

Representative Jack McFarland
Chair



Representative Jerome Zeringue
Vice-Chair

Fiscal Year 2027 Executive Budget Review

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

House Committee on Appropriations
House Fiscal Division

March 10, 2026

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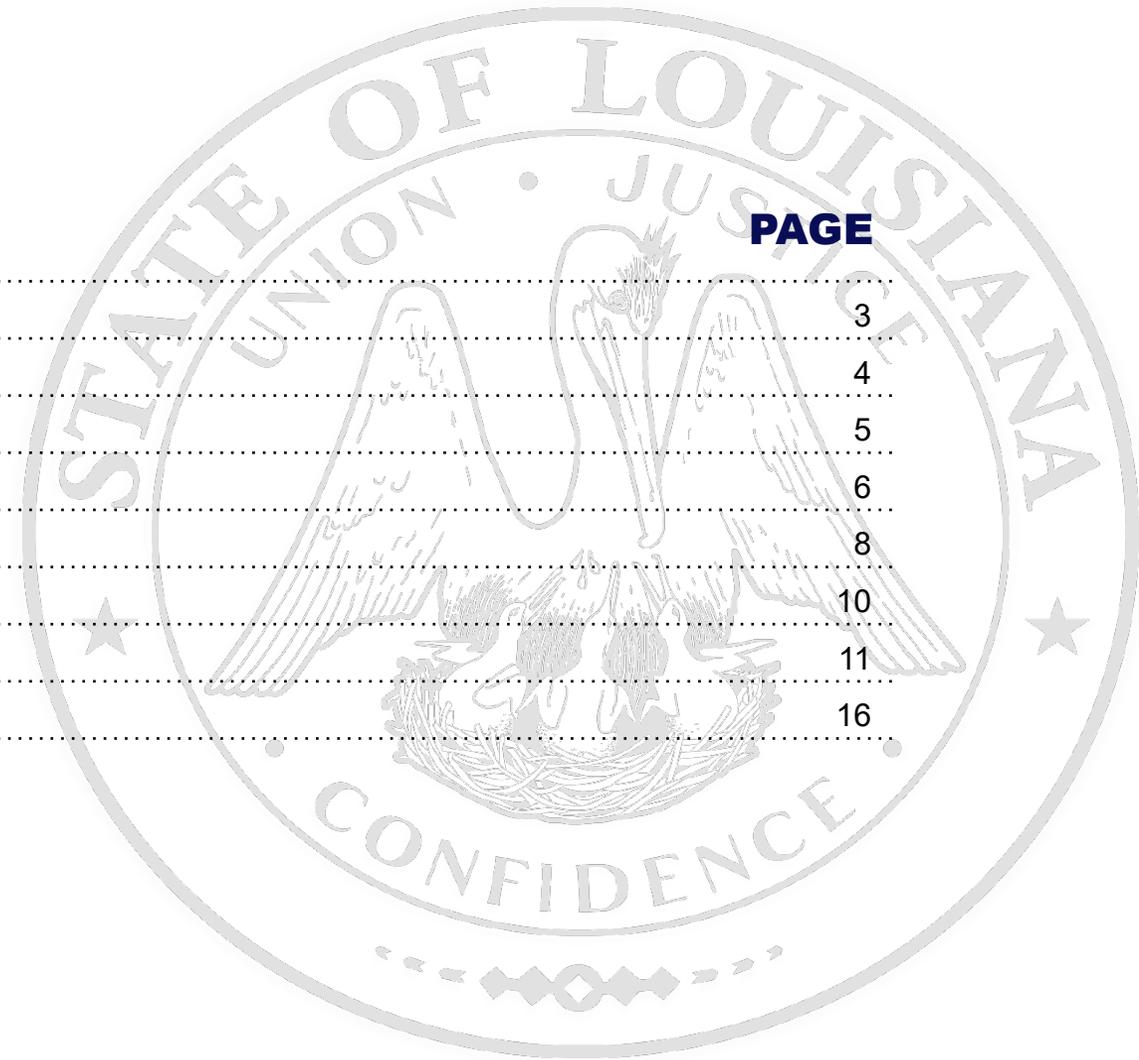
All data and figures were obtained from the governor's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Executive Budget and Supporting Documents provided by the Office of Planning and Budget within the Division of Administration along with House Bill 1 of the 2026 Regular Session, unless otherwise noted.

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

TOPIC

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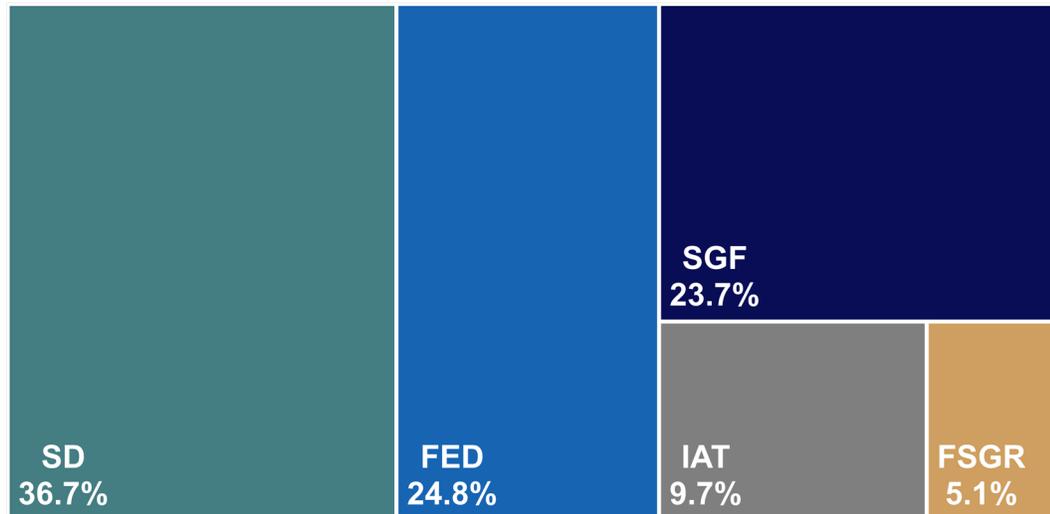
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FY 27 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

Total Funding = \$205,415,278

Means of Finance		
State General Fund	\$	48,648,486
Interagency Transfers		19,974,252
Fees & Self-generated		10,459,910
Statutory Dedications		75,420,403
Federal Funds		50,912,227
Total	\$	205,415,278



Program Funding & Authorized Positions			
		<i>Amount</i>	<i>Positions</i>
Office of Management & Finance	\$	24,476,935	45
Office of the Secretary		51,160,277	280
Office of Wildlife		65,785,650	224
Office of Fisheries		63,992,416	228
Total	\$	205,415,278	777



