

Agency Name:	State Museum Commission		
Agency Code:	H950	Section:	29



Fiscal Year FY 2025-2026

Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

**OPERATING
REQUESTS**

(FORM B1)

For FY 2025-2026, 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**

(FORM B2)

For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Not requesting any changes. |

**CAPITAL
REQUESTS**

(FORM C)

For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Requesting funding for Capital Projects. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Not requesting any changes. |

PROVISOS

(FORM D)

For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> | Not requesting any proviso changes. |

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

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Amy Bartow-Melia	(803) 898-4930	amy.bartow-melia@scmuseum.org
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Doug Beerman	(803) 898-4989	doug.beermann@scmuseum.org

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2025-2026 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	<u>Agency Director</u>	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>
SIGN/DATE:	<i>Amy Bartow-Melia</i>	<i>John F. McCabe</i>
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Amy Bartow-Melia	John F. McCabe

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

Agency Name:	State Museum Commission
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Section:	29

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Rent Increase for South Carolina State Museum in Columbia Mills & Expansion to West Wing	1,705,362	0	0	0	1,705,362	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	South Carolina State Museum Staff Position Funding Support	1,183,219	0	0	0	1,183,219	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.00
3	B2 - Non-Recurring	Security Alarm System & Wayfinding Emergency Public Announcement System	300,000	0	0	0	300,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	C - Capital	South Carolina State Museum - Reimagine the Experience – Permanent Gallery Upgrades & Expansion of Educational Reach & Impact	20,000,000	0	0	0	20,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	B1 - Recurring	Computer and Laptop Lifecycle Replacement	40,000	0	0	0	40,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	B2 - Non-Recurring	Imagery Server Repository and Backup Expansion	100,000	0	0	0	100,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			23,328,581	0	0	0	23,328,581	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.00

Agency Name:	State Museum Commission		
Agency Code:	H950	Section:	29

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

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

TITLE	Rent Increase for South Carolina State Museum in Columbia Mills & Expansion to West Wing
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	<p>General: \$1,705,362</p> <p>Federal: \$0</p> <p>Other: \$0</p> <p>Total: \$1,705,362</p>
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? 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 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 checked="" 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"/>	HR/Personnel 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>1.2 Maximize Earned Revenues</p> <p>2.1 Deliver Standards Based Educational Programming On-Site</p> <p>2.3 Partner with Statewide Educational Organizations</p> <p>2.4 Provide Unique Program and Changing Exhibit Opportunities</p> <p>3.1 Acquire, Preserve, and use Collections of Distinction</p> <p>4.1 Deliver Quality Content: Provide Unique Program and Changing Exhibit Opportunities</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?

	<p>The Department of Administration receives the State Museum’s rent payment annually; therefore, they would be the recipients of these funds using the current</p>
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RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

rent payment process. They are supportive of the Museum moving into the additional space within Columbia Mills and will identify two additional state agencies to occupy the remaining footprint in the west wing of the building.

Funds should be allocated using the existing rate for rent determined by the Department of Administration of \$11.29/sqft. for the Museum’s current occupied space in addition to the first and fourth floors of the building currently occupied by the Department of Public Health, along with the appropriate amount of annual funding to cover excess energy charges as outlined in our rental agreement. The outline of charges is as follows:

(*=estimates provided by the Department of Administration)

*Rent: State Museum current footprint - \$2,748,155.35

*Excess Energy: State Museum current footprint - \$194,178.07

Energy/M&O: State Museum workshop (average from last 2 years)- \$51,095.77

*Rent: State Museum expanded footprint (floors 1&4) - \$428,060.35

*Excess Energy: State Museum expanded footprint (floors 1&4) - \$35,400

*Rent: State Museum expanded footprint (shared basement) - \$44,272.58

*Excess Energy: State Museum expanded footprint (shared basement) - \$4,199.82

= Total: \$3,505,361.94

Request: Increase of \$1,705,361.94 in recurring funds for rent and energy costs. (in addition to our current recurring \$1,800,000 rent).

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

The State Museum Commission formally requests recurring funds to pay the appropriate amount of rent to the Department of Administration annually for the space we currently occupy (at \$11.29/sq. Ft. Plus excess energy charges), as well as for expansion into the first and fourth floors in the Columbia Mills building currently inhabited by the Department of Public Health (DPH) - the buildings “west wing.” The Department of Administration is supportive of this expansion, beginning July 1, 2025, if they can receive the full rent payment annually for the museum’s use of the building. We received a letter from Marcia Adams, Executive Director, The South Carolina Department of Administration, dated September 20, 2024, that outlines the Department of Administration’s support and use guidelines for the museum’s expansion into the west wing of the building. We have also received letters of support from Former Governor Riley, as well as Mr. Joseph Jennings, Former President of Mount Vernon Mills, Inc. who donated the mill to the state for use as the South Carolina State Museum. Transcripts of these letters are included at the end of this request and originals can be provided upon request.

The addition of 37,915 square feet in the former DPH wing (“west wing”) of the building for museum operations is an opportunity for the State to create a world-class museum that showcases South Carolina stories and will serve as an educational resource for all students and lifelong learners... a museum that we, as well as future generations, can be proud of.

When the Columbia Mills building was donated to the State of South Carolina, Governor Riley and Joseph Jennings, Former President of Mount Vernon Mills, Inc. who donated the mill, partnered to ensure that this historic landmark was donated for the purpose of providing a State Museum that would be the source of education and enjoyment for many generations. Below is an outline of how the Museum will use the additional space within the Mill:

Floor 1:New Education Wing

Expanded Educational Classrooms: Currently, the museum has only two very small classrooms which are not large enough to host the tens of thousands of K-12 students visiting us each year through educational field trips and camp programs. This new education center will include larger classrooms and hands-on programmatic spaces for student engagement.

New, Safer School Group Entrance: Our current school group drop off area is located off of a busy road that receives a lot of guest traffic. There is an opportunity to create a much safer school group entrance into the 1st floor of the wing from the front drive, perfect for school bus drop off/pick up.

Expanded Staff and Volunteer Office Space: We are at 100% capacity in our current office space. We currently have close to 100 full and part-time staff and 70 volunteers. We anticipate growing our team by 28% over the next two years, necessitating more office space and break areas for staff. Our current staff break room can seat only 8-10 people. Our current volunteer center seats only 6-8 volunteers comfortably. We anticipate growing our volunteer corps back to pre-pandemic levels closer to 200 and need a larger space for them to gather, train, and take breaks. We will relocate our education staff offices and storage spaces and create a larger staff break room and expanded volunteer center in the new Education Wing (Strategies 2.1, 2.3, 4.1).

