

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC LANDS

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

| Source of Funds | FY25 Adjusted Base | FY26 Recommended | % Change Over FY25 | FY27 Recommended | % Change Over FY26 |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| GPR | 1,614,100 | 2,026,000 | 25.5 | 2,049,400 | 1.2 |
| PR-F | 52,700 | 52,700 | 0.0 | 52,700 | 0.0 |
| SEG-S | 73,200 | 313,200 | 327.9 | 313,200 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL | 1,740,000 | 2,391,900 | 37.5 | 2,415,300 | 1.0 |

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION SUMMARY

| Source of Funds | FY25 Adjusted Base | FY26 Recommended | FTE Change Over FY25 | FY27 Recommended | FTE Change Over FY26 |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| GPR | 8.70 | 9.70 | 1.00 | 9.70 | 0.00 |
| SEG-S | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL | 9.70 | 10.70 | 1.00 | 10.70 | 0.00 |

AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The board was created pursuant to Article X, Section 7 of the Wisconsin Constitution in 1848 to support public education. The board is comprised of the Attorney General, State Treasurer and Secretary of State. With the assistance of the 9.7 FTE professional staff positions in the Division of Trust Lands and Investments, the board manages four school trust funds, approximately 77,000 acres of school trust lands and the collection of Wisconsin's original land records. The board administers one of the largest public lending programs in the state.

MISSION

The primary mission of the board is to manage school trust funds and school trust lands for the benefit of public education. The board invests the principal of four trust funds that currently total over \$1.4 billion. The assets of the school trust funds are invested in a diversified portfolio with a significant investment in loans to Wisconsin municipalities and school districts through the State Trust Fund Loan Program. The earnings from the common school fund are distributed annually as aid to K-12 public school libraries. The earnings from the other three school trust funds are distributed annually to the University of Wisconsin System.

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The board also manages the remaining school trust lands, the majority of which are located in the northern part of the state. These lands are administered primarily for revenue generation through sustainable timber management. The lands are open to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping and other forms of public recreation.

The board also manages the collection of Wisconsin's original land records which include field survey notes, plat maps and sale records.

PROGRAMS, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Program 1: Trust Lands and Investments

Goal: Reduce the amount of time required to post annual state trust fund loan payments.

Objective/Activity: Post all payments within two business days after receipt of payments.

Goal: Ensure the efficient, accurate and timely timber scaling (measuring) and invoicing of all timber sales.

Objective/Activity: Recent changes in timber industry protocols have increased the complexity and time demands for scaling and invoicing. The agency plans to reduce the number of hours required to scale timber and prepare invoices for timber sales by further automating the process and using outside vendors to produce scale tickets.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

2023 AND 2024 GOALS AND ACTUALS

| Prog. No. | Performance Measure | Goal 2023 | Actual 2023 | Goal 2024 | Actual 2024 |
|-----------|--|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1. | Number of loans to post. | 900 | 909 | 925 | 893 |
| 1. | Days required to post. | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 1. | Annual number of hours required to prepare scale tickets and invoices. | 65 | 60 | 65 | 60 |

Note: Based on fiscal year.

2025, 2026 AND 2027 GOALS

| Prog. No. | Performance Measure | Goal 2025 | Goal 2026 | Goal 2027 |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. | Number of loans to post. | 950 | 950 | 950 |
| 1. | Days required to post. | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 1. | Annual number of hours required to prepare scale tickets and invoices. | 65 ¹ | 65 | 50 |

Note: Based on fiscal year.

¹The goal for 2025 has been revised.

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GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Financial Assets Management
2. Land Asset Management
3. Trust Fund Accountant
4. Payments in Lieu of Taxes
5. Tree Planting
6. Limited Term Employee Compensation
7. Standard Budget Adjustments

