

# CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER BOARD

## FY 2023 – FY 2025 BUDGET ANALYSIS

FIGURE 1  
**BUDGET OVERVIEW, FY 2023 – FY 2025**

	Actual FY 2023	Agency FY 2024	Governor FY 2024	Agency FY 2025	Governor FY 2025
<b>Operating Expenditures:</b>					
State General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Federal Funds	-	-	-	-	-
All Other Funds	1,054,540	1,358,733	1,358,733	1,288,098	1,288,098
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>\$ 1,054,540</u>	<u>\$ 1,358,733</u>	<u>\$ 1,358,733</u>	<u>\$ 1,288,098</u>	<u>\$ 1,288,098</u>
<b>Capital Improvements:</b>					
State General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Federal Funds	-	-	-	-	-
All Other Funds	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><b>\$ 1,054,540</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 1,358,733</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 1,358,733</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 1,288,098</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 1,288,098</b></u>
<b>Percentage Change:</b>					
State General Fund	-- %	-- %	-- %	-- %	-- %
All Funds	21.2 %	28.8 %	28.8 %	(5.2) %	(5.2) %
FTE Positions	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0

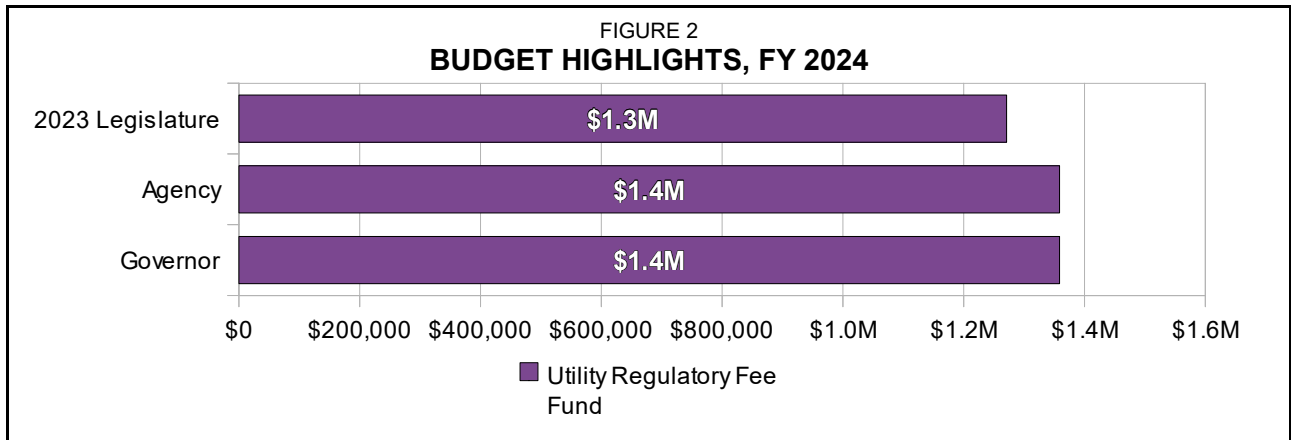
The Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board (CURB) acts as an advocate for residential and small commercial utility ratepayers in Kansas in order to protect their interests. CURB's mission is to provide ratepayers in Kansas with competent and quality legal representation before the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC), the various courts, and the Kansas Legislature. CURB is funded by assessments levied against the public utilities in whose cases CURB can intervene.

**STATUTORY BASIS:** • KSA 66-1223.

- AGENCY GOALS:**
- Represent CURB constituents in KCC cases to keep rates reasonably low.
  - Intervene in KCC cases when necessary to protect CURB constituents from unreasonable utility business practices.
  - Represent CURB constituents before the Kansas Legislature to provide input on and to analyze proposed legislation.
  - Represent CURB constituents in complaint cases filed with the KCC.
  - Research, develop, and articulate policies and best practices intended to provide benefit to CURB's constituents.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