Expanded school group lunchroom and opportunity for better Museum Café location: We will move our current school lunchroom to the new education center, giving teachers and students a more comfortable place to recharge after a busy visit to the museum. Our current café space does not have adequate seating for our guests during our busy seasons and the kitchen is not properly outfitted, limiting our options for food service providers. Shifting our school lunchroom space to the west wing of the building within the new education wing will allow us to utilize the current lunchroom adjacent to the Planetarium, which has full kitchen capabilities and a larger footprint, for the museum café/restaurant (Strategy 1.2)

Floor 4: South Carolina's Innovation Hub and Premier SC Rental Venue

Revenue Generating Space: The museum has a mandate to generate a significant amount of revenue each year to support our annual budget. Our revenue pays for critical staff positions and annual operating needs not covered by our Legislative appropriation. Our event rentals program is an important part of our revenue stream and growth potential but is currently hampered by utilizing public museum spaces not designed for rental events. The fourth floor of the west wing, with its stunning views of the Congaree River and large open space, is ideally suited for expanded programmatic and rental space. In addition, this floor can connect directly to our observatory and new SC Innovation Hub, opening in 2027, which will feature a Smithsonian Spark!Lab makerspace, open collections storage, and new exhibitions focused on STEAM education. Opening the wall between the wing and this new SC Innovation Hub will greatly increase the impact that we can have in fulfilling both our educational mission and our revenue generating responsibilities. (Strategies 1.2, 4.1)

Additional Collections Storage and Exhibition Space: We are currently at 98% storage capacity for the State Collection. We are conducting our important multi-year object digitization project in a hallway, versus a proper photographic studio space. Expanding collection storage and object care facilities within our building will not only protect valuable objects in the State's collection by simplifying in-house storage solutions, but also will eliminate the need to seek offsite storage which will require additional staffing to monitor, and funds allocated to ensure the safe transportation of objects. By shifting some of our current exhibition gallery space to the west wing, we can expand collection storage in the main part of the building. (Strategies 1.2, 2.4, 3.1, 4.1)

West Wing Basement – Workshop & Storage Space:

The Department of Administration has identified space in the West Wing basement that can be shared with other agency tenants, giving us the opportunity to expand our exhibition design and fabrication studio capabilities and storage needs. The ability to access an additional loading dock will also be extremely useful for the museum, especially for caterers accessing the new 4th floor rental spaces (Strategies 1.2, 2.4, 3.1, 4.1).

It is the hope of the Museum Commission that based on the original gift's intent to utilize the Columbia Mills building as a premier State Museum for South Carolina, you will support this expansion project.

Letter from Marcia Adams, Executive Director, South Carolina Department of Administration to John F. McCabe, Chairman, South Carolina State Museum Commission; September 20, 2024.

John F. McCabe, Chairman

South Carolina State Museum Commission

301 Gervais Street

Columbia, SC 29201

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter on September 9, 2024, concerning the potential for the South Carolina State Museum (Museum) to occupy additional space in the Columbia Mills Building. According to your letter, the Museum believes, in addition to its current space in the Columbia Mills Building, it has a need for all four floors of the space currently occupied by the Department of Public Health (the DPH wing) when it becomes available. You indicate the Museum has developed expansion plans which involve using the DPH wing to fulfill its educational mandate and that the expanded use of the building by the Museum is in line with the donor's intent upon the building's

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

donation to the State in 1981. You also indicate that, while the Museum desires the use of all four floors, if a phased approach is necessary, floors one and four of the DPH wing are preferred.

The Department of Administration (Admin) understands the Museum's requests, however, there is nothing in the deed to the State indicating that the Columbia Mills Building is to be used exclusively for the purposes of the Museum. Nor are we aware of any legislative action that would indicate such a restriction on use of this state-owned building. Therefore, Admin must operate in accordance with overarching statutory directives regarding the occupancy and leasing of public space. Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 1-11-56, Admin has a responsibility to ensure that State agencies are located in public space before private space can be leased and to relocate agencies from private space to public space when suitable public space becomes available.

At this time, Admin is aware of two agencies or portions of agencies currently located in private space whose leases are expiring. The two entities are seeking new space, and they can be suitably placed in two of the floors of the DPH wing immediately upon availability. Each of those agencies has an operating budget sufficient to pay the required occupancy costs for that space. As such, Admin will lease floors two and three to those agencies, leaving floors one and four vacant. We are willing to explore the possibility of leasing floors one and four to the Museum. The current lease amount for floors one and four (approximately 37,915 SF) is approximately \$428,060.35 plus an estimated annual excess energy charge of \$35,400 for a total estimated annual lease cost of \$463,460.35.

S.C. Code Ann. Section 1-11-67 requires Admin to assess and collect rent from all state agencies occupying space in public buildings at rates that will yield sufficient total annual revenue to cover capital project costs (both existing and planned projects) and maintenance and operation costs for the portfolio of buildings over which Admin has administrative control. Currently, the amount Admin charges all agencies leasing space is \$11.29/sq ft. If that rate is applied to the Columbia Mills building space that the State Museum leases from Admin today, the 2024 total lease amount due would be \$2,748,155.35 (243,415 SF) plus an estimated annual excess energy charge of \$194,178.07 for a total 2024 lease amount of approximately \$2,942,333.42. However, The State Museum only pays Admin \$1.8 million each year.

Apparently, the State Museum interprets Proviso 29.6 (in the FY 2025 Appropriations Act) to cap its costs for occupying the Columbia Mills Building at \$1.8 million regardless of the actual occupancy costs for the portion of the building it leases, causing agencies in other Admin leased space to subsidize the additional \$1.142 million in costs of the State Museum's portion of the Columbia Mills building. Admin cannot further add to this subsidy by leasing more space to the State Museum and keeping the Museum's interpreted cap of \$1.8 million.

Again, Admin would like to work with the State Museum to accommodate its needs. Therefore, Admin proposes the following actions:

1. As a part of its FY 2026 budget request, the State Museum request that Proviso 29.6 in the FY 2025 Appropriations Act be deleted.
2. Beginning in FY 2026, the State Museum pay the full Admin lease rate of \$11.29/sq ft plus excess energy charges for the space it currently occupies in the Columbia Mills building. In 2024, the total amount, including estimated excess energy, would have been approximately \$2,942,333.42.
3. Beginning in FY 2026, Admin will lease floors one and four of the Columbia Mills Building, DPH wing to the State Museum for \$11.29/sq ft plus excess energy charges. The total estimated annual lease cost (including estimated excess energy) for floors one and four of the DPH wing is approximately \$463,460.35.

