AGENCY NAME:	Lander University		
AGENCY CODE:	H210	**SECTION:**	18

Fiscal Year 2026-27
Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

OPERATING REQUESTS *(FORM B1)*	**For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"):**	
	X	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	X	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.

NON-RECURRING REQUESTS *(FORM B2)*	**For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"):**	
		Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
		Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	X	Not requesting any changes.

CAPITAL REQUESTS *(FORM C)*	**For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"):**	
	X	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
		Not requesting any changes.

PROVISOS *(FORM D)*	**For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"):**	
		Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
		Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	X	Not requesting any proviso changes.

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

	Name	***Phone***	***Email***
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Ashley Wilkie	(864) 388-8305	awilkie@lander.edu
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Joseph Greenthal	(864) 388-8305	jgreenthal@lander.edu

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2026-27 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	Agency Director	***Board or Commission Chair***
SIGN/DATE:		
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Richard Cosentino	Donald Lloyd

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

Agency Name:	Lander University
Agency Code:	H210
Section:	18

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Tuition Mitigation	2,853,612	0	0	0	2,853,612	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Student Experiential Learning Program	500,000	0	0	0	500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	C - Capital	Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement	12,200,000	0	0	0	12,200,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	C - Capital	Grier Center Renovation	11,800,000	0	0	0	11,800,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	C - Capital	Chandler Center Renovation	10,200,000	0	0	0	10,200,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	B1 - Recurring	Other Funds Authorization Increase - Restricted	0	0	0	373,684	373,684	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			37,553,612	0	0	373,684	37,927,296	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Agency Name:	Lander University		
Agency Code:	H210	Section:	18

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**1**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**Tuition Mitigation**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $2,853,612** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $2,853,612**

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	**0.00**

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

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:

X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	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:

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

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This request corresponds with Goals 1 and 2 of the University's 2025-2026 Accountability Report - (1) Academic Excellence in Teaching, Scholarship, and Service and (2) Student Success. This request will advance the University's strategic goals by allowing the University to continue offering a quality education and retain its current level of students. Lander will evaluate the use of these funds by ensuring that the above referenced goals and their quantifiable strategies are achieved.

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

The recipient of funds will be the University's instruction, student services, academic support, institutional support, and physical plant areas. The request will help mitigate the increased ocsts associated with univeristy operatins, while maintaining a flat

FUNDS	tuition rate.

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	Lander's Fall 2025 semester started off with another year of impressive growth. The University's enrollment in the first week of classes was 4,589, up 5.9% over last year at the same point in cycle and surpassing the University's goal of 4,500 students. Fueling this tremendous growth is another record-setting achievement – Lander's largest-ever class of first-time freshmen. With 1,031 members, the Class of 2029 represents a growth of approximately 21.7% over last year's freshman class. Lander University requests $2,853,612 in tuition mitigation for continued support of the University's mission to freeze tuition and maintain its current level of service. Lander is committed to keeping the cost of higher education as low as possible and has kept tuition frozen for the past ten years. While this benefits students and enrollment, it puts Lander in the position of needed additional recurring funds to cover increases in expenses due to inflationary factors and to assist the University in achieving its strategic goals. The University calculated this request by completing an analysis of actual expenditures over the last three fiscal years. Between fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, Lander experienced a 3.18% increase in actual operating expenditures. The University then applied that percent increase to its 2025-2026 expense budgets to calculate the requested amount. Should the University not receive the requested funds, it may face budget constraints that could result in reductions in academic programs, student services, and support initiatives aimed at student retention and success (Goal 2 of the 2025-2026 Accountability Report). Tuition mitigation funds are essential in allowing Lander University to maintain its affordability and quality education.

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:	Lander University		
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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**2**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**Student Experiential Learning Program**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $500,000** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $500,000**

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	**0.00**

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

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:

X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	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:

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

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This request corresponds with Goals 1 and 2 of the University's 2025-2026 Accountability Report – (1) Academic Excellence in Teaching, Scholarship, and Service and (2) Student Success. Specifically, strategy 1.1 Expand experiential learning, active learning, and career skills with a focus on workforce development will be directly supported by this request.

This funding will allow eligible students to earn money while gaining experience in their field of choice rather than working just to earn money. Lander will evaluate the use of these funds by tracking the outcomes of students participating in the program – employment status after graduating, whether they become employed in South Carolina, etc.