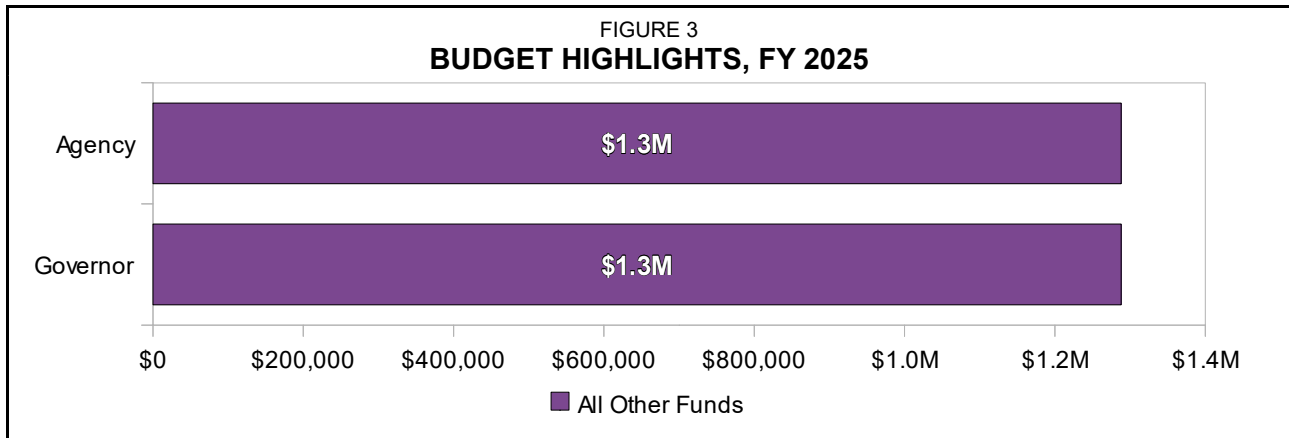
The 2023 Legislature approved a budget of \$1.3 million, all from the Utility Regulatory Fee Fund, and 9.0 FTE positions for the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board for FY 2024.



The **agency** requests a revised estimate of \$1.4 million, all from the Utility Regulatory Fee Fund, in expenditures and 9.0 FTE positions in FY 2024. This is an increase of \$87,749, or 6.9 percent, above the amount approved by the 2023 Legislature.

The agency is authorized each year by language in the appropriations bill to carry over unspent funds for consultant services between fiscal years to ensure sufficient funds during years with a higher number of rate cases. The agency had a balance of \$87,749 in unspent money budgeted for consultant services in FY 2023 that will be carried over into FY 2024.

The **Governor** concurs with the agency's FY 2024 revised estimate.



The **agency** requests \$1.3 million, all from the Utility Regulatory Fee Fund, in expenditures and 9.0 FTE positions for FY 2025. This is a decrease of \$70,635, or 5.2 percent, below the agency's FY 2024 revised estimate.

The agency is authorized by language in the appropriations bill to carry over unspent consultant services funds between fiscal years. This authorization increases the agency's estimated expenditures for consultant services in FY 2024. For FY 2025, there are no carryover funds budgeted, which creates a decrease in consultant service expenditures. This decrease is partially offset by increases in other contractual service expenditures, such as building space rental.

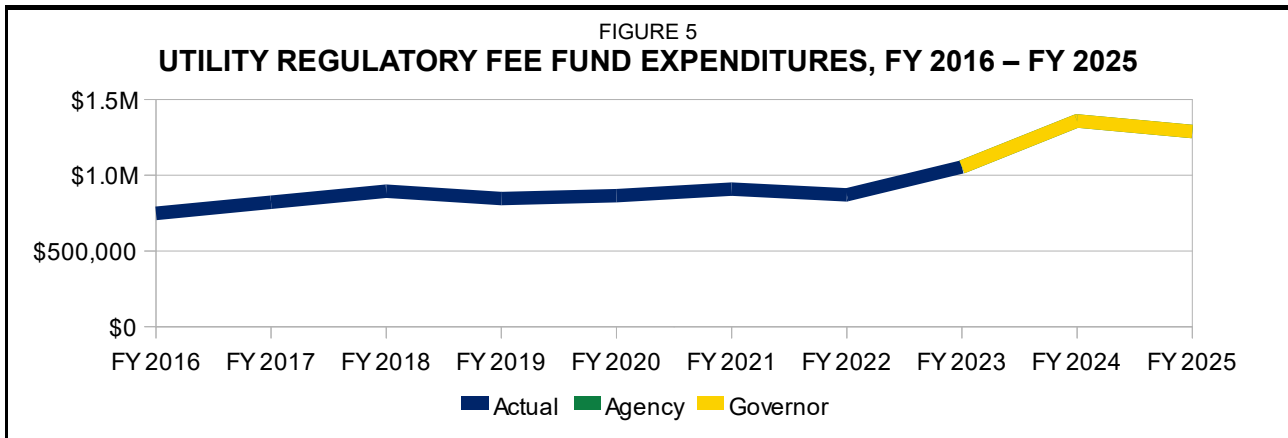
The **Governor** concurs with the agency's FY 2025 request.

