September 15, 2026

Mr. Adam Proffitt, Director
Division of the Budget
900 SW Jackson Ste 504
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Mr. Proffitt:

For your consideration, I hereby submit the Fiscal Years 2027, 2028, and 2029 budget document for the Kansas Board of Examiners in Optometry. It has been prepared in accordance with the instructions transmitted with your letter of July 6, 2026. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the information and explanation included in this budget request are correct and complete.

I am prepared to provide any additional information which you or your budget analyst may require.

Sincerely,

Callie McAtee
Executive Officer

cc: Arianna Waddell, Fiscal Analyst
Legislative Research Department
Room 68-West, State Capitol Building
300 SW Tenth Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612-1504

Mission

The Kansas Board of Examiners in Optometry (KSSBEO) shall administer and enforce the provisions of Kansas Optometry Law for the benefit of public trust so that the highest quality of eye health and vision care is provided to the citizens of Kansas.

Philosophy

The Kansas Board of Examiners in Optometry shall act in accordance with the highest standards of ethics, accountability, efficiency, and openness. We believe that by the vigorous enforcement of the law, we protect the public and ensure that the highest quality of comprehensive eye health and vision care is available to the citizens of Kansas and that it is delivered by qualified optometric practitioners.

Statutory History

The Board of Optometry was created in 1909. Three members constituted the Board. In 1909, approximately 70 licenses were held. There are 761 licensed optometrists today; 617 of these are practicing in Kansas, 109 maintain licensure in Kansas but practice in another state. There are 35 licensees with an inactive license. The sections of the law governing optometry are found in K.S.A. 65-1501 to 65-1526, as amended. Rules and regulations relative to these statutes have been promulgated. The law has had seven major changes:

- In 1977, qualified optometrists were allowed to utilize pharmaceutical agents for diagnosis.
- In 1987, qualified optometrists were permitted to treat certain eye diseases with topical (i.e., drops or ointments) pharmaceutical agents and remove embedded foreign bodies that do not penetrate into the eyeball.
- In 1996, qualified optometrists were permitted to treat Adult Open Angle Glaucoma. Other changes which this law effected include a requirement for minimum of $1,000,000 in professional liability insurance coverage.
- In 1999, therapeutic licensees were allowed to prescribe oral drugs for ocular conditions, some in consultation with an ophthalmologist.
- In 2005, licensees were required to obtain a therapeutic license by 2008 and a glaucoma license by 2010.
- In 2012, one level of licensure, require FBI background checks, require new graduates of optometry to have 24 hours of CE their first year, and established a litigation fund.
- In 2026, the scope of practice was expanded for licensees, including additional procedures including laser and minor surgical procedures, while requiring a separate Board credential for procedures involving lasers or injections. Other changes included advanced procedures reporting, heightened standards of care for credentialed licensees and inclusion in the Health Care Stabilization Fund.

Goals: To license qualified optometrists.
To investigate reports of infractions of the law and administer appropriate resolutions.

1.0 Goal-To license qualified optometrists.

1.1 Objective-Assure a level of minimum skills for new graduates applying for KS licensing.

Strategies:

- Require applicants to meet standards for license application.
- Require criminal background check.
- Update exam each year to assure that current laws are included and to assure a minimum level of practical skills.

Performance Measures

	'22 Actual	**'23 Actual**	**'24 Actual**	**'25 Actual**	**'26 Actual**	**'27 Goal**	**'28 Goal**	**'29 Goal**
Number of applicants	16	18	18	23	17	25	25	25
Number of passing scores	15	16	18	21	17	25	25	25
% passing exam	94	88	100	91	100	100	100	100

1.2 Objective-Assure qualifications of optometrists licensed in other states who are applying for reciprocal licensing.

Strategies:

- Require documentation of education, testing and current practice in good standing.
- Require passing an exam on Kansas Optometry Law.
- Require professional references for reciprocal license applicants.
- Require criminal background check.

Performance Measures

	'22 Actual	**'23 Actual**	**'24 Actual**	**'25 Actual**	**'26 Actual**	**'27 Goal**	**'28 Goal**	**'29 Goal**
Total no. applicants	9	9	11	9	14	10	10	10
Number meeting requirements	6	9	9	9	12	10	10	10
Number incomplete	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
% meeting requirements	67	100	82	100	85	100	100	100

2.0 Goal-To investigate reports of infractions of Optometry Law and administer an appropriate resolution

2.1 Objective-Respond promptly to complaints from consumers.

Strategies:

- Call, email or write an acknowledgement of receipt to consumer complaints within one working day from the time received.
- Follow up promptly with appropriate strategy to resolve the complaint.

Performance Measures

	'22 Actual	'23 Actual	'24 Actual	'25 Actual	'26 Actual	'27 Goal	'28 Goal	'29 Goal
No of complaints	5	16	12	36	27	N/A	N/A	N/A
Response time to initial complaint	1.0 day	1.0 day	1.0 day	1.0 day	1.0 day	1.0 day	1.0 day	1.0
Average Time to closure	37 days	48 days	72 days	48 days	26 days	NA	NA	NA

2.2 Objective-Respond promptly to reports of cosmetic contact lens sales without a prescription.

Strategies:

- Letter from attorney to seller of contact lenses about K.S.A. 65-1504b.
- Investigation at site of contact lens sale.
- Latest trend is selling cosmetic contact lenses on Facebook and internet.
- Become proactive with Public Service Announcements (PSAs) about the dangers of using cosmetic contact lenses without a prescription. Posters have been mailed out yearly to all Kansas middle and high schools beginning in October 2017.
- With the low number of reports for cosmetic contact lenses and rising costs of materials for printing and shipping; The Board has decided to pause the Public Service Announcement (PSA) beginning September 2026.