ITEMS NOT APPROVED

8. Salary Adjustments
9. Payout of Accumulated Sabbatical Leave
10. Transition Agency Operations Funding from GPR to PR

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**Table 1
Department Budget Summary by Funding Source (in thousands of dollars)**

| | ACTUAL FY24 | ADJUSTED BASE FY25 | AGENCY REQUEST | | GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION | |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------|------------------------------|-----------|
| | | | FY26 | FY27 | FY26 | FY27 |
| GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE | \$1,591.0 | \$1,614.1 | \$35.0 | \$40.0 | \$2,026.0 | \$2,049.4 |
| State Operations | 1,566.3 | 1,579.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1,991.0 | 2,009.4 |
| Local Assistance | 24.8 | 35.0 | 35.0 | 40.0 | 35.0 | 40.0 |
| FEDERAL REVENUE (1) | \$51.0 | \$52.7 | \$52.7 | \$52.7 | \$52.7 | \$52.7 |
| Local Assistance | 51.0 | 52.7 | 52.7 | 52.7 | 52.7 | 52.7 |
| PROGRAM REVENUE (2) | \$0.0 | \$0.0 | \$2,334.8 | \$2,355.8 | \$0.0 | \$0.0 |
| State Operations | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2,334.8 | 2,355.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| SEGREGATED REVENUE (3) | \$43.3 | \$73.2 | \$93.2 | \$93.2 | \$313.2 | \$313.2 |
| State Operations | 43.3 | 73.2 | 93.2 | 93.2 | 313.2 | 313.2 |
| TOTALS - ANNUAL | \$1,685.3 | \$1,740.0 | \$2,515.7 | \$2,541.7 | \$2,391.9 | \$2,415.3 |
| State Operations | 1,609.6 | 1,652.3 | 2,428.0 | 2,449.0 | 2,304.2 | 2,322.6 |
| Local Assistance | 75.7 | 87.7 | 87.7 | 92.7 | 87.7 | 92.7 |

- (1) Includes Program Revenue-Federal and Segregated Revenue-Federal
- (2) Includes Program Revenue-Service and Program Revenue-Other
- (3) Includes Segregated Revenue-Service, Segregated Revenue-Other and Segregated Revenue-Local

**Table 2
Department Position Summary by Funding Source (in FTE positions)**

| | ADJUSTED BASE FY25 | AGENCY REQUEST | | GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| | | FY26 | FY27 | FY26 | FY27 |
| GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE | 8.70 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 9.70 | 9.70 |
| State Operations | 8.70 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 9.70 | 9.70 |
| PROGRAM REVENUE (2) | 0.00 | 9.70 | 9.70 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| State Operations | 0.00 | 9.70 | 9.70 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| SEGREGATED REVENUE (3) | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| State Operations | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| TOTALS - ANNUAL | 9.70 | 10.70 | 10.70 | 10.70 | 10.70 |
| State Operations | 9.70 | 10.70 | 10.70 | 10.70 | 10.70 |

- (2) Includes Program Revenue-Service and Program Revenue-Other
- (3) Includes Segregated Revenue-Service, Segregated Revenue-Other and Segregated Revenue-Local

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**Table 3
Department Budget Summary by Program (in thousands of dollars)**

| | ACTUAL FY24 | ADJUSTED BASE FY25 | AGENCY REQUEST | | GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------|------------------------------|-----------|
| | | | FY26 | FY27 | FY26 | FY27 |
| 1. Trust lands and investments | \$1,685.3 | \$1,740.0 | \$2,515.7 | \$2,541.7 | \$2,391.9 | \$2,415.3 |
| TOTALS | \$1,685.3 | \$1,740.0 | \$2,515.7 | \$2,541.7 | \$2,391.9 | \$2,415.3 |

**Table 4
Department Position Summary by Program (in FTE positions)**

| | ADJUSTED BASE FY25 | AGENCY REQUEST | | GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| | | FY26 | FY27 | FY26 | FY27 |
| 1. Trust lands and investments | 9.70 | 10.70 | 10.70 | 10.70 | 10.70 |
| TOTALS | 9.70 | 10.70 | 10.70 | 10.70 | 10.70 |

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1. Financial Assets Management

| Source of Funds | Agency Request | | | | Governor's Recommendations | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| | FY26 | | FY27 | | FY26 | | FY27 | |
| | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions |
| GPR | 240,000 | 0.00 | 240,000 | 0.00 | 240,000 | 0.00 | 240,000 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL | 240,000 | 0.00 | 240,000 | 0.00 | 240,000 | 0.00 | 240,000 | 0.00 |

The Governor recommends providing additional funding for financial assets management expenses.