If the State Museum does not receive additional funds to lease floors one and four of the DPH wing, Admin will seek other state entities to occupy the space. We are happy to schedule a meeting to clarify any additional information that may be needed. We look forward to working with you to better accommodate your needs.

Sincerely,

Marcia S. Adams

cc: Amy F. Bartow-Melia, Executive Director, State Museum

Letter from former Governor of South Carolina Richard W. Riley to Marcia Adams, Executive Director, South Carolina Department of Administration; September 11, 2024:

Ms. Marcia Adams

Executive Director

SC Department of Administration

Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Ms. Adams,

I am writing to express my strong support for the South Carolina State Museum's acquisition of the remaining portion of the Columbia Mill building.

In 1981, I had the honor and privilege of negotiating with Vernon Mills to donate the Columbia Mill building to the State of South Carolina. Our vision was that it would serve as the home for a state museum to preserve our rich history and educate current and future generations about it.

Now, 36 years since its doors first opened, the museum has flourished and continues to expand its offerings and reach. I am particularly pleased that educators throughout the state utilize the vast resources of SCSM for on-site and virtual teaching of our students, as well as professional development for themselves. These ever-growing resources enhance teaching and learning for all of South Carolina's educators and students.

The museum's need for additional space has become urgent, and the remaining portion of the Columbia Mill building represents a significant opportunity to expand its facilities and further its mission. I hope that, as stewards of this historic building, the state will continue to honor the original intent of Vernon Mills' generous gift and support the museum's expansion and important work to serve the public through preservation of and education about the history and culture of our great state.

Thank you for your consideration and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Riley

Letter from Joseph L. Jennings Jr., former President of Mount Vernon Mills, Inc. To Karen Hall, Director of the South Carolina State Museum Foundation; September 3, 2024.

Dear Karen,

I strongly support the "Reimagine the Experience" campaign. In 1981, I officially donated the Columbia Mill building on behalf of the Mount Vernon Mills Board of Directors. We felt this was a worthy use for this historic mill building, knowing it would educate and inspire all of the citizens of our state. Now, as the past president of Mount Vernon Mills, I am particularly pleased that a very large number of students from all over the state visit the museum every year.

I have followed your progress with great interest. It has been a pleasure to see the consistent growth and improvement over the years. It is obvious that the leadership of the South Carolina State Museum is dedicated, competent, and has a clear vision for the future. The campaign is a great opportunity to make the Museum even better for the next generation. The Museum is for all our citizens. We should all take great pride in our heritage and support this campaign to further improve our "state treasure".

Sincerely,

Joe

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:	State Museum Commission		
Agency Code:	H950	Section:	29

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	2
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	South Carolina State Museum Staff Position Funding Support
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$1,183,219 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$1,183,219
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	8.00
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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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Objective 1.1 Maximize Impact of Museum Operations Objective 2.1 Be a Primary Educational Resource for SC Schools Objective 3.1 Be a Caretaker of South Carolina History Objective 3.2 Provide Curatorial Expertise Objective 4.1 Deliver Quality Content; Provide Unique Program and Changing Exhibit Opportunities Objective 4.2 Deliver Quality Content; Provide Unique and Engaging Experiences for SC Children Objective 5.1 Protect the Safety, Integrity and Security of Museum Resources and Visiting Public
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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 support South Carolina State Museum full-time and part-time staff.

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:

Background: Since the SC State Museum opened its doors in 1988, we have welcomed over five million visitors and hosted generations of students from across the state. We have fostered community and innovation, inspired meaningful connections, and embraced challenges as they came. As steward of the state's collections of over 1.1 million history, art, natural history, and technology objects and specimens, we are honored to hold the public's trust. After decades of generous support and thoughtful leadership, we are now preparing to meet a new era – with renewed expectations from our visitors, staff, volunteers, fellow cultural institutions, and the broader community to be a place of welcome, accessibility, learning, innovation, and inspiration.

To be successful in this work, we are "Reimagining the Experience," continuing the work that began in 2014 with a major renovation project that added 75,000 square feet of public space, including a planetarium, observatory, 4D theater, and educational classrooms. We are now poised to become an even more impactful educational resource for teachers, students, and the public across our State. Our Reimagine the Experience project is redeveloping and renewing over 150,000 square feet of immersive exhibitions, hands-on education spaces and state-of-the-art collection storage and research facilities.

When completed, this \$75 million dollar project is projected to increase museum visitation by 35% over pre-Covid annual visitation. While increased visitation from the renovation project will help drive SCSM's revenue potential, achieving sustainability requires continued support from the state, which includes a significant increase in staffing and position funding to fulfill the operational needs of the renovation. To this end, it is imperative that SCSM attract and retain top talent, become competitive within its industry, and effectively budget for and manage labor costs.

In our FY24.25 Legislative Budget Request, the museum asked for additional staffing and position funding to help support current operational and RTE needs. The museum currently has 48 filled and/or soon to be filled full-time positions which is 72% of the full-time employees that were on staff when the museum opened in FY89. With the support and guidance of State HR, the Museum continues its phased staffing plan to help achieve both our short-term staffing needs and long-term goals in support of the reimagined museum.

SCSM's internal benchmarking study conducted in October 2023 continues to identify significant gaps in staffing compensation and positions to run a museum at our level of visitation and collections stewardship responsibility. Key findings include:

Continued high talent attrition of key staff over this past year. The top separation reasons on exit surveys continue to be low pay and no advancement opportunity.

SCSM FTE salaries are on average 13% below market rate, using a conservative mid-range comparison.

Inflation continues to significantly impact our annual budget and contribute to increased stress on our staff. A significant number of our professional staff continues to have second jobs outside of their museum work to cover basics such as rent and childcare.

Lower hourly pay for our part time staff (average of \$13.41 an hour), who make up over half of our workforce, including key positions such as our Education Assistants and Admissions/Retail Associates. Without these positions the museum cannot operate. Local average part time staff salaries are on average \$3 higher.

Past budget cuts (especially during the recession in the 2000s) have resulted in insufficient staffing levels. As noted above, the museum had 67 FTEs in its first year of operations compared to our current 36 FTEs and 12 positions to be filled this fiscal year. 8 vacant positions at SCSM are currently unfunded, including key positions such as our Public Safety Supervisor and Education Outreach Coordinator. These open positions have led to staff burnout and increased workload for current staff throughout SCSM.

