

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



**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 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.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Scott Phillips	(803) 896-8800	SPhillips@scfc.gov
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Cathy Nordeen	(803) 896-8865	CNordeen@scfc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 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>Scott L. Phillips 9/24/2024</i>	<i>Walter A. McPhail 9.24.2024</i>
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Scott L. 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	Retaining Fire Prevention Staff	345,000	0	0	0	345,000	3.00	-3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Recruitment and Retention	280,000	0	0	0	280,000	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Information Technology	550,000	0	0	0	550,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	B1 - Recurring	Expanding Forest Health Capacity	337,000	0	0	0	337,000	3.00	-3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	B1 - Recurring	Strengthening Forestland Conservation	354,000	0	0	0	354,000	2.00	0.00	-1.00	0.00	1.00
6	B1 - Recurring	Expanding Prescribed Fire Capacity	170,000	0	0	0	170,000	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
7	B2 - Non-Recurring	Mechanic Vehicle and Supplies	63,000	0	0	0	63,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	B2 - Non-Recurring	Forest Health Coordinator Vehicle	52,000	0	0	0	52,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	B2 - Non-Recurring	Conservation Coordinator Vehicle	52,000	0	0	0	52,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	C - Capital	Land Acquisitions and Easements	5,000,000	0	0	0	5,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	B2 - Non-Recurring	Expanding Prescribed Fire Capacity	3,802,000	0	0	0	3,802,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			11,005,000	0	0	0	11,005,000	10.00	-6.00	-1.00	0.00	3.00

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	Retaining Fire Prevention Staff
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$345,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$345,000
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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.

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 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"/>	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 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 objectives:</p> <p>2.2 – Develop and deliver innovative prevention programs that reduce wildfire risks to forests and communities.</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 will go towards the salary and fringe for current Forestry Commission personnel shifting 3 FTEs from federal to state.
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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 SCFC currently uses USDA Forest Service grant funds to support 3 FTEs that are focused on wildfire prevention, community preparedness, and fuels mitigation around homes, neighborhoods, and communities with significant wildfire risk. Changes in this federal grant program restricts the use of these funds for salaries putting these employees' jobs at risk. Acquiring state funding will allow this critical work to continue.

We are requesting \$345,000 in our Forest Protection section to shift 3 current federally funded positions to state funds. Since 2014, salaries for all SCFC personnel with full-time responsibilities for implementing fire prevention efforts, community wildfire planning, fuels mitigation planning, and sub grant awards have been supported by USDA Forest Service Hazard Mitigation grant funds. This critical work reduces the number of wildfires that occur, ensures that communities at risk are identified and provided with plans for wildfire preparedness and response, and that fuel accumulations within and surrounding communities with significant wildfire risk are reduced. Changes in grant guidance in FY23 indicated that the use of these grant funds for salaries is discouraged, and that as funding becomes more competitive, salary monies will be less available and harder to obtain, putting these positions at risk. With current federal funding we will only be able to sustain these positions through FY 2025, which makes the receipt of state funding for these positions imperative.

SCFC lacks funding to maintain fire prevention education and community preparedness staff. Wildfire occurrence will likely increase as prevention efforts decline at a time when more citizens, homes, and communities are at high risk from wildfires. Acres burned and structures lost will likely increase, and wildfires will become larger and present more risk to first responders conducting fire suppression. Studies conducted by the USDA Forest Service have documented that every dollar spent on wildfire prevention results in a savings of \$35 in wildfire suppression costs, illustrating the importance of a focus on wildfire prevention efforts.

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.

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

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

TITLE	Recruitment and Retention
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	<p>General: \$280,000</p> <p>Federal: \$0</p> <p>Other: \$0</p> <p>Total: \$280,000</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	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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority # 7	

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 objectives:</p> <p>2.1 – Ensure prompt and effective response to wildfires and other disasters in an increasingly complex environment.</p> <p>However, it is most closely tied to Goal 5 and the following strategies, which aim to strengthen the Forestry Commission through employee development, improvements in efficiency and effectiveness, and a renewed focus on safety.</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>5.5 – Promote careers in forestry.</p> <p>Fully funding this request will provide competitive salaries and secure funding that is critical for recruiting and retaining the skilled and engaged workforce necessary to fulfill the agency’s mission. The agency has benchmarked the following key performance indicators and will continue to track these metrics to evaluate the use of these funds.</p>
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- Employee engagement index.
- Employee turnover rates.
- Time to fill vacant position.

