



**Kansas Historical Society  
FY 2026 and 2027 Budget  
Submitted September 15, 2025**

**AGENCY MISSION:**

The Kansas Historical Society actively preserves and shares Kansas history by providing citizens with the data and knowledge to set policies and make laws, as well as make personal decisions to enhance their lives and communities. By collecting, preserving, and interpreting state government, the state's cultural resources, and the stories of Kansas history, the agency provides the public with the tools to understand what is happening today and make decisions for tomorrow.

**AGENCY PHILOSOPHY:**

The Kansas Historical Society ethically collects and preserves historic documents and artifacts, acts with integrity by presenting information truthfully, is transparent in the way in which it provides services and incentives to the public, and strives for innovation and excellence when developing educational opportunities for all Kansans.

**PROGRAMS AND STATUTES:**

**State Archives:**

The purpose of the State Archives is to collect, preserve, and provide access to the state's records of enduring value to enhance government transparency, and educate the public about the state's history and government through the preservation and sharing of manuscripts, photographs, and newspapers that tell the stories of Kansas.

#### State Archives Statutes and Regulations:

- K.S.A. 45-401 through 45-414 creates the official state archives.
- K.S.A. 64-106 through 64-107 allows the agency to certify records for counties in the case of lost records.
- K.S.A. 75-3501 through 75-3520 establishes and defines the state's records board.
- K.S.A. 45-215 through 45-223 encompasses the open records act.
- K.S.A. 58-2005 through 58-2011 establishes the handling of land survey records.
- K.S.A. 75-2250 through 75-2251 authorizes the law enforcement memorial on the Capitol grounds is the responsibility of the Kansas Historical Society as the keeper of the records of fallen officers.
- K.S.A. 75-104 relates to the transfer of Governor's records to the Kansas Historical Society.
- K.A.R.118-3 procedures and fees for land survey program.
- K.A.R. 118-1 procedures for deaccessioning of collections.

#### Cultural Resources:

The purpose of the Cultural Resources program is to recognize and protect historic structures and sites that reflect local, state, or national importance with the purpose of strengthening local economies, stabilizing property values, creating civic pride, and advancing the education and welfare of the state's citizens.

#### Cultural Resources Statutes and Regulations:

- Federal National Historic Preservation Act, P.L. 89-665 directs the state to survey and recognize the state's cultural resources, support Certified Local Governments, review federal projects in the state to ensure the protection of significant cultural resources.
- K.S.A. 75-2715 through 75-2725 makes historic preservation an official policy of the state.
- K.S.A. 75-2729 and 79-3107b establishes the Heritage Trust fund directing the agency to provide grants to owners of historic properties.
- K.S.A. 79-32,211 creates the state preservation tax credit program.
- K.S.A. 74-5401 through 74-5408 establishes the Kansas Antiquities Act which prohibits the gathering of antiquities without a permit.
- K.S.A. 75-2741 through 75-2754 regulates the excavation, study, and display of human remains and goods from unmarked burial sites.

- KSA 75-2726 sets the process for a property becoming a State Historic Site. State Historic Sites are those properties owned by the State of Kansas.
- K.S.A. 75-2711 establishes Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site.
- K.S.A. 76-2001 through 76-2002 establishes John Brown Museum State Historic Site.
- K.S.A. 76-2005 established Pawnee Rock State Historic Site.
- K.S.A. 76-2006 through 76-2007 establishes Fort Hays State Historic Site.
- K.S.A. 76-2002 through 76-2012 establishes Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site.
- K.S.A. 76-2017 establishes Hollenberg Pony Express Station State Historic Site.
- K.S.A. 76-2021 through 76-2022 establishes Marais des Cygnes Massacre State Historic Site.
- K.S.A. 76-2023 through 76-2024 establishes Kaw Mission State Historic Site.
- K.S.A. 76-2030 through 76-2031 establishes Grinter Place State Historic Site.
- K.S.A. 76-2034 through 76-2035 establishes Goodnow State Historic Site.
- K.S.A. 76-2040 through 76-2043 establishes Mine Creek Civil War Battlefield State Historic Site.
- K.S.A. 76-2052 through 76-2054 establishes Constitution Hall State Historic Site.
- K.S.A. 76-2057 establishes Red Rocks State Historic Site.
- K.S.A. 76-2049 through 76-2050 establishes the Charles Curtis State Historic Site (funding to purchase approved by legislature in FY25).
- Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site, First Territorial Capitol State Historic Site, and the Last Chance Store State Historic Site were brought to the agency through the appropriations process.
- K.A.R. 118-1 procedures for deaccessioning of collections.
- K.A.R. 118-2 procedures for deaccessioning of human remains.
- K.A.R. 118-4 procedures for historic preservation review.
- K.A.R. 118-5 rules for state preservation tax credits.

## **Education**

The purpose of the Education program is to ensure excellence in education in teaching Kansas history and government to students across the state and ensuring that all Kansas students have the materials to successfully meet this requirement; to collect, preserve, and

interpret significant artifacts from Kansas history and to operate the state history museum providing educational opportunities for students, their families, and the public.

#### Education Statutes and Regulations:

- K.S.A. 72-1117 requires a course in Kansas history and government in all public schools.
- State curricular standards mandated by the State Board of Education require the teaching of state history.
- K.S.A. 58-4001 through 58-4013 govern the museum collections.
- K.S.A. 75-2728 allows the museum to maintain insurance for loss or damage to the collections.
- The building of the Kansas Museum of History and the operations at the Kansas State Capitol Visitor Center were designated through the appropriations process.
- K.A.R. 118-1 procedures for deaccessioning of collections.