SOURCES OF FUNDING

State General Fund \$48.6 M	Interagency Transfers \$20 M	Self-generated Revenue \$10.5 M	Statutory Dedications \$75.4 M	Federal Funds \$50.9 M
<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"> • \$16 M from Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority • \$3.5 M from other department agencies • \$390,876 from the Office of State Parks 	<p>Revenues derived from the following sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5 M from the Aquatic Plant Control Dedicated Fund Account • \$2.9 M from the Louisiana Alligator Resource Dedicated Fund Account • \$1.3 M from fraud investigations, assisting in disaster response, and security details • \$1 M from the LA Duck License, Stamp, and Print Dedicated Fund Account • \$282,560 from the Oyster Sanitation Dedicated Fund Account 	<p>Funding is derived from the following funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$47.1 M from the Conservation Fund • \$7.2 M from the Artificial Reef Development Fund • \$3.5 M from the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge & Game Preserve Fund • \$3.5 M from the Oyster Resource Management Account • \$3.3 M from the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust & Protection Fund • \$2.5 M from the Russell Sage Special Fund #2 	<p>Federal funding derived from the following sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$35.6 M from the U.S. Department of Fish & Wildlife • \$6.7 M from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration • \$3.5 M from the U.S. Department of Agriculture • \$2.9 M from the Department of Homeland Security • \$2 M from the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission • \$105,283 from the Core of Engineers • \$25,000 from the U.S. Department of Interior

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

FUNDING COMPARISON

Means of Finance	FY 25		FY 26		FY 27		Change	
	Actual Expenditures	Existing Operating Budget 12/1/25	Existing Operating Budget 12/1/25	HB1 Budget	Existing Operating Budget to HB1	Change to HB1	Actual Expenditures to HB1	Change to HB1
SGF	\$ 15,098,155	\$ 41,304,956	\$ 41,304,956	\$ 48,648,486	\$ 7,343,530	17.8%	\$ 33,550,331	222.2%
IAT	12,200,713	26,569,969	26,569,969	19,974,252	(6,595,717)	(24.8%)	7,773,539	63.7%
FSGR	7,501,751	10,270,251	10,270,251	10,459,910	189,659	1.8%	2,958,159	39.4%
Stat Ded	83,599,963	105,789,753	105,789,753	75,420,403	(30,369,350)	(28.7%)	(8,179,560)	(9.8%)
Federal	70,260,759	67,051,207	67,051,207	50,912,227	(16,138,980)	(24.1%)	(19,348,532)	(27.5%)
Total	\$ 188,661,341	\$ 250,986,136	\$ 250,986,136	\$ 205,415,278	\$ (45,570,858)	(18.2%)	\$ 16,753,937	8.9%

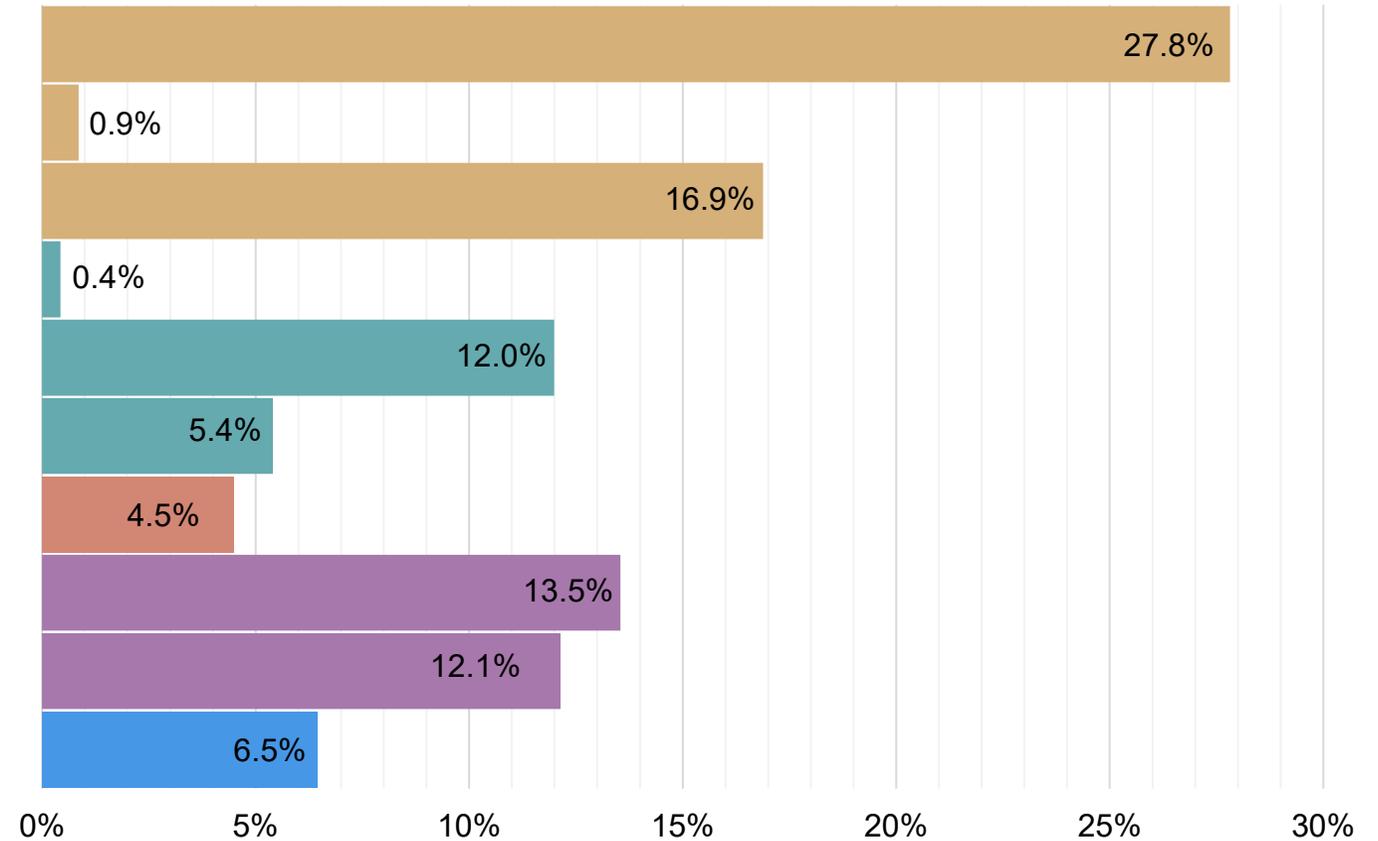
Significant funding changes compared to the FY 26 Existing Operating Budget

