

KANSAS WATER OFFICE

Budget Committee Report

KLRD Analyst: Drury
KLRD Summary: Vol. 2, pg. 577

DOB Analyst: Allen
GBR Analysis: Vol. 2, pg. 496

Executive Summary

Summary of Total Expenditures, FY 2023 – FY 2027						
	SGF	SWPF	All Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	
FY 2023 Actual	\$ 4,055,965	\$ 2,687,436	\$ 3,456,125	\$ 10,199,526	19.0	
FY 2024 Actual	1,129,825	4,749,673	5,233,230	11,112,728	22.0	
FY 2025 Actual	1,399,735	9,543,261	44,187,568	55,130,564	24.0	
FY 2026						
Approved, with Reappropriations	\$ 1,414,754	\$ 20,343,944	\$ 37,094,596	\$ 58,853,294	24.0	
Agency Revised Estimate	1,414,754	20,343,944	31,884,684	53,643,382	24.0	
Special Committee on the State Budget	1,414,754	12,448,303	31,884,684	45,747,741	24.0	
House Committee of the Whole	1,414,754	17,658,215	31,884,684	50,957,653	24.0	
Senate Committee of the Whole	1,414,754	19,208,908	31,884,684	52,508,346	24.0	
Legislative Approved	1,386,310	17,658,215	31,884,684	50,929,209	24.0	
Governor's Recommendation	1,414,754	20,343,944	31,884,684	53,643,382	24.0	
FY 2027						
FY 2026 Approved, without Reappropriations	\$ 1,426,145	\$ 12,448,303	\$ 27,874,247	\$ 41,748,695	24.0	
Agency Request	1,426,145	13,859,558	32,591,737	47,877,440	24.0	
Special Committee on the State Budget	1,426,145	10,089,558	32,591,737	44,107,440	24.0	
House Committee of the Whole	1,426,145	13,359,558	32,591,737	47,377,440	24.0	
Senate Committee of the Whole	1,426,145	10,089,558	32,591,737	44,107,440	24.0	
Legislative Approved	1,419,387	10,091,588	32,595,394	44,106,369	24.0	
Governor's Recommendation	1,426,145	10,569,956	32,591,737	44,587,838	24.0	

The Kansas Water Office (KWO) is the water planning, policy, and coordination agency for the State. The agency, in conjunction with the Kansas Water Authority, develops water policies through an open planning process; facilitates the coordination of agencies' activities regarding water; and operates a raw water marketing program to ensure an adequate supply for the citizens, municipalities, environment, and industries in the state.

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FY 2026

Summary of Legislative Recommendations, FY 2026						
	SGF	SWPF	All Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	
Approved, with Reappropriations	\$ 1,414,754	\$ 20,343,944	\$ 37,094,596	\$ 58,853,294	24.0	
Agency Revised Estimate	1,414,754	20,343,944	31,884,684	53,643,382	24.0	
Special Committee on the State Budget (SBC)						
Change from Agency Revised Estimate	\$ -	\$ (7,895,641)	\$ -	\$ (7,895,641)	-	
TOTAL – Special Committee	\$ 1,414,754	\$ 12,448,303	\$ 31,884,684	\$ 45,747,741	24.0	
House Committees						
Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget	\$ -	\$ 5,209,912	\$ -	\$ 5,209,912	-	
Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	
Committee of the Whole	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal – House Change from SBC	\$ -	\$ 5,209,912	\$ -	\$ 5,209,912	-	
TOTAL – Current House Position	\$ 1,414,754	\$ 17,658,215	\$ 31,884,684	\$ 50,957,653	24.0	
Senate Committees						
Agriculture and Natural Resources	\$ -	\$ 6,760,605	\$ -	\$ 6,760,605	-	
Ways and Means	-	-	-	-	-	
Committee of the Whole	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal – Senate Change from SBC	\$ -	\$ 6,760,605	\$ -	\$ 6,760,605	-	
TOTAL – Current Senate Position	\$ 1,414,754	\$ 19,208,908	\$ 31,884,684	\$ 52,508,346	24.0	
Legislative Approved						
Conference Committee	\$ -	\$ 5,209,912	\$ -	\$ 5,209,912	-	
Governor's Vetoes	-	-	-	-	-	
Veto Overrides	-	-	-	-	-	
Certifications	(28,444)	-	-	(28,444)	-	
Subtotal – Approved Change from SBC	\$ (28,444)	\$ 5,209,912	\$ -	\$ 5,181,468	-	
GRAND TOTAL – Final Approved	\$ 1,386,310	\$ 17,658,215	\$ 31,884,684	\$ 50,929,209	24.0	

Agency

The **agency** requests a revised estimate of \$53.6 million, including \$1.4 million SGF and \$20.3 million SWPF, and 24.0 FTE positions in FY 2026. The agency's request is \$501,767 more than the amount approved by the 2025 Legislature for FY 2026. The increase is primarily attributable to a new National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant (NFWF) in FY 2026. The agency's request for 24.0 FTE positions matches the approved number for FY 2026.

