FY 23-24 Budget Briefing SC House of Representatives

General Appropriations Bill (H. 4300) Capital Reserve Fund (H. 4301)



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FY 23-24 House Budget Priorities

Reducing Taxes & Increasing Reserves

Roads and Bridges

Recruitment & Retention

Workforce Development

Historically Low Debt

| Rating Agency | Rating | Outlook |
|------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Fitch Ratings | AAA | Stable |
| Moody's Investors Service | Aaa | Stable |
| S&P Global Ratings | AA+ | Stable |

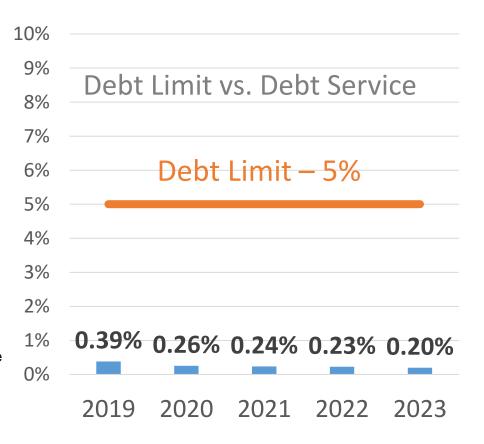
Common themes from the rating agency reports include the following:

- > Conservative financial management practices
- Low tax-supported debt burden
- \succ Substantial reserves
- ➤ Revenue growth
- Balanced operations
- Diligent financial monitoring
- Notable unfunded pension liabilities (expected to improve with newly required

annual contributions under 2017 legislation)

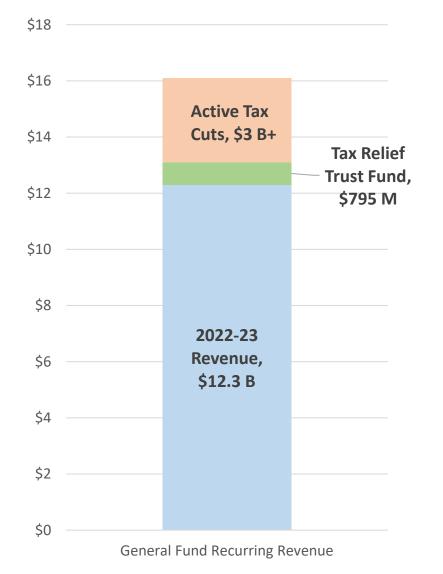
 Growing unfunded post-employment benefit ("OPEB") obligations

Source: 2022 Treasurer's Office Annual State Debt Report



"The State of South Carolina's **conservative governance and financial management** have earned the State strong credit ratings which translates to low interest rates on the state's general obligation borrowings."