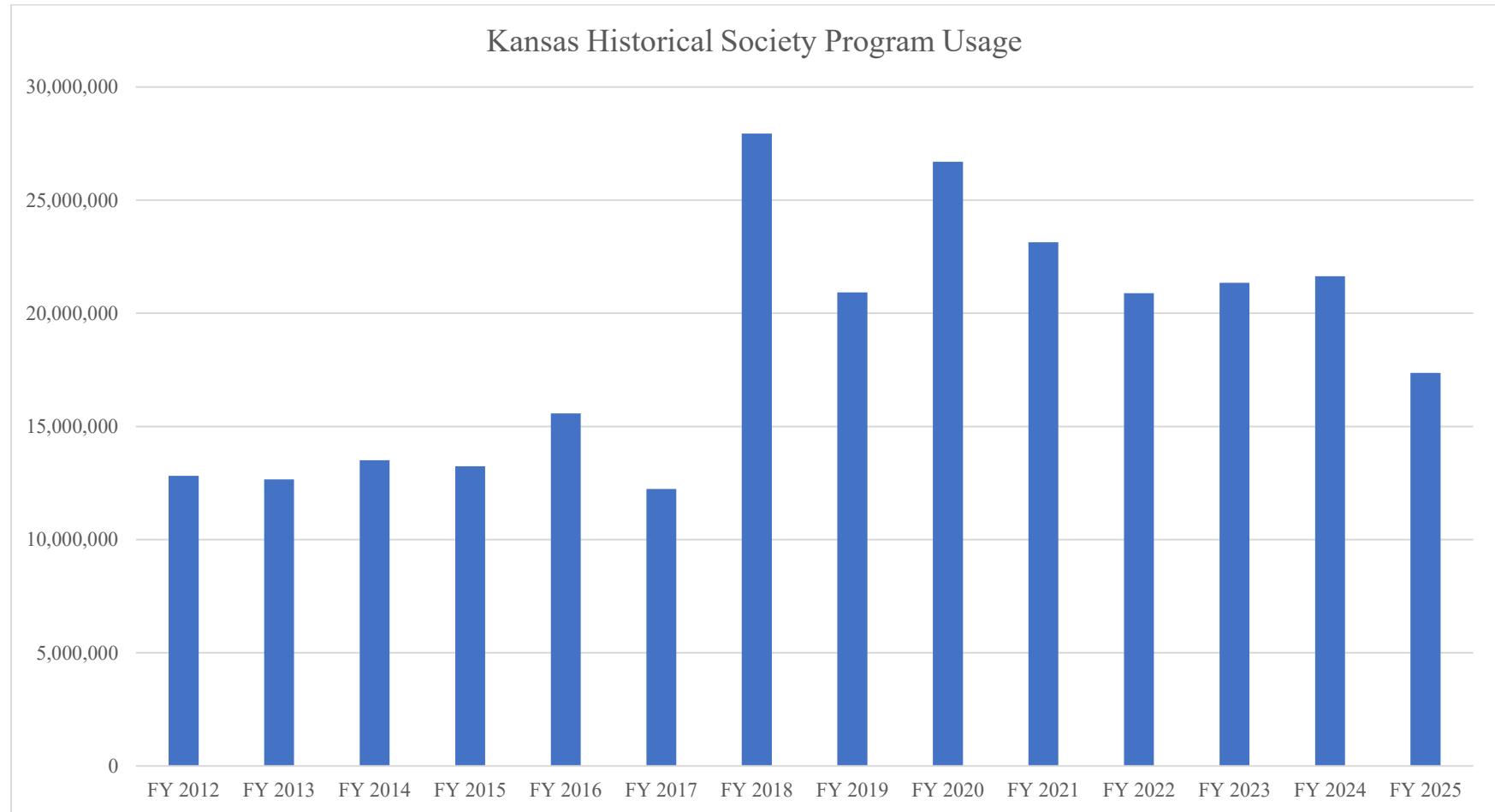
## Administration

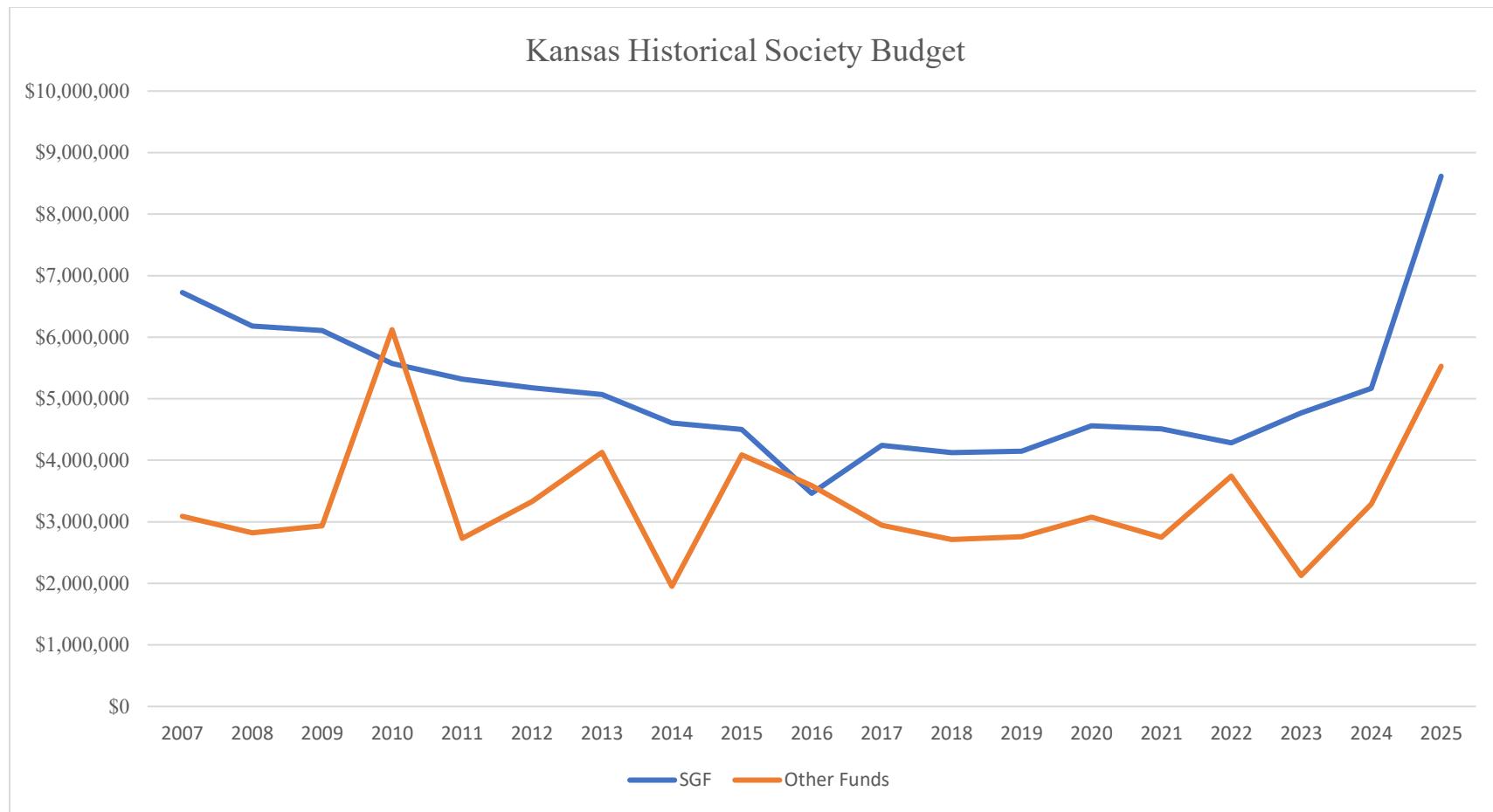
The purpose of Administration is to ensure the Kansas Historical Society is a well-run organization and that all program users are safe and informed. All indirect costs are addressed through the administration budget.

#### Administration Statutes and Regulations:

- K.S.A. 75-2701 through 75-2705 establishes the Kansas Historical Society as a state agency.
- K.S.A. 75-3148 gives the executive director the authority to hire staff. The enabling legislation also outlines specific duties such as collecting.
- K.S.A. 76-2056 allows for the Kansas Historical Society to rent space to outside groups for events and meetings and charge for the use of the space.
- The executive director is assigned by statute to sit on a variety of committees including the Capitol Preservation Committee (KSA 75-2268 through 75-2269), Council on Travel and Tourism (K.S.A. 32-1410 through 1411), and the Governor's Residency Advisory Commission (K.S.A. 75-129 through 131).

## **EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY and CURRENT AGENCY ISSUES**





*Budget Issues and Concern:*

The State General Fund Revenue chart above helps depict our agency's overall decline in funding since FY 2007 (\$6,724,689 then, today's equivalent would be \$10,449,603). Our staffing has also declined extensively over the years. We had 136.5 FTEs allocated in FY2004 with 111 positions filled. For FY26, we have only 76.5 FTEs. The relative lack of funding and staffing reduces our agency's ability to meet our agency mission and statutory requirements.

From 1875 through approximately 2000 most agency programs and services were offered to the public without fees. Beginning around 2008 the Kansas Historical Society began to see a significant drop in SGF funding, and the agency was encouraged to charge fees for public services. Today we continue to balance our budget using fees for services, federal funds, and private donations and grants. Donations and grants are donor restricted for specific projects and cannot be used for general operating expenses. We have had many successes diversifying agency funding. However, this strategy only works if there is a continued base of state support for costs such as utilities, maintenance, information technology, capital improvements, and staffing. The public and private supporters see these functions as the state's responsibility.

A recent funding concern arose with our multi-year project to completely renovate the Kansas Museum of History with all new exhibits, which are being funded primarily through a \$6 million private capital campaign. When the Museum closed in FY 2023 to begin the disassembly of the museum exhibits, the revenue from admissions was lost. During the gallery exhibits design process, it was discovered that significant, and previously unforeseen, interior gallery infrastructure and life safety updates were needed for the completion of the new museum. A \$905,000 SGF supplement was sought last year to cover these costs; however, it was not funded by the legislature. Funding this work through our existing fee funds and coupled with the loss of museum admissions revenue has led to a dramatic decrease in our reserve funds that are used to cover a variety of staffing, contractual, and utility costs.

## **Kansas Historical Society STRATEGIC PLAN FY 2025 – 2027**

### **Goals and Objectives:**

- A. Goal: The Kansas Historical Society is recognized as an asset to the state of Kansas that preserves and promotes the state's history and creates measurable economic activity.**

*Objective 1:* Using private funds, develop all new exhibits for the Kansas Museum of History (Topeka, Shawnee County) that explore the lives of real Kansans to tell stories that are unique to the state's history.

**Strategy:** The current galleries of the Kansas Museum of History closed to the public on September 4, 2022, to allow for the dismantling and artifact storage of current exhibits as well as the building and installation of new features. This was a necessary step for the project but resulted in a loss of economic activity for the period of closure. The museum will re-open to the public on November 22, 2025.

**Strategy:** Work with teachers across the state to develop new school tours both in-person and virtually with the reopening of the museum, using the new exhibits to assist teachers in meeting state curriculum standards.

**Strategy:** Train agency Information Technology (IT) staff and others to maintain any exhibit features that contain IT components before opening new exhibits. Digital interactives will be designed by the contractor that will also produce an extensive manual. Agency IT staff will be informed and able to comment on contractor's work in advance to ensure all exhibit systems work within state IT systems and maintain state standards of IT security.

*Objective 2:* Continue to increase overall visitation numbers at the state operated historic sites to better impact the state's tourism economy.

**Strategy:** As funds permit, begin the process of returning all staffed state historic sites to full-time, year-round hours prioritizing those that have the capacity to draw visitors from more than 100 miles. Kaw Mission and Last Chance Store State Historic Site (Council Grove, Morris County) reopened as a year-round site on September 16, 2023, after reinterpretation. Grinter Place State Historic Site (Kansas City, Wyandotte County) in the metropolitan area and Mine Creek Battlefield are being studied as the next most likely candidates for year-round visitation.

**Strategy:** Taking a multi-faceted approach, the agency will promote visitation to the sites through agency publications and social media platforms and through increased cooperation and coordination with Kansas Tourism and the Kansas Department of Commerce. Staff will work with local friends' groups and partnership site partners to develop new programming at the state historic sites as well as more frequent and regular temporary exhibits.

**Strategy:** Open Charles Curtis House State Historic Site in FY2026 with all new privately-funded exhibits.

*Objective 3:* Reopen the historic Potawatomi Mission (Topeka, Shawnee County) on the KSHS campus for public use.

**Strategy:** Complete interior refurbishment including new paint and carpet and reopen the mission and offer various programming to meet the educational needs of the public. Longterm utilization of the building will require an upgrade to the aging HVAC system, and the agency has determined that the best solution will be to connect the Mission to the main facility system at a future date when funds are available.

**B. Goal: All state historic sites are properly preserved using the *Secretary of the Interiors Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* ([www.nps.gov/tps/standards.htm](http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards.htm)) and made available to the public to the best of our resources.**

*Objective 1:* Complete regular inspections of each state historic site to assess the condition of structures and grounds to schedule routine repairs and prioritize the agency's five-year capital improvements plan.

**Strategy:** Agency will purchase and/or develop an interactive database that will provide a historical record of past conditions and projects and the current conditions assessment reports.

*Objective 2:* Annually review strategies for updating interpretation at the state historic sites using state funds, supplemented by private donations and grants.

**Strategy:** Partner with the City of Fairway and all tribes historically affiliated with the site to reinterpret the historic buildings at Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site (Fairway, Johnson County). As part of this process the West Building will be restored and rehabilitated for public use. A \$412,500 Save America's Treasures grant has recently been awarded to KSHS for the rehabilitation of the West Building. This grant requires a 50% match to meet the approximate \$825,000 restoration project. State funds and private fundraising in coordination with the Shawnee Indian Mission Foundation will be needed to see the project to completion.

**C. Goal: All Historical Society collections are transparent to the public.**

*Objective 1:* Provide the public 24-hour access to online collection catalogs and finding aids that allow researchers to discover information about records, documents and artifacts that are available for research.

**Strategy:** Public records, manuscripts, photographs, and other items are arranged and described at the series level, and that information is uploaded to the Archives Catalog online at <https://www.kshs.org/p/archives-catalog/16432>.

