

LAND DEPARTMENT (0061) - 2007-09 BIENNIUM

I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES

Mission

Constitutional Amendment 37, established the Commissioner of State Lands as one of seven popularly-elected constitutional officers. The Office is responsible for returning to private ownership, lands which have been certified to the State of Arkansas for the nonpayment of ad valorem real estate taxes. Some of the Commissioner's responsibilities include the competitive bidding and the leasing of all mineral interests on state owned lands as well as sand and gravel permits on navigable waterways and housing all original patent records of the State which are the records showing the disposition of tracts of land from the United States and the means by which the land was granted.

Total Biennial Budget

The Land Department's total budget for the 2007-2009 biennium is \$23,657,164 the first year and \$23,712,656 the second year.

Funding Source

The Operations appropriation is funded with the State Central Services Fund. The other appropriations are funded by cash funds and fund balances which are received through the collection of delinquent taxes or through the sale of tax delinquent lands. Less than one percent of the funding for the office originates from proceeds of leasing mineral interests on state owned lands and sand and gravel permits on navigable waterways.

II) SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

The Operations Appropriation is funded out of State Central Services for \$3,083,364 year one and \$3,138,856 year two with a decrease from base level of \$171,817 the first year and \$116,325 the second year of the biennium due to Act 1242 which transferred the positions and expenses of the Land Survey Division to the Agriculture Department.

The Natural Resources Leasing and Permit Program funded from proceeds of leasing mineral interests on state owned lands and sand and gravel permits on navigable waterways is continued at \$15,000 each year.

The Operating Expense and Capital Outlay cash appropriation is continued at \$267,800 for both years of the biennium.

Delinquent Tax Cash Appropriation is for \$20,291,000 each year has an increase of \$3,075,000 for both years of the biennium. The Delinquent Tax Remittal Line item is increased by \$2,500,000 each year to provide adequate appropriation authority.

III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS

Total positions FY 2007-09 Biennium: 45
Total positions FY 2005-07 Biennium: 48
(+1) Land Commissioner Attorney
(-4) Transfer to Agriculture Department.

IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE

None