

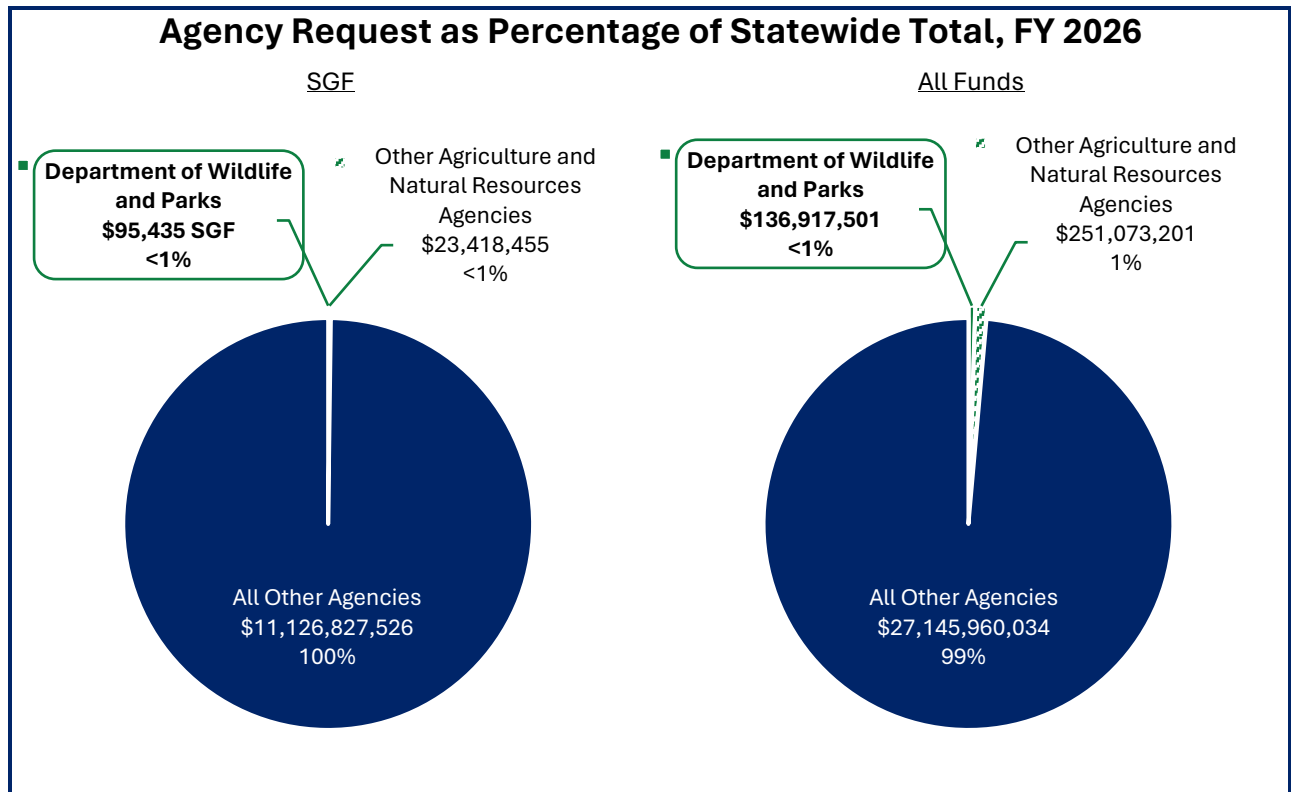
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Budget Summary – Agency Request

Executive Summary

The Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) is a cabinet-level agency administered by the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks. The Secretary is appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Kansas Senate. The Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission, a seven-member board appointed by the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the Attorney General, serves in an advisory role to the Secretary. The Commission has the authority to approve, deny, or modify the agency’s rules and regulations. The Secretary of Wildlife and Parks and Assistant Secretary for Administration are located in the Topeka administrative offices, while the Assistant Secretary for Operations is located in Pratt. The agency is administered by staff in the Topeka office, while field operations are managed from the Pratt office.



Expenditures by Fiscal Year and Version				
	SGF	All Funds	Note	
FY 2024 Actual	\$ 617,160	\$ 90,832,883	Actual expenditures	
FY 2025 Actual	5,082,840	106,587,097	Actual expenditures	
FY 2026 Approved	95,435	128,784,203	2025 SB 125	
FY 2026 Agency	95,435	136,917,501	Revised estimate, submitted September 2025	
FY 2027 Agency	96,258	128,667,888	Agency request, submitted September 2025	



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS


Budget Summary – Agency Request

Budget and Policy Snapshot

The tables below provide a selection of items that inform the agency budget request. These items include **supplemental and enhancement requests** () , adjustments related to **reappropriated funds** () , **language-only policy changes** requested for inclusion in legislation, changes in **federal or state policy** that impact agency funding, and other budgetary items.