State General Fund	Interagency Transfers	Statutory Dedications	Federal Funds
<p>\$7.3 M net increase primarily due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$8.5 M increase for a means of finance substitution with the Conservation Fund (\$1.5 M) decrease for the removal of funding carried into FY 26 that is no longer needed in FY 27 \$316,167 increase for standard statewide adjustments 	<p>(\$6.6 M) net decrease due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (\$5.2 M) for the removal of funding carried into FY 26 that is no longer needed in FY 27 (\$1.6M) decrease for the removal of one time funding in FY 26 from CPRA \$216,429 increase in transfers from CPRA 	<p>(\$30.4 M) net decrease primarily due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (\$23.6 M) decrease for the removal of funding carried into FY 26 that is no longer needed in FY 27 \$11.7 M increase for standard statewide adjustments (\$9.5 M) decrease in the Modernization & Security Fund (\$8.5 M) decrease in the Conservation Fund for a means of finance swap with State General Fund 	<p>(\$16.1 M) decrease due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (\$22.9 M) decrease to remove funding carried into FY 26 that is no longer needed in FY 27 \$6.5 M increase for standard statewide adjustments \$321,625 increase for a federal grant for research

FY 27 EXPENDITURE RECOMMENDATION

Total Budget = \$205,415,278

Expenditure Category		
Salaries	\$	57,143,810
Other Compensation		1,763,731
Related Benefits		34,686,255
Travel		876,875
Operating Services		24,622,490
Supplies		11,105,978
Professional Services		9,219,734
Other Charges		27,815,004
Interagency Transfers		24,929,696
Acquisitions/Repairs		13,251,705
Total	\$	205,415,278



OTHER CHARGES / INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS

Other Charges

Amount	Description
\$ 9,507,775	Miscellaneous projects for research, restoration & improvements
5,267,642	Contracts to assist with Fisheries projects
3,712,866	Projects for Alligators, Nutria & Snapping Turtles
2,747,963	Oyster research & restoration
2,720,811	Chronic Wasting Disease testing & research
1,850,960	Multiple projects for Ducks Unlimited
1,000,000	Outdoor Conservation Projects
685,522	Outfitting new vehicles to Wildlife enforcement specifications
200,000	Black Bear Projects
56,465	Crime Enforcement & Information Rewards
46,000	Salaries and Related Benefits
15,000	Waddill Training Academy use by other entities
4,000	Derelict crab trap cleanup
\$ 27,815,004	Total Other Charges

Interagency Transfers

Amount	Description
\$ 17,026,803	Office of Technology Services (OTS)
3,722,575	Office of Risk Management (ORM)
1,844,068	Division of Administration (DOA)
651,337	Office Aircraft Services
550,000	Department of Natural Resources
392,578	Civil Service Fees
179,755	Louisiana Property Assistance Agency
164,077	Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
136,497	Legislature Auditor Fees
91,244	Office of State Procurement (OSP)
86,112	Topographical Mapping
42,480	Uniform Payroll System (UPS)
41,015	State Treasury Fees
655	Department of Public Safety
250	Board of Veterinary Medicine
250	Board of Pharmacy
\$ 24,929,696	Total Interagency Transfers

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	\$ 52,473,349	\$ 55,401,522	\$ 57,143,810	\$ 1,742,288	3.1%	\$ 4,670,461	8.9%
Other Compensation	1,263,957	1,763,731	1,763,731	0	0.0%	499,774	39.5%
Related Benefits	32,387,629	33,839,199	34,686,255	847,056	2.5%	2,298,626	7.1%
Travel	658,772	939,195	876,875	(62,320)	(6.6%)	218,103	33.1%
Operating Services	14,723,709	27,086,741	24,622,490	(2,464,251)	(9.1%)	9,898,781	67.2%
Supplies	8,430,678	12,481,089	11,105,978	(1,375,111)	(11.0%)	2,675,300	31.7%
Professional Services	4,606,443	9,067,385	9,219,734	152,349	1.7%	4,613,291	100.1%
Other Charges	48,430,401	54,868,527	27,815,004	(27,053,523)	(49.3%)	(20,615,397)	(42.6%)
Interagency Transfers	15,122,136	37,689,269	24,929,696	(12,759,573)	(33.9%)	9,807,560	64.9%
Acquisitions/Repairs	10,564,267	17,849,478	13,251,705	(4,597,773)	(25.8%)	2,687,438	25.4%
Total	\$ 188,661,341	\$ 250,986,136	\$ 205,415,278	\$ (45,570,858)	(18.2%)	\$ 16,753,937	8.9%

SIGNIFICANT EXPENDITURE CHANGES

Compared to the FY 26 Existing Operating Budget

Personnel Services	Operating Expenses	IAT/Other Charges	Acquisitions/Repairs
<p>\$2.6 M net increase due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2.7 M increase for various standard statewide adjustments to salaries including attrition, benefits, and retirement changes (\$270,149) decrease to remove one (1) T.O. per Act 1 of the 2025 R.S. 	<p>(\$3.9 M) net decrease due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (\$4 M) decrease to remove funding carried into FY 26 that is no longer needed in FY 27 \$128,442 increase from CPRA for the Oyster Strategic Planning Support project \$4,500 increase for whooping crane activities and conferences 	<p>(\$39.8 M) net decrease due to items such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (\$30.5 M) to remove funding carried into FY 26 that is no longer needed in FY 27 (\$9.6 M) to remove one-time funding for IT modernization projects (\$1.6 M) to remove funding for the completion of the Oyster Strategic Planning Support project \$1 M for conservation projects (\$1 M) decrease to remove one time expenses out of the LA Outdoors Forever Fund for conservation projects \$469,027 increase to support America the Beautiful Cooperative Endeavor 	<p>(\$4.6 M) net decrease due to items such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (\$15.9 M) to remove funding for acquisitions and major repairs budgeted in FY 26 for things such as furniture, camera equipment, trailers, motors, vehicles, and building repairs \$13.2 M for various purchases and repairs needed in FY 27 such as repairs to vessels and vehicles, office equipment, new vehicles, bulldozers, building repairs, WMA repairs, and laboratory repairs (\$1.9 M) to remove funding carried into FY 26 for night vision equipment, tractors, and building repairs

DEPARTMENT CONTACTS



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General Department Information



DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

Management & Finance (OMF)

- The program's main functions are to provide guidance and support through exceptional customer service; this include functions such as accounting, budget forecasting and control, procurement and contract management, data processing, and personnel management

The program has 3 activities:

- Administrative Services
 - Manages direct day to day operations of the OMF program
- Licensing & Boat Registration/Titling
 - Responsible for the issuance of many and varied types of licenses, permits & registrations according to the statutes regulating wildlife, fisheries and boating activities for both recreational and commercial users
- Support Services
 - Perform the financial and administrative support services for all programs in the department

Office of the Secretary

Administrative Program

- Provides leadership, direction, and supervision to the department as a whole in order to accomplish the department's mission and vision for the future

Enforcement Program

- Ensures the protection of the state's natural renewable wildlife and fisheries resources by establishing and maintaining compliance with state regulations and laws relative to the conservation of these resources



