Agency Name:	Forestry Commission		
Agency Code:	P120	Section:	43

Fiscal Year FY 2027-2028

Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

OPERATING REQUESTS *(FORM B1)*

For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
X	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
	Not requesting any changes.

NON-RECURRING REQUESTS *(FORM B2)*

For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
X	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	Not requesting any changes.

CAPITAL REQUESTS *(FORM C)*

For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
X	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
	Not requesting any changes.

PROVISOS *(FORM D)*

For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
X	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	Not requesting any proviso changes.

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

	Name	*Phone*	*Email*
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Scott Phillips	(803) 896-8800	Sphillips@scfc.gov
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Cathy Nordeen	(803) 896-8865	Cnordeen@scfc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2027-2028 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	Agency Director	*Board or Commission Chair*
SIGN/DATE:	Scott L Phillips	E. W. Smith
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Scott L. Phillips 9/25/2026	Eric W. Smith 9/25/2026

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

Agency Name:	Forestry Commission
Agency Code:	P120
Section:	43

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	C - Capital	Conserving Working Forests	30,000,000	0	0	0	30,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Sustaining Operational Readiness	725,000	0	0	0	725,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Strengthening Forestland Conservation	445,000	0	0	0	445,000	2.00	0.00	-1.00	0.00	1.00
4	B1 - Recurring	Facility Maintenance	475,000	0	0	0	475,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	B1 - Recurring	Information Technology	75,000	0	0	0	75,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	B2 - Non-Recurring	Contract Hand Crews	3,500,000	0	0	0	3,500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	B2 - Non-Recurring	All-Hazard Emergency Response Equipment	2,000,000	0	0	0	2,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			37,220,000	0	0	0	37,220,000	2.00	0.00	-1.00	0.00	1.00

Agency Name:	Forestry Commission		
Agency Code:	P120	Section:	43

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

2

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Sustaining Operational Readiness

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $725,000

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $725,000

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

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
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	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:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
X	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This funding request supports the following objectives:

2.1 – Ensure prompt and effective response to wildfires and other disasters in an increasingly complex environment.

2.3 – Deliver law enforcement services to reduce wildfire risks, illegal dumping and forest product theft and fraud.

5.1 – Prioritize safety across all agency 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	Funds will go to the payment of vendors for goods obtained for agency operations following the state procurement code.

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	The South Carolina Forestry Commission protects 12.8 million acres of unincorporated land and responds to more than 1,200 wildfires annually. The agency operates more than $85 million in wildland firefighting equipment that must be fueled, maintained and repaired to remain ready for emergency deployment. The South Carolina Forestry Commission requests $725,000 in recurring funds to maintain the equipment, vehicles and officer-safety resources required for reliable wildfire response, forestry assistance and law enforcement operations. Existing appropriations have not kept pace with rising fuel, repair, equipment and vehicle costs, while certain critical law enforcement equipment has exceeded its supported service life. The SCFC has relied on a mix of federal grants and state funds to equip wildland firefighters with essential PPE and AEDs. These funds have supported the biennial purchase of Nomex gear, boots, and other protective equipment, and allowed for AED replacement as needed. However, with growing uncertainty in federal funding and fire response now occurring year-round, stable state funding is essential. The requested funding will provide $200,000 for equipment maintenance and repairs and $150,000 for fuel. Without these funds, equipment availability and response efficiency will decline, increasing risks to firefighters, the public, homes and forest resources. It will also provide $140,000 for PPE for all agency firefighters and to replace 20% of AEDs each year. SCFC also provides technical forestry assistance to nearly 2,000 private forest landowners each year but lacks a dedicated funding source to replace the non-emergency vehicles used to deliver these services. The request includes $150,000 annually to establish a sustainable vehicle replacement cycle. Reliable transportation is essential to helping landowners maintain healthy, productive forests and supporting the forest-products sector's $23 billion contribution to South Carolina's economy. The remaining $85,000 will establish an ongoing five-year replacement cycle for the agency's intermediate-force equipment, beginning with the replacement of its obsolete TASER X2 units through a five-year purchasing agreement for current TASER 10 equipment and updated training resources. The existing units were purchased in 2019, have exceeded their expected service life, and have not been repairable or replaceable by the manufacturer since March 2024. Recurring funding will prevent the agency from relying on unsupported equipment and ensure that SCFC law enforcement officers have reliable safety equipment and current training for wildfire investigations, enforcement activities on state lands and disaster response. Together, these investments will preserve the Forestry Commission's frontline readiness, protect public and employee safety, and ensure that essential emergency response and forest-management services remain available statewide.

