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

Fiscal Year FY 2026-2027
Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

OPERATING REQUESTS *(FORM B1)*		**For FY 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):**
		Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	X	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.

NON-RECURRING REQUESTS *(FORM B2)*		**For FY 2026-2027, 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 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):**
		Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
	X	Not requesting any changes.

PROVISOS *(FORM D)*		**For FY 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):**
	X	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
		Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
		Not requesting any proviso changes.

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

	Name	***Phone***	***Email***
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Amanda Golebiowski	(803) 896-0254	Amanda.Golebiowski@psc.sc.gov
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Jocelyn Boyd	(803) 896-5100	Jocelyn.Boyd@psc.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2026-2027 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	Agency Director	***Board or Commission Chair***
SIGN/DATE:	Jocelyn Boyd, Sept. 24, 2025	
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Jocelyn Boyd	

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

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

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Personal Services and Employer Contributions	0	0	184,132	0	184,132	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Operating Expenses and Equipment	0	0	125,611	0	125,611	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			0	0	309,743	0	309,743	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00

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

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	1

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**Personal Services and Employer Contributions**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $0** **Federal: $0** **Other: $184,132** **Total: $184,132**

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	1.00

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

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:

X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	Consulted DTO during development
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:

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

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Strategic Goal 2: Maintain Our Commitment to the Judicial Process – The request for additional funds will be used for employer benefits due to the 2% general increase for Commissioners and staff. Additionally, the Commission seeks to fill an Attorney I position who will be directly involved with the Commissioners analyzing and disposing of cases.

Strategic Goal 3: Improve Our Operations Continuously – Adding an attorney to Commissioner Support provided significant value to the Commissioner's working process. It has proved to be so valuable that adding an additional attorney in this role will give Commissioners greater access to important legal advice.

Strategic Goal 4: Manage Risk – The Attorney I will assist with the case load review process.

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

Most of these funds will go toward all Commission employees' FY26 general increase in employer benefits. In addition, the Commission anticipates hiring a new Attorney I employee whose salary is based on the job classification system, and employer

FUNDS	contributions are paid based on the rates provided by the Executive Budget Office for budget projections.

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 Public Service Commission's request of $184,132 includes an increase in salaries and employer contributions for:

- The funds will go toward all Commission employees' FY26 general increase employer benefits.
- An Attorney I position in the Commission's Commissioner Support area. The Commission has only one attorney in that area to provide support for 7 Commissioners currently.
- Salary - $70,500 (This number is included only as a base for calculating the fringe benefits for the Attorney I position.)
- Fringe Benefits for Attorney I - $32,554 (Retirement Contribution $17,385, Social Security $5,393, Pre-Retirement Death $106, Insurance Composite Rate $9,508, Dental $162)

Chairman Delton Powers requests funding for the fringe benefits for an Attorney I position in the Commissioners Support Department. A description of the Attorney I's job functions is listed below, and the employee will assist the Commissioners with reviewing Commission Orders before publication, reviewing filings in Commission dockets, preparing documents for Commission Business Meeting agendas, and assisting Commissioners with writing motions for Commission Business Meeting directives.

1. Provide legal opinion and prepare legal memorandums concerning various legislative acts and court decisions.

2. Conduct legal research. Provide assistance on public utility law and administrative law issues.

3. Summarize prefiled testimony. Summarize legal filings posted on the Commission's Docket Management System.

4. Read and prepare citations to transcripts, draft Commission Orders and/or proofread Commission Orders. May review various other legal documents as requested by the Special Counsel to the Commission.

5. Responsible for adhering to Rule 501, South Carolina Appellate Court Rules, Code of Judicial Conduct.

6. Perform other duties as assigned.

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

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

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	2

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Operating Expenses and Equipment

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: $0 Federal: $0 Other: $125,611 Total: $125,611

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
X	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	Consulted DTO during development
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:

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

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

- **DTO cost increase -** Admin manages the IT operations for more than 40 state agencies in the areas of network, firewall, desktop support, server hosting, and storage. With this management comes redundant staffing, flexible scaling of computing resources through an operational expense model and dedicated security oversight that lets agencies focus on their core missions and provide better service to citizens. These capabilities provide the opportunity for shared services customers to experience savings from not having to recruit and retain staff with increasingly difficult to find IT skillsets, allows for the adoption of a common statewide computing platform that drives consistency and efficiency, and offers enhanced security to rapidly identify and remediate security vulnerabilities while adhering to state standards. The IT shared services model also allows purchasing at an enterprise scale, which drives millions of dollars in negotiated savings for the state as a whole. Admin had not substantially raised rates for approximately 20 years until July 2025, and during that time, absorbed the increased cost associated with the delivery of IT shared services. Although some service costs increased due to the exponentially rising expenses associated with technology (hardware, software, vendor support, etc.), other costs were reduced due to economies of scale and the continued adoption of IT shared services by agencies throughout the state. In one such example, the cost of server hosting and management was reduced by over $2 million yearly, resulting in an overall billing reduction of 12%. The recurring funding requested by the Public Service Commission will allow DTO to return to a net neutral financial position and continue to deliver secure, flexible, and scalable shared IT services.

