



OKLAHOMA
ABE Commission

ABLE Commission

FY 2027 Budget Hearing Presentation

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Brandon Clabes

Director



Founded in 1959, the ABLE Commission serves as the state entity in charge of protecting the public welfare and interest in the enforcement of laws pertaining to alcoholic beverages, charity games, and youth access to tobacco. We serve the public through our Administrative, Legal, Enforcement, Education, Trade Practices, and Licensing divisions.

ABLE oversees the constitutionally-mandated three-tier system of alcohol distribution which includes breweries, wineries, distilleries, wholesalers, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers. With minimal manpower, we review and issue approximately 160,000 licenses annually to all members of the three-tier system and provide support and training on statutory requirements.

Striving to be business friendly, we proactively educate industry participants about the areas of the constitution, statutes and administrative codes directed at the alcohol and tobacco industries. We engage in administrative and criminal enforcement when necessary.

We have agreements with the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (“TSET”), the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to limit youth access to alcohol, tobacco, and vaping products. We provide educational training to law enforcement agents, schools, and community groups to enhance awareness of the dangers of alcohol and tobacco abuse and underage use.

In addition to these partnerships, ABLE continues to partner with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) for shared services with our Human Resources and Financial activities, as well as with the State’s First Responder Wellness Program and Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics Human Trafficking Task Force by providing agents for those initiatives.

Agency Vision, Mission and Core Values

Vision: We foster a safe and responsible environment where alcohol is regulated with integrity, communities are protected, and businesses thrive within the law, and to limit youth access to tobacco.

Mission: To enforce Oklahoma's alcohol and tobacco laws fairly, support businesses with clear guidance, and provide education to prevent underage access and promote safe communities.



Agency Vision, Mission and Core Values

Core Values: We will always act with professionalism, accountability, collaboration, and transparency (PACT)

Professionalism: We will perform our duties in a manner that is respectful of the rights of all citizens. We seek to continually improve ourselves, our Agency, and our community relationships.

Accountability: We will hold our personnel accountable for their actions and for upholding our Mission.

Collaboration: Engage with industry partners, communities, and stakeholders to promote understanding and compliance.

Transparency: Act openly and responsibly in decision-making and enforcement.



Accomplishments

Top accomplishments for FY 2025 – FY 2026

- Licensing
 - Hired a new licensing supervisor who has brought innovative changes to the Division
 - Expanded our licensing team to better serve our customers
 - Implemented cross-training to ensure continuity of services in the Division
 - Started creating a formal training manual
 - Initiated a complex review of our Licensing platform to identify significant upgrades that will result in more efficient workflows for our staff and customers
- Legal
 - Implemented a Case Management System, allowing for increased efficiencies in all aspects of legal case management
 - Hired paralegal to revolutionize case management, open records tracking and processing, and brief writing
 - Hired legal intern to assist with processing tobacco citations and customer service
- Trade Practices
 - Consolidation of the trade practice and education units has strengthened the overall capability, improved collaboration and better aligned our education and reactive enforcement



Accomplishments

Top accomplishments for FY 2025 – FY 2026

- Enforcement
 - Building and strengthening partnerships with multiple agencies
 - FBI
 - U.S. Postal Inspection Service
 - U.S. Food and Drug Administration
 - Attorney General's Office
 - TSET
 - OBNDD
 - OSBI
 - OHP
 - Multiple municipal and campus police departments, Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association, Oklahoma State Fire Marshals Office, Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police, etc
 - Invested in the professional development of our Enforcement Agents through various training opportunities
 - FBI/LEEDA Trilogy
 - CLEET's Basic Instructor Development
 - Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Drone Operator
 - Advanced Undercover Narcotics
 - Advanced Investigations
 - Successfully opened, investigated, and closed complex TRACE investigations, resulting in criminal and administrative charges filed
- Alcohol & Tobacco Education
 - Awarded a new, five-year FDA contract, worth ~\$3.5 million to support ABLE's work to reduce tobacco access by minors
 - Received a one-year TSET grant for \$332,391.05 for tobacco and vape education and enforcement programs
 - Through shared-services with the OSBI, have direct access to experienced grant writer/administrator from OSBI



