

## Legislative Budget Committee

Follow-Up Questions from the November 7 Meeting

### Agency Enhancements

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- **Kansas Board of Regents** – The agency requests \$4.6 million for ESU student housing debt. Has that been in the budget before, and what is it addressing? Is ESU the only university requesting that item?

*Response from the Kansas Board of Regents:*

During the 2023 session FHSU requested \$6.0 million and was included in SB 155. Below is the request from the 2023 Omnibus Memorandum.

The agency requests a one-time appropriation of \$6.0 million SGF to construct the Center for Student Success at the Memorial Union for FY 2024. The facility will be used for academic advising, professional development, and career success support. This funding would eliminate a student fee and retire the associated bond debt. A bond of \$10.5 million was issued in 2020 for Fort Hays State University to construct a three-story Center for Student Success attached to the Memorial Union, with a portion of the project funded from a private gift. Debt service on the bond is currently financed with a student fee of \$4 per credit hour.

- **Board of Indigents** – What is the current assigned counsel rate?

The current statutory rate for assigned counsel is \$80 per hour of work (KSA 22-407(c)). The Legislature temporarily increased that rate up to \$120 per hour through FY 2025 via proviso language in appropriations bills. After FY 2025, the rate reverts to the statutory rate of \$80 per hour.

- **Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission** – The agency requests \$920,873 for a parimutuel facility. Where are those funds coming from, and is that for a new facility in Wichita?

The agency revised estimate includes \$920,873 in FY 2024 and \$1,359,637 for FY 2025 for a parimutuel horse racing facility, all from the State Racing Fund. The facility would be constructed in Sedgwick County.

- **Kansas Highway Patrol** – The agency mentioned needing \$1.2 million for a new hangar. Why was that not requested as an enhancement?

The Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) budgeted \$1.5 million, all from existing resources, for the purchase of a newly constructed aircraft hangar at the Hays Regional Airport (HRA) in FY 2024. The agency is not seeking additional funds for this acquisition. The purchase financed with unexpended moneys from agency's law enforcement and executive aircraft funds, which receive annual transfers from the State Highway Fund for aircraft operations.

KHP currently leases a small hangar to store two law enforcement airplanes. The limited space requires aircraft to be stored in a stacked configuration and necessitates the repositioning of both aircraft when one aircraft is departing, which poses a risk of damage. Further, the current hangar lacks offices and facilities for crews.

The City of Hays and HRA have offered to construct a new hangar for KHP. These entities would assume construction costs and ensure federal compliance associated with building on an airport. State funds would not be used for construction and the hangar would not be on state property.

## Legislative Budget Committee

### Follow-Up Questions from the November 7 Meeting

The expenditure of \$1.5 million from KHP includes project development, existing hanger and foundation removal, and utilities connections. Following payment, KHP would own the building and lease the airport property. Additionally, the new hangar would provide alternate storage for the executive jet.

- **Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks** – What are the specifics on the enhancement request for land acquisition grants?

*Response from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks:*

The agency added an enhancement for \$200,000 SGF to purchase approximately 264 acres in Jewell County, adjacent to our current Lovewell property. The land would offer additional public hunting ground, other recreational opportunities, and continue to be farmed by locals. A bill (SB 105) was introduced last session by Senator Bowers in Ways and Means, I believe, to get legislature authorization for the purchase. The SGF funds would be a match for Federal funds to aid in the purchase, a 25:75 match. The owners of the land specifically wanted this piece of property to become public land owned by KDWP. We will resume working on the legislative piece in this upcoming session. Let me know if you have additional questions about the land acquisition.

### Mobile Driver's Licenses

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- How many states have mobile ID and how many are moving toward mobile ID?

*Response from the Kansas Department of Revenue:*

According to the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), twelve states have implemented the mobile ID: Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Oklahoma, Iowa, Missouri, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, Florida, Maryland, and Delaware. Five states are in the process of implementing the mobile ID: Indiana, Kentucky, Virginia, New York, and Connecticut

- Where is Missouri in the real ID process?

*Response from the Kansas Department of Revenue:*

Missouri went live in May of 2023. They had a state law regarding a mobile system already in place so only an amendment for the renewal application was required. From go live date to now they have a little over 9,000 enrolled. This has not been promoted to the general public yet, as they are treating it as a pilot to work through any issues which surface.