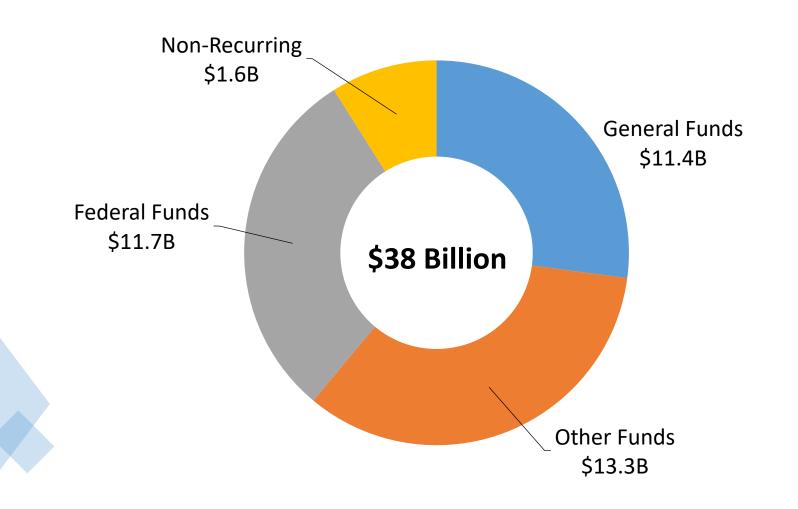
A Legacy of Reducing Taxes



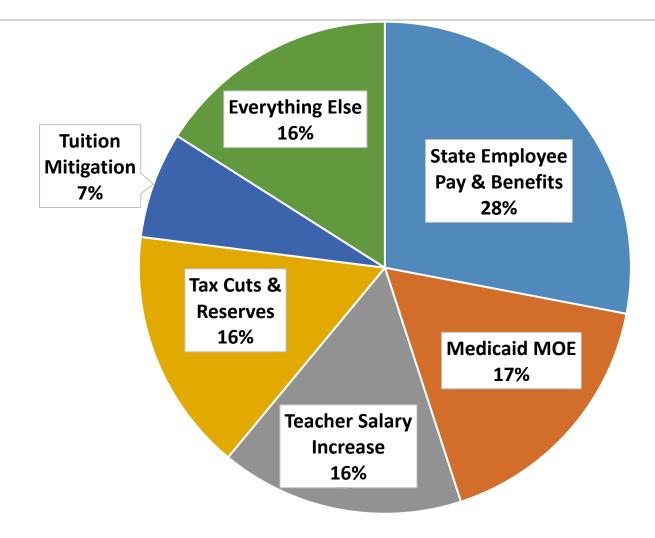
Ongoing Tax Relief

- In the last 30 years, the General Assembly has passed over \$50 billion in tax cuts.
- This includes individual income tax cuts, small business tax cuts, corporate income tax cuts, food tax elimination, and property tax relief.
- This budget funds an additional \$134 million in property tax cuts and \$96 million in personal income tax cuts.

FY 2023-24 Budget – Total Funds



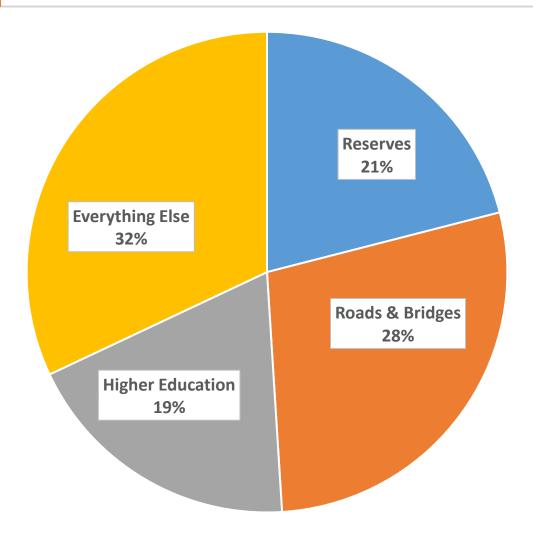
Recurring Expenditures



General Fund Budget Plan -Recurring

| Recurring | |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Revenue Forecast | \$1,181,000,000 |
| | |
| Allocations | |
| Income Tax Reduction | (96,000,000) |
| Medicaid MOE | (200,000,000) |
| Teacher Salaries/State Aid (GF only) | (187,000,000) |
| State Employee Base Pay Increase | (124,000,000) |
| State Employee Health Insurance | (121,500,000) |
| Capital Reserve Fund | (90,000,000) |
| Tuition Mitigation – Colleges & Tech | (84,000,000) |
| Law Enforcement/Health Staff Retention | (47,000,000) |
| Retirement 1% Pension Increase | (40,000,000) |
| Local Government Fund | (13,200,000) |
| | |
| Remainder for Agency Operations | \$178,300,000 |

Non-Recurring Expenditures



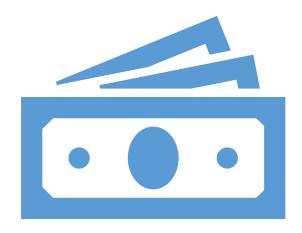
General Fund Budget Plan:

Non-Recurring

| Non-Recurring Revenue | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| Revenue Forecast | \$1,628,000,000 | | | |
| | | | | |
| <u>Allocations</u> | | | | |
| Increasing Reserves | (339,000,000) | | | |
| Roads & Bridges | (450,000,000) | | | |
| Colleges & Universities Maintenance & Infrastructure | (178,500,000) | | | |
| Tech Colleges Maintenance & Infrastructure | (130,000,000) | | | |
| Land Conservation & Resiliency | (58,000,000) | | | |
| Statewide Airport Infrastructure | (50,000,000) | | | |
| Safety & Capital Needs at Corrections & DJJ | (50,000,000) | | | |
| Dam Safety Emergency Fund | (47,500,000) | | | |
| New SCEIS State Accounting System | (40,000,000) | | | |
| | | | | |
| Remainder for Agency Operations | \$285,000,000 | | | |

