



**Fiscal Year FY 2022-2023
Agency Budget Plan**

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

OPERATING REQUESTS <i>(FORM B1)</i>	For FY 2022-2023, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

NON-RECURRING REQUESTS <i>(FORM B2)</i>	For FY 2022-2023, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

CAPITAL REQUESTS <i>(FORM C)</i>	For FY 2022-2023, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

PROVISOS <i>(FORM D)</i>	For FY 2022-2023, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any proviso changes.

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

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Scott L. Phillips	(803) 896-8801	SPhillips@scfc.gov
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Cathy C. Nordeen	(803) 896-8865	CNordeen@scfc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2022-2023 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	<i>Agency Director</i>	<i>Board or Commission Chair</i>
SIGN/DATE:	<i>Scott L. Phillips</i>	<i>Walter A. McPhail</i>
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Scott Phillips	Walter A. McPhail

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	B1 - Recurring	Firefighting and Service Capacity	2,164,000	0	0	0	2,164,000	13.00	0.00	-4.00	0.00	9.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Outreach Capacity	105,000	0	0	0	105,000	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Stream Crossing Cost Share Program	125,000	0	0	0	125,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	C - Capital	Fire Support Aircraft	425,000	0	0	0	425,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	C - Capital	Wee Tee State Forest Bridge Replacement	5,000,000	0	0	0	5,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			7,819,000	0	0	0	7,819,000	14.00	0.00	-4.00	0.00	10.00

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

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	1
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Firefighting and Service Capacity
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$2,164,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$2,164,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2022-2023? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	9.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>This funding request supports the following agency strategies:</p> <p>2.1 Ensure prompt and effective response to wildfires and other disasters in an increasingly complex environment.</p> <p>3.1 Support landowners with programs and services that promote active forest management and help them meet their goals.</p> <p>4.1 Promote the Forestry Commission as South Carolina's first and foremost source for forest management information and assistance.</p> <p>5.1 Prioritize safety across all agency operations.</p> <p>5.2 Develop and maintain a workforce that is inclusive, skilled, engaged and productive.</p> <p>This request will allow the agency to increase its capacity to respond to wildfires, improve capabilities to predict fire weather, increase capacity to provide forest management technical assistance and services to landowners and enhance aerial detection and suppression support for wildfires which will decrease wildfire risk. It will establish much needed supervisor positions for successional planning and career path development for dispatchers and foresters as well as improve customer service to our internal and external customers to include landowners, employees, other state and</p>
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federal agencies and the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.

The use of these funds will be evaluated by demonstrating a decrease in wildfire response times, and increase in the number of landowners assisted, improved forest management customer satisfaction levels and enhanced ability of the agency to prepare our workforce for future demands

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 9 new FTE's and 4 FTE's shifted from Other to State. Statewide vendors would receive operating funds to support these positions as well as the SC Army National Guard by establishing an agreement to provide aerial delivery of water and other aviation support during wildfires.

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 Forestry Commission's mission is to protect, promote and enhance the forest lands of South Carolina. The agency accomplishes this mission primarily through our Forest Protection and Forest Management operations. Limited capacity in these critical program areas has resulted in firefighters and foresters covering greater territory, increasing response time, fire size and wildfire damage risk, while reducing landowner assistance, wildfire prevention and outreach activities. Also, with this request the agency has the unique opportunity to fill four critical positions through the transfer of existing unfunded FTE's.

We are requesting funding in our Forest Protection division for a fire support position (\$116,000) and operating (\$350,000) to support our Forest Protection programs. Having a dedicated fire support position would allow the Forestry Commission to provide more accurate fire weather and fire intelligence to agency firefighters and cooperating fire agencies which would result in increased public and firefighter safety. The operational funds will allow the Commission to strengthen our wildland fire program and our partnerships with the US Forest Service, SC Army National Guard, and other agencies that provide wildland fire support and prescribed fire assistance.

