

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (0450)

FISCAL YEARS 2018 & 2019

Per Executive Recommendation

I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES

MISSION

The Public Service Commission (PSC), through its Utilities Division, has general regulatory authority over public utilities that provide electric, gas, telecommunications, water, and sewer services to State consumers for compensation (no authority over municipals), and also monitors and inspects pipeline transmissions. Through its Tax Division, the PSC annually assesses the property of public utilities and carriers operating in the State for property taxation purposes. The Public Service Commission (PSC) has 3 gubernatorially appointed Commissioners who serve six-year overlapping terms.

TOTAL APPROPRIATION

The total appropriation is \$13,644,421 in FY2018 and \$13,648,965 in FY2019.

FUNDING SOURCES

The appropriations for the PSC are funded by fund balances, special revenues, federal funds (cost reimbursement to the Pipeline Safety Program), Ad Valorem taxes, and general revenues **if needed** (for the Tax Division).

II) CHANGE LEVEL REQUESTS

UTILITIES DIVISION-OPERATIONS (APPROPRIATION 255)

This appropriation provides for the operating costs of the Utilities Division which has general authority over electric, gas, telecommunications, water and sewer services provided to the public for compensation, and is funded by assessments paid by utility companies under PSC's jurisdiction. The appropriation is \$9,940,681 in FY2018 and \$9,944,734 in FY2019 and includes the following increase:

Capital Outlay - Provides an increase of \$21,000 each year for one vehicle replacement per year.

PIPELINE SAFETY PROGRAM (APPROPRIATION 256)

This appropriation provides for the operating costs of monitoring and inspecting transmission by pipeline of hazardous materials, and is funded by inspection fees paid by companies according to their pipeline mileage and by expense reimbursements (up to 50% of actual cost) paid by the Federal Department of Transportation - Office of Pipeline Safety. The appropriation is \$975,539 each year and includes the following increase:

Capital Outlay - Provides an increase of \$25,000 for the replacement of one vehicle each year.

III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS (Total FY2017 Authorized Positions: 114)

Total Positions FY2019: 114

Total Positions FY2018: 114

Total Base Level Positions FY2017: 114

Increase/(Decrease): 0

Extra Help Positions FY2018 & FY2019: 11 (Total FY2017 Authorized Extra Help: 11)

IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE

CONTINGENCY RESTRICTION - UTILITIES DIVISION: Authorizes the Director to request a transfer from the Department's Contingency appropriation to the

Utilities Division Operations appropriation in the event of an unforeseen emergency and upon approval of the Governor, Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and prior review and approval of the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget Committee. Classifies the legislative prior review and approval language as non-severable language, and if the prior approval is ruled unconstitutional then the entire section is void.

REFUND TO EXPENDITURE: States the proceeds from the reimbursement of travel expenses received by the Public Service Commission shall be deposited into the same State Treasury Fund or Fund Account from which the original travel expenditure was incurred as a refund to expenditure, to the credit of the appropriation from which the original expenditure was made.

CONTINGENCY RESTRICTION - TAX DIVISION: Authorizes the transfer of appropriation from the Contingency Line Item in the Tax Division Operations Appropriation to other line items in the same appropriation upon approval of the Governor, Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and prior review and approval of the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget Committee. Classifies the legislative prior review and approval language as non-severable language, and if the prior review and approval is ruled unconstitutional then the entire section is void.