Analysis of Agency Challenges

	Challenge	Current Actions (Briefly describe how the agency is currently addressing the challenge.)	Planned Actions (Briefly describe how the agency plans to address the challenge going forward.)
1	Recruiting and retaining qualified law enforcement officers	Equalizing pay structure with other state law enforcement agencies and re-branding ABLE to attract qualified applicants	Increase awareness and build relationships with higher education institutions and technology centers to recruit agents.
2	Redundancy of work across divisions	Identifying the redundancies and creating workflows to reduce them.	Continually monitoring processes and looking for efficiencies.
3	Recapitalizing equipment and vehicles	Established a fiscally responsible vehicle recapitalization program and ended costly leases of computer equipment (OMES) and updated law enforcement weapons and safety gear	Constantly evaluating current equipment for optimum safety of public and personnel.
4	Education and leadership training for staff	Evaluating internal needs of the agency and identifying leadership training for succession planning	Identifying funds and programs for leadership development. Partnering with other state agencies to reduce costs of training.
5	Funding Sources	If legislative appropriations and licensing surcharges are reduced, services are affected.	Educating the legislature on agency needs and reduce reliance on unpredictable funding



Savings & Efficiencies (Current or Planned)

Savings or Efficiency Name	Brief description of how savings were achieved	Savings in Unit of Measurement*	FY 2025 (Actual \$ Savings)	FY 2026 (Projected \$ Savings)	FY 2027 (Projected \$ Savings)
Licensing software review	Reviewing vendor contracts and streamlining workflows of our software programs	Dollars	\$10,000	\$46,000	\$75,000
Sharing of internal services	Consolidation of internal services with other state agencies to include office space and resources in the areas of HR and Finance	Dollars	\$140,000	\$160,000	\$160,000
AWS Program	Partnering with OMES to implement the AWS program to assist our customer service department with phone calls. The systems will reduce caller time, more efficiently provide information to customers, and automatically log information for easy retrieval	Manhours on the phone and researching information	\$0	~\$31,000	\$50,000
Secured Property Maintenance	Consolidating property management to one location and sent unused items to state surplus	Reduced man hours required to manage property and rent		~\$25,000	

* Hours, FTE, square feet, etc.



Agency Goals and Key Performance Metrics

Goal		Metric	FY 25 Target	FY 25 Actuals	FY 26 Target
1	Continued participation with FDA, TSET and Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to reduce youth access to tobacco and vaping	A measurable increase in the number of retailers who are compliant with state laws regarding tobacco and vaping products sales to underage buyers	86%	86.4%	87%
2	Continued partnership with ODMHSAS to reduce youth access to alcohol	A measurable increase in the number of retailers who are compliant with state laws regarding alcohol sales to underage buyers	86%	90%	90.5%
3	Process all licenses in accordance with Oklahoma State Statutes and ABLE Commission rules	% of completed applications processed without error	75%	85%	90%
4	Digitizing historical agency files and documents	Volume of documents that will be placed on digital server	50%	50%	100%
5	Expanding Public Education and Awareness	Number of educational visits per year	1200	1200	1500
6	Modernizing IT strategies for better customer experience	Complete implementation of planned website and software upgrades	25%	25%	50%



Projects for FY 2026

1) Training

- A. Continue to provide advanced training for ABLE personnel
- B. Create a formal training program for licensing
- C. Continue to cross-train within all disciplines

2) Relationship & Reputation Building

- A. Continually build the relationships with law enforcement and non-law enforcement partners across the state
- B. Formalize the rebranding of the agency
- C. Rebuild our agency website so that we provide a modern, easy to navigate site for our customers to use and to meet the ADA requirements due by April 2026
- D. Continually build the reputation of ABLE Commission among customers and industry
 - 1) Regularly host Public Engagement Meetings
 - 2) Revamp the agency website and roll it out before April 2026
 - 3) Expand our educational visits and opportunities to interact with industry members

3) Increased manpower

- A. Continually seek to hire the most qualified individuals for the agency to provide the best service possible

4) Improve the Licensing platform to make it more user-friendly and efficient

5) Introduce additional innovative tools for employees and the public

6) Implement programs that focus on data-driven evidence to direct the services we provide



Projects for FY 2027

- 1) Complete the historical records digitization project
- 2) Implement security upgrades to the headquarters building
 - A. Check-in system for all visitors
 - B. Security cameras around perimeter of building
 - C. Safety glass at the reception window
- 3) Training
 - A. Continue to provide advanced training for ABLE personnel
 - B. Finalize the development of formal training program for licensing
 1. Ensure 100% of our team members complete training by July 31, 2026
 - C. Continue to cross-train within all disciplines
- 4) Continue improvements to the Licensing platform to make it more user-friendly and efficient

