



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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Before the Legislative Budget Committee
Tony Mattivi, Director
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Chairman Billinger and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) budgetary matters to this Committee. We appreciate your continued interest in the KBI and our vital public safety mission. We are grateful for the consideration shown in support of our role in the criminal justice community as we work diligently in collaboration with our local partners to ensure the safety and security of Kansas citizens.

One of the current challenges facing the KBI includes an increased demand for services that is outpacing our ability to respond. This is partially driven by the exponential increase in violent crime in Kansas. In 2023, the violent crime rate in Kansas was 9.8% higher than the previous 10 year average.

Unfortunately, our ability to respond to and investigate major crimes throughout Kansas continues to be insufficient to meet growing demands for our expertise. We also face crumbling infrastructure throughout Kansas, which has drawn on resources. Based on that evaluation the KBI is making the following set of enhancement requests for the FY 2026 budget year.

FY 2026: KBI Enhancement Package #1 – New KBI Headquarters
- \$114,400,000

KBI occupies the former Crane Junior High School located at 17th and Topeka Blvd. The facility was built in 1929, a full decade before the creation of the KBI and has significant deficiencies relating to condition and functionality. An appraisal of this building conducted in 1996 deemed the facility “functionally obsolete.”

This space was leased in 1984 at an annual rent of \$337,305 (~\$1M in 2024 dollars). It was purchased in 1989 for \$3.5M with approximately 70,000 square feet. In 2006, the KBI purchased an adjacent facility to our headquarters location for \$1.1M, adding another 10,300 square feet of space that is used to house KBI’s Information Services Division.

The KBI recently partnered with a regional architectural & engineering firm to conduct a statewide needs assessment on all KBI facilities. This group was tasked with completing a comprehensive assessment on existing facility conditions, gaps in capabilities, and potential areas of growth. The firm's assessment of our headquarters was '**that due to the size restraints and required upgrades of the current KBI headquarters, this site will not continue to accommodate a functioning workplace.**'

Deficiencies identified include a lack of basic physical security such as fencing or a standoff perimeter, which is considered a necessary best practice for a law enforcement facility and the safety of our employees. Currently, an alley runs between our two facilities providing general public window level access. **It is impossible to bring physical security up to an appropriate level at this location.** Furthermore, the building has numerous code related issues and infrastructure past life expectancy. For example, some of the sanitary sewer piping is close to 100 years old and replacement will be complex and costly. The building is also not equipped with major life safety systems such as a fire sprinkler system, smoke control system, or fire barriers, which would prevent the spread of fire. Simply put, the facility does not provide a safe work environment for the roughly 250 state employees who work here.

The current KBI headquarters building doesn't have the functionality required. A modern purpose built law enforcement space will correct this by including necessities not currently available such as a command post for law enforcement incidents (like the 2023 white powder letters), dedicated classroom style training space for Special Agents, a combative mat area, indoor firing range, evidence processing room, media production, kennel space for K-9's, agent equipment locker rooms, an incinerator, and so on.

We believe it is prudent and of imminent concern to begin exploring other permanent solutions for the KBI to operate its headquarters.

In our original budget submission we used a preliminary estimate on a new headquarters facility, subject to change upon completion of the needs assessment. Now that the needs assessment is in the process of being finalized, we have been provided with updated square footage and construction costs.

With the duties tasked to the KBI, an appropriate sized building would be ~134,000 square feet on 7 – 9 acres. This would allow an adequate level of security measures and address our space requirements. This size of facility is estimated at \$114,400,000, not including site acquisition.

We have begun to look at site selection in the surrounding Topeka metro area for a new headquarters facility and anticipate seeking a competitive bid on both land or new construction development on a KBI headquarters.

FY 2026: KBI Enhancement Package #2 – Recruitment and Retention of KBI Personnel
- \$239,626

Law enforcement continues to experience difficulties with recruitment and retention of personnel. To address recruitment and retention issues, the agency proposed implementation of a Career

Progression Plan (CPP), which was supported by both the Governor and Legislature for Special Agents starting in FY17 and Forensic Scientists in FY21.

For Special Agents, the CPP provides step increases every 2 – 3 years based on years in rank. Similarly, Forensic Scientists receive merit adjustments for years in discipline, advanced degrees, certifications, and/or holding a technical leadership position. The initial cost of implementing these plans were provided by the Governor and Legislature, but as the agency retains employees and those individuals advance throughout the progression plan additional funding is required. In subsequent years since implementation of the plans, continual funding has been provided by the Governor and Legislature.