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Positive Results from our FY24.25 Recurring Allocation:

Last year, the State Legislature generously gave the museum \$1 million in recurring funds to begin to address the State Museum's staffing needs. With this support the Museum will achieve the following in this fiscal year:

Fill eight key FTE positions that are currently vacant at a cost of \$770,987.43 annually

Collections Manager

IT Network Specialist

Public Safety Officers – 2x

Procurement Specialist

Chief Engagement & Content Officer

Building Services Operations Manager

Exhibition and Fabrication Specialist

Eight SCSM positions were reclassified and received salary adjustments to further align with position responsibilities and salary benchmarking. Related increases range from 5% to 15% at a cost of \$129,892.91 annually. With these updates, all of our filled FTE positions are now in their correct pay bands aligned with our benchmarking data.

Increased part time staff hourly rate, on average from \$11.98 to \$13.41 at a cost of \$152,157.36 annually. This resulted in a 12%, on average, hourly rate increase.

FY25.26 Request:

There continues to be significant work to fully meet our operations and Reimagine the Experience (RTE) needs. We respectfully request the following support this fiscal year to bring us to a competitive funding and staffing level to meet our educational goals and have the staffing capacity to move forward on the next phase of the Reimagine the Experience Project. SCSM positions have been underfunded and understaffed since 2008. During the recession in the early 2000s, our agency budget was cut significantly, resulting in a decrease in full time positions from 67 to 22. We have been rebuilding for decades. This reduction in force led to substantially increased workloads for staff that remained. Staff have been underpaid, under classified, and overtasked since this time.

Staff Recruitment – Filling Critical Vacant FTE Positions: \$638,323.40

Hire for the 8 vacant positions that are currently unfunded.

Registration Assistant - CE20 –60012783

Public Safety Supervisor - JC30 – 60012778

Public Safety Officer - Lead - JC20 – 60012915

Education Outreach Coordinator - AH35- 61151469

Collections Digitization Inventory Specialist - CE15 – 61151473

HR Coordinator - AG09 – 61151467

Curatorial Assistant - CE20 – 61128019

Exhibition and Fabrication Specialist - KA30 - 600129209.

Staff Recruitment – Converting Critical Part-Time Positions to FTEs: \$544,895.78

Over 50% of the South Carolina State Museum staff are part-time positions. These positions include seasonal positions such as summer camp educators and holiday retail associates, as well as critical infrastructure positions in human resources, collections management, public safety, etc. In consultation with State HR, we identified 16 positions that should be converted to full-time due to the nature and importance of their work. Eight new positions were approved last fiscal year. This fiscal year we are asking for the following 8 positions, which have been funded over the past decade in a part-time capacity through grants or short-term contracts, to be converted to full time positions.

Collections Digitization Inventory Specialist – CE15

Curatorial Assistant - CE15

Curatorial Assistant - CE15

Curatorial Assistant - CE15

Building Services Supervisor I - AH30

Group Visits Supervisor - AH30

Visitor Services Supervisor - AH30

Administrative Assistant - AA75

Total Request: \$1,183,219.18

*All staffing budget requests for vacant or converted FTEs include base salary at the midpoint of the pay band and fringe at 43% for FTEs per State Division of Human Resources (DSHR) recommendations

In addition to requesting additional State support, we are actively looking at ways to increase the Museum's overall operating budget through revenue, gifts, and grants. For example, we recently expanded our store to increase retail revenue, and our new online group visit booking system is designed to expedite and expand tourist group sales. Our new Triple Seat event management software is allowing for faster cultivation and bookings of museum rentals. We are working actively with the South Carolina State Museum Foundation to secure more annual operating support through philanthropic gifts, grants and endowed salaried positions. We applied for and successfully received our fourth Institute for Museum and Library Service (IMLS) federal grant for collections management and digitization support in November 2023. We have successfully raised \$954,086 in IMLS funding to date, which primarily supports part-time temporary Collections Management staff salaries.

We appreciate the generous support the State gave us last year for our staff and thank you for your consideration of this follow-on request.

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:	State Museum Commission		
Agency Code:	H950	Section:	29

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

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

TITLE	Computer and Laptop Lifecycle Replacement
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	<p>General: \$40,000</p> <p>Federal: \$0</p> <p>Other: \$0</p> <p>Total: \$40,000</p>
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? 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:	
	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
	X	IT Technology/Security related
		HR/Personnel Related
	Consulted DTO during development	
	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	<p>Objective 5.1.2 - Provide necessary investment in IT hardware and Software</p> <p>Funding would provide adequate equipment to keep IT network systems up to date with current industry standards.</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	<p>Funds to be used for agency Information Technology Infrastructure which would be paid to equipment vendors who would be sourced by IT staff and approved by DTO as required. DTO has eligibility criteria and approved vendors listings.</p>
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FUNDS

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 State Museum aims to ensure that our staff has access to reliable and up-to-date technology, which is crucial for maintaining high productivity levels, delivering exceptional customer service, and ensuring compliance with industry regulations. We are increasing our full-time staff by 28% over the next two years and need additional recurring funds to ensure our IT infrastructure is current and functioning for our team.

SCSM requests \$40,000 for the replacement of inadequate devices for full time employees. Maintaining well-functioning technology for staff will help ensure reduced downtime and lessen unsatisfactory customer service due to hardware failures.

Current Dell Laptop on State Contract (\$1,400) + Laptop Dock (\$400) and monitor (\$200-250) = \$2,000 average price per staff member

We will add this \$40K to the \$20K currently allocated in our annual state appropriation for IT technology, giving is \$60K per year. This will allow us to replace 30 laptops and/or point of sale computers yearly, giving us a 3 year replacement cycle for staff IT hardware.

Note that DPO was not consulted on this estimate as this category of IT hardware is already negotiated on state contract.

Adhering to industry regulations and standards for PCI and INFOSEC compliance requires us to maintain up-to-date hardware that can support necessary software updates and security measures. Regular replacement of computers, laptops, and tablets is critical to meeting these compliance requirements and avoiding costly fines and legal issues. Modern computers, laptops, and tablets offer significantly improved performance, reliability, and battery life. Newer devices come with advanced security features and receive regular updates, which are essential for protecting sensitive information and ensuring compliance with DTO standards and regulations.

Regularly replacing computers, laptops, and tablets can reduce the overall cost of ownership by minimizing repair expenses and lower support and maintenance costs. This recurring funding will ensure that we maintain an up-to-date inventory of computers, laptops tablets and avoid the pitfalls of outdated technology. This should allow a 4-to-5-year replacement cycle on all hardware and allow us to replace equipment every few years as needed, as well as to obtain devices for the anticipated 28% increase in staff over the next two years.