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

Wildlife Program

- The Office of Wildlife works to conserve Louisiana's natural wildlife and habitat through:
 - Acquisition and management of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)
 - Collection and analyzation of data on wildlife and their habitats
 - Education for hunters
- The Activities of the Wildlife Program are:
 - Habitat Stewardship
 - Species Management
 - Education Outreach

Fisheries Program

- The Office of Fisheries works to manage and conserve aquatic resources and their habitat, support the fishing industry, and provide access to aquatic resources for Louisiana's citizens. This is conducted through five sections and programs:
 - Marine Fisheries
 - Inland Fisheries
 - Oyster Lease Program
 - Fisheries Research & Assessment
 - Fisheries Extension

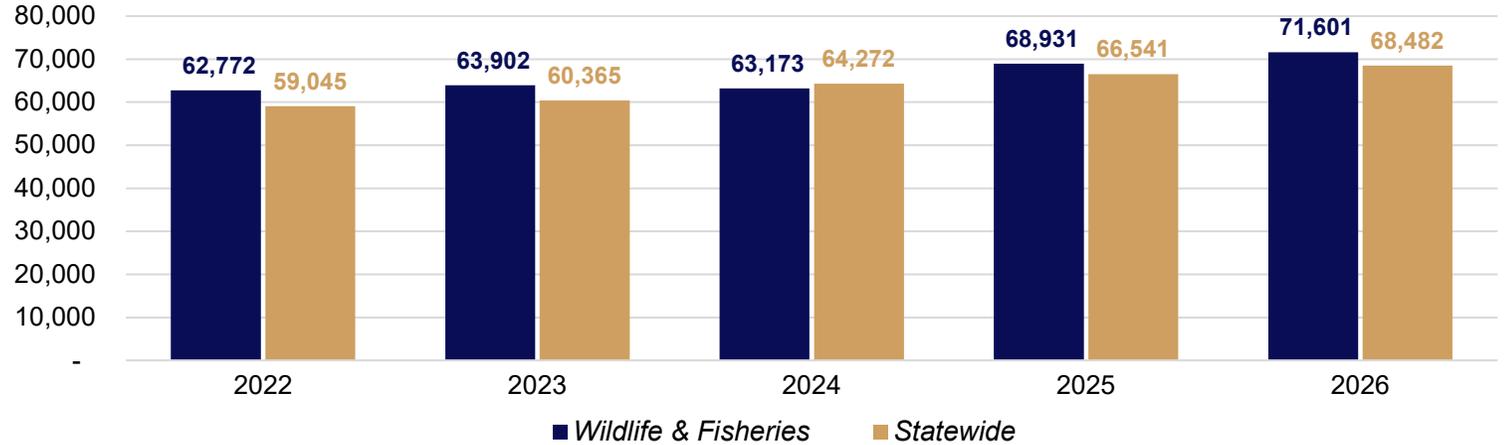


PERSONNEL INFORMATION

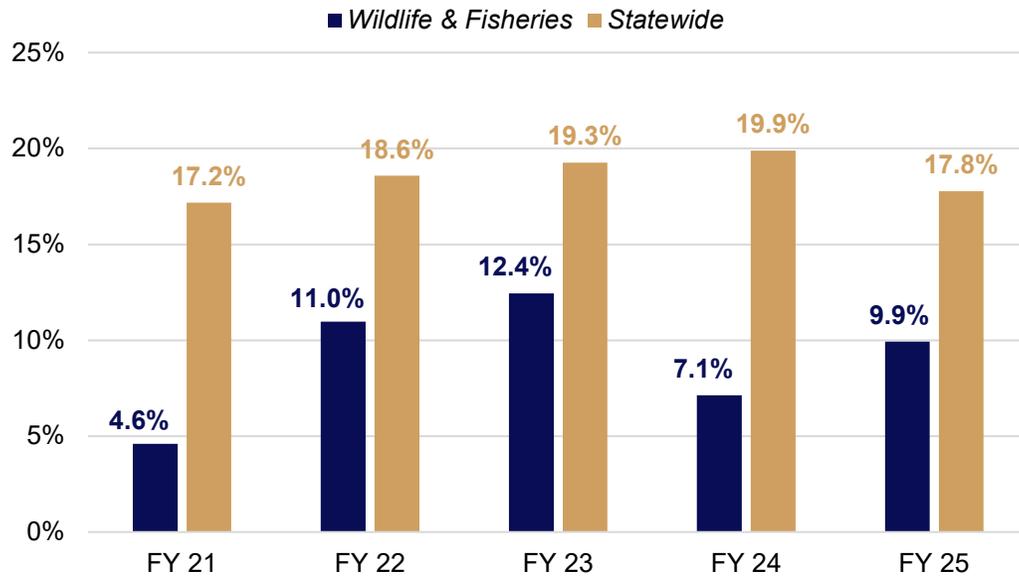
FY 2027 Recommended Positions

786	Total Authorized T.O. Positions (775 Classified, 11 Unclassified)
3	Authorized Other Charges Positions
116	Non-T.O. FTE Positions
77	Vacant Positions (December 3, 2025)