**Strategy:** Inventory and catalog the State Archives' Audio/Visual collections at the series, folder and item level, where possible, and upload that information to the Archives Catalog online at <https://www.kshs.org/p/archives-catalog/16432>

**Strategy:** Write and publish online collection histories and inventories that explain the background, scope and contents of collections to improve access and expand use of the collections for researchers of diverse interests and backgrounds at <https://www.kansashistory.gov/p/guides-and-finding-aids/13813>

**Strategy:** The Museum Catalog is maintained and accessed at <https://www.kshs.org/p/museum-catalog/19685>.

*Objective 2:* Increase the number of primary source materials available to the public online by creating digital surrogates of primary source materials providing the public direct 24-hour access to individual collection items.

**Strategy:** Maintain an onsite photography studio compliant with national digital imaging standards and procedures to oversee and conduct the transfer of the agency's rare and fragile historic analog collections to a digital format for online publication and exhibits. Conduct offsite photography of agency historic sites to preserve and improve access to hard-to-see architectural features for inclusion in interpretive exhibits and presentations, including the attic inscriptions at the Shawnee Indian Mission and the Tragic Prelude mural by John Stewart Curry at the Kansas State Capitol (completed).

**Strategy:** Update the agency digital repository, kansasmemory.gov, to improve for the public the discoverability and accessibility of the agency's rare and unique collection items online. Kansasmemory.gov assists in the preservation of rare collection items by placing less stress on the item due to handling. Currently kansasmemory.gov contains 754,170 digital surrogates of primary source documents, photographs, audio and video and artifacts.

**Strategy:** Negotiate beneficial terms for online publication of select collections (newspapers and name-based record series pertinent to genealogy) with commercial aggregators when possible to improve public access to these collection not provided through [www.kansasmemory.gov](http://www.kansasmemory.gov).

*Objective 3:* All collecting areas of the agency will answer specific inquiries from the public on a weekly basis.

**Strategy** Assist the public with remote questions related to agency programs and collections through division research staff to maintain accurate and up-to-date information.

**Strategy** State Archives research staff provide information on collection holdings and access on a weekly basis. Research conducted by staff for remote patrons is fee-based and on a negotiated schedule.

**Strategy** State Archives staff assist the public with accessing original collection items in-person through the operation of the State Archives Research Room (Topeka, Shawnee County) for the public, open four weekdays and Saturday morning each week.

**Strategy:** Professional archivists, librarians and support staff assist on-site patrons with research requests and employ accurate and efficient procedures for pulling and refiling cataloged collections that ensure both timely access to unique historical materials and protect the materials from loss, damage, or theft.

#### **D. Goal: A strategic approach is taken to build archives and artifact collections.**

*Objective 1:* Implement new and existing collection development policies for each collecting division to proactively collect items of Kansas and western history, including artifacts, public records, and the private papers and publications individuals, organizations and businesses.

**Strategy:** Concentrate collecting efforts on those items that illustrate specific Kansas events and people and represent all geographic areas of the state. An emphasis will be placed on collecting materials important to Kansas history that current collections do not illustrate, such as early Kansas rock bands of the 1960s and 1970s

**Strategy:** Develop long-standing relationships with community members and organizations for those communities and organizations not adequately represented in the collections, including a cooperation with the Kansas Music Hall of Fame, their board, members and inductees to collect, preserve and provide access to posters, photos, audio recordings, and other records that document the success and influence of early rock bands in Kansas and the fourteen state circuit covered by KOMA radio broadcasts in which they played.

*Objective 2:* Annually collect and preserve selected digitally born materials pertinent to Kansas history including websites, social media, and digital publications.

**Strategy:** Employ Archive-It software through participation in the Kansas Archive-It Consortium using the specialized commercial software that meets archival standards to capture approximately 2 terabytes of born digital materials annually.

**Strategy:** Cooperate with the Kansas Press Association and their vendor NewzGroup to collect and preserve born-digital, pre-print PDF copies of most Kansas newspapers by adapting collecting policies and procedures to current practices in newspaper publication.

**E. Goal: All state records of enduring value are properly preserved and accessible to the public unless restricted by statute.**

*Objective 1:* Annually work with state agencies to ensure that records of enduring value are properly identified and preserved permanently.

**Strategy:** Review on a regular basis all records retention and disposition schedules.

**Strategy:** Provide on-demand, online training for agencies as well as opportunities for one-on-one consultation for records management issues specific to agency goals and priorities.

**Strategy:** Establish a local records archivist service as a State Historical Records Advisory Board programming objective to provide onsite, one-on-one consultation for city and county public record repositories to advise on records management issues specific to local agency goals and priorities.

**Strategy:** Catalog all government records series within one-year after transfer to the State Archives to provide the public easy access to information about the series.

*Objective 2:* Maintain a digital archives for public records consistent with national and international standards for digital preservation.

**Strategy:** Implement digital archives for public records through multi-year subscription to Preservica or other standards-based digital repository software.

**Strategy:** Review standards and software specifications biennially to ensure born digital records are preserved according to state statutes.

**F. Goal: Communities in Kansas recognize the economic and cultural impact of their local cultural resources and know how to preserve them.**

*Objective 1:* Provide annual training and advice to Certified Local Governments (CLG) in Kansas, which serve as partners to the state and federal government in promoting community historic preservation. Current CLGs include Abilene, Arkansas City, Dodge City, Doniphan County, Douglas County, Garden City, Hutchinson, Independence, Kansas City (UG), Lawrence, Leavenworth, Manhattan, Newton, Olathe, Salina, Topeka, and Wichita.

**Strategy:** Provide access to a portion of the federal Historic Preservation Funds specifically for CLGs through annual competitive grants to assist with local preservation efforts.

*Objective 2:* Develop a program to train workers in preservation trade skills such as historic window repair, masonry and plaster repair, and stonework through a partnership with Kansas technical colleges to address the shortage of qualified tradespeople to work on historic buildings in Kansas.

**Strategy:** Explore partnership opportunities with the technical schools in the state by the end of FY 2027. KSHS will develop a preservation trades curriculum that meets the standards for technical colleges.

*Objective 3:* By 2026 establish guidelines for a state and local historical markers program that is self-sustaining and meets the needs of the state's various communities.

**Strategy:** Working with Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) develop easily accessed guidelines for state historic markers by FY 2026, including a process by which the public can request a marker.

**G. Goal: Owners of properties in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the Register of Historic Kansas Places can access financial incentives provided through state and federal programs.**

*Objective 1:* Actively assist property owners who wish to pursue listing in the National Register of Historic Places or the Register of Historic Kansas Places by providing timely advice and ensuring application materials are successful in achieving listing of historic properties at least 90% of the time.

**Strategy:** Continually evaluate state materials that assist citizens through the National Register process and redevelop when necessary to make them easier to follow.

**Strategy:** Increase Kansas listings in the National Register of Historic Places each year, allowing more communities access to state and federal financial incentives.

**Strategy:** Support the work of the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review, which is responsible for recommending the eligibility of Kansas properties to be placed in the National Register of Historic Places, as well as evaluating grant applications.

*Objective 2:* Annually offer financial incentives to property owners to assist in the preservation of listed historic properties through grants and tax credits.

**Strategy:** Develop quarterly webinars to clarify the process for obtaining financial assistance through Heritage Trust Fund grants and state and federal tax credits by the end of FY 2022 (completed and ongoing).

**H. Goal: The Kansas Historical Society assists local citizens, tribes, and communities in protecting archeological sites of cultural importance.**

*Objective 1:* Administer the Kansas Antiquities Act that recognizes the need to conserve significant archeological remains on state, county, and municipal lands. The Act prohibits uncontrolled excavation or vandalism of archeological sites and controls scientific excavation by issuing permits.

**Strategy:** Members of the Kansas Antiquities Commission review applications for excavations upon receipt.

*Objective 2:* The Kansas Unmarked Burial Sites Preservation Act protects human remains and associated objects that come from burials that do not have headstones, are not in demarcated cemeteries, and are not noted in maps, deeds, or other records.

**Strategy:** The State Archeologist investigates all unmarked burial cases upon notification and calls a meeting of the board when necessary to determine the outcome.

*Objective 3:* Oversee agency compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

**Strategy:** Receipt of NAGPRA grant allows the hiring of a NAGPRA coordinator for the agency for two years. The State Archeologist oversees NAGPRA inventories and notices and consultation with Tribal Nations.

*Objective 4:* The Kansas Historical Society maintains a cooperative agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) to evaluate the potential impact of highway projects on cultural resources ensuring the state of Kansas is following federal and state regulations.

**Strategy:** The agency is available to survey, complete ground testing, and initiate major excavations when necessary in consultation with KDOT's schedule.

**I. Goal: The Kansas Historical Society develops specialized programs in all areas of responsibility to engage the public in the history of Kansas.**

*Objective 1:* Provide easy access to information on state government through the Kansas State Capitol Visitor Center (Topeka, Shawnee County) by updating all informational formats, including tours, electronic kiosks, and brochures at the beginning of each legislative session.

**Strategy:** By 2023, produce a short orientation video on the Capitol for those taking self-guided tours. (completed)

**Strategy:** Work with Kansas Tourism to develop a plan in FY 2026 to better showcase the attractions of Kansas in the Capitol (completed and being installed in new Docking Building).

**Strategy:** Create new hands-on activities for use in the Capitol Visitors Center classroom so students have an opportunity to explore the 3 branches of state government, participate in a sequencing activity focusing on the construction of the Capitol, and explore the symbolism included in the state flag. (completed)

*Objective 2:* Annually, partner with the Kansas Anthropological Association to conduct an archeology field school to offer a unique opportunity for the public to assist archeologists in surveying for archeological sites, excavating sites, and cleaning/cataloging artifacts.

**Strategy:** As funding permits, offer one field school annually moving to different locations around the state.

**Strategy:** Publish research conclusions and process all artifacts to share information with the public no later than three years after the conclusion of the fieldwork.

*Objective 3:* Annually develop a variety of adult and family programs at Kansas Historical Society facilities across the state to engage the public through immersive and educational programs.

**Strategy:** As funding permits develop an annual schedule of programming announced on January 1 of each new year. Programming will be offered both in-person and virtually.

