

GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION

FY 2024 – FY 2027 BUDGET SUMMARY

FIG. 1 BUDGET SUMMARY, FY 2024 – FY 2026

	Actual FY 2024	Agency FY 2025	Legislative Budget Committee FY 2025	Agency FY 2026	Legislative Budget Committee FY 2026
EXPENDITURES:					
State Operations*	\$ 807,081	\$ 863,869	\$ 863,869	\$ 1,106,462	\$ 878,555
Salaries and Wages	681,537	700,124	700,124	894,214	708,167
Contractual Services	117,088	158,095	158,095	206,598	164,738
Commodities	3,612	5,050	5,050	5,050	5,050
Capital Outlay	4,844	600	600	600	600
State Aid and Assistance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Aid to Local Units	-	-	-	-	-
Other Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Budget and Debt	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service Principal	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service Interest	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	\$ 807,081	\$ 863,869	\$ 863,869	\$ 1,106,462	\$ 878,555
FINANCING:					
State General Fund	\$ 524,032	\$ 560,050	\$ 560,050	\$ 788,098	\$ 560,191
Governmental Ethics Commission Fee Fund	283,049	303,819	303,819	318,364	318,364
TOTAL	\$ 807,081	\$ 863,869	\$ 863,869	\$ 1,106,462	\$ 878,555
PERCENTAGE CHANGE:					
State General Fund	8.7 %	6.9 %	-- %	40.7 %	(28.9) %
All Funds	11.7 %	7.0 %	-- %	28.1 %	(20.6) %
FTE Positions	8.5	8.5	8.5	10.5	8.5

* Note: Expenditures for debt service interest are reflected under "Capital Budget and Debt."

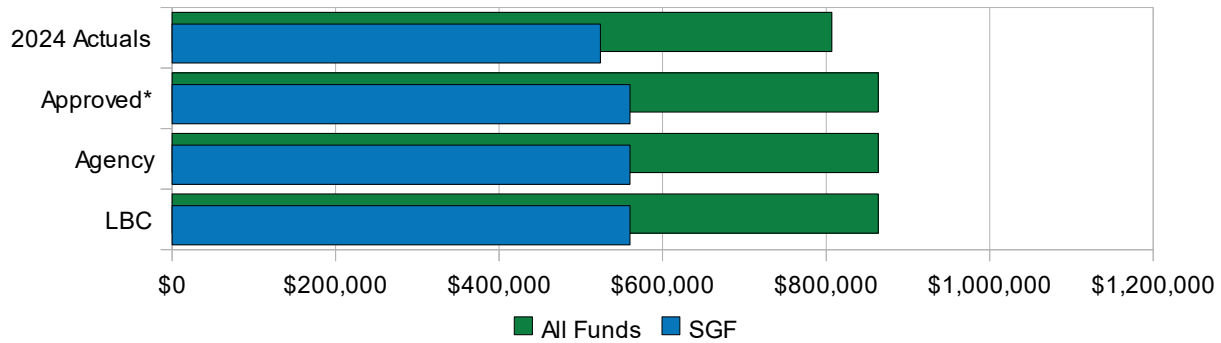
AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Governmental Ethics Commission is charged with administering, interpreting, and enforcing the Campaign Finance Act and laws relating to conflicts of interest, financial disclosure, and the regulation of lobbying. These laws establish the public's right to information about the financial affairs of Kansas' public officials, lobbyists, and candidates for state and local office. The Commission also renders advisory opinions and can adopt rules and regulations.

Each year, the Commission receives thousands of financial disclosure reports filed by candidates, political parties and party committees, public officials, and lobbyists. During non-election years, the Commission staff conduct comprehensive audits of previous filings; process new candidate Appointment of Treasurer forms and Political Action Committee Statement of Organization forms; ensure all persons subject to Commission regulation receive all pertinent campaign finance information for upcoming elections; process failure-to-file notices; and file complaints. During election years, the Commission devotes a majority of staff time to answering campaign-related questions, assisting candidates and candidate treasurers in completing their reports, and reviewing the receipts and expenditure reports filed. In addition to these responsibilities, the Commission enforces and assures lobbyists' compliance with state lobbying laws. The agency also provides the public with timely reports and statistical summaries of information filed by lobbyists, candidates for state office, political action committees, and party committees.

FY 2025 ANALYSIS

FIG. 2 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS, FY 2025



* Note: Includes SGF reappropriations.