Historical Average Salary



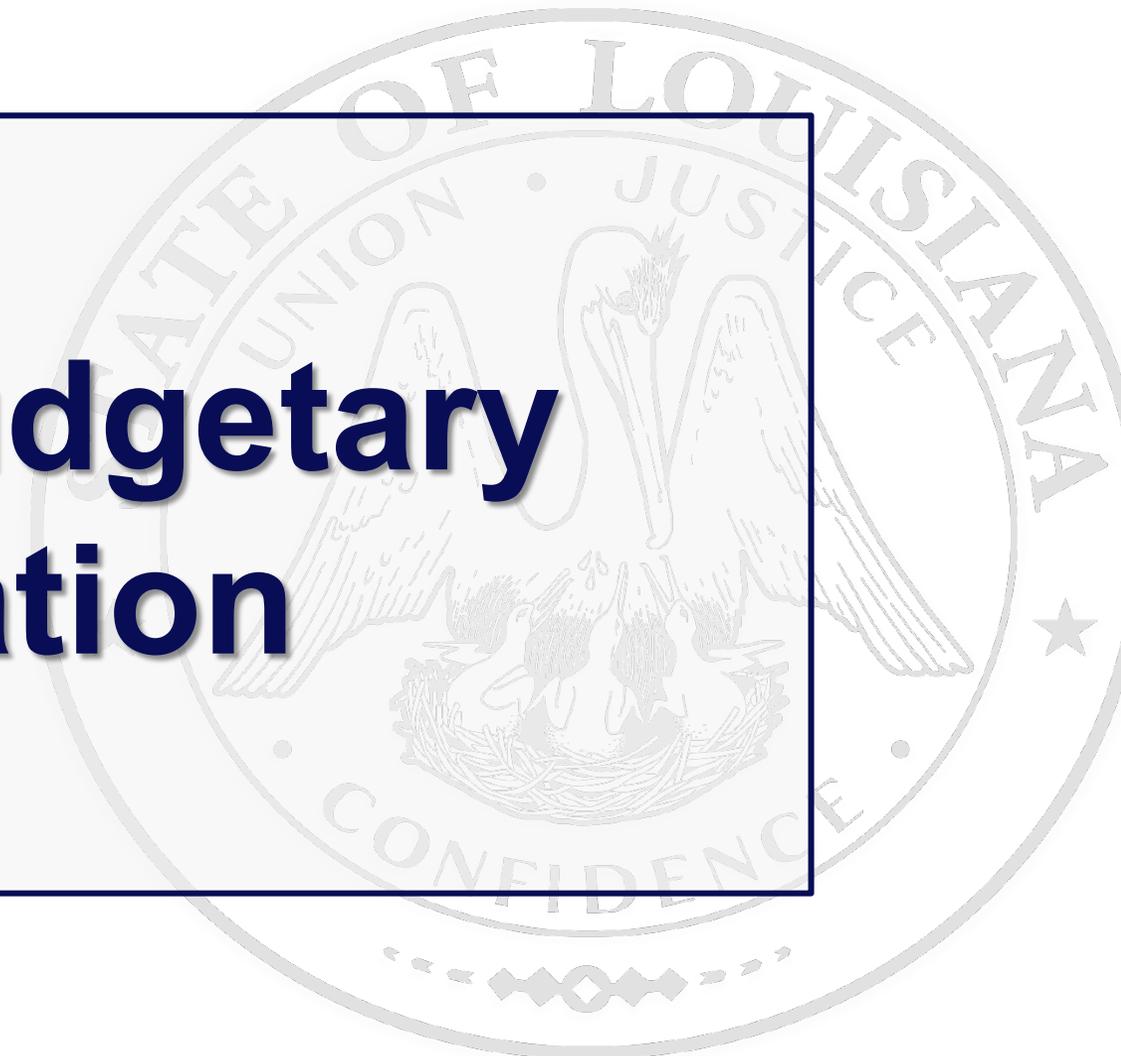
Turnover History



Top Positions Vacated FY 2025

Position	Number of Employees	Separations	Turnover Rate
Wildlife Enforcement Cadet	14	7	50.0%
Biologist III	77	7	9.1%
Biologist II	21	6	28.6%
Wildlife Technician C	49	6	12.2%
Wildlife Enforcement Agent	16	4	25.0%

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
General Fund	\$ 39,831,521	\$ 1,473,435	\$ 41,304,956
Interagency Transfers	21,325,933	5,244,036	26,569,969
Self-generated Revenue	9,808,472	461,779	10,270,251
Statutory Dedications	87,999,490	17,790,263	105,789,753
Federal	50,685,000	16,366,207	67,051,207
Total	\$ 209,650,416	\$ 41,335,720	\$ 250,986,136

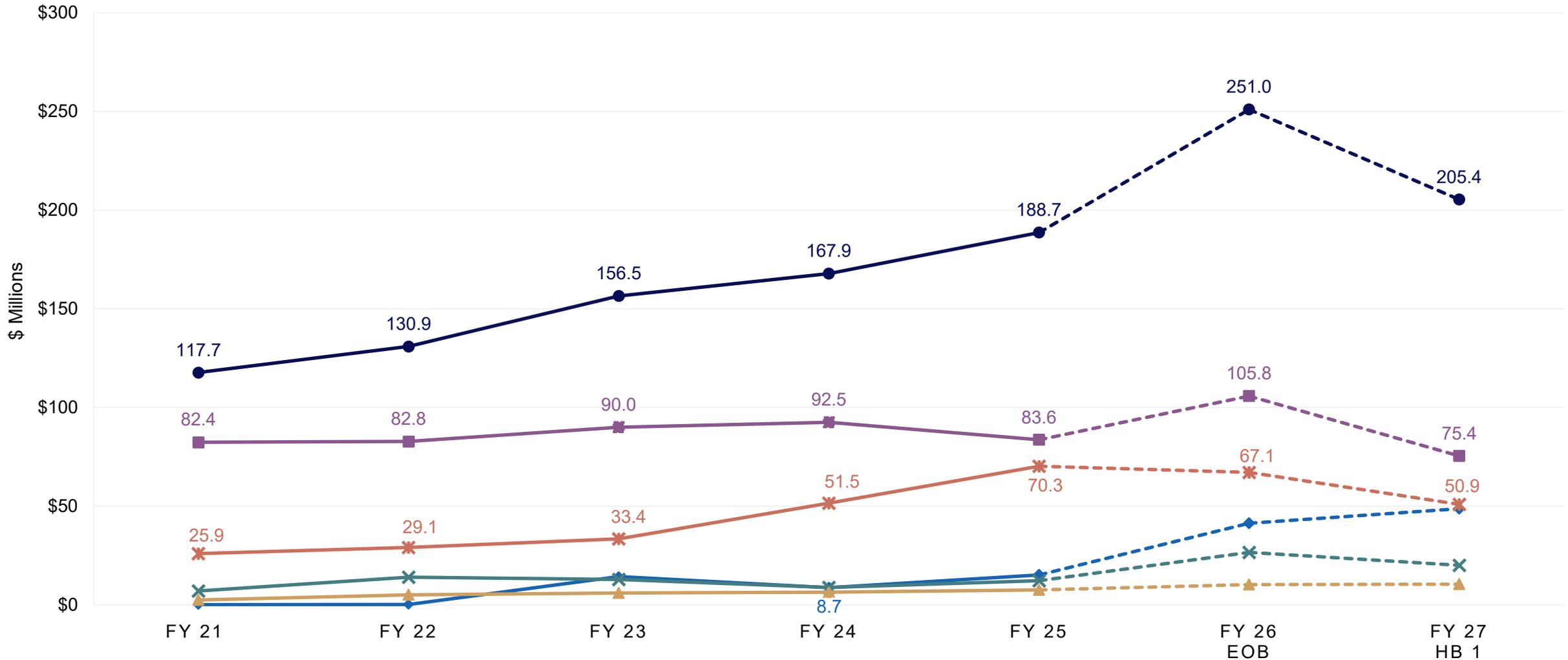
Mid-year Adjustments Summary				
July	August	September	October	November
No change	\$38.6 M Various means of finance carried into FY 26 from the prior fiscal year for program expenses and contracts	No change	\$2.1 M Increase out of statutory dedications for acquisitions	\$616,087 Increase in federal funds for port security