**J. Goal: Public, private, and homeschooled view the Kansas Historical Society as the best source for curriculum materials on Kansas history and government.**

*Objective 1:* Annually provide schools and families in Kansas with original student readings, textbooks, and resource trunks to highlight Kansas history and government, while meeting state curricular standards.

**Strategy:** In FY 2025 work with the Humanities Program Manager at the Kansas State Department of Education to assess the needs of teachers and students in Kansas history, producing a strategic plan for agency curriculum development over the next five years (ongoing).

*Objective 2: Maintain and evaluate current curriculum activities and develop new pieces as needed to meet the needs of teachers and students.*

**Strategy:** By FY 2026 complete at least three focus groups with seventh-grade Kansas history teachers and curriculum specialists from across the state to determine the best way to strengthen students' critical thinking skills through Kansas history curriculum materials.

*Objective 3: Support Kansas teachers and homeschool parents by providing them access to training and knowledge that can be used to teach Kansas history and government while meeting state curricular standards.*

**Strategy:** By FY 2027 create a webinar prototype to train teachers on specific topics in Kansas history using a variety of KSHS materials. Consider partnering with a Kansas university or college to provide in-service or college credits.

**K. Goal: The Kansas Historical Society successfully connects its message of public value to the people of Kansas.**

*Objective 1: Create a new bimonthly agency newsletter to better inform Kansans of their history and our agency's efforts to preserve it.*

**Strategy:** A new print and digital format newsletter, *Zephyr*, blending popular components of previous newsletters the *Mirror* and *Kansas Preservation*, debuted in September/October 2023. Partially funded with federal and fee funds, it is being distributed to Kansas officials, local historical societies, and constituents free of charge.

*Objective 2: Create a continuing internet presence that employs contemporary standards and best practices for usability, accessibility, design, and content management.*

**Strategy:** Launch an updated agency website that is mobile friendly, transparent, and easy to use.

**Strategy:** Create new web content quarterly that is historically accurate, easy to understand, and relevant to today's audiences to attract continuing attention to the agency.

*Objective 2: Enhance agency access to targeted audiences through social media.*

**Strategy:** Continue to evolve the agency's social media efforts on the audience as storyteller, which can be integrated with posts by KSHS reflecting its status as a trusted source for Kansas history.

**L. Goal: As budgets allow, the Kansas Historical Society uses current technology to enhance productivity and customer service.**

*Objective 1:* Establish a clearly defined and consistently implemented process for setting information technology (IT) project priorities within the agency.

**Strategy:** As audiences shift from accessing agency collections, programs, and services in-person to online, reevaluate resource allocations on an annual basis.

**Strategy:** By FY 2027 integrate stories of *Kansapedia* and primary sources of *Kansas Memory* to provide easier access to basic information on Kansas history.

**Strategy:** Apply for grant funds to implement a new museum collection's database.

**M. Goal:** State collections are secured in climate-controlled spaces to assist in their preservation.

*Objective 1:* Keep all collections in restricted climate-controlled storage spaces accessed through key card entrances.

**Strategy:** Maintain 24-hour security on-site to protect the state's assets.

*Objective 2:* Artifacts are regularly assessed to determine if conservation work is needed.

**Strategy 1:** Raise funds through grants and the Save Our Flags "adopt a flag" program to conserve the 37 American Civil War flags and nine Spanish American War flags that must still be conserved.

*Objective 3:* Always ensure that the agency's information technology infrastructure is protected and secured.

**Strategy:** For the long-term safety of the state's digital records implement additional redundant storage by the end of FY 2023. (completed)

**N. Goal:** The annual operations of the Kansas Historical Society are securely funded through a sound financial plan.

*Objective 1:* Collect fees for services when appropriate and provide the public clear and concise information on agency fees.

**Strategy:** Reevaluate all fees in FY 2026 with the opening of the new exhibits at the Kansas Museum of History.

*Objective 2:* Work with the Kansas Historical Foundation to raise money annually through grants and private donations to assist the state agency in meeting its mission.

**Strategy:** Foundation will complete major fundraising campaign for new exhibits for the Kansas Museum of History by the end of FY 2022 and serve as fiscal agent of the exhibit design and installation at the Kansas Museum of History. Overall project management will be completed by the state agency (ongoing).

**O. Goal: The Kansas Historical Society is a well-run organization.**

*Objective 1:* The agency continues to operate clean and safe facilities and grounds for the use of the public.

*Objective 2:* The agency adheres to all federal, state, and local laws and follows all policies of the State of Kansas.

*Objective 3:* The Kansas Historical Society is viewed as an ethical institution that represents the needs of all Kansans.

**Strategy:** As an ongoing priority the agency will collect data on user experiences and audience opinions, using the data to continually update and improve the performance of the agency.

*Objective 4:* The agency will review the strategic plan on an annual basis to make sure it is meeting the current needs of the public and the resources of the agency.

**Strategy:** Make changes as needed by September of each year when preparing the agency's budget.

**ACTUAL POSITION DATA:**

The Kansas Historical Society is authorized for 67.5 FTE and 9 non-FTE. The following chart reflects the actual positions filled at the end of FY 2025.

FY 2025 Positions				
Program	Classified FTE	Unclassified FTE	Full-time, Permanent Unclassified Non-FTE	Temporary, Part-Time & Intermittent
State Archives	16	0	0	2
Cultural Resources	14.5	2	4	41
Education	9	3	2	15
Administration	14	4	1	8
AGENCY TOTAL	53.5	9	7	66

FY 2026 & FY 2027 Positions					
Program	Classified FTE*	Unclassified FTE	Full-time, Permanent Unclassified Non-FTE	Temporary, Part-Time & Intermittent**	
State Archives	16	0	1	2	
Cultural Resources	18	2	5	45	
Education	11	3	2	21	
Administration	19	4	1	10	
AGENCY TOTAL	64	9	9	78	

\*The increase in FTEs between the end of FY 2025 and FY2026 is the result of the lapse in time between retirements/resignation and filling positions.

\*\*Temporary, part-time and intermittent employees are mostly seasonal and can vary from year to year depending on agency needs and workforce availability.

### **AGENCY OVERVIEW OF FY 2026 and FY 2027:**

The **FY 2026 and FY 2027** budgets submitted here are closely aligned to previous agency budgets especially regarding State General Fund (SGF) except for the FY 2026 supplemental and FY 2027 enhancement. The current budget includes some small internal adjustments that reflect current needs. The agency is focusing its State General Fund (SGF) request on statutory requirements only. Additional activities that enhance the agency's programs are as always funded from private individuals and foundations or agency-earned fee funds.

#### **Current Year FY 2026**

Estimated expenditures for the current year total **\$9,422,277** from all funds. Of this amount **\$5,829,696** is SGF.

In addition to SGF, the budget is comprised of federal funds, fees for services, designated revenue sources, grants, and gifts. Federal funds come from the National Park Service and are restricted to historic preservation activities. The federal funds require a 40% match. Some of the operating budget for the State Archives is also fee based. Copying fees, photographic use fees, and research fees help sustain this division. The agency normally rents its facilities to third parties to earn money for the maintenance of the properties. The closure of the museum for redesign has ceased the ability to collect rental fees at this time.

Much of the agency's base budget is used for salaries. To meet budget allocations, some authorized FTE positions are left open for a period of time to study its needs and reallocates positions to those functions that are most critical to the agency mission and current

initiatives. The other major expenses for the agency are fixed costs such as utilities, SMART and OITS fees, communications, and security costs.

## **FY 2027 Budget Year**

The agency's budget request is **\$10,836,596** from all funds for FY 2027. Of this amount **\$7,118,042** is SGF. State General Funds represent 66 percent of the agency's requested funding. The budget represents a similar budget to FY 2026 without the supplementals and enhancement mentioned below.

## **FY 2026-FY 2027 Change Packages**

The agency is submitting seven change packages. The first is the staffing of the newly renovated museum and is **supplement package(A/C/1)** for the opening of the new museum in November 2025. Second is a **supplement package(A/C/2)** for the opening the Nationally Registered Historic Curtis House site. Third is a supplement package(A/C/3) for the rehabilitation of the Shawnee Indian Mission west building. Fourth is an **enhancement package(A/E/1)** to increase the Capitol Improvement Emergency Repair and Services amount. Fifth is an **enhancement package(A/E/2)** to update Archives mobile high-density shelving unit. Sixth is a capital improvement **enhancement package(A/E/3)** to replace ADA and visitor parking at Grinter Place Historic Site. Seventh is a **enhancement package(A/E/4)** for restructuring the agencies IT Department.

### **1. Change package FY 2025 (A/C/1) Museum opening **Supplement****

#### *Supplement Summary:*

This supplement is for returning the staffing level required for the reopening of the museum in November 2025. In FY 2012 the agency had 81.5 filled FTE and 2.5 filled Non-FTE Unclassified Permanent at year end and legislative approved 117 FTE and 3.5 Non-FTE Unclassified Permanent. With continued budgetary restraints occurring over the years, the agency stretched its resources by not filling and holding open many of the positions within the Education and Museum Division that were earmarked for the operation of the museum. The agency is requesting in salaries FY 2026 (\$206,332) FY 2027 (\$370,622) for 3 Classified FTE and 8 temporary positions to be reinstated for the management of the New Museum. The FTE position consist of two Custodial Specialist, one Visitor Service Representative Supervisor, and ½ the salary of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Coordinator for rentals of space. The supplement also includes annual contractual services FY 2026 (\$2,000) FY 2027 (\$2,000) for phone and OITS services, annual commodities FY 2026 (\$3,250) FY 2027(\$3,250) for uniforms, one-time capital outlay FY 2026 (\$5,000) for computers.