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 current Forestry Commission personnel and candidates qualified to fill new or vacant FTEs.

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 SCFC currently has seven mechanics, and one supervisory mechanic based in regional maintenance shops. These mechanics perform critical repairs to firefighting equipment in both field and shop settings and conduct general maintenance to ensure readiness. Mechanics at the SCFC are required to have unique skills to maintain and repair the specialized equipment necessary to conduct the agency's wildland fire mission. This equipment includes 160 frontline firefighting dozers, 10 wheel and tractor trailer transports, fire plows, fire tracks, 60 Type 6 engines, portable pumps, UTV/ATVs, farm tractors, and road vehicles with gas and diesel engines. These positions require responding to fire scenes at night, on weekends, and on holidays, as well as rotating weekend and on-call status. SCFC mechanic salaries have been stagnant for years and have not kept pace with current industry rates. This has led to challenges in recruiting qualified applicants as positions have become vacant. Retention of current mechanics is also becoming more challenging as pay rates in the private sector continue to rise. We are requesting funding of \$160,000 to increase mechanic salaries to align with the state-wide averages for those classifications.

We are also requesting 1 FTE and \$110,000 to add a new mechanic/supervisor position in the Piedmont Region and \$10,000 in additional operating funds to support this position. This will improve safety by ensuring that more than one mechanic is present when major repairs are conducted, improve efficiency by adding another skilled mechanic to our largest geographic region, and provide a career advancement opportunity for mechanics.

Not funding this request could lead to reduced readiness to respond, increased risk to the public from wildfires, and increased wildfire size.

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.

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

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

TITLE	Information Technology
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$550,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$550,000
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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.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related	
<input checked="" 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 objectives:</p> <p>2.1 – Ensure prompt and effective response to wildfires and other disasters in an increasingly complex environment.</p> <p>5.4 – Leverage data and technology to strengthen organizational efficiency, effectiveness, safety and service.</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?

	Funds will go to the payment of vendors for goods obtained for agency operations
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RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

following the state procurement code.

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

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

The bulk of this funding request is to support the ongoing costs of a new computer aided dispatch (CAD) solution. Our current provider is discontinuing operations by the end of 2024, leaving us without system support. CAD plays a mission-critical role in our wildland fire dispatch operations and without support, system errors may be unresolvable. When dispatchers receive notifications and enter wildfire locations, the system promptly presents the closest available resources for dispatch. This automated process reduces response time due to dispatchers not needing to manually refer to paper maps, work schedules, and locations of other incidents to determine what resources are available to dispatch.

We currently use federal grant funds to cover one-half of the existing CAD maintenance (one-half State funding), ESRI subscription, and Avtec dispatch software. Citizens along with internal stakeholders, rely on our ESRI applications and may not realize it. The most notable public applications are our Active Wildfires map and Prescribed Burn Activity map. Our internal BMP and WUI programs utilize ESRI components in their day-to-day jobs and recently we have been providing KDBI data for prescribed burners. The Avtec Scout software is used for radio consoles that are used to communicate with field staff on scene. These systems are critical to our mission and should be operational funding versus grant funding that is not guaranteed.

The remaining funding will be used to offset our Microsoft subscription. We are entering into a new three-year agreement and are changing to a different license to provide more tools for our staff and more security insight. This license change increases our annual payment, reducing the amount of existing state funding that can be used for innovative projects.

Funding Breakdown:

FiResponse CAD:	\$350,000.00
ESRI Licensing:	\$90,000.00
Avtec Scout:	\$30,000.00
Microsoft 365:	<u>\$80,000.00</u>
	\$550,000.00

If funds are not received, we will continue to use federal grant funds to cover these costs.