We are also requesting two new FTE's (\$130,000) for shift supervisor positions for nighttime dispatch shifts and an additional \$55,000 for salary and fringe to promote six daytime dispatchers to shift supervisor positions. Currently we only have three supervisory employees for our three dispatch centers (one in each center) which does not provide adequate supervisory coverage for full shifts or on weekends and holidays. We need to create shift supervisor positions to provide a clear chain of command at all times while also addressing succession planning needs and career path development. In addition to the salary and fringe we are requesting \$175,000 in operating to cover annual maintenance costs at our dispatch centers that have previously been paid from less stable federal funds. This request will benefit the landowners of South Carolina and Forestry Commission personnel by having our dispatch centers adequately staffed and managed 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

In addition to the Forest Protection funding request, we are requesting funding for seven FTE's, six new and one shifted, (\$676,000) and operating to support these positions (\$70,000) in our Forest Management division. These FTE's will improve supplemental firefighting capacity and increase landowner assistance while also providing much-needed training and supervisory experience for succession planning efforts. These positions will benefit the landowners of South Carolina by providing additional supervisory positions for fire response, increasing timber supply, improving forest health, ensuring soil and water quality and reducing wildfire risk which increases forestry's economic impact.

We are requesting \$200,000 and to shift two FTE's from other to state to hire two full-time pilots. These positions will provide necessary aerial support/detection information to firefighters on the ground regarding fuels, fire behavior and values at risk during wildfire suppression which will increase public and firefighter safety while also improving the efficacy of the agency's fire suppression efforts. We currently only have two full-time pilots to support the agency's 24/7 firefighting mission across the whole state. The addition of two full-time pilots will provide much better coverage. An additional \$150,000 in operating is requested to supplement federal grant funds used by our Forest Protection division to operate and maintain the agency's fleet of aircraft. Additional funding is needed for preventative maintenance, scheduled replacement of

aircraft engines and to upgrade avionics. This request is related to our capital funding request to purchase two fixed-wing aircraft (see priority #4).

We are requesting \$100,000 in operating funds due to insurance premium increases implemented by the Insurance Reserve Fund. Since FY 2019 our premiums have increased 45% because of the IRF increasing premiums due to natural disasters, increased losses in the IRF's tort line and an increase in the tort cap to \$1 million. We have covered this increase in premiums with carry forward thus far, but need a long-term solution for this increase.

We are requesting \$142,000 and to shift one FTE from other to state to fund a General Counsel position. The agency currently has no legal staff and must rely on private attorneys for legal matters involving landowner, human resources, regulatory and legislative issues. This position would also assist with contractual, strategic planning and accountability issues related to the agency.

If funds are not received the effectiveness of wildfire prevention efforts will be reduced, leading to more damage to homes and forest resources. The agency will also lack the capacity to provide needed technical assistance to forest landowners, causing a reduction in active forest management that will lead to less healthy and productive forests, which will in turn increase wildfire risks.

The amounts of this request were calculated by using the average salary and fringe benefits of like positions within the agency and operating costs associated with those positions related to forest protection and management efforts.

With the exception of the four requested transfers, the Forestry Commission does not have the vacant positions to fulfill this request, as they are obligated to other areas within the agency.

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	2
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Outreach Capacity
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$105,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$105,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2022-2023? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	1.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>4.1 Promote the Forestry Commission as South Carolina's first and foremost source for forest management information and assistance.</p> <p>4.2 Educate the public on the environmental benefits of working forests and the role of strong markets and family forest owners in keeping our forests healthy.</p> <p>4.3 Continue to promote the economic benefits of forestry.</p> <p>4.5 Promote trees and forests as a way to offset the effects of a changing climate.</p> <p>The Forestry Commission's Communications and Public Information Division would be able to better perform media relations, handle emergency communications, produce content for a wide range of media channels and conduct outreach for the agency.</p> <p>This request will be evaluated by monitoring the communications and outreach that the Communication and Public Information Division is able to provide to the citizens of South Carolina.</p>
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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 new FTE and provide operating expenses for our Communications and Public Information Division.

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

A core function of the Forestry Commission is to promote the advantages of forestry and the benefits of active forest management. The agency has done a great job in recent years promoting the economic benefits of forestry and establishing the forestry sector as a pillar of SC's economy. As our state's population becomes more urbanized, we must strengthen our message on the environmental benefits of working forests and the role strong markets and family forest owners play in keeping our forests healthy, so they can continue to provide jobs, clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat and beauty that benefit the citizens of our state.

Currently we have a very small (3 FTEs), but talented, group of employees working in the Communication and Public Information Division but we need additional capacity to tell our story. Understaffing in this area creates the lack of specialization needed for a more robust integrated marketing communication program, which also leads to missed opportunities for public relations and outreach.

We are requesting one FTE (\$80,000) and \$25,000 in operating funds to increase communications and outreach capacity that will allow the Commission to better promote the advantages of forestry and the benefits of active forest management to landowners and the public.