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?

These funds would be handled within the Enrollment Management division/Workforce

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	and Career Development area and will be distributed as stipends to eligible students. The division would establish the predetermined eligibility criteria and how the stipends are to be distributed.

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	Lander University requests $500,000 to expand access to high-impact experiential learning opportunities that prepare students for successful careers. Internships are a proven pathway for developing critical professional skills and connecting academic learning to real-world applications. State funding would provide vital resources to support student participation in internships across high-demand industries. Modeled after best practices within other South Carolina institutions of higher education, this effort will: • Increase internship opportunities across disciplines, with a focus on workforce development • Strengthen employer engagement and placement pipelines that connect classroom learning to career readiness • Expand access through strategic partnerships with manufacturing, healthcare, and other key regional industries, ensuring students gain experience in fields critical to the state's economy With this investment, Lander can build the infrastructure needed to ensure all students benefit from transformative experiential learning that positions them for post-graduation success.

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:	Lander University		
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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**6**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**Other Funds Authorization Increase - Restricted**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $0** **Federal: $0** **Other: $373,684** **Total: $373,684**

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	**0.00**

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

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:

	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	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:

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

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	This request corresponds with Goal 2 of the University's 2025-2026 Accountability Report – Student Success. The Other Funds authorization increase will allow the University to spend its funds in alignment with the above-stated goal.

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	This request will increase Other Funds Restricted to ensure an appropriate level of authorization for state grants and contracts received by Lander's students.

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 purpose of this request is to increase the University's 2026-2027 Other Funds Restricted authorization by $373,684. This request will ensure an appropriate level of authorization for the increase in student FTEs receiving state scholarships, specifically new CHE Scholarship Enhancements and Need Based Grants. The request was calculated by looking at prior year actuals of in-state scholarship enhancements and Lander's increased Need Based Grant allocation and projecting where those numbers will be for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

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:	Lander University		
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FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	3
	Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.
TITLE	Maintenance, Renovation, and Replacement
	Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.
AMOUNT	$12,200,000
	How much is requested for this project in FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.
CPIP PRIORITY	This request is made up of multiple projects, some of which are included on the University's CPIP. These projects include: Fire Monitoring Alarm System Repairs/Upgrades, Willson Street Pedestrian Walk/Parking (all Year 2); Campus Energy Management Controls (Year 3). The remainder of the projects are under the new $2.5 million threshold which does not require inclusion on the University's CPIP.
	Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.
OTHER APPROVALS	If this request is approved, the University will follow all necessary steps in submitting and approving planned projects. The University's Board of Trustees will be required to take action on this request.
	What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)
LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	The University annually anticipates utility increases as part of its budgeting process. Any construction would incorporate energy-efficient lighting, occupancy sensors, and HVAC enhancements to mitigate utility increases and thus reduce the burden on the annual budget. Further, the University plans for maintenance by transferring funds into a reserve account for future maintenance needs.
	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?
	Lander University requests $12,200,000 in capital funds to continue its goal of maintaining and optimizing the state's assets. In previous years, the state has appropriated nonrecurring and/or capital funds to Lander for maintenance, renovation, and replacement. These funds made significant improvements to the campus. This request will assist the University in completing a number of projects on the critical maintenance list. The projects Lander plans to accomplish with these funds include:

SUMMARY	• Fire Monitoring Alarm System Repairs/Upgrades - $1,900,000 • Campus Energy Management Controls System - $2,900,000 • Campus Wide Mechanical, Electrical, & Plumbing Repairs - $1,800,000 • Annex Building Envelope Renovation - $1,100,000 • Willson Street Pedestrian Walk/Parking - $2,400,000 • Parking Repair/Replace/Resurfacing - $2,100,000

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:	Lander University		
Agency Code:	H210	Section:	18

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	4

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Grier Center Renovation

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$11,800,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	This request is part of CPIP plan year 2030 and ranked 29 of 31.

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	If this request is approved, the University will prepare an A1 form and submit for approval to CHE and Executive Budget Office. The University's Board of Trustees will be required to take action on this request.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	The University annually anticipates utility increases as part of its budgeting process. Any construction would incorporate energy efficient lighting, occupancy sensors, and HVAC enhancements to mitigate utility increases and thus reduce the burden on the annual budget. Further, the University plans for maintenance by transferring funds into a reserve account for future maintenance needs.