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:	State Museum Commission		
Agency Code:	H950	Section:	29

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	3
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Security Alarm System & Wayfinding Emergency Public Announcement System
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$300,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? 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:	
	<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a 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>Objective 5.1.2 - Provide necessary investment in IT hardware and Software</p> <p>Funding would provide adequate equipment to keep IT network systems up to date with current industry standards.</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	<p>Funds to be used for agency Information Technology Infrastructure which would be paid to equipment vendors who would be sourced by IT staff and approved by DTO as required. DTO has eligibility criteria and approved vendors listings.</p>
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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

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

The State Museum's emergency address system and security alarms are currently non-compliant with basic safety standards and prohibit us from protecting all guests, employees and volunteers that enter the facility or visit the grounds as well as our extensive collection of the State's artifacts. The current emergency address system does not reach all areas of the Museum including office annexes, Natural History storage, and areas within the galleries. Therefore, not all people in the Museum can be notified promptly if there were an emergency event in the building.

At the end of FY24, the Museum experienced a bomb threat. While going through emergency threat procedures, we became aware of the significant deficiencies in our emergency alert and address systems. The State Museum requests funding to ensure a safe experience for all who enter the Columbia Mills building by updating our emergency address system.

This emergency notification system replacement includes: Life-cycling equipment components at end-of-life (EOL), and upgrading the museum's capabilities to alert guests and staff in the event of an emergency in all locations of the building. Swift responses are imperative during an emergency event. Installation of a new emergency address and wayfinding system will allow for easier maintenance and improve the physical security posture of the museum. This project will also incorporate digital way-finding to help with the flow of guests through the public museum space.

If funds are not secured for this project the current equipment will become end of life and the likelihood of failure increases. This will greatly impact the museum's ability to provide adequate security by not allowing the museum to alert guests in the event of an emergency. This will also inhibit the museum's ability to protect the State's collection of over 1.1 million objects.

The pricing for the updated system is based on a quote from a local SC vendor and additional market research (kiosks and flat screens). Replace/upgrade our current public address/emergency system = \$100,000. Include additional areas of the building that are currently not wired into the system (storage areas, staff office areas, and public areas including galleries and announcement capabilities directly outside the front doors of the building) = \$75,000. Digital signage/kiosks (4 kiosks + 4 flat screens) to assist with wayfinding for guests throughout the building (including emergency information when needed) = \$80,000. Project management & Contingency at 15% = \$45,000. Total: \$300,000

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

Agency Name:	State Museum Commission		
Agency Code:	H950	Section:	29

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	6
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Imagery Server Repository and Backup Expansion
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$100,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? 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:	
	<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a 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>Objective 5.1.2 - Provide necessary investment in IT hardware and Software</p> <p>Funding would provide adequate equipment to keep IT network systems up to date with current industry standards.</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	<p>Funds to be used for agency Information Technology Infrastructure which would be paid to equipment vendors who would be sourced by IT staff and approved by DTO as required. DTO has eligibility criteria and approved vendors listings.</p>
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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

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	<p>The Museum is working to digitize our entire 1.1 million object collection to make it available as a teaching resource for all South Carolinians, and worldwide. Our current server is nearly at capacity, and if not offloaded soon to a new server, our digitization project will pause.</p> <p>This request includes two new servers with necessary storage space to store high-res digital imagery as we continue to catalog and photograph the museum's expansive collection. This project will provide adequate on-site server storage for our collections database and associated imagery.</p> <p>These new servers with expanded storage capabilities will provide a stable and safe system to store our digital records and include expanded storage for onsite backups to protect data and expand our offsite backup solutions.</p> <p>This request is based on an quote from Dell. Each server was quoted at \$41,000 X 2 = \$82,000 plus \$18,000 to cover server room shelving to house the new servers and inflation/contingency.</p> <p><i>Note that this estimate did not go through DTO during development as this IT expense is already negotiated on State Contract.</i></p>
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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:	State Museum Commission		
Agency Code:	H950	Section:	29

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	<div>4</div> <div>Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.</div>
TITLE	<div>South Carolina State Museum - Reimagine the Experience – Permanent Gallery Upgrades & Expansion of Educational Reach & Impact</div> <div>Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.</div>
AMOUNT	<div>\$20,000,000</div> <div>How much is requested for this project in FY FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.</div>
CPIP PRIORITY	<div>FY 24.25 CPIP: Priority 2</div> <div>Original year CPIP requested: 2019</div> <div>As part of an overall \$75 million Capital Campaign, the State Museum has secured \$14,380,465 from the State Legislature and \$3.7 million raised by the SCSM Foundation to date. Funding in hand supported phase 1 of this project and will allow us to complete many of our phase 2 renovations. Our remaining ask of the State is for \$50 million for the completion of our Reimagine the Experience renovations. The current request for \$20 million in FY25-26 will fund completion of the Museum’s Innovation Wing and phase two renovations and will support the design concepts for phases three and four of our Reimagine the Experience. More information can be found in the summary of this document about the distribution of our total capital request.</div> <div>If additional state funding is not made available for subsequent phases of the project, the Museum will delay critical upgrades to bring SCSM up to 21st century museum standards which would make SCSM a cultural institution that our state can be proud of. We will continue to work closely with the SCSM Foundation to secure private support. The SCSM Foundation has pledged to raise at least \$10 million towards the project and museum staff are committed to raising an additional \$5 million in grant funding.</div> <div>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.</div>
OTHER APPROVALS	<div>The State Museum Commission has been working with the SC Department of Administration to complete projects part of phase one and two, including: the ADA bathroom/education hallway upgrades, Lipscomb Art Gallery HVAC and lighting project, window replacement, and HVAC replacement in the Columbia Mills building. SC Department of Administration has/is project managing these initiatives, and we have received appropriate JBRC approvals. As we embark on phase two of this project, we will continue to request JBRC and related approvals as needed.</div> <div>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.)</div>
LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	<div>To position the South Carolina State Museum as a premier educational resource for teachers and students in our entire state, and to preserve the history of the State of South Carolina through our collection of 1.1 million objects and specimens, we have embarked on a \$75 million capital campaign.</div> <div>We have received \$14,380,465 from the state legislature to date in addition to a recently awarded \$800,000 grant from the SC250th Commission for a Revolutionary War major exhibition. We have privately raised \$3.7 million to date through the SCSM Foundation. These funds will allow us to begin projects in phase two of our renovations (2024-2026). In order to complete phase two renovations and begin the design concept for phases three and four, outlined in the summary below, we request an additional \$20 million investment from the State in FY26. Rising construction costs make it most fiscally responsible to complete all of Phase Two at once, rather than with pauses between renovation projects.</div> <div>The Museum commissioned a Feasibility Study in FY22.23 for the project which included a Pro Forma plan outlining future annual resource costs associated with upgraded exhibitions and educational spaces. The museum upgrades are projected to raise annual attendance by 35% which will generate additional museum revenue from ticket sales and associated attractions/revenue centers. A phased staffing plan is developed to address</div>

future staffing needs. The upgraded exhibition galleries are designed with a useful life expectancy of 15-20 years, with periodic technology and maintenance updates as needed.