These tables are not intended to be a comprehensive list of changes in the agency budget request. For more detail on individual fiscal year requests, please refer to the [FY 2026 Analysis](#) and [FY 2027 Analysis](#) sections later in this document.

FY 2026

Item	Amount	Source	Note
 EDIF Reappropriation	\$ 61,523	EDIF	

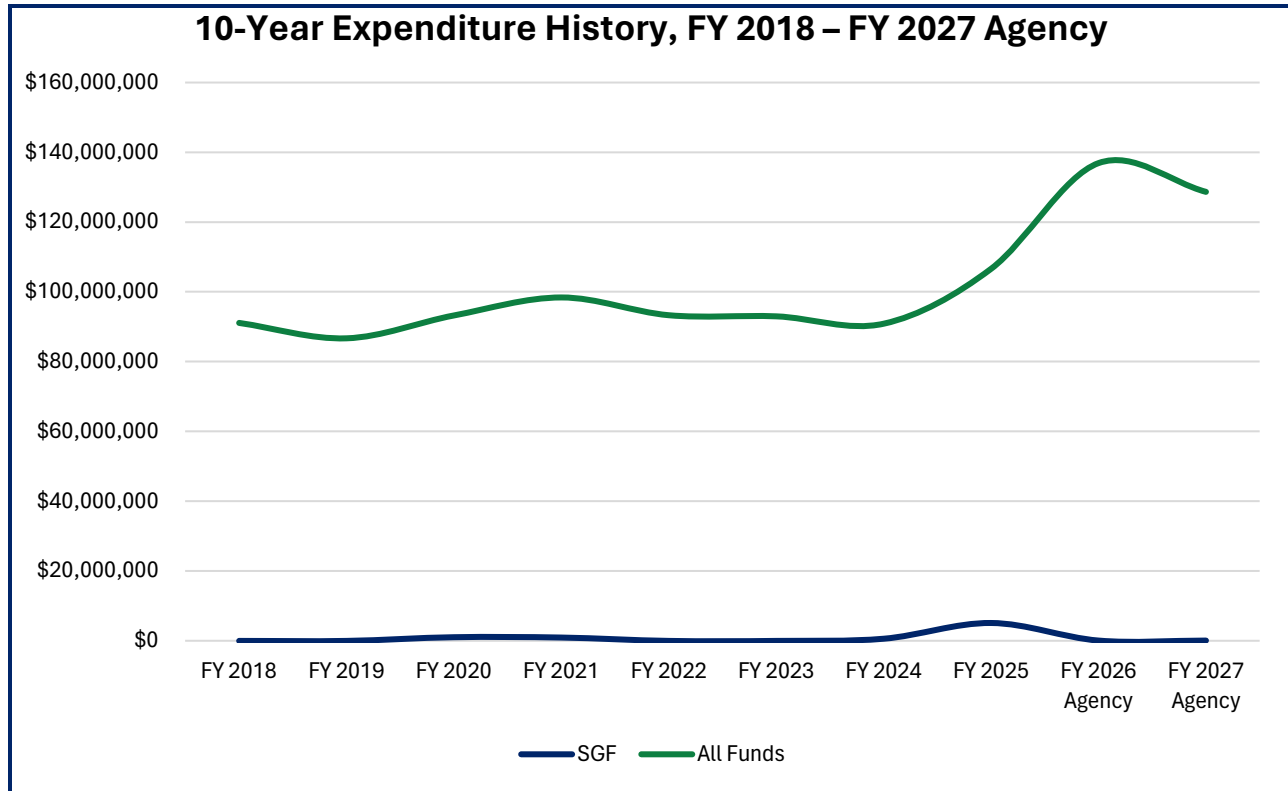
FY 2027

The agency does not have any significant changes from the FY 2026 approved budget.

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Budget Summary – Agency Request

Summary of Expenditures



Fiscal Year	SGF		All Funds		FTE	CPI-U* Change (%)
	Amount	Change (%)	Amount	Change (%)		
FY 2018	\$ -	--	\$ 91,056,100	25.1	445.00	0.2
FY 2019	-	--	86,641,010	(4.8)	462.00	--
FY 2020	1,048,629	--	93,204,454	7.6	462.00	0.8
FY 2021	951,371	(9.3)	98,365,058	5.5	465.00	2.4
FY 2022	-	(100.0)	93,265,138	(5.2)	453.00	9.2
FY 2023	-	--	92,945,840	(0.3)	456.00	5.8
FY 2024	617,160	--	90,832,883	(2.3)	466.00	3.0
FY 2025	5,082,840	723.6	106,587,097	17.3	465.00	3.0
FY 2026 Agency	95,435	(98.1)	136,917,501	28.5	465.00	2.8
FY 2027 Agency	96,258	0.9	128,667,888	(6.0)	465.00	2.4