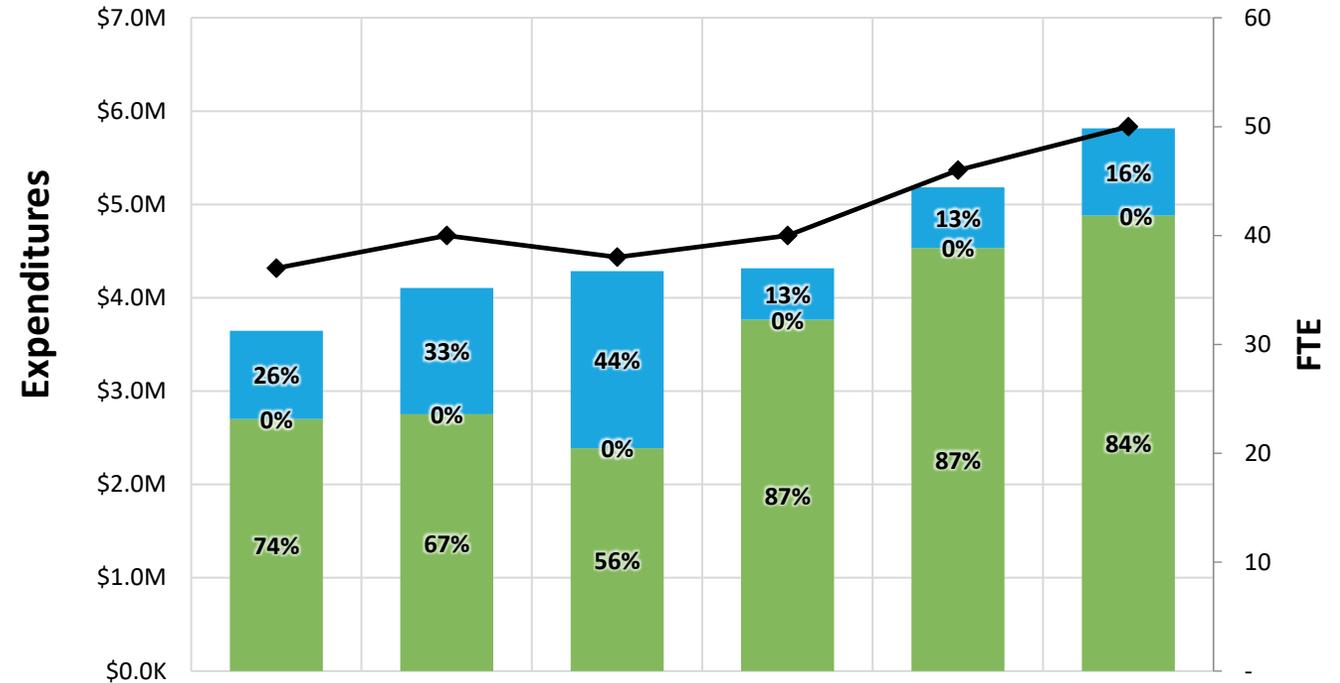


Total Historic Actual Expenditures (FY2021-25) and Current Year Budget (FY2026)

Explanation of Changes and Trends

As the agency has transitioned to appropriated funding for personnel we have been able to fill vacant positions. The ABLE Commission has been understaffed for many years and stable appropriations funding has allowed the agency to maintain personnel to a near acceptable level.

Historic Actual Expenditures and Current Year Budget



	FY 2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY 2026 YTD Budget
Appropriated	\$2.7M	\$2.8M	\$2.4M	\$3.8M	\$4.5M	\$4.9M
Revolving	\$946.0K	\$1.4M	\$1.9M	\$552.9K	\$650.3K	\$935.0K
Federal	\$0.0K	\$0.0K	\$0.0K	\$0.0K	\$0.0K	\$0.0K
Total	\$3.6M	\$4.1M	\$4.3M	\$4.3M	\$5.2M	\$5.8M
FTE	37	40	38	40	46	50



Full-time Equivalents (FTE) are a calculation based on payroll data, not a headcount. FTE calculations compare staffing levels across agencies.

