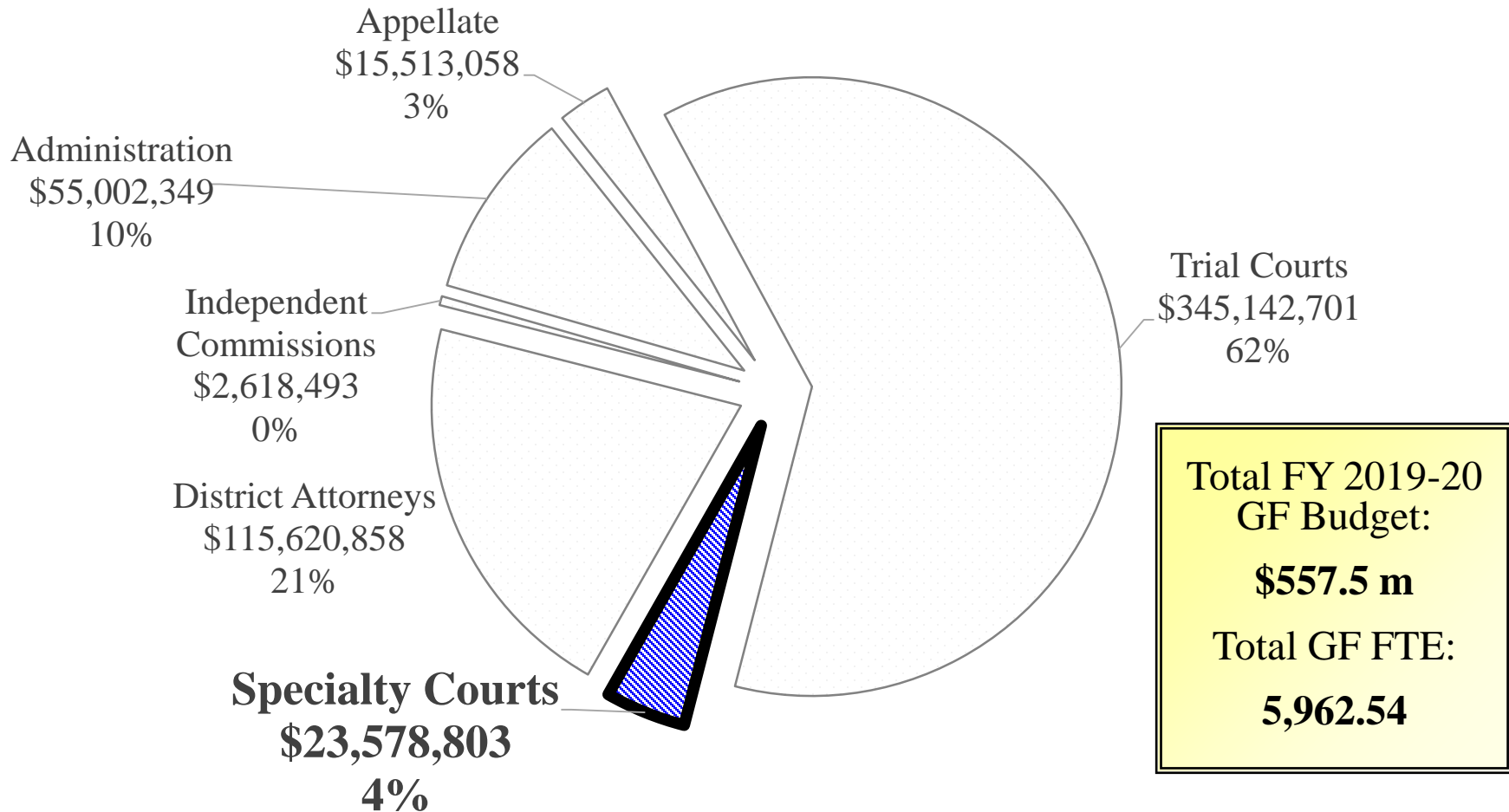
AOC

Specialty Courts



FY 2019-20 AOC Base Budget

Total Requirements by Fund



Source: Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

Specialty Courts Base Budget, FY 2019-20