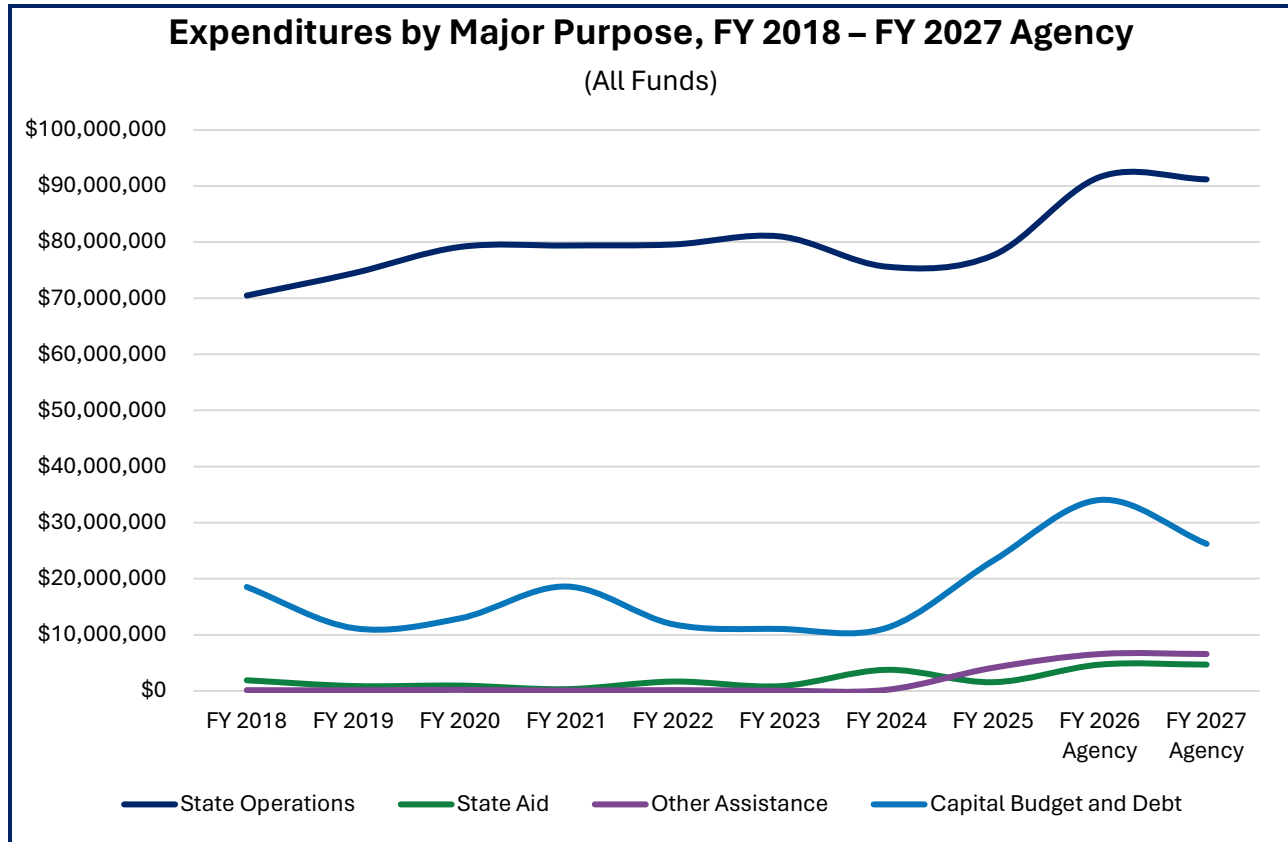
5-Year Change (FY 2023–2027)	\$ 96,258	--	\$ 35,722,048	38.4	9.00	11.6
10-Year Change (FY 2018–2027)	96,258	--	37,611,788	41.3	20.00	33.1
3-Year Average** (FY 2023–2025)	1,900,000	N/A	96,788,607	N/A	462.33	N/A

* Note: Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers estimate for FY 2026–2027 is from the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group.

** Note : Reflects the three most recent years of actuals data.

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Budget Summary – Agency Request



Expenditures by Category, FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency

(All Funds)