Recruitment & Retention

- Through collaboration with the Governor's Office and the Department of Administration, compensation studies were conducted for the following critical needs positions:
 - Law Enforcement
 - Correctional Officers
 - Nurses
 - Mental Health Professionals
- It was determined that a targeted salary increase for these positions was warranted due to the state being non-competitive in the labor market for high quality candidates.
- To address the issue, funding was provided to agencies per each general fund, full-time employee they employ within the 4 critical need categories.
- \$46 million recurring is going to this initiative on top of the base pay increase.



Budget Subcommittee Recommendations

Public Education Subcommittee

Taking Care of Teachers Putting an SRO in every School Addressing Literacy and Learning Loss

| | Starting Salary Minimum | | | Average Teacher Salary |
|-------|----------------------------|--------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| 18-19 | \$32,000 | TEACHER PAY | 18-19 | \$45,773 |
| 23-24 | \$42,500 | | 23-24 | \$55,104 |

Increase the state's minimum starting salary from \$40,000 to **\$42,500** per teacher and increase the salary schedule by **\$2,500** per step.

This would increase the minimum starting teacher salary by 33% over six years.

In the same six-year period, <u>SC's average teacher salary</u> based on the minimum salary schedule would increase by **<u>\$9,331</u>** (*excluding local supplements).

The budget also increases teacher supply checks from \$300 to \$350.

2023-24 Total K-12 Per-Pupil Funding Totals (Projection)

| Funding Source | FY 23/24 Per-Pupil Spending | Increase over FY 22/23 |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| State Aid to Classrooms | \$5,377 | +\$482 |
| State (Total) | \$8,214 | +\$520 |
| Federal | \$1,310 | +\$36 |
| Local | \$8,031 | +\$172 |
| Total Average Funding | \$17,555 | +\$728 |

Public Schools will receive over \$12 Billion in funding next year across all funding levels.

New K12 Funding Formula – Year 2

Simplicity

The formula is a <u>state-local</u> partnership. The state share remains at 75%, and the local share remains at 25%.

- The pot is created by funding 1 teacher per 11.2 public school students.
- No changes to any student weightings from FY 22-23.



Flexibilit

 Think of State Aid to Classrooms funds as a <u>block</u> grant to the <u>districts</u>.

 After meeting the state's minimum salary schedule, districts are largely free to spend those dollars to meet the educational needs of their district. Soon, a new online financial dashboard will provide greater transparency in education educational spending at district and school levels.

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Investing in School Buildings, Buses, and Learning

\$120 million to the Department of Education for capital improvements in schools of need.

\$31.7 million in EIA and Lottery funds for leasing and purchasing of school buses.

\$17.3 million to increase to the bus driver base hourly rate 20% to \$11 per hour.

\$16.7 million to raise state per pupil expenditures \$300 to \$5,100 for SCDE and First Steps Full Day 4K.

\$12.5 million for expansion of computer science and career & technology education across the state.

Making Our Schools Safe for Learning.

School Facilities Upgrades

 \$20 million from the Capital Funding for Schools appropriation earmarked towards school safety upgrades in schools of need. Funds can be used to update classroom door locks, secure school entry points, and for bulletproof glass or bulletproof film for windows.

School Resource Officers

 \$14 million from the Department of Public Safety for school resource officers and an additional \$13 million to outfit those officers should make to where a school resource officer is available for EVERY South Carolina public school.

Learning Needs Addressed

Literacy Training

 \$42 million investment in the Science of Reading by expanding LETRS training to all K-3 teachers in South Carolina and to compensate teachers who complete the training with a \$500 stipend.

Addressing Pandemic Learning Loss

- \$15 million for high intensity tutoring programs in our most struggling school districts that will be used for students struggling in math and reading.
- \$1.8 million for Math Teach to One which is a software program that creates an individualized roadmap to accelerate learning in Math courses from 3rd grade through Algebra 1.

