

ARKANSAS STATE GAME & FISH COMMISSION (0080)

FISCAL YEAR 2018

As Enacted by Act 826 of 2017

I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES

MISSION

Amendment 35 of 1945 to the State Constitution establishes the Game & Fish Commission's responsibility and authority "for the control, management, restoration, conservation and regulation of birds, fish, game and wildlife resources of the State..."

Amendment 75 of 1996 to the State Constitution established the one-eighth of one percent Conservation Sales Tax, of which the Commission receives 45% of the net collections.

TOTAL APPROPRIATION

The total appropriation for FY2018 is \$142,736,919.

FUNDING SOURCES

AGFC is funded primarily by special revenues consisting of 45% of the 1/8th of one percent Conservation Sales Tax; proceeds from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, tags and permits; Federal Aid funding; non-revenues such as timber sales; gas lease revenues and available fund balances.

II) CHANGE LEVEL REQUESTS

OPERATIONS

This appropriation totals \$123,972,887 in FY2018 which is \$24,116,763 over base level and includes the following changes:

- Regular Salaries increases \$6,579,797 for the restoration of nine positions for the Chronic Wasting Disease division and the establishment of a self-managed pay plan.
- The Commission plans for the addition of Nature and Education centers in Northwest Arkansas and El Dorado. This project increases the following line items:
 - Operating Expense increases \$1,250,000
 - Conference and Travel increase \$100,000
 - Professional Fees increases \$850,000
 - Capital Outlay increases \$11,536,966
 - Construction increases \$3,700,000
- Game and Fish Grants increases \$100,000 for the inclusion of miscellaneous federal grant for Chronic Wasting Disease.

GAS LEASE REVENUES

This appropriation totals \$5,064,685 which is \$2,300,000 over base level and will be used for a hydrology study of the Bayou Meto Basin and for specialized equipment needed to meet the goals of the project.

III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS (Total Authorized Positions FY2017: 616)

Total Authorized Positions FY2018: 625

Total Base Level Positions: 616

Increase / (Decrease): 9

Extra Help Positions FY2018: 185 (Base Level Extra Help: 185)

Restoration of nine positions for the Chronic Wasting Disease division.

IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE

Hunters Feeding the Hungry - special language encouraging the AGFC to explore opportunities available in efforts to help sustain the Hunters Feeding the Hungry program, including the establishment of a check-off or similar program or other appropriate method to raise revenues for support of the program.

Payment of Rewards - Authorizes reward payments from the Game & Protection Fund.

Extra Help Restriction - No employee may receive an amount to exceed 85% of the maximum annual salary for a comparable position during one fiscal

year nor they be employed more than 1,800 hours in a single fiscal year.

Transfer Provision - upon approval from CFO and review by ALC/JBC, authorizes transfer authority between commitment items within the Operations and Gas Lease Revenues appropriations.

Overtime Payments - provides for the payments of overtime, and includes "Payment of overtime is the preferred method of implementing the provisions of this section."

Payment of Accrued Leave - Allows for payment of accrued annual, holiday, and sick leave to the estate of any wildlife officer who dies in the line of duty.

Revised: April 2017