If the funding is not received the Commission will continue to have an insufficient level of communications support during wildfire suppression/emergency operations. The agency will also continue to miss opportunities to promote the benefits of forestry to the general public, media and agency partners.

The Forestry Commission does not have the vacant positions to fulfill this request, as they are obligated to other areas within the agency. The SCFC does not currently receive any grant funds or any other sources of income that can be used to fund this position.

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
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Stream Crossing Cost Share Program
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$125,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$125,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2022-2023? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>1.1 Promote programs and practices that safeguard South Carolina's water, air, soil, wildlife habitat, recreation and natural beauty.</p> <p>1.2 Deliver programs and services that retain, develop and expand sustainable timber and non-timber markets.</p> <p>Fully funding this request will establish a Best Management Practices for Forestry (BMP) cost-share program enhancing water quality protection during forestry operations.</p> <p>The use of these funds will be evaluated by comparing future stream crossing BMP compliance with historical baselines as determined during the Forestry Commission's BMP implementation monitoring of harvesting operations.</p>
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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?

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RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Timber operations professionals, which are private contractors, would receive the funds to help off-set a portion of the costs associated with the installation of a proper stream crossing during logging operations that minimizes water quality impacts. This cost-share program would provide 50% of the actual cost of the installation of a proper stream crossing up to \$6,000 per participant/year on a first come/first served basis.

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 high cost associated with the installation of stream crossings limits compliance with Best Management Practices for Forestry (BMP). While the overall implementation of SC's BMPs is very high, greater than 96%, stream crossings consistently have the lowest compliance rating as documented by SC Forestry Commission BMP Implementation Monitoring, while being one of the most critical for the protection of water quality. Increased BMP compliance would allow everyone in the State to benefit from cleaner water.

In South Carolina 54% of all surface water originates on forest land. BMPs are proven to be successful in controlling and preventing nonpoint source pollution during forestry activities. SC BMP implementation monitoring studies show that knowledge of BMPs has expanded over the last 30 years with over 1,000 people trained annually through the Timber Operations Professional (TOP) program. Currently, failure to install adequate BMPs is more commonly a result of the high costs of implementation, not a lack of understanding in the standard.

Stream crossings have historically had the lowest BMP compliance rates, ranging from just 74% compliance in 2016 to 89% in 2020, and continue to be the area with the greatest opportunity for improvement. Stream crossings are critical for water quality protection since they often involve use of heavy equipment and soil disturbance in and near bodies of water. Scientific studies have shown that stream crossings constructed below BMP standards produce 2.8 times more erosion and 11.6 times more sediment than one constructed in compliance with BMPs.

Installing a stream crossing in compliance with BMPs requires a significant investment by the contractor. Costs include a culvert or portable bridge, equipment hours for installation and materials for stabilization. A cost-share program would encourage increased BMP compliance by assisting contractors with off-setting some of the costs associated with the installation of proper stream crossing that minimizes water quality impact. In order to ensure BMP compliance continues to improve and water quality continues to be protected during forestry operations a cost share program should be established to help cover the cost of BMP implementation on private lands.

This cost-share program is modeled after a similar program in Virginia and would provide 50% of the actual cost of the installation of a proper stream crossing up to \$6,000. The Virginia program has been very successful and has benefited BMP compliance rates for stream crossings in that state, improving from 81% in 2006 to an average compliance of 95% over the last five years.

If this funding request is not approved BMP compliance with stream crossings will continue to be lower than the desired level and could decline as the costs of installing stream crossings increase. This could have a negative impact on the water quality in South Carolina.

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 C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	4
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Fire Support Aircraft
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$425,000
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How much is requested for this project in FY 2022-2023? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	Although this was not included in the CPIP report, this funding will be used to replace two federal excess property aircraft with newer fixed-wing aircraft (used, preferably less than 10 years of age) and to outfit these aircraft with current avionics and communications technology. If this request is not funded we will continue to operate with the aging fleet we currently have.
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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	Once funding is secured for the purchase of two fixed-wing aircraft approval will be needed from JBRC and SFAA before the aircraft can be purchased.
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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	Currently, aircraft maintenance and operational costs are supported with federal grant funds obtained through the USDA Forest Service (approximately \$200,000/ year). An additional \$150,000 in recurring state funds is being requested for FY 2023 as part of our Firefighting and Service Capacity decision package and, if funded, will provide the necessary funding for the maintenance of the aircraft. The expected service life of these aircraft is 20 years once placed into active service with the SC Forestry Commission.
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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?