HIGHER EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Higher Education Subcommittee

Freezing Tuition for SC Students

Providing Scholarships

Investment in State Assets

Addressing Critical Workforce Needs

Access & Affordability

Freezing Tuition for SC Students

- **\$69 million** in recurring funds for a complete tuition freeze for in-state undergrad students at all public 4-year and 2-year USC campuses.
 - For the fifth year, tuition mitigation funding in this year's budget is a commitment by the general assembly to make college more affordable for citizens of South Carolina.
 - \$14 million increase from FY 22-23 based on rising inflation rates.
- **\$15 million** in recurring funds to be split between the Technical Colleges. These dollars double the investment from FY22-23.

Providing Scholarships

Fully funds LIFE, HOPE, Palmetto Fellows, and Lottery for Tuition Assistance (LTAP) through the Lottery.

- More than \$2.82 billion over the past 8 years
- Most South Carolinians that attend a public college in the state will utilize at least one of these scholarships

\$80 million for Needs Based Grants and \$20 million for Tuition Grants.

- Goes to help the most in need college students.
- Needs Based Grants funding has quadrupled, and Tuition Grants has doubled in recent years.
- Max yearly award is now \$3,500 for Needs Based Grants and \$4,500 for Tuition Grants.

\$4.1 million for College Transition Program Scholarships.

 Provides scholarships to students with disabilities in programs that promote the advancement of academics, socialization, independent living, and career development.

\$5 million for SC First Scholarship at MUSC.

• Provided to students whose legal residence is rural or underserved in South Carolina.

Developing & Maintaining Our Workforce

Historic Investments on "degree to career" pathways

- \$100 million for SC WINS, providing funding at SC's technical colleges for enrollment in critical workforce needs programs throughout the state in industries such as manufacturing, health care, computer science and information technology, transportation distribution and logistics, construction, and others.
- \$20 million for workforce training equipment split between the Technical Colleges.
- \$2 million for Ready SC to train workers at new companies and existing companies looking to expand.
- \$3.5 million for Carolina Internship Program at USC, connecting students and employers.
- \$3.5 million for SC Youth and Small Business Grant at the Tech Colleges, investing in youth apprenticeships at small companies



Investing in Infrastructure and Maintenance of Public Buildings on Higher Education Campuses

\$178.5 million to fund maintenance, renovation, and capital needs across the public 4-year and 2-year USC campuses. **\$130 million** to fund maintenance, renovation, and capital needs across the technical colleges in the state.

Much of the funding will be used to perform necessary maintenance on stateowned buildings and assets that will become a state liability if not addressed.

South Carolina has not passed a bond bill for state capital projects in over 2 decades.

Healthcare Subcommittee

MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

\$25 million will increase access to mental and behavioral-health related services to include:

- Strengthening the State's response to calls, texts and messages received for suicide prevention.
- Expansion of DMH's alternative transportation program to 20 additional counties. This program was piloted last year for the safe transport of non-violent adults for an involuntary psychiatric emergency admission without the need to use law enforcement.
- A partnership DAODAS will have with Clemson, USC, MUSC and DHEC to establish the SC Center of Excellence in Addiction. The work from this Center will provide the research, training, programming, and services for preventing and addressing substance use disorders.

WORKFORCE

South Carolina has been facing a major workforce shortage and the salary structure in our state government has made it tough to compete with the public and private sector. More than \$18 million will be appropriated to agencies to increase the compensation of our nursing and mental health professionals.

Nursing will have a new classification structure which takes into consideration whether an
individual is certified (for nursing assistants) and working in an institutional setting (for all other
nursing class titles). It also factors in an individual's years of service.

| Job Class Code | Pay Band | Class Title | Proposed Minimum Hiring Rate | 3-5 Years | 6-9 Years | 10-15 Years | 15+ Years |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| EA03 | Band 4 | Nursing Assistant, Non-Certified | \$30,000 | \$30,750 | \$31,518 | \$32,305 | \$33,112 |
| EA03 | Band 4 | Nursing Assistant, Certified | \$33,500 | \$34,337 | \$35,195 | \$36,074 | \$36,975 |
| EA15 | Band 5 | Licensed Practical Nurse, Non- Institutional | \$47,273 | \$48,454 | \$49,665 | \$50,906 | \$52,178 |
| EA15 | Band 5 | Licensed Practical Nurse, Institutional | \$52,000 | \$53,300 | \$54,632 | \$55,997 | \$57,396 |