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.

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

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

TITLE	Expanding Forest Health Capacity
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$337,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$337,000
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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.

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 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"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority # 8	

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 objectives:</p> <p>2.4 – Deliver programs and services to prevent and reduce damage from insects, diseases, invasive species and other threats to our forests.</p> <p>3.1 - Support landowners with programs and services that promote active forest management and help them meet their goals.</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 will go towards the salary and fringe for current Forestry Commission personnel shifting 3 FTEs from federal to state.
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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

Addressing forest health issues is an integral part of sustainable forestry. Pests, diseases and invasive plants pose threats to the health of South Carolina's forests. Forest health staff survey for, identify, and make recommendations to mitigate these threats, while also educating the public on recognizing these threats. Federal funding has supported important forest health activities in South Carolina, including the salaries of three full-time staff, education of Forestry Commission personnel and citizens, surveying for forest pests and diseases, diagnosing forest health issues for citizens, and applying mitigation activities to reduce the impact of these pests and diseases. However, federal funding for forest health in South Carolina, including the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program, has declined by 21% and salaries for forest health staff have increased by 25% between 2015 and 2024. This has reduced our operating budget by 39% over the same period, resulting in a 46% reduction in acres receiving treatments for southern pine beetle prevention and a 76% reduction in survey flights. As the "Wall of Wood" matures and mills close, we expect to see more southern pine beetle activity in our state with little cost-effective means of managing outbreaks. South Carolina continues to combat new invasive species and those that are already here will be more costly to mitigate. For example, although emerald ash borer is already in the state, only a fraction of its impact has been felt as it has not yet moved through the piedmont and the coastal plain. Using the federal funding for operating costs will dramatically increase the acreage we are able to serve; more than 30% based on previous years' average funding. We will be better positioned to help landowners implement management strategies that reduce the incidence of pests and keep South Carolina's forests healthy and productive.

We are requesting \$337,000 to shift 3 current federally funded positions to state funds. Providing funds for salaries and fringe will free up federal funds to expand forest health surveys, outreach to the public, and to provide more cost-share to landowners for southern pine beetle prevention and control.

If this request is not funded it will result in reduced surveys of pests and diseases, reduced site visits to landowners and reduced access to forest health expertise that will result in increased losses across the state's forestland.

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.

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

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

TITLE	Strengthening Forestland Conservation
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$354,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$354,000
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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.

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 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"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority # 9	

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>This funding request supports the following objectives:</p> <p>3.1 – Support landowners with programs and services that promote active forest management and help them meet their goals.</p> <p>3.3 – Demonstrate practices for the active, sustainable, multiple-use management of State Forests, and engage other public landowners to do the same.</p> <p>3.4 – Actively seek opportunities to acquire land to grow the State Forest system.</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 will go towards the salary and fringe for one current Forestry Commission position, one FTE will be shifted from other to state funds, and candidates qualified to fill one new FTE. Operating funds will be used to pay for professional services related
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FUNDS

to due diligence costs for land conservation projects and to cover equipment, supplies and travel costs for the new FTE following the state procurement code.

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

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

The state lands coordinator position is currently funded from State Forests revenue but only a portion of the responsibilities are concentrated on SCFC State Forest lands. This position is responsible for directing the forest management efforts on South Carolina's State Forests; coordinating the statewide forest management on other SCFC lands; and collaborating with federal agencies, municipal and county governments, and other state agencies on the management of forestlands held by these organizations within our state.

We are requesting \$140,000 to shift 1 FTE from other to state for the State Lands Coordinator in our Forest Management division. The salary and fringe of this position is currently being covered by revenue from the sale of forest products from SCFC State Forests. Covering the salary and fringe of the State Lands Coordinator with State Forests revenue is burdensome to the state forests system and limits value added projects that could be done on the ground to benefits citizens that use those forests. Covering these costs with state funds will allow more of the State Forests revenue to be retained within the state forests system and used to better manage these properties to create more value for the citizens of SC.

