AGENCY NAME:	University of South Carolina Beaufort		
AGENCY CODE:	H360	SECTION:	20D

Fiscal Year 2027-28
Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

	For FY 2027-28, my agency is (mark "X"):	
OPERATING REQUESTS *(FORM B1)*	X	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
		Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.
NON-RECURRING REQUESTS *(FORM B2)*	X	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
		Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.
CAPITAL REQUESTS *(FORM C)*	X	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
		Not requesting any changes.
PROVISOS *(FORM D)*		Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
		Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	X	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	Name	*Phone*	*Email*
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Kelly Epting	803-777-8411	eptingk@mailbox.sc.edu
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Kevin Russell	803-777-0781	russelkr@mailbox.sc.edu

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2027-28 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	Agency Director	*Board or Commission Chair*
SIGN/DATE:	Michael Amiridis 8/21/26	Thad H. Westbrook 8/21/26
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Michael Amiridis	Thad H. Westbrook

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

Agency Name:	USC - Beaufort Campus
Agency Code:	H360
Section:	20D

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Access and Affordability for In-State Students – Tuition Mitigation Funding	2,192,922	0	0	0	2,192,922	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	USCB AI Institute	1,000,000	0	0	0	1,000,000	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Implementing New Environmental Engineering Program	946,000	0	0	0	946,000	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
4	B1 - Recurring	The Jonathan Green Maritime Cultural Center (JGMCC)	500,000	0	0	0	500,000	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
5	B2 - Non-Recurring	USCB AI Institute	2,000,000	0	0	0	2,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	B2 - Non-Recurring	New Academic Program Equipment for Environmental Engineering	170,000	0	0	0	170,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	B2 - Non-Recurring	Technology Infrastructure	1,000,000	0	0	0	1,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	C - Capital	General Education Building	12,000,000	0	0	0	12,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	C - Capital	USCB / SCDNR Joint Marine and Environmental Sciences Building – Historic Beaufort Campus	20,500,000	0	0	0	20,500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	C - Capital	USCB Nursing Education & Simulation Center	26,500,000	0	0	0	26,500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	C - Capital	New Convocation Center- Phase 1 & Athletics Complex	10,000,000	0	0	0	10,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	C - Capital	Deferred Maintenance	1,250,000	0	0	0	1,250,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			78,058,922	0	0	0	78,058,922	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00

Agency Name:	USC - Beaufort Campus		
Agency Code:	H360	Section:	20D

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

1

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Access and Affordability for In-State Students – Tuition Mitigation Funding

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $2,192,922

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $2,192,922

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
X	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
X	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
X	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This request supports multiple Goals, Strategies and Objectives contained in the annual Accountability Report, but primarily Goals 1 Education, Training, and Human Development. Goals 2 Expand and enhance the rigorous, experiential academic environment, and as they are related to Education, Training and Human Development. Goal 2.1 Strengthen and develop academic opportunities to meet the needs of a dynamic and changing world.

USC Beaufort is committed to the successful matriculation of students. As an access institution serving communities of varying demographics, USC Beaufort must provide a wide range of high quality and industry recognized degree programs that also translate into opportunities for job placement. These funds will enable USC Beaufort to increase STEM & Professional offerings to meet regional needs, enhance student experiential learning, career prep and work readiness success. These funds will also enable USC Beaufort to broaden its current course offerings due to enrollment increases to further reflect the high demand academic regional interests, employment demands, and high economic impact.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	These funds will benefit the University of South Carolina Beaufort student body of approximately 2,200 and the faculty/administrative staff who serve them. The University only conducts a small percentage of its work through payment for services rendered by outside contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc. In those instances, the University adheres to all applicable State Procurement requirements.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	USCB operates under Federal regulations and within a South Carolina Higher Education Business Model that requires enrollment growth to maintain financial stability. The lack of a State higher education funding formula based on enrollments of South Carolina residents has limited USCB's ability to provide appropriate staffing and support that is necessary for these increased enrollments. USC Beaufort's institutional cost increases that are impacting our campus by not increasing tuition consists of salaries, fringe, normal facilities maintenance repairs and rehabilitations, utilities, technology, the recent transition to NCAA Division II and the athletics expenses that accompany this accomplishment. USC Beaufort's tuition distribution to support athletics has not increased in years causing the university to use general operating funds to support their expenses. USCB's enrollment is increasing each year, but this brings increased demand and cost for infrastructure, services, and academic resources. At the same time, the university has experienced a rise in student discounting through abatements and tuition waivers, which increased by 14.04% from $3.2M in FY24 to $3.65M and increased again in FY25 to 6.81% in FY26 to $3.95M. This causes budgetary challenges as there is a demand for increased resources. For example, in FY 2026 USCB hired several adjunct faculties throughout different programs to teach more sections to sustain the 1:16 faculty to student ratio. The technology and student support departments had to scale up their infrastructure to manage the increase in enrollment. Many divisions at USCB are currently understaffed, with several operating as single-person departments. While efforts are underway to fill vacant positions, the university has historically relied on vacancy savings to help offset operating expenses, which has delayed rehiring in some areas. Absent appropriation would put further financial constraints on USCB operating and on academics. The University would request flexibility from the state to limit its increase to in-state students, if any, to an amount necessary to account for the unfunded portion of mandates (to include health and/or COLA) not covered by the University's final state appropriation.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	USC - Beaufort Campus		
Agency Code:	H360	Section:	20D

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**2**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**USCB AI Institute**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $1,000,000** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $1,000,000**

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	**2.00**

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
X	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
X	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
X	AI Related
X	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority # 5

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
X	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

G 2. Expand and enhance the rigorous, experiential academic environment.

S.2.2.1 Increase experiential learning so every graduate will complete at least one internship, research, service learning, or applied learning experience to enhance career preparation. Increase the number of students who participate in at least one experiential learning opportunity.

G 2. Expand and enhance the rigorous, experiential academic environment.

S.2.2.2 Increase experiential learning so every graduate will complete at least one internship, research, service learning, or applied learning experience to enhance career preparation. Increase the number of hours students participate in experiential learning activities.

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	G 3. Continuously improve efficiency and effectiveness of services & processes to support the growth of the University. S 3.1. Nurture an environment where institutional functions and processes are constantly improved. S 3.2 Explore and implement creative technology to enhance teaching, research and university operations. G 5. Equip students for success within the university and beyond graduation. S 5.1 Foster a campus culture of collective responsibility for improving student achievement, retention, persistence to graduation, and success beyond the university. The requested $1 million in recurring state funding to support the personnel and operating costs for the USCB AI Institute by expanding AI-focused academic programs, recruiting faculty expertise, and preparing students with high-demand technology skills and real work force experience upon graduation. The Institute would strengthen workforce development, support regional economic growth, and position USCB as a leader in AI education and innovation. Success would be measured through key performance indicators, including enrollment in AI-related programs, industry partnerships, external funding secured, and workforce training opportunities provided to South Carolina employers and communities.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	Funds would be distributed to a variety of entities necessary to support the startup and operation of the Institute, including University personnel hired to operate the Institute technology vendors and equipment providers, contractors, marketing and outreach vendors. These funds will benefit the University of South Carolina Beaufort student body of approximately 2,200+ and the faculty/administrative staff who serve them. The University only conducts a small percentage of its work through payment for services rendered by outside contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc. In those instances, the University adheres to all applicable State Procurement requirements.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

	While the requested $2 million in non-recurring funding will provide the critical startup resources needed to establish the Applied AI Institute, $1 million in recurring state funding is essential to sustain annual operations and ensure the Institute's long-term success. The recurring funding will support the Institute's core personnel, program delivery, and operational expenses that cannot be covered solely through one-time appropriations. The Institute's business model is designed to reduce reliance on state funding through course fees, industry partnerships, sponsored events, and research grants. However, these revenue streams will take time to mature. Recurring funding will provide the stability necessary to recruit and retain highly qualified leadership and staff, maintain AI infrastructure, expand educational offerings, and develop strategic partnerships that drive economic and workforce development across South Carolina. By year 5, the AI Institute would be significantly offsetting operating costs and demonstrating a strong commitment to financial sustainability. The requested