	FY 2026 Agency % of Total	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency
State Operations						
Salaries and Wages	32.4 %	\$ 40,070,197	\$ 41,584,488	\$ 44,990,434	\$ 44,327,226	\$ 44,765,274
Contractual Services	23.5	23,755,786	24,511,226	35,635,499	32,226,180	30,845,344
Commodities	6.8	6,693,461	6,996,959	8,717,178	9,348,386	9,106,514
Capital Outlay	4.1	4,532,444	3,790,118	8,143,202	5,671,943	6,429,542
Operating Adjustments	--	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	66.9 %	\$ 75,051,888	\$ 76,882,791	\$ 97,486,313	\$ 91,573,735	\$ 91,146,674
State Aid and Assistance						
Aid to Locals	3.4 %	\$ 3,782,549	\$ 1,562,317	\$ 4,200,000	\$ 4,715,000	\$ 4,715,000
Other Assistance	4.8	198,575	4,157,527	200,000	6,611,865	6,614,009
Subtotal	8.3 %	\$ 3,981,124	\$ 5,719,844	\$ 4,400,000	\$ 11,326,865	\$ 11,329,009
Capital Budget and Debt						
Capital Improvements	24.8 %	\$ 11,799,871	\$ 23,984,462	\$ 26,836,367	\$ 34,016,901	\$ 26,192,205
Debt Service Principal	--	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service Interest	--	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	24.8 %	\$ 11,799,871	\$ 23,984,462	\$ 26,836,367	\$ 34,016,901	\$ 26,192,205
Reappropriations	-- %	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,523	\$ -	\$ -
GRAND TOTAL	100.0 %	\$ 90,832,883	\$ 106,587,097	\$ 128,784,203	\$ 136,917,501	\$ 128,667,888

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Budget Summary – Agency Request

State Operations

Expenditures by Classification, FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency						
(State Operations, All Funds)						
	FY 2026 Agency % of Total	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency
Salaries and Wages						
Employee Pay	23.5 %	\$ 27,521,772	\$ 28,792,439	\$ 32,695,962	\$ 32,155,532	\$ 32,285,861
Employee Benefits	9.8	12,548,425	12,792,049	13,410,712	13,479,448	13,792,267
Shrinkage	(1.0)	-	-	(1,116,240)	(1,307,754)	(1,312,854)
Subtotal	32.4 %	\$ 40,070,197	\$ 41,584,488	\$ 44,990,434	\$ 44,327,226	\$ 44,765,274
Contractual Services						
Communication	1.1 %	\$ 1,142,082	\$ 1,203,960	\$ 1,150,403	\$ 1,459,582	\$ 1,487,757
Fees (Professional)	4.1	2,205,662	2,675,050	5,517,507	5,620,103	4,978,352
Fees (Other Services)	3.2	3,391,956	2,533,826	3,340,295	4,319,535	3,625,581
Freight and Express	0.1	120,560	187,935	126,122	151,422	153,482
Printing and Advertising	0.4	498,144	402,053	461,943	501,417	503,852
Rent and Leases	5.3	5,595,975	5,954,932	7,115,167	7,248,136	7,122,835
Repair and Servicing	2.3	2,539,368	3,048,707	3,174,036	3,206,048	3,328,131
Travel and Subsistence	0.5	648,243	671,774	726,153	679,935	717,211
Utilities	3.2	3,976,901	3,937,295	5,067,469	4,386,045	4,404,175
Other	3.4	3,636,895	3,895,694	8,956,404	4,653,957	4,523,968
Subtotal	23.5 %	\$ 23,755,786	\$ 24,511,226	\$ 35,635,499	\$ 32,226,180	\$ 30,845,344
Commodities						
Clothing	0.3 %	\$ 215,985	\$ 329,393	\$ 348,901	\$ 356,150	\$ 352,577
Equipment and Parts	1.7	1,151,078	1,221,548	2,100,558	2,277,408	2,258,186
Feed and Forage	0.2	242,289	218,217	250,091	262,500	290,860
Food	0.1	11,906	19,037	26,500	17,900	19,100
Fuel	0.2	196,911	177,492	225,379	235,770	235,945
Motor Vehicle Parts	1.8	2,131,642	1,952,156	2,569,107	2,501,404	2,519,796
Supplies (Office)	0.2	167,603	278,248	177,892	235,895	241,952
Supplies (Professional)	0.7	436,887	938,630	511,187	1,021,196	1,020,956
Supplies (Research)	0.1	-	7,004	600	3,200	3,200
Other	1.8	2,139,160	1,855,234	2,506,963	2,436,963	2,163,942
Subtotal	6.8 %	\$ 6,693,461	\$ 6,996,959	\$ 8,717,178	\$ 9,348,386	\$ 9,106,514
Capital Outlay						
Computer Hardware	0.1 %	\$ 40,421	\$ 138,245	\$ 86,249	\$ 136,255	\$ 91,500
Computer Software	--	594	24,813	9,465	-	5,000
Equipment, Furniture	4.0	4,414,204	3,598,703	7,506,798	5,473,380	6,275,567
Information Processing	--	-	-	-	-	-
Telecommunications	0.1	10,819	2,578	176,156	19,250	19,375
Other	0.1	65,937	25,779	363,914	43,058	38,100
Subtotal	4.1 %	\$ 4,532,444	\$ 3,790,118	\$ 8,143,202	\$ 5,671,943	\$ 6,429,542
Operating Adjustments	-- %	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	66.9 %	\$ 75,051,888	\$ 76,882,791	\$ 97,486,313	\$ 91,573,735	\$ 91,146,674

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Budget Summary – Agency Request

