Agency Name:	Public Service Commission		
Agency Code:	R040	Section:	72

Fiscal Year FY 2027-2028

Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
OPERATING REQUESTS *(FORM B1)*		Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	X	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
NON-RECURRING REQUESTS *(FORM B2)*		Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
		Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	X	Not requesting any changes.

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

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
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:	Jocelyn Boyd	(803) 896-5100	Jocelyn.Boyd@psc.sc.gov
SECONDARY CONTACT:			

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:	Jocelyn Boyd / September 24, 2026	
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Jocelyn Boyd	

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

Agency Name:	Public Service Commission
Agency Code:	R040
Section:	72

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Employer Contributions (Employee Benefits)	0	0	149,831	0	149,831	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Operating Expenses	0	0	244,991	0	244,991	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			0	0	394,822	0	394,822	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Agency Name:	Public Service Commission		
Agency Code:	R040	Section:	72

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

1

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Employer Contributions (Employee Benefits)

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $0

Federal: $0

Other: $149,831

Total: $149,831

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
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
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Strategic Goal 2: Maintain Our Commitment to the Judicial Process – The Commission will use the funds for Employer Contributions (Employee Benefits) due to the 2% general increase for Commissioners and Staff.

The request advances the Commission's Strategic Goal 2 by employing human resources who carry out its mission, vision, goals, and mandated statutory responsibilities.

Commission employees (Commissioners and Staff) are evaluated using tools such as Employee Performance Management tools and annual performance reviews.

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	The funds will be used for Commission employees who received the general increase effective on July 1, 2026. The methodology used to allocate Employer Contributions is based on rates provided by the Executive Budget Office.

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	To carry out its mission, vision, goals, and mandated statutory responsibilities, the Commission must retain adequate human resources. In addition to paying Commission employees' salaries, the Commission must bear its responsibility of contributing to employee benefits, such as Social Security and Medicare contributions and state retirement contributions. If funds are not received, the Commission will experience significant levels of employee turnover, which will cause the Commission to be unable to perform its duties at an optimal level.

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:	Public Service Commission		
Agency Code:	R040	Section:	72

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

2

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Operating Expenses

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $0

Federal: $0

Other: $244,991

Total: $244,991

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
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Strategic Goal 2: Maintain Our Commitment to the Judicial Process – The Commission is required to employ, through contract or otherwise, third-party consultants and experts to evaluate avoided cost rates, methodologies, terms, calculations, and conditions. This request provides funding for the avoided cost consultants required under S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-20(I).

On September 14, 2026, the Commission conducted public interviews of prospective avoided cost consultants who filed responses to Solicitation Numbers 5400029780, 5400029781, and 5400029782. Commission Order No. 2026-450 states that a Commission decision regarding hiring Qualified, Independent Third-Party Consultant(s) and Expert(s) will be at the Regular Commission Business Meeting on Thursday, October 1, 2026.

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	The funds will be paid to the awarded recipient(s) of Solicitation Numbers 5400029780, 5400029781, and 5400029782.

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	S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-20(I) provides, "[t]he commission is authorized to employ, through contract or otherwise, third-party consultants and experts in carrying out its duties under this section including, but not limited to, evaluating avoided cost rates, methodologies, terms, calculations, and conditions under this section. The commission is exempt from complying with the State Procurement Code in the selection and hiring of a third-party consultant or expert authorized by this subsection. The commission shall engage, for each utility, a qualified independent third party to submit a report that includes the third party's independently derived conclusions as to that third party's opinion of each utility's calculation of avoided costs for purposes of proceedings conducted pursuant to this section. The qualified independent third party is subject to the same ex parte prohibitions contained in Chapter 3, Title 58 as all other parties. The qualified independent third party shall submit all requests for documents and information necessary to their analysis under the authority of the commission and the commission shall have full authority to compel response to the requests. The qualified independent third party's duty will be to the commission. Any conclusions based on the evidence in the record and included in the report are intended to be used by the commission along with all other evidence submitted during the proceeding to inform its ultimate decision setting the avoided costs for each electrical utility. The utilities may require confidentiality agreements with the independent third party that do not impede the third-party analysis. The utilities shall be responsive in providing all documents, information, and items necessary for the completion of the report. The independent third party shall also include in the report a statement assessing the level of cooperation received from the utility during the development of the report and whether there were any material information requests that were not adequately fulfilled by the electrical utility. Any party to this proceeding shall be able to review the report including the confidential portions of the report upon entering into an appropriate confidentiality agreement. The commission and the Office of Regulatory Staff may not hire the same third-party consultant or expert in the same proceeding or to address the same or similar issues in different proceedings." If the Commission does not receive the requested funds, the Commission will not be able to perform its duties outlined in S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-20(I).

