LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

Fiscal Years 2028 and 2029

Submitted to the Office of the Governor, Budget Division and the Legislative Budget Board

by

Texas Ethics Commission

August 07, 2026

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Texas Ethics Commission
90th Regular Session

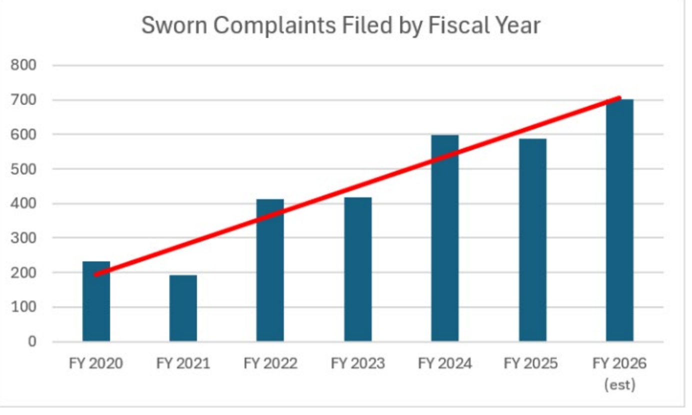
Submitted to the Office of the Governor, Budget Division, and the Legislative Budget Board

Administrator's Statement

The mission of the Texas Ethics Commission ("TEC") is to promote public confidence in government. The laws under the TEC's jurisdiction seek to fulfill that mission by enabling voters to make informed decisions in the political process — decisions based in part on knowing the sources of financial support for candidates, the identity and activities of those who communicate with public officials to influence government action, and the financial interests of state officers.

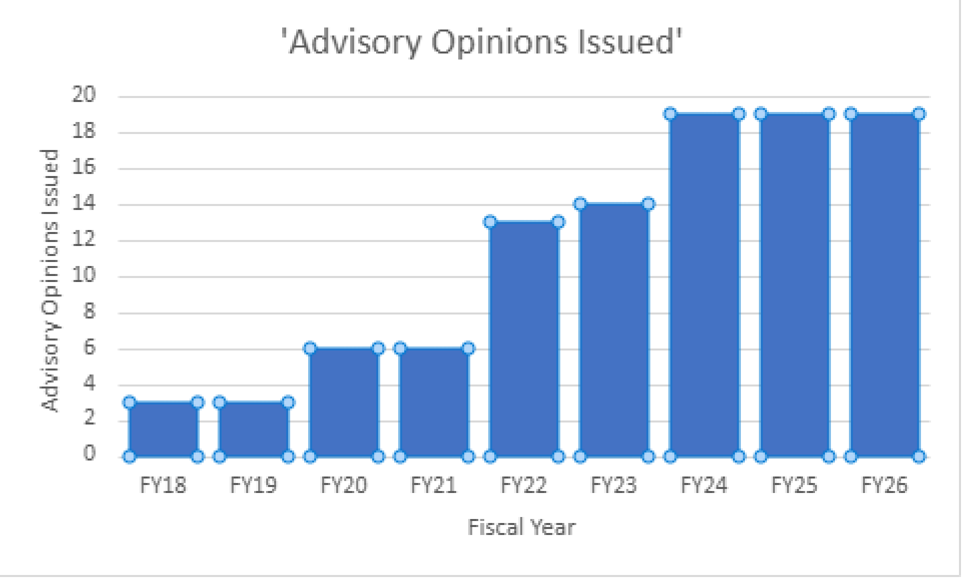
The TEC's Workload Continues to Grow

The TEC's workload has continued to grow across every division. Sworn complaint filings have risen sharply. The TEC went from receiving 192 complaints in FY2021 to a projected 702 in FY 2026. If currents trends hold, sworn complaints are conservatively projected to reach roughly 845 per year in the 2028–29 biennium — a 60% increase over the 500 complaints per year for which the TEC's current budget was designed.



Responding to direction from Sunset Advisory Commission, the TEC, through its Office of General Counsel has increased the number of trainings it offers, including monthly webinars and in-person seminars tailored to the needs of novice filers. The TEC is also revising its instructions and guides to coincide with the launch of its new website, slated for the first quarter of fiscal year 2027.

The Office of General Counsel has also seen the number of advisory opinions issued per year remain steady over the past three fiscal years after increasing more than five-fold from 2018 to 2024.



The Office of General Counsel led a complete rule review during which the TEC repealed 145 rules it determined to be no longer unnecessary or duplicative of statute. The TEC also amended 34 rules and adopted seven new rules in response to legislative changes and court or attorney general opinions.

The Computer Services Division and Disclosure Filings Division have worked together to process the ever-growing number of reports and to test and deploy new EFS improvements. The TEC anticipates deploying significant improvements to the EFS in Fiscal Year 2027, including a filer dashboard displaying all late reports and the associated civil penalties, the ability to contest those penalties online with a click of a button, and the ability to pay online.

The TEC is also carrying out the corrective actions identified in its Sunset review and the State Auditor's Office (SAO) audit, both of which pointed to the need for stronger contract management, strategic technology leadership, and competitive compensation to retain experienced staff. The exceptional items below respond directly to those pressures.

Summary of Exceptional Items Requested

The following seven exceptional items are listed in priority order. Detailed narratives, biennial costs, and strategy allocations for each item follow in the Exceptional Items section below.

#	Exceptional Item	Biennial Cost	Strategy / Strategies
1	Salary Increases (All Divisions)	$236,544	A.1.1, A.1.2, A.1.3, B.1.1, B.1.2.
2	Cloud Hosting and AWS Cost Increase	$90,000 increase	B.1.2
3	Restore 3 Percent Baseline Reduction — Fund Web Administrator/Data Analyst Position (CSD)	$233,905	B.1.2
4	Electronic Filing System Enhancements	$275,000 (capital)	B.1.2
5	Software License Cost Increases and New Productivity Tools	$326,573	B.1.2
6	Fund Retirement Rider	$130,766	A.1.3., B.1.1, B.1.2
7	Hardware Refresh (Laptops)	$52,500 (capital)	B.1.2
	Total	**$1,345,288**	

Exceptional Items

1. Salary Increases (All Divisions)

Biennial cost: $236,544. (All strategies: A.1.1 Disclosure Filing, A.1.2 Office of the General Counsel, A.1.3 Enforcement, B.1.1 Central Administration, B.1.2 Information Resources)

The TEC's most important resource is its staff. As a small agency that performs specialized legal and technical work, the TEC competes directly with larger state agencies and the private sector for attorneys, technologists, and experienced administrative professionals. Persistent salary compression and below-market pay have made it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain qualified employees, and turnover in key positions imposes real costs on the agency's ability to meet its statutory deadlines.

The TEC has seen turnover in three of its five division directors in the last 18 months and the remaining two are retirement eligible. The TEC has had three executive directors in the last nine years — an average tenure of about three years. Agency wide, between fiscal year 2025 and 2026, 11 employees separated from the agency, representing 38.7 percent turnover. This exceptional item requests funding for salary adjustments across all divisions to address compression, restore competitiveness with statewide and regional benchmarks, and retain institutional knowledge. The division-specific components are summarized below.

a. **Adjust Non-Exempt Positions ($112,322.50 per year, including the GAA retirement contribution add-on)**

The TEC requests a four percent salary increase for its non-exempt employees. The last salary adjustments for non-exempt TEC employees, besides attorneys, were granted by the 88th Legislature. (Attorneys were given a statewide 6% increase during the 89th Legislature). Since then, the cost of living has continued to increase. Salary adjustments are necessary to maintain and recruit skilled employees. A four percent across-the-board increase for current non-exempt employees is a $111,763.68 annual base cost. Per the LAR instructions, exceptional items affecting salary levels must also include the 0.5% Additional Payroll Contribution for Retirement required by GAA Article IX, Section 17.06 ($558.82 per year), bringing the total request to $112,322.50 per year, or $224,645 across the biennium. This item is spread across all strategies in proportion to each division's non-exempt payroll (A.1.1 Disclosure Filing, A.1.2 Office of the General Counsel, A.1.3 Enforcement, B.1.1 Central Administration).

4% Non-Exempt Salary Adjustments		0.5%	4% Total	Exempt Salary Adjustments		.5%	Exempt Adj. Total
A.1.1 (DFS)	$16,805.68	$84.02	$16,889.70				
A.1.2 (OGC)	$25,016.00	$125.08	$25,141.08		$5,920.00	$29.60	$5,949.60
A.1.3 (ENF)	$32,392.00	$161.96	$32,553.96				
B.1.1 (ADM)	$13,720.00	$68.6	$13,788.60				
B.1.2 (CSD)	$23,830.00	$119.15	$23,949.15				
Total	**$111,763.68**	**$558.82**	**$112,322.50**		**$5,920.00**	**$29.60**	**$5,949.60**

b. **Adjust General Counsel Salary (Strategy A.1.2, Office of the General Counsel) $5,949.60 per year, including the GAA retirement contribution add-on**

The TEC requests an adjustment to the General Counsel's exempt salary to $160,000 to help address pay compression and keep the position more competitive with comparable state agencies. The increase represents a $5,920 yearly increase over the current $154,080 salary. Per the LAR instructions, the 0.5% Additional Payroll Contribution for Retirement adds $29.60 per year, bringing the total request to $5,949.60 per year, or $11,899.20 for the biennium.