State Aid

Expenditures by Classification, FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency						
(State Aid, All Funds)						
	FY 2026 Agency % of Total	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency
State Aid						
Federal Aid Payments	3.3 %	\$ 3,548,260	\$ 1,404,479	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 4,500,000
State Aid Payments	0.2	234,289	157,838	200,000	215,000	215,000
TOTAL	3.4 %	\$ 3,782,549	\$ 1,562,317	\$ 4,200,000	\$ 4,715,000	\$ 4,715,000

Other Assistance

Expenditures by Classification, FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency						
(Other Assistance, All Funds)						
	FY 2026 Agency % of Total	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency
Other Assistance						
Claims	0.1 %	\$ 5,188	\$ 5,131	\$ -	\$ 52,856	\$ 55,000
Federal Aid Payments	4.8	168,387	4,127,396	-	6,534,009	6,534,009
State Aid Payments	0.1	25,000	25,000	200,000	25,000	25,000
TOTAL	4.8 %	\$ 198,575	\$ 4,157,527	\$ 200,000	\$ 6,611,865	\$ 6,614,009

Capital Budget and Debt

Expenditures by Classification, FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency						
(Capital Budget and Debt, All Funds)						
	FY 2026 Agency % of Total	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency
Capital Improvements						
Buildings	5.9 %	\$ 3,664,951	\$ 12,891,149	\$ 7,949,167	\$ 8,016,000	\$ 6,916,100
Land	0.3	828,352	250,000	400,000	400,000	-
Nonstructural	18.7	7,306,568	10,843,313	18,487,200	25,600,901	19,276,105
Subtotal	24.8 %	\$ 11,799,871	\$ 23,984,462	\$ 26,836,367	\$ 34,016,901	\$ 26,192,205
Debt Service	-- %	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	24.8 %	\$ 11,799,871	\$ 23,984,462	\$ 26,836,367	\$ 34,016,901	\$ 26,192,205

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Budget Summary – Agency Request

Expenditures by Program

Expenditures by Program, FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency							
(All Funds)							
	FY 2026 Agency % of Total	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency	
Administration	8.6 %	\$ 8,999,501	\$ 10,665,311	\$ 11,559,984	\$ 11,758,872	\$ 12,013,445	
Fish	7.1	9,702,134	9,476,414	10,074,651	9,670,477	9,843,415	
Ecological Services	5.0	1,729,837	1,983,631	4,007,626	6,885,749	5,098,689	
Education	1.8	2,134,957	2,299,807	2,572,537	2,486,753	2,604,009	
Law Enforcement	8.9	10,310,907	11,423,364	11,766,360	12,222,642	12,547,000	
Parks	17.3	17,474,918	20,394,251	23,658,145	23,660,616	23,583,261	
Public Lands	11.0	13,496,727	12,129,500	17,614,837	15,066,513	15,769,747	
Grants	--	4,217,288	1,192,992	-	-	-	
Wildlife	15.4	13,086,201	16,130,308	20,632,173	21,148,978	21,016,117	
Capital Improvements	24.8	9,680,413	20,891,519	26,836,367	34,016,901	26,192,205	
Reappropriations	--	-	-	61,523	-	-	
TOTAL	100.0 %	\$ 90,832,883	\$ 106,587,097	\$ 128,784,203	\$ 136,917,501	\$ 128,667,888	

FTE Positions by Program, FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency							
	FY 2026 Agency % of Total	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency	
Administration	15.5 %	72.0	71.0	71.0	72.0	72.0	
Fish	11.6	54.0	54.0	54.0	54.0	54.0	
Ecological Services	3.4	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	
Education	3.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	14.0	14.0	
Law Enforcement	19.4	90.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	
Parks	25.6	119.0	119.0	119.0	119.0	119.0	
Public Lands	11.6	54.0	54.0	54.0	54.0	54.0	
Grants	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Wildlife	9.9	46.0	46.0	46.0	46.0	46.0	
Capital Improvements	--	--	--	--	--	--	
TOTAL	100.0 %	466.0	465.0	465.0	465.0	465.0	

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Budget Summary – Agency Request

Expenditures by Fund

Expenditures by Fund, FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency							
	FY 2026 Agency % of Total	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency	
State General Fund	0.1 %	\$ 617,160	\$ 5,082,840	\$ 95,435	\$ 95,435	\$ 96,258	
EDIF	3.1	4,235,303	4,553,817	4,285,523	4,285,523	4,224,000	
State Water Plan Fund	0.2	180,280	128,310	224,457	224,457	224,457	
Fee Funds							
Parks Fee Fund	10.7 %	\$ 14,005,704	\$ 13,200,531	\$ 14,066,367	\$ 14,660,376	\$ 16,395,238	
Boating Fee Fund	1.2	1,037,856	1,197,288	1,595,784	1,682,557	1,730,359	
Wildlife Fee Fund	31.5	33,197,953	35,153,812	41,852,006	43,149,635	41,739,462	
Subtotal	43.5 %	\$ 48,241,513	\$ 49,551,631	\$ 57,514,157	\$ 59,492,568	\$ 59,865,059	
Federal Funds	43.4 %	\$ 27,717,663	\$ 37,445,749	\$ 53,625,156	\$ 59,404,208	\$ 51,896,654	
All Other Funds	9.8	9,840,964	9,824,750	13,039,475	13,415,310	12,361,460	
TOTAL	100.0 %	\$ 90,832,883	\$ 106,587,097	\$ 128,784,203	\$ 136,917,501	\$ 128,667,888	