Total Requirements by Purpose

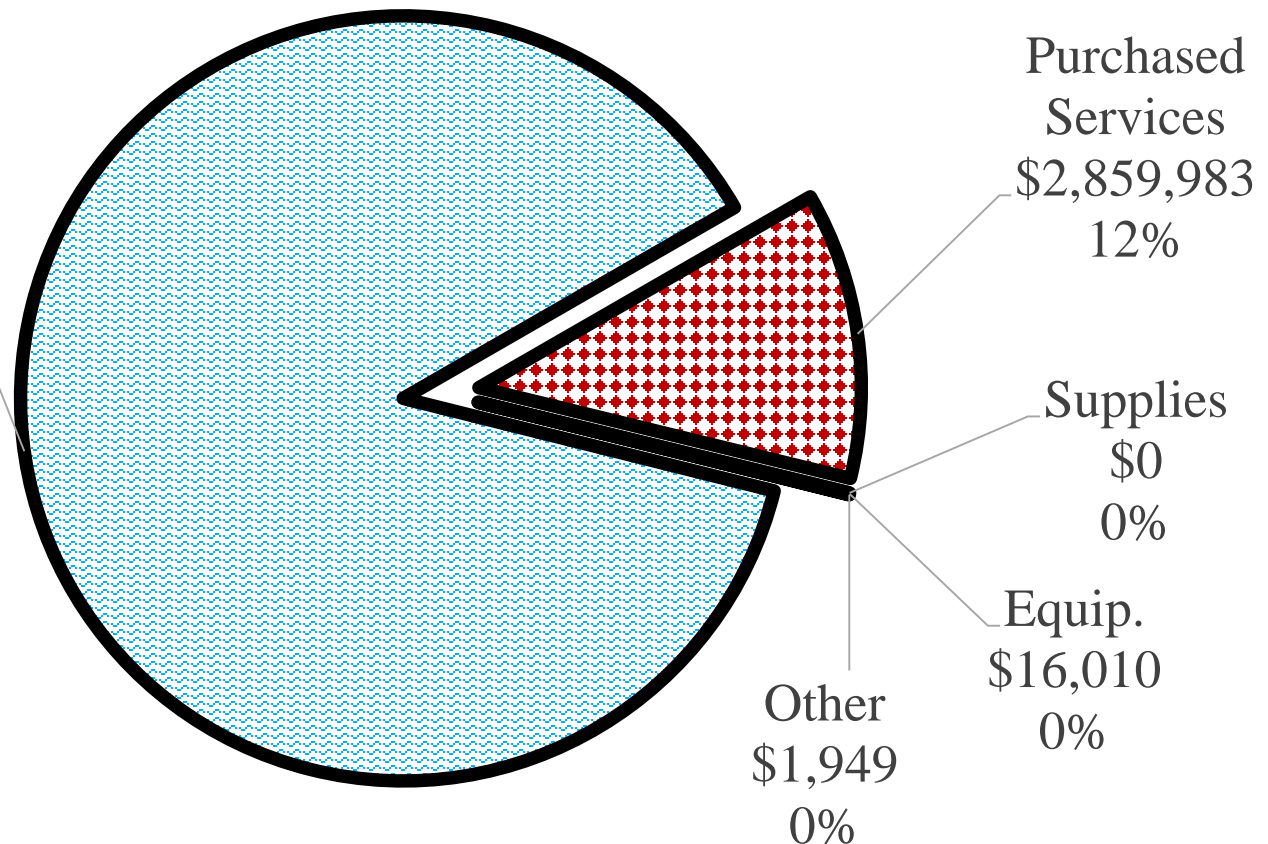
Personal
Services
\$20,700,861
88%

Total FY 2019-20
GF Budget:

\$23.6 m

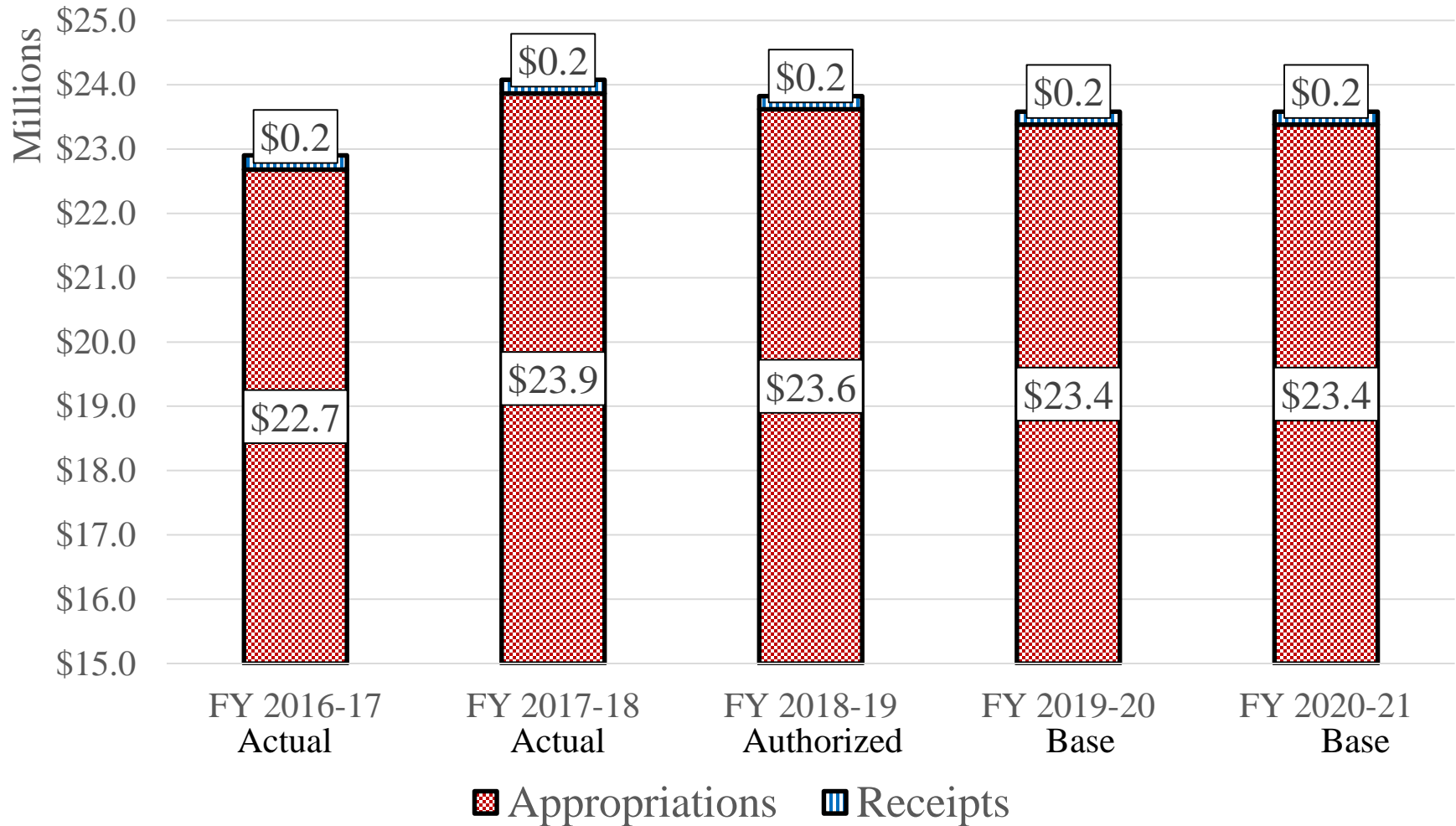
Total GF FTE:

251.18



Source: Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

AOC Specialty Courts Budget History



Source: NCAS, Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

Specialty Courts

- Guardian ad Litem Program
- Child Custody and Family Visitation Mediation Program
- Family Courts



Specialty Courts FTE

Guardian ad Litem: 177.38 FTE

Custody Mediation: 54.56 FTE

Family Court: 44.998 FTE

Instructional Designer: 0.37 FTE

Drug Treatment Court Case Coordinator: 1 FTE

Total: 278.308 FTE (all appropriated)

Source: BEACON

Guardian ad Litem Program

- Equips community volunteers to serve abused and neglected children by advocating for their best interests in court
- When petition alleging abuse or neglect of a juvenile is filed, judge appoints to advocates for the child in court:
 - Guardian ad Litem volunteer
 - Paid or pro bono attorney
- All GAL advocates are trained, supervised, and supported by program staff in each county of the state

Guardian ad Litem FTE

Administration/Counsel/Support: 8 FTE

Attorney Advocates: 12 FTE

Regional/District Administrators: 41.63 FTE

Supervisors: 84 FTE

Program Specialists: 19.75 FTE

Other (Program Assistants, Case Managers,
Recruiter): 12 FTE

Total: 177.38 FTE

Source: BEACON

Guardian ad Litem Statistics, FY 2017-18

Attorneys:

- 64 paid
- 147 volunteers
- 12 staff advocates
- 116 conflict attorneys

Volunteers:

- 5,455 volunteer advocates
- 523,680 hours of service

Stats:

- 70,212 child abuse and neglect hearings
- 18,060 abused and neglected children received legal representation
- 213 juvenile appellate cases filed

Source: AOC Annual Report, FY 2017-18

Child Custody and Visitation Mediation Program

- Provides neutral, non-adversarial court-ordered mediation services in cases involving custody and/or visitation of minor children parenting agreements.
- In FY 2017-18:
 - 19,463 people attended orientation
 - 10,386 child custody cases mediated
 - 11,239 mediation sessions held
 - 5,283 parenting agreements drafted