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	recurring state investment will allow the Institute to reach full operations, support workforce training in high-demand fields, and position South Carolina as a leader in applied artificial intelligence innovation. Revenue Generation Plan Key revenue streams include: 1.Course Fees: Offer certificate programs and workshops for businesses, state agencies, and educators. Estimated Year 1 revenue: $300,000; Year 5 revenue: $1.5 million. 2.Vendor Partnerships: Collaborate with companies such as IBM, Google, Microsoft, and Oracle to sponsor classes and events. Estimated Year 1 revenue: $200,000; Year 5 revenue: $1 million. 3.Annual AI Tradeshow: Launch a vendor marketplace in Year 3, bringing in sponsorships, booth rentals, and attendee fees. Estimated revenue by Year 5: $750,000+ annually. 4.Research and Development Grants: Secure funding for ethical AI research and applied projects. Estimated revenue: $500,000+ annually starting in Year 4. Projected Revenue Over Five Years Year Projected Revenue Year 1 $500,000 Year 2 $750,000 Year 3 $1.25 million Year 4 $2 million Year 5 $3.25 million Without recurring funding, the University would face challenges sustaining critical personnel and programming, limiting the Institute's ability to meet the growing demand for AI education, research, and workforce development. The recurring investment will ensure the Institute delivers lasting educational and economic benefits for South Carolina while leveraging state funds to generate substantial external revenue and partnerships.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	USC - Beaufort Campus		
Agency Code:	H360	Section:	20D

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

3

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Implementing New Environmental Engineering Program

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $946,000

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $946,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

2.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
X	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
X	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
X	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
X	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority # 6

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
X	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Implementing the Environmental Engineering Program would enable USCB to increase STEM & Professional offerings to meet regional needs and improve student experience and success rates. Adding this program aligns with our strategic goal number 2 to expand and enhance the rigorous, experiential academic environment. 2.1 Strengthen and develop academic opportunities to meet the needs of a dynamic and changing world. Additionally, the new program aligns with Goal 5 Education, Training, and Human Development. 5.1 Foster a campus culture of collective responsibility for improving student achievement, retention, persistence to graduation, and success beyond the university.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

These funds will benefit the University of South Carolina Beaufort student body of

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	more than 2,000 and the faculty/administrative staff who serve them. The University only conducts a small percentage of its work through payment for services rendered by outside contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc. In those instances, the University adheres to all applicable State Procurement requirements. *What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*
JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	Implementing the Environmental Engineering Program would enable USCB to increase STEM & Professional offerings to meet regional needs and improve student experience and success rates. These funds will also enable USCB to broaden its current program offerings to further reflect the regional interest and employment demands. The South Carolina Lowcountry, known for its natural beauty and historical significance, is facing a myriad of environmental challenges, and a dedicated program in Environmental Engineering can offer significant benefits to address these pressing issues. • Rising Sea Levels and Beach Erosion: The South Carolina Lowcountry is vulnerable to the effects of rising sea levels, leading to accelerated beach erosion and profile changes. Environmental engineers can play a crucial role in developing innovative strategies for shoreline protection, erosion mitigation, and sustainable beach restoration. • Maintaining Navigable Channels and Harbors: The state of South Carolina and specifically the Lowcountry rely on navigable channels and harbors for shipping and commerce. Environmental engineers can address the challenges of maintaining these crucial channels while minimizing environmental impact. • Impact on Marine Structures and Levees: Coastal communities heavily rely on marine structures and levees for protection against storm surges and flooding. Environmental engineers are essential in designing, maintaining, and upgrading these structures to withstand the changing climate and rising sea levels. • Tourism and Quality of Life: The Lowcountry's tourism industry is a significant economic driver. A B.S. program in Environmental Engineering can equip local professionals with the skills to preserve the natural beauty of the area, ensuring a sustainable tourism industry and maintaining the high quality of life for residents. • Storm Surge and Breakwater Design: Environmental engineers play a critical role in designing breakwaters and coastal defense systems that protect communities from the increasing frequency and severity of storm surges and hurricanes. • Residential Land and Water Design: Coastal areas are experiencing an Increase in the development and construction of residential communities. A B.S. program in Environmental Engineering can equip local professionals with the skills necessary to design land usage and water distribution system plans that are appropriate to the unique environmental challenges of these areas. • Resilience and Sustainability: Building resilient and sustainable communities is paramount in the face of climate change. Environmental engineering programs can teach students how to create sustainable, adaptive, and disaster-resistant infrastructure and systems. • Workforce Development: Offering a B.S. program in Environmental Engineering will help build a skilled local workforce, reducing the need to import expertise from other regions and boosting the regional economy. • Emergency Response and Preparedness: Environmental engineers can contribute to emergency response and preparedness efforts by developing flood mapping systems, designing resilient infrastructure, and participating in disaster recovery and mitigation planning. • Community Engagement: Environmental engineers can engage with local communities to raise awareness about environmental issues, involve residents in sustainable practices, and foster a sense of responsibility for the area's ecological well-being. Introducing a B.S. program in Environmental Engineering in the South Carolina Lowcountry is not only beneficial for addressing the pressing environmental challenges but also for promoting economic growth, enhancing emergency preparedness, and ensuring a higher quality of life for the region's residents. Such a program would empower future professionals to tackle the unique environmental issues facing this beautiful and vulnerable area.

	Environmental parameters monitors-Monitor ecological systems/detect changes/make recommendations- $320,000 Modeling and simulation software (HOMER, AERMOD, MODFLOW, OPENSTREETMAP)- $400,000 2 FTE Faculty salary at $85,000 each plus fringe- $226,000 Total Recurring Request: $946,000

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	USC - Beaufort Campus		
Agency Code:	H360	Section:	20D

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**4**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**The Jonathan Green Maritime Cultural Center (JGMCC)**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $500,000** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $500,000**

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	**2.00**

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
X	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
X	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
X	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
X	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

G 2. Expand and enhance the rigorous, experiential academic environment.

S.2.2.1 Increase experiential learning so every graduate will complete at least one internship, research, service learning, or applied learning experience to enhance career preparation. Increase the number of students who participate in at least one experiential learning opportunity.

G 2. Expand and enhance the rigorous, experiential academic environment.

S.2.2.2 Increase experiential learning so every graduate will complete at least one internship, research, service learning, or applied learning experience to enhance career preparation. Increase the number of hours students participate in experiential learning activities.

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	G 3. Continuously improve efficiency and effectiveness of services & processes to support the growth of the University. S 3.1. Nurture an environment where institutional functions and processes are constantly improved. S 3.2 Explore and implement creative technology to enhance teaching, research and university operations. G 5. Equip students for success within the university and beyond graduation. S 5.1 Foster a campus culture of collective responsibility for improving student achievement, retention, persistence to graduation, and success beyond the university. This request supports USCB's public mission through cultural stewardship, education, experiential learning, scholarship, and community engagement. Recurring operating support will establish and sustain the JGMCC's core operating base, including leadership, launch staffing, exhibitions, public programming, research and archive access, and visitor services. The request advances these priorities by creating a high-visibility cultural and educational platform. Use of funds will be evaluated annually through visitor attendance, membership growth, student participation and academic integration, philanthropic performance and donor retention, program attendance, event-rental utilization, retail revenue, community engagement, public visibility, and actual financial performance compared with budget assumptions.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	Funds will support JGMCC operations administered through USCB. Anticipated recipients include the executive leadership function through a consulting agreement; temporary and part-time personnel supporting operations, administration, curatorial and exhibition work, collections and research-library access, visitor services, the museum store, education and public programs, and events; and contractors or vendors providing programming, exhibition, technology, insurance, supplies, retail, and event support. Allocations will be based on approved operating needs, university procurement and contracting requirements. Existing USCB offices will provide shared advancement, communications and marketing, facilities and exhibit installation, and selected finance and administrative support to reduce duplicative staffing and control cost. USC Columbia has provided one-time financial support of $100K towards startup for this center and USC Beaufort has matched this startup investment totaling $200K.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

	The $500,000 recurring funds will provide a stable operating base for the Jonathan Green Maritime Cultural Center, a first-of-its-kind maritime museum focused on African and African American maritime art, history, and culture. The Center will operate in an existing facility at 1211 Harrington Street in Beaufort, allowing the project to prioritize activation, curation, visitor experience, and operational readiness rather than major capital construction. The business plan estimates direct annual JGMCC operating costs of $616,600 to $846,000. Major planning categories include executive leadership under a consulting agreement ($175,000 to $250,000); temporary and part-time staff ($326,600 to $426,000); programming and exhibitions ($40,000 to $60,000); administration, insurance, and technology ($40,000 to $60,000); and store and event operating support ($35,000 to $50,000). The recurring state request is intended to underwrite leadership, launch staffing, and continuity of mission.

