

**Representative Jack McFarland**  
Chair



**Representative Jerome Zeringue**  
Vice-Chair

# **Fiscal Year 2027 Executive Budget Review**

# **AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY**

**House Committee on Appropriations**  
House Fiscal Division

March 3, 2026

**Budget Analyst: Paige Philyaw**

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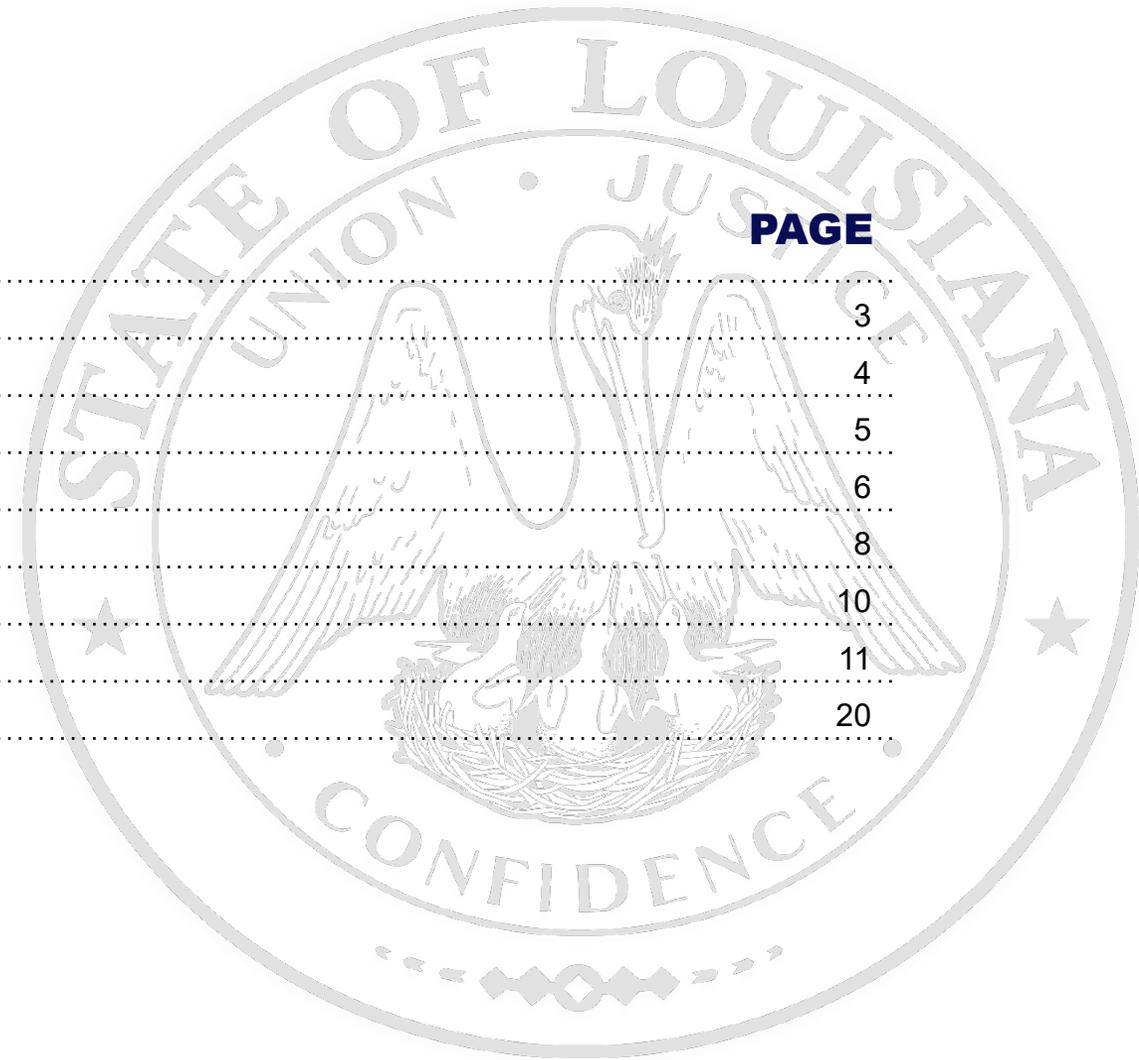
All data and figures were obtained from the governor's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Executive Budget and Supporting Documents provided by the Office of Planning and Budget within the Division of Administration along with House Bill 1 of the 2026 Regular Session, unless otherwise noted.

<https://www.doa.la.gov/doa/opb/budget-documents/>

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# FY 27 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

## Total Funding = \$91,384,006

Means of Finance		
State General Fund	\$	30,413,862
Interagency Transfers		492,535
Fees & Self-generated		8,238,340
Statutory Dedications		39,045,647
Federal Funds		13,193,622
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>91,384,006</b>



Program Funding & Authorized Positions		
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Positions</i>
Management & Finance	\$ 27,285,816	112
Agricultural & Environmental Sciences	14,531,686	105
Animal Health & Food Safety	15,802,218	102
Agro Consumer Services	9,316,648	77
Forestry	21,523,483	179
Soil and Water Conservation	2,924,155	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 91,384,006</b>	<b>585</b>