Source: AOC Annual Report, FY 2017-18

Custody Mediation FTE

Admin/Court Management Specialists: 2 FTE

Custody and Visitation Mediators: 45.06 FTE

Program/Judicial Assistants: 7.5 FTE

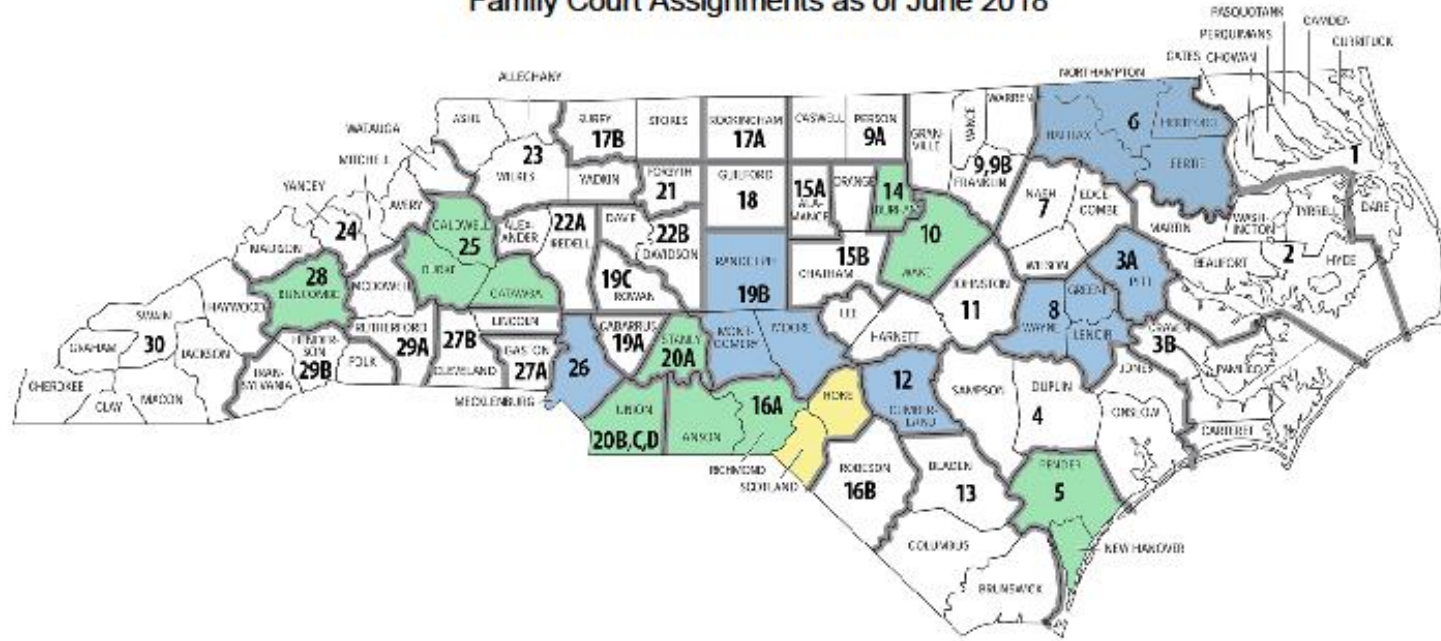
Total: 54.56 FTE

Source: BEACON

North Carolina District Court Districts

Effective January 1, 2015

Family Court Assignments as of June 2018



Note: Districts 9 and 9B, and districts 20B, 20C, and 20D are districts for electoral purposes only. They are combined for administrative purposes.

Copyright © 2014
School of Government
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Map has been modified to highlight Family Court Districts
North Carolina Judicial Branch 2018

LORI COLE
COURT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST
919-890-1207, LORI.C.COLE@NCCOURTS.ORG

STEPHANIE NESBITT
COURT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST
919-890-1204, STEPHANIE.A.NESBITT@NCCOURTS.ORG

**FAMILY COURT COUNTIES THAT HAVE NOT
YET IMPLEMENTED FAMILY COURT BEST PRACTICES**

Family Court Responsibilities

- Consolidate all of a family's legal issues before a single district court judge or team of judges
- Allows judges to become familiar with and better address each family's issues
- Keeps families from having to recount their history for multiple judges at each hearing
- Cases involving:
 - juvenile delinquency
 - abuse, neglect and dependency allegations
 - termination of parental rights
 - domestic violence
 - child custody and visitation rights
 - divorce and related financial issues

Family Court FTE

Family Court Administrators: 9 FTE

Family Court Coordinators: 16 FTE

Family Court Judicial Assistants: 19.998 FTE

Total: 44.998 FTE

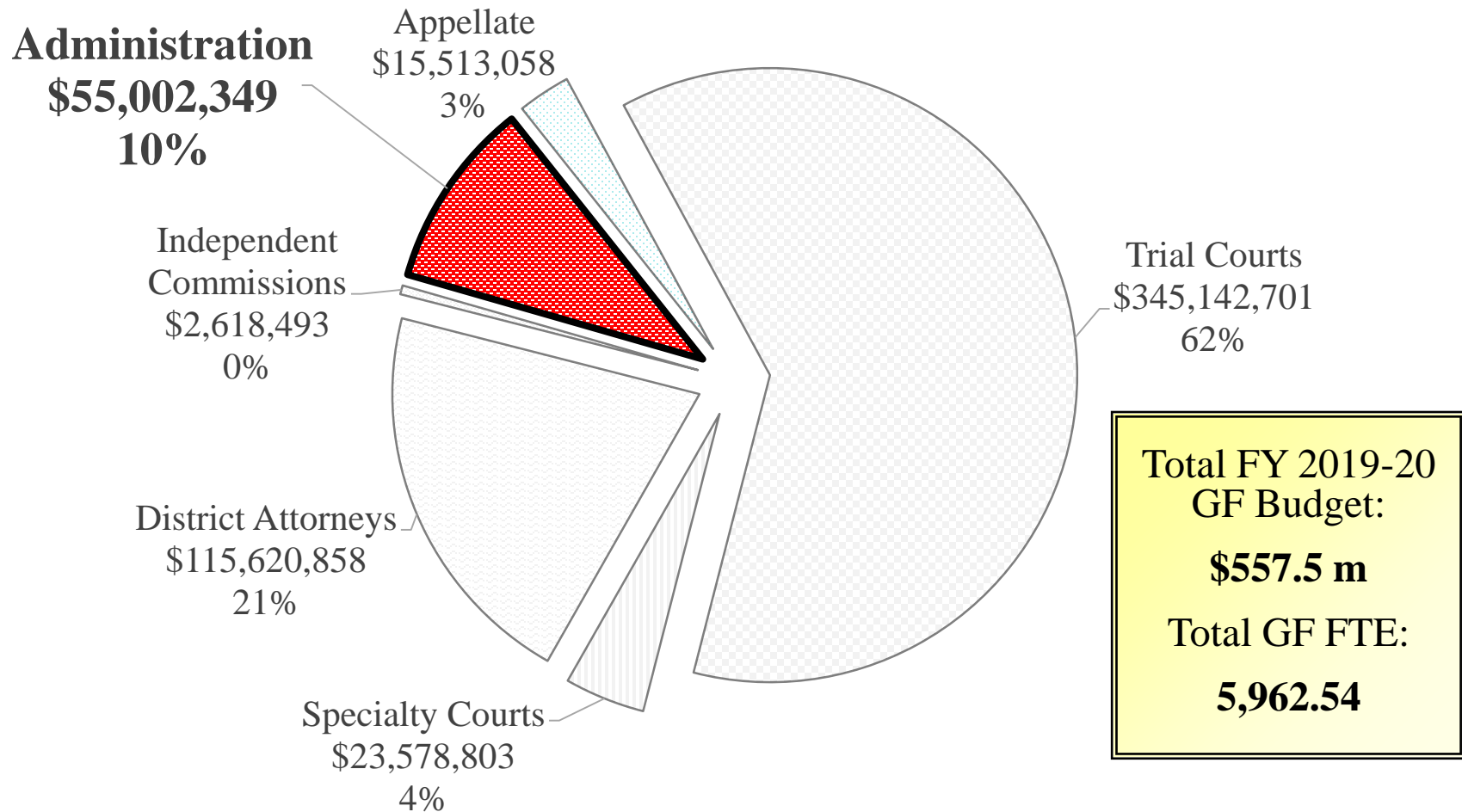
Source: BEACON

AOC Administration



FY 2019-20 AOC Base Budget

Total Requirements by Fund



Source: Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

AOC Administration

- Administrative Officer of the Courts
- General Counsel
- Human Resources
- Technology Services
- Training and Development
- Procurement
- Financial Services