In FY 26, the KBI will need \$239,626 to continue implementing the CPP as already approved. This will impact 30 Special Agents, who will receive an average adjustment of \$4,084 plus fringe or \$1.96/hour. The adjustment will also impact 37 Forensic Scientists, who would receive an average increase of \$1.18/hour.

We believe these recruitment and retention efforts have been successful in our ability to attract qualified candidates and retain those individuals. On-going funding is critical to continue providing established pay rates.

FY 2026: KBI Enhancement Package #3 – KBI Cyber Security
- \$1,674,736

The prioritization of cyber security is critical in safeguarding citizen's data. Our enhanced cybersecurity posture is vital due to KBI's management of the Kansas Criminal Justice Information System (KCJIS). In FY24, this network handled nearly 40 million transactions related to the law enforcement mission and public safety. The KBI also manages the Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS), which contains 8.5 million instances of records of personally identifiable information.

In response to the breach of the OJA computer system, the legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 291. SB 291 required the KBI to establish a Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) to focus on cybersecurity standards, and to place that position under a Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO). Funding of \$355,363 and 2 FTE's will be required to carry out requirements of SB 291.

Furthermore, the mission of cyber security must have an appropriate level of skilled staffing. The KBI has faced significant and systemic challenges in filling vacant positions and retaining existing staff. In the last four fiscal years, the vacancy rate of our Information Technology department has averaged 31%, and has been no lower than 21% and as high as 41%. The range of salaries available to be offered by the KBI pursuant to pay standards for all state IT personnel are not competitive and do not consistently draw applicants who possess the required knowledge and skills who can pass the rigorous background process. To address these concerns, the KBI is requesting \$793,372 to address lagging salaries.

The KBI also has critical IT infrastructure that has reached its end-of-life. Two of our of Storage Area Network (SAN) devices are no longer supported by Dell, due to age and pose additional risk

of failure. This in turn may cause more extended downtime with outages. Replacement of this outdated equipment is a one-time cost of \$526,000.

FY 2026: KBI Enhancement Package #4 – Laboratory Infrastructure
- \$1,201,568

Our KBI laboratory is equipped with over \$13 million in highly specialized and technical equipment. Forensic scientists must have access to reliable, accurate, and accreditation compliant instrumentation to analyze evidence for the Kansas criminal justice system.

Life expectancy for forensic equipment is generally between 7 and 10 years of age. Some equipment in our inventory is nearly 26 years old. This equipment is significantly less reliable and not repairable due to unavailability of parts.

To address this concern, the KBI is requesting consideration of the replacement for four Gas Chromatography – Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) instruments in our Chemistry department and a QToF in our toxicology department. These new machines will replace equipment that is well past its life cycle. Continual investment in equipment is critical to the long-term viability of a high specialized laboratory and will cost \$1,069,230.

As you know, a well-functioning laboratory is not only dependent on specialized equipment but also well-trained employees. A recent conducted salary assessment on the Forensic Science Laboratory Technicians showed KBI laboratory technicians were 18% under market compared to similar positions within our geographic region. Other regional agencies which outpace the KBI laboratory technicians include the Kansas Highway Patrol, Douglas County Nebraska, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and Tulsa PD forensic laboratory.

This proposal would place starting pay comparable to our partners at the Kansas Highway Patrol and would cost \$132,338.

FY 2026: KBI Enhancement Package #5 – Offender Registration Compliance
- \$500,000

Since 2006, the KBI has utilized the Kansas Sex Offender Registry Tool (KsORT) to comply with the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). KsORT is designed to facilitate state-level administrative registry functions and offer public facing websites for local agencies. Over time, KsORT lost functionality due to the aging or loss of original source codes.

One critical feature of KsORT is the community notification system, which notifies a subscriber via e-mail when a registered offender registers a home, work, or school address near an address of interest. In March 2024, due to age of the system, the ability for KsORT to send community notifications became inoperable. In short, KsORT is a critical tool for every Kansas sheriff to use in tracking very dangerous offenders in their communities, but it is woefully inadequate and we have an obligation to our sheriffs and the public to replace it.

Further, the community notification system is a requirement for SORNA and the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act. As a result, Kansas could lose access to federal funds due to this non-compliance.

The cost to replace this system is \$500,000. This is a one-time cost which has been supported by the Kansas Sherriff's Association.

Thank you again for your time, support and consideration of KBI budgetary needs. The Committee will find attached to this document a "one pager" which more succinctly lists out our enhancement requests as well as a "one pager" that visually depicts the KBI's recent revenue neutral internal reorganization.