- Can a QR code replace the temporary print out when getting a license? (Waymaster)

*Response from the Kansas Department of Revenue:*

A QR code could be added to the temporary license.

### 10-Year Federal Fund Spending

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- What is the total amount of federal funds received by the State as a result of COVID-19 relief, and how is that spending spread across agencies and departments?

A summary of that information is available in an attached document.

## Legislative Budget Committee

Follow-Up Questions from the November 7 Meeting

### License Plates

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- Are all plates that are stamped/embossed and specialty plates going to be replaced with the money appropriated in the budget by the 2023 Legislature?

*Response from the Kansas Department of Revenue:*

The Kansas Department of Revenue request was to replace the standard (called Ad Astra plates and there are still some dome standard plates in circulation) embossed plates. Specialty plates were not included in the enhancement request. Since the volume is significantly less, the agency anticipates replacing specialty plates within the normal budgeting process.

- Are all novelty plates going to be replaced? If so, when?

*Response from the Kansas Department of Revenue:*

Personalized plates are on a five-year replacement schedule and have been replaced within the normal operating budget. There should not be any embossed plates of that type in use at this time.

### Well Plugging

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- What is the financial mechanism for deposits in the fund?

2021 HB 2022 amended laws concerning funds used by the KCC to plug abandoned wells. The bill abolished the Well Plugging Assurance Fund as of July 1, 2021 (beginning of FY 2022). Existing balances in that fund were deposited into a new fund, the Abandoned Oil and Gas Well Fund (2143). All revenues that were received in the old fund were then directed to the new fund. The bill did not change how money was deposited or fees associated with revenues to the fund.

- What is the balance in the fund and projected balances for the next two years?

The fund has estimated ending balances totaling \$3.6 million in FY 2024 and \$2.5 million in FY 2025. The fund ended FY 2023 with an ending balance of \$4.6 million.

### Mental Health Intervention Team (MHIT) Program (Kansas State Department of Education)

- How do school district employee counts compare against local CMHC numbers?

*Response from the Kansas State Department of Education:*

Included in the attached documents is a map of the school districts participating in the MHIT program for the 2023-2024 school year. There is also a full list of the school districts with the grant award recommendation amounts.

The program increased from 67 districts in the 2022-2023 school year to 90 districts in the 2023-2024 school year.

The agency has not received complaints that staff are being redirected from Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) to the school districts. Those folks can make a higher salary working in the clinical setting than they can at the school district, so KSDE is not aware of staff that have made that change. If there are any, they would be outliers rather than a common occurrence. School districts did express challenges finding personnel with that Master's level education. KSDE heard that they were simply not applying for school liaison positions,

## Legislative Budget Committee

### Follow-Up Questions from the November 7 Meeting

primarily due to a lack of a competitive salary for that education level. Prior to that change in the legislation, KSDE had districts that really faced challenges filling their liaison positions

### Need-Based Scholarships

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- What is the formal definition of “needs-based” for purposes of determining a needs-based scholarship?

#### *Response from the Kansas Board of Regents:*

Need based aid refers to student aid that is awarded to fill unmet financial need – i.e., it fills in the gap between the year’s expenses to attend and what other resources the student has (cash savings, family income, other financial aid awards such as merit scholarships from high test scores or GPA).

A student applying for financial aid at an institution has a budget for the academic year that would include tuition, fees, books and materials, housing/living expenses, and transportation. Federal law requires institutions to provide net price calculators on their websites to help students estimate their costs, such as:

- <https://tcc.ruffalonl.com/Fort%20Hays%20State%20University/Net-Price-Calculator>
- <https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/Submit/Page?form=0d347724-2fde-41e5-999d-0be2eddd3517&page=481632&token=OGEYoCfsocZMycFpiz3a-LuOP3-OfaygateJ8koKQUw>
- <https://www.collegeraptor.com/Shopping/School/Johnson-County-Community-College-KS--155210>

From that budget, the student has a calculated “expected family contribution” which is calculated according to a formula based in federal law which takes into consideration the student’s family income and assets. The student may be eligible for federal aid, like a Pell Grant, or may receive merit scholarships for demonstrated academic achievement, or specialized scholarships for the academic program in which the student is enrolling (they plan to become a teacher and have received a teacher’s service scholarship). Any need-based aid fills in the last gap between the total expenses and what is not covered by other aid. Need-based aid is important from a public policy standpoint as it helps students avoid taking on loans to pay for their expenses to attend a postsecondary institution.