Estimated Impact of Federal Funding Changes

<i>Program Name</i>	<i>Federal Agency</i>	<i>Description of expected change (s) (i.e. change in state match, admin costs, program requirements or client eligibility, etc.)</i>	<i>Actual FY 25 Total Federal Funding Received (\$)</i>	<i>Projected FY 26 Total Federal Funding To Be Received (\$)</i>	<i>Estimated FY 27 Total Federal Funding To Be Received (\$)</i>
Oklahoma Compliance and Enforcement Tobacco Retail Inspections IDIQ/Cost Reimbursement Contract	FDA	If applicable, funding increase for FY27 allows for COLA increases for personnel, built in by federal govt.	\$0	\$419,278	\$436,729
			\$	\$	\$
			\$	\$	\$
			\$	\$	\$

** Only list programs with federal funding that are expected to change. Refer to the agency's Federal Funds Schedule in the Budget Request document.*



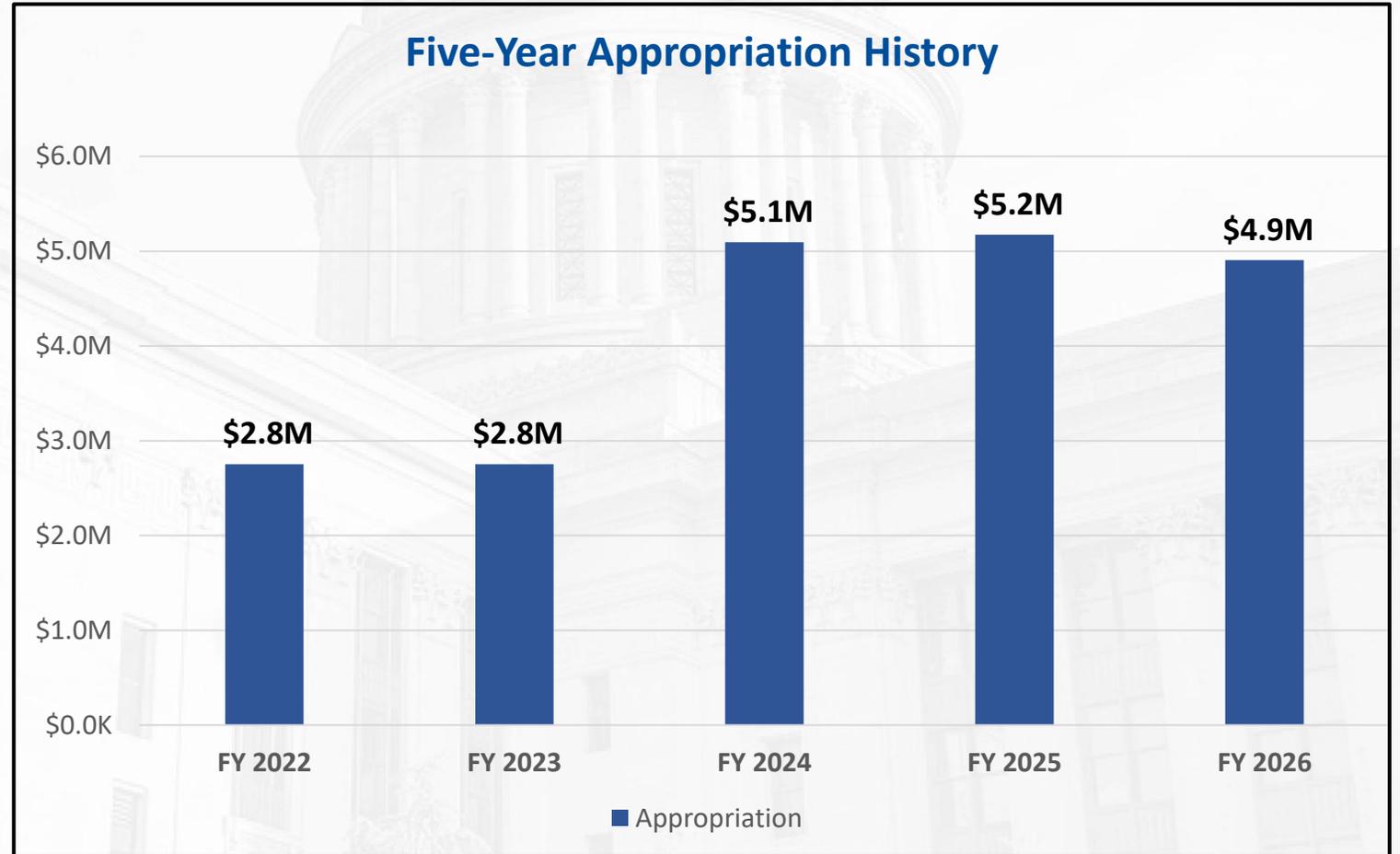


FY 2026 Budgeted Full Time Equivalents (FTE)