# SOURCES OF FUNDING

<b>State General Fund</b> <b>\$30.4 M</b>	<b>Interagency Transfers</b> <b>\$492,535</b>	<b>Self-generated Revenue</b> <b>\$8.2 M</b>	<b>Statutory Dedications</b> <b>\$39 M</b>	<b>Federal Funds</b> <b>\$13.2 M</b>
<p>The chief operating fund of the State recognized by the Revenue Estimating Conference from various taxes, licenses, fees, and other revenue sources except for those identified as other means of financing</p>	<p>Funding is derived from the following transfers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$300,000 from the Coastal Protection &amp; Restoration Authority – for developing erosion control plans along the coast, best management practices, and water quality &amp; wetland resource programs</li> <li>• \$189,035 from the Louisiana Department of Health &amp; Hospitals for storage of the state's antiviral cache of medications</li> <li>• \$3,500 from the Department of Environmental Quality</li> </ul>	<p>Revenues derived from the following sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$3.4 M from the Food Distribution Program</li> <li>• \$1.4 M from the Poultry &amp; Egg Program</li> <li>• \$1.2 M from the Agricultural Chemistry Program</li> <li>• \$754,884 from the Board of Animal Health for health certifications</li> <li>• \$529,536 from fire programs</li> <li>• \$319,558 from Weights and Measures</li> <li>• \$314,540 from market bulletins</li> </ul>	<p>Funding is derived from the following funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$11.8 M from the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority Fund</li> <li>• \$6.3 M from the Pesticide Fund</li> <li>• \$4.5 M from the Petroleum Products Fund</li> <li>• \$3.6 M from the Weights &amp; Measures Fund</li> <li>• \$2.9 M from the Feed &amp; Fertilizer Fund</li> <li>• \$2.6 M from the Horticulture &amp; Quarantine Fund</li> <li>• \$2.3 M from the Agricultural Commodity Dealers &amp; Warehouse Fund</li> </ul>	<p>Federal funding derived from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$9.2 M from the U.S. Department of Agriculture</li> <li>• \$2.5 M from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</li> <li>• \$1.5 M from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration</li> <li>• \$30,000 from the U.S. Department of Commerce</li> </ul>

Note: Further details on Statutory Dedication funding are under the General Budgetary Information section.

# FUNDING COMPARISON

Means of Finance	FY 25 Actual Expenditures	FY 26 Existing Operating Budget 12/1/25	FY 27 HB1 Budget	Change Existing Operating Budget to HB1		Change Actual Expenditures to HB1	
<b>SGF</b>	\$ 47,409,570	\$ 26,524,102	\$ 30,413,862	\$ 3,889,760	14.7%	\$ (16,995,708)	(35.8%)
<b>IAT</b>	5,785,319	539,035	492,535	(46,500)	(8.6%)	(5,292,784)	(91.5%)
<b>FSGR</b>	4,985,073	8,252,743	8,238,340	(14,403)	(0.2%)	3,253,267	65.3%
<b>Stat Ded</b>	37,281,107	41,960,821	39,045,647	(2,915,174)	(6.9%)	1,764,540	4.7%
<b>Federal</b>	19,229,124	17,711,838	13,193,622	(4,518,216)	(25.5%)	(6,035,502)	(31.4%)
<b>Total</b>	\$ 114,690,193	\$ 94,988,539	\$ 91,384,006	\$ (3,604,533)	(3.8%)	\$ (23,306,187)	(20.3%)

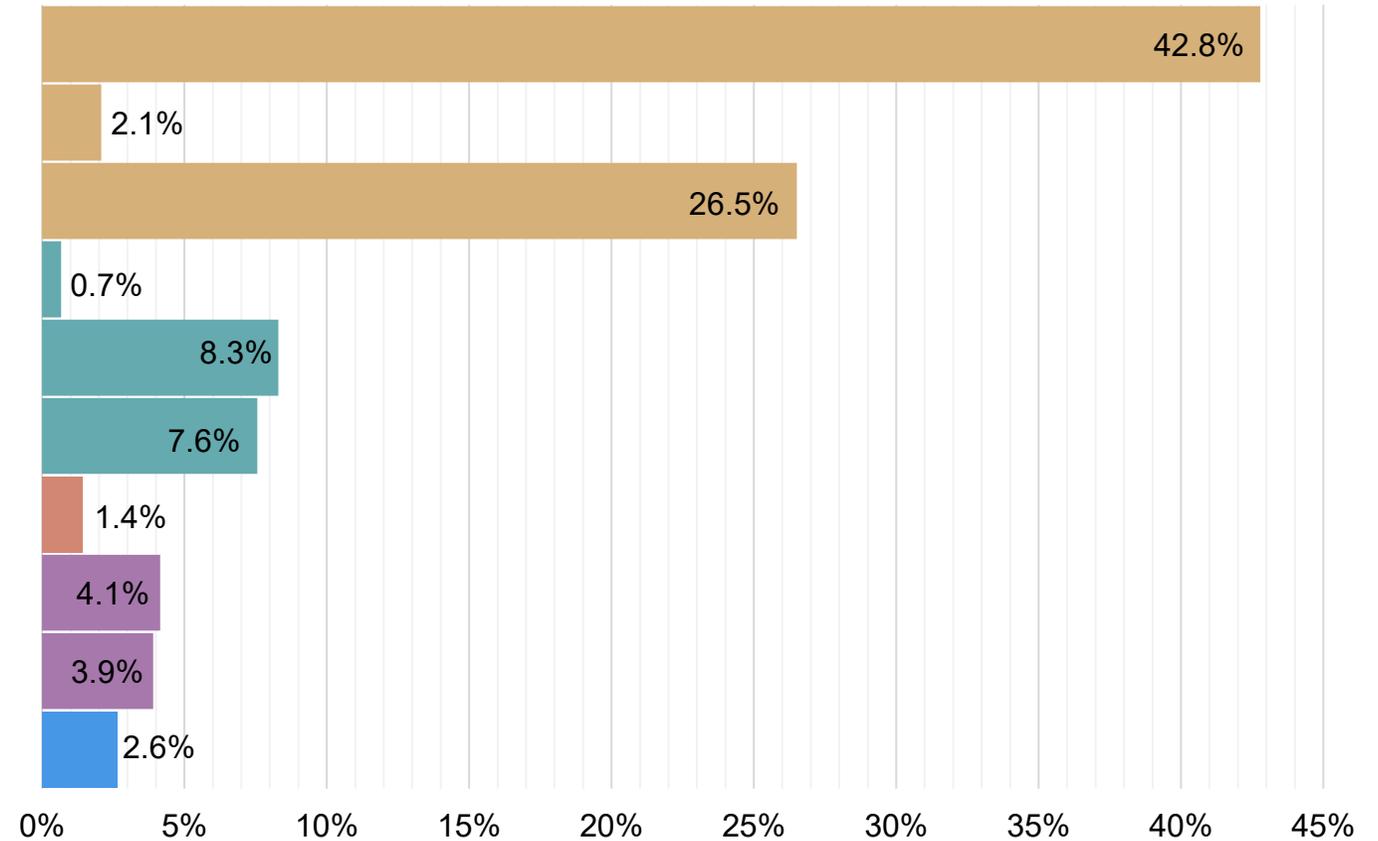
## Significant funding changes compared to the FY 26 Existing Operating Budget