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	<p>The Forestry Commission is requesting \$425,000 to purchase two newer fixed-wing aircraft (used, preferably less than 10 years old) to replace two federal excess property aircraft that have exceeded the safe service life. Due to no availability of these types of aircraft through the federal excess property programs state funding is needed to replace these aircraft.</p> <p>The 10 fixed-wing aircraft currently in use by the SCFC are on loan to the agency through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program and are owned by the USDA Forest Service. These aircraft are acquired for use in wildfire suppression through this program when federal agencies have determined them to be surplus. This aerial support is critical to detect wildfires in rural areas and to help firefighters fight wildfires safely by keeping them aware of hazards and changing fire conditions. When engaged in wildfire suppression, the "eye in the sky" provided by these aircraft enhances the safety of</p>
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SUMMARY

firefighters and the public. Agency pilots serve as aerial observers, alerting firefighters on the ground to changes in weather, fire behavior and to make sure they are aware of threatened homes, infrastructure, and fuel conditions that may impact the ability to fight fire safely.

The average age of the agency's aircraft is 51 years, with individual aircraft ranging from 42 to 58 years. Maintenance costs and availability of parts are making it more difficult to ensure that the fleet is operational when needed to support wildfire control, hurricane response, search & rescue, and other operations. The agency's flight missions are considered high hazard because aircraft fly at very low altitudes under less than optimum conditions, when wildfires occur, and often encounter high winds, extreme temperatures and turbulent air. Maintaining these aircraft is essential to pilot safety during flights, and to increase safety for firefighters on the ground being supported by these aircraft. All funding to support aircraft maintenance, engine replacements, and communications upgrades has come from federal grant funds, and acquiring state funds, through our companion recurring funds request, to support the air operations program will enable the agency to improve the readiness of the fleet.

Acquiring newer aircraft will reduce maintenance costs and improve the safety for agency pilots, and increase the reliability of air operations. As the fleet has aged, the availability of replacement parts has decreased, making repairs take longer and cost more. If newer aircraft are acquired, the SCFC will dispose of (on behalf of the USDA Forest Service) a corresponding number of fleet aircraft, so the overall fleet size will not increase.

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 C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	5
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Wee Tee State Forest Bridge Replacement
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$5,000,000
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How much is requested for this project in FY 2022-2023? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	The Wee Tee State Forest Bridge project was included in the CPIP for the first time in FY 2022 and is the top CPIP priority. If this request is not funded there will continue to be limited road access due to impassable bridges limiting management and public enjoyment of this property.
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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 Wee Tee State Forest Bridge Project # 9603 has already received approval from JBRC and SFAA.
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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 Forestry Commission has already set aside an initial \$60,000 of state carry-forward money to start the process of procuring estimates and engineered drawings for the nine complete bridge systems. The State Forest system in South Carolina is generally self-sufficient, but replacing these bridges is a major capital expense that is outside of their fiscal abilities. If this project is fully funded all future operating expenses will be covered by the state forest. We expect the useful life of these bridges to be 50 years, or more.
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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?

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	<p>A goal of the Forestry Commission is to conserve working forests by ensuring their sustainability and active management in order to maintain the economic, environmental and social benefits these lands provide. One of the ways we do this is by demonstrating active, sustainable, and multiple-use management practices on our State Forests. Currently the agency's ability to utilize Wee Tee State Forest, a beautiful riverine hardwood forest on the Santee River, to further this goal and benefit the public is severely limited due to access issues.</p> <p>The current access to Wee Tee State Forest, a 12,403 acres property with approximately 12 miles of frontage on the Santee River in Williamsburg and Georgetown Counties, is severely limited due to unsafe and impassable bridges. Wee Tee has approximately 56 miles of roads. However, only two miles can be currently utilized to access the property for management and public recreation due to nine bridges that have been rendered unsafe by severe flooding in recent years. The main supports (abutments, piers and</p>
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SUMMARY

pillars) of these nine bridges have been undercut and destabilized to the point that some of the bridges are assuming precarious angles, the entire decking is very suspect and none are safe for vehicular usage. Currently only about 8% of the property is readily accessible. This is limiting public use as well as management of the property. Most importantly, this limited access impairs the ability of first responders to come to the aid of anyone injured on the property. In order to increase safety, public recreational opportunities and to facilitate management of this property nine bridges need to be completely replaced.