The general counsel is central to the TEC's policymaking. The agency's unsalaried commissioners rely on this position to guide the resolution of every complaint, advisory opinion request, and rulemaking. The general counsel drafts each opinion the agency issues, helps set and advance its rulemaking agenda, advises on the disposition of complaints, and manages outside litigation that often turns on the constitutionality of state law.

The role demands specialized command of the statutes within the TEC's jurisdiction and the judicial precedent interpreting individuals' constitutional rights to participate in political and electoral activity. It also requires the ability to build bipartisan agreement in a contentious area of law. The TEC's board is constitutionally split four Republicans and four Democrats, and its most significant actions—findings of violations, adoption of new rules—require a supermajority of six of eight commissioners. The general counsel must therefore not only analyze the law but craft and advocate positions that can win support across the aisle.

The position also carries significant management duties, directing a division responsible for core TEC functions, including legal guidance to the regulated community, review of penalty waiver and reduction requests, and a responsive on-demand legal helpline. Finally, the general counsel serves as deputy director, supporting the executive director in daily operations and acting in that role when needed.

The requested salary of $160,000 would fall within the SAO General Counsel IV range ($135,577–$229,295), below the General Counsel V range ($164,048–$277,446), and below the Deputy Director midpoint.

2. Cloud Hosting and AWS Cost Increase

Biennial cost: $90,000 increase (raising budgeted cloud hosting to $337,500 for the biennium; Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources)

The TEC hosts its electronic filing system, public disclosure portal, and supporting infrastructure in the cloud, principally through Amazon Web Services (AWS), supplemented by the Department of Information Resources' Data Center Services (DCS). Cloud-hosting costs have risen with the growth in disclosure-data volume, public traffic to the agency's websites, storage, and the compute required to keep the filing system available and performant. The TEC requests that its cloud-hosting appropriation — currently governed by rider — be increased by $90,000 for the biennium to absorb these AWS and data-center cost increases. With the increase, budgeted cloud-hosting costs would be approximately $165,000 in FY2028 and $172,500 in FY2029, for a biennial total of approximately $337,500.

Because cloud costs are usage-based and can vary from month to month, the TEC also requests that any unexpended balance from FY2028 be permitted to forward to FY2029. Without this adjustment, the agency would have insufficient funds to host its website and electronic filing system, forcing the TEC to cut payroll to keep these critical systems operating.

3. Restore Funding for Position Cut in the 3 Percent Baseline Reduction/ Fund Web Administrator/Data Analyst Position (CSD)

Biennial cost: $233,905 (Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources).

a. Restore Funding for the Position Cut in the 3 Percent Baseline Reduction

TEC requests that funding be restored for the position cut in the 3 percent baseline reduction.

As part of its 3 percent reduction to baseline funding, the TEC identified eliminating an attorney position in the Office of the General Counsel that was left open in July 2026 by a retirement. The duties of the helpline attorney include answering calls from the public, state officers, and employees to help callers with questions regarding the laws and rules enforced by the TEC, updating guides and instructions, and conducting training seminars. The TEC has shifted resources so that the function of the helpline attorney is still met without the position.

The 88th Legislature reduced the number of FTEs from 34.5 to 28.4. The 89th Legislature added back three, to bring the total FTEs to 31.4. Rather than restoring the attorney position in the Office of the General Counsel, the TEC requests that the associated baseline funding be restored and reallocated to Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources, to fund a Web Administrator/Data Analyst position in the Computer Services Division — leaving the total FTEs flat at 31.4.

This reallocation funds the Web Administrator/Data Analyst position at $115,224 per year — the same level as the eliminated attorney position — rather than the lower rate that position would otherwise carry. This reflects the TEC's assessment, informed by its Sunset review, that the Computer Services Division's unmet capacity for public-facing web development and data analysis is currently a higher-priority use of this restored funding.

b. Web Administrator/Data Analyst (Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources)

Annual cost: $116,952 ($115,224 base salary plus $1,728 GAA payroll contribution add-on)

The TEC is requesting the funding and authority to hire one additional full-time employee to maintain and continue building the agency's new website and to expand the TEC's capacity to analyze the disclosure data it collects. The TEC's most important function is to serve as the repository for statutorily required campaign finance, lobby, and personal financial disclosure information and to assist the public in accessing that information. On average between fiscal years 2021 and 2025, the TEC received more than 97,745 disclosure documents from more than 8,559 filers each year and made 99.96 percent of those reports available to the public within two working days. The volume and richness of this data continue to grow, but the TEC does not currently have a dedicated position responsible for presenting that data to the public in a usable form or for analyzing it to support the TEC's regulatory work.

The position's first responsibility would be to maintain and continue the build-out of the TEC's new website. This includes ongoing administration of the site, developing and refining the pages and tools through which the public searches and retrieves disclosure data, and ensuring that the vast quantity of information reported to the agency is organized so that any Texan can sort, search, and comprehend it without staff assistance. This work directly advances the TEC's strategic action items to improve existing procedures for making reports and data available to the public and to improve the public's ability to review and analyze the data in public disclosure filings.

The position's second responsibility would be to analyze campaign finance and other disclosure data to identify patterns and trends relevant to compliance, and to gather and prepare data from the agency's campaign finance and other databases for use by the Disclosure Filings, Enforcement, and Office of the General Counsel divisions. By building reusable queries, dashboards, and reports, this position would streamline processes that other divisions currently perform manually and would allow the agency to make better, data-informed decisions across its regulatory functions, as directed by the Sunset Advisory Committee. The TEC's current programmers and systems administrator are fully occupied maintaining the electronic filing system and internal infrastructure and do not have the capacity to take on sustained data-analysis and public-facing web development work.

The TEC is requesting that the position be funded at $115,224 per year — matching the salary of the eliminated attorney position and well above the position's typical classification midpoint — to attract and retain a highly qualified candidate for this expanded technical and public-facing data role.

This position represents an ongoing cost that will need to continue in subsequent biennia.

4. Electronic Filing System Enhancements

Biennial cost: $275,000 with UB ($137,500 per fiscal year). (Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources; capital)

The TEC is charged by statute to provide an electronic filing system for the State's campaign finance, lobby, and personal financial statement filers. The filing system is managed by the vendor that developed the software, and that vendor must make the code changes to improve the system. Enhancements are not covered under the maintenance contract and are billed at an hourly rate of $150. Enhancements are required whenever legislation changes and new Commission rules modify the underlying business rules of the filing system, and when the agency or filers identify changes that improve usability and staff productivity. Ethics reform is a recurring legislative priority, and the TEC anticipates source-code modifications will again be required to implement changes passed during the legislative session.

This request continues the previously appropriated enhancement funding but request UB authority from FY 2028 into FY 2029. The TEC expects to complete major improvements to the EFS in fiscal year 2027, including automating and electronically transmitting late-filing notices; modernizing account management, including a filer dashboard to pay or contest late-filing penalties; and automating the tracking of collections referrals to the Office of the Attorney General. Continued funding for improvements would allow the TEC to improve the EFS user experience to reduce or eliminate common errors or inaccurate reports and to allow automated treasurer appointments. Without this funding, the TEC may be unable to make enhancements required by legislative mandate, creating a risk that filed reports will not comply with current law.

5. Software License Cost Increases and New Productivity Tools

Biennial cost: $326,573 (Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources).

The software and subscription licenses essential to the agency's legal, enforcement, and administrative work are subject to recurring cost increases, and two new tools — an enterprise AI platform and a dedicated helpdesk/softphone system — are needed to keep pace with the agency's growing call and case volume (more than 32,000 inbound contacts per year). Items are grouped by function below; the consolidated cost table follows.

a) **Cybersecurity and Networking Security Software/Hardware Next-Generation Firewall Subscription Renewal**

Cost: $30,000 (Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources). Renewal due FY2028.

The TEC relies on network switches, firewalls, and the supporting firmware and security software to ensure secure, reliable network operations and protect TEC information consistent with statewide technology and cybersecurity requirements. The support and security software renewal is due in FY2028.