Performance Measures

	'22 Actual	'23 Actual	'24 Actual	'25 Actual	'26 Goal	'27 Goal	'28 Goal	'29 Goal
No. of reports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Response time to initial report	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Time to closure	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

3.0 Goal-To complete online renewals promptly.

3.1 Objective-Complete online renewals and email renewal certificate.

Strategies

- KSSBEO paid licensees' subscription for the OE Tracker (Optometric Education Tracker Database) beginning in FY2018. All continuing education should be in licensing database and licensee should only have to update information and pay renewal fee.
- The Board also receives a 40% group discount which saves the licensees over $7,000 if they had to pay the subscription fees themselves.
- Starting in 2028, biennial renewals will be determined by license number. Licenses with odd numbers will renew in odd years, while those with even numbers will renew in even years. FY2028 & FY2029 will serve as transitional years. From FY2030 onward, renewals will be evenly distributed between the years.
- In February 2027, the Board will transition to the Accela licensing platform. Renewals will be expedited, and renewal certificates will be issued electronically in accordance with SB66.

Performance Measures

	'22 Actual	'23 Actual	'24 Actual	'25 Actual	'26 Actual	'27 Goal	'28 Goal	'29 Goal
Number of Renewals	338	381	342	377	367	404	360	400
Average days to complete renewal	1 days	1 days	2 days	1 day	1 day	1 day	1 day	1 day
% Renewals completed in one day	72	86	92	65*	82	100	100	100
% CE requirements in OE Tracker	92.2	92.7	91.1	90	90	95	95	95

*EO in training, delay in processing renewals

4.0 Goal-To ensure quality of non-COPE CE meets Boards standards.

4.1 Objective-Ensure that all continuing education that is not COPE (Council on Optometric Practitioner Education) approved meets the generally accepted optometric body of knowledge and must be pertinent to the clinical practice of primary care optometry and/or optometric sub-specialties.

- All non-COPE approved CE providers must submit a comprehensive program package that includes:
  - Course Outline
  - Curriculum vita and/or biographical sketches of instructors

Performance Measures

	'22 Actual	'23 Actual	'24 Actual	'25 Actual	'26 Actual	'27 Goal	'28 Goal	'29 Goal
Number of non-COPE CE hours approved	50	78	54	34	80	50	50	50

Overview of Agency Budget at Each Request Level

Current Year
The current year budget will maintain existing staff.

FY2027, FY2028, FY2029 Resources
Current licensing fees are adequate to fund FY2027, FY2028, and FY2029.

Expenditure Justification

Object Code 100—Salaries and Wages. The agency has 1.0 FTE positions. This includes a Board Appointed Secretary/Treasurer who receives a fixed annual salary as an unclassified state employee. A 1.0 FTE Executive Officer who manages the daily activity of the office and assists the Board in their regulatory affairs.

FY2027: $95,314. This is a reduction from previous two years when staffing levels returns to normal levels. Also includes an enhancement of $1,815 pay raise from the 2025 legislature

FY2028: $100,766 represents the amount needed to maintain existing staff.

FY2029: $98,929 represents the amount needed to maintain existing staff.

Object Codes 200-290 Contractual Services. The agency's major expenditures in this category are for rent, communications, travel for board meetings, administering exams, attending the national meeting of optometry board members, licensees' subscription to the OE Tracker, and contractual services for legal assistance. The contracted attorney represents and advises the Board on legal matters, including the investigation of complaints.

FY2027 Current Resources - $161,022. There are increases for legal counsel and OITS. The Board continues to pay for the licensees' subscription to the OE Tracker. It also includes travel to the national conference for the Board and staff which is anticipated to be held in Boston, MA.

2717 Optometry Fee Fund:	$158,522
2565 Criminal History and Fingerprint Fund:	$2,500

FY2028 Future Resources - $164,502. There are increases for legal counsel and OITS. The Board continues to pay for the licensees' subscription to the OE Tracker. It also includes travel to the national conference for the Board and staff which will be held in Seattle, WA

2717 Optometry Fee Fund:	$162,002
2565 Criminal History and Fingerprint Fund:	$2,500

FY2029 Future Resources - $164,502. There are increases for legal counsel and OITS. The Board continues to pay for the licensees' subscription to the OE Tracker. It also includes travel to the national conference for the Board and staff which will be held in TBD.

2717 Optometry Fee Fund:	$162,002
2565 Criminal History and Fingerprint Fund:	$2,500

Object Codes 300-390 Commodities. The agency has expenditures in this category for supplies that are primarily necessary for new and current licensing and the annual examination.

FY2027, FY2028, and FY2029 Current & Future Resources - $1,200 for each year represents funds necessary to maintain existing programs.

Object Code – 400 Capital Outlay.

FY2027, FY2028, and FY2029 Current & Future Resources – No Capital outlay is anticipated for FY2027, FY2028 or FY2029.

Items Affecting Fee Fund Balance.

In FY2016, $100,000 was swept from the Optometry Fee Fund (2717) and $50,000 from the Optometry Litigation Fund (2547). The Board also paid the Board of Pharmacy a total of $21,095 to help fund the K-TRACS program in FY2018, FY2019 and FY2020. In FY2024, $93,000 was transferred back to the Optometry Fee Fund (2717) from the Optometry Litigation fund (2547).

The projected date of the new licensing database is February 2027. Starting with 2028 renewals, biennial renewals will be determined by license number. Licenses with odd numbers will renew in odd years, while those with even numbers will renew in even years. This transition will ensure a more balanced number of licensed optometrists renewing their license each year and produce a more balanced fee fund for future years.