We are requesting \$5 million dollars to replace all nine bridges on Wee Tee State Forest. This property is an asset of the state of South Carolina and needs to be accessible to its citizens. Installing new bridges will provide improved safety and public access for all aspects of recreational use: hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and hiking. It will also greatly enhance our ability to manage the area for the production of sustainable forest products which will benefit local businesses and the Williamsburg and Georgetown school systems. The Forestry Commission pays 25% of the gross proceeds from the sale of forest products from a State Forest to the county where it is located to benefit the schools. Since 2010, the Forestry Commission has paid more than \$9.3 million to schools in counties where State Forests are located.

If full funding is not received, the Forestry Commission will only be able to replace the number of bridges commensurate with funding received. Due to economies of scale the cost per bridge is likely to increase if fewer bridges are replaced as part of a single project.

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 E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
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AMOUNT	\$706,938
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What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.

ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	17 FTEs
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How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	<p>I. Administration</p> <p>II. Forest Protection and Development</p>
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What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?

SUMMARY	<p>The Forestry Commission’s mission is to protect, promote, enhance and nurture the forest lands of South Carolina. To achieve this mission, agency employees provide numerous services to the citizens of South Carolina and to the forest lands themselves. Forestry Commission personnel provide a service to 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.</p> <p>In order to accommodate a 3% budget reduction, the Forestry Commission will have to eliminate 17 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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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 at the Commission's Taylor Nursery. 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	Forestry Commission Regulation Changes
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	We expect no savings from these changes. However the changes should make regulations easier to understand and eliminate potential conflict with other regulations.
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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:	
	X	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.
		Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION	N/A
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Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.

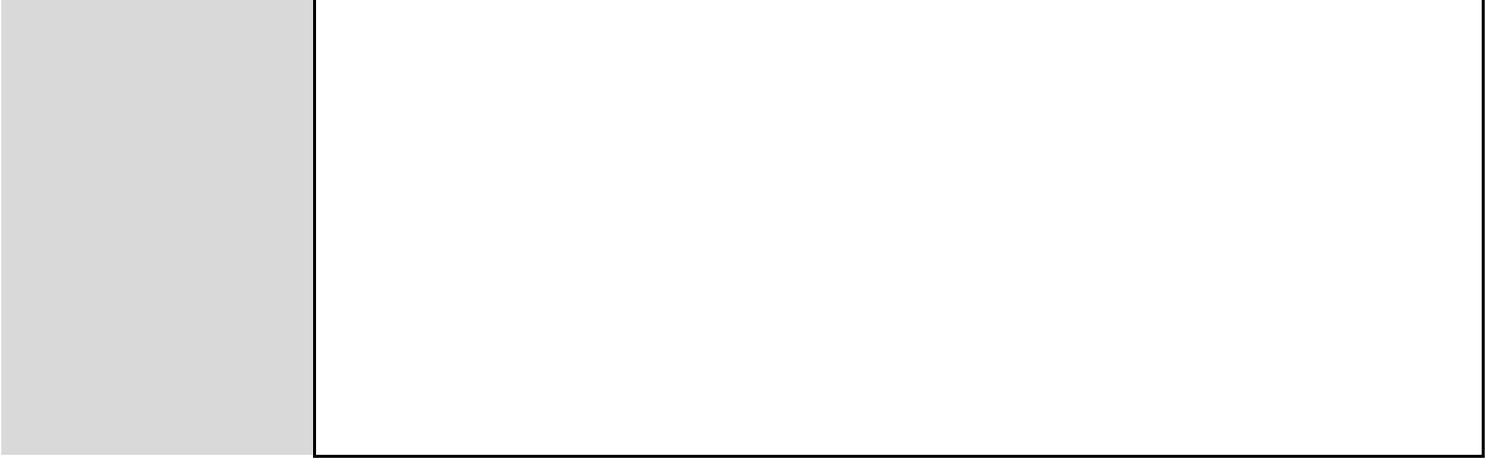
REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES	N/A
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Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

REDUCTION OF REGULATION	The Forestry Commission is proposing to amend three regulations: 55-1, 55-6 and 55-11. The Forestry Commission is proposing to delete one regulation: 55-10. The enabling authority for this action is 48-23-200.
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Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

SUMMARY	The Forestry Commission is proposing to amend three regulations (55-1, 55-6 and 55-11) and delete one regulation (55-10) in the upcoming legislative session. The three amendments will update and remove obsolete language and clarify conflicting language with other agencies regulations. The deletion removes an old regulation that is no longer applicable to the Commission's operations. These changes will not impact agency operations.
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Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?