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Budget Summary – Agency Request

Fee Fund Analysis

Wildlife Fee Fund

The major sources of receipts to the Wildlife Fee Fund are from the sale of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses. The fees to be collected from the issuance of such licenses are established by the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission through the approval of rules and regulations submitted by the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks.

Wildlife Fee Fund				
FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency				
	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency
Beginning Balance	\$ 24,801,241	\$ 26,436,399	\$ 26,698,751	\$ 19,176,616
Revenue				
Receipts	\$ 33,654,753	\$ 35,416,164	\$ 35,627,500	\$ 35,627,500
Encumbrances	1,178,358	-	-	-
Subtotal – Revenue	\$ 34,833,111	\$ 35,416,164	\$ 35,627,500	\$ 35,627,500
Total Amount Available	\$ 59,634,352	\$ 61,852,563	\$ 62,326,251	\$ 54,804,116
Expenditures				
Salaries and Wages	\$ 20,489,052	\$ 20,914,453	\$ 23,030,794	\$ 23,302,907
Contractual Services	6,966,194	7,855,657	8,527,041	8,124,119
Commodities	2,588,583	2,616,510	3,320,128	3,204,143
Capital Outlay	1,542,972	1,825,181	2,101,968	2,266,043
Capital Improvements	1,376,863	1,789,440	6,066,848	4,737,250
Aid to Locals	234,289	152,571	60,000	60,000
Other Assistance	-	-	42,856	45,000
Subtotal – Expenditures	\$ 33,197,953	\$ 35,153,812	\$ 43,149,635	\$ 41,739,462
Ending Balance	\$ 26,436,399	\$ 26,698,751	\$ 19,176,616	\$ 13,064,654

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Budget Summary – Agency Request

Parks Fee Fund

The Parks Fee Fund is the depository for moneys received from state park permit fees, tolls, rentals, and charges derived from the use, lease, or operation of state parks. The Department establishes fees for the use of state parks by rules and regulations, which are reviewed by the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission.

Parks Fee Fund				
FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency				
	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
	Actual	Actual	Agency	Agency
Beginning Balance	\$ 5,804,856	\$ 6,531,880	\$ 6,131,388	\$ 4,246,362
Revenue				
Receipts	\$ 13,679,269	\$ 12,804,039	\$ 12,775,350	\$ 12,775,350
Encumbrances	1,055,729	-	-	-
Subtotal – Revenue	\$ 14,734,998	\$ 12,804,039	\$ 12,775,350	\$ 12,775,350
Total Amount Available	\$ 20,539,854	\$ 19,335,919	\$ 18,906,738	\$ 17,021,712
Expenditures				
Salaries and Wages	\$ 5,433,011	\$ 5,755,056	\$ 6,441,437	\$ 6,144,160
Contractual Services	3,917,810	4,128,153	4,059,623	4,682,566
Commodities	1,428,853	1,304,850	1,916,522	1,925,772
Capital Outlay	582,047	80,387	198,133	124,479
Capital Improvements	2,539,111	1,929,378	2,039,600	3,513,200
Other Assistance	104,872	2,707	5,061	5,061
Non-Expense	2,270	4,000	-	-
Subtotal – Expenditures	\$ 14,007,974	\$ 13,204,531	\$ 14,660,376	\$ 16,395,238
Ending Balance	\$ 6,531,880	\$ 6,131,388	\$ 4,246,362	\$ 626,474

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Budget Summary – Agency Request

FY 2026 Analysis

Summary of Agency Budget Request, FY 2026						FTE
	SGF	EDIF	All Other Funds	Total	Position	
Approved, FY 2026						
1. 2025 SB 125, without Reappropriations	\$ 95,435	\$ 4,224,000	\$ 124,403,245	\$ 128,722,680	465.0	
Reappropriations						
2. Economic Development Initiatives Fund	\$ -	\$ 61,523	\$ -	\$ 61,523	--	
Supplemental Requests						
No Supplemental Requests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	--	
Other Changes						
3. Capital Improvements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,180,534	\$ 7,180,534	--	
4. Ecological Services	-	-	2,878,123	2,878,123	--	
5. Public Lands	-	-	(2,548,324)	(2,548,324)	--	
6. All Other Adjustments	-	-	622,965	622,965	--	
Subtotal – Other Changes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,133,298	\$ 8,133,298	--	
TOTAL	\$ 95,435	\$ 4,285,523	\$ 132,536,543	\$ 136,917,501	465.0	

Approved Budget

1. 2025 SB 125

The 2025 Legislature passed, and the Governor enacted, one bill appropriating and adjusting funding for state agencies. A total of \$128.7 million, including \$4.2 million from the Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF), was approved for the Department of Wildlife and Parks in FY 2026.