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:	Forestry Commission		
Agency Code:	P120	Section:	43

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

3

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Strengthening Forestland Conservation

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $445,000

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $445,000

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

1.00

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
	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
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:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
X	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This funding request supports the following objectives:

3.1 – Support landowners with programs and services that promote active forest management and help them meet their goals.

3.3 – Demonstrate practices for the active, sustainable, multiple-use management of State Forests, and engage other public landowners to do the same.

3.4 – Actively seek opportunities to acquire land to grow the State Forest system.

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 go towards the salary and fringe for one current Forestry Commission position, one FTE will be shifted from other to state funds, and candidates qualified to fill one new FTE. Operating funds will be used to pay for professional services related to due diligence costs for land conservation projects and to cover equipment, supplies and travel costs for the new FTE following the state procurement code.

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	South Carolina's forests are a foundational state asset that supports a $23 billion forest industry, protect drinking water supplies, provide wildlife habitat, support outdoor recreation, and sustain rural communities. As one of the fastest-growing states in the nation, South Carolina continues to experience increasing development pressure that permanently converts working forests to other land uses. Conserving strategic forestlands has become increasingly important to maintaining the environmental, economic, and societal benefits these lands provide. The South Carolina Protected Lands and Conservation Coordination Act (2026) reinforces the importance of coordinated statewide conservation efforts and strategic protection of priority lands. The South Carolina Forestry Commission currently manages 104,230 acres of State Forests and other agency lands while permanently protecting an additional 61,340 acres through conservation easements, resulting in more than 165,000 acres under the agency's stewardship. Over the past five fiscal years, SCFC has acquired 7,019 acres for the State Forest system and secured 61,340 acres of conservation easements with a combined fair market value exceeding $114 million. These projects leveraged $68.5 million in federal funding and $11.1 million in county funding alongside $30.3 million in state investment, demonstrating the agency's ability to maximize every state conservation dollar through strong public and private partnerships. During FY26 alone, the agency evaluated 13 conservation projects totaling more than 18,000 acres and anticipates closing five additional projects totaling over 21,000 acres during FY27. To continue meeting this growing demand, SCFC requests $185,000 to shift the State Lands Program Manager from other funds to recurring state funds. Although currently supported by State Forest revenues, the position's responsibilities now extend well beyond management of State Forest properties. The position provides statewide leadership for forest management on SCFC lands, coordinates management activities with federal, state, county, and municipal landowners, oversees agency land acquisition activities, and directs nursery and tree improvement programs. Because these responsibilities serve statewide public purposes, recurring state appropriations are the appropriate funding source. This change will also allow additional State Forest revenues to be reinvested directly into improvements that enhance public access, forest health, recreation, and sustainable management of State Forest properties. SCFC also requests $156,000 and one new FTE for a Forestland Conservation Manager, along with $104,000 in recurring operating funds to support conservation project due diligence. This position will lead agency conservation projects from initial evaluation through acquisition, coordinate partnerships with federal, state, local, and nonprofit organizations, expand the use of conservation easements and fee simple acquisitions to protect working forests. Without these additional resources, SCFC's ability to capitalize on strategic conservation opportunities will remain constrained by limited staffing and an increasingly competitive real estate market. Continued reliance on State Forest revenues to support statewide conservation responsibilities will also reduce resources available for improvements within the State Forest system. These investments will strengthen South Carolina's ability to conserve working forests, leverage substantial partner funding, and implement the statewide conservation priorities established by the General Assembly while protecting the natural resources and economic benefits that forests provide to future generations.