## EXPENDITURES AND FINANCING

FIGURE 4  
**BUDGET SUMMARY BY CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURE, FY 2023 – FY 2025**

Category of Expenditure:	Actual FY 2023	Agency FY 2024	Governor FY 2024	Agency FY 2025	Governor FY 2025
Salaries and Wages	\$ 662,556	\$ 886,013	\$ 886,013	\$ 884,493	\$ 884,493
Contractual Services	379,667	454,489	454,489	386,340	386,340
Commodities	3,640	5,931	5,931	6,305	6,305
Capital Outlay	8,677	12,300	12,300	10,960	10,960
Debt Service Interest	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$ 1,054,540</i>	<i>\$ 1,358,733</i>	<i>\$ 1,358,733</i>	<i>\$ 1,288,098</i>	<i>\$ 1,288,098</i>
Aid to Local Units	-	-	-	-	-
Other Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Subtotal—Operating</i>	<i>\$ 1,054,540</i>	<i>\$ 1,358,733</i>	<i>\$ 1,358,733</i>	<i>\$ 1,288,098</i>	<i>\$ 1,288,098</i>
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service Principal	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,054,540</b>	<b>\$ 1,358,733</b>	<b>\$ 1,358,733</b>	<b>\$ 1,288,098</b>	<b>\$ 1,288,098</b>
<b>Financing:</b>					
State General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Federal Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Utility Regulatory Fee Fund	1,054,540	1,358,733	1,358,733	1,288,098	1,288,098
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,054,540</b>	<b>\$ 1,358,733</b>	<b>\$ 1,358,733</b>	<b>\$ 1,288,098</b>	<b>\$ 1,288,098</b>
FTE Positions	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0

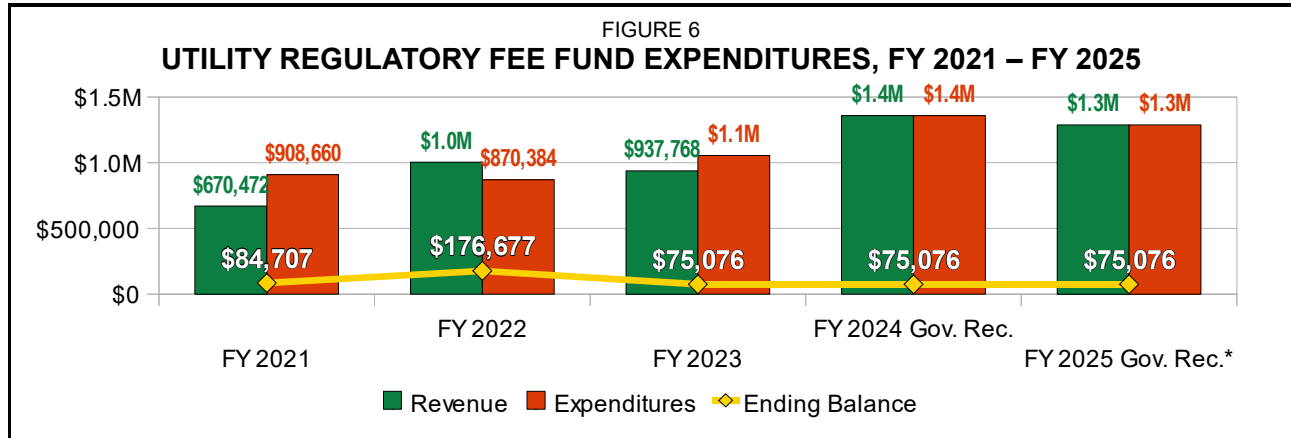
## UTILITY REGULATORY FEE FUND



The Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board is a fee-funded agency. The only source of funds for the agency is the Utility Regulatory Fee Fund, a statutory fee fund financed through quarterly assessments on gas, electric, and telephone companies in Kansas, as required by KSA 66-1502 and KSA 66-1503. One assessment is based on end-of-year expenditures plus anticipated increases for the ensuing year, which is then prorated among the utilities. That amount cannot exceed the greater of \$100 or 0.2 percent of a company's gross operating revenue derived from intrastate operations in the prior calendar year.