2. Land Asset Management

| Source of Funds | Agency Request | | | | Governor's Recommendations | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| | FY26 | | FY27 | | FY26 | | FY27 | |
| | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions |
| GPR | 170,000 | 0.00 | 170,000 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| SEG-S | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 170,000 | 0.00 | 170,000 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL | 170,000 | 0.00 | 170,000 | 0.00 | 170,000 | 0.00 | 170,000 | 0.00 |

The Governor recommends providing additional funding for timber management activities on state trust land.

3. Trust Fund Accountant

| Source of Funds | Agency Request | | | | Governor's Recommendations | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| | FY26 | | FY27 | | FY26 | | FY27 | |
| | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions |
| GPR | 55,900 | 1.00 | 74,300 | 1.00 | 55,900 | 1.00 | 74,300 | 1.00 |
| TOTAL | 55,900 | 1.00 | 74,300 | 1.00 | 55,900 | 1.00 | 74,300 | 1.00 |

The Governor recommends providing position and expenditure authority to support accounting functions related to the board's trust funds.

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4. Payments in Lieu of Taxes

| Source of Funds | Agency Request | | | | Governor's Recommendations | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| | FY26 | | FY27 | | FY26 | | FY27 | |
| | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions |
| GPR | 0 | 0.00 | 5,000 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 5,000 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL | 0 | 0.00 | 5,000 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 5,000 | 0.00 |

The Governor recommends converting the existing appropriation for payments in lieu of taxes from sum certain to sum sufficient to ensure local governments are compensated for land acquired by the board.

5. Tree Planting

| Source of Funds | Agency Request | | | | Governor's Recommendations | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| | FY26 | | FY27 | | FY26 | | FY27 | |
| | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions |
| PR-S | 50,000 | 0.00 | 50,000 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| SEG-S | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 50,000 | 0.00 | 50,000 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL | 50,000 | 0.00 | 50,000 | 0.00 | 50,000 | 0.00 | 50,000 | 0.00 |

The Governor recommends providing funding for tree planting projects on board-owned lands.

6. Limited Term Employee Compensation

| Source of Funds | Agency Request | | | | Governor's Recommendations | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| | FY26 | | FY27 | | FY26 | | FY27 | |
| | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions |
| GPR | 18,300 | 0.00 | 18,300 | 0.00 | 18,300 | 0.00 | 18,300 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL | 18,300 | 0.00 | 18,300 | 0.00 | 18,300 | 0.00 | 18,300 | 0.00 |

The Governor recommends providing funding to support limited term employee costs.

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7. Standard Budget Adjustments

| Source of Funds | Agency Request | | | | Governor's Recommendations | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | FY26 | | FY27 | | FY26 | | FY27 | |
| | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions |
| GPR | 97,700 | 0.00 | 97,700 | 0.00 | 97,700 | 0.00 | 97,700 | 0.00 |
| SEG-S | 20,000 | 0.00 | 20,000 | 0.00 | 20,000 | 0.00 | 20,000 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL | 117,700 | 0.00 | 117,700 | 0.00 | 117,700 | 0.00 | 117,700 | 0.00 |

The Governor recommends adjusting the board's base budget for full funding of continuing position salaries and fringe benefits.

ITEMS NOT APPROVED

The following requests are not included in the Governor's budget recommendations for the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands.

| Decision Item | Source of Funds | FY26 | | FY27 | |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions |
| 8. Salary Adjustments | GPR | 84,800 | 0.00 | 91,700 | 0.00 |
| 9. Payout of Accumulated Sabbatical Leave | GPR | 39,000 | 0.00 | 34,700 | 0.00 |
| 10. Transition Agency Operations Funding from GPR to PR | GPR | -2,284,800 | -9.70 | -2,305,800 | -9.70 |
| | PR-S | 2,284,800 | 9.70 | 2,305,800 | 9.70 |
| TOTAL OF ITEMS NOT APPROVED | GPR | -2,161,000 | -9.70 | -2,179,400 | -9.70 |
| | PR-S | 2,284,800 | 9.70 | 2,305,800 | 9.70 |