Total FY 2019-20
GF Budget:

\$55.0 m

Total GF FTE:

295.5

AOC Admin Base Budget, FY 2019-20

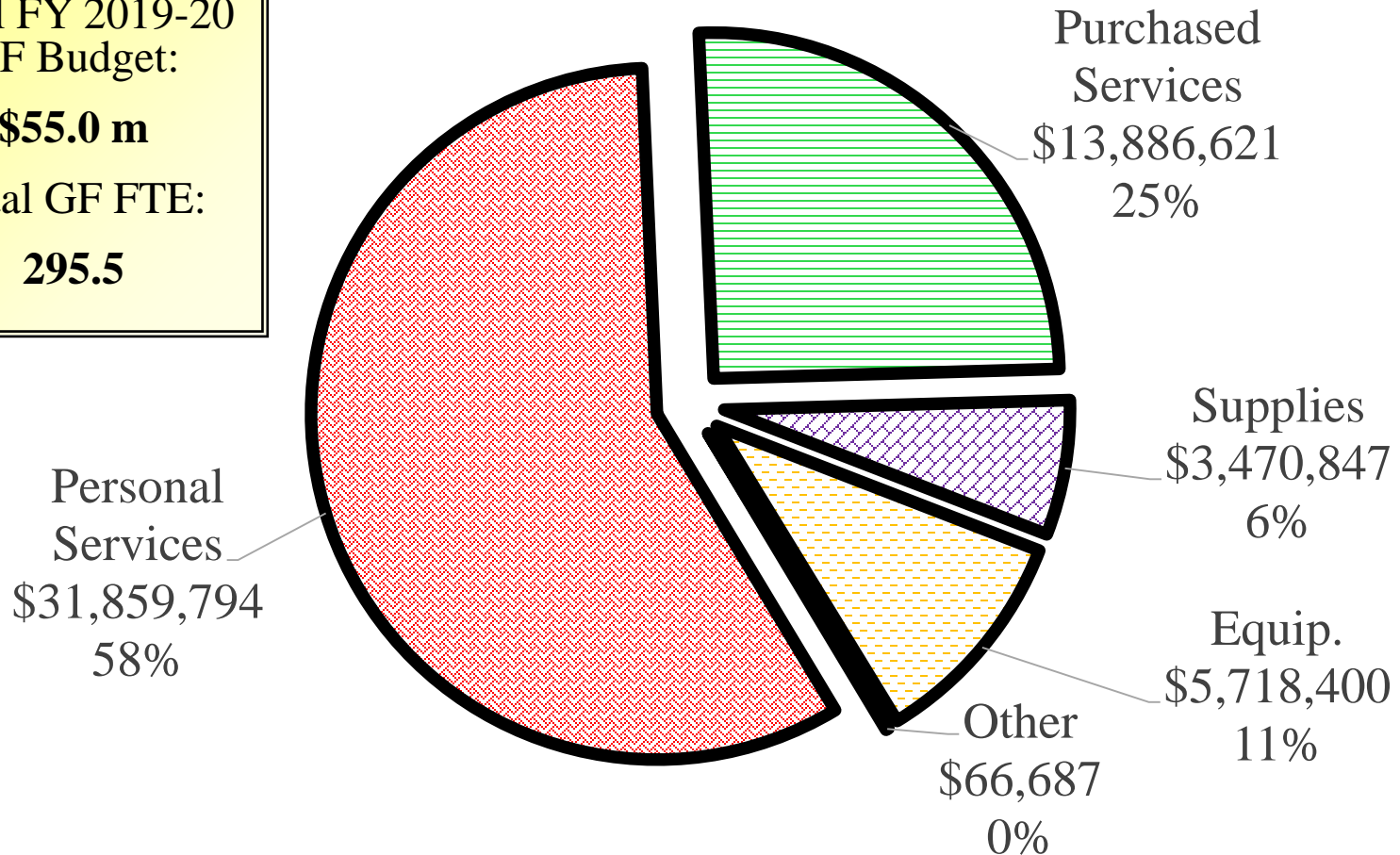
Total Requirements by Purpose

Total FY 2019-20
GF Budget:

\$55.0 m

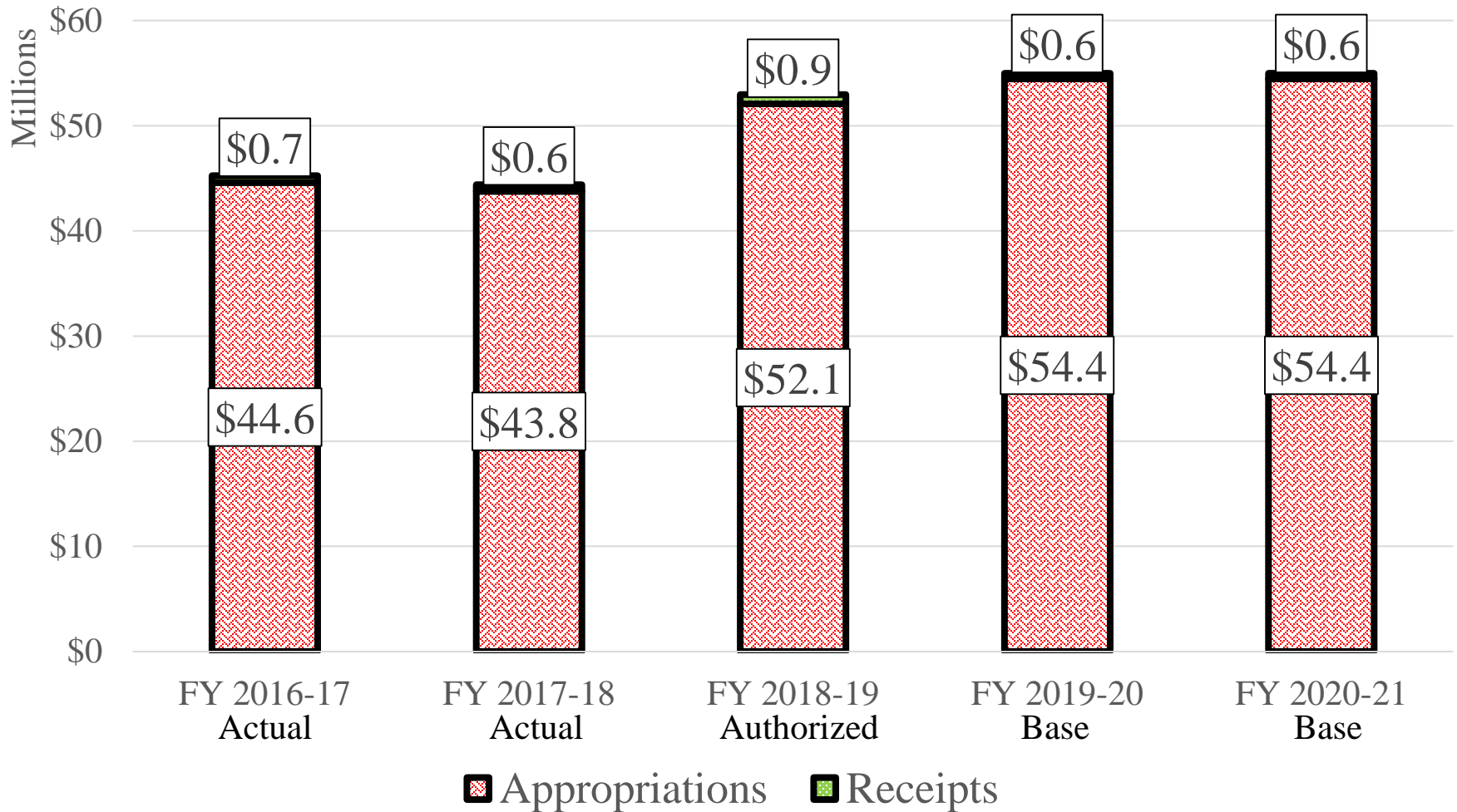
Total GF FTE:

295.5



Source: Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

AOC Admin Budget History



Source: NCAS, Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

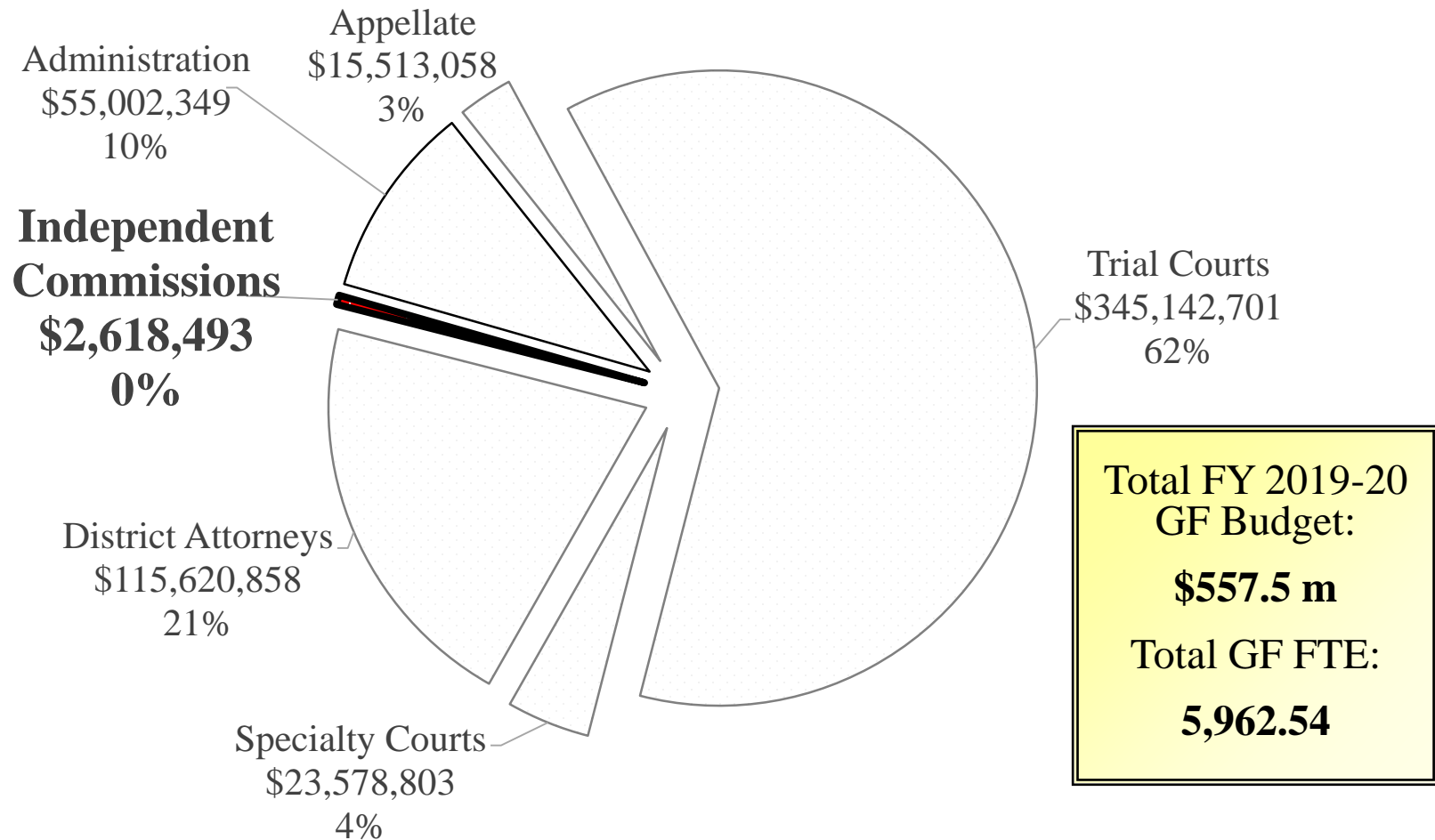
AOC

Independent Commissions



FY 2019-20 AOC Base Budget

Total Requirements by Fund



Source: Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

Independent Commissions

Innocence Inquiry Commission: 6 FTE

- reviews, investigates, and hears post-conviction innocence claims if new evidence of innocence has come to light

Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission: 10 FTE

- makes recommendations to the NCGA for modification of sentencing laws and policies and for the addition, deletion, or expansion of sentencing options as necessary to achieve policy goals

Human Trafficking Commission: 1.4 FTE

- Examining and combating human trafficking

Source: BEACON

Independent Commissions

Dispute Resolution Commission: 2 FTE

- certifies and regulates private mediators who serve NC courts

Judicial Standards Commission: 5 FTE

- considers complaints against state district, superior, and appellate court judges and justices and, where appropriate, makes recommendations for discipline