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:	Forestry Commission		
Agency Code:	P120	Section:	43

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

4

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Facility Maintenance

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $475,000

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $475,000

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

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
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	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:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
X	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This funding request supports the following objectives:

5.1 – Prioritize safety across all agency 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	Funds will go to the payment of vendors for goods obtained for agency operations following the state procurement code.

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	The SC Forestry Commission's Construction & Property section is responsible for maintaining all agency facilities statewide, historically requiring an average of $375,000 annually to perform essential maintenance and repairs. This recurring need was traditionally funded through rental income and revenue from surplus property and tower site sales. Both rental income and land/tower site sales have declined, leaving the agency without sufficient resources to meet ongoing facility maintenance needs. As a result, SCFC has accumulated a growing backlog of deferred maintenance statewide. At the Columbia complex alone, over $140,000 in repairs are immediately needed for roofing, roadwork, and barracks upgrades—excluding unplanned HVAC failures or other emergent issues. Facility deterioration increases repair costs, poses potential safety risks, and threatens operational readiness across regional and unit offices. The agency requests $375,000 in recurring operating funds, aligned with the six year average expenditure, to stabilize maintenance funding and prevent further facility decline. Without this investment, facilities will continue to deteriorate, and regional offices and State Forests will be forced to divert their own operating budgets to cover repairs, reducing their ability to carry out core mission activities. Full recurring funding will allow SCFC to maintain safe, functional facilities, respond promptly to unexpected repairs, and preserve assets critical to statewide forestry operations. The agency also requests $100,000 for insurance premiums. In the past five years the Insurance Reserve Fund has increased their premiums by 45% as well as increasing all their deductibles. The agency has covered these increases by using carryforward funds in the past but needs more stable funding as these costs continue to rise.

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:	Forestry Commission		
Agency Code:	P120	Section:	43

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**5**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**Information Technology**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $75,000** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $75,000**

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	**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:	
	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
	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 funding request supports the following objectives:

5.4 – Leverage data and technology to strengthen organizational efficiency, effectiveness, safety and service.

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 go to the payment of vendors for goods obtained for agency operations following the state procurement code.

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	SC Forestry Commission personnel serve in diverse roles - including wildland firefighting, law enforcement, forest management, dispatch, administrative support, and tree improvement - each requiring specialized initial training, recurring training, and documented proficiency. The agency's current training software is more than 25 years old, no longer vendor-supported, and unable to meet modern training and compliance needs. It lacks online and remote-learning capability, does not integrate with current technology, and does not allow employees or supervisors direct access to training records. With staff located across remote offices statewide, the ability to deliver training through video platforms, assign required courses, and accurately document completion is essential for operational readiness and legal compliance. This is especially important considering required certifications for agency wildland firefighters and law enforcement officers. Transitioning to a modern learning management system available on state contract will ensure accurate tracking of training metrics, improve compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, and expand training opportunities. A new LMS will support video-based and remote training, enable the creation of new courses, and provide employees and supervisors real-time access to training progress. We are requesting $75,000 for the annual maintenance cost of the new learning management system. The initial software license will be funded through carry-forward dollars.

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:	Forestry Commission		
Agency Code:	P120	Section:	43

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

6

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Contract Hand Crews

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$3,500,000

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.

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
	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
	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This funding request supports the following objective:

2.1 – Ensure prompt and effective response to wildfires and other disasters in an increasingly complex environment.

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

Established contract hand crews procured through the state procurement bid process.