The SCFC has recently expanded program efforts to identify and evaluate potential forestland conservation opportunities and coordinate with agency personnel and conservation partners to acquire conservation easements and/or fee simple title on working forest lands for sustainable multiple-use management. The agency currently manages over 100,000 acres and is looking to strategically expand its conservation footprint across the state to provide benefits for the citizens of SC in alignment with Governor McMaster's conservation goals and to protect the timberland base that supports SC's \$23 billion forest industry. With rapid population growth in SC and the accompanying development pressure it is critical that conservation efforts to sustain SC's working forests be expanded. Unfortunately, current agency staffing levels are inadequate to support this expansion.

In FY24 the SCFC evaluated 13 land conservation projects encompassing more than 82,000 acres. Over the last 4 fiscal years the agency has added over 6,673 acres to the state forest system in two counties. Additionally, in FY24 SCFC was named as long-term steward of the 4,878- acre Millaree tract. This tract is a wetland mitigation project and will be transferred to SCFC upon completion of mitigation work. The workload associated with these projects have stretched staff capacity to its limit and this understaffing severely limits the agency's ability to capitalize on strategic conservation opportunities in a very competitive real estate market. Without strong support from partnering conservation agencies and non-profit partners the agencies the agency would not have been able to achieve the work that has been accomplished to date.

We are requesting \$110,000 and 1 new FTE for a full-time, permanent Conservation Coordinator who will promote the conservation of forestland through fee simple acquisition and/or conservation easements for its many benefits and serve as the project coordinator for all SCFC land conservation projects. This position will also serve as the Good Neighbor Authority contact for the Sumter National Forest. We are also requesting \$104,000 in operating funds to support this position and due diligence efforts related to agency land conservation projects.

If not funded the State Lands Coordinator position will continue to be covered by state forest revenue and there could be missed opportunities for land protection which may result in conversion of these lands to other uses.

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.

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

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

TITLE	Expanding Prescribed Fire Capacity
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$170,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$170,000
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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.

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 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"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority # 11	

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 objectives:</p> <p>2.2 – Develop and deliver innovative prevention programs that reduce wildfire risks to forests and communities.</p> <p>3.1 – Support landowners with programs and services that promote active forest management and help them meet their goals.</p> <p>3.2 – Promote and increase the responsible use of prescribed fire.</p> <p>3.3 – Demonstrate practices for the active, sustainable, multiple-use management of State Forests, and engage other public landowners to do the same.</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?

	Funds will go toward the salary and fringe of a potential qualified candidate.
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RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Operating funds will go to the payment of vendors for goods and services obtained for agency operations following the state procurement code.

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

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Prescribed fire is an important forest management tool that benefits forests and wildlife, while also significantly reducing the risks and impacts of wildfire. As such, education and collaboration around prescribed fire along with the actual implementation of this practice are critical components of the Forestry Commission's work each year. Unfortunately, the agency's current capacity limits its ability to leverage this tool to its maximum potential in service of both our mission and the citizens of SC.

Over the last four years, the agency has only been able to complete an average of 58% of contracts for prescribed burning on private lands. This means over 40% of agency customers are not achieving their desired objectives regarding the use of prescribed fire each year. Some of this is weather-driven, but it is largely driven by inadequate capacity.

Furthermore, accomplishments on the agency's state forests have only averaged 1,464 acres per year, which is well short of our goal of 2,500 acres. Again, a shortfall of over 40% due to inadequate capacity. Prescribed burning by all sources has averaged 444,608 acres over the last five years – less than half of our statewide goal of 1 million acres per year. To help make up these lost opportunities a significant investment is needed in the agency's capacity to deliver its prescribed fire programs.

We are requesting \$110,000 and one FTE to hire a full-time Prescribed Fire Coordinator. This position will help promote prescribed burning for its many benefits and improve efficiency in the allocation of prescribed burning resources.

A focus of this position will be the development of prescribed burning associations across the state. Through prescribed burning associations, landowners team up to get more burning accomplished. Enabling landowners to carry out burns safely and efficiently is the most effective way of reaching our statewide goals.