The TEC procured Fortinet FortiGate 200F next generation firewalls in 2024 to provide secure, reliable protection for the TEC's internal network. These firewalls rely on three-year subscriptions that deliver essential cybersecurity functions, including critical security and threat intelligence updates, IPS signature updates, malware and ransomware detection capabilities, web filtering and application control updates, vendor support for incident response, and continuous firmware and vulnerability patching. As these subscriptions expire in December 2027, the TEC requests renewal funding to maintain statewide aligned security protections and ensure uninterrupted, secure operation of TEC systems.

b) Cisco SMARTNet Support Renewal

Cost: $12,000 (Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources). Renewal due FY2029.

The TEC relies on four Cisco Catalyst 930048P switches as core components of the TEC's network infrastructure. These switches provide the routing and switching required to support all on-premises devices and ensure stable, secure network operations. These switches require three-year Cisco SMARTNet support subscriptions that provide essential maintenance and security functions, including hardware replacement, technical support, firmware and software updates, and continuous access to critical security and vulnerability patches. As the current three-year SMARTNet term expires in August 2029, the TEC requests renewal funding to ensure the network remains secure, reliable, and compliant with statewide technology and security standards.

c) **Sworn Complaint Case Management**
Cost: $69,000 (Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources). Renewal due FY2028.

The TEC procured case management software in August 2020 through a competitive bid process. The subscription is $33,000 per year, with an annual escalation of 8–10%. TEC requests $69,000 for the biennium (Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources) see cost table in this section.

The case management software is a key public tool used by the public to submit sworn complaints. It is vital for keeping the filing process simple, direct and accessible to the citizens of Texas. The TEC received specific funding for case management software from the 88th Legislature but that funding was not continued by the 89th.

d) **Jaspersoft**
Cost: $1,000 (Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources). Renewal due FY2028.

Jaspersoft renewal continues to increase by 8-10 percent resulting in a $1,000 shortfall. Jaspersoft is needed to provide a reliable, structured method for pulling data directly from the TEC database and presenting it to the public in a clear, meaningful format that supports their business needs. The tool enables consistent, accurate dissemination of TEC data without requiring custom development or manual processes. Its use ensures that public-facing information remains accessible, standardized, and aligned with the TEC's transparency and service objectives.

e) **Enterprise AI**
Cost: $60,000 (Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources). New- FY2028.

The Enterprise AI Platform is needed to provide secure, governed access to advanced AI capabilities that support enforcement, technical, and administrative workflows through document summarization, discovery review, drafting assistance, structured analysis, code support, and data-driven research. Funding is required to procure an enterprise-grade solution that meets statewide AI governance requirements and delivers these capabilities through a subscription and controlled-consumption model. The platform will enhance efficiency across multiple divisions while remaining fully internal and separate from public-facing systems

f) Help Desk Tracking and Softphone Software

Cost: $118,500 (Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources). New- FY2028.

The TEC strives to provide excellent customer service. To track, coordinate, and quickly and accurately answer questions from the more than 32,000 inbound calls the TEC receives each year, the TEC requests a new, dedicated helpdesk and softphone solution. The recent Sunset report included a management recommendation for the TEC to better track and coordinate its responses to calls for assistance and use the data generated from those calls to improve its public-facing guides and instructions.

The TEC has stepped up its efforts to carry out this recommendation, but a purpose-built help-desk platform — most of which now include AI-assisted ticket routing, categorization, and knowledge-base suggestions — would meaningfully improve response time and reduce staff workload.

Based on the TEC's call volume — more than 32,000 inbound contacts annually across roughly 35 lines — the TEC has budgeted a combined helpdesk and softphone subscription covering all 37 staff at $41,800 in FY2028 and $43,700 in FY2029, plus a one-time configuration and training cost of approximately $33,000 (Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources).

g) Office and Productivity Software

Cost: $36,073 (Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources). Renewal due FY2028.

The TEC relies on several subscription-based software tools necessary to support core administrative, operational, and legal functions. Costs for these tools increase annually; without continued funding the agency risks operational inefficiencies, reduced productivity, and security and compatibility gaps.

- Desktop Productivity: Microsoft 365 ($13,200/FY 28 and $13,800/ FY 29) and Adobe Acrobat Pro ($3,510/FY 28 and $3,515/FY 29). Relied on to support daily work, document creation, communication, and file management in SharePoint across staff, commissioners, and agency technology resources.
- Website Infrastructure, Media Production, and Digital Content Tools ($1,001/ FY 28 and $1,047/ FY 29): Techsmith Camtasia is used to prepare and reformat agency videos. Techsmith Screencast is used to stream agency videos on the website. Licenses for essential WordPress plugins, including SearchWP, ACF Table Field Pro, and The Events Calendar, all of which support the development, publishing, search capabilities, and maintenance of the agency's public facing website.

Tool / License	FY2028	FY2029	Biennium	Strateg y	Existing/ New	Procurement Method
Cybersecurity/Next-Gen Firewall (FortiGate) subscription renewal	$30,000	—	$30,000	B.1.2	Existing	Cooperative contract
Cisco SMARTNet support renewal	—	$12,000	$12,000	B.1.2	Existing	Cooperative contract
Microsoft 365 (staff, commissioners)	$13,200	$13,800	$27,000	B.1.2	Existing	Cooperative contract
Adobe Acrobat Pro (35 licenses)	$3,510	$3,515	$7,025	B.1.2	Existing	Cooperative contract
Website plug-ins & Techsmith (Camtasia, Screencast, SearchWP, ACF Table Field Pro, The Events Calendar)	$1,001	$1,047	$2,048	B.1.2	Existing	Cooperative contract
Jaspersoft reporting (annual cost increase)	$1,000	—	$1,000	B.1.2	Existing	Cooperative contract
Sworn complaint case management (GovQA)	$33,000	$36,000	$69,000	B.1.2	Existing	Competitively bid
Enterprise AI	$30,000	$30,000	$60,000	B.1.2	New	Competitively bid
Help desk + softphone — annual subscription (37 staff)	$41,800	$43,700	$85,500	B.1.2	New	Competitive bid
Help desk + softphone — one-time configuration	$33,000	—	$33,000	B.1.2	New	Competitive bid
Total, software cost increases	**$186,511**	**$140,062**	**$326,573**			

6. Fund Retirement Rider

Biennial cost: $130,766 (Strategies: A.1.3 Enforcement, B.1.1 Central Administration, B.1.2 Information Resources). The TEC is required to pay retiring employees a lump sum for unused annual leave. Five of the TEC's current employees will be eligible for retirement in fiscal year 2028. Combined, this represents 15.92 percent of the current workforce, and they will be owed a maximum total payment of $130,766 in lump sum entitlements upon their retirement. Two of these employees occupy senior positions within the agency.

7. Hardware Refresh (Laptops)

Biennial cost: $52,500. (Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources; capital)

The TEC's computing hardware is reaching the end of its serviceable life and must be refreshed to maintain security, reliability, and staff productivity. The Computer Services Division maintains laptops on a three-to-five-year replacement cycle. Under that schedule, the agency's 35 laptops are due for replacement in FY2029 at approximately $1,500 each ($52,500). Refreshing this equipment on schedule avoids the higher support costs, downtime, and security exposure that accompany aging hardware and ensures staff have equipment capable of running current software and supporting the TEC's regulatory work.

Texas Ethics Commission

Organizational Chart · As of 09/01/2026 · Total FTEs Authorized: 31.4

COMMISSIONERS

Chris Flood	Chair	LT. GOVERNOR
Patrick W. Mizell	Vice Chair	GOVERNOR
Randall H. Erben	Commissioner	SPEAKER
Richard S. Schmidt	Commissioner	GOVERNOR
Joseph O. Slovacek	Commissioner	LT. GOVERNOR
Sean Gorman	Commissioner	GOVERNOR
Geanie Morrison	Commissioner	GOVERNOR
Mark Strama	Commissioner	SPEAKER

James Tinley
Executive Director
(B 1.1. Admin)

Amanda Arriaga
General Counsel
(A 1.2. AO) · 7 FTE Auth.

- **Natalie McDermon** — Deputy General Counsel (Atty IV)
- **Carmen Dalpiaz** — Attorney IV
- **Margaret Clark Sula** — Attorney III
- ***Vacant*** — Attorney III
- **Lindsay Powers** — Legal Assistant III
- **Desirae Gonzalez** — Legal Assistant III

Eric Vinson
Director IV, Enforcement
(A 1.3. Enf) · 7.4 FTE Auth.

- **Jordan Hunn** — Deputy Director (Attorney IV)
- **Timothy Neal** — Attorney III
- **Meredith Rasmussen** — Attorney I
- **T. Vi Nguyen** — Attorney I
- **Margie Castellanos** — Legal Assistant IV
- **Amy Padilla** — Legal Assistant III
- **Betty Gallegos** — Auditor IV · .8 FTE

Cristina Hernandez
Director IV, Finance & Administration
(B 1.1. Admin) · 5 FTE Auth.