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	In FY 25, South Carolina experienced a significant spring wildfire season, including the Table Rock Complex, Covington Drive Fire and many initial attack fires that stretched agency resources across all regions of the state during a short period of time. Several wildfires occurred in the NC and SC mountains simultaneously that required hand crews and created a high demand for these resources and qualified overhead personnel to ensure adequate span of control and the safety of firefighters across the geographic area. High demand across the Southern Area during this critical timeframe limited access to critical resources like hand crews and delayed deployment of these critical resources in SC. As we have seen in previous years (2016), the seasonal factors, drought, and changes in weather patterns can lead to significant increases in the number and severity of wildfires. Firefighting dozers are the primary tool used to suppress wildfires in SC, and work well in most areas. When fires occur in mountainous areas, the use of dozers is limited due to terrain and hand crews are often necessary. This is especially true post Hurricane Helene, which felled many large trees in the mountains and will significantly impact the way we fight wildfires in the upstate over the next decade. Implementing a contract to make Type 2 Initial Attack hand crews, composed of fully qualified wildland firefighters, available during periods of high wildfire activity will provide the agency with a rapidly deployable hand crew resource for wildfire suppression, which will be critical in the mountainous areas impacted by Hurricane Helene. The crews will come equipped with transportation, hand tools, and other required equipment. Hand crews are typically configured with 20 firefighters and are available to deploy for up to 14 days. A Type 2 Initial Attack crew can function as a normal single large hand crew but also have the additional capability of being broken into three or four separate squads of four to six people, capable of initial attack separately with each squad having a qualified incident commander. This request would allow the agency to implement an exclusive use contract to make 2 qualified hand crews available to stage in areas of increased fire activity for up to 2 weeks each year, per crew, with the goal of responding rapidly with hand crews to keep wildfires small and contain them quickly. If the crews are not needed for fire response during the two weeks they are staged, we will be able to use them for prescribed fires, firebreak installation, or other fuels work as needed. The contract will also include "call when needed" language that will allow the agency to bring these resources into SC if needed outside the exclusive use period. We are requesting $3.5 million to establish a multi-year contract for fully qualified wildland hand crews. If this request is not funded the SCFC will form hand crews from within existing personnel when needed. FMOs, Foresters, and other personnel provide overhead as needed and request additional hand crews from nearby states or from federal agencies, which may have limited availability as seen during the Table Rock Complex in 2025.

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:	Forestry Commission		
Agency Code:	P120	Section:	43

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	7

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	All-Hazard Emergency Response Equipment

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
	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
	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:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
X	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This funding request supports the following objectives:

2.1 – Ensure prompt and effective response to wildfires and other disasters in an increasingly complex environment.

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 go to the payment of vendors for equipment following the state procurement code.

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

The South Carolina Forestry Commission is requesting $2,000,000 to procure four rubber tracked skid steers, four compact tracked excavators, and the associated transport trailers necessary to deploy these equipment packages statewide. These tracked support platforms are essential for improving statewide wildfire response capability, storm related debris operations, emergency access improvement, and post incident rehabilitation work.

South Carolina is experiencing increased wildfire complexity driven by drought conditions, expanding wildland urban interface development, and significant storm related debris following recent major weather events including Hurricane Helene. Existing vehicles and equipment have restricted access in soft terrain, debris fields, wooded residential corridors, or areas with compromised infrastructure. These limitations result in delays during all-hazard situations such as debris removal and emergency access improvement, as well as during wildfire suppression operations, which can significantly increase firefighter exposure to hazardous conditions.

Compact tracked skid steers and mini excavators directly address these challenges by providing:

• Safe access in saturated, restricted, or debris blocked terrain

• Improved capability to clear storm debris and support saw teams during all-hazard emergency response situations

• Enhanced wildfire suppression repair, erosion control, soil stabilization, and post fire rehabilitation

• Operational mobility in environments where conventional trucks, engines, UTVs, and heavy dozers cannot maneuver

• Rapid deployment behind standard ¾ ton pickups, reducing dependence on contractors and increasing statewide responsiveness

This equipment fills a critical gap between hand crews and larger heavy equipment platforms, ensuring that SCFC personnel can safely and effectively access impacted environments during both wildfire and all-hazard emergency response operations.

Without this investment:

• Wildfire and storm response operations will continue relying on conventional equipment unable to safely access many impacted areas.

• Delays in emergency access improvement and debris removal will increase, prolonging risk to communities.

• Firefighter exposure to unstable debris environments will remain elevated.

• SCFC will continue depending heavily on contractors, reducing flexibility and slowing deployment during statewide emergencies.

The absence of this equipment will limit SCFC's capacity to protect life, property, and natural resources—core statutory responsibilities of the agency.

Agency Name:	Forestry Commission		
Agency Code:	P120	Section:	43

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	1

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Conserving Working Forests

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$30,000,000

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	Plan Year 2 Priority # 1 of 5, 2 of 6, and 5 of 9. FY 2027 was the first year these projects were included 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	The SCFC works to obtain all the necessary approvals in acquiring properties, some of which include: the SCFC Board of Commissioners, SFAA, JBRC, County School Districts and County Council.