Reappropriations

2. EDIF Reappropriation

The agency reappropriated \$61,523 in unspent EDIF funds from FY 2025 to FY 2026.

Other Changes

3. Capital Improvements

The agency's revised request includes an increase of \$7.2 million, including \$600,000 from American Rescue Plant Act (ARPA) funds, for a total of \$34.0 million for capital improvement projects in FY 2026. This represents an increase of 26.8 percent.

The increase is primarily attributable to estimated increases in expenditures from federal disaster grants. The agency also estimates increased expenditures for capital improvement projects from the Wildlife Fee Fund for FY 2026. The agency indicates that moneys from federal disaster grants will go toward a visitor center at Tuttle Creek, and increased expenditures from the Wildlife Fee Fund will be used as state matching dollars for several federal funds for capital improvements. The agency further indicates the increase in capital improvement expenditures in FY 2026 results from a need to spend allocated federal dollars so that they do not revert back to the federal government.

The agency's revised request also includes \$600,000 ARPA for Little Jerusalem State Park and Lehigh Portland State Park in FY 2026. The agency was awarded \$10.0 million ARPA through the State

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Budget Summary – Agency Request

Park Revitalization and Investment in Notable Tourism (SPRINT) Grant offered by the Kansas Department of Commerce for FY 2025.

The agency did not expend all ARPA moneys in FY 2025, and those moneys were carried over to FY 2026. The agency's revised request includes expending all remaining ARPA moneys in FY 2026.

4. Ecological Services

The agency's revised request includes an increase of \$2.9 million, for a total of \$6.9 million, for the Ecological Services Program in FY 2026. This represents an increase of 71.8 percent.

The increase is primarily attributable to an estimated increase in expenditures for state wildlife grants. The agency indicates that federal grant funds were delayed or not awarded within the expected budget timeframe in FY 2025. The agency further indicates that applications for funding that were submitted for FY 2025 are now being awarded in FY 2026, along with new applications in FY 2026 being awarded. These factors are increasing estimated federal awards in the Ecological Services Program.

The agency further indicates that estimated increases in the Ecological Services Program are primarily attributable to increased expenditures for contractual services. Specifically, the agency estimates increased expenditures for contracts with universities and other entities to conduct scientific surveys and research on nongame species.

The agency indicates the Ecological Services Program works to actively conserve, protect, and enhance endangered, threatened, and non-game wildlife populations and their habitats. The agency indicates this work is aimed at ensuring lasting native biological diversity and native ecosystems for future generations.

5. Public Lands

The agency's revised request includes a decrease of \$2.5 million, for a total of \$15.1 million, for the Public Lands Program in FY 2026. This represents a decrease of 14.5 percent.

The decrease is primarily attributable to an estimated decrease in expenditures from the Wildlife Restoration Fund. The Wildlife Restoration Fund is the fund that receives federal moneys related to the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937.¹

Specifically, the agency is estimating decreased expenditures for agricultural equipment and machinery in FY 2026. The agency indicates that some fleet replacements for vehicles and heavy equipment for land management on public lands throughout the state have been deferred to FY 2027. The agency further indicates that moneys in the Wildlife Restoration Fund are being shifted to the Capital Improvements Program from the Public Lands Program in FY 2026.

The agency indicates the Public Lands Program manages approximately 460,000 acres of public land and water and includes 177 properties. These properties include 45 state fishing lakes, 75 wildlife areas, 23 state-owned public domains, 31 leased federal properties (including 22 federal reservoirs), and three privately owned leased properties.

6. All Other Adjustments

All other adjustments made by the agency result in a net increase of \$622,965 in FY 2026. Increases in the agency's Administration Program (\$137,365), Law Enforcement Program (\$456,282), Parks Program (\$2,471), and Wildlife Program (\$516,805) are partially offset by decreases in the agency's Education Program (\$85,784) and Fish Program (\$404,174).

¹ Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, 16 USC §§ 669–669i (2023). <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF12229>

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Budget Summary – Agency Request

The increase is mostly attributable to expenditures from the Endangered Species Federal Fund, which are partially offset by reduced expenditures from the Wildlife Restoration Fund in FY 2026.

Included in the agency's revised estimate is an increased transfer of \$843,519 from the State Highway Fund of the Department of Transportation to the Department Access Roads Fund of the Department of Wildlife and Parks, for a total of \$4.2 million, in FY 2026.