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?

	Lander University requests $11,800,000 to renovate the Grier Building Center, originally constructed in 1979 to serve a student population of just 800. With enrollment now exceeding 4,600, the facility is no longer adequate to support the university's essential student services and operational needs. The Grier Building Center houses key functions such as student conduct, housing, career services, and the CARE team—making it a central hub for student support, well-being, and workforce readiness. Expanded efforts under Career Services are helping prepare students for post-graduate success through career development, employer engagement, and experiential learning opportunities. The renovation will modernize aging infrastructure, including a full electrical service upgrade, and create flexible, collaborative spaces for students to connect, study, and engage. Additionally, the project will establish the Grier Building Center as a designated emergency operations facility, capable of supporting thousands with full backup power and resilient systems during times of crisis. This investment will strengthen the university's ability to serve its students and community, both in daily operations and in

SUMMARY	moments of urgent need.

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:	Lander University		
Agency Code:	H210	Section:	18

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	5

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Chandler Center Renovation

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$10,200,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	This request is part of CPIP plan year 2029 and ranked 21 of 31.

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	If this request is approved, the University will prepare an A1 form and submit for approval to CHE and Executive Budget Office. The University's Board of Trustees will be required to take action on this request.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	The University annually anticipates utility increases as part of its budgeting process. Any construction would incorporate energy efficient lighting, occupancy sensors, and HVAC enhancements to mitigate utility increases and thus reduce the burden on the annual budget. Further, the University plans for maintenance by transferring funds into a reserve account for future maintenance needs. In fiscal year 2018-2019, the state appropriated CRF funds to Lander for Classroom and Laboratory Upgrades. Of the $1,587,848 appropriated through H.4951, $234,093 was spent in the Chandler Center updating classroom spaces. Other small facility updates have been made over the years using University reserves.

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?

	Lander University requests a capital investment of $10,200,000 to renovate and modernize the Chandler Center, now part of the College of Nursing, Human Performance, and Health Sciences. This facility is a critical hub for interdisciplinary education and research, supporting programs in physical education, exercise science, public health, and foundational physical therapy. The building's aging infrastructure, including HVAC systems, windows, roofing, and building envelope, requires urgent upgrades to ensure safety, energy efficiency, and long-term sustainability. Additionally, the renovation will enable the strategic redesign of laboratory spaces to accommodate expanded enrollment, evolving academic programs, and cutting-edge research in human performance and health sciences. This investment will directly enhance student learning, faculty innovation, and community engagement, aligning with the state's goals for workforce development in health and wellness.

SUMMARY

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

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan

AMOUNT	$803,616

What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.

ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	None.

How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	Education & General

What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?

SUMMARY	Lander University is a lump-sum agency and most of our General Fund appropriations are in salaries and employer contributions. Of the $803,616 identified, $503,387 would be reduced from salaries and $273,229 would be reduced from employer contributions. The University would hold vacancies as a result of attrition, and replacement of critical positions would be held for at least ninety days prior to being readvertised.

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 University implemented a modified zero-based budgeting system to ensure accountability and efficient use of funds campuswide. The Budget Office closely monitors costs and departmental budgets to ensure appropriate spending. Lander was able to recognize cost savings in fiscal year 2024-2025 of: • $178,463 in travel • $196,366 in machinery/equipment • $19,380 in postage • $143,807 in telephone The above referenced cost reductions were made at the institutional level, with careful consideration to ensure that no cuts were made that would impact students or the quality of their education. Lander repurposed these savings by investing in additional programming for students in order to further drive the University's retention.

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:	Lander University		
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FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE	Tuition Savings for Student Taxpayers

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	$7,035,766

What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Repeal or revision of regulations.
	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
X	Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION	The Lander University Board of Trustees made a commitment to freeze in-state and out-of-state tuition for both undergraduate and graduate programs for four years, beginning Fall 2016. To calculate the savings to Lander students, the University took into consideration a 1-2% tuition increase (compounded over the now ten years of the tuition freeze) and its actual enrollment. Had the University elected not to freeze tuition in 2016, Lander's tuition could have been $12,233 by Fall 2025, instead, it has remained at $10,700 from Fall 2016 through Fall 2025, for outliving that original vision.