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Direct JGMCC Operating Cost Assumptions

Cost Category	Planning Range	Notes
Executive Director	Consulting Agreement: Estimated $175k-$250k	Expected to be the single largest direct personnel cost.
Temporary / Part-Time Staff	$326,600 - $426,000	Covers launch-phase operational roles and limited hours.
Programming / Exhibitions	$40,000 – $60,000	Interpretive content, small exhibit refresh, and public program support.
Administration / Insurance / Technology	$40,000 – $60,000	Basic systems, insurance, supplies, and administrative needs.
Store and Event Operating Support	$35,000 – $50,000	Variable support tied to rental and retail activit

Potential offsets and supplemental support include memberships ($50,000 to $150,000), event rentals ($50,000 to $150,000), retail sales ($10,000 to $20,000), premium experiences ($75,000 to $150,000), and annual philanthropy ($150,000 to $350,000). USCB is also expected to absorb or separately bill utilities, building operations, and selected institutional services. The plan identifies one-time startup funding of $100,000 from USCB and $100,000 from the USC System. These revenue sources and in-kind contributions supplement, but do not replace, the recurring appropriation needed for core operational stability.

The launch model uses one full-time executive leadership function together with temporary, part-time, contract, volunteer, and shared-service support.

Phased Implementation Roadmap

Phase	Timeframe	Primary Actions	Outcome
Phase 1	Launch Readiness	Finalize governance, hire executive leadership, activate shared services, install core experiences, establish membership and donor infrastructure.	Operational launch platform established.
Phase 2	First Full Operating Cycle	Build visitor base, refine programming calendar, expand memberships, activate event rentals and retail, strengthen data collection and reporting.	Stable operational rhythm and stronger public profile.
Phase 3	Growth and Expansion	Add roles as funding allows, pursue larger exhibits and partnerships, deepen academic integration, increase premium programming and sponsorships.	Scaled institutional impact and improved sustainability.

If recurring funds are not received, JGMCC would lack the stable base needed to sustain leadership, staffing, opening readiness, and continuity of mission. The Center would need to delay or phase back activation, visitor services, exhibitions, educational programming, research access, and revenue-generating activities, while relying more heavily on uncertain earned and philanthropic revenue.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	USC - Beaufort Campus		
Agency Code:	H360	Section:	20D

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	5

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	USCB AI Institute

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$2,000,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
X	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
X	IT Technology/Security related
X	AI Related
	HR/Personnel Related
X	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
X	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority # USCB AI Institute

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
X	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

G 2. Expand and enhance the rigorous, experiential academic environment.

S.2.2.1 Increase experiential learning so every graduate will complete at least one internship, research, service learning, or applied learning experience to enhance career preparation. Increase the number of students who participate in at least one experiential learning opportunity.

G 2. Expand and enhance the rigorous, experiential academic environment.

S.2.2.2 Increase experiential learning so every graduate will complete at least one internship, research, service learning, or applied learning experience to enhance career preparation. Increase the number of hours students participate in experiential learning activities.
G 3. Continuously improve efficiency and effectiveness of services & processes to support the growth of the University.
S 3.1. Nurture an environment where institutional functions and processes are constantly improved.
S 3.2 Explore and implement creative technology to enhance teaching, research and university operations.
G 5. Equip students for success within the university and beyond graduation.
S 5.1 Foster a campus culture of collective responsibility for improving student achievement, retention, persistence to graduation, and success beyond the university.

USCB establishing an Applied AI Institute that serves the community, USCB faculty, staff, and student would be highly beneficial to the university by advancing its mission of innovation, education, and public engagement. The institute would position the university as a leader in one of the most rapidly growing fields, while also providing practical solutions to real-world challenges faced by local industries, government agencies, and underserved populations. By offering workforce development programs, supporting local businesses with AI tools and expertise, and fostering interdisciplinary research, the institute would strengthen regional economic growth and expand access to emerging technologies. Additionally, it would attract external funding, enhance the university's visibility, and create new pathways for student learning and career readiness, making the university a hub for applied innovation and social impact. USCB wants to maximize the ability to enhance learning opportunities by students gaining hands-on experience with AI tools and technology. This will allow students to experience real-world problem solving for high demand careers in AI, computational science, healthcare, engineering, etc.

If USCB were to receive the funds, the university would ensure the AI Institute is evaluated with a strong focus on fiscal responsibility and long-term sustainability. This would include requiring a detailed budget plan, clearly defined funding timelines, and the development and maintenance of a comprehensive revenue strategy to support ongoing operations beyond the initial investment.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

USCB has received $3,050,000 in non-recurring funding from the state in FY27. By reducing USCB's original FY26 non-recurring funding request from $7 million to $5.05 million, USCB is commitment to leveraging resources and maximizing taxpayer value. A $2 million state investment will allow USCB to build the core infrastructure of the AI Institute while minimizing the cost to the state.

Funds would be distributed to a variety of entities necessary to support the startup and operation of the Institute, including University personnel hired to operate the Institute technology vendors and equipment providers, contractors, marketing and outreach vendors.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

We are requesting $2 million in non-recurring state appropriations to establish the additional support needed for an Applied Artificial Intelligence (AI) Institute at the University, with a plan to request $1,000,000 in recurring funds. The non-recurring funds will support the technology and infrastructure needed to start the Institute. This institute will serve as a multidisciplinary hub focused on real-world AI applications in areas such as healthcare, cybersecurity, workforce development, advanced manufacturing, and public policy.

The total cost projection is $5.05 million requested for non-recurring startup funding. The plan divides the $5.05 million request into two implementation phases which includes revenue to reduce the overall cost:

1. Phase 1 (Years 1–2): $3.05M (covers technology & Infrastructure)

2. Phase 2 (Years 3–4): $2.0M

Costs include:

Personnel Costs (Annual)

•Director: $255,000

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

•Deputy Director: $125,000

•Operations Manager: $100,000

•Education Specialist: $90,000

•Executive Assistant: $70,000

Total Personnel Cost (Annual): $640,000

Technology and Infrastructure Costs

Year 1:

•High-performance computing equipment and lease payments: $4,160,000

•Installation and setup: $200,000

•Software licenses and tools: $100,000

Year 2-5 (Annual): Maintenance, updates, and additional equipment: $200,000

Operating Costs

•Utilities, space maintenance, and supplies: $150,000 annually

•Marketing, outreach, and program development: $250,000 annually

Cost Category	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Personnel	$640,000	$680,000	$730,000	$790,000	$850,000
Technology & Infrastructure	$4,960,000	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000
Operating Costs	$400,000	$400,000	$400,000	$400,000	$400,000
Annual Total	$6.0M	$1.28M	$1.33M	$1.39	$1.45M

Revenue Generation Plan

1.Course Fees: Offer certificate programs and workshops for businesses, state agencies, and educators. Estimated Year 1 revenue: $300,000; Year 5 revenue: $1.5 million.

2.Vendor Partnerships: Collaborate with companies such as IBM, Google, Microsoft, and Oracle to sponsor classes and events. Estimated Year 1 revenue: $200,000; Year 5 revenue: $1 million.

3.Annual AI Tradeshow: Launch a vendor marketplace in Year 3, bringing in sponsorships, booth rentals, and attendee fees. Estimated revenue by Year 5: $750,000+ annually.

4.Research and Development Grants: Secure funding for ethical AI research and applied projects. Estimated revenue: $500,000+ annually starting in Year 4.

Projected Revenue Over Five Years
Year 1 $500,000
Year 2 $750,000
Year 3 $1.25 million
Year 4 $2 million
Year 5 $3.25 million

Two-Phase Implementation Plan

Phase 1: Initial Operations (Year 1-2)
•Establish leadership and core staff.
•Equip the facility with necessary technology and infrastructure.
•Launch initial programs targeting state agencies and businesses.
Initial Funding: $5.05 million (received $3.05M in FY27)

Phase 2: Expansion (Year 3-5)
•Expand course offerings to include educators and additional business sectors.
•Develop partnerships with SCETV, Palmetto College, and the SC Technical School System.
•Host the first AI tradeshow to generate revenue and foster collaboration.
•Offer 14 classes per semester and integrate hospitality students into operations.
•Launch distance learning programs and ethical AI research initiatives.
•Achieve self-sufficiency through revenue streams.