FIG. 3 BUDGET COMPARISON, FY 2025

Fund	2024 Actuals	2025 Approved*	2025 Agency	Agency Change from Previous-Year Actuals		Agency Change from Approved*	
SGF	\$ 524,032	\$ 560,050	\$ 560,050	\$ 36,018	6.9 %	\$ -	-- %
All Other Funds	283,049	303,819	303,819	20,770	7.3	-	--
TOTAL	\$ 807,081	\$ 863,869	\$ 863,869	\$ 56,788	7.0 %	\$ -	-- %

* Note: Includes SGF reappropriations.

BUDGET ANALYSIS

FIG. 4 SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST, FY 2025

	Agency			Legislative Budget Committee		
	SGF	All Funds	FTE	SGF	All Funds	FTE
Approved, FY 2025	\$ 560,050	\$ 863,869	8.5	\$ 560,050	\$ 863,869	8.5
2024 SB 28 & HB 2551	554,784	858,603	8.5	554,784	858,603	8.5
1. SGF Reappropriation	5,266	5,266	-	5,266	5,266	-
Supplemental Requests	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -	-
2. No Supplemental Requests	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Changes	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -	-
3. No Changes	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	\$ 560,050	\$ 863,869	8.5	\$ 560,050	\$ 863,869	8.5

1. SGF REAPPROPRIATION

The agency reappropriated \$5,266 in unspent SGF moneys into FY 2025.

- **LBC:** No changes.

2. SUPPLEMENTAL REQUESTS

The agency's revised request did not include any supplemental requests.

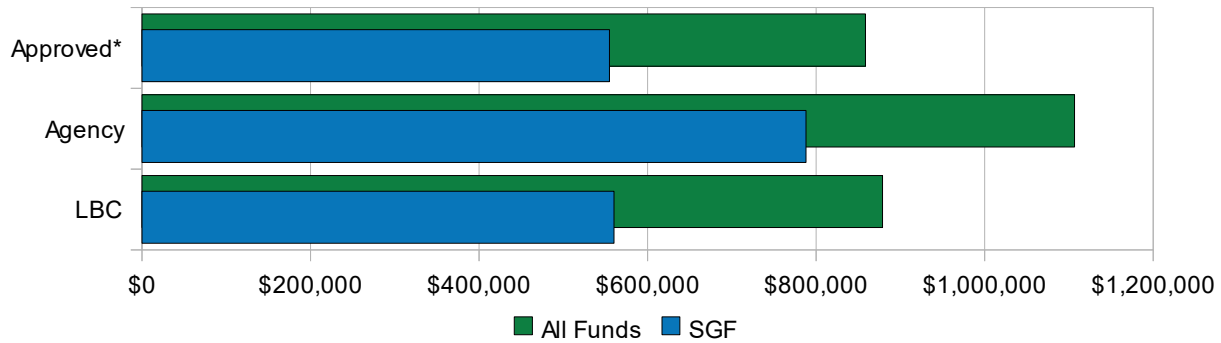
3. OTHER CHANGES

No other changes.

- **LBC:** No changes.

FY 2026 ANALYSIS

FIG. 5 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS, FY 2026



* Note: Reflects legislative-approved expenditures for FY 2025, excluding reappropriations.

FIG. 6 BUDGET HIGHLIGHT CHANGES, FY 2026

Fund	2025 Agency	2025 Approved*	2026 Agency	Agency Change from Previous-Year Agency		Agency Change from Approved*	
SGF	\$ 560,050	\$ 554,784	\$ 788,098	\$ 228,048	40.7 %	\$ 233,314	42.1 %
All Other Funds	303,819	303,819	318,364	14,545	4.8	14,545	4.8
TOTAL	\$ 863,869	\$ 858,603	\$ 1,106,462	\$ 242,593	28.1 %	\$ 247,859	28.9 %

* Note: Reflects legislative-approved expenditures for FY 2025, excluding reappropriations.