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

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES	The Lander University Board of Trustees made a commitment to freeze in-state and out-of-state tuition for both undergraduate and graduate programs for four years, beginning Fall 2016. Using the above calculation, Lander estimates that over the course of the last ten academic years, the University has saved students a total of $38,036,475.

Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

REDUCTION OF REGULATION	N/A

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

	Access and affordability are two critical components to Lander's strategy. In July 2016, Lander's Board of Trustees approved a new tuition model that froze tuition for four years, and now the University has continued to hold its tuition and mandatory fees frozen for the 2025-26 year. It's an innovative move to improve access and affordability, along with allowing Lander students to graduate with less financial debt. Adopting this pricing strategy lessened the financial burden to our students, 90% of whom are South Carolina citizens.

SUMMARY

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

AGENCY NAME:	Lander University		
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FORM H – TUITION MITIGATION (PROVISO 117.178)

TITLE	Tuition Mitigation Proviso 117.178

AMOUNT	$2,853,612

What is the amount needed for Tuition Mitigation for FY27? This amount should correspond to the priority 1 recurring budget request. Tuition Mitigation should ONLY include the state funding necessary to continue existing operations on July 1, 2026 with no in-state undergraduate tuition or mandatory fee increases. Tuition Mitigation should not include any new programs or expansion of existing academic programs that may be contemplated for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

EXPLANATION OF METHODOLOGY

Lander University requests $2,853,612 in tuition mitigation funds to continue existing operations with no in-state undergraduate tuition or mandatory general fee increases.

The University calculated this request by completing an analysis of actual expenditures over the last three fiscal years. Between fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, Lander experienced a 3.18% increase in actual operating expenditures. The University then applied that percentage increase to its 2025-2026 expense budgets, landing on the above referenced amount. It is through sound fiscal management that Lander feels able to use its internal increase, rather than the currently estimated Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) rate of 3.7%. Our fiscal discipline allows us to use a lower inflation factor, maximizing state funds' impact.

As allowed by the SC Code of Laws Section 5-101-620, Lander currently waives fees up to 4% of the undergraduate student body. Further, Lander does give partial abatements of out-of-state fees to students who qualify for merit-based or athletic scholarships. For the fiscal year ending 6/30/2025, Lander waived $1,813,032 in tuition and abated $2,910,225 in out-of-state fees. The administration views these waivers and abatements not as foregone revenue, but as a valuable tool to help supplement the cost of higher education, making it more accessible and affordable to our students.

Please provide a detailed explanation of the methods used to estimate the FY27 tuition mitigation needs as well as the number of enrolled in-state and out-of-state undergraduates. What standard inflation factor is being used (HEPI, CPI, etc.)? What base budget items is the inflation factor applied to? What is the impact of tuition waivers and abatements, including the amount of foregone revenue, and its impact on the need for additional state funding.

AGENCY NAME:	Lander University		
AGENCY CODE:	H210	SECTION:	18

COST SAVINGS	Over the past three fiscal years, Lander University has implemented various cost saving measures to reduce the need to increase undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees for students. The University identified and streamlined administrative processes in multiple departments to improve efficiency and reduce costs. The Budget Office has closely monitored costs and centralized budgets to decrease spending, and built spending controls resulting in cost savings in fiscal year 2024-2025 of: • $178,463 in travel • $196,366 in equipment/machinery • $143,801 in telephone • $379,150 in temporary employees • $19,380 in postage This effort is on top of the reduction in the purchasing card program by more than half (recognized savings of approximately $1,800,000 over 1.75 fiscal years) The above referenced cost reductions were made at the institutional level, with careful consideration to ensure that no cuts were made that would impact students or the quality of their education. The University also continued using a modified zero-based budgeting system to ensure accountability and efficient use of funds campuswide. As an additional cost savings measure, the University has updated its scholarship and abatement matrix to reduce the amounts of each abatement, saving the University $277,646 in scholarships and $327,279 in abatements from 23-24 to 24-25. The focus of these reductions were to better align athletic support with that of the average student, as $248,638 of the scholarship reduction was in athletic scholarship, and nearly all abatements are attributed to athletes. Lander Univeristy is still able to recruit strong athletes to our programs while starting to minimize the expense to recruit, making our efforts more efficient. Lander's enrollment increased by 4.6% over Fall 2024 proving the University is more efficient with its scholarship dollars and we have not reduced merit or need-based funding. Additionally, the athletic scholarship program has been given a strategic four-year reduction plan to reduce the expense of the program by nearly 10% each year, while attempting to maintain roster sizes. This is in an effort to right-size the overall program and ensure resources can be more appropriately spread across campus. Despite the University's significant efforts to reduce certain costs, the overall 3.18% increase in expenses highlights that cost-cutting alone cannot keep pace with the rising financial demands. For the record, Lander University dropped and froze its tuition in 2016, 2017, and 2018, three years prior to the start of this analysis. Lander's tuition still remains frozen at that same rate ($5,350 in tuition and $500 in general fees per semester) through the 2025-2026 academic year.
	Provide a detailed analysis of any cost savings measures taken since FY19 to offset undergraduate tuition and fee increases and attach quantifiable documentation. Please include documentation of actions taken by the board of trustees or board of visitors or by administration. Attach any cost savings studies that have been undertaken and provide an explanation of actions taken to implement these studies. Provide future quantifiable

