

OIL AND GAS COMMISSION (0440)

Fiscal Year 2015

I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES

MISSION

The purpose and mission of the Oil & Gas Commission is to serve the public regarding oil and gas matters, to protect the correlative rights and interests of mineral owners and to regulate oil, gas, and brine production industries to insure compliance with state and federal laws regarding the protection of the environment and waters of the State. The Commission regulates activities required to produce and allocate oil and gas reserves, including distribution of royalties, assessment of taxes, seismic operations, and data compilation and monitors underground disposal of waste fluids generated by producers.

TOTAL BUDGET

The total appropriation is approximately \$8 million in Fiscal Year 2015.

FUNDING SOURCE

The Commission is funded by special revenues from assessments on oil and gas, permit and application fees, and brine taxes.

II) CHANGES/APPROPRIATIONS

The Oil & Gas Operations appropriation, funded by Special Revenues as authorized in A.C.A. Section 19-6-410, for \$5,074,720 in FY 2015.

The Abandoned & Orphaned Well Plugging appropriation, funded by Special revenues from fees, forfeited bonds, hydrocarbon sale proceeds and grants/gifts from the public and a special language transfer of up to \$2 million annually from the Oil & Gas Fund (upon approval of the CFO and ALC). The requested amount is for \$2.5 million dollars annually.

The Refunds/Reimbursements appropriation, from deposit of special revenue fees and bond holding, is for \$500,000.

All these requests reflect no increase from FY 2014.

III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS

Total Positions for FY 2015: 44

Total Positions for FY 2014: 44

New positions requested (reduced): 0

IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE

- **FUND TRANSFER:** The Oil and Gas Commission, after receiving review from the CFO and Legislative Council, may request the CFO to transfer up to \$2,000,000 per year from the Oil and Gas Commission Fund to the Abandoned and Orphaned Well Plugging Fund.
- **FAYETTEVILLE SHALE QUARTERLY REPORTING:** Requires Quarterly Reports to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee for any inspections or other regulatory or enforcement activities involving the Fayetteville Shale.