BUDGET ANALYSIS

FIG. 7 SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST, FY 2026

	Agency			Legislative Budget Committee		
	SGF	All Funds	FTE	SGF	All Funds	FTE
Approved, FY 2025	\$ 554,784	\$ 858,603	8.5	\$ 554,784	\$ 858,603	8.5
2024 SB 28 & HB 2551	554,784	858,603	8.5	554,784	858,603	8.5
Enhancement Requests	\$ 227,907	\$ 227,907	2.0	\$ -	\$ -	-
1. Additional Personnel and Office Relocation	227,907	227,907	2.0	-	-	-
Other Changes	\$ 5,407	\$ 19,952	-	\$ 5,407	\$ 19,952	-
2. All Other Adjustments	5,407	19,952	-	5,407	19,952	-
TOTAL	\$ 788,098	\$ 1,106,462	10.5	\$ 560,191	\$ 878,555	8.5

1. ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE RELOCATION

The agency is currently staffed by 9 employees, totaling 8.5 FTE positions:

- 1 Executive Director;
- 1 Attorney;
- 1 Office Manager;
- 2 Campaign Finance Coordinators;
- 2 State Auditors;
- 1 Investigator; and
- 1 Lobbyist Coordinator.

The agency's request includes an additional \$227,907 SGF and 2.0 FTE positions for additional personnel and office space for FY 2026. That amount includes \$186,047 to add one Compliance Attorney and one Auditor, \$40,360 for office space, \$10,000 for one-time moving costs, and a decrease of \$8,500 from eliminating the conflict counsel contract with the Office of the Attorney General.

Compliance Attorney. The base salary for the Compliance Attorney position would be \$80,000, along with associated fringe benefits. The agency states that separating compliance and enforcement attorneys is practiced in other agencies, such as the Kansas Corporation Commission and the Office of the Attorney General's open government team. This ensures that the person providing guidance is not also responsible for enforcement, helping to avoid potential conflicts.

Auditor. The base wage for the auditor position would be \$57,000, along with associated fringe benefits. The auditor will conduct field audits of the receipts and expenditure reports submitted by campaigns and committees. Additionally, the auditor will be tasked with auditing the records of candidates and political action committees to ensure compliance and accuracy.

Building Space Rental. The agency's request includes an increase of \$40,360 for building rent. Currently, the agency is located in the Mills Building in Topeka. According to the agency, the existing office does not provide adequate space for the additional staff they are requesting, and the current lease will expire in November 2025.

Moving Expenses. Additionally, the agency's request includes a one-time increase of \$10,000 for moving costs in FY 2026.

Conflict Counsel Contract. The agency requests a decrease of \$8,500 to eliminate the current conflict counsel contract with the Office of the Attorney General, as this contract will no longer be needed with the addition of a compliance attorney.

- **Agency:** Add \$227,907 SGF and 2.0 FTE positions to add one Compliance Attorney and one Auditor, for additional office space and one-time moving costs, and to eliminate the conflict counsel contract for FY 2026.
- **LBC:** Delete \$236,407 SGF and 2.0 FTE positions not to add one Compliance Attorney and one Auditor, additional office space, and one-time moving costs, and add \$8,500 SGF to keep the conflict counsel contract, for a total deletion of \$227,907 SGF for FY 2026.

2. ALL OTHER ADJUSTMENTS

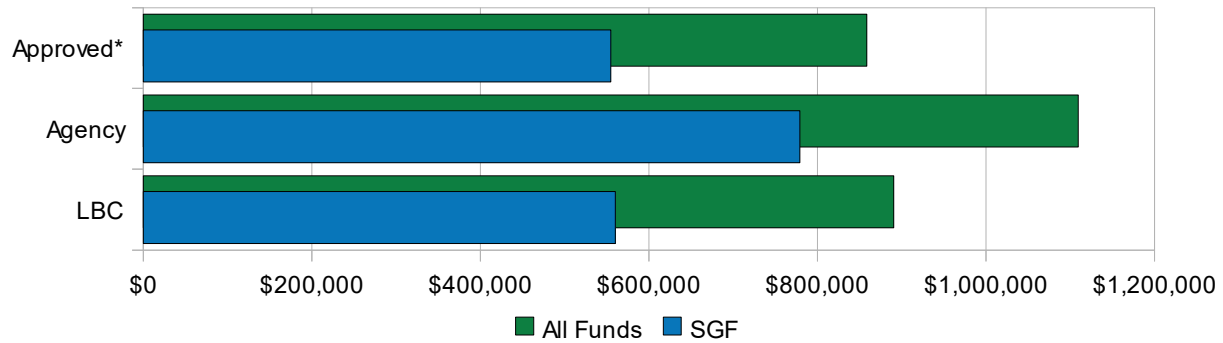
The agency's request includes an additional \$19,952, including \$5,407 SGF, in other adjustments from the amount approved by the 2024 Legislature. This increase is associated with increased employer contributions to health benefits (\$7,617) for FY 2026. For FY 2026, employer rates for medical benefits will increase to 7.5 percent, leading to increased agency spending for this expenditure. Additionally, there are increases of spending in contractual services, including a new building space rental (\$12,557), employee parking (\$7,782), the monumental building surcharge assessed by the Department of Administration for the agency's office space (\$4,236), and janitorial services due to a transition in building management (\$2,796).