- **Margaret Sanchez** — SSO III — Purchasing/Travel/Records
- **Sonya Caldwell** — SSO III — Accts Payable/Inventory/Risk
- **Joshua Splinter** — Budget Analyst IV

Vacant
Director II, Disclosure Filings
(A 1.1. DFS) · 6 FTE Auth.

- **Aidan Shaughnessy** — Manager II — Lobby
- **Sharon Walton-Cruse** — Program Specialist III — PFS
- **Omar Villarreal** — Program Specialist II — PACS
- ***Vacant*** — Program Specialist II — C/OH
- **Laura Harper** — Administrative Assistant IV

Jessie Haug
Director IV, Computer Services
(B 1.2. Inf Res & A 1.1. DF) · 6 FTE Auth.

- **Brandon Barrett** — Programmer IV
- **Bill Wilson** — Programmer III
- **Abhijay Anugu** — Programmer II
- **Conor McNeil** — Project Manager IV
- **David Onyike** — Systems Administrator III

Program area codes in parentheses (e.g. B 1.2. Inf Res) reflect the source budget/appropriation line for each position.

CERTIFICATE

Agency Name Texas Ethics Commission

This is to certify that the information contained in the agency Legislative Appropriations Request filed with the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and the Office of the Governor, Budget and Policy Division, is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that the electronic submission to the LBB via the Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST) and the PDF file submitted via the LBB Document Submission application are identical.

Additionally, should it become likely at any time that unexpended balances will accrue for any account, the LBB and the Office of the Governor will be notified in writing in accordance with Senate Bill 1, Article IX, Section 7.01, Eighty-ninth Legislature, Regular Session, 2025.

Chief Executive Office or Presiding Judge

James Tinley Digitally signed by James Tinley Date: 2026.08.06 21:07:02 -05'00'

Signature

James Tinley

Printed Name

Executive Director

Title

08/07/2026

Date

Board or Commission Chair

Signature

Chris Flood

Printed Name

Chair

Title

08/07/2026

Date

Chief Financial Officer

Cristina Hernandez Digitally signed by Cristina Hernandez Date: 2026.08.06 21:05:34 -05'00'

Signature

Cristina Hernández

Printed Name

CFO/Director of Finance

Title

08/07/2026

Date

Budget Overview - Biennial Amounts

90th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1

Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

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Appropriation Years: 2028-29

	GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS		GR DEDICATED		FEDERAL FUNDS		OTHER FUNDS		ALL FUNDS		EXCEPTIONAL ITEM FUNDS
	2026-27	2028-29	2026-27	2028-29	2026-27	2028-29	2026-27	2028-29	2026-27	2028-29	2028-29
Goal: 1. Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws											
1.1.1. Disclosure Filing	974,243	926,310					357		974,600	926,310	33,780
1.1.2. Office Of The General Counsel	1,629,188	1,403,382							1,629,188	1,403,382	62,182
1.1.3. Enforcement	2,415,730	2,301,180							2,415,730	2,301,180	106,326
Total, Goal	**5,019,161**	**4,630,872**					**357**		**5,019,518**	**4,630,872**	**202,288**
Goal: 2. Indirect Administration											
2.1.1. Central Administration	1,128,691	1,075,592							1,128,691	1,075,592	72,295
2.1.2. Information Resources	2,806,935	2,512,328							2,806,935	2,512,328	1,070,706
Total, Goal	**3,935,626**	**3,587,920**							**3,935,626**	**3,587,920**	**1,143,001**
Total, Agency	**8,954,787**	**8,218,792**					**357**		**8,955,144**	**8,218,792**	**1,345,289**
Total FTEs									**31.4**	**31.4**	**0.0**

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Goal / *Objective* / STRATEGY	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	Req 2028	Req 2029
1 Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws					
1 *Access Required Reports; Respond to Advisory Reqs & Sworn Complaints*					
1 DISCLOSURE FILING	513,975	502,195	472,405	463,155	463,155
2 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL	553,597	763,801	865,387	701,691	701,691
3 ENFORCEMENT	925,753	1,014,842	1,400,888	1,450,590	850,590
TOTAL, GOAL 1	**$1,993,325**	**$2,280,838**	**$2,738,680**	**$2,615,436**	**$2,015,436**
2 Indirect Administration					
1 *Indirect Administration*					
1 CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	523,753	537,396	591,295	537,796	537,796
2 INFORMATION RESOURCES	1,434,083	1,477,897	1,329,038	1,379,664	1,132,664
TOTAL, GOAL 2	**$1,957,836**	**$2,015,293**	**$1,920,333**	**$1,917,460**	**$1,670,460**
TOTAL, AGENCY STRATEGY REQUEST	**$3,951,161**	**$4,296,131**	**$4,659,013**	**$4,532,896**	**$3,685,896**

356 Texas Ethics Commission

Goal / *Objective* / STRATEGY	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	Req 2028	Req 2029
TOTAL, AGENCY RIDER APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST*				**$0**	**$0**
GRAND TOTAL, AGENCY REQUEST	**$3,951,161**	**$4,296,131**	**$4,659,013**	**$4,532,896**	**$3,685,896**
METHOD OF FINANCING:					
General Revenue Funds:					
1 General Revenue Fund	3,948,971	4,295,774	4,659,013	4,532,896	3,685,896
SUBTOTAL	**$3,948,971**	**$4,295,774**	**$4,659,013**	**$4,532,896**	**$3,685,896**
Other Funds:					
666 Appropriated Receipts	2,190	357	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	**$2,190**	**$357**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$3,951,161**	**$4,296,131**	**$4,659,013**	**$4,532,896**	**$3,685,896**

*Rider appropriations for the historical years are included in the strategy amounts.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	Req 2028	Req 2029
GENERAL REVENUE					
1 General Revenue Fund					
REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)	$0	$4,972,671	$3,918,866	$0	$0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)	$3,947,148	$0	$0	$0	$0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2028-29 GAA	$0	$0	$0	$4,532,896	$3,685,896
TRANSFERS					
Art IX, Sec 17.16, Appropriation for a Salary Increase for General State Employees (2024-25 GAA)	$24,196	$0	$0	$0	$0

Comments: Estimated transfer from the Comptroller to provide the 5% salary increase at the current FTE count and salaries.

13001: $3,000
13003: $20,160
13007: $1,036

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	Req 2028	Req 2029
GENERAL REVENUE					
Art IX Sec 17.15 Salary Increase for Attorneys (2026-2027 GAA)	$0	$31,625	$31,625	$0	$0
Comments: Trns In FY 26 Legislative 6% increase for attorneys					
LAPSED APPROPRIATIONS					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)	$(405,749)	$0	$0	$0	$0
UNEXPENDED BALANCES AUTHORITY					
Art I, Texas Ethics Commission, Rider 4, Appropriation for Retirement Payments (2024-25 GAA).	$72,318	$0	$0	$0	$0
Comments: 13001: $6,015 13002: $12,835 13003: $25,400 13007: $28,690 13800: $28,145					
Art IX, Sec 14.03(i), Capital Budget UB (2024-25 GAA)	$150,000	$0	$0	$0	$0
Comments: Improve Agency Website User Interface					
Art IX, Sec 14.03(i), Capital Budget UB (2024-25 GAA)					

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	Req 2028	Req 2029
GENERAL REVENUE					
	$161,058	$0	$0	$0	$0
Comments: Managed Cloud Service/TEC Elect Filing					
Art I, Texas Ethics Commission, Rider 4, Appropriation for Retirement Payments (2026-27 GAA).	$0	$(206,806)	$206,806	$0	$0
Comments: 13001: $9,250 13002: $50,727 13003: $48,581 13800: $53,499 13007: $44,749					
Art I, Texas Ethics Commission, Rider 6, Legal Services (2026-27 GAA)	$0	$(501,716)	$501,716	$0	$0
Comments: Notwithstanding Article IX, Section 16.04, Judgments and Settlements, of this Act, payment of judgments or settlements, including attorney's fees, resulting from actions brought under 42 U.S.C §1983 that arise from claims challenging the validity or constitutionality of a state law and prosecuted or defended by the Office of the Attorney General that are obtained against the Texas Ethics Commission, or any individual(s) acting in their official capacity on behalf of the Texas Ethics Commission, shall be paid out by the Comptroller and not from funds appropriated above to the Texas Ethics Commission					
TOTAL, General Revenue Fund	**$3,948,971**	**$4,295,774**	**$4,659,013**	**$4,532,896**	**$3,685,896**