| Mental Health Professional I (GA55/Band 5) Level 1 | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| Unlicensed 0-1.99 years of relevant experience | Unlicensed 2-4.99 years of relevant experience | Unlicensed 5-9.99 years of relevant experience | Unlicensed 10+ years of relevant experience | | |
| \$51,039.00 | \$52,539.00 | \$54,039.00 | \$55,539.00 | | |
| Licensed 0-1.99 years of relevant experience | Licensed 2-4.99 years of relevant experience | Licensed 5-9.99 years of relevant experience | Licensed 10+ years of relevant experience | | |
| \$55,122.00 | \$56,622.00 | \$58,122.00 | \$59,622.00 | | |

Mental Health Professionals will have a pay plan matrix that sets a minimum salary for each Mental Health Professional classification based on level of care (Levels 1 thru 3), licensure, and years of service. This is coupled with an additional \$8 million towards salary adjustments at DHEC and DDSN; as well as more than \$5.5 million that will be invested in the future of our healthcare workforce provided through scholarships at MUSC and training & education through Area Health Education Consortium. Both will target students interested in the medical or dental field working within our rural communities.





MEDICAID

• Lack of transportation contributes to the inaccessibility of healthcare. To help turn that around, **\$36.7 million** will go towards increases in Medicaid provider rates and access to services in hopes to draw more providers to our underserved communities.

• **\$159 million** continue the current service levels for Medicaid enrollees, of which more than 60% are children and youth ages 0 - 18.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

• Another important impact on the health of our children and families is the ability to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. **\$3 million** will go towards maintaining the Healthy Bucks program for SNAP recipients to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables at grocery stores or farmers markets. This program has continued to expand due to growing vendor participation.

• **\$13 million** will allow DSS to align more closely with its providers' rates for the safe placement of children in foster care, kinship guardianship and other child placements; while **\$8 million** will assist DMH in its maintenance of long-term care/nursing homes for veterans at the provider's rates.

PUBLIC HEALTH

• An additional **\$14 million** will leverage DHEC's staffing to reduce turn-around time on issuing septic tank, wastewater, and stormwater permits. These and other of DHEC's environmental services are impactful in furthering economic development; as well as ensuring our public health.

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Criminal Justice Subcommittee

Recruitment and Retention of Officers

- A study conducted by State HR shows that recruitment and retention efforts for law enforcement and correctional officers continues to be a major issue.
- Over 28% percent of law enforcement officers are either currently eligible or eligible within the next 5 years to retire.
- Turnover rate for Correctional Officers is 49% at the Department of Corrections and 64% at the Department of Juvenile Justice
- Pursuant to guidance from law enforcement agencies and the Phase 2 analysis by State HR, the committee made across the board salary increases for law enforcement and correctional officers.

Phase 2 Recruitment and Retention of Officers

New Starting Salaries

- SLED \$58,000
- Dept. of Public Safety \$55,000
- Dept. of Natural Resources \$53,000
- Probation, Parole and Pardon \$50,000

A 15% increase over last years base starting salary for Class I Law Enforcement officers

Dept. of Corrections

- Level I Facility \$41,000
- Level II Facility \$46,000
- Level III Facility \$51,000

Juvenile Justice

- Level I Facility \$40,500
- Level II Facility \$43,500

<u>A 6.5% increase over last years base starting salary for Class II</u> <u>Correctional Officers</u>

Recruitment and Retention increases will impact over 5,400 Class I and Class II Law Enforcement / Correctional Officers that are currently employed with the state. Prosecution & Public Defender Recruitment and Retention

\$25.7 Million invested in our Solicitors & Public Defenders

- \$14.5 Prosecution Coordination Commission
- \$11.2 Commission on Indigent Defense

Funding will be distributed amongst the 16 Solicitor & Public Defender circuits to be used for:

- Hiring additional Prosecutors & Public Defenders
- Addressing the current court case load backlog

These Funds are tied to reporting requirements than will ensure measures are implemented to obtain reduced case backlogs in the future.