## 2. Change Package (A/C/2) Open Historic Curtis House **Supplement**

### *Supplement Summary:*

This supplement is to open the Curtis House in Topeka as a State Historic Site. During the 2024 legislative session House Bill 2551, Sec. 48(a) provided the appropriation of \$300,000 for the purchase of the Charles Curtis residence. The Kansas State Historical Society currently has the authority, per K.S.A. 76-2050, et al to acquire the property. This will become a year around state historic site. The agency is requesting 1.5 FTE in salaries FY 2026 (\$21,304) FY 2027 (\$94,225) for a Historic Sites Curator and .5 Educational/Informational Rep. position. The agency is also requesting contractual services FY 2026 (\$14,600) FY 2027 (\$14,600) for Phone and OITS services, repairs and services, and utilities. Commodities FY 2026 (\$3,500) FY 2027 (\$3,500) for uniforms, cleaning supplies, professional supplies. A one-time Capital Outlay FY 2026 (\$2,500) for computers.

## 3. Change Package (A/C/3) Shawnee Indian Mission – West Building Rehabilitation

### *Supplement Summary:*

This supplement is to restore the historic West Building at Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site. The request was moved up in priority due to receiving a \$412,500 matching grant from the National Park Service.

This project has three goals. The first is to restore damaged and altered interior features, materials, and finishes. The second is to repair, replace, or update as needed the heating, ventilation, air conditioning systems; upgrade the electrical wiring; and install new compatible lighting while repairing historic plaster walls, ceilings, and flooring. The third goal is to provide ADA accessibility to the first floor of the building. The following work items will accomplish those goals and enable the building to be utilized for public functions. Once this work is complete, planning can be started to implement exhibits and programming in the building.

- The interior will be restored with refinished plaster walls and ceilings. Wood flooring and trim will be repaired with replacement only as necessary.
- Electrical wiring will be updated, and compatible lighting installed.
- A non-historic second-floor restroom will be removed, returning the hallway to its original plan and restoring the original second floor door that leads onto the porch roof balcony.
- Non-historic kitchen cabinetry will be removed.
- Mechanical systems and plumbing will be updated to prevent water leaks and provide a stable, controlled climate.

- ADA improvements, largely consisting of a new path and ramp to the west elevation entrance to the ell, will provide for regular use by the public on both levels of the first floor.

FY 2026 Supplements		
Purpose	FY 2026 Expenditure	Proposed Funding Source
Museum Opening	FY 2026-\$216,582; FY 2027- \$375,872	State General Fund(SGF)/State Historical Society Facility Fund
Open Historic Curtis House	FY 2026-\$41,904; FY 2027 - \$112,325	State General Fund (SGF)
Shawnee Indian Mission – West Building Rehabilitation	FY 2026-\$200,000; FY 2027 - \$625,000	Federal funds/State General Funds(SGF)/Private

## 1. Change Package (A/E/1) Capital Improvement Emergency Repair **Enhancement**

### *Enhancement Summary:*

The Kansas Historical Society owns 57 buildings, 5 monuments, 6 structures and 2 cemeteries throughout the state, many of them historic. In addition, we are responsible for a combined 600 acres of land. This year the agency receives \$375,000 in SGF for repairs to address cyclical maintenance issues and emergency repairs due to age, accidents, or weather-related causes. The annual request for emergency repair monies is always our top priority for capital improvements.

The agency is requesting an increase of the emergency repairs and service fund of \$250,000 annually. Between FY 2013 and FY 2022 the appropriation was \$250,000. In FY 2023 the allocation was increased to \$375,000. Due to continued high inflationary costs for materials and services. Many of our sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and all repairs must meet the United States Secretary of Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.

## 2. Change Package (A/E/2) Mobile Shelving Unit Repair **Enhancement**

### *Enhancement Summary:*

The Center for Historical Research opened in 1995 using a high-density mobile library records shelving system to maximize archival records storage, optimize security of documents, ease of locating files and meets archival standards. The over 4,500 square feet space shelving system has helped maximize use of the staff and available conditioned space.

The proprietary shelving drive system and controls are at the end of life and failing frequently. When this occurs, the shelves are stuck closed and patron requests cannot be accommodated. Currently, a temporary override battery pack can be utilized to restore movement, but a system overhaul with new motors and controls is required to ensure regular and continued operation. The process will involve disassembly and removal of non-upgradeable mechanical/electrical systems while retaining shelving and conversion to a new system for continued use as high-density shelving system. The agency is requesting a capital improvement enhancement of \$341,000 in FY 2027.

### 3. Change Package (A/E/3) Grinter Place ADA and Visitor Parking **Enhancement**

*Enhancement Summary:*

Grinter Place Historic Site has been under the care of the Kansas State Historical Society since 1971. The existing ADA parking area and adjacent parking field has exceeded its life now requiring replacement to maintain handicapped and visitor access to the Grinter House. This work will follow the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and NPS preservation brief # 32: Making Historic Properties Accessible. The agency is requesting a capital improvement enhancement of \$200,000 in FY 2027.

### 4. Change package FY 2026 (A/E/4) IT Management Position **Enhancement**

*Enhancement Summary:*

This enhancement will help to manage the IT department within the Kansas State Historical Society. The additional importance of securing and managing state electronic records has become a focal point of the agency. As more record ingestion occurs electronically, additional securities and management is needed. As the new museum opens, there will be multiple new electronic interactive exhibits with the overall management and maintenance being the responsibility of the agency. We currently have 4 FTE within the IT department, a Database Administrator, two Technology Support Consultant, and one Application Developer. The addition of the Management System Analyst at the management level will be able to manage the staff and activities related to the agency while also focusing on IT security and production of state electronic records. The agency is requesting 1 FTE and salaries FY 2027 (\$80,370) for the Management Systems Analyst position. The agency is also requesting contractual services FY 2027 (\$1,000) for phone and OITS services, Capital Outlay FY 2027 (\$2,500) for the purchase of a computer.

FY 2027 Enhancements		
Purpose	FY 2026 Expenditure	Proposed Funding Source
Capital Improvement Emergency Repair	\$250,000	State General Fund (SGF)
Mobile Shelving Unit Repair	\$341,000	State General Fund (SGF)
Grinter Place ADA and Parking	\$200,000	State General Fund (SGF)
IT Management Position	\$83,870	State General Fund (SGF)

## **KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMS**

### **PROGRAM 1 – STATE ARCHIVES**

*History:*

The basic functions of the State Archives (Topeka, Shawnee County) have been part of the Kansas Historical Society since it was founded in 1875. The Land Survey Program and the Law Enforcement Memorial were transferred to the agency in the 1980s. All functions are mandated by statutes.

*Program Goal:*

The goal of the State Archives is to collect, preserve, and provide access to the state's records of enduring value to enhance government transparency and educate Kansans and others about the state's history and government.

*Responsibility:*

The essential role of government records in ensuring government transparency and accountability, protecting the legal rights of Kansas citizens, and documenting Kansas history is a major focus of this division through the preservation and accessibility of government records of enduring value. The major challenge today is managing, preserving, and providing access to electronic records as state government moves away from a reliance on paper documents. It is the responsibility of the division to work with the State Records Board to ensure that all government records are scheduled for retention or disposition. In addition to state records the division preserves and makes available Kansas newspapers and unpublished materials significant to Kansas history. The division collects manuscripts, photographs, maps, newspapers, and other documents and media that tell the stories of Kansas people. A major initiative of the division is to provide public access to the collections through such online resources as *Kansas Memory*, *Chronicling America*, *Ancestry.com* and *Newspapers.com*. As documents today are often created in a digital format the challenge is to find new ways of collecting and preserving this information for future Kansans.

State Archives staff have a variety of statutory responsibilities including the following:

- Collecting, preserving, and making available to the public paper-based Kansas state government records with enduring, or permanent, value housed in the State Archives.
- Collecting, preserving, and making available to the public electronic Kansas state government records with enduring value through the implementation of a digital state archives (formerly Kansas Enterprise Electronic Preservation or KEEP) that complies with international standards for trustworthy digital repositories.
- Collaborating with Kansas state and local government officials to draft and submit to the State Records Board new and revised records retention and disposition schedules that accurately reflect contemporary government business practices and provide records management training to Kansas state and local government officials.
- Reviewing plans for proposed state agency IT projects with costs above \$250,000 to ensure that adequate provisions are included for the management and preservation of long-term state government records (10+ year retention).
- Processing current land survey reference report filings and providing land surveyors with access to historical land survey records housed in the State Archives.
- Acquiring and preserving issues of the state's newspapers, including digital versions, as well as digitizing historical newspapers to make them accessible online. The agency has one of the most extensive collections of local newspapers in the country.
- Acquiring materials to increase the breadth and depth of historical resources available to the public. Preserving the content of collection holdings either in their original format or in a format with greater stability and requiring less physical storage space, including developing a collaborative approach to harvesting Kansas websites.
- Arranging, describing, and cataloging archival materials, and making the holdings themselves and/or information about them as widely available as possible. This includes integrating information from the various collection management databases and making them accessible to the public through a user-friendly interface.
- Digitizing selected collection items and making them available online 24 hours a day, seven days a week through *Kansas Memory* ([kansasmemory.org](http://kansasmemory.org)). This includes operating an imaging lab to scan and digitize collection materials for the public.
- Operating the research room (Topeka) and providing reference assistance to genealogists, students, and the general public.

## State Archives Performance Measures:

Performance Measures	Actual FY 2023	Actual FY 2024	Actual FY 2025	3 Year Average	Projection FY 2026	Projection FY 2027
Number of annual <i>Kansas Memory</i> (agency digital archives) page views	1,655,728	10,307,719	1,043,238	4,335,562	1,500,000	1,500,000
Average annual cost per request to answer research questions for the public	\$14.51 (2,833 requests)	\$19.76 (3,238 requests)	\$19.47 (3,944 requests)	\$17.91 (3,338 requests)	\$19.50 (3,400 requests)	\$19.50 (3,400 requests)
Number of annual land survey requests filled	1,018	1805	1211	1,345	1,250	1,250

## EXPENDITURE JUSTIFICATION – STATE ARCHIVES (49600)

### Account Code 5100: Salaries and Wages

*Summary:* Staffing for the program includes 17 FTE and 2 temporary positions. The following amounts reflect changes in the State Budget Indices. Longevity bonuses are included for those eligible. No salary increase is budgeted.