HISTORICAL SPENDING

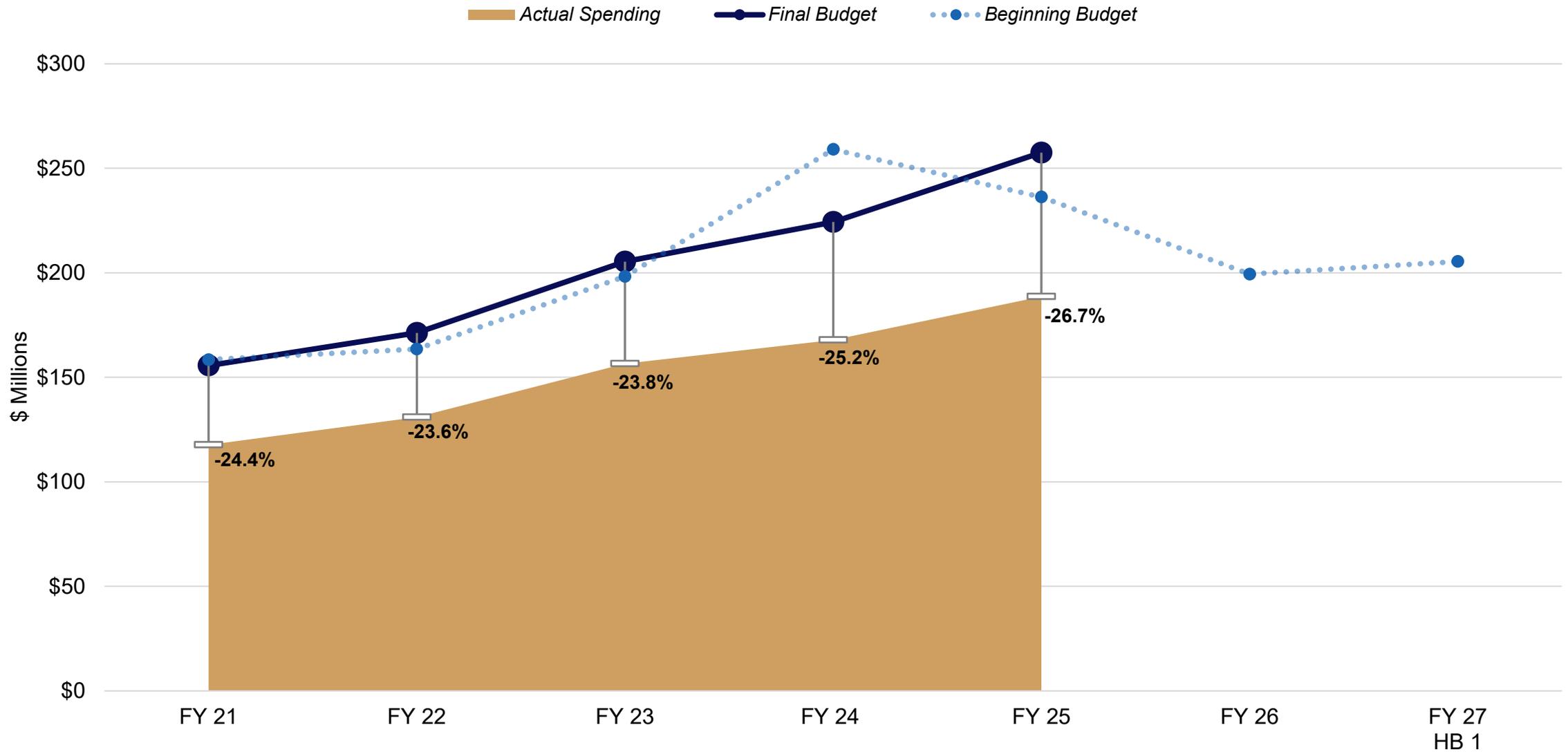
◆ State General Fund
 ✕ Interagency Transfers
 ▲ Fees & Self-generated
 ■ Statutory Dedications
 ✱ Federal Funds
 ● Total Budget

Annual Average Spending Change from FY 21 to 25:

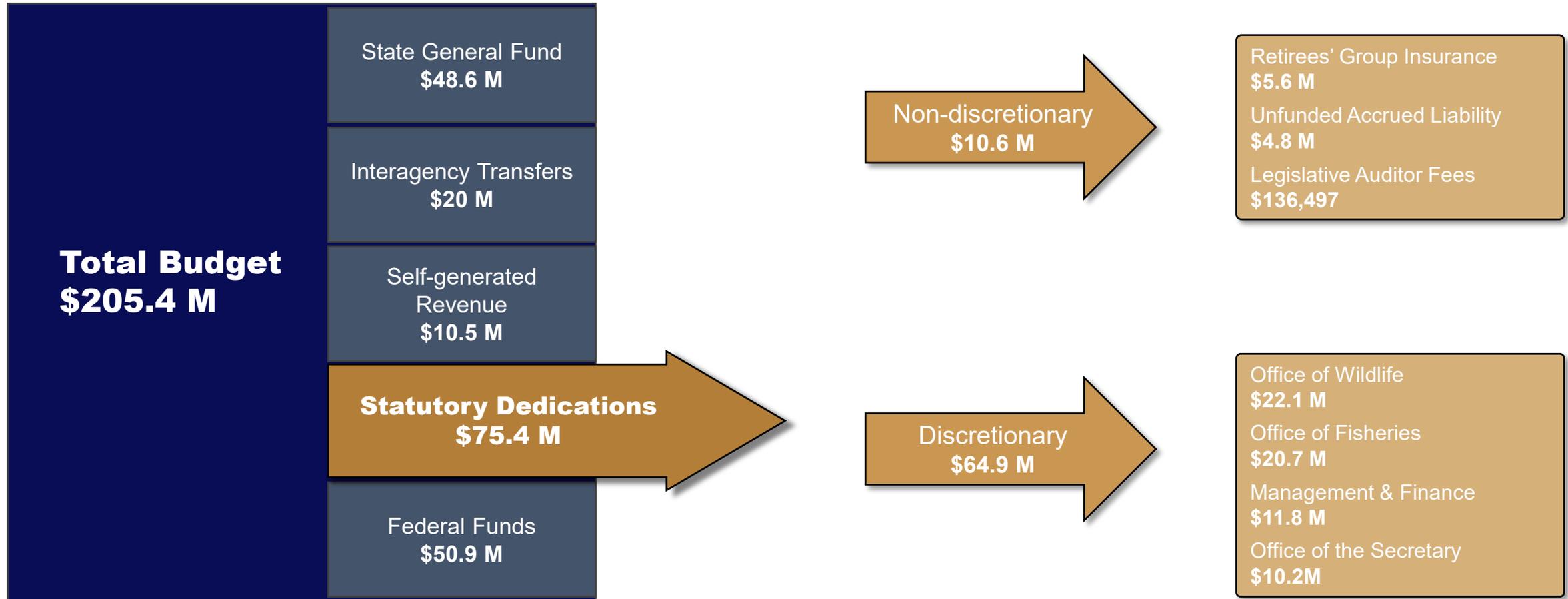
173.5%	14.8%	32.6%	0.4%	28.4%	12.5%
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HISTORICAL BUDGET