Special Committee on the State Budget

The **Special Committee** concurs with the agency's revised estimate in FY 2026 with the following adjustments:

1. Delete \$7.9 million SWPF to remove the following reappropriations in FY 2026:
 - a. \$1.4 million for assessment and evaluation;
 - b. \$114,973 for MOU – storage operations and maintenance;
 - c. \$239,939 for technical assistance to water users;

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- d. \$104,704 for reservoir and water quality research;
- e. \$1.5 million for water quality partnerships;
- f. \$750,946 for Kansas water plan education and outreach;
- g. \$2.4 million for high plains aquifer partnerships;
- h. \$89,888 for Kansas reservoir protection initiative;
- i. \$66,786 for Equus Beds chloride plume project; and
- j. \$1.2 million for HB 2302 projects.

House Committees

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget

The **House Budget Committee** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation in FY 2026 with the following adjustments:

1. Add \$5.2 SWPF to restore all reappropriations, with the following exceptions in FY 2026:
 - a. \$22,729 for assessment and evaluation;
 - b. \$24,704 for reservoir and water quality research;
 - c. \$788,750 for water quality partnerships;
 - d. \$250,946 for Kansas water plan education and outreach;
 - e. \$895,854 for high plains aquifer partnerships;
 - f. \$64,888 for Kansas reservoir protection initiative;
 - g. \$66,786 for Equus Beds chloride plume project; and
 - h. \$571,072 for HB 2302 projects.

House Committee on Appropriations

The **House Committee** concurs with the Budget Committee's recommendation in FY 2026.

House Committee of the Whole

The **House Committee of the Whole** concurs with the House Committee's recommendation in FY 2026.

Senate Committees

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

The **Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation in FY 2026 with the following adjustments:

1. Add \$6.8 million SWPF to restore all reappropriations, with the following exceptions, in FY 2026:
 - a. \$291,326 for water quality partnerships;
 - b. \$712,000 for high plains aquifer partnerships;
 - c. \$64,888 for Kansas reservoir protection initiatives; and
 - d. \$66,786 for Equus Beds chloride plume project.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The **Senate Committee on Ways and Means** concurs with the Senate Subcommittee's recommendation in FY 2026.

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Senate Committee of the Whole

The **Senate Committee of the Whole** concurs with the Senate Committee's recommendation in FY 2026.

Conference Committee

The **Conference Committee** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation in FY 2026, with the following adjustments:

1. Add \$5.2 SWPF to restore all reappropriations, with the following exceptions in FY 2026:
 - a. \$22,729 for assessment and evaluation;
 - b. \$24,704 for reservoir and water quality research;
 - c. \$788,750 for water quality partnerships;
 - d. \$250,946 for Kansas water plan education and outreach;
 - e. \$895,854 for high plains aquifer partnerships;
 - f. \$64,888 for Kansas reservoir protection initiative;
 - g. \$66,786 for Equus Beds chloride plume project; and
 - h. \$571,072 for HB 2302 projects.

Legislative Approved

HB 2513 authorized the following statewide adjustments which were certified following the conclusion of the 2026 Session:

1. Delete \$28,444 SGF to eliminate funding for positions which have been vacant for at least 60 calendar days in FY 2026.