The position will also coordinate efforts with seasonal contract crews and partner agency crews to ensure efficient and effective delivery of prescribed burning services on private lands, state forests and other state lands. The companion non-recurring request for contract prescribed burning crews will allow us to triple the amount of prescribed burning on state forests while simultaneously significantly increasing, by approximately 20%, the amount of acreage the agency will be able to prescribed-burn on private lands.

If this request is not funded prescribed burning will continue at a level that does not meet agency goals, landowner objectives will continue to be

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

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

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	7
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Mechanic Vehicle and Supplies
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$63,000
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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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority # Recruitment and Retention	

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 objective:</p> <p>2.1 – Ensure prompt and effective response to wildfires and other disasters in an increasingly complex environment.</p> <p>5.1 – Prioritize safety across all agency 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?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	Vendors paid for goods obtained for agency operations following the state procurement code.
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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**

This request will provide the necessary vehicle and supplies needed for the new mechanic position requested in Priority #2.

Mechanics Truck & Supplies

\$63,000

This is a one-time request to supply the vehicle and supplies necessary for the mechanic to do their job if the position is funded. If this non-recurring request is not funded at the time the positions is funded, it will require the agency to use existing funds that are normally used for operating expenses.

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

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

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	8
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Forest Health Coordinator Vehicle
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$52,000
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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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority # Expanding Forest Health Capacity	

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 objective:</p> <p>2.4 – Deliver programs and services to prevent and reduce damage from insects, diseases, invasive species and other threats to our forests.</p> <p>3.1 - Support landowners with programs and services that promote active forest management and help them meet their goals.</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	Vendors paid for goods obtained for agency operations following the state procurement code.
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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**

This request will provide a vehicle for the Program Manager position that was requested in Priority #4.

4X4 Truck

\$52,000

This is a one-time request to supply the vehicle necessary for the Forest Health section to be able to continue to do landowner site visits and surveys for pests and diseases. If this non-recurring request is not funded at the time the positions are funded, it will require the agency to use existing funds that are normally used for operating expenses.

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

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

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	9
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Conservation Coordinator Vehicle
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$52,000
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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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority # Strengthening Forestland Conservation	

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>This funding request supports the following objectives:</p> <p>3.1 – Support landowners with programs and services that promote active forest management and help them meet their goals.</p> <p>3.3 – Demonstrate practices for the active, sustainable, multiple-use management of State Forests, and engage other public landowners to do the same.</p> <p>3.4 – <u>Actively seek opportunities to acquire land to grow the State Forest system.</u></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	Vendors paid for goods obtained for agency operations following the state procurement code.
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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**

This request will provide the necessary vehicle needed for the new Conservation Coordinator position requested in Priority #5.

4X4 Truck

\$52,000

If this non-recurring request is not funded at the time the position is funded, it will require the agency to use existing funds that are normally used for operating expenses.

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

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

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	11
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Expanding Prescribed Fire Capacity
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$3,802,000
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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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority # Expanding Prescribed Fire Capacity	

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	This funding request supports the following objectives:
	2.2 – Develop and deliver innovative prevention programs that reduce wildfire risks to forests and communities.
	3.1 – Support landowners with programs and services that promote active forest management and help them meet their goals.
	3.2 – Promote and increase the responsible use of prescribed fire.
	3.3 – Demonstrate practices for the active, sustainable, multiple-use management of State Forests, and engage other public landowners to do the same.
	<i>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?</i>

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	Vendors paid for goods and services obtained for agency operations following the state procurement code.
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What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)?

**JUSTIFICATION
OF REQUEST**

This request is a companion to Priority #6.