State General Fund	Statutory Dedications	Federal Funds
<p>\$3.9 M increase primarily due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$3.1 M increase for standard statewide adjustments primarily within the management and finance program</li> <li>\$1 M increase for means of finance substitutions based on the most recent REC forecast with statutory dedications</li> <li>(\$209,000) decrease due to a reduction in the Soil &amp; Water Conservation Program</li> </ul>	<p>(\$2.9 M) net decrease due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(\$2.3 M) decrease to remove funds carried into FY 26 that are no longer needed in FY 27</li> <li>(\$776,290) net decrease for means of finance substitutions based on the most recent REC forecast                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(\$827,969) Petroleum Products Fund</li> <li>\$225,000 Weights and Measures Fund</li> <li>(\$100,000) Forest Productivity Fund</li> <li>(\$73,321) Wildfire Suppression Subfund</li> </ul> </li> <li>\$170,490 increase out of the Agricultural Commodity Dealers and Warehouse Fund</li> </ul>	<p>(\$4.5 M) net decrease primarily due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(\$2.9 M) decrease to remove funds carried into FY 26 that are no longer needed in FY 27</li> <li>(\$2.3 M) decrease to remove one-time funding no longer needed in FY 27</li> <li>\$188,763 increase for federal grants through the Environmental Protection Agency for the 319 Project Watersheds</li> <li>\$175,334 increase for Environmental Protection Agency Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants</li> </ul>

# FY 27 EXPENDITURE RECOMMENDATION

**Total Budget = \$91,384,006**

Expenditure Category		
Salaries	\$	39,098,535
Other Compensation		1,901,507
Related Benefits		24,224,538
Travel		610,848
Operating Services		7,586,425
Supplies		6,904,256
Professional Services		1,295,219
Other Charges		3,788,643
Interagency Transfers		3,568,850
Acquisitions/Repairs		2,405,185
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>91,384,006</b>



# OTHER CHARGES / INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS

## Other Charges

Amount	Description
\$ 1,638,114	Grant-related Expenses
1,162,670	Project activities for Non-Point 319, Farm Bill, and PSS programs
324,371	Seniors and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) and Specialty Crop Block Grant recoupments
243,626	Boll Weevil Salaries and Related Benefits
225,419	Forest Protection contracts, operating services, and supplies
144,443	Project activities for the Vegetative Planting Program
50,000	Project activities for Watershed Technician Program
<b>\$ 3,788,643</b>	<b>Total Other Charges</b>

## Interagency Transfers

Amount	Description
\$ 2,524,918	Office of Risk Management (ORM) Premiums
542,931	Office of Technology Services (OTS)
226,123	Civil Service Fees
93,950	Legislative Auditor Fees
86,112	Department of Transportation and Development
33,867	Uniform Payroll System (UPS) Fees
19,340	Office of State Procurement (OSP)
18,019	Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
17,500	Office of State Register
6,090	State Treasury Fees
<b>\$ 3,568,850</b>	<b>Total Interagency Transfers</b>

# EXPENDITURE COMPARISON

Expenditure Category	FY 25 Actual Expenditures	FY 26 Existing Operating Budget 12/1/25	FY 27 HB1 Budget	Change Existing Operating Budget to HB1		Change Actual Expenditures to HB1	
Salaries	\$ 36,210,871	\$ 37,855,527	\$ 39,098,535	\$ 1,243,008	3.3%	\$ 2,887,664	8.0%
Other Compensation	1,771,126	1,850,692	1,901,507	50,815	2.7%	130,381	7.4%
Related Benefits	23,389,225	24,095,917	24,224,538	128,621	0.5%	835,313	3.6%
Travel	508,842	590,848	610,848	20,000	3.4%	102,006	20.0%
Operating Services	7,266,013	7,783,031	7,586,425	(196,606)	(2.5%)	320,412	4.4%
Supplies	5,131,018	6,839,752	6,904,256	64,504	0.9%	1,773,238	34.6%
Professional Services	165,758	1,295,219	1,295,219	0	0.0%	1,129,461	681.4%
Other Charges	27,376,927	3,482,746	3,788,643	305,897	8.8%	(23,588,284)	(86.2%)
Interagency Transfers	2,840,578	3,183,339	3,568,850	385,511	12.1%	728,272	25.6%
Acquisitions/Repairs	10,029,834	8,011,468	2,405,185	(5,606,283)	(70.0%)	(7,624,649)	(76.0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 114,690,192</b>	<b>\$ 94,988,539</b>	<b>\$ 91,384,006</b>	<b>\$ (3,604,533)</b>	<b>(3.8%)</b>	<b>\$ (23,306,186)</b>	<b>(20.3%)</b>

# SIGNIFICANT EXPENDITURE CHANGES

*Compared to the FY 26 Existing Operating Budget*

Personnel Services	IAT/Other Charges	Acquisitions/Repairs
<p>\$1.4 M increase due to items such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1.1 M increase for various standard statewide adjustments to salaries including attrition, benefits, and retirement changes</li> <li>• \$188,763 increase to appoint 2 Agricultural NPS watershed coordinators to a four-year job appointment for the 319 Project Watersheds</li> <li>• \$170,490 increase for overtime expenses for grain elevator inspectors to ensure timely completion of inspections for federal laws and regulations</li> </ul>	<p>\$691,408 net increase due to items such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$666,074 increase for standard statewide adjustments to items such as risk management and OTS fees</li> <li>• \$75,000 increase for Nonpoint Source grant expenses</li> <li>• <b>(\$50,000)</b> to remove funding from DEQ for the Lake Joseph Nutrient Loading Reduction Program</li> </ul>	<p><b>(\$5.6 M)</b> net decrease due to items such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>(\$5.4 M)</b> to remove funding for acquisition purchases and major repairs that were carried into FY 26 that are no longer needed in FY 27</li> <li>• <b>(\$2.6 M)</b> to remove funding for acquisition purchases completed in FY 26</li> <li>• \$2.4 M increase the replacement of 62 fleet vehicles</li> <li>• \$300,000 increase for replacement of forklift and equipment</li> </ul>