Impact if Funds Are Not Received:
Without non-recurring state funding, the university will face significant delays in launching the Institute. Key risks include: the loss of competitive advantage. Peer institutions in other states are rapidly investing in applied AI, potentially drawing away students, faculty, and research funding. Additionally. There would be missed economic development opportunities in South Carolina industries and risk falling behind without access to local AI expertise, tools, and workforce development pipelines.

Recurring Funds Needed:
USC Beaufort will need recurring funding to support annual operations for the AI Institute of $1M for Personnel and operations totaling $1,040,000 and will be offset by the revenue generated in Year 1+.

The proposed AI Institute at Hilton Head Island will be addressing urgent workforce needs while positioning the state as a leader in applied AI. To demonstrate USCB's commitment to fiscal responsibility USCB has reduced its original FY26 non-recurring funding request of $7M to $5.05M. An additional $2M investment will allow USCB to establish the foundation for the institute that will deliver long-term economic and educational benefits to our citizens.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	USC - Beaufort Campus		
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FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

6

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

New Academic Program Equipment for Environmental Engineering

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$170,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
X	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	AI Related
	HR/Personnel Related
X	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
X	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority # Implementing New Environmental Engineering Program

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
X	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Implementing the Environmental Engineering Program would enable USCB to increase STEM & Professional offerings to meet regional needs and improve student experience and success rates. The funds would provide necessary lab equipment for the program. Adding this program aligns with our strategic Goals 2 to expand and enhance the rigorous, experiential academic environment. 2.1 Strengthen and develop academic opportunities to meet the needs of a dynamic and changing world.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

These funds will benefit the University of South Carolina Beaufort student body of approximately 2,000 and the faculty/administrative staff who serve them. The University only conducts a small percentage of its work through payment for services rendered by outside contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc. In those instances, the University adheres to all applicable State Procurement requirements.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon

predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Implementing the Environmental Engineering Program would enable USCB to increase STEM & Professional offerings to meet regional needs and improve student experience and success rates. These funds will also enable USCB to broaden its current program offerings to further reflect the regional interest and employment demands. The South Carolina Lowcountry, known for its natural beauty and historical significance, is facing a myriad of environmental challenges, and a dedicated program in Environmental Engineering can offer significant benefits to address these pressing issues.

• Rising Sea Levels and Beach Erosion: The South Carolina Lowcountry is vulnerable to the effects of rising sea levels, leading to accelerated beach erosion and profile changes. Environmental engineers can play a crucial role in developing innovative strategies for shoreline protection, erosion mitigation, and sustainable beach restoration.

• Maintaining Navigable Channels and Harbors: The state of South Carolina and specifically the Lowcountry rely on navigable channels and harbors for shipping and commerce. Environmental engineers can address the challenges of maintaining these crucial channels while minimizing environmental impact.

• Impact on Marine Structures and Levees: Coastal communities heavily rely on marine structures and levees for protection against storm surges and flooding. Environmental engineers are essential in designing, maintaining, and upgrading these structures to withstand the changing climate and rising sea levels.

• Tourism and Quality of Life: The Lowcountry's tourism industry is a significant economic driver. A B.S. program in Environmental Engineering can equip local professionals with the skills to preserve the natural beauty of the area, ensuring a sustainable tourism industry and maintaining the high quality of life for residents.

• Storm Surge and Breakwater Design: Environmental engineers play a critical role in designing breakwaters and coastal defense systems that protect communities from the increasing frequency and severity of storm surges and hurricanes.

• Residential Land and Water Design: Coastal areas are experiencing an Increase in the development and construction of residential communities. A B.S. program in Environmental Engineering can equip local professionals with the skills necessary to design land usage and water distribution system plans that are appropriate to the unique environmental challenges of these areas.

• Resilience and Sustainability: Building resilient and sustainable communities is paramount in the face of climate change. Environmental engineering programs can teach students how to create sustainable, adaptive, and disaster-resistant infrastructure and systems.
• Workforce Development: Offering a B.S. program in Environmental Engineering will help build a skilled local workforce, reducing the need to import expertise from other regions and boosting the regional economy.
• Emergency Response and Preparedness: Environmental engineers can contribute to emergency response and preparedness efforts by developing flood mapping systems, designing resilient infrastructure, and participating in disaster recovery and mitigation planning.
• Community Engagement: Environmental engineers can engage with local communities to raise awareness about environmental issues, involve residents in sustainable practices, and foster a sense of responsibility for the area's ecological well-being.

Introducing a B.S. program in Environmental Engineering in the South Carolina Lowcountry is not only beneficial for addressing the pressing environmental challenges but also for promoting economic growth, enhancing emergency preparedness, and ensuring a higher quality of life for the region's residents. Such a program would empower future professionals to tackle the unique environmental issues facing this beautiful and vulnerable area. Not implementing this program puts added pressure from the community on our Natural Sciences Department. This non-recurring appropriation request corresponds with USCB’s recurring request priority #2 for $946,000.

We are requesting water quality laboratory equipment for- $120,000 and Aerial drones to studies of habitats; changes in biodiversity; disaster response- $50,000

Agency Name:	USC - Beaufort Campus		
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FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

7

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Technology Infrastructure

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$1,000,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
X	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
X	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
X	IT Technology/Security related
	AI Related
	HR/Personnel Related
X	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
X	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

G 2. Expand and enhance the rigorous, experiential academic environment.

S.2.3. Support faculty development, research, and scholarship to promote excellence and innovation.

G 3. Continuously improve efficiency and effectiveness of services & processes to support the growth of the University.

S 3.1. Nurture an environment where institutional functions and processes are constantly improved.

S 3.2 Explore and implement creative technology to enhance teaching, research and university operations.

G 5. Equip students for success within the university and beyond graduation.
S 5.1 Foster a campus culture of collective responsibility for improving student achievement, retention, persistence to graduation, and success beyond the university.

USCB is committed to the successful matriculation of students. As an access institution serving communities of varying demographics, USCB must provide a wide range of high

quality and industry-recognized degree programs that also translate into opportunities for job placement. Technology in the classrooms and computer labs, and its accessibility for students is a key component to ensure the success of these programs and the students. These funds will enable USCB to increase STEM & Professional offerings to meet regional needs and improve student experience and success rates. The high caliber of students that will participate in these programs have an expectation of access to leading edge technology to enable their success. These funds will also enable USCB to broaden its current offerings to further reflect the regional interest and employment demands.

USCB will evaluate these funds through quarterly progress reports submitted by the Vice Chancellor of IT to the Budget Office and the Vice Chancellor of Finance and Operations.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

These funds will benefit the University of South Carolina Beaufort student body of approximately 2,000 as well as the dedicated faculty and administrative staff who support them. The University only conducts a small percentage of its work through payment for services rendered by outside contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc. In those instances, the University adheres to all applicable State Procurement requirements.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

USCB operates under Federal regulations and within a South Carolina Higher Education Business Model that requires enrollment growth to maintain financial stability. The lack of a State higher education funding formula based on enrollments of South Carolina residents has limited USCB's ability to provide appropriate staffing and support necessary for these increased enrollments. These requested funds of $1,000,000 would be used to address the following.

- Update classroom and lab technology to enhance student learning and faculty teaching experiences
- Provide the necessary technology infrastructure to ensure student's success
- Bolster the campus's role in fulfilling the mission of the University
- Provide technology tools for faculty and staff to improve service and productivity to students
- Strengthen the impact of the campus and the University in the community and region.

Following is a breakdown of the estimated costs:

Update Classroom Technology in 10 Classrooms $275,000

Update Aging campus infrastructure (servers, wifi, UPS backups, etc) $335,000

Replace out of warranty computers in classrooms $210,000

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	
	Refresh out of warranty faculty/staff computers $180,000 Total $1,000,000 The University of South Carolina Beaufort's mission is to respond to regional needs, draw upon regional strengths, and prepare graduates to contribute locally, nationally, and internationally with its mission of teaching, research and service. USCB requests these funds on behalf of our students in response to the regional socioeconomic status of our student population needs and allow USCB to: • Enhance its role as an access institution • Enhance student opportunities and success • Add or expand programs in response to regional academic and economic need reducing the need for students to transfer to other institutions in order to obtain degrees in their field of choice to include Computer/Computational Science, Nursing, and Hospitality. • Support efforts to develop regionally needed Education programs such as the secondary education programs in Science (STEM) • Develop and expand nationally recognized and accredited programs that serve our regional needs. • Attract and retain quality faculty Without additional funding to support this budget request, the University of South Carolina Beaufort will continue to fall further behind in meeting the evolving technological demands of higher education, as expected by our students, faculty, and local supporters.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	USC - Beaufort Campus		
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FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	8

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	General Education Building

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$12,000,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	This academic building is not in our CPIP. The need for a new Education Building has become increasingly evident due to sustained enrollment growth over the past four years, which has significantly increased demand for classrooms, faculty offices, lecture space, and academic support areas on the Bluffton Campus. As enrollment and space utilization analyses have continued to evolve, the university has identified a more immediate need for expanded academic facilities than was anticipated during the development of the current CPIP. Consequently, the project was not reflected in the approved CPIP but has emerged as a critical priority to support the institution's educational mission and continued growth.