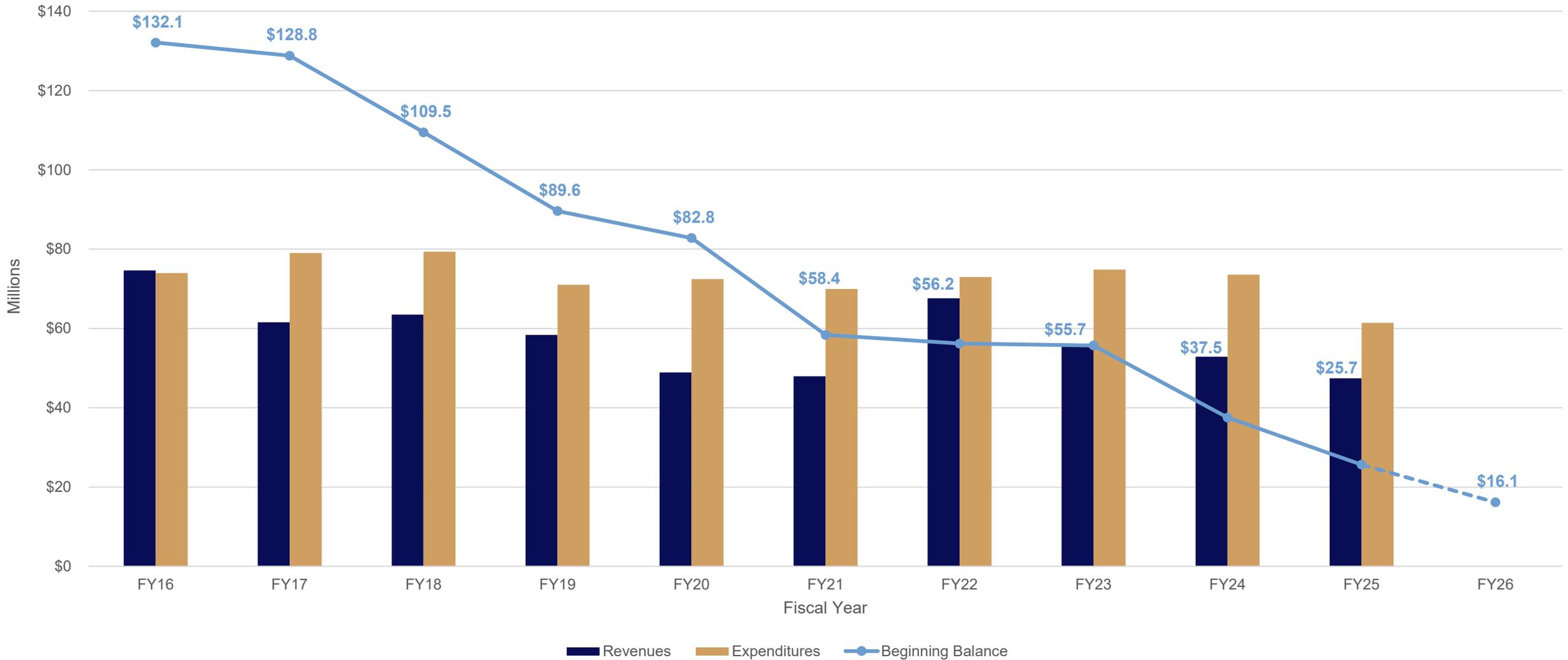
DISCRETIONARY EXPENSES



* Figures may not add precisely due to rounding *

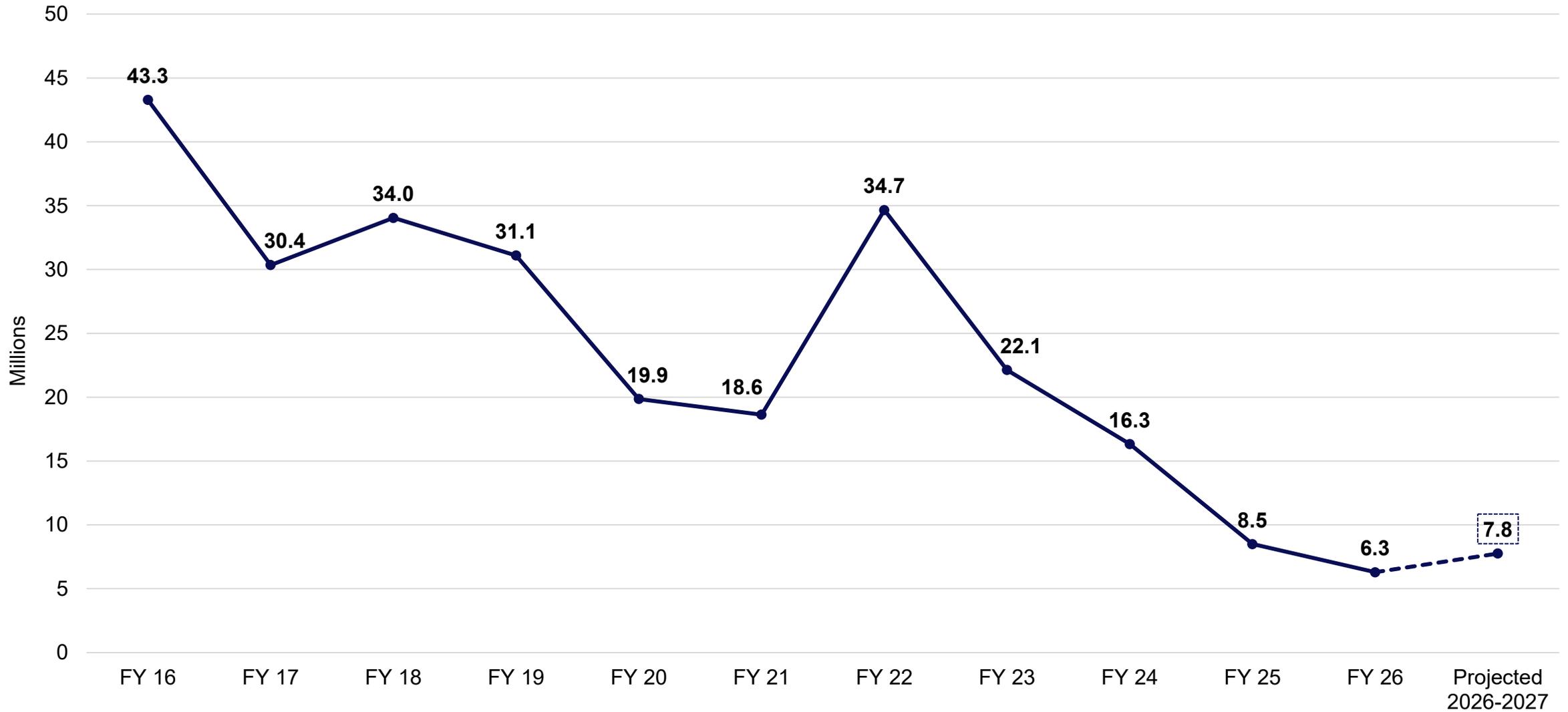
CONSERVATION FUND

Conservation Fund Article VII Section 10A



Source: Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

ROYALTIES ON LAND



STATUTORY DEDICATIONS

Fund Name	Source	Usage	FY 26 - EOB	FY 27 - HB1
Conservation Fund	(ART. VII SECT.10-A, R.S. 56:10) – Fees, licenses, permits, royalties, and other revenue	For programs and initiatives to conserve and protect the state’s natural resources and wildlife	\$57,397,680	\$47,108,529
Artificial Reef Development Fund	(R.S. 56:639.8) – Grants, donations, and other forms of assistance from private and public sources	Create and maintain artificial reefs	\$7,587,695	\$7,193,279
Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund	(ART. VII, SECT 14; R.S. 56:797-798) – Oil, gas, and mineral royalties, rent, or leases on lands of the refuge and preserve	Maintenance, improvement, and development of the refuge and preserve and for land acquisition	\$4,726,289	\$3,534,229
Oyster Resource Management Account	(R.S. 56:10(B)(4)) – Revenues collected from the sale of commercial oyster gear licenses and fees collected from the sale of public oyster seed ground vessel permits	Assistance for funding salaries and financial support involved with the oyster industry and resources	\$8,138,642	\$3,460,824
Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust	(R.S. 56:797) – royalty, rentals, or otherwise from leases for the exploration, development, or production of oil, gas, and other minerals on the lands in the Rockefeller Foundation Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve	Maintenance, improvement, and development of the refuge and preserve and for land acquisition	\$5,027,997	\$3,274,130
Russell Sage Special Fund #2	(R.S. 56:798) – Leasing of Marsh Island for exploration, development, or production of oil, gas, or other minerals	Maintenance and improvement of Marsh Island as a wildlife refuge	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000

STATUTORY DEDICATIONS

Fund Name	Source	Usage	FY 26 - EOB	FY 27 - HB1
Wildlife Habitat & Natural Heritage Fund	(R.S. 56:1923) – May accept funds from any source including private and public donations and grants, interest	The acquiring & management of land	\$1,757,494	\$1,965,851
White Lake Property Fund	(R.S. 56:799.3) – Revenues collected by the state derived from agricultural leases and from mineral revenues from royalty payments, bonus payments, and rentals from the properties owned by the state in and around White Lake	Operation, maintenance, administration, control, management, or enhancement of the White Lake Property and to enhancement of the White Lake Property and to promote its wildlife and ecosystem conservation and for education and research purposes	\$1,920,500	\$1,455,000
Saltwater Fish Research & Conservation	(R.S. 56:10) – Fees, licenses, permits, royalties, and other revenue	For programs and initiatives to conserve and protect the state’s natural resources and wildlife	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000
Louisiana Outdoors Forever Fund	(R.S. 56:1931) – Appropriations, public or private grants, gifts, or donations	Provides funding for outdoor conservation projects in the state	\$0	\$1,000,000
Charter Boat Fishing Fund	(R.S. 56:10) – Fees, licenses, permits, royalties, and other revenue	For programs and initiatives to conserve and protect the state’s natural resources and wildlife	\$816,450	\$816,450