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	Req 2028	Req 2029
TOTAL, ALL GENERAL REVENUE	**$3,948,971**	**$4,295,774**	**$4,659,013**	**$4,532,896**	**$3,685,896**
OTHER FUNDS					
666 Appropriated Receipts					
RIDER APPROPRIATION					
Art IX, Sec 8.02, Reimbursements and Payments (2024-25 GAA)	$2,190	$357	$0	$0	$0
Comments: Collected Revenue for copy orders/Public information requests					
TOTAL, Appropriated Receipts	**$2,190**	**$357**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
TOTAL, ALL OTHER FUNDS	**$2,190**	**$357**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
GRAND TOTAL	**$3,951,161**	**$4,296,131**	**$4,659,013**	**$4,532,896**	**$3,685,896**

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

METHOD OF FINANCING	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	Req 2028	Req 2029
FULL-TIME-EQUIVALENT POSITIONS					
REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS					
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2024-25 GAA)	28.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2026-27 GAA)	0.0	31.4	31.4	0.0	0.0
Regular Appropriations from MOF Table (2028-29 GAA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	31.4	31.4
UNAUTHORIZED NUMBER OVER (BELOW) CAP					
Unauthorized Number Over (Below) Cap	(0.5)	(2.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Comments: FTE difference related to positions that could not be filled due to lack of qualified or interested applicants in all strategies.					
TOTAL, ADJUSTED FTES	**27.9**	**29.3**	**31.4**	**31.4**	**31.4**

NUMBER OF 100% FEDERALLY FUNDED FTEs

2.C. Summary of Base Request by Object of Expense

90th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1

Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

356 Texas Ethics Commission

OBJECT OF EXPENSE	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
1001 SALARIES AND WAGES	$2,584,453	$2,899,766	$3,111,818	$2,999,893	$2,999,893
1002 OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	$166,594	$101,094	$254,308	$47,502	$47,502
2001 PROFESSIONAL FEES AND SERVICES	$129,750	$226,377	$531,081	$629,365	$29,365
2003 CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES	$1,338	$2,899	$1,558	$2,058	$2,058
2004 UTILITIES	$2,311	$4,701	$700	$1,850	$1,850
2005 TRAVEL	$5,828	$4,199	$6,900	$6,900	$6,900
2006 RENT - BUILDING	$2,341	$2,509	$1,520	$1,520	$1,520
2007 RENT - MACHINE AND OTHER	$8,353	$8,860	$6,650	$7,650	$7,650
2009 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	$207,593	$213,336	$159,088	$214,002	$214,002
5000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	$842,600	$832,390	$585,390	$622,156	$375,156
OOE Total (Excluding Riders)	**$3,951,161**	**$4,296,131**	**$4,659,013**	**$4,532,896**	**$3,685,896**
OOE Total (Riders)				**$0**	**$0**
Grand Total	**$3,951,161**	**$4,296,131**	**$4,659,013**	**$4,532,896**	**$3,685,896**

2.D. Summary of Base Request Objective Outcomes

90th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1
Automated Budget and Evaluation system of Texas (ABEST)

356 Texas Ethics Commission

Goal/ *Objective* / **Outcome**		**Exp 2025**	**Est 2026**	**Bud 2027**	**BL 2028**	**BL 2029**
	1 Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws					
	1 Access Required Reports; Respond to Advisory Reqs & Sworn Complaints					
	1 Percent of Reports Available for Public Inspection within Two Days	99.99%	99.87%	99.90%	99.90%	99.90%
	2 % of Sworn Complaints Processed within Five Working Days after Filing	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
KEY	**3 Percent of Advisory Opinion Requests Answered**	83.33%	95.00%	95.00%	90.00%	90.00%

DATE: **8/6/2026**
TIME : **8:34:58PM**

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Priority	Item	2028 GR and GR/GR Dedicated	2028 All Funds	2028 FTEs	2029 GR and GR Dedicated	2029 All Funds	2029 FTEs	Biennium GR and GR Dedicated	Biennium All Funds
1	Salary increases	$118,273	$118,273		$118,273	$118,273		$236,546	$236,546
2	Cloud Hosting and AWS Cost Increase	$90,000	$90,000		$0	$0		$90,000	$90,000
3	Restore 3% Reduction	$116,952	$116,952		$116,952	$116,952		$233,904	$233,904
4	Enhancement to E-Filing System	$275,000	$275,000		$0	$0		$275,000	$275,000
5	Software Licenses	$186,511	$186,511		$140,062	$140,062		$326,573	$326,573
6	Fund Retirement Rider	$130,766	$130,766		$0	$0		$130,766	$130,766
7	Hardware Refresh (laptops)	$0	$0		$52,500	$52,500		$52,500	$52,500
Total, Exceptional Items Request		**$917,502**	**$917,502**		**$427,787**	**$427,787**		**$1,345,289**	**$1,345,289**

Method of Financing	2028 GR and GR/GR Dedicated	2028 All Funds	2028 FTEs	2029 GR and GR Dedicated	2029 All Funds	2029 FTEs	Biennium GR and GR Dedicated	Biennium All Funds
General Revenue	$917,502	$917,502		$427,787	$427,787		$1,345,289	$1,345,289
General Revenue - Dedicated								
Federal Funds								
Other Funds								
	$917,502	**$917,502**		**$427,787**	**$427,787**		**$1,345,289**	**$1,345,289**

Full Time Equivalent Positions

Number of 100% Federally Funded FTEs

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Goal/*Objective*/**STRATEGY**	**Base 2028**	**Base 2029**	**Exceptional 2028**	**Exceptional 2029**	**Total Request 2028**	**Total Request 2029**
1 Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws						
1 *Access Required Reports; Respond to Advisory Reqs & Sworn Compl*						
1 DISCLOSURE FILING	$463,155	$463,155	$16,890	$16,890	$480,045	$480,045
2 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL	701,691	701,691	31,091	31,091	732,782	732,782
3 ENFORCEMENT	1,450,590	850,590	73,772	32,554	1,524,362	883,144
TOTAL, GOAL 1	**$2,615,436**	**$2,015,436**	**$121,753**	**$80,535**	**$2,737,189**	**$2,095,971**
2 Indirect Administration						
1 *Indirect Administration*						
1 CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	537,796	537,796	58,506	13,789	596,302	551,585
2 INFORMATION RESOURCES	1,379,664	1,132,664	737,243	333,463	2,116,907	1,466,127
TOTAL, GOAL 2	**$1,917,460**	**$1,670,460**	**$795,749**	**$347,252**	**$2,713,209**	**$2,017,712**
TOTAL, AGENCY STRATEGY REQUEST	**$4,532,896**	**$3,685,896**	**$917,502**	**$427,787**	**$5,450,398**	**$4,113,683**
TOTAL, AGENCY RIDER APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
GRAND TOTAL, AGENCY REQUEST	**$4,532,896**	**$3,685,896**	**$917,502**	**$427,787**	**$5,450,398**	**$4,113,683**

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Goal/*Objective*/**STRATEGY**	**Base 2028**	**Base 2029**	**Exceptional 2028**	**Exceptional 2029**	**Total Request 2028**	**Total Request 2029**
General Revenue Funds:						
1 General Revenue Fund	$4,532,896	$3,685,896	$917,502	$427,787	$5,450,398	$4,113,683
	$4,532,896	**$3,685,896**	**$917,502**	**$427,787**	**$5,450,398**	**$4,113,683**
Other Funds:						
666 Appropriated Receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0
	$0	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$4,532,896**	**$3,685,896**	**$917,502**	**$427,787**	**$5,450,398**	**$4,113,683**
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS	**31.4**	**31.4**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**31.4**	**31.4**

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Goal/ *Objective* / **Outcome**	**BL 2028**	**BL 2029**	**Excp 2028**	**Excp 2029**	**Total Request 2028**	**Total Request 2029**
1 Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws						
1 *Access Required Reports; Respond to Advisory Reqs & Sworn Complaints*						
1 Percent of Reports Available for Public Inspection within Two Days						
	99.90%	99.90%	99.00%	99.00%	99.00%	99.00%
2 % of Sworn Complaints Processed within Five Working Days after Filing						
	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
KEY 3 Percent of Advisory Opinion Requests Answered						
	90.00%	90.00%			90.00%	90.00%

356 Texas Ethics Commission

GOAL: 1 Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws

OBJECTIVE: 1 Access Required Reports; Respond to Advisory Reqs & Sworn Complaints

STRATEGY: 1 Serve as the Repository for Statutorily Required Information

Service Categories:

Service: 02 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
Output Measures:						
KEY	1 Number of Reports Logged within Two Business Days of Receipt	34,838.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00
	2 Number of Reports Received and Processed	34,873.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00
Explanatory/Input Measures:						
	1 Number of Inquiries for Information	1,205,262.00	1,276,093.00	1,276,093.00	1,250,000.00	1,250,000.00
	2 Number of Lobbyists Registered with the Commission	1,886.00	1,687.00	1,687.00	1,750.00	1,750.00
	3 # of Public Officials Required to File Reports with the Commission	2,650.00	2,862.00	2,862.00	2,800.00	2,800.00
	4 Number of Reports Due Filed Electronically	34,709.00	35,812.00	35,500.00	35,500.00	35,500.00
Objects of Expense:						
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	$420,330	$453,177	$420,142	$420,142	$420,142
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	$37,860	$21,479	$12,550	$3,300	$3,300
2001	PROFESSIONAL FEES AND SERVICES	$0	$0	$365	$365	$365
2003	CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES	$454	$643	$758	$758	$758
2004	UTILITIES	$374	$610	$200	$200	$200
2005	TRAVEL	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
2006	RENT - BUILDING	$1,576	$1,702	$1,200	$1,200	$1,200

356 Texas Ethics Commission

GOAL:	1	Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws		
OBJECTIVE:	1	Access Required Reports; Respond to Advisory Reqs & Sworn Complaints	Service Categories:	
STRATEGY:	1	Serve as the Repository for Statutorily Required Information	Service: 02	Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
2007	RENT - MACHINE AND OTHER	$5,540	$5,941	$5,500	$5,500	$5,500
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	$47,841	$18,643	$31,690	$31,690	$31,690
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$513,975**	**$502,195**	**$472,405**	**$463,155**	**$463,155**
Method of Financing:						
1	General Revenue Fund	$511,785	$501,838	$472,405	$463,155	$463,155
SUBTOTAL, MOF (GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS)		**$511,785**	**$501,838**	**$472,405**	**$463,155**	**$463,155**
Method of Financing:						
666	Appropriated Receipts	$2,190	$357	$0	$0	$0
SUBTOTAL, MOF (OTHER FUNDS)		**$2,190**	**$357**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (INCLUDING RIDERS)					**$463,155**	**$463,155**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (EXCLUDING RIDERS)		**$513,975**	**$502,195**	**$472,405**	**$463,155**	**$463,155**
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:		**6.0**	**5.7**	**6.0**	**6.0**	**6.0**

STRATEGY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

356 Texas Ethics Commission

GOAL:	1	Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws		
OBJECTIVE:	1	Access Required Reports; Respond to Advisory Reqs & Sworn Complaints	Service Categories:	
STRATEGY:	1	Serve as the Repository for Statutorily Required Information	Service: 02	Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029

The Disclosure Filing Division handles the processing and maintenance of all reports received by the Commission. In addition, this division provides the public with information about and copies of disclosure reports filed with the agency, distributes blank disclosure reporting forms upon request, and notifies filers of their obligations and of any late or missing filings. This division administers the Commission’s directive to receive and make available for public review and inspection required disclosure reports for state officials, candidates, political committees, lobbyists, political parties, party chairs, legislative caucuses, and judicial officers.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY:

The primary consumer of information on file with the Commission, pursuant to the disclosure statutes we administer, is the general public. While the information is available to any person, many in the general public historically rely on the agency website as its means to obtaining the disclosed information.

356 Texas Ethics Commission

GOAL:	1	Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws		
OBJECTIVE:	1	Access Required Reports; Respond to Advisory Reqs & Sworn Complaints	Service Categories:	
STRATEGY:	1	Serve as the Repository for Statutorily Required Information	Service: 02	Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029

EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE (includes Rider amounts):

STRATEGY BIENNIAL TOTAL - ALL FUNDS		BIENNIAL	EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE	
Base Spending (Est 2026 + Bud 2027)	Baseline Request (BL 2028 + BL 2029)	CHANGE	$ Amount	Explanation(s) of Amount (must specify MOFs and FTEs)
$974,600	$926,310	$(48,290)	$2,880	1002- increase in longevity between bienniums
			$(9,250)	1002- decrease/Transfer out for Retirement Rider
			$3,202	Minor changes across OOEs 2003, 2006, 2007, and 2009. The changes are primarily due to budget adjustments for supplies and postage.
			$(45,122)	Salary savings for unfilled positions.
			$(48,290)	**Total of Explanation of Biennial Change**

356 Texas Ethics Commission

GOAL: 1 Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws

OBJECTIVE: 1 Access Required Reports; Respond to Advisory Reqs & Sworn Complaints

Service Categories:

STRATEGY: 2 Perform All Legal and Regulatory Functions of the Agency

Service: 01 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
Output Measures:						
	1 Number of Advisory Opinions Adopted by the Commission	18.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00
	2 Number of Public Information Requests Responded to by the Commission	520.00	590.00	590.00	590.00	590.00
	3 Number of Unpaid Fines Referred to the Attorney General for Collection	788.00	620.00	620.00	620.00	620.00
Efficiency Measures:						
KEY	1 Average Time (Business Days) to Answer Advisory Opinion Requests	80.00	70.00	75.00	75.00	75.00
Explanatory/Input Measures:						
	1 Number of Information Requests Regarding Commission Administered Laws	5,218.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
	2 Number of Advisory Opinion Requests Received	17.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
	3 Number of Public Information Requests Received by the Commission	523.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	0.00
	4 Total Amount Unpaid Fines Referred to Attorney General for Collection	1,238,527.00	1,300,000.00	1,300,000.00	1,300,000.00	1,300,000.00
Objects of Expense:						
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	$499,200	$686,555	$779,439	$668,180	$668,180

356 Texas Ethics Commission

GOAL: 1 Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws

OBJECTIVE: 1 Access Required Reports; Respond to Advisory Reqs & Sworn Complaints

STRATEGY: 2 Perform All Legal and Regulatory Functions of the Agency

Service Categories:

Service: 01 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	$20,260	$46,474	$61,687	$10,960	$10,960
2001	PROFESSIONAL FEES AND SERVICES	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
2003	CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES	$138	$177	$200	$200	$200
2004	UTILITIES	$68	$1,918	$0	$0	$0
2005	TRAVEL	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
2006	RENT - BUILDING	$120	$120	$120	$120	$120
2007	RENT - MACHINE AND OTHER	$646	$693	$500	$500	$500
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	$33,165	$27,864	$23,441	$21,731	$21,731
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$553,597**	**$763,801**	**$865,387**	**$701,691**	**$701,691**
Method of Financing:						
1	General Revenue Fund	$553,597	$763,801	$865,387	$701,691	$701,691
SUBTOTAL, MOF (GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS)		**$553,597**	**$763,801**	**$865,387**	**$701,691**	**$701,691**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (INCLUDING RIDERS)					**$701,691**	**$701,691**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (EXCLUDING RIDERS)		**$553,597**	**$763,801**	**$865,387**	**$701,691**	**$701,691**
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:		**5.0**	**4.1**	**6.0**	**6.0**	**6.0**

356 Texas Ethics Commission

GOAL:	1	Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws		
OBJECTIVE:	1	Access Required Reports; Respond to Advisory Reqs & Sworn Complaints	Service Categories:	
STRATEGY:	2	Perform All Legal and Regulatory Functions of the Agency	Service: 01	Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029

STRATEGY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The Office of the General Counsel ("OGC") performs all other legal and regulatory functions of the agency. The OGC's primary responsibility is to provide legal counsel to the Commission, including advising commissioners on proposed rules and advisory opinions, the resolution of enforcement matters, and the daily operational matters of the agency. The OGC's other functions include promoting voluntary compliance with the law by providing educational resources and outreach to filers and the general public, assisting the Office of the Attorney General or outside legal counsel in civil actions brought by or against the TEC, serving as the agency's liaison to governmental agencies, the media, law enforcement, and the Legislature, and assuring the TEC's compliance with EEO/AA, ADA, and agency safety and ethics requirements.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY:

Advisory opinion requests are initiated by individuals subject to the laws administered by the Commission and are resolved by the Commission in open meetings. Accordingly, the Commission has no control over the number of requests received.