	FY 2025 Budgeted FTE
Total FTE	51.5
Supervisor FTE	15
Supervisors to Total FTE Ratio (%)	30%
Current Budgeted but Unfilled FTE	0

Appropriation History

Fiscal Year	Legislated Appropriation (\$) <i>(Includes supplementals and SRF/ARPA.)</i>
FY 2022	\$2,753,659
FY 2023	\$2,753,659
FY 2024	\$5,095,450
FY 2025	\$5,175,450
FY 2026	\$4,905,450



**Includes Supplemental and Statewide Recovery Fund (ARPA) appropriations.*



Financial Resource Analysis

Carryover	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Total appropriated carryover amount expended (\$)	\$0	\$0	\$182,985	\$159,316

Historical Cash Balances	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Year End Revolving Fund Cash Balances <i>(All Revolving Funds)</i>	\$1,239,456	\$1,142,804	\$1,838,120	\$2,712,667

Revolving Class Fund # <i>(Unrestricted only)</i>	Revolving Class Fund Name <i>(Unrestricted only)</i>	Current cash balance (\$)	Projected FY 2026 year-end cash balance (\$)
#20000	ABLE Commission Revolving Fund – balance at 06/30/2025	\$61,205	\$0
#21000	Alcoholic Beverage Governance Revolving Fund – balance at 06/30/2025	\$2,343,965	\$400,000
#		\$	\$
#		\$	\$
#		\$	\$
Total Unrestricted Revolving Fund Cash balance:		\$	\$



Unrestricted funds are those that are not limited by state or federal law, rule, regulation, other legally binding method, or donor restriction.

FY 2024 – 2025 Appropriation Change Review

<i>Purpose of appropriation increase or decrease</i>	<i>Amount FY 2024</i>	<i>Amount FY 2025</i>	<i>Total amount received FY 2024 - 25</i>	<i>Total amount expended by 11/1/2025</i>	<i>Included in FY 2026 approp? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If not expended fully, please explain.</i>
Operations	\$2,096,791	\$2,096,791	\$4,193,582	\$4,193,582	Yes	
Software	\$145,000	\$35,000	\$180,000	\$180,000	Yes	
Box Truck	\$60,000	0	\$60,000	\$60,000	No	
Box truck maintenance	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	Yes	
Secure Storage	\$30,000	0	\$30,000	\$30,000	No	
Website design	0	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	No	
Digitizing historical records	0	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	No	
	\$	\$	\$	\$		
Totals	\$2,341,791	\$2,421,791	\$4,763,582	\$4,763,582		



**Do not include SRF / ARPA appropriation increases.*

FY 2026 Appropriation Change Review

<i>Purpose of appropriation increase or decrease</i>	<i>Amount of increase or decrease (\$)</i>	<i>Does this need to be included in your FY 2027 appropriation? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If yes, included in appropriation for same purpose? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If not included for same purpose, please explain.</i>
Website Design	(\$70,000)	No		
Digitizing historical records	(\$200,000)	Yes	Yes	
Total adjustment	(\$270,000)			



**Do not include SRF / ARPA appropriation increases.*

Incremental & Supplemental Request Summary

Request Name		FY 2027 Incremental Appropriation Request Amount (\$) {or FY 2026 for Supplementals}	Type of Request: Recurring, One-time, or Supplemental
1	Personnel	\$590,000	Recurring
2	Digitizing historical records – Phase 2	\$150,000	One-time
3	Security upgrades to headquarters building	\$100,000	One-time
4	Equipment for ABLE Agents	\$100,000	One-time
5	Training for ABLE Personnel	\$50,000	Recurring