# DEPARTMENT CONTACTS



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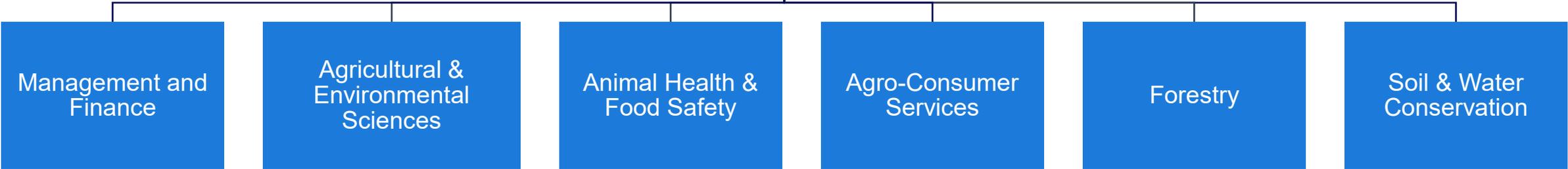
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# General Department Information



# DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

## Department of Agriculture and Forestry



## Management and Finance

- Specifies, procures, and allocates resources necessary to support the mission of the department
- Prepares and implements budget
- Produces the Annual Financial Report for the department
- Manages department fleet maintenance and repairs
- Repairs and maintains all department properties and buildings
- Audits agricultural entities to ensure regulatory standards are met



## Commodity Promotion and Research

- Administers promotion and research development programs that serve farmers and consumers through state trade shows, retail promotions, chef demonstrations, market research, development and implementation of promotion and research activities by commodity specific boards, a Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, and WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program

## Marketing

- Aims to expand opportunities for growth of the food and agricultural products industry through financial assistance, expansion, recruitment, and providing unbiased market information

## Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

### Horticulture & Quarantine Program

- Monitors and provides for the prevention, control, and eradication of regulated and exotic crop pests or diseases endangering Louisiana's food, fiber, forestry, horticultural, and apiary industries and the environment. Oversees the qualifications and practices of persons engaged in the green industry

### Pesticide & Environmental Program

- Inspects, enforces, and regulates the registration, distribution, sale, offering for sale, and application of pesticides

### Seed Program

- Ensures that seed sold for planting purposes meets seed label guarantees and quality standards. Enforces seed laws and regulations, manages the Seed Certification Program, and operates the state's official seed testing laboratory. This office is also tasked with regulation of the Industrial Hemp Program

### Agricultural Chemistry Program

- Administers state laws and regulations which regulate the manufacturing and sale of animal feeds, pet foods, fertilizers, and agricultural liming materials. The Agricultural Chemistry Laboratory is responsible for analyzing agricultural chemicals and other farm input components as part of their regulatory enforcement. The lab will also test the Industrial Hemp plant for THC levels and the contents of the medical marijuana product before it goes to market



## Animal Health & Food Safety

### Livestock Brand Commission

- Investigates farm related crimes, including identification of livestock through registered brands and markings

### Food Quality Services (FQS) Program

- Inspections for fresh fruits and vegetables grown in Louisiana

### Louisiana Egg Commission

- Promotes eggs/egg products in Louisiana. Licenses all producers, packers, processors, wholesalers, and brokers

### Veterinary Health Division

- Protects Louisiana livestock from infectious diseases by administering state and federal disease surveillance programs that include disease reporting, monitoring, investigation, diagnostics, containment, and eradication

### Poultry & Egg Division

- Enforces state laws, rules, and regulations for egg and poultry production, packing, and sales and establishes grades for products sold in Louisiana

### Meat & Poultry Inspection Program

- Cooperative state/federal inspection program to ensure safety and proper labeling of meat and poultry. Assures that products purchased by institutions and schools meet the Institutional Meat Purchasing Specifications and general requirements for fish and fishery products

### Commercial Feed Program

- Responsible for regulating the manufacturing and distribution of livestock feeds, feed ingredients, & pet food to ensure all are safe for the health of animal and man

### Food Distribution Program

- Ensures the USDA Commodities are distributed to eligible recipient agencies

## Agro-Consumer Services



Weighmaster testing scale

### Grain Commodity Program

- Inspectors grade agricultural commodities based on quality and condition

### Moisture Meter Certification Program

- Certifies all moisture meters utilized in assessing grain moisture for discount purposes

### Weights & Measures

- Inspect and test, on an annual basis, all weighing, measuring, metering, scanning, and packaging devices used commercially to ensure that equity prevails for buyers and sellers statewide. This includes motor fuels inspections

### Dairy Stabilization board

- Provides a regulatory program designed to stabilize the dairy industry in order to assure an adequate supply of dairy products to consumers at a fair price

## Forestry

### Forestry Protection

- Includes detection, suppression, and prevention of wildfires on the forest lands of Louisiana
- Included in these objectives are community education, training, and outreach

### Forestry Management

- Provides landowner assistance to ensure proper forest management practices
- These services include technical and practical assistance as well as administering landowner subsidy programs



Tiger Island Forest Fires in  
Beauregard Parish

## Soil & Water Conservation

### Coastal Marsh Re-vegetation Planting Program

- Plan and implement vegetative planting for erosion control and restoration on private and public-owned coastal marshes

### USDA-State Cooperative Soil Survey Program

- Ensures the availability of current scientific soils data and interpretive information for the development and application of effective conservation and environmental protection practices

### Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program

- Implements site specific conservation and environmental protection plans within priority watersheds

### Agricultural Solid Waste Management Program

- Reduces cost of disposal of agricultural waste at regulated solid waste sites, increases beneficial use of most agricultural and forestry processing by-products for improving soil fertility and production and protects air and water quality