- **Tricaster and accessories -** On April 15, 2021, the Commission purchased the TriCaster 2 Elite for Livestream production of Commission Business Meetings, Hearings, and other events. The TriCaster 2 Elite has been discontinued for sale, but

	its hardware maintenance and software updates are still supported for the near future. The exact end-of-life date for the TriCaster 2 Elite has not been established. However, the TriCaster 2 Elite uses the Windows 10 Operating System. The end-of-life date for Windows 10 is October 14, 2025. After this date, Microsoft will no longer provide free security updates, non-security updates, or assisted support for Windows 10. Although computers running Windows 10 will still function, they will become increasingly vulnerable to security risks and viruses. The TriCaster 2 Elite operating system cannot be upgraded due to Windows 11 hardware requirements. If the Commission continues to use the TriCaster 2 Elite with the Windows 10 OS, it will incur risks, including lack of security updates and software updates. In addition to this critical security issue, we lack sufficient camera coverage for the new District 4 Commissioner on the bench. Another camera is needed for a dedicated view of the Commissioner. Two additional witness cameras are also needed for dedicated views of each witness or additional intervenors or parties when there are more than two witnesses on a panel. The current 24-port network switch cannot supply adequate power to operate the cameras sufficiently. A new Netgear 40-port Gigabit PoE switch will be able to supply the power needed for the current and new cameras.

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	DTO – SC Division of Technology. Tricaster – Amitrace, a vendor under state contract.

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 Public Service Commission's request consists of an increase in other operating expenses and the replacement of a Tricaster, which is at the end of its useful life, and new accessories. The total amount for these items is $125,611. • DTO - $61,085 due to increases in charges for the same services. • The total cost of the Tricaster and other hearing room equipment is $71,837. However, the Commission is requesting $64,526 in appropriations for FY27 because the current FY26 appropriations are sufficient to pay $7,311 towards this purchase.

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

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

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	72.4
	Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").
TITLE	PSC: Avoided Cost Experts
	Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.
BUDGET PROGRAM	Administration Section 72
	Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.
RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	None
	Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2026-2027? If so, cite it here.
REQUESTED ACTION	Amend
	Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.
OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	None
	Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?
SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	We received a Special Appropriation of $250,000 in the General Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 in Proviso 118.19(52) for the South Carolina Integration Study, which will not be moving forward at this time pursuant to Commission Order No. 2024-419 dated June 17, 2024. The Public Service Commission would like to use this funding for third-party avoided cost consultants and experts that are required and must be hired every other year pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-20(I). The Commission requests that remaining funds at the end of FY27 be carried to the subsequent fiscal year. The requested amendment would allow the Commission to carry forward the remaining funds at the end of FY27 to the subsequent year.
	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	The fiscal impact of the amendment would allow the Commission to use the funds for third-party avoided cost consultants and experts that are required and must be hired every other year pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-20(I) in future years. Because the consultants must be hired every other year, the remaining funds would go toward FY28 costs.

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	72.4 (PSC: Avoided Cost Experts) The Public Service Commission is authorized to use and expend funds authorized in the General Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Proviso 118.19(52) (South Carolina Integration Study - $250,000) for expenses incurred for third-party avoided cost consultants and experts employed through contract or otherwise and retained pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-20(I). This appropriation is reassigned for the Public Service Commission and experts employed through contract or otherwise. <u>The Commission is authorized to carry forward unexpended funds allocated for avoided cost experts into the current fiscal year to be used for the same purpose.</u>

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

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

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

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
AMOUNT	$16,279

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

ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	N/A

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

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	Commissioners, Commissioner Support, PMO, Clerk's Office, Analysts, Legal.

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

SUMMARY	The Public Service Commission will reduce travel expenses to cover an anticipated 3% reduction. This 3% reduction in travel expenses will not affect the Commission's ongoing operations. The Commission's method of calculation for anticipated reductions is to multiply our general fund appropriations by 3%.

Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS	N/A

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than $50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

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

TITLE	Live Streaming with Skype and WebEx Capabilities for Commission Hearings, Business Meetings, and Public Interviews for Qualified, Independent Third-Party Consultants and Experts

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	Live Streaming with Skype and WebEx Capabilities for Commission hearings, business meetings and public interviews for qualified, independent third party consultants and experts saves businesses and citizens time as well as cost of traveling to and from the Commission located in Columbia. The savings will vary depending on how far a business or citizen would have to travel to attend a hearing, business meeting, or public interview.

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

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:

	Repeal or revision of regulations.
	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
X	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
	Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION	The method of determining the savings would be at a rate of 70 cents per automobile mile plus the hourly rate of the business employee or citizen multiplied by the hours attending as well as traveling to and from the hearing/meeting.