Current Year FY 2026: \$1,197,080  
 Budget Request FY 2027: \$1,223,436

### Account Codes 5200 - 5290 - Contractual Services

*Summary:* Contractual service funds are used for service contracts and repairs on two microfilm cameras, a hybrid microfilm camera/scanner, the microfilm processor and duplicator, equipment for the photography and microfilm labs, digital scanners, mobile shelving, four reader-printers, 30 plus microfilm readers, and other equipment in the program. Other funds cover the monthly and

activity charges for the online cataloging service (OCLC), and the costs associated with creating digital copies of motion picture film for the purpose of preservation and public access. The agency is part of a consortium of Topeka libraries (ATLAS) that work together to create an online public access catalog (OPAC) that has internet searching capabilities so that citizens throughout the state can access information about institutional holdings. Annual participation fees are paid. Subscription costs for the purchase of microfilm of Kansas newspapers produced by outside vendors are also contained under contractual services. The Kansas Historical Society is the only place in Kansas that has a comprehensive collection of newspapers published in Kansas. Other expenses include routine in-state travel and official hospitality for statutory board meetings.

Current Year FY 2026:	\$57,000
Budget Request FY 2027:	\$57,000

#### **Account Code 5300 - 5390 - Commodities**

*Summary:* The expenditures from these account codes are used for professional supplies that promote the long-term preservation of collections. Acid-free materials are used in preservation, as are other specialized supplies.

Current Year FY 2026:	\$16,500
Budget Request FY 2027:	\$16,500

### **PROGRAM 2 – CULTURAL RESOURCES**

#### *History:*

State and federal laws enacted beginning in the 1960s were established to protect the state's cultural resources. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 was amended in 1970 and 1980 and is the basis of some of these program activities. Federal money allocated to Kansas for these activities are matched by the state (60% federal and 40% state). The Heritage Trust Fund (1990) and the Historic Preservation Tax Credits (2001) were established by state statute. The State Historic Sites were acquired by the state between 1899 and 2015, by statute or through budget appropriations. All functions in this program are mandated by statutes.

#### *Program Goal:*

The goal of cultural resources is to recognize and protect historic structures and sites that reflect local, state, or national importance with the purpose of strengthening local economies, stabilizing property values, creating civic pride, and advancing the education and welfare of the state's citizens.

*Responsibility:*

The Cultural Resources program exists to preserve the state's archeological, architectural, and historic resources while at the same time assist communities and property owners in economic development through assistance in rehabilitating and repurposing historic structures. The division also has as its responsibilities the preservation and operation of the 16 state-owned historic sites.

The executive director of the Kansas Historical Society acts in the capacity of State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and the director of the Cultural Resources Division is the deputy SHPO. The State of Kansas has adopted legislation that protects the state's cultural resources. The state also provides incentives to property owners to rehabilitate their historic structures. These incentives include grants and tax credits. The federal government offers additional tax credits for historic preservation to income producing properties. Many developers use both state and federal tax credits in combination to create jobs in Kansas. The Heritage Trust Fund is a designated fund set by statute and provides grants to historic property owners through a competitive process.

The archeology program is responsible for the state's archeological and ethnographic collections. The state archeologist oversees such programs as contract archeology (funded through fees), the implementation of antiquities and unmarked burial laws, and programs in public archeology. The State of Kansas has owned historic sites since 1899 with the acquisition of Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site in Republic. State statutes determine the legislative process for obtaining additional sites. Some of the historic sites are operated in cooperation with a local partner. The hours sites are open to the public varies by community. State Historic Sites are funded through SGF, fee funds, and partnerships.

Cultural Resources staff members participate in a variety of statutory responsibilities including the following:

- Administering the nomination procedures of the Register of Historic Kansas Places and the National Register of Historic Places and facilitating identification of historic resources in the state.
- Evaluating, in accordance with state and federal law, approximately 3,000 projects annually for potential effects on the state's historic and cultural resources.
- Providing technical assistance to owners of historic properties such as advice and information on appropriate construction techniques and materials for historic buildings.
- Providing incentives such as state and federal tax credits and Heritage Trust Fund grants for the rehabilitation of National Register and State Register properties.
- Complying with the Kansas Unmarked Burial Sites Preservation Act (UBS), the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), and monitoring archeological work on non-federal public lands in Kansas as required by the Kansas Antiquities Commission Act (KAC).

- Providing contract archeological services to carry out cultural resource compliance for several state and federal agencies. This activity is fee based.
- Managing a collection of more than 1,000,000 archeological artifacts in the Kansas Historical Society's holdings and maintaining information on more than 15,000 recorded archeological sites.
- Providing public outreach through programs on the archeology of Kansas.
- Preservation and operation of Constitution Hall State Historic Site (Lecompton, Douglas County), First Territorial Capitol State Historic Site (Fort Riley, Geary County), Fort Hays State Historic Site (Hays, Ellis County), Grinter Place State Historic Site (Kansas City, Wyandotte County), Hollenberg Pony Express Station State Historic Site (Hanover, Washington County), Kaw Mission and Last Chance Store Museums State Historic Site (Council Grove, Morris County), Mine Creek Civil War Battlefield State Historic Site (Pleasanton, Linn County), Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site (Republic, Republic County), and Red Rocks State Historic Site (Emporia, Lyon County).
- Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site (Studley, Sheridan County), Goodnow House State Historic Site (Manhattan, Riley County), John Brown Museum State Historic Site (Osawatomie, Miami County), and Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site (Fairway, Johnson county) are operated through partnerships with the local communities.
- Marais des Cygnes Massacre State Historic Site (Pleasanton, Linn County), and Pawnee Rock State Historic Site (Pawnee Rock, Barton County) are not staffed but grounds are interpreted and open to the public.

## Cultural Resources Performance Measures:

Performance Measures	Actual FY 2023	Actual FY 2024	Actual FY 2025	3 Year Average	Projection FY 2026	Projection FY 2027
The annual economic impact of the state and federal historic preservation tax credits	Created 645 jobs and grew the Kansas economy by \$26,608,900	Created 1294 jobs and grew the Kansas economy by \$72,508,900	Created 1447 jobs and grew the Kansas economy by \$74,453,300	Created 1129 jobs and grew the Kansas economy by \$57,857,033	Created 1200 jobs and grew the Kansas economy by \$60,500,000	Created 1200 jobs and grew the Kansas economy by \$60,500,000
Average annual cost per person to serve the visitor at the combined State Historic Sites	\$13.82	\$20.63	\$16.01	\$16.82	\$16.82	\$16.82
Number of contract archeology projects completed annually	275	347	165	262	262	262

## EXPENDITURE JUSTIFICATION – Cultural Resources Division (49700)

### Account Code 5100: Salaries and Wages

*Summary:* Staffing for the program includes 20 FTE, 5 full-time permanent unclassified non-FTEs, and 45 part-time or intermittent temporary positions. The following amounts reflect changes in the State Budget Indices. Longevity bonuses are included for those eligible. No salary increase is budgeted.

Current Year FY 2026: \$1,848,323  
 Budget Request FY 2027: \$1,975,761

### **Account Codes 5200-5290: Contractual Services**

*Summary:* A major portion of the funds requested in this category is for travel. Extensive travel is done to inspect and evaluate historic properties for a variety of programs. Much of the statewide travel is associated with economic development activities. Federal law requires that any building project using federal funds must attempt to avoid destroying cultural resources or mitigate the loss. Archeologists travel to review sites for road and other building projects. The agency out-sources some of this work to private contractors in the fields of historic preservation and archeology. Funds are also earmarked for printing necessary handouts and renting specialized equipment when needed in the field. In addition, the agency must advertise meetings, nominations, and deadlines for grants. Many of the historic sites have mowing and snow removal contracts and they also use professional fees to pay speakers and performers for public programs. Official hospitality for statutory board meetings and utilities for the state historic sites are also included here.

Current Year FY 2026:	\$365,030
Budget Request FY 2027:	\$337,120

### **Account Codes 5300-5390 - Commodities**

*Summary:* A major portion of requests in these account codes relate to repairs and servicing of equipment used in archeological investigations, professional and scientific supplies including photographic materials, publications, and U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute quadrangle maps. The photographic materials are used in survey work, national register nominations, and review and monitoring of grant projects. Other scientific supplies are used in processing archeological collections. Professional supplies are needed to operate historic sites.

Current Year FY 2026:	\$52,500
Budget Request FY 2027:	\$52,500

### **Account Code - 5400 - Capital Outlay**

*Summary:* This request covers the replacement of Capital Outlay items at the State Historic Sites.

Current Year FY 2026:	\$3,500
Budget Request FY 2027:	\$3,500

## **Account Code 5500: Aid to Local Government Units and Other Assistance**

*Summary:* Each year the agency gives out aid to local units in the form of the *Historic Preservation Fund* (HPF) and *Heritage Trust Fund* (HTF) grants. These grants are governed by state and federal statutes and are funded from designated and federal funds.

***Historic Preservation Fund grants:*** The U.S. Department of the Interior through the National Park Service allocates *Historic Preservation Funds* to the Kansas Historical Society to help the agency fulfill the state's requirements in historic preservation under federal law. A portion of the funding is required to be given out in grants, with a specific percentage being given to Certified Local Governments (CLG) for appropriate projects. Current CLGs in Kansas include Abilene, Arkansas City, Dodge City, Doniphan County, Douglas County, Garden City, Hutchinson, Independence, Unified Government of Wyandotte Co. and Kansas City, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Manhattan, Newton, Olathe, Salina, Topeka, and Wichita. Project applications are evaluated by the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review. Federal funds are passed through to the top-rated projects meeting state and federally established priorities. In the past, funds have been available for two different types of projects: (1) to engage in educational activities directed toward the preservation of historic buildings and archeological resources, including writing national register nominations and; (2) survey and planning grants for local governments and organizations to conduct surveys of cultural resources in specific areas and to prepare preservation plans.