4X4 Truck	\$52,000
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Contract Prescribed Burning Crews	\$3,750,000
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This is a one-time request to purchase a truck for the prescribed burn coordinator if that position is funded. We are also requesting funding for contract crews to increase the amount of prescribed burning on state forests as well as on private lands. State forests serve as demonstration areas of sustainable forestry practices, so increasing the amount of burning on these lands will help meet this mission. During the past five years, an average of only 1,464 acres were prescribed burned on state forests, while the potential acres is close to 10,000 (with ideal weather conditions and other factors). Funding for contract prescribed burning crews will enable us to realistically burn approximately 4,000 acres per year, which would reduce wildfire risk, improve wildlife habitat, and enhance tree growth.

The five-year average of prescribed burning by agency personnel on private lands is approximately 9,000 acres. Funding for contract prescribed burn crews will enable us to carry out burns on close to 11,000 acres.

If this non-recurring request is not funded prescribed burning will continue at a level that does not meet agency goals and wildfire risk will stay at a high level in many areas and the other benefits from prescribed burning will not be realized.

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	10
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Land Acquisitions and Easements
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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 FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	<p>FY 2025 Priority #2</p> <p>FY 2025 was the first year this project was included in the CPIP.</p> <p>If this request is not funded there will continue to be missed opportunities for land protection.</p>
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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	<p>The SCFC works to obtain all the necessary approvals in acquiring properties, some of which include: the SCFC Board of Commissioners, SFAA, JBRC, County School Districts and County Council.</p>
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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	<p>The funds requested will be used for due diligence on land acquisition projects and for fee simple purchase of land acquisition. We intend to leverage these funds with other agency funds, grants, federal funds, and private funds to secure land to be added to our state forests system. All land acquired will be managed for multiple use, meaning we will manage the asset for the greatest good of South Carolina and its citizens through sustainable timber management, wildlife management, recreational use, and ecosystem benefits such as clean water, clean air, carbon storage, and much more. The SCFC manages its state forests without recurring state funding, operating almost entirely off the receipts from forest product sales. In addition, 25% of the gross revenue from these sales is provided to the county where the property is located to support the school system.</p>
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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 agency currently manages more than 100,00 acres and is looking to strategically expand our conservation footprint across the state to provide benefits for the citizens of SC. Agency staff work collaboratively with a wide range of conservation partners to identify strategic tracts that will be a good fit for our state forest system. Partners include state agencies such as SC Conservation Bank, SC Department of Natural Resources, SC Office of Resilience, SC Parks, Recreation and Tourism, etc. and non-profit partners like Open Space Institute, The Conservation Fund and The Nature Conservancy. Collaboration with a large group of partners enables the SCFC to leverage state funds against federal and private funding to achieve maximum impact.</p> <p>This request will provide the funds necessary for due diligence and land acquisitions and would allow the SCFC to act quickly in a very competitive real estate market. Having a dedicated source of funds for SCFC land conservation would enable the agency to:</p>
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SUMMARY

1. React quicker in the current real estate market.
2. Purchase strategic properties in areas of the state where forestland conservation is needed most in the face of increasing development pressures;
3. Bring additional dollars to further leverage federal and private funding.

Currently, there are several high conservation priority projects that are of interest to the SCFC. We have identified two different properties that these funds may be used to help with the acquisition and permanent protection. These funds are vital to the acquisition and protection of these working forests from development. Strengthening the SCFC's forestland conservation focus is vitally important to allow the agency to act efficiently and compete effectively in the face of rising development pressures to acquire strategic forested properties important for sustainable timber production, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation to benefit South Carolina citizens.

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

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

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	43.1
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").

TITLE	Grant Funds Carry Forward
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	Forest Protection and Development
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	N/A
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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	Codify
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	N/A
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	<p>Codify Proviso 43.1 – Grant Funds Carry Forward</p> <p>The Forestry Commission is authorized to use unexpended federal grant funds in the current year to pay for expenditures incurred in the prior year.</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

N/A

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

**PROPOSED
PROVISO TEXT**

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

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

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

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	43.2
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").

TITLE	Retention of Emergency Expenditure Refunds
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	Forest Protection and Development
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	N/A
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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	Codify
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	N/A
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	<p>Codify Proviso 43.2 – Retention of Emergency Expenditure Refunds</p> <p>The Forestry Commission is authorized to retain all funds received as reimbursement of expenditures from other state or federal agencies when personnel and equipment are mobilized due to an emergency.</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

N/A

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

**PROPOSED
PROVISO TEXT**

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

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

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

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	43.3
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").