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	The funds requested will be used for due diligence on land acquisition projects and fee simple purchase land acquisitions. We intend to leverage these funds with other agency funds, grants, federal funds, and private funds to secure land to be added to our state forests system. All land acquired will be managed for multiple use, meaning we will manage the assets for the greatest good of South Carolina and its citizens through sustainable timber management, wildlife management, recreational use, and ecosystem benefits such as clean water, clean air, carbon storage, and much more. The SCFC manages its state forests without recurring state funding, operating almost entirely off the receipts from forest product sales. In addition, 25% of the gross revenue from these sales is provided to the county where the property is located to support the school system.

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 agency currently manages over 104,000 acres of forestland and safeguards another 61,340 acres through conservation easements, with plans to strategically expand these benefits for South Carolinians. Agency staff work collaboratively with a wide range of conservation partners to identify strategic tracts that will be a good fit for our state forest system. Partners include state agencies such as SC Conservation Bank, SC Department of Natural Resources, SC Office of Resilience, SC Parks, Recreation and Tourism, etc. and non-profit partners like Open Space Institute, The Conservation Fund and The Nature Conservancy. Collaboration with a large group of partners enables the SCFC to leverage state funds against federal and private funding to achieve maximum impact.

SUMMARY

This request will provide the funds necessary for due diligence and land acquisitions and would allow the SCFC to act quickly in a very competitive real estate market. Having a dedicated source of funds for SCFC land conservation would enable the agency to:

1. React quicker in the current real estate market.

2. Purchase strategic properties in areas of the state where forestland conservation is needed most in the face of increasing development pressures.

3. Bring additional dollars to further leverage federal and private funding.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission is actively pursuing multiple high-priority conservation projects that are critical to protecting working forests across our state. The funding requested represents 42% of the fair market value of projects we anticipate could be closed in FY2028, contingent upon timely support. These funds are essential to securing forestland under threat from development, and they provide the leverage necessary for SCFC to act decisively.

Investing in forestland conservation strengthens South Carolina's long-term resilience. It ensures sustainable timber production, protects vital wildlife habitat, and expands outdoor recreation opportunities for our citizens. As development pressures intensify, SCFC must be equipped to compete effectively and move swiftly to acquire strategic properties. Legislative support for this funding will directly advance the Commission's ability to safeguard South Carolina's natural heritage and deliver lasting economic, ecological, and recreational benefits.

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:	Forestry Commission		
Agency Code:	P120	Section:	43

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	43.1
	Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").
TITLE	Grant Funds Carry Forward
	Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.
BUDGET PROGRAM	Forest Protection and Development
	Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.
RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	N/A
	Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2027-2028? If so, cite it here.
REQUESTED ACTION	Codify
	Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.
OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	N/A
	Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?
SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	Codify Proviso 43.1 – Grant Funds Carry Forward The Forestry Commission is authorized to use unexpended federal grant funds in the current year to pay for expenditures incurred in the prior year.

Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

The Forestry Commission is authorized to use unexpended federal grant funds in the current year to pay for expenditures incurred in the prior year.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Forestry Commission		
Agency Code:	P120	Section:	43

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	43.2
	Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").
TITLE	Retention of Emergency Expenditure Refunds
	Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.
BUDGET PROGRAM	Forest Protection and Development
	Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.
RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	N/A
	Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2027-2028? If so, cite it here.
REQUESTED ACTION	Codify
	Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.
OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	N/A
	Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?
SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	Codify Proviso 43.2 – Retention of Emergency Expenditure Refunds The Forestry Commission is authorized to retain all funds received as reimbursement of expenditures from other state or federal agencies when personnel and equipment are mobilized due to an emergency.

Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

The Forestry Commission is authorized to retain all funds received as reimbursement of expenditures from other state or federal agencies when personnel and equipment are mobilized due to an emergency.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Forestry Commission		
Agency Code:	P120	Section:	43

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	43.3
	Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").
TITLE	Commissioned Officers' Physicals
	Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.
BUDGET PROGRAM	Administation, Forest Protection and Development, State Forests, Education
	Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.
RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	N/A
	Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2027-2028? If so, cite it here.
REQUESTED ACTION	Codify
	Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.
OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	N/A
	Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?
SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	Codify Proviso 43.3 – Commission Officers' Physicals The Forestry Commission is authorized to pay the cost of physical examinations for agency personnel who are required to receive such physical examinations prior to receiving a law enforcement commission.

Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

The Forestry Commission is authorized to pay the cost of physical examinations for agency personnel who are required to receive such physical examinations prior to receiving a law enforcement commission.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Forestry Commission		
Agency Code:	P120	Section:	43

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	43.4
	Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").
TITLE	Compensatory Payment
	Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.
BUDGET PROGRAM	Administration, Forest Protection and Development, State Forests, Education
	Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.
RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	N/A
	Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2027-2028? If so, cite it here.
REQUESTED ACTION	Codify
	Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.
OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	N/A
	Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?
SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	Codify Proviso 43.4 – Compensatory Payment In the event a State of Emergency is declared by the Governor, exempt employees of the Forestry Commission may be paid for actual hours worked in lieu of accruing compensatory time, at the discretion of the agency director, and providing funds are available.

Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

In the event a State of Emergency is declared by the Governor, exempt employees of the Forestry Commission may be paid for actual hours worked in lieu of accruing compensatory time, at the discretion of the agency director, and providing funds are available.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Forestry Commission		
Agency Code:	P120	Section:	43

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	43.5
	Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").
TITLE	Sale of Promotional Items
	Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.
BUDGET PROGRAM	Education
	Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.
RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	N/A
	Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2027-2028? If so, cite it here.
REQUESTED ACTION	Codify
	Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.
OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	N/A
	Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?
SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	Codify Proviso 43.5 – Sale of Promotional Items The Forestry Commission may sell promotional items that advocate for the forestry and forest culture, including items featuring the South Carolina Forestry Commission Forest Life brand logo, for the purposes of generating funds for the agency operations. Unexpended funds may be carried forward from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year and used for the same purpose.

Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

The Forestry Commission may sell promotional items that advocate for the forestry and forest culture, including items featuring the South Carolina Forestry Commission Forest Life brand logo, for the purposes of generating funds for the agency operations. Unexpended funds may be carried forward from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year and used for the same purpose.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Forestry Commission		
Agency Code:	P120	Section:	43

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	43.6
	Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").
TITLE	Firefighting Equipment and Response Carry-Forward
	Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.
BUDGET PROGRAM	Forest Protection and Development
	Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.
RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	N/A
	Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2027-2028? If so, cite it here.
REQUESTED ACTION	Codify
	Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.
OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	N/A
	Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?
SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	Codify Proviso 43.6 – Firefighting Equipment and Response Carry Forward The Forestry Commission is authorized to carry forward any unspent funds appropriated for firefighting equipment into the current fiscal year to be expended for the same purpose.

Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

The Forestry Commission is authorized to carry forward any unspent funds appropriated for firefighting equipment into the current fiscal year to be expended for the same purpose.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Forestry Commission		
Agency Code:	P120	Section:	43

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	43.7
	Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").
TITLE	Response to Declared Emergencies
	Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.
BUDGET PROGRAM	Forest Protection and Development
	Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.
RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	N/A
	Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2027-2028? If so, cite it here.
REQUESTED ACTION	Codify
	Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.
OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	N/A
	Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?
SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	Codify Proviso 43.7 – Response to Declared Emergencies In the event of a declared emergency pursuant to Section 25-1-440 requiring the response of the South Carolina Forestry Commission, the State Treasurer and the Comptroller General are hereby authorized and directed to pay from the Disaster Trust Fund of the State such funds as necessary to cover the costs incurred, if available. In the event the Disaster Trust Fund is exhausted or does not have a balance sufficient to cover the incurred costs, the General Fund of the State may be utilized. The total amount transferred to the South Carolina Forestry Commission shall not exceed $5,000,000. Upon any transfer of funds, the State Treasurer and the Comptroller General shall notify the Governor, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee. Any funds reimbursed to the State shall be deposited in the respective fund from which it was transferred, up to the amount of funds advanced to the South Carolina Forestry Commission for these activities.

Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

In the event of a declared emergency pursuant to Section 25-1-440 requiring the response of the South Carolina Forestry Commission, the State Treasurer and the Comptroller General are hereby authorized and directed to pay from the Disaster Trust Fund of the State such funds as necessary to cover the costs incurred, if available. In the event the Disaster Trust Fund is exhausted or does not have a balance sufficient to cover the incurred costs, the General Fund of the State may be utilized. The total amount transferred to the South Carolina Forestry Commission shall not exceed $5,000,000. Upon any transfer of funds, the State Treasurer and the Comptroller General shall notify the Governor, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee. Any funds reimbursed to the State shall be deposited in the respective fund from which it was transferred, up to the amount of funds advanced to the South Carolina Forestry Commission for these activities.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Forestry Commission		
Agency Code:	P120	Section:	43

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

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
AMOUNT	$1,106,047 *What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.*
ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	14 FTEs *How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?*
PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	I. Administration II. Forest Protection and Development *What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?*
SUMMARY	The Forestry Commission's mission is protecting, promoting, and enhancing the state's forests for the benefit of all. To achieve this mission, agency employees provide numerous services to the citizens of South Carolina and to forested lands themselves. Forestry Commission personnel not only protect the forest lands and surrounding communities from wildfires, but they also provide outreach services to landowners who enable forestry to be a top industry and economic driver in South Carolina. In order to accommodate a 3% budget reduction, the Forestry Commission will have to eliminate 14 FTEs. These FTEs directly serve the citizens of South Carolina. By eliminating these positions, services that are currently provided will be significantly reduced. This will be a negative effect on the economic value that the forest industry provides to the state and will further reduce the Commission's ability to protect the forest resource, homes, other structures and lives. The agency will use vacant positions if available at the time of the cut. However, if positions are not vacant, the agency will use other methods to reduce state operating funds. Such methods will include a combination of elimination of at-will employees, temporary employees, furlough of current employees and/or a reduction in operating expenditures.

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

The agency evaluates operations throughout the year to ensure we are operating efficiently and effectively. In FY2018 the agency entered into a 10-year public-private partnership with Arborgen. The partnership allows the agency to continue to provide state-of-the-art seedlings to forest landowners for tree planting in the future while mitigating agency budget shortfalls associated with the operation of the nursery. As a result of this agreement, we continue to see savings of approximately $200,000 annually in salary/fringe and operating costs associated with nursery operations. The agency has repurposed the salary and fringe funds to assist with our recruitment and retention efforts. The operating funds saved are being used to bolster our Tree Improvement program to ensure SC landowners have access to the best available genetics that will be critical to maintaining and improving the productivity and health of our forests in the future.

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:	Forestry Commission		
Agency Code:	P120	Section:	43

FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE	Use of warning tickets for documenting violations of SC Code Title 48

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	$77,625.00 in fines, court costs, personnel hours and 37.5 hours of court time saved.

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.
X	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
	Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION	75 warning tickets were issued, which are multiplied by the maximum fine of $440 plus court costs of $587.50 for most violations of SC Code Title 48. Case prosecution would take approximately 15 minutes per case multiplied by 75 violations. Officer's average hourly rate of approximately $30.00 per hour multiplied by 18.75 hours of court time. The defendants' time added to the court staff's time would determine the total hours of 37.5 saved by citizens and businesses.

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

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES	Fines for violations of SC Code Title 48. Enabling authority is derived from SC Code 48-23-96.

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	This action would not require any amendments or deletions of current regulations.

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

	During FY 2025-2026 a total of 75 warning tickets were issued. Using warning tickets versus courtesy summons for documented violations the expected saving in fines and court costs is $77,063. This is based on the maximum fine of $440 plus included court assessments of $587.50. Case prosecution would take approximately 15 minutes per case multiplied by 75 violations, which saved 18.75 hours of officer court time. Based on the average hourly rate of $30.00 per hour this provided additional savings of $562 This saved the public 18.75 hours of personal or employer time due to not being required to attend court. Court personnel also saved 18.75 hours due to not hearing these cases.

SUMMARY

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