### Information/Education Outreach Program

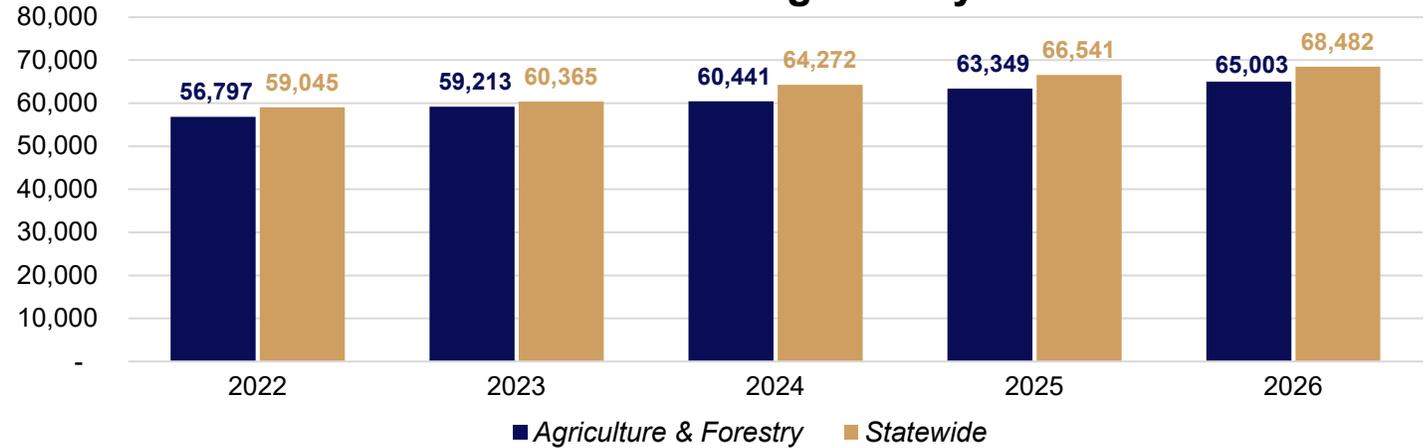
- Delivers quality standards-based conservation education materials and resources to classroom educators and students, communities, individuals, and agricultural producers throughout the state

# PERSONNEL INFORMATION

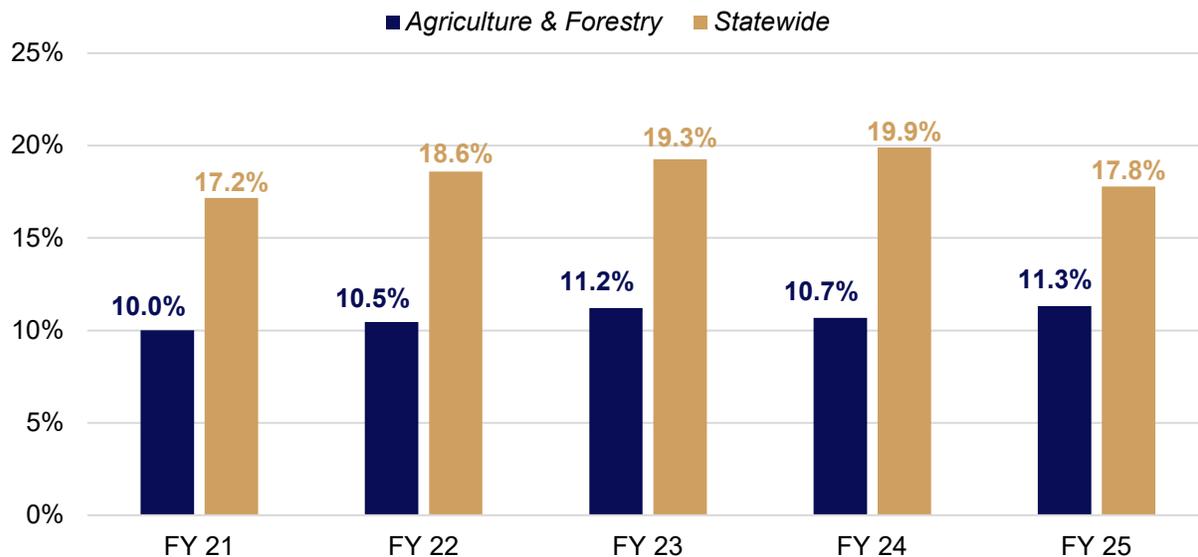
## FY 2027 Recommended Positions

585	Total Authorized T.O. Positions (545 Classified, 40 Unclassified)
2	Authorized Other Charges Positions
40	Non-T.O. FTE Positions
61	Vacant Positions (December 3, 2025)