These increases are partially offset by decreased spending on database fees due to a termination of a contract (\$6,024), database data storage (\$4,236), postage in a less-active election cycle (\$4,000), and mileage for the Commissioner (\$2,088).

- **Agency:** Add \$19,952, including \$5,407 SGF, for all other adjustments for FY 2026.
- **LBC:** No changes.

FY 2027 ANALYSIS

FIG. 8 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS, FY 2027



* Note: Reflects legislative-approved expenditures for FY 2025, excluding reappropriations.

FIG. 9 BUDGET HIGHLIGHT CHANGES, FY 2027

Fund	2026 Agency	2025 Approved*	2027 Agency	Agency Change from Previous-Year Agency		Agency Change from Approved*	
SGF	\$ 788,098	\$ 554,784	\$ 779,078	\$ (9,020)	(1.1) %	\$ 224,294	40.4 %
All Other Funds	318,364	303,819	330,353	11,989	3.8	26,534	8.7
TOTAL	\$ 1,106,462	\$ 858,603	\$ 1,109,431	\$ 2,969	0.3 %	\$ 250,828	29.2 %

* Note: Reflects legislative-approved expenditures for FY 2025, excluding reappropriations.

BUDGET ANALYSIS

FIG. 10 SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST, FY 2027

	Agency			Legislative Budget Committee		
	SGF	All Funds	FTE	SGF	All Funds	FTE
Approved, FY 2025	\$ 554,784	\$ 858,603	8.5	\$ 554,784	\$ 858,603	8.5
2024 SB 28 & HB 2551	554,784	858,603	8.5	554,784	858,603	8.5
Enhancement Requests	\$ 218,887	\$ 218,887	2.0	\$ -	\$ -	-
1. Additional Personnel and Office Relocation	218,887	218,887	-	-	-	-
Other Changes	\$ 5,407	\$ 31,941	-	\$ 5,407	\$ 31,941	-
2. All Other Adjustments	5,407	31,941	-	5,407	31,941	-
TOTAL	\$ 779,078	\$ 1,109,431	10.5	\$ 560,191	\$ 890,544	8.5

1. ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE RELOCATION

The agency requests \$218,887, all SGF, and 2.0 FTE positions for additional personnel and office space for FY 2027. This request includes an increase of \$187,027 to add one Compliance Attorney and one Auditor, \$40,360 for office space, and a decrease of \$8,500 from eliminating the conflict counsel contract with the Office of the Attorney General.

This request is substantively similar to the same enhancement request for FY 2026, but it does not include the \$10,000 for one-time moving expenses requested for FY 2026, and there is a slight difference in fringe benefits spending.

- **Agency:** Add \$218,887 SGF and 2.0 FTE positions for one Compliance Attorney and one Auditor, additional office space, and elimination of the conflict counsel contract for FY 2027.
- **LBC:** Delete \$227,387 SGF and 2.0 FTE positions not to add one Compliance Attorney and one Auditor and additional office space, and add \$8,500 SGF to keep

the conflict counsel contract, for a total deletion of \$218,887 SGF for FY 2027.

2. ALL OTHER ADJUSTMENTS

The agency's request includes an additional \$31,941, including \$5,407 SGF, in other adjustments from the amount approved by the 2024 Legislature. This increase is associated with increased employer contributions to health benefits (\$14,877) for FY 2027. Beginning FY 2026, the employer rates for medical benefits will increase to 7.5 percent, leading to increased agency spending for this expenditure. Additionally, there are increases of spending in contractual services, including new building space rental (\$12,380), employee parking (\$7,782), the monumental building surcharge assessed by the Department of Administration for the agency's office space (\$6,001), janitorial services due to a transition in building management (\$2,796), and Office 365 and computer replacements (\$2,304).

These increases are partially offset by decreased spending on database fees due to termination of a contract (\$6,024), database data storage (\$4,836), and postage (\$2,000).