***Heritage Trust Fund grants:*** The State of Kansas established the Heritage Trust Fund (HTF) to provide grants to owners of historic properties listed in the National and State Registers. This program has a designated funding source through legislation. It is estimated that annually up to \$867,000 could be granted to local governments, private non-profit organizations, homeowners, county and local historical societies, farmers and ranchers, businessmen, and others. The exact amount varies depending upon the revenue generated by mortgage filing fees. These grants are awarded on a competitive basis to qualified applicants whose applications are evaluated per the factors identified in the authorizing legislation (K.S.A. 75-2729 & K.S.A. 79-3107b). Many projects take more than two years to complete, therefore there are funds obligated to grants that are in progress. As of September 12, 2025, there is \$1,926,882.26 obligated (encumbered) in HTF grant projects. Funds in the HTF account above and beyond those currently obligated will be used to fund grant awards in the FY 2026 grant cycle. The chart below accounts for the encumbered projects that are in progress.

Project Name / Number	County	Total paid to-date	Amount of Grant	Remaining to pay out
Plaza Theatre 2019-10	Coffey	\$49,406.66	\$90,000.00	\$40,593.34
Donaldson and Hosmer Bldg HTF 2021-16	Marion	\$31,580.23	\$89,700.00	\$58,119.77
Jayhawk Theater HTF 2021-40	Shawnee	\$0.00	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00
Strong City Opera House HTF 2021-17	Chase	\$72,189.94	\$90,000.00	\$17,810.06
Douglas County Courthouse HTF 2022-04	Douglas	\$0.00	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00
Farmers Union Coop HTF 2022-06	Wabaunsee	\$51,470.04	\$81,912.00	\$30,441.96
First Presbyterian Church HTF 2023-01	Ellis	\$70,634.30	\$84,706.00	\$14,071.70
Howard National Bank HTF 2023-03	Elk	\$81,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$9,000.00
Sol Miller Building HTF 2023-06	Doniphan	\$29,574.00	\$100,000.00	\$70,426.00
811 5th Street HTF 2024-001	Clay	\$66,240.00	\$100,000.00	\$33,760.00
Anna Richardson-Brown House HTF 2024-002	Reno	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Fox Theatre HTF 2024-004	Reno	\$62,483.76	\$100,000.00	\$37,516.24
Geary County Courthouse HTF 2024-005	Geary	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Hicks Block HTF 2024-007	Shawnee	\$0.00	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00
Main Masonic Hall Building HTF 2024-008	Montgomery	\$0.00	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00
Nora Lara Bee Memorial Library HTF 2024-010	Stafford	\$68,056.80	\$100,000.00	\$31,943.20
Old Katy Bridge HTF 2024-011	Geary	\$0.00	\$81,984.00	\$81,984.00
Original Pony Express Museum Home Station HTF 2024-012	Marshall	\$89,970.85	\$100,000.00	\$10,029.15
St. Joseph Catholic Church HTF 2024-013	Ellis	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Vernon School HTF 2024-015	Wyandotte	\$3,689.16	\$22,080.00	\$18,390.84
ATSF Steam Locomotive #3415 HTF 2025-002	Dickinson	\$0.00	\$79,152.00	\$79,152.00
Bowersock Opera House HTF 2025-003	Douglas	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Fairmount Cottage HTF 2025-004	Sedgwick	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Old Rock Island Railroad Depot HTF 2025-005	Seward	\$0.00	\$77,300.00	\$77,300.00
Old Runnymede Church HTF 2025-006	Harper	\$0.00	\$18,504.00	\$18,504.00
Old Santa Fe Railroad Depot HTF 2025-007	Franklin	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Oxley Barn HTF 2025-008	Gove	\$0.00	\$90,240.00	\$90,240.00
Saint Peter & Paul Catholic Church HTF 2025-009	Barton	\$0.00	\$57,600.00	\$57,600.00
Smith-Hollingsworth-Thomas Log Cabin HTF 2025-010	Labette	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Union Pacific Railroad Depot HTF 2025-011	Cloud	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
				\$1,926,882.26 Total

### ***Total Aid to Local Government Units and Other Assistance***

Current Year FY 2026:	\$ 280,000
Budget Request FY 2027:	\$ 280,000

### ***Total Other Assistance***

Current Year FY 2026:	\$ 687,000
Budget Request FY 2027:	\$ 687,000

## **PROGRAM #3 – EDUCATION**

### *History:*

The functions of the Education program have been part of the Kansas Historical Society since it was formed in 1875. The state history museum began originally in the Capitol and in 1914 moved to the Memorial Building. The current Kansas Museum of History opened its doors to the public in 1984. In 1988 when the state began requiring a course in Kansas history and government for all students there was an outcry from the schools asking for curriculum materials to satisfy this requirement. With the knowledge and support of the State Department of Education, the Kansas Historical Society agreed to take on this role. Kansas history, government, economics, and geography are included in state curricular standards.

### *Program Goal:*

The goal of Education is to ensure excellence in teaching Kansas history and government to students across the state and ensuring that all Kansas students have the materials to successfully meet this requirement. To collect, preserve, and interpret significant artifacts from Kansas history and to operate the state history museum to provide educational opportunities for students, their families, and the public.

### *Responsibility:*

The purpose of the Education Division is to interpret the people and events of Kansas history for students and the public. The program provides curriculum support for the teaching of Kansas history and government in K-12 classrooms. The teaching of Kansas history is required by statute and state curriculum standards. There is an increased emphasis on reading in the school curriculum, so materials developed meet this literacy need through Kansas history content. Select curriculum produced also meets STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) requirements. The program cares for the state's historic artifact collection. These artifacts tell the story of Kansas through exhibits and programs. The Capitol Visitor Center is also part of this program.

Education and museum staff have a variety of statutory responsibilities including the following:

- Operating the Capitol Visitor Center and interpreting Kansas government to K-12 students and the public through thematic tours, programs, and exhibits. Programs seek to emphasize civic engagement.
- Operating a history lab with educational and hands-on resources for K-12 students and their families.
- Managing and promoting the *Read Kansas!* program that teaches reading and writing skills using Kansas history content to students in grades K-12.
- Providing support to teachers for implementing the state's Curricular Standards for History, Government and Social Studies. The division produces curriculum materials that teach research skills that are practical and applicable to everyday life.
- Operating the Kansas Museum of History (Topeka) and developing and maintaining both permanent and temporary exhibits.
- The division develops and maintains school tours that are aligned to state curriculum standards.
- Developing and implementing public programs that address the heritage of Kansas to a wide and diverse audience.
- Maintaining the collection records to assure the legal transfer of ownership of donated objects. Work involves maintaining physical care of the 100,000+ artifacts.

#### **Education Performance Measures:**

<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>Actual FY 2023</b>	<b>Actual FY 2024</b>	<b>Actual FY 2025</b>	<b>3 Year Average</b>	<b>Projection FY 2026</b>	<b>Projection FY 2027</b>
Annual cost to serve visitors to the Kansas Museum of History and Capitol Visitor Center combined.	\$14.10	\$22.55	\$22.08	\$19.58	\$20.00	\$20.00
Annual number of curriculum materials distributed.	59,644	62,541	22,374	48,186	60,000	60,000
Annual number of artifacts loaned to other institutions.	39	11	11	20	15	15

## **EXPENDITURE JUSTIFICATION – Education Division (49500)**

### **Account Code 5100: Salaries and Wages**

*Summary:* Approved staffing for the program includes 16 FTE positions, 2 Non-FTE full-time temporary unclassified position, and 21 temporary or intermittent positions. The temporary employees serve as museum teachers and Capitol tour guides. Longevity bonuses are included where appropriate. No salary increase is budgeted.

Current Year FY 2026:	\$1,197,480
Budget Request FY 2027:	\$1,298,052

### **Account Codes 5200 – 5290 - Contractual Services**

*Summary:* Expenditures in these codes provide for creating, printing, and disseminating curriculum materials to schools statewide. The largest expenditures for the Museum in these codes are in fees. This money is used to outsource selected exhibits work and some conservation treatments. The money is also used to cover speakers' fees. Specialized equipment for K-12 programs is rented and funds are budgeted for staff travel. In FY 2026 we received a Federal Save America Treasures grant in the amount of \$37,247 with a 50% match, which has already been acquired through donations to rehabilitate two civil war flags in collections.

Current Year FY 2026:	\$92,294
Budget Request FY 2027:	\$16,500

### **Account Codes 5300 – 5390 – Commodities**

*Summary:* The general major portion of requests in these codes are for materials and supplies related to the production of exhibits. Additional expenditures provide for professional supplies including design and exhibit fabrication supplies, conservation supplies, artifact storage materials, small tool replacement, and educational programming supplies. Uniforms are also a part of this account.

Current Year FY 2025:	\$6,750
Budget Request FY 2026:	\$6,750

## **Account Code 5400 Capital Outlay**

*Summary:* No Capital Outlay will be requested during this budget cycle.

Current Year FY 2025:	\$0
Budget Request FY 2026:	\$0

## **IN-DIRECT COSTS - ADMINISTRATION**

### *History:*

The administrative functions have been part of the Kansas Historical Society since it was formed in 1875. In 1990 the agency obtained legislation to operate a third-party rental program for agency facilities.

### *Program Goal:*

The goal of the Administration program is to ensure the Kansas Historical Society is a well-run organization and that all visitors and program users are safe and informed.

### *Responsibility:*

Administration strives to create a working environment that allows Historical Society staff members and volunteers to function efficiently and creatively. This is done by providing support services to all Historical Society programs and ensuring that the agency uses state's resources in a responsible and productive way. It is also important to provide for the environmental and physical security of the staff, patrons, and collections of the Kansas Historical Society. Administration includes the office of the executive director, the business office, maintenance, information technology, and communications. The budget also includes capital improvements and pass-through funds for the Kansas Humanities Council, a non-profit organization.

Administration staff members participate in a variety of responsibilities including the following:

- Responsibility for oversight of the agency and responding to the priorities of the Governor and the Legislature. Agency planning is initiated through the executive director's office, as is the setting of priorities for the agency and the budget. A management team consisting of division and program directors assists the executive director. The executive director also works with the Kansas Historical Foundation (KSHS, Inc.) to supplement state funding with private dollars for specific projects. The executive director is the state agency liaison to the board of directors of the Kansas Historical Foundation.
- Coordinating the agency's communications with the public. The staff works to make effective use of current technologies, including social media. They oversee the content of the website and provide editorial and design services for all agency

publications, newsletters, and brochures. This program is also responsible for writing interpretative signage and interpretive articles for the agency.