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?

Overview:

Since the South Carolina State Museum opened its doors 35 years ago in 1988, we have welcomed over five million visitors and hosted generations of students from across the state. We have fostered community and innovation, inspired meaningful connections, and embraced challenges as they came. As steward of the state's collections of over 1.1 million history, art, natural history, and technology objects, we are honored to hold the public's trust. After decades of generous support and thoughtful leadership, we are now excitedly preparing to meet a new era – with renewed expectations from our visitors, staff, volunteers, fellow cultural institutions, and the broader community to be a place of welcome, accessibility, learning, innovation, and inspiration.

To achieve this bold vision, we are "Reimagining the Experience," continuing the work that began in 2014 with a major renovation project that added 75,000 square feet of public space, including a planetarium, observatory, 4D theater, and educational classrooms. We are now poised to become an even more impactful educational resource for teachers, students, and the public across our State. Our \$75,000,000 Reimagine the Experience project will redevelop and renew over 150,000 square feet of immersive exhibitions, hands-on education spaces and state-of-the-art collection storage and research facilities.

Our remaining ask of the State is for \$50 million for the completion of our Reimagine the Experience renovations. The current request for \$20 million in FY25-26 will fund completion of the Museum's Innovation Wing and phase two renovations and will support the design concepts for phases three and four of our Reimagine the Experience. Over the next 3 fiscal years, the Museum plans to request \$10 million per year for completion of the entire Reimagine the Experience project, understanding that a one-time \$50 million request may be burdensome to the state.

Project Successes to Date:

Over the past several years, the South Carolina State Legislature has generously supported this initiative with an initial \$14,380,465. Our South Carolina State Museum Foundation has raised an additional \$3,700,000 to date, giving us a substantial base of funding to begin this important work. The museum is also grateful to the SC Department of Administration for committing funds for critical remediation work on the historic Columbia Mills Building in which the museum is housed, including a new roof, new windows, and phase one of a comprehensive update to the museum's HVAC systems.

In FY23.24, we contracted with Gallagher & Associates Consulting, a recognized industry leader in museum design and business development, to create an inspiring Visitor Experience Plan for the Reimagine the Experience project as well as a Feasibility Study that included an annual Operating Pro Forma covering long-term maintenance and resource needs. This eight-month study included budgetary benchmarking for this size and scope of museum renovation project against local, state, and national markets, including other like-sized state and regional museums (TN, OK, LA, NC, FL, IL, NM, MI). Based on this work, the Museum Commission, along with our SCSM Foundation have committed to a \$75,000,000 capital campaign to transform the museum into a 21st Century Center for learning and innovation. The project will be phased over several years as additional monetary support is secured. The goal is to keep the museum vibrantly open to the public during construction.

RTE Phase One: R&D and Investment in Infrastructure 2020-2023

The goal of Phase One of the project was to ensure critical infrastructure needs were in place to achieve overall project success. This included substantial upgrades to the historic building's infrastructure, mechanical and IT systems, and ensuring the building was ADA accessible for our audiences. We also prioritized upgrades to our revenue centers and education wing to ensure the museum will be able to continue to thrive and support its educational mission during the subsequent construction phases. Major projects that were completed by December 2023 include:

Updated Education Gateway: The museum began its upgrades focused on our most important visitors – South Carolina students. A refreshed education suite gives our school visitors a space to start their explorations, including a new wellness room. While the size of this space is not sufficient for the number of students and camp attendees who visit the Museum each year, we made modifications that maximize the education area that we have available at this time, focused on health, safety, and accessibility for all, with the intention of expanding our capacity to serve students and teachers in our new Education Wing (see Phase Two).

SUMMARY

Planetarium & 4D Theater Upgrades: A \$750,000 investment in a new digital planetarium system offers visitors immersive experiences that are out of this world, featuring STEAM educational offerings for schools including the new show *James Webb Space Telescope: The Story Unfolds*, developed by the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Our 4D Theater also received a digital system upgrade to better support our 4D natural history educational programs. The SCSM Foundation contributed \$400K towards this project.

ADA Restroom Project: The museum invested \$1 million into 16 updated public and staff bathrooms to make them fully ADA compliant.

IT and Digital Infrastructure: A major focus of Phase One was updating our digital and IT security needs to ensure the museum was IT ready for new exhibitions and had the digital capacity to reach students and teachers in all parts of the state and beyond. Projects included a new mobile friendly public website, a searchable collections database, new servers and WIFI coverage for the entire building.

Department of Administration Support: During this time, substantial work was completed on the Columbia Mills Building Roof/Window project. In addition, studies were done, and initial funding secured to begin the HVAC replacement project in Phase Two of the RTE project.

Improved Welcome Experience: The SCSM Foundation contributed \$50,000 in philanthropic support to upgrade the welcome experience for our visitors through new landscaping that features native plants and revitalized the museum's Pearl Fryar topiaries.

Back of House Infrastructure Upgrades: Leveraging a federal Shuttered Venues Operating Grant (SVOG) and support from the SC Arts Commission, upgrades were made in art collection storage as well as staff office/back of house areas to maximize productivity and collaboration.

RTE Visitor Experience, Concept Design & Feasibility Studies: The museum contracted with Gallagher & Associates, a leading international museum design firm to create the concept designs and related feasibility/business plans for the overall permanent gallery project. This included numerous listening sessions with stakeholders from throughout the state. The museum also contracted a structural engineering study of the building as well as a study of the museum's collection storage capacities to inform the project.

Reimagine the Experience – Next Steps

RTE Phase Two: South Carolina's Innovative Past, Present & Future 2024-2027

In celebration of the USA's 250th Anniversary in July 2026, the museum will offer our public a new series of inspiring exhibitions and educational experiences. This phase, using money currently in hand and additional funds actively being raised, will transform large areas of the museum's 4th floor into an exploration of South Carolina's rich past, present, and future. Major projects include:

Education Wing: Expansion into the first floor of the Columbia Mills building currently occupied by the Department of Public Health affords the Museum the opportunity to build a world-class education wing for South Carolina's students. In addition to appropriately sized classrooms that accommodate field trip classes and summer camp groups, we will build a larger lunchroom in this wing, as well as Education Staff offices and much needed storage areas.