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FY 2027

Summary of Legislative Recommendations, FY 2027						
	SGF	SWPF	All Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	
FY 2026 Approved, with Adjustments*	\$ 1,426,145	\$ 12,448,303	\$ 27,874,247	\$ 41,748,695	24.0	
Agency Request	1,426,145	13,859,558	32,591,737	47,877,440	24.0	
Special Committee on the State Budget (SBC)						
<i>Change from Agency Request</i>	\$ -	\$ (3,770,000)	\$ -	\$ (3,770,000)	-	
TOTAL – Special Committee	\$ 1,426,145	\$ 10,089,558	\$ 32,591,737	\$ 44,107,440	24.0	
House Committees						
Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget	\$ -	\$ 3,270,000	\$ -	\$ 3,270,000	-	
Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	
Committee of the Whole	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Subtotal – House Change from SBC</i>	\$ -	\$ 3,270,000	\$ -	\$ 3,270,000	-	
TOTAL – Current House Position	\$ 1,426,145	\$ 13,359,558	\$ 32,591,737	\$ 47,377,440	24.0	
Senate Committees						
Agriculture and Natural Resources	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	
Ways and Means	-	-	-	-	-	
Committee of the Whole	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Subtotal – Senate Change from SBC</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	
TOTAL – Current Senate Position	\$ 1,426,145	\$ 10,089,558	\$ 32,591,737	\$ 44,107,440	24.0	
Legislative Approved						
Conference Committee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	
Governor's Vetoes	-	-	-	-	-	
Veto Overrides	-	-	-	-	-	
Certifications	(6,758)	2,030	3,657	(1,071)	-	
<i>Subtotal – Approved Change from SBC</i>	\$ (6,758)	\$ 2,030	\$ 3,657	\$ (1,071)	-	
GRAND TOTAL – Final Approved	\$ 1,419,387	\$ 10,091,588	\$ 32,595,394	\$ 44,106,369	24.0	

*Note: The approved budget includes expenditures in FY 2026 that are not included in the agency allocation for FY 2027. These expenditures are not included for FY 2027 as to better provide a point of comparison. For this agency, these adjustments include \$2.4 million SWPF for assessment and evaluation, water planning and project development, independent program evaluation, and John Redmond Reservoir hydro-suction pilot.

Agency

The **agency** requests \$47.9 million, including \$1.4 million SGF and \$13.9 million SWPF, and 24.0 FTE positions for FY 2027. The agency's request is \$5.0 million more than the amount approved by the 2025 Legislature, with adjustments, for FY 2026. The increase is primarily attributable to an agency enhancement request totaling \$3.8 million SWPF.

The agency submits the following enhancement request for FY 2027:

- \$3.8 million SWPF, including \$2.3 million SWPF for water planning and project development and \$1.5 million SWPF for reservoir sediment management initiatives. The reservoir sediment management initiatives line is a new line requested by the agency for FY 2027.

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Increases also include \$1.5 million from a new National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant (NFWF) for FY 2027. The agency also estimates increased expenditures from the Water Marketing Fund totaling \$1.1 million for FY 2027.

These increases are partially offset by reduced transfers and expenditures to and from the Water Projects Grants Fund and the Water Technical Assistance Fund for FY 2027, along with all other adjustments made by the agency.

The agency's request for 24.0 FTE positions for FY 2027 matches the approved number for FY 2026.

Special Committee on the State Budget

The **Special Committee** concurs with the agency request for FY 2027 with the following adjustment:

1. Delete \$3.8 million SWPF including \$2.3 million SWPF for water planning and project development and \$1.5 million SWPF for reservoir sediment management initiatives for FY 2027.

House Committees

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget

The **House Budget Committee** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation for FY 2027 with the following adjustments:

1. Add \$3.3 million SWPF, including \$1.8 million for water planning and project development and \$1.5 million for a new reservoir sediment management initiatives line for FY 2027.

House Committee on Appropriations

The **House Committee** concurs with the Budget Committee's recommendation for FY 2027, with the following adjustment:

1. Add language authorizing the following State Water Plan Fund accounts to reappropriate unspent funds from FY 2026 to FY 2027: Water Planning and Project Development, Independent Program Evaluation, and John Redmond Reservoir Hydrosuction Pilot Program.

House Committee of the Whole

The **House Committee of the Whole** concurs with the House Committee's recommendation for FY 2027.

Senate Committees

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

The **Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation for FY 2027.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The **Senate Committee on Ways and Means** concurs with the Senate Subcommittee's recommendation for FY 2027.

Senate Committee of the Whole

The **Senate Committee of the Whole** concurs with the Senate Committee's recommendation for FY 2027.

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Conference Committee

The **Conference Committee** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation for FY 2027.

Legislative Approved

HB 2513 authorized the following statewide adjustments which were certified following the conclusion of the 2026 Session:

1. Add \$20,321, including \$14,634 SGF and \$2,030 SWPF to implement the Executive Branch pay plan approved by the 2026 Legislature and certified by the State Finance Council for FY 2027.
2. Delete \$21,392 to lapse 1.5 percent of state operations funded from the SGF for FY 2027. This lapse does not apply to SGF-financed operating expenditures for authorized contractual services, specific projects, or an identified program or entity.