## Historical Average Salary



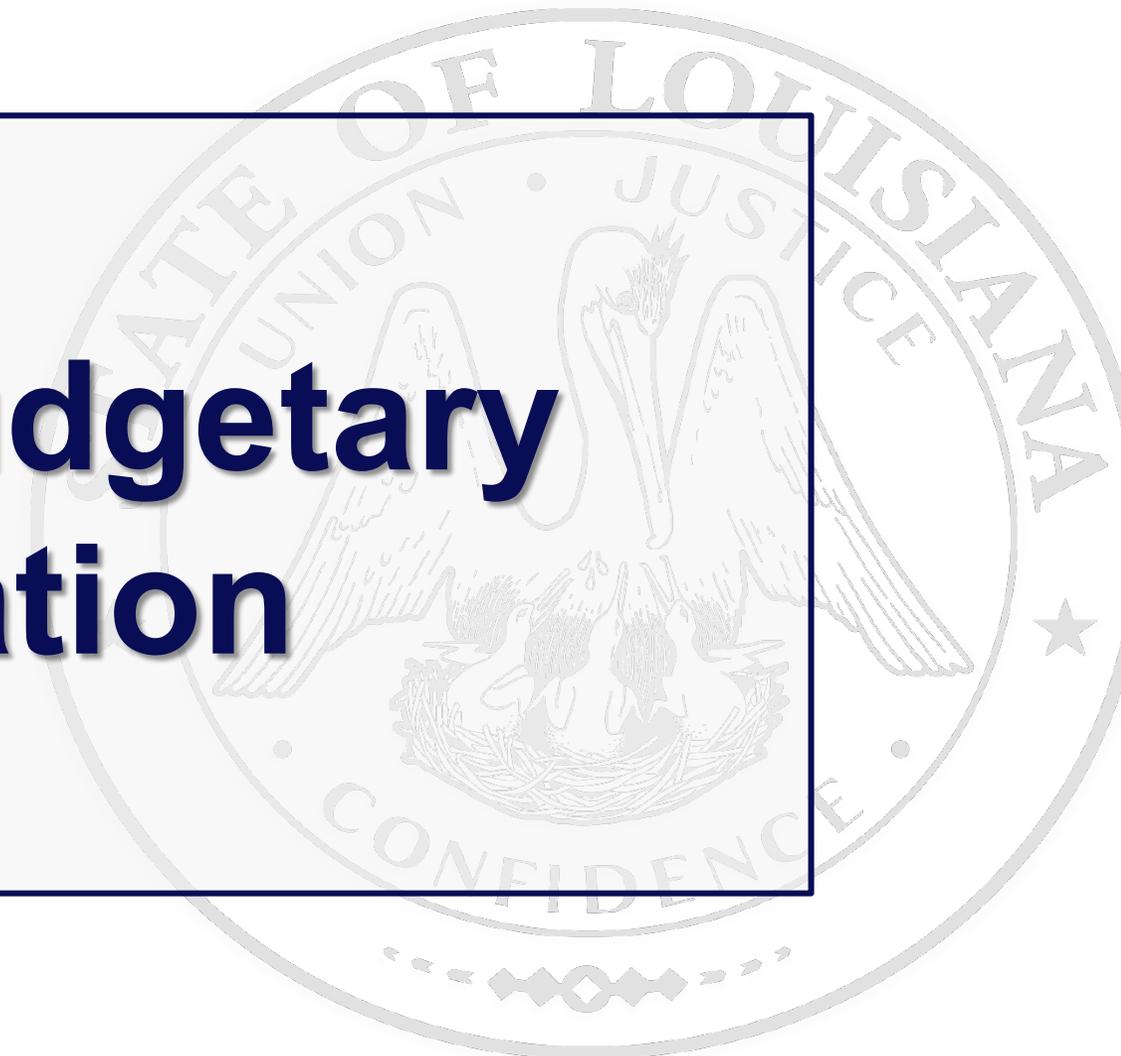
## Turnover History



## Top Positions Vacated FY 2025

Position	Number of Employees	Separations	Turnover Rate
Forest Crew Specialist Leader	53	8	15.1%
Forest Crew Specialist I	2	6	300.0%
Administrative Coordinator IV	26	5	19.2%
Agricultural Environmental Specialist II	9	4	44.4%
Human Resources Analyst	0	3	300.0%

Source: Department of Civil Service

The seal of the State of Louisiana is visible in the background, featuring a pelican feeding its young in a nest, surrounded by the text "STATE OF LOUISIANA" and "UNION • JUSTICE • CONFIDENCE".

# General Budgetary Information

# FY 26 EXISTING OPERATING BUDGET

The FY 2025-26 Existing Operating Budget (EOB) was frozen on December 1, 2025. This point-in-time reference is used in both the Executive Budget and the General Appropriations Bill.

Means of Finance	Appropriation	Mid-Year Adjustments	Existing Operating Budget
<b>General Fund</b>	\$ 26,403,408	\$ 120,694	\$ 26,524,102
<b>Interagency Transfers</b>	539,035	0	539,035
<b>Self-generated Revenue</b>	8,252,743	0	8,252,743
<b>Statutory Dedications</b>	39,544,041	2,416,780	41,960,821
<b>Federal</b>	12,988,479	4,723,359	17,711,838
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 87,727,706</b>	<b>\$ 7,260,833</b>	<b>\$ 94,988,539</b>

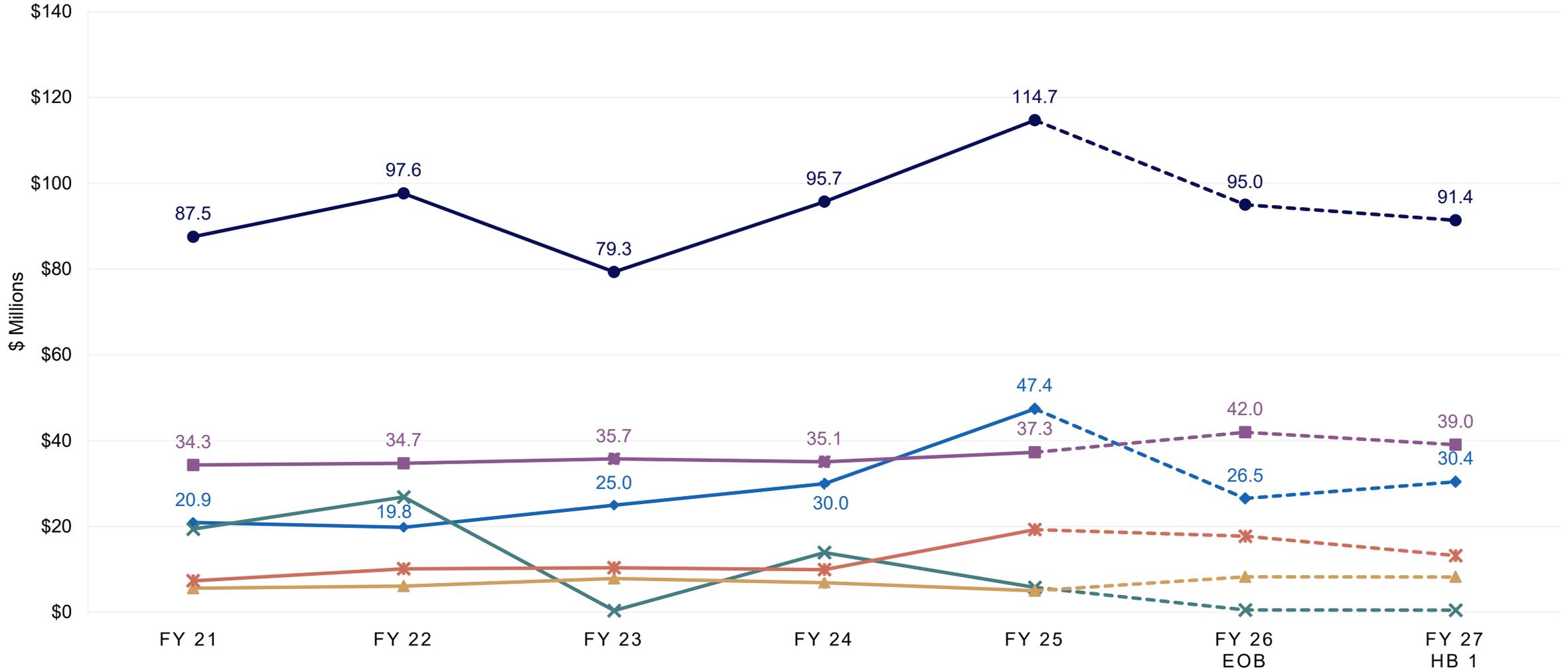
<b>Mid-year Adjustments Summary</b>				
<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>
No change	\$5.4 M  Various means of finance carried into FY 26 from the prior fiscal year for program expenses and contracts	No change	\$1.9 M  Increase in Federal Funds to receive grants and procure and replace major firefighting equipment	No change