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS	To the extent necessary by policy or regulation, approvals from the University Institutional Board, CHE, JBRC and SFAA must be secured.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	To date, USC Beaufort has invested institutional resources in campus and master planning to support the development of a new Academic building. Upon securing $12 million in state funding, USCB will issue bonds for the remaining $10 million needed to construct and operate the facility. The requested $12 million in state capital funding would provide the primary source of funding necessary to construct the facility. The university does not anticipate requesting additional state capital appropriations for the project. Should construction market conditions, inflation, or unforeseen project requirements create funding gaps, the university would evaluate potential redesign, institutional, or system-level resources to address those needs. Upon completion of the facility, USC Beaufort will assume the ongoing operating costs. The proposed Education Building is being designed as a long-term capital asset with an expected useful life of 50+ years, assuming appropriate maintenance and periodic capital renewals.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

	Build a 37,500-square-foot, three-story Education Building at the USCB Bluffton campus. The facility will include flexible classrooms, faculty offices, a large lecture hall, and essential academic support spaces to accommodate growing enrollment and evolving instructional needs. Designed with modern instructional technology and mid-level finishes, the building will support high-quality teaching and learning while meeting all ADA accessibility and applicable code requirements. This investment will enhance academic capacity, improve student and faculty experience, and strengthen USCB's long-term educational infrastructure.

SUMMARY

USC Beaufort (USCB) is requesting $12 million in state capital funding to construct a new 37,500-square-foot, three-story Education Building on the Bluffton Campus. The facility will provide critically needed academic space and will include:

- Flexible classrooms designed to support a variety of instructional methods.
- Faculty offices to support student engagement, advising, and academic collaboration.
- A large lecture hall to accommodate high-demand courses and campus events.
- Academic support spaces that enhance student success and educational effectiveness.
- Modern instructional technology infrastructure.
- ADA-compliant design and accessibility features.
- Building systems that meet all applicable state and local building codes.

The facility will be constructed with durable, mid-level finishes appropriate for higher education instructional use and will provide a long-term solution to address the university's growing space needs.

USC Beaufort has experienced sustained enrollment growth over the past four years, resulting in increased demand for classrooms, faculty offices, student support areas, and instructional space. The Bluffton Campus has limited available capacity within existing facilities, creating scheduling constraints and reducing the university's ability to accommodate current and future enrollment growth. Without additional academic space, the university's ability to expand course offerings, support student success initiatives, recruit and retain faculty, and meet workforce development needs will be significantly challenged.

Construction of the Education Building is necessary to:

- Accommodate continued enrollment growth.
- Address classroom and faculty office shortages.
- Improve academic scheduling flexibility.
- Enhance student access to instruction
- Support evolving instructional delivery methods and educational technologies.
- Provide a modern learning environment that meets the expectations of current and future students.
- Strengthen the university's ability to serve the growing Lowcountry region.

The project directly supports the State of South Carolina's investment in higher education by expanding educational capacity. The facility will create additional capacity to support both existing and future academic programs while enhancing USCB's ability to meet the educational demands of a rapidly growing service area.

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	USC - Beaufort Campus		
Agency Code:	H360	Section:	20D

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	9

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	USCB / SCDNR Joint Marine and Environmental Sciences Building – Historic Beaufort Campus

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$20,500,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	CPIP placement: Plan Year 2027–2032, Priority 2 (Year 1). First included in USCB's CPIP: FY 2026–2027 submission as a co-located classroom and laboratory facility on the historic Beaufort campus, updated in the FY 2027–2028 submission to reflect the joint-use agreement with SCDNR and the value-engineered scope. Contingency plan if state funding is not made available in the amount requested: • Pursue supplemental capital reserve and one-time surplus appropriations, USCB institutional capital reserves, and eligible federal and economic-development grants (EDA Public Works, NOAA Sea Grant, NSF MRI) for lab instrumentation. • Delay the SCDNR half by one fiscal year if SCDNR appropriation lags, sequencing construction so USCB space delivers first. • Convert one USCB Floor 2 wet lab to a "flex lab" with capped stubs to reduce initial hood and MEP cost, with future conversion possible at ~$300K when program demand justifies. Sequence FF&E procurement to align with grant award timing (NSF MRI, NOAA Sea Grant, EDA Public Works), reducing pressure on the state appropriation for laboratory instrumentation.

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS	Approvals already obtained: • USC Board of Trustees – concept endorsement for the USCB Historic Beaufort campus academic facility expansion. • USCB Chancellor and Executive Cabinet – program approval and funding request authorization. • SCDNR – Memorandum of Understanding in principle for a co-located Lowcountry field office and wet-lab presence adjacent to the USCB Marine Sciences program.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

	Funds already invested in the project:

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY

• USCB planning coordination (in-kind staff time, FY 2025–2027) — programing, meeting with state representative, discussion of planning space with professors on program design.

• SCDNR planning coordination (in-kind staff time, FY 2025–2026) — program-of-requirements input for the SCDNR half.

Future capital or operating funds anticipated:

• FY 2028–2029 through FY 2030–2031 — pursuit of external grants (NSF MRI, NOAA Sea Grant, EDA Public Works) targeting approximately $500K–$1.2M in outside FF&E funding to offset state appropriation.

• FY 2029–2030 onward — incremental operating support may be required through the USCB E&G base to cover incremental utilities, custodial, and lifecycle maintenance for USCB's half of the building. SCDNR is responsible for the operating cost of its half under the joint-use agreement.

Sources for those funds have been identified but not yet secured:

• USCB E&G operating base — incremental request will be built into the annual USCB budget submission beginning the fiscal year of occupancy.

• SCDNR appropriation and dedicated fund sources — SCDNR will fund its share of operations, maintenance, and lifecycle.

• Grants and philanthropy — pursued for specialized instrumentation and named-space naming rights in the USCB half.

Additional annual operating cost expectation (USCB half, approximately 28,500 GSF across all three floors):

• Utilities, custodial, groundskeeping, insurance, and preventive maintenance estimated at $18.00 – $22.00 per GSF per year, or approximately $110,000 – $325,000 annually for the USCB half, in current dollars.

• Estimated ongoing cost is partially offset by consolidation and reduction of leased space in the Beaufort market and by the retirement of aging non-instructional space; net incremental cost to E&G is projected at approximately $160,000 – $375,000 per year.

• Source of funds impacted: USCB E&G base (state appropriation and tuition-supported operating fund).

Expected useful life of the capital improvement:

• Building structure and envelope: 50+ years.

• Building systems (HVAC, plumbing, electrical): 25–30 years.

• Interior finishes and casework: 15–20 years.

• Laboratory fume hoods, safety, and specialty equipment: 15–20 years.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

SUMMARY

Project overview.

USC Beaufort and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) propose to jointly construct a three-story, approximately 58,200-GSF academic and marine-agency facility on parcels 911 and 913 in the historic Beaufort campus, at the northwest corner of Boundary Street and Charles Street. The building is programmed with the SCDNR half occupying approximately 26,700 GSF and the USCB half occupying approximately 28,500 GSF (fully built out on all three floors), with an interior party-wall, independent means of egress on each side, a shared central lobby with two elevators, and a shared conditioned mechanical penthouse. This revised concept incorporates value-engineering adjustments that reduce the total project budget from the initial concept estimate without compromising core instructional or administrative function on either side.

Program and building organization.

• SCDNR half (approximately 26,700 GSF, all three levels): agency offices, one conference room, restrooms, two wet laboratories serving marine and estuarine resource work in the Lowcountry (with one flex-lab stub for future third wet lab), dedicated stair, and shared elevator access from the central lobby.

• USCB Floor 1 (approximately 9,500 GSF): general classroom, tiered lecture room seating approximately 100, student restrooms, USCB-side stair, and access to the shared central lobby.