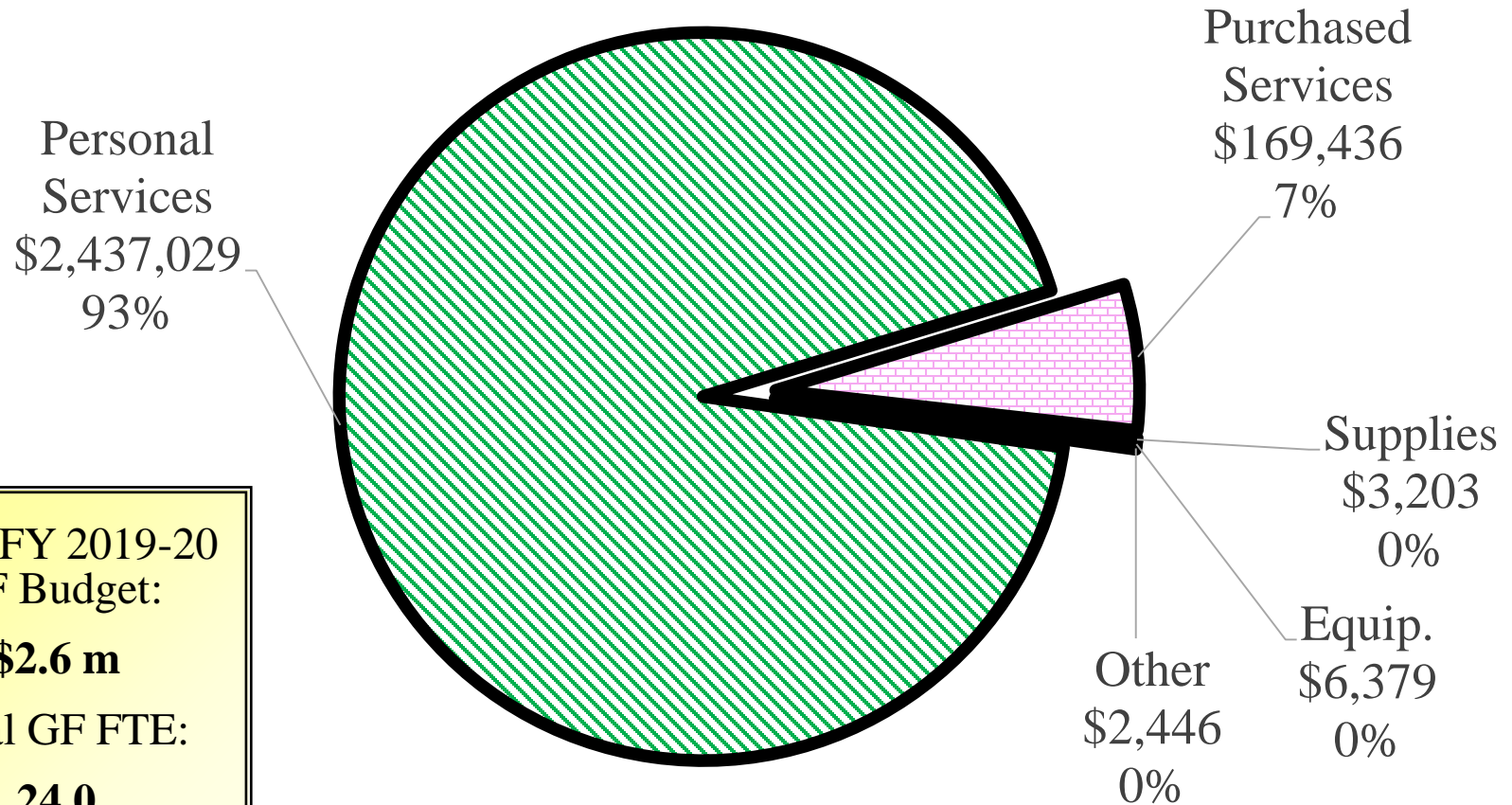
Pro Bono Resource Center: 1 FTE

- Assist lawyers in fulfilling their professional obligations under Rule 6.1, Voluntary Pro Bono Publico Service

Source: BEACON

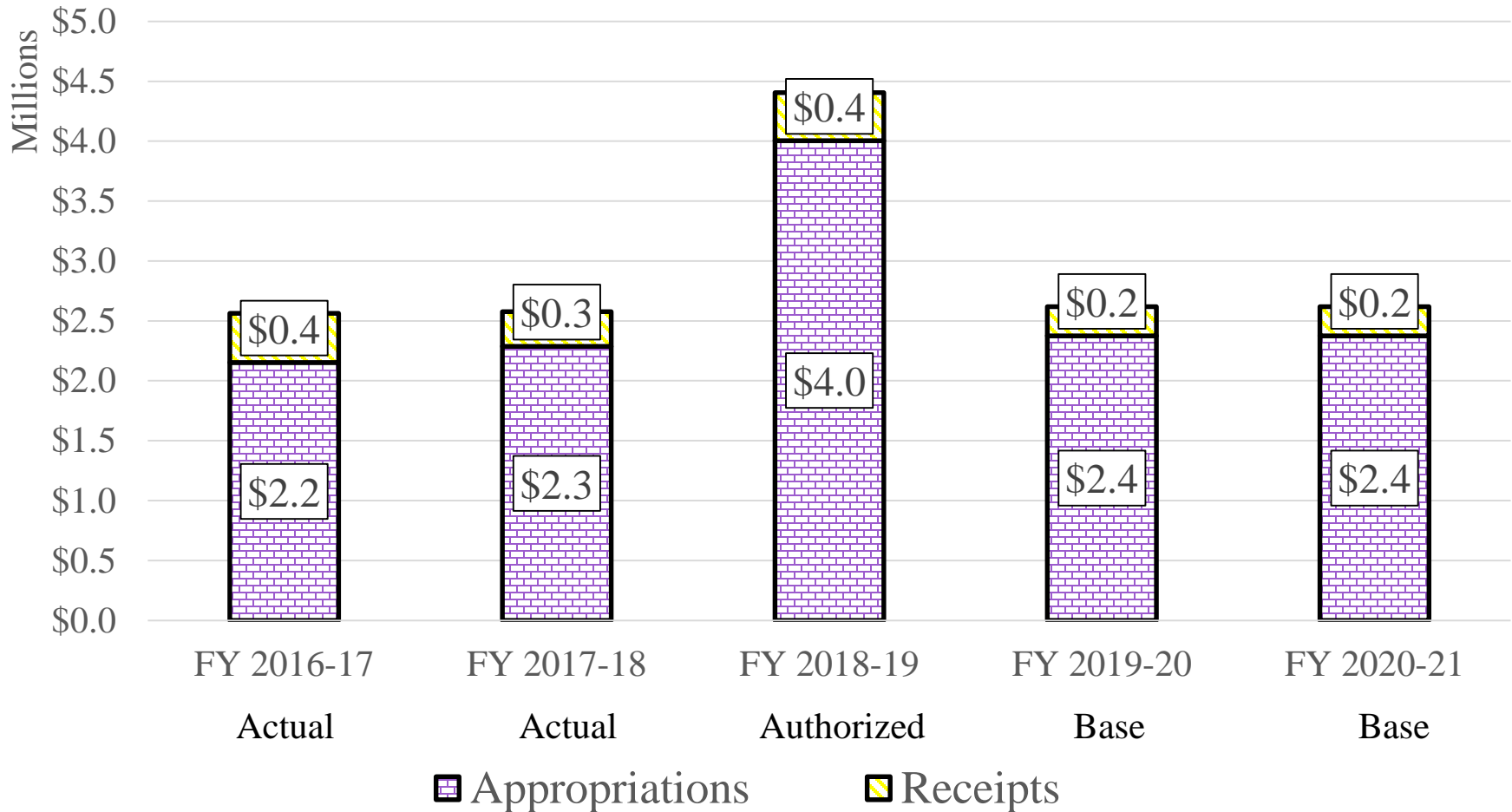
Ind. Comm. Base Budget, FY 2019-20

Total Requirements by Purpose



Source: Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

Ind. Comm. Budget History



Source: NCAS, Recommended Base Budget (Worksheet I) 02/16/19