# HISTORICAL SPENDING

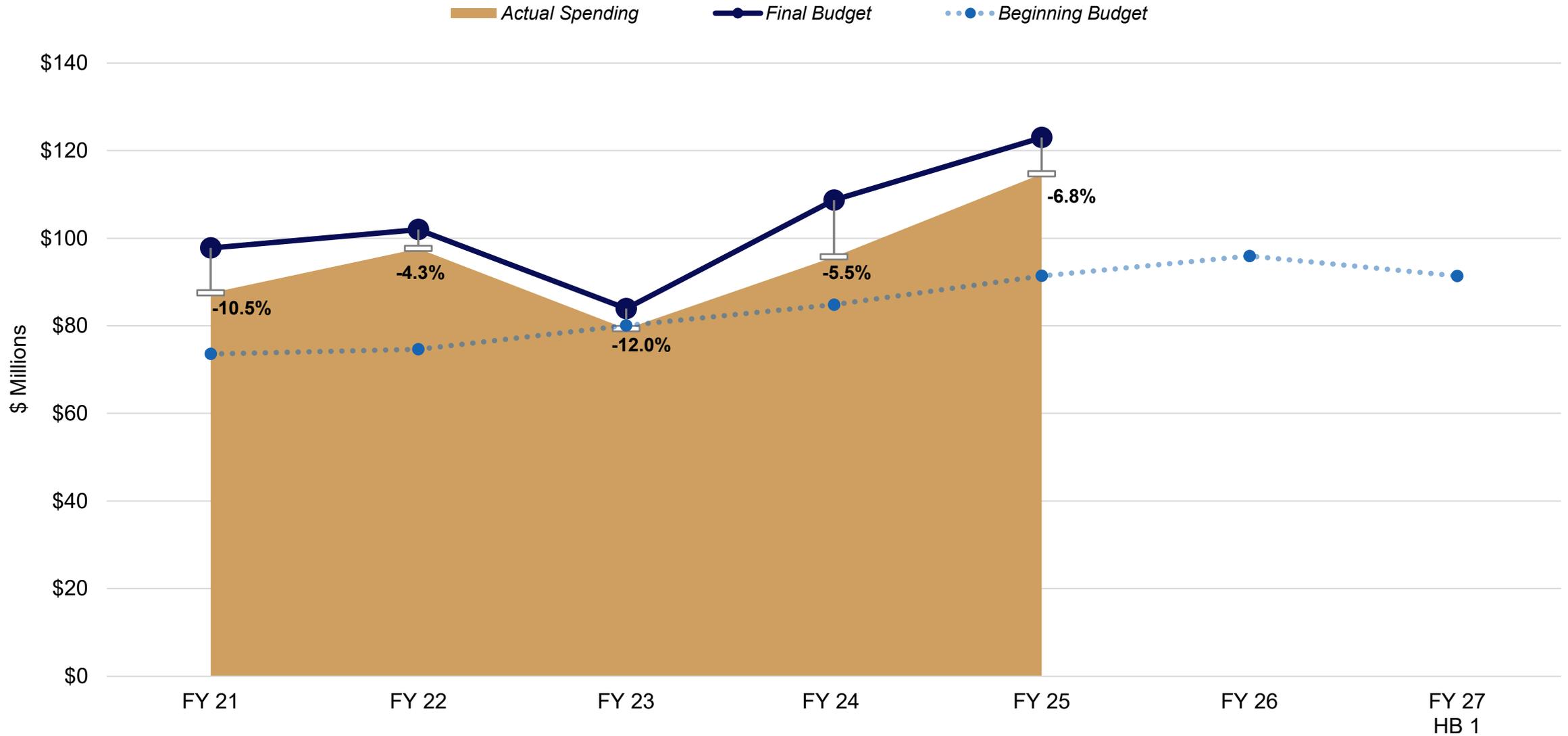
◆ State General Fund  
 ✕ Interagency Transfers  
 ▲ Fees & Self-generated  
 ■ Statutory Dedications  
 ✱ Federal Funds  
 ● Total Budget

Annual Average Spending Change from FY 21 to 25:

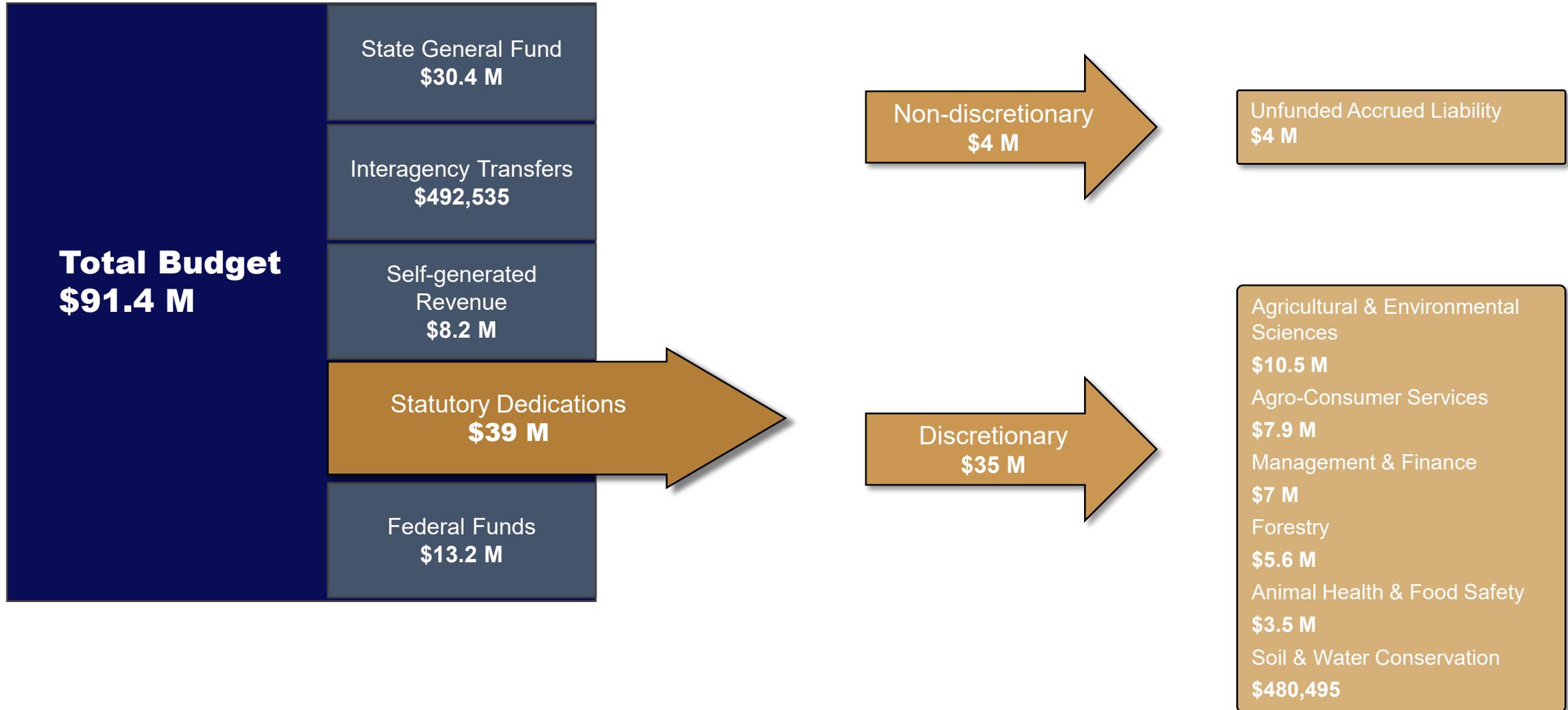
22.7%	(26.1%)	(2.8%)	2.1%	27.4%	7.0%
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# HISTORICAL BUDGET



# DISCRETIONARY EXPENSES



\* Figures may not add precisely due to rounding \*

# DEDICATED FUNDS

Fund Name	Source	Usage	FY 26 - EOB	FY 27 - HB1
<b>Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority Fund</b>	<b>(R.S. 3:277)</b> - Transfers from the Pari Mutuel Live Racing Control Fund	Provides for administrative costs throughout the department	\$13,891,062	\$11,801,326
<b>Pesticide Fund</b>	<b>(R.S. 3:3210)</b> - Fees collected from permits, registration, and penalties for pesticides	Licensing, monitoring, and enforcement of the pesticide program	\$6,320,172	\$6,298,865
<b>Petroleum Products Fund</b>	<b>(R.S. 3:4685)</b> - Assessments, fees, and penalties pertaining to the inspection of petroleum products	Costs related to the inspection, regulation, and analysis of petroleum products, any commercial weighing or measuring device used in the distribution, handling or sale of petroleum products	\$5,308,788	\$4,461,300
<b>Weights &amp; Measures Fund</b>	<b>(R.S. 3:4622)</b> - Registration fees from commercial weighting and measuring devices	Expenses of the Weights and Measures activities and programs, including personnel	\$3,321,689	\$3,568,280
<b>Feed and Fertilizer Fund</b>	<b>(R.S. 3:1407)</b> - Fees from registration and filing a label with the commissioner of agriculture	Expenses of the offices of agricultural and environmental sciences and animal health and food safety	\$2,838,323	\$2,900,079
<b>Horticulture and Quarantine Fund</b>	<b>(R.S. 3:1655)</b> - Fees for inspecting nursery stock grown or propagated for sale or distribution	Costs related to the control of crop pests and diseases	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000
<b>Agricultural Commodity Dealers &amp; Warehouse Fund</b>	<b>(R.S. 3:3423)</b> - Sale of licenses which are required prior to engaging in business of buying or selling agricultural commodities	To carry out the duties of the Agricultural Commodity Dealers and Warehouse Commission	\$2,215,591	\$2,300,166
<b>Structural Pest Control Commission Fund</b>	<b>(R.S. 3:3375)</b> - Fees received from wood destroying insect reports	For research through the AgCenter and expenses of the Commission	\$1,552,031	\$1,552,031

# DEDICATED FUNDS

Fund Name	Source	Usage	FY 26 - EOB	FY 27 - HB1
<b>Seed Commission Fund</b>	<b>(R.S. 3:1449)</b> - Regulatory fee collected on all seed sold in the state	Activities and expenses of the Seed Commission, including Hemp licensing and testing	\$1,126,313	\$1,126,313
<b>Wildfire Suppression Subfund</b>	<b>(R.S. 3:4321)</b> - Portion of the timber severance tax	Personnel, equipment, and supplies for the Forestry program	\$975,000	\$901,679
<b>Forest Protection Fund</b>	<b>(R.S. 3:4321)</b> - Funding from the Forest Protection Tax of \$0.08 per acre of timberland in the state	For the repairs and maintenance of fire suppression equipment	\$996,244	\$820,000
<b>Forest Productivity Fund</b>	<b>(R.S. 3:4411)</b> - Funds equal to 75% of the severance tax on timber received by the state	Implementation of the forestry productivity program, including the amount representing the state's involvement in cooperative agreements between landowners and the department for the implementation of approved practices for the reforestation of forest lands	\$350,000	\$250,000
<b>Imported Seafood Safety Fund</b>	<b>(R.S. 40:5.10.1)</b> – Fees collected on all imported seafood processor permits	Activities and expenses related to imported seafood	\$240,608	\$240,608
<b>Sweet Potato Pests &amp; Diseases Fund</b>	<b>(R.S. 3:1736.6)</b> - \$0.06 per bushel on every bushel of potatoes moved or shipped within the state and up to \$0.10 per thousand on all vines, plants, and slips	Implementation of sweet potato disease prevention programs	\$200,000	\$200,000
<b>Livestock Brand Commission Fund</b>	<b>(R.S. 3:749)</b> - Fees for brand recordation, renewal or transfer	Expenses of the Livestock Brand Commission activities and programs, including personnel	\$25,000	\$25,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$41,960,821</b>	<b>\$39,045,647</b>