• USCB Floor 2 (approximately 9,500 GSF): additional general and active-learning classrooms, two wet laboratories (biology and marine chemistry), one dry / instrumentation laboratory, small-group meeting room, and restrooms.

• USCB Floor 3 (approximately 9,500 GSF): faculty and administrative offices, conference room, restrooms, and huddle space to support the growing Marine Sciences, Environmental Studies, and Natural Sciences programs. Full build-out is included in this request as an essential program element.

• Shared spaces: central lobby with two elevators (one hydraulic passenger and one combination passenger / service sized for lab-equipment moves), main entry, and mechanical penthouse.

Value-engineering adjustments incorporated in this revised concept.

• SCDNR wet-lab count reduced from three to two, with capped mechanical and plumbing stubs preserving the option for a future third wet lab at reduced cost when program demand justifies.

• Conference rooms consolidated from three total (two SCDNR + one USCB Floor 3) to two total; USCB Floor 3 conference room retained as an essential program element, SCDNR reduced from two to one.

• Envelope value-engineered to brick-veneer over CMU with punched openings — compatible with Beaufort Historic District Review Board expectations while reducing exterior wall cost.

• Laboratory casework, fume hoods, and safety fixtures standardized to a single manufacturer specification and procured through state term contract.

• Two elevators retained to support lab-equipment movement, ADA redundancy, and shared occupancy operations across both partners.

• USCB Floor 3 full build-out (offices and conference room) retained as an essential program element supporting the Marine Sciences, Environmental Studies, and Natural Sciences program administration.

Site.

The building will be constructed on parcels 911 and 913 as identified on the Beaufort County parcel map, situated on the block bounded by Calhoun Street to the north, Boundary Street to the south, Charles Street to the west, and existing USCB / Magnolia Court Guest Suites parcels to the east. The site is inside the Beaufort National Historic Landmark district; massing, materials, setbacks, and exterior fenestration will be developed through the City of Beaufort Historic District Review Board process. The site is contiguous with existing USCB Historic Beaufort campus holdings on Boundary Street and is within walking distance of existing USCB student housing on Boundary Street.

Why this project is necessary.
• Instructional capacity — USCB is executing a long-range case for growth and is capacity-constrained on the Historic Beaufort campus for wet-lab-based instruction; the additional wet labs, dry lab, and classrooms directly address that constraint for Marine Sciences, Biology, Chemistry, and Environmental Studies.
• State agency co-location — SCDNR has a documented Lowcountry field presence (Waddell Mariculture Center, Region 4 Charleston) but no permanent office and wet-lab footprint inside the City of Beaufort. Co-location with USCB establishes a shared applied-research and workforce-training environment in the region SCDNR serves.
• Public value from a shared building — Sharing the shell, foundation, roof, envelope, elevators, central lobby, mechanical plant, and site work reduces total per-partner cost meaningfully versus two stand-alone buildings, and consolidates state-owned square footage on state-controlled land inside the historic core of Beaufort.
• Workforce alignment — The building supports the Lowcountry pipeline for marine science technicians, environmental analysts, and fisheries and coastal-resource professionals — occupations that align with both SCDNR's statutory mission and USCB's top program portfolio (natural sciences, public health, and human services).
• Facility condition and adjacency — USCB's current science-instruction capacity relies heavily on the Science and Technology Building on the Bluffton campus; adding wet-lab instruction on the Historic Beaufort campus reduces cross-campus travel for students and faculty and matches the historic academic use of the Boundary Street bend near the original Beaufort College campus (established 1795).
Design and construction assumptions.
• Type II-B non-combustible construction; steel frame with concrete-on-metal-deck floors; brick-veneer over CMU cavity wall exterior with historic-district-compatible fenestration and materials.
• MEP designed for laboratory loads on the USCB Floor 2 wet-lab / dry-lab wing and the SCDNR wet-lab wing, including 100% outside-air HVAC serving fume-hooded space, chemical-resistant piping, and emergency power for critical lab functions.
• Two elevators (one hydraulic passenger and one combination passenger / service) in the central lobby, sized to accommodate lab-equipment moves and provide ADA and operational redundancy for both occupancies.
• Independent means of egress on each side with a dedicated stair; shared central lobby is code-compliant as a public passage between the two occupancies.
• Site development includes stormwater management sized to Beaufort County and Historic District requirements, on-street and on-site parking rationalized with the adjacent USCB parcels, and pedestrian connection to the Boundary Street corridor.

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	USC - Beaufort Campus		
Agency Code:	H360	Section:	20D

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	10

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	USCB Nursing Education & Simulation Center

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$26,500,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	This project is currently not on the USCB's CPIP plan due to very high demand of recent prioritization since the last CPIP submission. Several critical factors have evolved which include increasing Nursing program enrollment terms from 1 to 2. The Healthcare Workforce Demand in the Lowcountry area. USCB's Contingency plan is deferred CPIP inclusion to formally include the project in the next CPIP cycle to pursue future non-recurring appropriations.

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS	No approvals have been obtained at this time. When all funding for the project has been identified and is available, establishment of the project will require approval by the University Board of Trustees, the Commission on Higher Education, and the State Fiscal Accountability Authority.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

USCB was granted $3.5M towards this capital project. The total estimated project cost for the Nursing Education & Simulation Center is $30 million. No other revenue sources have been identified at this time. USCB has initiated preliminary planning and stakeholder engagement efforts, including internal feasibility assessments and early-stage design consultations. USCB is actively engaging with community partners to explore potential collaborations and financial support opportunities.

Estimated Proposed Non-Recurring Total Cost: $30 million

- Construction & design: $24 million
- Simulation equipment & tech: $4 million
- Furniture, AV, landscape, clinic equipment: $2 million

In addition to the current capital request of $30 million, USCB anticipates requesting annual operating funds of approximately $1 million, beginning in the first full fiscal year after construction is completed.
Estimated Proposed Recurring Funding Source mix: $2 million
- State Recurring Funding for operating the facility $1 million
- USCB institutional programmatic cost $1 million

Long-Term Planning:
USCB envisions the Nursing Education & Simulation Center as a foundation for future expansion of medical education in the region. This includes potential collaboration with

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY

the University of South Carolina School of Medicine to offer joint programs, clinical rotations, and interdisciplinary training that will enhance healthcare delivery and workforce development in the Lowcountry. USCB aims to gain local support from various medical facilities in the Lowcountry to establish a collaboration for this build and program.

Sustainability and Green Building
The building will be designed with sustainability in mind, incorporating energy-efficient systems, sustainable materials, and landscaping that reflects the coastal Lowcountry environment. The project will explore LEED certification to demonstrate its commitment to environmental stewardship.

Healthcare Needs and Program Impact in the Lowcountry
Beaufort and Jasper counties face significant healthcare challenges including limited access to primary care, chronic disease management, and mental health services. The USC Beaufort RN and NP programs aim to address these needs by expanding the local healthcare workforce, improving access to care through a student-run clinic, and training clinicians to serve rural and underserved communities.

Population Demographics
• Beaufort County: Rapid growth, aging population, many retirees
• Jasper County: Rural, higher poverty, limited healthcare access
Top Medical Needs
• Primary Care Access – especially in underserved areas
• Chronic Disease Management – diabetes, hypertension, obesity
• Mental Health Services – limited local clinicians
• Maternal and Child Health – prenatal and pediatric care
• Preventative Care & Health Education
Program Benefits
• Expanded access to primary and preventive care via NP-led clinic
• Local workforce development – more RNs and NPs trained locally
• Chronic care management and mental health training in simulations
• Support for rural communities and underserved populations
• Foundation for future collaboration with School of Medicine
Community and Economic Benefits
• Increased local supply of highly trained nurses and nurse practitioners

• Improved access to primary care and specialty services
• Stronger public health resilience and emergency preparedness
• Economic boost through job creation and healthcare workforce retention of local talent
• Increased access to affordable care for students and underserved populations through the Student Health & Wellness Clinic

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

The University of South Carolina Beaufort (USC Beaufort) seeks $30 million to design and build a state-of-the-art, three-story Nursing Education & Simulation Center. This center will:

• Expand our RN program by ~60% (from ~50 to ~80/90 graduates per year)

• Launch a new NP program (25 30 graduates annually)

• Include an on-site Student Health & Wellness Clinic run by NP students with community partner support

• Produce ~400 additional RNs and ~125 150 NPs over five years

• Directly benefit the Lowcountry by strengthening the healthcare workforce, improving access to care, and stimulating local economic growth.