TITLE	Commissioned Officers' Physicals
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	Administration, Forest Education and Development, State Forests & Education
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	N/A
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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	Codify
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	N/A
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	<p>Codify Proviso 43.3 – Commission Officers’ Physicals</p> <p>The Forestry Commission is authorized to pay the cost of physical examinations for agency personnel who are required to receive such physical examinations prior to receiving a law enforcement commission.</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

N/A

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

**PROPOSED
PROVISO TEXT**

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

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

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

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	43.4
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").

TITLE	Compensatory Payment
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	Administration, Forest Protection and Development, State Forests & Education
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	N/A
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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	Codify
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	N/A
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	<p>Codify Proviso 43.4 – Compensatory Payment</p> <p>In the event a State of Emergency is declared by the Governor, exempt employees of the Forestry Commission may be paid for actual hours worked in lieu of accruing compensatory time, at the discretion of the agency director, and providing funds are available.</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

N/A

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

**PROPOSED
PROVISO TEXT**

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

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

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

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	43.5
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").

TITLE	Sale of Promotional Items
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	Education
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	N/A
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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	Codify
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	N/A
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	<p>Codify Proviso 43.5 – Sale of Promotional Items</p> <p>The Forestry Commission may sell promotional items that advocate for the forestry and forest culture, including items featuring the South Carolina Forestry Commission Forest Life brand logo, for the purposes of generating funds for the agency operations. Unexpended funds may be carried forward from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year and used for the same purpose.</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

N/A

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

**PROPOSED
PROVISO TEXT**

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

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

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

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER

43.6

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

TITLE

Firefighting Equipment and Response Carry-Forward

Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM

Forest Protection and Development

Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST

N/A

Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2025-2026? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION

Codify

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

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED

N/A

Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION

Codify Proviso 43.6 – Firefighting Equipment and Response Carry Forward

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

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

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

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

**PROPOSED
PROVISO TEXT**

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

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

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

FORM 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	\$986,757
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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	16 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 protecting, promoting, and enhancing the state’s forests for the benefit of all. To achieve this mission, agency employees provide numerous services to the citizens of South Carolina and to forested lands themselves. Forestry Commission personnel not only protect the forest lands and surrounding communities from wildfires, but they also provide outreach services to landowners who enable forestry to be a top industry and economic driver in South Carolina.</p> <p>In order to accommodate a 3% budget reduction, the Forestry Commission will have to eliminate 16 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	Use of warning tickets for documenting violations of SC Code Title 48
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	\$137,815.00 in fines, court costs, personnel hours and 63 hours of court time saved.
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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:	
	<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>126 warning tickets were issued, which are multiplied by the maximum fine of \$500 plus court costs of \$587.50 for most violations of SC Code Title 48.</p> <p>Case prosecution would take approximately 15 minutes per case multiplied by 126 violations.</p> <p>Officer's average hourly rate of approximately \$25.07 per hour multiplied by 31.5 hours of court time.</p> <p>The defendants' time added to the court staff's time would determine the total hours of 63 saved by citizens and businesses.</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>Fines for violations of SC Code Title 48.</p> <p>Enabling authority is derived from SC Code 48-23-96.</p>
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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	This action would not require any amendments or deletions of current regulations.
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Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

	<p>During FY 2023-2024 a total of 126 warning tickets were issued. Through the use of warning tickets versus courtesy summons for documented violations the expected saving in fines and court costs is \$137,025. This is based on the maximum fine of \$500 plus included court assessments. Case prosecution would take approximately 15 minutes per case multiplied by 126 violations, which saved 31.5 hours of officer court time. Based on the average hourly rate of \$25.07 per hour this provided an additional savings of \$790. This saved the public 31.5 hours of personal or employer time due to not being required to attend court. Court personnel also saved 31.5 hours due to not hearing these cases.</p>
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SUMMARY

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