250th of the Revolutionary War Exhibition (opening on Carolina Day, June 28th, 2026) will explore how South Carolina has been a leading contributor and influencer in the history of the United States and our global economy, past and present. Visitors will meet the Native Americans, settlers and enslaved people who created the economies, fostered the cultures, and fought in the Revolutionary War battles that defined the state's identity and impacted the nation. The State Museum received an \$800,000 grant from the SC250th Commission to begin this work, which will be matched with capital funds currently raised.

SC Innovation Wing (opening 2027) featuring the many ways South Carolinians, past and present, have shaped our world. This 13,500 ft. gallery and interactive space, adjacent to our Observatory, will excite and inspire museum visitors to tap into their creativity and discover ways they can contribute to our state's innovative history. In partnership with the Smithsonian, we will build a hands-on makerspace for STEAM learning for schools and families called Spark!Lab. Spark!Lab is a national network of hands-on invention spaces, fostering the next generations of South Carolina's innovators.

4th Floor Event/Revenue Generating Space and open storage: Expansion into the fourth floor of the Columbia Mills building currently occupied by DPH will give the Museum a large revenue generating space that can be used for major events, public programs, conferences, public addresses, and much more. We will include the minor upgrades required in this space in Phase Two to generate revenue for the State Museum. This area will also include gallery space and open storage areas that grants the public access to more of the State's collection.

Expanded collection storage will be built into the 3rd and 4th floors of the Columbia Mills

building to accommodate the State's collection of over 1.1 million objects and specimens. Currently, our storage areas are at 98% capacity, and it is our desire to avoid offsite storage facilities for the collection.

Back of house upgrades will be made to our Registration and Conservation labs, Traveling Exhibition Program storage, and Exhibition Design and Fabrication workshop. These important upgrades will be made for the safety of our staff and collections, as well as to set us up for success as we begin our gallery renovations.

Changing exhibitions will explore a variety of stories about South Carolina's history and culture, with special emphasis on 20th century history not previously featured at the museum, created in collaboration with communities and partners from around the state. Our changing art exhibition gallery on the first floor will also benefit from a new state-of-the-art lighting system to enhance the visitor experience.

Updated Security Camera and Key Card Systems will replace our antiquated systems with state-of-the-art technology to ensure that the museum guests, staff, and our treasured state collections are safe and well-cared for. This is funded by a separate appropriation from the State.

Concept Design of the Museum's Art Wing will take place during Phase Two, starting with the re-opening of the Lipscomb Gallery. The Lipscomb Art Gallery received a new lighting system in FY24 and a new HVAC system will be installed by January 2025. This gallery will be in use for the public with a new exhibition by summer 2025.

Concept design for the Natural History Floor: During this phase, concept design work will be completed for Phase 3, featuring expansion and upgrades of our Natural History exhibitions.

Department of Administration Support: During this time, work will begin to upgrade the HVAC systems throughout the building.

RTE Phase Three: South Carolina's Natural Wonders 2028-2030

Phase Three of the project will focus on the museum's 2nd floor, transforming our Natural History wing through hands-on immersive experiences that explore South Carolina's natural wonders from its prehistoric marine world to today. South Carolinians and guests to our state will share their discoveries and fascination with South Carolina's natural world, how it has transformed over time, and appreciate its critical role in their lives. Guests will then be encouraged to go out into the state to explore our State Parks and SCDNR sites from the Upstate to the Low Country. Major projects include:

Immersive "underwater" prehistoric marine world showcasing the state's earliest beginnings.

Transformed dinosaur gallery showcasing the State Museum's collections as well as exciting new acquisitions.

Innovative South Carolina habitats gallery that features the State's natural wonders through hands-on experiences.

Changing exhibitions about our natural environment highlighting the important work of South Carolina's scientists and naturalists.

New Permanent Art Gallery will showcase the cultural expressions of South Carolinians for more than 400 years, from traditional portraiture to folk and decorative arts to contemporary works and more. An open storage design will allow visitors to see more of the museum's 4,500 pieces of art than ever before and give them opportunities to unleash their own creativity.

RTE Phase Four: South Carolina Transforming + Remembering 2031-2033

Phase Four of the project will see the final renovations of the 3rd and 4th floor exhibition galleries, continuing to share more stories of South Carolinians past and present. Visitors will explore the transformation of the state's economy and evolving politics, the rights and roles of its residents and its place in the nation, all while considering their relationship to the past and contributions to the future. Major Projects Include:

Additional changing exhibitions that share more stories of South Carolina's cultural history and technological achievements, linking our past to the present and providing richer context about the people and places presented in the permanent galleries.

Additional open storage offering our visitors more opportunities to interact and be inspired by the State's collections.

Completion of back-of-house collection storage upgrades, including critical updates to our conservation lab and registration office.

To ensure that the South Carolina State Museum is operating at its best in support of our educational mission, we have embarked on a \$75 million Capital Campaign. The \$14,380,465 support to date from the State Legislature and \$3.7 million raised to date by the SCSM Foundation will help us to begin Phase Two of the project, ensuring we have

exciting new experiences for the public for the USA 250th celebrations.

We are asking the SC State Legislature to continue to be a major investor in its State Museum through an investment of \$20 million in FY26 so that we can complete significant gallery renovations in phase two of this project. We will request \$10 million in FY27, FY28, and FY29 in the project to complete Phases Three and Four. The SCSM Foundation has pledged to raise at least \$10 million for the initiative and the museum staff is committed to raising an additional \$5 million in federal/state/local grant support as well.

Together, we can transform the South Carolina State Museum into a 21st Century institution of learning and inspiration we can be proud of for generations to come.

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:	State Museum Commission		
Agency Code:	H950	Section:	29

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	29.6
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").

TITLE	Remittance to General Services
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	1A: Programs
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	Yes, Please see B1 request titled, "Rent Increase for South Carolina State Museum in Columbia Mills plus Expansion
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Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2025-2026? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION	Amend
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	<div> The Department of Administration will receive the appropriate amount of rent funding from the South Carolina State Museum pending approval of our B1 request for a rent increase and use of Floors 1 and 4 of the DPH wing of the building ("West Wing"). This proviso is amended upon receiving the additional rent funding in our annual appropriation from the State Legislature reflecting our updated rent payment amount plus estimated annual excess energy determined by the Department of Administration (See letter from Marcia Adams in our B1 request dated September 20, 2024). </div>
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	<p>The South Carolina State Museum Commission currently pays the Department of Administration \$1.8 million in rent per year according to Proviso 29.6, "Remittance to General Services." While the South Carolina State Museum Commission would like to pay the full rent and excess energy charges billed annually by the Department of Administration, the State Museum currently does not have additional funding allocated in its annual appropriation for these expenses. The current proviso states that the Museum has to pay "no less than" \$1,800,000 and allows rent to be reduced if there are any mid-year across the board budget reductions.</p> <p>The State Museum formally requests that our recurring funding for rent be increased to match the Department of Administration's rate of \$11.29 per square foot of occupied space (including Floors 1 & 4 of the "West Wing" of the building), plus estimated annual excess energy determined by the Department of Administration as outlined in our B1 recurring request for an increase in rent funds.</p> <p>Pending that the Museum receives funding to pay the Department of Administration the appropriate rate of rent for our occupied space plus estimated annual excess energy determined by the Department of Administration as outlined in our B1 recurring request, it is suggested that the minimum annual payment of \$1.8 million in rent payment to the Department of Administration be removed from this proviso.</p> <p>We are requesting that the language regarding a decrease in rent proportional to a mid-year budget cut remain in the proviso.</p>
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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

All funding requested in our B1 request goes directly to the Department of Administration to care for and maintain the state-owned Columbia Mills Building. It does not support general Museum operations.