Vision & Need

SUMMARY

The Lowcountry faces an ongoing nursing shortage, exacerbated by population growth, aging demographics, and the lingering effects of the pandemic. Our current capacity is limited by space and outdated facilities, preventing us from meeting local and regional demand.

In addition to addressing regional nursing shortages, this new facility will house an on-campus Student Health & Wellness Clinic. Operated by NP students under faculty supervision, this clinic will provide low- or no-cost primary care, preventive screenings, mental health referrals, and health education. The clinic will partner with local health systems and public health agencies to improve access to care for students and strengthen the NP programs community engagement.

Accreditation and Quality Assurance

The RN and NP programs will pursue accreditation through the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The simulation center will be designed to meet national standards for nursing education and will incorporate best practices in clinical training and assessment. Partnerships with clinical sites will ensure students receive high-quality, hands-on experience.

Healthcare Needs and Program Impact in the Lowcountry

Beaufort and Jasper counties face significant healthcare challenges including limited access to primary care, chronic disease management, and mental health services. The USC Beaufort RN and NP programs aim to address these needs by expanding the local healthcare workforce, improving access to care through a student-run clinic, and training clinicians to serve rural and underserved communities.

Population Demographics

- Beaufort County: Rapid growth, aging population, many retirees
- Jasper County: Rural, higher poverty, limited healthcare access

Top Medical Needs

- Primary Care Access – especially in underserved areas
- Chronic Disease Management – diabetes, hypertension, obesity
- Mental Health Services – limited local clinicians
- Maternal and Child Health – prenatal and pediatric care
- Preventative Care & Health Education

Program Benefits
- Expanded access to primary and preventive care via NP-led clinic
- Local workforce development – more RNs and NPs trained locally
- Chronic care management and mental health training in simulations
- Support for rural communities and underserved populations
- Foundation for future collaboration with School of Medicine

Proposed Building Features
- 30,000 40,000 sq ft over three stories
- High-fidelity simulation labs (adult, pediatric, OB, mental health)
- Clinical skills labs mirroring real-world settings

• Dedicated NP training areas and advanced classrooms
• Integrated Student Health & Wellness Clinic: exam rooms, small lab, consultation room, waiting area
• Collaboration lounges, faculty offices, flexible multipurpose spaces
• Sustainable design for long-term efficiency

Projected Outcomes
• RN graduates/year: Current 50 | Projected ~80-90 | +400 RNs over 5 years
• NP graduates/year: Current N/A | Projected ~10-20 | +80 NPs over 5 years
• Student Health & Wellness Clinic: estimated ~1,200-1,500 patient visits annually, providing care to students and clinical experience to NP students
Community & Economic Benefits
• Increased local supply of highly trained nurses and nurse practitioners
• Improved access to primary care and specialty services
• Stronger public health resilience and emergency preparedness
• Economic boost through job creation and healthcare workforce retention of local talent
• Increased access to affordable care for students and underserved populations through the Student Health & Wellness Clinic

Tuition and Fees Overview

	Undergraduate (RN Program)	Graduate (NP Program)
In-State Tuition per Semester:	$5,172	$6,867
Fees per Semester	$368	$368
Nursing Program Fee	$550	
Nursing Course Fee	$60 per credit hour (15 credits = $900	
Estimated Nursing Graduate Fees		$500 (Conservative)
Total per Semester	$6,990	$7,735
Annual Revenue per Student	$13,980	$15,470

To support both the RN and NP programs, the facility will be equipped with advanced simulation and clinical training tools. This includes high-fidelity adult and pediatric manikins ($500,000), OB/GYN and mental health simulation suites ($400,000), telehealth training systems ($250,000), electronic health record (EHR) training modules ($150,000), and clinical skills stations with diagnostic equipment ($700,000). The total estimated cost for equipment is approximately $4 million. This investment ensures that the facility will exceed the capabilities of current nursing simulation centers, including those at the University of South Carolina.

We request the development of an architectural rendering that aligns with the existing aesthetic of the USCB campus. The design should incorporate sustainable materials and reflect the coastal Lowcountry character, ensuring visual harmony with current university buildings. This rendering will be used for planning, fundraising, and community engagement purposes.
• Ground Floor: Main lobby, adult/pediatric simulation labs, debrief rooms, Student Health & Wellness Clinic with 3-4 exam rooms, small lab, consultation room, and waiting area
• Second Floor: Clinical skills labs, NP practice suites, procedure room, simulation control center
• Third Floor: Classrooms, seminar rooms, faculty and preceptor offices, student lounges, small telehealth training lab
• Exterior: Sustainable brick/glass facade, outdoor courtyard for health fairs and student gatherings

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	USC - Beaufort Campus		
Agency Code:	H360	Section:	20D

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	11

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	New Convocation Center- Phase 1 & Athletics Complex

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$10,000,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	2021 CPIP, Plan Year 2023. This project has been included in the CPIP since 2017

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS	No approvals have been obtained at this time. When all funding for the project has been identified and is available, establishment of the project will require approval by the University Board of Trustees, the Commission on Higher Education, the Joint Bond Review Committee, and the State Fiscal Accountability Authority.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	Total estimated project costs for Phase I are $72.5 million with the total cost to be shared 50:50 between the state and Beaufort County. A total of $36.25 million in funding will come from Beaufort County. [CS1.1]A total of $47 million is on hand with USCB from prior State capital project funding requests/appropriations. This additional request for $10 million would cover the increases in cost due to inflation of 2% and the addition of adding the Athletics Fields Complex. Funds invested to date include a 50:50 cost share between USCB and Beaufort County for completion of an economic impact study for the facility at a total cost of $31,135 which was shared equally between USCB and Beaufort County. USCB also invested an additional $24,370 to complete a building cost feasibility and rendering for the center in 2021. In FY2025, the USCB Education Foundation invested over $17,000 in marketing services and hosted a community event to provide updates on the project and garner community involvement. The addition of the Athletics Fields Complex has been brought forward to be included in this project, as currently, our baseball & softball teams are practicing & playing in the Town of Hardeeville public fields, which has produced some very extreme security concerns for our students. Several instances of violence, vandalism and scare tactics for our students & staff have been reported. Along with many parent complaints arising from such incidents. We have incurred additional costs to send DPS officers to accompany our teams, but we are also short staffed in this department. This causes a strain on the rest of our DPS staff as well. This is of high priority for our students and staff safety. Facility operating costs are estimated at $900,000 annually and would be requested from the State beginning as the facility comes into service.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings?

What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

SUMMARY

Description: USCB will construct Phase I of a new building estimated at approximately 131,800 gross square feet (phase I = 87,542 & phase II = 44,278) located on the Bluffton campus to provide critical space expansion to meet curricular, co-curricular, and community needs for this growing University and Region.

Phase I will build approximately 87,500 square feet of floor space and include and a multi-functional floor area, fixed and retractable seating for approximately 3,600 spectators, dressing/locker rooms, event equipment storage rooms, a concessions stand, several building support spaces and approximately 300 additional parking spaces. Phase II will build another 44,300 square feet of floor space and include instructional classrooms, multi-purpose rooms, labs, and offices for faculty and coaches. USCB will be adding an on-campus Sports Complex of athletic fields to the property owned by the Beaufort Jasper Higher Eduction Commission on the Bluffton campus. This will provide a baseball field, a softball field, soccer field, a track & field, pressboxes, field house, and roadways. The estimate to complete the project will be $18.3 million based on an estimate from August 2023 by Huntress Association. This will address the current security issues arising out of use of the rented fields in the Hardeeville area that several parents have filed complaints about.

Sustainable Approach: The building will be connected per a proposed Infrastructure Project to the campus' expanded and newly renovated central plant which will centralize all utilities on the Bluffton campus in an effort to mitigate the impact of anticipated energy cost increases. The project will incorporate sustainable design standards and pursue LEED certification or Green Globes certification on completion.

Technology: The convocation center will include state of the art systems to effectively support the multi-purpose functions of the building.

Total Convocation Center 2% inflation costs & Athletics Field Complex: $10,000,000.00

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	USC - Beaufort Campus		
Agency Code:	H360	Section:	20D

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	12

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Deferred Maintenance

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$1,250,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	2021 CPIP, Plan Year 2023, Priority 3 of 3. This is the 3rd year this project has appear in the CPIP.