356 Texas Ethics Commission

GOAL:	1	Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws				
OBJECTIVE:	1	Access Required Reports; Respond to Advisory Reqs & Sworn Complaints	Service Categories:			
STRATEGY:	2	Perform All Legal and Regulatory Functions of the Agency	Service: 01	Income: A.2	Age: B.3	

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029

EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE (includes Rider amounts):

STRATEGY BIENNIAL TOTAL - ALL FUNDS		BIENNIAL	EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE	
Base Spending (Est 2026 + Bud 2027)	Baseline Request (BL 2028 + BL 2029)	CHANGE	$ Amount	Explanation(s) of Amount (must specify MOFs and FTEs)
$1,629,188	$1,403,382	$(225,806)	$23,719	1001- Salary:6% Legislative increase for Attorneys over the FY 26/27 biennium
			$(225,939)	1001-Salary: 3% Reduction over the FY 28/29 biennium requested by the Governor. Includes transfer restored 3% salary funding and (1) FTE into CSD
			$(50,727)	1002- Decrease/transfer out for retirement rider FY 28/29
			$111,439	1001, 1002,2009:vacant position savings partial year and other operating costs
			$(84,298)	1001: Transfer out salary into ENF for (1) Attorney
			$(225,806)	**Total of Explanation of Biennial Change**

356 Texas Ethics Commission

GOAL: 1 Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws

OBJECTIVE: 1 Access Required Reports; Respond to Advisory Reqs & Sworn Complaints

STRATEGY: 3 Respond to Complaints and Enforce Applicable Statutes

Service Categories:

Service: 01 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
Output Measures:						
KEY	1 Number of Sworn Complaints Processed	581.00	741.00	741.00	650.00	650.00
	2 Number of Late Notices Sent to Filers	2,688.00	1,753.00	1,753.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
	3 Number of Sworn Complaints Closed	606.00	666.00	666.00	600.00	600.00
	4 Number of Attempted Sworn Complaints Responded to	98.00	74.00	74.00	75.00	75.00
Efficiency Measures:						
KEY	1 Average Number of Business Days to Process Sworn Complaints	3.51	3.44	3.44	3.44	3.44
	2 Average Time to Notify Late Filer of Late Report	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00
	3 Avg Time to Notify Complainants & Respondents/Final Disposition	1.90	1.87	1.87	1.87	1.87
	4 Average Time to Resolve Complaints after Jurisdiction Is Accepted	96.34	119.97	119.97	120.00	120.00
Explanatory/Input Measures:						
	1 Percent of Filers Filing Timely Reports	94.00 %	93.00 %	93.00 %	93.00 %	93.00 %
	2 Number of Late Penalties Received	353,139.60	105,335.20	375,000.00	375,000.00	375,000.00
	3 % Complaints Dismissed B/c Resolution Not Proposed within 120 Days	5.61 %	0.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %

356 Texas Ethics Commission

GOAL: 1 Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws

OBJECTIVE: 1 Access Required Reports; Respond to Advisory Reqs & Sworn Complaints

Service Categories:

STRATEGY: 3 Respond to Complaints and Enforce Applicable Statutes

Service: 01 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
Objects of Expense:						
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	$717,672	$744,087	$810,266	$809,600	$809,600
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	$56,267	$20,734	$58,981	$10,400	$10,400
2001	PROFESSIONAL FEES AND SERVICES	$99,598	$205,915	$501,716	$600,000	$0
2003	CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES	$115	$1,248	$0	$500	$500
2004	UTILITIES	$1,388	$797	$0	$1,150	$1,150
2005	TRAVEL	$5,828	$4,199	$6,900	$6,900	$6,900
2006	RENT - BUILDING	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
2007	RENT - MACHINE AND OTHER	$1,847	$1,981	$0	$1,000	$1,000
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	$43,038	$35,881	$23,025	$21,040	$21,040
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$925,753**	**$1,014,842**	**$1,400,888**	**$1,450,590**	**$850,590**
Method of Financing:						
1	General Revenue Fund	$925,753	$1,014,842	$1,400,888	$1,450,590	$850,590
SUBTOTAL, MOF (GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS)		**$925,753**	**$1,014,842**	**$1,400,888**	**$1,450,590**	**$850,590**

Rider Appropriations:

1 General Revenue Fund

356 Texas Ethics Commission

GOAL:	1	Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws			
OBJECTIVE:	1	Access Required Reports; Respond to Advisory Reqs & Sworn Complaints	Service Categories:		
STRATEGY:	3	Respond to Complaints and Enforce Applicable Statutes	Service: 01	Income: A.2	Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
6 1	Legal Services				$0	$0
TOTAL, RIDER & UNEXPENDED BALANCES APPROP					**$0**	**$0**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (INCLUDING RIDERS)					**$1,450,590**	**$850,590**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (EXCLUDING RIDERS)		**$925,753**	**$1,014,842**	**$1,400,888**	**$1,450,590**	**$850,590**
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:		**7.1**	**8.5**	**8.4**	**8.4**	**8.4**

STRATEGY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The Enforcement Division investigates alleged violations of the law, recommends to the Commission appropriate action to take with respect to apparent violations, and negotiates agreed resolutions with respondents or their counsel. If an enforcement matter does not resolve through agreement, the complaint proceeds to a formal hearing at which the respondent has the opportunity to present evidence and legal argument. Respondents who wish to challenge the decision of the Commission have the right to file a de novo appeal in Travis County District Court. The TEC also automatically assesses statutory penalties to candidates, officials, and lobbyists who fail to file required reports on time. Texas law and the Commission's rules provide a legal process for appealing those penalties, and the Enforcement Division is responsible for processing those appeals. Finally, the Enforcement Division also conducts randomized audits of reports filed with the Commission, as directed by state law. If any issues are discovered during this process, the Enforcement Division provides guidance to filers for corrective actions.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY:

356 Texas Ethics Commission

GOAL: 1 Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws

OBJECTIVE: 1 Access Required Reports; Respond to Advisory Reqs & Sworn Complaints

Service Categories:

STRATEGY: 3 Respond to Complaints and Enforce Applicable Statutes

Service: 01 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029

Any person may file a sworn complaint. The Commission has no control over the number of sworn complaints it receives or the violations alleged in those complaints. Once a sworn complaint has been filed, the respondent named in the complaint is entitled to two separate hearings, the last one may be before the Commission or an administrative law judge. The time needed to reach a final resolution is largely outside the control of the Commission.

Federal law has little direct influence on agency functions because federal laws apply to different persons than those regulated by the Commission. However, federal court rulings, such as the U. S. Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, may have an effect on the laws administered and enforced by the Commission. Similarly, federal lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of the laws enforced by the Commission may have an effect on the laws administered and enforced by the Commission.

EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE (includes Rider amounts):

STRATEGY BIENNIAL TOTAL - ALL FUNDS		BIENNIAL	EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE	
Base Spending (Est 2026 + Bud 2027)	Baseline Request (BL 2028 + BL 2029)	CHANGE	$ Amount	Explanation(s) of Amount (must specify MOFs and FTEs)
$2,415,730	$2,301,180	$(114,550)	$39,531	1001- Salaries: 6% Legislative increase for attorneys in FY 26/27 biennium
			$(48,581)	1002- Decrease/transfer out for Retirement rider in FY 26/27 biennium
			$(189,798)	2001- UB forward outside counsel
			$84,298	1001: Transfer in salary from OGC for (1) Attorney
			$(114,550)	**Total of Explanation of Biennial Change**

356 Texas Ethics Commission

GOAL: 2 Indirect Administration

OBJECTIVE: 1 Indirect Administration

STRATEGY: 1 Central Administration

Service Categories:

Service: 09 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
Objects of Expense:						
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	$482,448	$506,256	$506,221	$506,221	$506,221
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	$24,847	$7,947	$71,081	$17,582	$17,582
2001	PROFESSIONAL FEES AND SERVICES	$4,180	$4,155	$4,000	$4,000	$4,000
2003	CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES	$456	$627	$500	$500	$500
2004	UTILITIES	$43	$513	$0	$0	$0
2005	TRAVEL	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
2006	RENT - BUILDING	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
2007	RENT - MACHINE AND OTHER	$205	$121	$500	$500	$500
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	$11,574	$17,777	$8,993	$8,993	$8,993
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$523,753**	**$537,396**	**$591,295**	**$537,796**	**$537,796**
Method of Financing:						
1	General Revenue Fund	$523,753	$537,396	$591,295	$537,796	$537,796
SUBTOTAL, MOF (GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS)		**$523,753**	**$537,396**	**$591,295**	**$537,796**	**$537,796**

Rider Appropriations:

1 General Revenue Fund

356 Texas Ethics Commission

GOAL: 2 Indirect Administration

OBJECTIVE: 1 Indirect Administration

STRATEGY: 1 Central Administration

Service Categories:

Service: 09 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
4 1	4.Appropriation for Retirement Payments.				$0	$0
TOTAL, RIDER & UNEXPENDED BALANCES APPROP					**$0**	**$0**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (INCLUDING RIDERS)					**$537,796**	**$537,796**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (EXCLUDING RIDERS)		**$523,753**	**$537,396**	**$591,295**	**$537,796**	**$537,796**
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:		**4.8**	**5.0**	**5.0**	**5.0**	**5.0**

STRATEGY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Included in the Indirect Administration strategy are the functions of the executive director and the business functions of the agency . The Administration Division handles the working function of the agency. It provides the primary support for the Commission with respect to accounting and budgeting, purchasing, travel, human resources and payroll, building and equipment maintenance, risk and safety management, and mail services and inventory control.