Amending this proviso will update the \$1.8 million minimum rent payment to the Department of Administration. With the approval of our priority 1 B1 Request for rent increase support, the museum will pay its full amount of rent and excess energy charges to the Department of Administration.

This will be an increase of \$1,705,361.94 delivered to the Department of Administration. The new annual payment to the Department of Administration will total \$3,505,361.94, an increase from \$1.8 million.

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

(MUSM: Remittance to General Services) The State Museum is directed to remit not less than ~~\$1,800,000~~ **\$3,505,361.94** to the Department of Administration as compensation for expenses associated with the premises it leases in the Columbia Mills Building. In the event the General Assembly or the Executive Budget Office implements a mid-year across-the-board budget reduction, the rent that the State Museum remits to the Department of Administration shall be reduced by the same percentage as the assessed budget reduction.

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

Agency Name:	State Museum Commission		
Agency Code:	H950	Section:	29

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

TITLE	South Carolina State Museum Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
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AMOUNT	\$223,023
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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	0 FTE Reductions
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How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	<p>Administration – Rent Reduction</p> <p>Programs: part-time staffing reduction</p>
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What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?

SUMMARY	<p>Administration – Rent Reduction: Reduction in rent payment (allowed by State Proviso 29.6) to General Services would defer and delay needed maintenance repairs to the building thus negatively affecting the visitor experience and ultimately negatively impact attendance and revenue. Rent of \$1,800,000 reduced by 3% = \$54,000</p> <p>Programs; Close the museum one additional weekday per week. The museum is currently closed to the public on Mondays to allow staff time to clean the building and allow construction crews to do major work in the building without disrupting the visitor experience (ex. Roof and window repairs, etc.). If faced with a reduction in General Fund appropriations, we would close the museum on an additional weekday on Tuesdays, which is the least busy visitation day. We would reduce the number of part-time staff by 9 part-time positions in Operations and Visitor Engagement, saving staff costs. Reduction of visitor services PT staff one day per week: \$169,023.</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

Exhibition Design & Fabrication Workshop Equipment: The museum purchased several new pieces of workshop equipment including a new engraving and woodworking machine. This new equipment, as well as a new dust collection system and an updated welding table/system will allow our exhibition design and fabrication team to do more exhibition work in-house, saving outside design costs. In addition, the equipment will allow the team to do more fabrication work for hire with museums across the state, both serving our museum community and bringing additional revenue into the state Museum. Annual Cost Savings Estimate: \$20,000

Two new online systems have been activated: 1. Online events management system 2. Online group/school visit booking system. These two systems allow for museum staff to be more efficient with booking tours and creating new business for museum rental events. This will cut down on staff hours needed to book school and group visits and will allow the museum to generate additional revenue. Annual cost savings estimate in PT staff: \$30,000

Compact storage systems installed in our art storage, traveling exhibition storage, and registration areas have allowed us to open much needed storage space for our collection, as well as expand our traveling exhibition program. This will prolong the need to rent offsite storage for these items. This is a short-term solution as our storage is at 98% capacity. Annual Cost Savings Estimate: \$10,000

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:	State Museum Commission		
Agency Code:	H950	Section:	29

FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE	Title South Carolina State Museum: Accessible to All
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	<p>The South Carolina State Museum is committed to serving all South Carolinians. We do this by offering free and/or reduced admission to the museum through several programs.</p> <p>Free admission to every South Carolina student including public, private, and homeschooled children: SCSM field trips offer free admission to the museum including our state-of-the-art observatory and hands-on STEAM programs. We also receive grant funding to assist with Title 1 school busses to be accessible in areas where transportation may be a challenge.</p> <p>Museums for All: The SCSM is a participating organization with Museums for All, a signature access program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), to encourage all people regardless of socioeconomic status to visit museums regularly and build lifelong museum-going habits. Under Museums for All, general admission to the museum is discounted to \$2 for individuals and families receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP), Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT), WIV, and Medicaid benefits.</p> <p>Free admission for Veterans and Active Military. The Museum offers free admission to military personnel in uniform every Thursday in partnership with Fort Jackson, \$1.00 off admission to all active or retired military, and free admission to active or retired military on Veteran's Day. Starting in the summer of 2024, SCSM is participating in Blue Star Museums – a program organized by the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families in collaboration with the Department of Defense. This program offers free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve from Armed Forces Day in May through Labor Day in September each year.</p> <p>Dollar Sundays: The museum offers \$1.00 admission to all guests each first Sunday of the month.</p> <p>Public Programs: The Museum offers free admission to those with disabilities and neurodiversities and their families one Saturday each month, as well as during Disability Celebration Day. In addition to these accessibility days, we offer free admission throughout the year at a variety of other public programs.</p>
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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	<p>Mark "X" for all that apply:</p> <table> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Repeal or revision of regulations.</td></tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.</td></tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.</td></tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Other</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeal or revision of regulations.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeal or revision of regulations.								
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other								

METHOD OF CALCULATION	<p>Museum General Admission Prices:</p> <p>Adults: \$13.00</p> <p>Seniors (ages 62+): \$12.00</p> <p>Children: \$10.00</p> <p>SC School Students: Free Admission</p> <p>Museums for All: \$2.00 Tickets</p> <p>Blue Star Museum: Free to active-duty military each summer (May – September) as of May 2024.</p> <p>Dollar Sundays - 1st Sunday of the month admission is \$1.00 for all guests.</p>
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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	<p>The museum offers free or reduced admission to select audiences to widen access to the museum – see detail above.</p> <p><i>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?</i></p>
REDUCTION OF REGULATION	<p>No amendments.</p> <p><i>Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?</i></p>
SUMMARY	<p>See expected savings above.</p> <p><i>Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?</i></p>