Officer Training and Safety & Security

\$14 Million for 188 additional School Resource Officers

\$3.2 Million for Center for School Safety

\$50 Million for critical maintenance and safety upgrades; upgraded facilities for compliance, upgraded security camera systems.

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Land Conservation

\$38 Million for the conservation of land in South Carolina:

- \$18 Million for Conservation Grants at the Conservation Bank
- \$20 Million for land conservation and acquisition at Dept. of Natural Resources

Funds will be used to acquire key properties throughout the state that are important in sustaining wildlife, fish and plants, as well as provide additional outdoor recreation opportunities for the citizens of South Carolina. Economic Development Subcommittee



Economic Growth & Promoting Tourism



Rural Infrastructure Authority

 \$7 million to assess and improve infrastructure that impacts the quality of life for residents and creates economic opportunities for small and rural public water and sewer utilities that face unique challenges in providing safe drinking water and complying with water quality standards.

Office of Resilience

• **\$20 million** for the Disaster Relief and Resilience Reserve Fund. Funding will be used for resilience and mitigation planning and response as well as home repair for those affected by disasters, particularly catastrophic flooding.

Economic Growth & Promoting Tourism

Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism

- **\$25 million** to maintain, improve safety and accessibility, and enhance attraction to our states 47 state parks. Funds will be used to;
 - Upgrade park facilities
 - Increase access and expand offerings to our state parks
 - Development of the Black River project
- \$12 million for advertising and promotion of South Carolina as a "preferred vacation destination" through funding awarded to Destination Specific Grants, Tourism Advertising Grants and Regional Tourism representing all counties in SC.

Arts Commission

• **\$2.5 million** in resources to support community arts organizations and expand pilot programs that connect the arts to rural communities.

Agribusiness

Clemson PSA

 \$3 million for Poultry Science Research Facility to build and outfit a new poultry facility for multidisciplinary research in nutrition, animal welfare, behavior and stress physiology. The facility will also be used for research in nutrition balance trials and other metabolism studies to help educate and benefit South Carolina citizens.

SC State PSA

- \$2.5 million in the continued training and educating of farmers on emerging areas of agriculture – urban and community, controlled, and organic; as well, innovative research in alternative crops.
- **\$2.5 million** for Camp Daniels Training and Activity Center, a digital training facility for youth and adults that will simulate real life scenarios to further educate and train them on todays agribusiness.

Department of Agriculture

 \$20 million for growing Agribusiness in South Carolina. Funds will be used to create a matching grant program that would incentivize in-state investment to capture current out-of-state demand. The Growing Agribusiness Fund would help South Carolina keep production and packaging at home, bolstering revenue, capital investment and agriculture related jobs to help grow the current \$51.8 Billion annual impact that agriculture has in our state.

Transportation & Regulatory Subcommittee

Investment in Bridge Repair & Local Roads

- Improving our Airport Infrastructure
- Unifying State Workforce Development Efforts

5 Years of Unprecedented Investment in our Roads After the 2017 Roads Bill, DOT implemented a 10-Year Plan to target funding into four main areas:

- 1. Rural Road Safety Goal of 1250 miles
- Paving Goal of doubling the number of pavements rating as "good"
- Bridges Goal of replacing 500 structurally deficient bridges
- 4. Interstates Goal of addressing 215 miles

In FY 22-23, this plan was accelerated by putting \$120 million additional dollars for roads, paving and interstates.

- DOT leveraged those dollars to pull down an <u>additional \$190 million</u> <u>in federal funds</u> so far.
- DOT now has road construction in all 46 counties across the state.

SCDOT – Bridge Maintenance Acceleration

- Most of SC's bridge infrastructure was built in the 1950's and 1960's, with an average lifespan of about 70 years before structural issues begin.
- 63% of the bridges on the Interstate and Primary networks need some repair or replacement.

\$200 million in non-recurring funds is included in this budget to accelerate statewide bridge maintenance.

- Full estimated need is \$1 billion over 5 years this will double DOT's yearly spending on bridge maintenance and allow them to spread the projects out over several years to ensure the industry can handle the uptick.
- These funds will be focused towards existing bridges on interstates and primary highways in a corridor-specific approach.
- Continual investment in our road and bridge infrastructure will help South Carolina handle continued population growth and position the state for additional economic development opportunities.