- Providing fiscal responsibility for the agency. A priority is to review all procedures to assure the agency is efficient in its approach to fiscal management. Some human resource functions are outsourced to the Department of Administration through an annual contract.
- Managing the agency facilities. The agency's Topeka facilities have specialized needs for temperature and humidity control due to the delicate nature of the state's collections. The agency is the repository of state records, as well as iconic items such as the State Constitution and the state's Civil War battle flags. Unlike an office building, the Topeka facility is in use between 80 to 90 hours a week, requiring extensive custodial services. The agency normally rents its facilities to third-party clients during non-public hours.
- Providing security for both people and collections. Because the agency's Topeka facilities are in use for both day and evening programs and the fact the facility houses the state's historical collections, the agency has 24-hour security. This function is outsourced to a private contractor and the contract is managed by the administration program.
- Providing the IT infrastructure (network, server, security, storage, staff computing devices), either on premises or through a service provider, needed to deliver all KSHS programs and services. Developing or acquiring and maintaining the computer software applications required to support all Historical Society programs is also part of this program.
- Keeping in good working order the agency's 33 historic buildings and structures; 27 modern buildings and structures; 3 bridges; and 3 modern restroom facilities across the state. Each year the agency must repair and rehabilitate at least a few of these structures. The agency receives state, federal, and private funds for this purpose.
- Administering pass-through monies. The Kansas Humanities Council, a not-for-profit organization, is appropriated State General Funds each year through the agency's budget.

### Administration Performance Measures:

Performance Measures	Actual FY 2023	Actual FY 2024	Actual FY 2025	3 Year Average	Projection FY 2026	Projection FY 2027
Annual cost per visit for total agency program usage	\$.32	\$.39	.81	.51	.40	.40
Annual social media followers	80,444	85,161	89,848	85,151	94,500	99,200
Number of formal complaints about the facilities received	0	0	0	0	0	0

### EXPENDITURE JUSTIFICATION – Administration Division (01030)

#### Account Code 5100: Salaries and Wages

*Summary:* Staffing for the program includes 23 FTE positions, 1 full-time permanent non-FTE, and 10 temporary positions. These positions work in administration, information technology, maintenance, and public information. Longevity bonuses are also included where appropriate. No salary increase is budgeted.

Current Year FY 2026: \$1,683,634  
Budget Request FY 2027: \$1,829,976

#### Account Codes 5200 - 5290 - Contractual Services:

*Summary:* Most of the administration contractual services budget is fixed costs such as utilities, security, communications, and fees for SMART and OITS and bank transactions for all agency programs. The agency has worked to lower these costs but as costs increase the agency must cut other programs to cover increases. Travel is normally budgeted to allow the agency's executive director and other administrative staff to attend to state business. Administration also maintains and services the agency vehicle fleet. Costs to support IT services purchased from the Kansas Office of Information Technology Services (OITS), IT hardware and software maintenance

contracts are part of this budget. The administration budget also includes costs for communications, with all operating funds coming from fee funds. The agency budget is becoming more reliant on fees therefore it is extremely important to have some funds available to attract visitors. All advertising and communication expenses have been consolidated under administration for better tracking and evaluation. FY 2026 includes funds for the Quindaro Ruins Archeaeological Park Task Force created during the 2025 Legislative session.

Current Year FY 2026:	\$1,061,900
Budget Request FY 2027:	\$1,018,000

#### **Account Codes 5300 - 5390 - Commodities:**

*Summary:* This section of the budget contains office supplies for all programs and all locations as well as cleaning and maintenance supplies required to maintain the agency's facilities. The agency maintains 56 buildings, 5 monuments, 6 structures and 2 cemetery's across the state, with a combined 600-acres. Our Topeka facility is open to the public 356 days a year. This creates a high demand for supplies to maintain the facility. Both the interior of the buildings and the 80-acre grounds are heavily used throughout the year. The facility is unique as it operates as much more than an office building. Visitors use the facilities for research, educational programming, tourism opportunities, business meetings, and even weddings and anniversary celebrations. The diversity of uses places unusual wear and tear on the facilities and requires a wide range of supplies. The Administration Division is responsible for the upkeep of the grounds as well as the buildings.

Current Year FY 2026:	\$118,862
Budget Request FY 2027:	\$118,500

#### **Account Code 5400 - Capital Outlay:**

*Summary:* Each year it is necessary for the agency to replace essential equipment. The variety of equipment ranges from carpentry tools, cameras, servers, computers, and a range of custodial and maintenance equipment. The agency also maintains computers, tablets, and video monitors for public use. The agency owns 10 motor vehicles.

Current Year FY 2026:	\$69,000
Budget Request FY 2027:	\$71,500

## **Aid to Local Units and State Aid – Account Code 5500**

### *Humanities Kansas (formally Kansas Humanities Council)*

*Summary:* Humanities Kansas is a nonprofit organization that connects Kansans to history, ideas, and each other to strengthen our communities and our nation's democracy. Humanities Kansas's grants and resources are used by organizations across the state in communities of all sizes and provide important opportunities for Kansans. State funds support Kansas communities in two ways:

1. Culture Preservation Grants assist in preserving local history and making it accessible to the community. In FY26, \$30,000 will support up to 10 Culture Preservation Grants that preserve local history and make it available for schoolchildren, families, tourists, senior citizens, researchers, and others.

On average, more than 50% of the Culture Preservation Grants are awarded to communities with populations below 20,000. Preserving and sharing local history is valued by Kansans.

2. Community Resource assistance grants support grassroots continuing education opportunities focused on Kansas history and heritage. In FY27, \$20,501 will support 50 in-person or online events reaching Kansans of all ages.

Last year, 251 nonprofit Kansas organizations used community assistance grants and other Humanities Kansas resources to bring in Kansans to talk about history and heritage. These events reached nearly 608,000 people and more than 60% were held in communities with populations below 20,000. Kansans appreciate opportunities to discuss history.

<b>Humanities Kansas Federal Fiscal Year 2025</b>					
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Program Expense</b>	<b>Admin/Overhead</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>State Funded</b>	<b>Percentage of Expenses Funded by State</b>
607,994	\$832,715	\$461,542	\$1,294,257	\$50,501	5%

Chart Clarification:

- Attendance number reflects all HK programs supported by federal, private, or state funds.
- Expenses reflect HK's entire program budget, including federal, private, and state funds.
- State funds do not pay for any HK administrative or overhead expenses.
- The chart above reflects HK's fiscal year 2024 (most recent complete year of data) and this information can be found in HK's FY24 annual report.

Current Year FY 2026:	\$50,501
Budget Request FY 2027:	\$50,501

**Capital Improvements –**

*Summary:* The goal for capital improvements is to ensure the safety of the public as well as the long-term preservation and upkeep of the Kansas Historical Society's 56 buildings, 5 monuments, and 6 structures throughout Kansas and 600 acres of land statewide. The historic buildings are preserved according to the national *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* (National Park Service). The agency does not acquire land directly but does so through legislation. The agency's headquarters in Topeka, including the Kansas Museum of History, State Archives, administrative offices, Potawatomi Mission, Stach schoolhouse, and a warehouse, sit on 80 acres of interpreted prairie and woodlands. The state acquired the land in 1973 for the specific use of the Kansas Historical Society whose functions were previously housed in the Capitol and Memorial Hall. The agency also owns 16 historic sites throughout the state.

Annually the agency is provided with \$375,000 of SGF for cyclical maintenance and emergency repairs. Other capital improvement projects are requested on an individual basis. The Kansas Historical Society annually submits a five-year Capital Improvements Plan to detail upcoming projects. Our top priority for capital improvement funding is always the \$375,000 of SGF for cyclical maintenance and emergency repairs. Whenever possible the agency tries to find private money or grants to help fund larger projects. To obtain outside funds, it is often necessary to have matching state funds. FY 2026 includes the supplemental change package #3, for the Shawnee Indian Mission – West Building rehabilitation project in which the agency received a Federal Save America Treasure's grant. FY 2027 includes enhancement change package #1 Capital Improvement Emergency Repair, enhancement change package #2 Mobile Shelving Unit Repair, enhancement change package #3 Grinter Place ADA and Visitor Parking.

Current Year FY 2026: \$ 586,019  
 Budget Request FY 2027: \$ 1,791,000

FY 2026 Capital Improvements			
Location	Funding	Amount	Project Description
Emergency Repairs (statewide)	SGF	\$375,000	This annual allocation covers routine cyclical maintenance and emergency repairs for 56 buildings, 5 monuments and 6 structures.
Shawnee Indian Mission – West Building Rehabilitation	SGF/Federal/ Private	\$200,000	This will be to rehabilitation the west building at the Shawnee Indian Mission in Fairway, KS. We received a \$412,500 Save America Treasure's grant from the federal government with 50% match. This project will be done during FY 2026 and FY 2027. Supplement change package#3.
FY 2027 Capital Improvements			
Project	Funding	Amount	Description
Emergency Repairs (statewide)	SGF	\$625,000	This annual allocation covers routine cyclical maintenance and emergency repairs for 57 buildings, 5 monuments and 6 structures. Enhancement change package #1
Shawnee Indian Mission – West Building Rehabilitation	SGF/Federal/ Private	\$625,000	This will be to rehabilitation the west building at the Shawnee Indian Mission in Fairway, KS. We received a \$412,500 Save America Treasure's grant from the federal government with 50% match. Supplement change package#3.

Mobile Shelving Unit Repair	SGF	\$341,000	Refurbish and update the high-density mobile library records shelving system to maximize storage space. Enhancement change package #2
Grinter Place: ADA and visitor parking	SGF and Federal	\$200,000	The ADA and visitor parking area has become deteriorated past repair. This will replace the asphalt ADA and visitor parking area for visitors. Enhancement change package #3