Oil Spill Contingency Fund	(ART VII, Section 10.7; R.S. 30:2483) – Fees, taxes, penalties, judgments, reimbursements, and charges	Response to all discharges of oil, for clean up of pollution from discharges of oil, natural resources damages, damages sustained, and removal costs from threatened, discharges of oil	\$323,659	\$331,159
Shrimp Development and Management	(R.S. 56:10) – Fees, licenses, permits, royalties, and other revenue	For programs and initiatives to conserve and protect the state’s natural resources and wildlife	\$250,900	\$250,900

STATUTORY DEDICATIONS

Fund Name	Source	Usage	FY 26 - EOB	FY 27 - HB1
Shrimp Marketing and Promotion Account	(R.S. 56:10 ; 56:305.G) – Fees, licenses, permits, royalties, and other revenue	For programs and initiatives to conserve and protect the state’s natural resources and wildlife	\$231,998	\$220,000
Crab Development, Management & Trap Removal Account	(R.S. 56:10) – Fees, licenses, permits, royalties, and other revenue	For programs and initiatives to conserve and protect the state’s natural resources and wildlife	\$203,119	\$219,667
Conservation of the Black Bear Account	(R.S. 56:10 ; 47:463.45) – Fees, licenses, permits, royalties, and other revenue	For programs and initiatives to conserve and protect the state’s natural resources and wildlife	\$208,500	\$208,500
Marsh Island Operating Fund	(R.S. 56:798) – Leasing of Marsh Island for exploration, development, or production of oil, gas, or other minerals	Maintenance and improvement of Marsh Island as a wildlife refuge	\$193,808	\$167,808
Oyster Development Fund	(R.S. 56:10; 56:449) – Fees, licenses, permits, royalties, and other revenue	For programs and initiatives to conserve and protect the state’s natural resources and wildlife	\$149,989	\$158,631
Litter Abatement and Education Account	(R.S. 56:10) – Fees, licenses, permits, royalties, and other revenue	For programs and initiatives to conserve and protect the state’s natural resources and wildlife	\$99,800	\$99,800

STATUTORY DEDICATIONS

Fund Name	Source	Usage	FY 26 - EOB	FY 27 - HB1
Louisiana Fur Public Education & Market	(R.S. 56:266) – Fees and licenses	For programs, goals and initiatives to conserve and protect the state’s natural resources and wildlife	\$68,049	\$59,500
Louisiana Wild Turkey Stamp Fund	(R.S. 56:10) – Fees, licenses, permits, royalties, and other revenue	For programs and initiatives to conserve and protect the state’s natural resources and wildlife	\$30,100	\$32,850
Seafood Promotion and Marketing Fund	(R.S. 56:10) – Fees, licenses, permits, royalties, and other revenue	For programs and initiatives to conserve and protect the state’s natural resources and wildlife	\$23,209	\$23,209
Conservation--Quail Account	(R.S. 56:10) – Fees, licenses, permits, royalties, and other revenue	For programs and initiatives to conserve and protect the state’s natural resources and wildlife	\$25,287	\$18,987
Conservation--White Tail Deer Account	(R.S. 56:10) – Fees, licenses, permits, royalties, and other revenue	For programs and initiatives to conserve and protect the state’s natural resources and wildlife	\$15,700	\$15,700
MC Davis Conservation Fund	(R.S. 56:799) – Fees, asset sales, and other revenue	Preservation and management of the forested wetlands in the Maurepas Swamp, Joyce, and Manchac Wildlife Management Areas	\$10,775	\$5,400
Total			\$105,789,753	\$75,420,403