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:	Public Service Commission		
Agency Code:	R040	Section:	72

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

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
AMOUNT	$16,308 *What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.*
ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	N/A *How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?*
PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	Commissioners, Commissioner Support, Project Management Office, Clerk's Office, Public Utility Analysts, and Legal Departments. *What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?*
SUMMARY	A General Fund reduction of $16,308 will increase personnel costs on earmarked funds. The Public Service Commission will mitigate the $16,308 increase on earmarked funds by reducing travel expenses to cover an anticipated 3% reduction of General Fund personnel costs. The Commission recognizes that performing its duties required by law are the Commission's priority, and reduction in travel expenses will not impact the Commission's operations. The Commission's method of calculation for anticipated reductions is to multiply our General Fund appropriations by 3%. Methodology to Calculate 3% Impact of Reduction in Total General Funds: $543,614 (General Funds) x 3% = $16,308 (Impact)

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

N/A

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:	Public Service Commission		
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FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE

Livestreaming with Webex Capabilities for Commission Hearings, Business Meetings, and Public Interviews for Qualified, Independent Third-Party Consultants and Experts

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

Livestreaming with Webex for Commission Hearings, Business Meetings, and Public Interviews for Qualified, Independent, Third-Party Consultants and Experts saves businesses and citizens time as well as the cost of traveling to and from the Commission's office in Columbia. The savings will vary depending on how far a business or citizen must travel to attend a hearing, business meeting, or public interview.

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.
X	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
	Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION

The Commission estimates the savings that virtual participation provides by multiplying the estimated mileage for participants from their home locations by the rate of 76.0 cents per automobile mile. For out-of-state participants, the Commission uses the average cost of a flight from their home location to Columbia, South Carolina.

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

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES

N/A

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

N/A

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

During fiscal year 2025-26, the Public Service Commission of South Carolina conducted most of its hearings by allowing virtual appearances as an option for participants in the proceedings. In addition to increasing the number of off-site participants through voice and video technology, livestreaming the Commission's proceedings has significantly increased the visibility of the Commission's business by allowing citizens and businesses to view proceedings live or at a later time.

Livestreaming with WebEx capabilities for Commission hearings, business meetings and public interviews for qualified, independent third-party consultants and experts saves businesses and citizens time, as well as the cost of traveling to and from the Commission's offices in Columbia. Of course, the savings vary depending on how far a person would have to travel to attend a hearing, business meeting, or public interview. Virtual participants in Commission proceedings in the 2025-26 fiscal year hailed from as close as Lexington, South Carolina, to as far away as Toronto, Canada. In the 2025-26 fiscal year, the Commission estimates the savings that virtual participation provides by multiplying the estimated mileage for participants from their home locations by the rate of 76.0 cents per automobile mile. For out-of-state participants, the Commission uses the average cost of a flight from their home location to Columbia, South Carolina.

In fiscal year 2025-26, 200 people participated virtually in Commission proceedings, which generated savings in travel costs and hotel costs not counting the savings for the cost of participants' time had they been required to travel to Columbia. Including the cost of the time saved would increase total savings significantly.

SUMMARY

The following table and chart show the number of virtual and audio participants in the Commission's proceedings for FY 2025-26, including witnesses/presenters and counsel/representatives.

Public Service Commission Proceedings
Virtual & Audio Participants
Fiscal Year 2025-26

		Hearings/Proceedings Before the Commission		
Month-Year	**Proceedings Including Forums & Workshops (Total virtual participants)**	**Witnesses/ Presenters**	**Counsel/Reps**	**Total**
Jul-25	2	1	0	**3**
Aug-25	8	1	4	**13**
Sep-25	10	2	2	**14**
Oct-25	2	3	4	**9**
Nov-25	15	5	4	**24**
Dec-25	6	0	10	**16**
Jan-26	0	0	4	**4**
Feb-26	2	8	9	**19**
Mar-26	4	0	15	**19**
Apr-26	7	40	6	**53**
May-26	0	18	3	**21**
Jun-26	3	0	2	**5**
Totals	**59**	**78**	**63**	**200**