(1) Budget Request

Name of Request: Equalizing pay and pay structure to compete for qualified personnel	
Type: (Operating, One-Time, Supplemental) Operating	\$ Incremental Amount Requested for FY 2027 \$590,000
<p>This funding would provide pay adjustments for Enforcement Agents and civilian support staff to align ABLE salaries more closely with the mid-range of average law enforcement compensation across Oklahoma, while also providing a cost-of-living adjustment for civilian personnel.</p> <p>Currently, ABLE agents earn substantially less than their counterparts in comparable state law enforcement agencies. This pay disparity creates significant challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified officers, particularly given the extensive training and certification required to perform their duties effectively. The same challenges extend to our civilian staff, who provide critical operational, licensing, and legal support to agency functions.</p> <p>Investing in competitive compensation will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve employee retention, reducing turnover-related costs in recruitment, onboarding, and training;• Enhance operational stability and efficiency, ensuring continuity of service to licensees and the public;• Attract and retain high-caliber personnel, strengthening the professionalism and effectiveness of the agency; and• Align ABLE compensation structures with statewide law enforcement standards, promoting parity and fairness across agencies. <p>Retaining fully-trained and experienced staff is both cost-effective and essential to ABLE’s mission of enforcing Oklahoma’s alcoholic beverage laws with integrity, efficiency, and consistency.</p>	

(2) Budget Request

Name of Request: Digitizing Historical Records - phase 2	
Type: (Operating, One-Time, Supplemental) One-time	\$ Incremental Amount Requested for FY 2027 \$150,000
<p>Continue to digitize historical records currently in storage and not easily accessible by staff.</p> <p>We received appropriations in FY25 to start this project and we are just over halfway complete. We need an additional \$150,000 to complete the project.</p> <p>This funding will enable us to fully transition remaining records into a secure, searchable digital format-improving data accessibility, preserving critical historical information, and optimizing existing storage space for more effective use.</p>	

(3) Budget Request

Name of Request: Security upgrades to headquarters building	
Type: (Operating, One-Time, Supplemental) One-time	\$ Incremental Amount Requested for FY 2027 \$100,000
<p>Currently, visitors can enter the ABLE Commission Headquarters without restriction and may approach our employees directly. To enhance the safety and security of our staff and facilities, we propose the implementation of several security measures, including:</p> <p>A visitor check-in system at the main entrance, Security cameras installed around the building perimeter, and Safety glass at the reception window.</p> <p>These improvements will significantly increase the safety of ABLE employees, particularly those who work during evening hours or on weekends. In recent months, there have been multiple instances where the Oklahoma Capitol Patrol and Department of Public Safety have searched for individuals in or around the buildings that share our parking area. The installation of security cameras and other protective measures will help ensure a secure environment for our employees and safeguard agency property.</p>	

(4) Budget Request

Name of Request: Equipment for ABLE Agents	
Type: (Operating, One-Time, Supplemental) One-time	\$ Incremental Amount Requested for FY 2027 \$100,000
<p>This funding will allow for the purchase and deployment of updated equipment for our statewide commissioned enforcement agents. Currently, ABLE agents operate with limited and outdated resources, placing them at a disadvantage compared to partner state law enforcement agencies and, often, jeopardizing their safety.</p> <p>This funding will support the acquisition of E-ticket printers and software; one drone, with professional training, for use at large-scale events to enhance public safety and situational awareness; and updated radios to improve officer communication and safety in the field.</p> <p>Investing in this equipment will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase operational efficiency by streamlining field reporting and citation processes;• Enhance coordination with local and state law enforcement partners during joint operations;• Improve situational awareness and emergency response capabilities through the use of drone technology; and• Strengthen officer safety through reliable, modern communication tools. <p>These enhancements are essential to ensuring that ABLE agents can perform their duties effectively, safely, and in full alignment with statewide law enforcement standards.</p>	

(5) Budget Request

Name of Request: Training for ABLE personnel	
Type: (Operating, One-Time, Supplemental) Operating	\$ Incremental Amount Requested for FY 2027 \$50,000
<p>This funding will provide comprehensive professional training for our Enforcement, Licensing, and Legal staff. Historically, ABLE employees have had limited access to formal, structured training opportunities specific to our agency’s mission and regulatory responsibilities.</p> <p>This investment will ensure that agents and support staff receive current, high-quality instruction in areas such as regulatory compliance, investigative practices, legal updates, customer service standards, and emerging industry trends.</p> <p>Enhancing staff expertise will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve the efficiency and consistency of enforcement and licensing operations,• Reduce processing and response times for licensees and applicants,• Strengthen the agency’s ability to interpret and apply laws accurately, and• Promote public confidence and transparency in agency operations. <p>The Commission will build a more knowledgeable, capable, and service-oriented workforce—ultimately improving regulatory outcomes and service to the public.</p>	