Another assessment is made for actual costs incurred by CURB during an investigation of a particular public utility. This assessment cannot exceed three-fifths of 1.0 percent (*i.e.*, 0.6 percent) of the utility's gross operating revenue derived from intrastate operations in the prior calendar year.

## UTILITY REGULATORY FEE FUND



\* For FY 2025, the lowest month ending balance for the Utility Regulatory Fee Fund will occur in May, with a balance of (\$59,730).

The ending balance of the Utility Regulatory Fee Fund increased in FY 2022 when compared with FY 2021. This is attributable to a combination of higher revenues and lower expenditures in FY 2022 when compared with FY 2021. In FY 2022, revenues exceeded expenditures by \$133,830, while expenditures exceeded revenues by \$116,772 in FY 2023.

For FY 2024 and FY 2025, the agency is estimating revenues and expenditures of similar amounts, which would result in ending balances consistent with FY 2023.

The agency regularly budgets above estimated expenditures to ensure adequate funds are available in the occurrence of increased case filings. However, cash-flow analysis on the agency's projected revenues and expenditures by month indicate the agency may experience negative balances during some months in FY 2024 and FY 2025. Negative balances can occur when an agency has expenditures and account payable balances that are larger than revenues and account receivable balances.

## FY 2024 ANALYSIS

FIGURE 7

### SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST, FY 2024

	SGF	All Funds	FTE
<b>Legislative Approved:</b>			
Amount Approved by 2023 Legislature	\$ -	\$ 1,270,984	9.0
1. No Changes	-	-	--
<i>Subtotal—Legislative Approved</i>	<i>\$ -</i>	<i>\$ 1,270,984</i>	<i>9.0</i>
<b>Agency Revised Estimate:</b>			
2. Consultant Services	-	87,749	--
<i>Subtotal—Agency Revised Estimate</i>	<i>\$ -</i>	<i>\$ 1,358,733</i>	<i>9.0</i>
<b>Governor's Recommendation:</b>			
3. No Changes	\$ -	\$ -	--
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,358,733</b>	<b>9.0</b>

### LEGISLATIVE APPROVED

Subsequent to the 2023 Session, no adjustments were made to the \$1.3 million appropriated to the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board for FY 2024.

1. **NO CHANGES.** No adjustments were made to the \$1.3 million, all from the Utility Regulatory Fee Fund, appropriated to the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board by the 2023 Legislature.

### AGENCY ESTIMATE

The **agency** requests a revised estimate of \$1.4 million, all from the Utility Regulatory Fee Fund, in FY 2024. This is an increase of \$87,749, or 6.9 percent, above the amount approved by the 2023 Legislature. Significant adjustments are as follows:

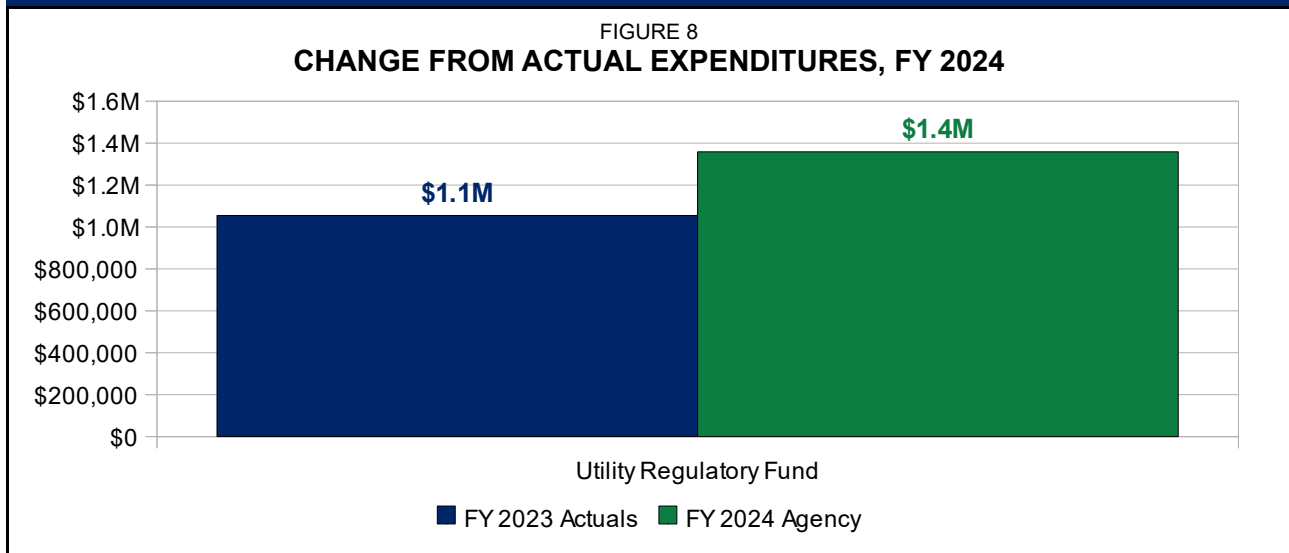
2. **CONSULTANT SERVICES.** The agency is authorized each year by language in the appropriations bill to carry over unspent funds for consultant services between fiscal years to ensure sufficient funds during years with a higher number of rate cases. The agency utilizes different types of consultants to review large utility filings and advise and provide testimony before the KCC. In FY 2024, the agency is carrying over \$87,749 for contract accountants and auditors.

### VERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

The **Governor** concurs with the agency's FY 2024 revised estimate.

3. **NO CHANGES.** The Governor does not recommend any changes to the agency's FY 2024 revised estimate.

## FY 2024 CHANGE FROM ACTUAL EXPENDITURES



The **agency** estimates revised expenditures of \$1.4 million, all from the Utility Regulatory Fee Fund, in FY 2024. This is an increase of \$304,193, or 28.8 percent, above the FY 2023 actual expenditures. The increase is partly attributable to \$87,749 carried over for consultant services from FY 2023 into FY 2024. The remaining changes are attributable to salary increases approved by the 2023 Legislature, changes to employer contributions to fringe benefits, building rental space, software rental, and the agency regularly budgeting above estimated expenditures to ensure adequate funds are available in the occurrence of increased case filings.

## FY 2025 ANALYSIS

FIGURE 9

### SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST, FY 2025

	SGF	All Funds	FTE
<b>Agency Request:</b>			
Request without Major Changes	\$ -	\$ 1,375,847	9.0
1. Consultant Services	-	(87,749)	--
2. All Other Adjustments	-	17,114	--
<i>Subtotal—Agency Request</i>	\$ -	\$ 1,288,098	9.0
<b>Governor's Recommendation:</b>			
3. No Changes	\$ -	\$ -	--
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ -	\$ 1,288,098	9.0

### **AGENCY REQUEST**

The **agency** requests \$1.3 million, all from the Utility Regulatory Fee Fund, for FY 2025. This is a decrease of \$70,635, or 5.2 percent, below the FY 2024 revised estimate. This is primarily attributable to consultant services. Significant adjustments are as follows:

1. **CONSULTANT SERVICES.** The agency is authorized by language in the appropriations bill to carry over unspent consultant services funds between fiscal years. This authorization increases the agency's estimated expenditures for consultant services in FY 2024. For FY 2025, there are no carryover funds budgeted, which creates a decrease in consultant service expenditures.
  
2. **ALL OTHER ADJUSTMENTS.** All other adjustments made by the agency represent an increase of \$17,114 above the agency's revised FY 2024 estimate. These increases are mostly attributable to contractual service expenditures, such as building space rental.

### **GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION**

The **Governor** concurs with the agency's FY 2025 request.

3. **NO CHANGES.** The Governor does not recommend any changes to the agency's FY 2025 request.