Local Transportation Efforts



An additional **\$250 million** to the CTCs to accelerate local projects, with a focus on secondary and low volume primary roads.



And, to make sure those local and secondary roads stay beautiful, there is **\$8 million** dollars total for offinterstate litter pick up.

Aeronautics Commission



\$50 million for a Capital Investing grant program for the Statewide Airport System.

- Airports are economic drivers in their regions. The latest SC Airport Economic Impact Report showed the commercial airports provide \$15.3 billion in combined economic impacts and \$617.6 million in combined sales and income taxes.
- These funds will help the commercial airports with their ongoing substantial capital improvement needs such as:
 - Myrtle Beach International Taxiway reconstruction and terminal expansion
 - Charleston International Multimodal family and ticket lobby expansion
 - Greenville-Spartanburg International Parking garage and consolidated rental car facility
 - Columbia Metropolitan Cargo apron and taxiway reconstruction
 - Hilton Head Island Terminal expansion, taxiway rehabilitation, and runway strengthening
 - Florence Regional Runway reconstruction

Workforce Development

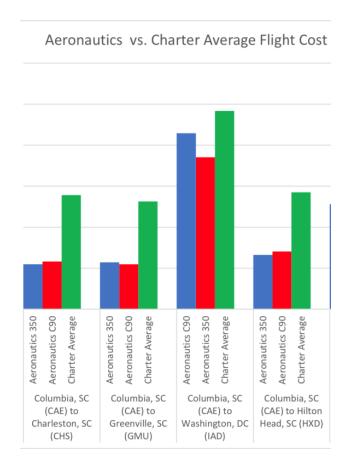


• Education and workforce development is a big focus for South Carolina, and that focus continues with **\$4.4 million in recurring funding** for the Department of Employment and Workforce to implement the Statewide Education and Workforce Development plan.

- This plan is outlined in H.3726 and was developed after months of work from the State Economic Development and Utility Modernization Ad Hoc Committee.
- These funds will be used to provide staff support to the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development and to develop a unified plan that incorporates all entities performing publicly funded workforce development functions within its framework.
- The Workforce Development plan also includes \$3 million in non-recurring funds to meet other objectives of the plan, including specific initiatives for rural and priority areas.

Replacement of the State's Air Fleet

- The state fleet consists of two planes, a 1983 King Air C90 and a 1990 King Air 350.
- The current planes are aging and spend substantial time out of service.
- Overall, there are true cost savings by having a state fleet. A 2021 study by the Department of Administration found Aeronautics can provide service below the average market rate for charter services.
- In addition to purchasing newer aircrafts, Aeronautics intends to sell the two existing aircrafts and put the funds towards a maintenance trust fund for future fleet needs.



Transportation & Regulatory

Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation

- \$3 million in recurring funds to fully fund the V-SAFE Program.
 - V-SAFE allows chartered and combination volunteer fire departments to apply for grants to purchase equipment and training services.
 - Last session the General Assembly amended the method of distribution of V-SAFE grant funds, allowing each fire department to qualify for a larger annual distribution.
 - With these funds, each department's annual grant amount will go from around \$5,000 to around \$12,000. That is more than double the amount of grant money departments can put towards the purchase of fire suppression equipment, portable air refilling systems, safety and rescue equipment, and training.

Department of Motor Vehicles

- \$35 million for Phase I of modernizing the DMV's IT system.
 - The current system has been used for over 20 years ago and has undergone over 11,000 modifications since its introduction and must be replaced in the next five years.
 - A modern IT System will allow the DMV to streamline services and create a better customer experience through:
 - Reducing the time required to enact changes due to new legislation or regulation; and
 - Creating a mobile DMV app, implementing mobile driver's licenses and electronic vehicle titling and registration, and providing additional customer options such as self-service kiosks in retail locations for common transactions.