- **Agency:** Add \$31,941, including \$5,407 SGF, for all other adjustments for FY 2027.
- **LBC:** No changes.

REFERENCE TABLES

FIG. 11 **10-YEAR EXPENDITURE HISTORY, FY 2017 – FY 2026**

Fiscal Year	SGF	Change	All Funds	Change	FTE	CPI-U Change**
FY 2017	\$ 373,656	0.6 %	\$ 602,849	1.9 %	7.5	0.0 %
FY 2018	385,375	3.1	582,059	(3.4)	7.5	0.2
FY 2019	378,694	(1.7)	624,041	7.2	7.5	0.0
FY 2020	395,476	4.4	644,500	3.3	7.5	0.8
FY 2021	446,942	13.0	704,293	9.3	8.0	2.4
FY 2022	470,233	5.2	703,694	(0.1)	8.5	9.2
FY 2023	482,193	2.5	722,442	2.7	8.5	5.8
FY 2024	524,032	8.7	807,081	11.7	8.5	3.0
FY 2025 Agency	560,050	6.9	863,869	7.0	8.5	2.5
FY 2026 Agency	788,098	40.7	1,106,462	28.1	10.5	2.4
10-Yr. Chg. (FY 2017– 2026)	\$ 414,442	110.9 %	\$ 503,613	83.5 %	3.0	33.4 %
3-Yr. Avg. (FY 2022– 2024)*	492,153		744,406		8.5	

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

** Note: Consumer Price Index – All Urban Consumers estimate for FY 2025 and FY 2026 is from the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND OVERVIEW

GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION FEE FUND

The Governmental Ethics Commission Fee Fund is a statutory fee fund. It is funded by candidate filing fees, lobbyist registration fees, political action committees fees, and registration fees. KSA 75-3170a(a) provides that 90.0 percent of incoming revenues are retained by the agency and 10.0 percent are deposited into the SGF, up to a maximum of \$100,000 per fiscal year per fund.

The Governmental Ethics Commission Fee Fund collects revenue from fees paid by political action committees, lobbyists, and candidates. The amount of revenue collected varies each year depending on the election year cycle and the number of elections that are held.

FIG. 12 **GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION FEE FUND RESOURCE ESTIMATE, FY 2023 – FY 2027**

	Actual FY 2023	Actual FY 2024	Agency FY 2025	Agency FY 2026	Agency FY 2027
Beginning Balance	\$ 370,791	\$ 372,321	\$ 387,925	\$ 332,556	\$ 310,092
Political Action Committee	59,885	61,525	69,700	73,500	70,500
Lobbyists Fees	146,650	150,150	152,150	153,650	155,500
Candidate Fees	18,389	52,910	16,600	44,750	14,700
All Other Operating Grants	2,763	-	-	-	-
Other Fines Penalties	11,901	34,068	10,000	24,000	10,000
Forfeit	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers In	-	-	-	-	-
Funds Available	\$ 610,379	\$ 670,974	\$ 636,375	\$ 628,456	\$ 560,792
Expenditures	\$ 240,249	\$ 283,049	\$ 303,819	\$ 318,364	\$ 330,353
Expenditures–Off-Budget	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-
Ending Balance	\$ 370,130	\$ 387,925	\$ 332,556	\$ 310,092	\$ 230,439

FIG. 13 **GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION FEES, FY 2025**

Fee	Current Fee	Statutory Limit*	Previous Fee**
Filing fee for candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor	\$ 650	\$ 650	-
Filing fee for candidates for other statewide offices	650	650	-
Filing fee for candidates for Legislators, State Board of Education & select local offices	50	50	-
Fee for Political Action Committees (receipts over \$15,000)	750	750	-
Fee for Political Action Committees (receipts over \$7,500 but less than \$15,000)	500	500	-
Fee for Political Action Committees (receipts over \$2,500 but less than \$7,500)	250	250	-
Fee for Political Action Committees (receipts under \$2,500)	50	50	-
Lobbyist fee (spending less than \$1,000 for single client)	50	50	-
Lobbyist fee (spending over \$1,000 for single client)	350	350	-
Fee for no-owner, non-partner lobbying firm employees	450	450	-

* Note: The authority for these fees is found in KSA 25-4119a; KSA 25-4145; KSA 46-265.

** Note: These fees were changed within the last two fiscal years.