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Budget Summary – Agency Request

FY 2027 Analysis

Summary of Agency Budget Request, FY 2027						
	SGF	EDIF	All Other Funds	Total	FTE	Position
Approved, FY 2026						
2025 SB 125, without Reappropriations	\$ 95,435	\$ 4,224,000	\$ 124,403,245	\$ 128,722,680		465.0
Enhancement Requests						
No Enhancement Requests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		--
Agency Changes						
1. FY 2027 Health Insurance Rate Change	\$ 871	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 871		--
2. FY 2027 KPERS Rate Change	(48)	-	-	(48)		--
3. Ecological Services	-	-	1,091,063	1,091,063		--
4. Public Lands	-	-	(1,845,090)	(1,845,090)		--
5. All Other Adjustments	-	-	698,412	698,412		--
Subtotal – Other Changes	\$ 823	\$ -	\$ (55,615)	\$ (54,792)		--
TOTAL	\$ 96,258	\$ 4,224,000	\$ 124,347,630	\$ 128,667,888		465.0

Agency Changes

1. FY 2027 Health Insurance Rate Change

The agency's request includes \$871 SGF for a health insurance rate change for FY 2027. The increase is the result of changes made to budget cost indices produced each year by the Department of Administration. Those indices are used by all state agencies, and employer contribution rates are estimated to increase for all state agencies.

The agency's request for group health insurance totals \$5.7 million, from all funding sources, for FY 2027. This represents an increase of 8.2 percent over the FY 2026 approved amount.

2. FY 2027 KPERS Rate Change

The agency's request includes a reduction of \$48 SGF for a KPERS rate change for FY 2027. The decrease is the result of changes made to budget cost indices produced each year by the Department of Administration. Those indices are used by all state agencies, and employer contribution rates are estimated to decrease for all state agencies.

The agency's request for KPERS employer contribution totals \$2.2 million, from all funding sources, for FY 2027. This represents an increase of 3.4 percent over the FY 2026 approved amount.

3. Ecological Services

The agency's request includes an increase of \$1.1 million, for a total of \$5.1 million, for the Ecological Services Program for FY 2027. This represents an increase of 27.2 percent over the FY 2026 approved amount.

The increase is primarily attributable to an estimated increase in expenditures from the Wildlife Restoration Fund. The agency indicates that estimated increases in the Ecological Services Program are primarily attributable to increased expenditures for contractual services. Specifically, the agency estimates increased expenditures for contracts with universities and other entities to conduct scientific surveys and research on non-game species.

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Budget Summary – Agency Request

While the agency's request for FY 2027 for the Ecological Services Program is higher than the FY 2026 approved amount, it is still lower than the revised FY 2026 request. The agency indicates this is because two primary federal grant funds used for the program have yet to be reauthorized by Congress.

The agency indicates the Ecological Services Program works to actively conserve, protect, and enhance endangered, threatened, and non-game wildlife populations and their habitats. The agency indicates this work is aimed at ensuring lasting native biological diversity and native ecosystems for future generations.

4. Public Lands

The agency's revised request includes a decrease of \$1.8 million, for a total of \$15.8 million, for the Public Lands Program for FY 2027. This represents a decrease of 10.5 percent.

The decrease is primarily attributable to an estimated decrease in expenditures from the Wildlife Restoration Fund. The Wildlife Restoration Fund is the fund that receives federal moneys related to the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937.²

Specifically, the agency is estimating decreased expenditures for agricultural equipment and machinery for FY 2027. While some of these replacements were deferred to FY 2027, the estimated expenditures for these replacements are still below the agency's FY 2026 approved amount.

The agency indicates the Public Lands Program manages approximately 460,000 acres of public land and water and includes 177 properties. These properties include 45 state fishing lakes, 75 wildlife areas, 23 state-owned public domains, 31 leased federal properties (including 22 federal reservoirs), and three privately owned leased properties.

5. All Other Adjustments

All other adjustments made by the agency result in a net increase of \$698,412 in FY 2026. Increases in the agency's Administration Program (\$452,638), Education Program (\$31,472), Law Enforcement Program (\$780,640), and Wildlife Program (\$383,944) are partially offset by decreases in the agency's Capital Improvements Program (\$644,162), Fish Program (\$231,236), and Parks Program (\$74,884).

The increase is mostly attributable to expenditures from the Parks Fee Fund, Sport Fish Restoration Fund, and the Outdoor Recreation Fund, which are partially offset by reduced expenditures from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for FY 2027.

Included in the agency's estimate is an increased transfer of \$854,926 from the State Highway Fund of the Department of Transportation to the Department Access Roads Fund of the Department of Wildlife and Parks, for a total of \$4.3 million, for FY 2027.

² Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, 16 USC §§ 669–669i (2023). <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF12229>