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

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES	N/A

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

REDUCTION OF REGULATION	N/A

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

The travel cost burden to businesses and citizens is being eliminated so more businesses and citizens can listen to and participate in, as needed, hearings, business meetings and public interviews for qualified, independent third-party consultants or experts. The result is more businesses and citizens can be informed and/or participate in Commission proceedings. The Commission has used live streaming since Covid-19 in FY2020 and has continued to seek opportunities to improve and enhance the virtual experience in Commission proceedings. After the severity of Covid-19 declined substantially, many attorneys and witnesses choose to appear in person. However, the aforementioned virtual options are still extended by the Commission and often utilized. The table below shows the number of virtual and audio participants in the Commission's proceedings in FY2022 through FY2025.

Public Service Commission Proceedings Virtual & Audio Participants Fiscal Year 2024-25		Hearings/Proceedings Before Commission(ers)		
Month	**Proceedings Incl'g Forums & Workshops (Total virtual participants)**	**Witnesses/ Presenters**	**Counsel/ Rep's**	**Total**
Jul-24	0	13	7	**20**
Aug-24	6	1	0	**7**
Sep-24	4	21	6	**31**
Oct-24	1	5	7	**13**
Nov-24	0	1	0	**1**

Dec-24	0	2	2	**4**
Jan-25	2	4	1	**7**
Feb-25	5	0	0	**5**
Mar-25	1	0	0	**1**
Apr-25	3	0	0	**3**
May-25	0	0	1	**1**
Jun-25	2	3	1	**6**
Totals	**24**	**50**	**25**	**99**

Public Service Commission Proceedings **Virtual & Audio Participants** **Fiscal Year 2023-24**		**Hearings/Proceedings Before Commission(ers)**		
Month	**Hearing Examiner Proceedings Incl'g Forums & Workshops (total virtual participants)**	**Witnesses/Participants**	**Counsel/ Rep's**	**Total**
Jul-23	13	2	4	19
Aug-23	0	35	3	38
Sep-23	1	3	4	8
Oct-23	0	4	3	7
Nov-23	4	7	13	24
Dec-23	0	0	5	5
Jan-24	0	0	0	0
Feb-24	0	20	4	24
Mar-24	0	0	0	0
Apr-24	0	0	0	0
May-24	0	0	0	0
Jun-24	3	1	5	9
Totals	**21**	**72**	**41**	**134**

SUMMARY

Public Service Commission Proceedings **Virtual & Audio Participants** **Fiscal Year 2022-23**		**Hearings/Proceedings Before Commissi**		
Month	**Hearing Examiner Proceedings Incl'g Forums & Workshops (total virtual participants)**	**Witnesses/Participants**	**Counsel/ Rep's**	**Total**
Jul-22	2	8	12	22
Aug-22	6	10	0	16
Sep-22	2	13	1	16
Oct-22	0	12	7	19
Nov-22	6	25	5	36
Dec-22	7	0	0	7
Jan-23	0	24	7	31
Feb-23	0	3	2	5
Mar-23	2	5	4	11

Apr-23	0	15	3	18
May-23	1	0	0	1
Jun-23	1	3	9	13
Totals	**27**	**118**	**50**	**195**

Public Service Commission Proceedings Virtual & Audio Participants Fiscal Year 2021-22		Hearings/Proceedings Before Commission(ers)		
Month	**Hearing Examiner Proceedings Incl'g Forums & Workshops (total virtual participants)**	**Witnesses/Participants**	**Counsel/ Rep's**	**Total**
Jul-21	0	28	42	70
Aug-21	5	18	93	116
Sep-21	6	20	38	64
Oct-21	0	16	56	72
Nov-21	0	22	35	57
Dec-21	0	0	0	0
Jan-22	7	6	9	22
Feb-22	6	1	2	9
Mar-22	12	5	8	25
Apr-22	4	4	8	16
May-22	3	11	16	30
Jun-22	35	1	0	36
Totals	**78**	**132**	**307**	**517**

Live streaming the Commission's proceedings has substantially increased the visibility of the Commission's business by allowing citizens and businesses to view proceedings as they occur or even watch at a later time. Live stream viewer traffic data are shown in the table below for FY 2020 - FY 2025.

PSC Livestream Viewer Traffic						
	Total Events (FY 2019-2020)	**Total Events (FY 2020-2021)**	**Total Events (FY 2021-2022)**	**Total Events FY (2022-2023)**	**Total Events (FY 2023-2024)**	**Total Events (FY 2024-2025)**
July		877	1,258	480	2,330	4,335
August		517	1,535	828	6,375	869
September	399	518	656	836	4,145	7,890
October	1,913	1,228	954	1,096	2,511	1,959
November	1,542	1,542	1,726	1,107	1,116	1,133
December	724	777	331	178	3,130	743
January	375	3,433	308	1,176	650	1,029
February	804	1,771	280	287	1,360	573
March	777	2,742	403	161	613	764
April	336	2,467	771	2,145	511	1,083
May	545	1,046	857	857	5,345	673
June	567	1,100	2,341	2,341	1,576	1,843
TOTAL	**7,982**	**18,018**	**11,420**	**11,492**	**29,662**	**22,894**

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