Constitutional Subcommittee & Statewide Items

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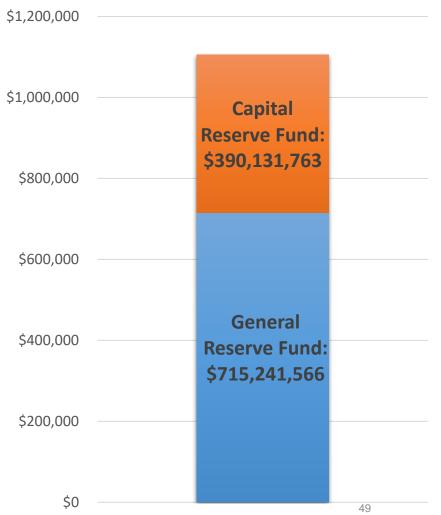
Increasing Reserves

- **\$139 million** for the **General Reserve Fund** which is 5.5% of the previous fiscal year's General Fund revenues. This brings the fund total to \$715,241,566.
- **\$180 million** for the **Capital Reserve Fund** which is 3% of the previous fiscal year's General Fund revenues. This brings the fund total to \$390,132,763.

These additions bring South Carolina's total required reserves to over <u>\$1.1 billion</u>.

\$109 million in Additional Reserves

Constitutional Reserves



Supporting Those Who Support Our Citizens

State Employee Pay and Benefits

\$124 million for a \$2,500 pay raise for state employees making under \$83,000, and a 3% pay raise for employees making over \$83,000. No state employee will receive less than 3%.

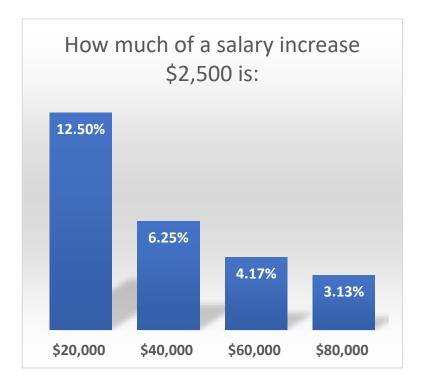
86% of state employees will receive *more than* a 3% raise.

\$121 million to fully cover the state employee health and dental insurance increases. Employees will have <u>no</u> additional monthly premium cost which will make it a decade since they have had one.

Pension Stabilization

\$40 million in the general fund to fund employer cost of the pension increase required by law. - This is the last year of funding the 1% increase thus fulfilling our commitment from Act 13 of 2017.

Since 2017, over \$320 million in state general funds have been infused into the retirement systems to reduce the unfunded liability and increase the funded ratio.



Military-Friendly South Carolina

Adjutant General

- \$3.3 million non-recurring for armory revitalizations continues the process of updating our Readiness Centers to bring them to modern standards and increase their lifespan, so they stand ever at the ready.
- \$379,300 recurring for recruitment and retention will be used to address turnover rates and reward high-performing employees within the Emergency Management Division which has responded to 9 major disasters since 2014.

Veterans Affairs

- \$255,000 recurring for the Burial Honor Guard Support Fund funds would reimburse \$100 for approximately 1,400 Veteran burials guarded by SC chapters of congressionally chartered Veteran service organizations in accordance with Act 225 passed last year.
- \$5 million non-recurring for the Military Enhancement Fund this fund has provided over \$11 million in grants to communities surrounding military installations since its inception and interest in the fund has continued to grow.

Funding Local Government

\$13 million recurring increase to fully fund the Local Government Fund per the statutory formula requirement.

\$929,475 recurring to increase the salary supplement for county Coroners and Register of Deeds to \$15,000. This matches the amount Probate Judges, Clerks to Court, and Sheriffs receive.

The Multi-Tool of our State Government

Department of Administration

- \$40 million non-recurring and \$10 million recurring to begin the process of updating the South Carolina Enterprise Information System known as SCEIS. The system is used by over 70+ agencies and is used for HR, IT, real estate management, and accounting among other uses. The current system will reach end-of-life by 2027.
- **\$10 million non-recurring** to offset the increase in maintenance costs for facilities managed by the Dept. of Admin. that are rented to various other state agencies. The funds will go directly to the Dept. of Admin. rather than spread amongst the various agencies.
- **\$725,000 recurring** to modernize the e-recruitment system available to all agencies which allows them to access and respond faster to a larger applicant pool.

The Judicial Branch

\$3.9 million recurring funds to implement H.3696 which added 4 Circuit Court Judges and 3 Family Court Judges.

\$1 million recurring & \$500,000 non-recurring for judicial facilities which are behind on maintenance and preservation upkeep. Additionally, funds go towards increasing office capacities.