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS	To the extent necessary by policy or regulation, approvals from the University Institutional Board, CHE, JBRC and SFAA must be secured.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	USCB would like to thank the state for providing $1M in FY 2027 to support USCB's deferred maintenance needs. We are kindly asking for the difference from USCB's FY 2026 original Capital Request for $2.25M. USCB prioritizes and addresses deferred maintenance needs annually using institutional funds generated through student tuition and fees. In the absence of additional state support for these efforts, the university will continue to allocate available resources to the most critical maintenance projects. However, without supplemental funding, progress on addressing the broader backlog of deferred maintenance on all three of USCB's campuses will be limited, potentially impacting the long-term sustainability and functionality of campus facilities.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

	USC Beaufort would utilize any appropriated funds to address deferred maintenance, critical repairs, capital renewal projects, and the replacement or repair of essential equipment and building systems across its three campuses. The university's primary focus is on life safety, infrastructure, and facility improvements. Appropriated funds would be used exclusively for the maintenance, repair, and renewal of Education and General (E&G) facilities and would not support new construction. The strategic use of these funds would include the following projects: • Hargray Building (Bluffton Campus): Significant renovations and repairs are needed, particularly on the first floor. Planned improvements include replacing warped wall

SUMMARY

paneling, redesigning the lobby to improve functionality and student engagement, and reconfiguring the information desk area to provide more flexible event and gathering space.

• Science & Technology Building: Critical infrastructure improvements include the replacement of aging air-handling units that are approaching the end of their useful life. The building also requires conversion to energy-efficient LED lighting throughout, reducing operating costs while improving sustainability and reliability.

• Critical Building Repairs: Addressing deferred maintenance issues throughout the university's facilities, including repairs to building systems, interior and exterior finishes, and infrastructure components necessary to maintain safe and effective operations.

• Capital Renewal and Asset Preservation: Protecting and maintaining state-owned facilities through proactive replacement and renewal of building systems to ensure optimal operational performance and extend facility life cycles.

• Educational Space Optimization: Improving and preserving existing instructional and student support spaces to maximize their utilization and effectiveness for academic programs, student engagement, and institutional growth.

• Safety and Infrastructure Systems: Repairing and replacing critical building equipment and systems that directly impact campus safety, reliability, accessibility, and operational continuity.

Through these investments, USC Beaufort will continue to provide quality educational environments while preserving the state's investment in university facilities, reducing future maintenance liabilities, and supporting the long-term success of the institution's academic mission.

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	USC - Beaufort Campus		
Agency Code:	H360	Section:	20D

FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
AMOUNT	$539,303 *What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.*
ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	No FTEs have been identified at this time. Currently, many USCB departments are operating with only one staff member and have no additional support resources available. *How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?*
PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	Education and General Unrestricted (I.A) and associated Employee Benefits (II). The Campus' primary mission of providing instructional services to students would be impacted. However, the campus would make every effort to minimize the impact on Instructional services. Both academic and service units are funded from the Campus' general fund, which is comprised almost exclusively from State General Fund, local funds, and student tuition and fee revenue. Specifically, for FY27 the General Fund provides 40.88% of USC Beaufort overall operating resources. *What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?*
	USCB would evaluate the following for reductions: 1. Reduce travel- limit non-essential travel or shift to virtual conferences 2. Reduce number of academic class sections and increase class size 3. Reduce Library operating hours 4. Reduce temporary and student employee hours campus-wide 5. Examine low enrolled programs for possible abeyance or elimination 6. Reduce cell phone users/usage campus-wide 7. Reduce supplies 8. Contract renegotiations or terminate contracts 9. Zero-based budgeting to identify potential savings

SUMMARY

10. Consolidate or cross-train administrative roles to reduce redundancy

11. Reduction in workforce (RIF)

12. Defer Maintenance on buildings

13. Reduce Public Safety operating costs

Estimated Savings by implementing all those listed above would be between $50,000-$150,000

USCB has limited staffing in most areas, this 3% reduction would not be managed through the elimination of FTE positions. In many cases, major functions are staffed by only one FTE employee. USCB would analyze enrollment trends, course fill rates, and section utilization. Savings would be generated through reduced adjunct faculty costs and instructional expenses associated with under-enrolled course sections.

USCB has recently made efforts to restore limited levels of travel and support for faculty and staff professional development. Professional development for staff is critical to staying current on federal, state, and other mandatory changes, in addition to remaining educated about current research and trends that support their role in the University. Faculty professional development is also key to facilitating the tenure and promotion process as well as ensuring high quality instruction and delivery options for our students and their success. Reduced professional development for faculty and staff, increased class size, reduced library hours, reduced temporary and student employee hours campus-wide will negatively impact efforts at improved retention and graduation. Many temporary and student workers provide needed tutoring and other academic support services. Reduced marketing, promotion and recruitment activities could also negatively impact enrollments and the diversity of our student population.

Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS

USC Beaufort has exercised considerable restraint in managing expenses, recognizing that even modest reductions can significantly affect its ability to deliver a high-quality education aligned with baccalaureate standards. With limited staffing and a strong reliance on enrollment growth, identifying sustainable, permanent reductions presents a substantial challenge. USCB has implemented a line-item budgeting approach to promote efficient cost management and fiscal accountability. In addition, the University provides monthly financial closing updates to campus leadership and personnel to enhance financial transparency and support informed decision-making.

To optimize instructional resources, the campus continues to monitor faculty teaching loads and strategically utilize adjunct faculty where appropriate. USCB is also actively exploring more efficient operational practices, including the adoption of improved technologies and modern business processes. Any savings realized through these efforts are reinvested to enhance academic offerings, promote student success, and support student development initiatives.

USCB will save $200,000 in FY 2027 by replacing the enrollment managements marketing contracts and saved ~$200,000 in savings.

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than $50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

Agency Name:	USC - Beaufort Campus		
Agency Code:	H360	Section:	20D

FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE	Reducing Cost & Burden to Businesses and Citizens

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	USCB continues to have the lowest tuition for comparable baccalaureate institutions in the state. USCB is focused on efforts aimed at making students successful and to minimize the overall cost of obtaining a quality education. Tuition Stabilization for SC residents occur by USCB reducing operational costs directly saving students and families over time. USCB generates savings for South Carolina's businesses and citizens by both maintaining a lower direct cost of education and improving workforce readiness. Through tuition stabilization, USCB is able to keep tuition among the lowest for comparable baccalaureate institutions in the state while minimizing student debt and lowering the financial burden on families. Additionally, by accelerating the development of a skilled local workforce, USCB reduces hiring and training costs for businesses. While exact dollar figures are difficult to project, the long-term savings in education costs, workforce preparation, and economic productivity are significant.

What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	**Mark "X" for all that apply:**
	Repeal or revision of regulations.
	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
X	Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION	USCB annually reviews tuition, fees, fines, and operating expenditures as part of the budget development process. Savings are generated through the identification of operational efficiencies, cost containment measures, and strategic resource allocation that allow the University to stabilize tuition rates and minimize increases to students. The expected savings are determined by comparing projected educational costs that would otherwise be passed on to students through tuition increases with the actual tuition rates approved by the Board of Trustees, and the State providing SC First funding. Additional savings are realized through workforce development outcomes, which reduce hiring and training costs for South Carolina employers by supplying qualified graduates prepared to enter the workforce.

Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES	USCB is not proposing a reduction in fees or fines as part of this request. All tuition, fees and fines are reviewed annually before being presented to the Board of Trustees for their consideration and approval. These tuition and fees are contained in the annual budget and are related to providing instructional services to enrolled students. There are a few fines contained in that schedule which all relate to parking. In FY26 fine revenue for parking was $18,610. No changes to fine structures are proposed at this time.

Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

REDUCTION OF REGULATION	USCB does not intend to amend or delete any regulations in this form.

Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

	USCB's proposal focuses on reducing the financial burden on South Carolina students, families, and employers through tuition stabilization and efficient management of institutional resources. By maintaining tuition among the lowest for comparable baccalaureate institutions in the state, the University expands access to affordable higher education while helping students graduate with less debt.

SUMMARY

The University continuously evaluates operating expenses and implements efficiency measures to control costs, allowing resources to be directed toward student success initiatives and academic quality. These efforts benefit South Carolina businesses by producing graduates who are workforce-ready and capable of contributing immediately to the region’s economy, reducing employer training and recruitment costs. The proposal will not negatively affect agency operations and supports USCB's mission of providing accessible, high-quality education while serving the workforce needs of the region and the state.

Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?