cost savings plans and expectations for implementation.

LOW ENROLLMENT	Lander University is a comprehensive university, offering a wide variety of academic programs to study. While the University does have lower enrollment in certain disciplines than others, it recognizes the need to continue to offer those courses to provide a comprehensive education. Since 2018-2019, Lander has eliminated three programs: • Certificate in Diplomatic Studies • M.S. Exercise Science • B.A. Visual Arts All three programs or concentrations were terminated due to low enrollment and a lack of student interest in these pathways. Each had low enrollment at the time of termination. All students were provided with appropriate teach-out plans. Lander University offers five programs that were recently identified in a program productivity audit by the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) as not meeting productivity standards. We are working through a collaborative review and justification of the need for these programs with CHE staff. Several programs meet employment and workforce needs in our region, and all five are essentially cost/revenue neutral. We will follow CHE policy in completing the review and developing a plan to terminate programs that are not deemed to be sustainable or in the best interests of students and employers in our region. The total headcount enrollment at Lander University has grown consistently since 2019, from 3,225 to 4,589, amounting to a 42% increase (and a 70% increase since Fall 2015). Therefore, the termination of these programs has not resulted in a reduction of tuition revenue and will not lead to requests for additional state funding. Strategic program management ensures resources support high-demand fields without increasing state funding needs.

Provide a list of any undergraduate programs, academic or other, that have been reduced or eliminated since FY19. Please document the reasons for the reduction or elimination. If the institution has, or is expected to have, a decline in in-state undergraduate student enrollment, provide analysis on how the institution will ensure the corresponding reduction in tuition will not lead to requests for additional state funding.

UNOBLIGATED FUND BALANCE	Lander University's unobligated fund balance as of 6/30/2025 is $16,459,621 from its Education & General, Auxiliary, and Designated funds. The unobligated fund balance serves as a financial reserve, providing the University with the flexibility to manage unexpected expenses, revenue shortfalls, or strategic opportunities. It helps ensure financial stability and continuity of operations by offering a reserve that can be tapped into during times of fiscal uncertainty or for critical investments. To put this fund balance into perspective, that amount would cover approximately 8 payrolls in the event of an unforeseen financial disruption; this represents two months of salary and fringe benefit expenses. Lander has the goal of maintaining an unobligated fund balance of 15-25% of its operating budget, and the University's current fund balance represents 17.8% of its Education & General, Auxiliary, and Designated operating budgets. By continuing current cost savings measures, Lander hopes to achieve the higher range of this goal in the next few fiscal years to ensure our own ability to invest in a critical initiative or to

weather an unexpected enrollment downturn. Achieving and maintaining a robust reserve ensures financial stability and readiness for strategic opportunities without a heavy reliance on additional state support.

Provide the institution's unobligated fund balance for the most recently completed fiscal year. Attach documentation showing this balance disaggregated to identify amounts that are restricted in their use by external authorities (General Assembly, Federal Government, donors, etc.) and those that are not subject to such restrictions. Provide an explanation of the amount the institution considers to be an appropriate unrestricted fund balance as a percentage of its operating budget and the percentage of the institution's operating budget that the fund balance represents.