This division has the essential function of working to keep the agency in compliance with the state laws and regulations generally applicable to executive branch agencies.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY:

Over the past five years (from September 1, 2021, to August 31, 2025), the TEC turnover rate has averaged 14.12 percent. Five of the Commission’s current employees are or will be eligible for retirement in fiscal year 2028. Combined, this represents nearly 15.9 percent of the current workforce, and they will be owed a maximum total payment of $130,766 in lump sum entitlements upon their retirement. Many of these employees occupy senior positions within the agency. Lump sum termination payments can become a budget concern for small agencies, especially if a significant number of employees terminate or retire late in a fiscal year.

356 Texas Ethics Commission

GOAL:	2	Indirect Administration				
OBJECTIVE:	1	Indirect Administration	Service Categories:			
STRATEGY:	1	Central Administration	Service: 09	Income: A.2	Age: B.3	

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029

EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE (includes Rider amounts):

STRATEGY BIENNIAL TOTAL - ALL FUNDS Base Spending (Est 2026 + Bud 2027)	 Baseline Request (BL 2028 + BL 2029)	BIENNIAL CHANGE	EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE $ Amount	 Explanation(s) of Amount (must specify MOFs and FTEs)
$1,128,691	$1,075,592	$(53,099)	$3,192	1002- increase for longevity within the FY 28/29 biennium
			$(53,499)	1002- decrease/Transfer out for Retirement Rider FY28/29
			$(2,792)	2009: adjustments for other operating expenses
			$(53,099)	**Total of Explanation of Biennial Change**

356 Texas Ethics Commission

GOAL: 2 Indirect Administration
OBJECTIVE: 1 Indirect Administration
STRATEGY: 2 Information Resources

Service Categories:
Service: 09 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
Objects of Expense:						
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	$464,803	$509,691	$595,750	$595,750	$595,750
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	$27,360	$4,460	$50,009	$5,260	$5,260
2001	PROFESSIONAL FEES AND SERVICES	$25,972	$16,307	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000
2003	CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES	$175	$204	$100	$100	$100
2004	UTILITIES	$438	$863	$500	$500	$500
2005	TRAVEL	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
2006	RENT - BUILDING	$645	$687	$200	$200	$200
2007	RENT - MACHINE AND OTHER	$115	$124	$150	$150	$150
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	$71,975	$113,171	$71,939	$130,548	$130,548
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	$842,600	$832,390	$585,390	$622,156	$375,156
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$1,434,083**	**$1,477,897**	**$1,329,038**	**$1,379,664**	**$1,132,664**
Method of Financing:						
1	General Revenue Fund	$1,434,083	$1,477,897	$1,329,038	$1,379,664	$1,132,664
SUBTOTAL, MOF (GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS)		**$1,434,083**	**$1,477,897**	**$1,329,038**	**$1,379,664**	**$1,132,664**

Rider Appropriations:

356 Texas Ethics Commission

GOAL: 2 Indirect Administration

OBJECTIVE: 1 Indirect Administration

STRATEGY: 2 Information Resources

Service Categories:

Service: 09 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
	1 General Revenue Fund					
2 1	2.Cap. Budget: Acquisit of IT Resources Tech, Acquisit of IT Res. Tech				$0	$0
5 1	Oversight of the Electronic Filing System				$0	$0
TOTAL, RIDER & UNEXPENDED BALANCES APPROP					**$0**	**$0**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (INCLUDING RIDERS)					**$1,379,664**	**$1,132,664**
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCE (EXCLUDING RIDERS)		**$1,434,083**	**$1,477,897**	**$1,329,038**	**$1,379,664**	**$1,132,664**
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:		**5.0**	**6.0**	**6.0**	**6.0**	**6.0**

STRATEGY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The Computer Services Division maintains the Commission's technology infrastructure, the electronic filing system and database, and the agency's website. This division also provides technical support to filers who are required to file reports electronically with the Commission, prepares reports in response to open records requests for data from electronically filed reports, and assists staff with computer applications. In addition, the TEC's Computer Services staff is involved with tasks such as systems analysis and design, information security, information resource policy development, and project management.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY:

356 Texas Ethics Commission

GOAL: 2 Indirect Administration
OBJECTIVE: 1 Indirect Administration
STRATEGY: 2 Information Resources

Service Categories:
Service: 09 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029

To best serve all population demographics, the Commission is continually updating and increasing the types of information available through the Internet. The Commission is also continually working to provide the public with more data. The Commission has raw data downloads available on its website. In addition to searching for individual campaign finance reports and lobby activities reports, the public and press can access and download a Campaign Finance Report Database and a Lobby Activities Report Database.

In an effort to reduce postage costs, the Commission has converted to e-mails from paper-mailed notices as the method by which to notify filers of reporting deadlines. E-mail notices to file are currently available for most reports.

356 Texas Ethics Commission

GOAL:	2	Indirect Administration			
OBJECTIVE:	1	Indirect Administration	Service Categories:		
STRATEGY:	2	Information Resources	Service: 09	Income: A.2	Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029

EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE (includes Rider amounts):

STRATEGY BIENNIAL TOTAL - ALL FUNDS		BIENNIAL	EXPLANATION OF BIENNIAL CHANGE	
Base Spending (Est 2026 + Bud 2027)	Baseline Request (BL 2028 + BL 2029)	CHANGE	$ Amount	Explanation(s) of Amount (must specify MOFs and FTEs)
$2,806,935	$2,512,328	$(294,607)	$(44,749)	1002- decrease/Transfer out for Retirement Rider FY 28/29
			$(275,000)	5000- decrease Enhancement Rider FY28/29
			$(28,250)	5000: decrease ELF vendor support as part of 3% reduction in FY 28/29
			$41,311	1001: salary savings for unfilled positions partial year FY 26.
			$12,081	2001,5000 adjustments
			$0	Transfer in of $225,939 salary as part of 3% reduction out of OGC along with the (1) FTE into CSD.
			$(294,607)	**Total of Explanation of Biennial Change**

SUMMARY TOTALS:

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:	**$3,951,161**	**$4,296,131**	**$4,659,013**	**$4,532,896**	**$3,685,896**
METHODS OF FINANCE (INCLUDING RIDERS):				**$4,532,896**	**$3,685,896**
METHODS OF FINANCE (EXCLUDING RIDERS):	**$3,951,161**	**$4,296,131**	**$4,659,013**	**$4,532,896**	**$3,685,896**
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:	**27.9**	**29.3**	**31.4**	**31.4**	**31.4**

3.B. Rider Revisions and Additions Request

Agency Code:	Agency Name:	Prepared By:	Date:	Request Level:

Current Rider Number	Page Number in 2026-27 GAA	Proposed Rider Language
1.	**I-45**	**Performance Measure Targets. The following is a listing of the key performance target levels for the Texas Ethics Commission. It is the intent of the Legislature that appropriations made by this Act be utilized in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the intended mission of the Texas Ethics Commission. In order to achieve the objectives and service standards established by this Act, the Texas Ethics Commission shall make every effort to attain the following designated key performance target levels associated with each item of appropriation.** **~~2026~~ 2028 / ~~2027~~ 2029** **A. Goal: ADMINISTER ETHICS LAWS** **Outcome (Results/Impact):** Percent of Advisory Opinion Requests Answered by Commission within 120 Working Days of Receipt: 90% / 90% **A.1.1. Strategy: DISCLOSURE FILING** **Output (Volume):** Number of Reports Logged within Two Days of Receipt: 92,485 / 92,485 **A.1.2. Strategy: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL** **Efficiencies:** Average Time (Business Days) to Answer Advisory Opinion Requests: 75 / 75 **A.1.3. Strategy: ENFORCEMENT** **Output (Volume):** Number of Sworn Complaints Processed: 500 / 500 **Efficiencies:** Average Number of Business Days to Process Sworn Complaints: 4 / 4
2.	**I-45**	**Capital Budget.** None of the funds appropriated above may be expended for capital budget items except as listed below. The amounts shown below shall be expended only for the purposes shown and are not available for expenditure for other purposes. **~~2026~~ 2028 / ~~2027~~ 2029** a. Acquisition of Information Resource Technologies (1) Vendor Support for Electronic Filing & Disclosure Database Systems: $ 447,890 / $ 447,890 (2) Enhancements to Electronic Filing System: ~~137,500~~ $275,000 / ~~137,500~~ UB

		(3) Hardware Refresh (laptops) $0 $52,500 Total, Acquisition of Information Resource Technologies ~~$585,390~~ $722,890 ~~$585,390~~ $500,390 b. Legacy Modernization (1) Managed Cloud Services for TEC Electronic Filing System ~~$247,000~~ $337,500 $ UB c. Software Licenses Increase (1) Software License Increase $81,711 $66,362 (2) Enterprise AI $30,000 $30,000 (3) Help desk+Softphone subscription $41,800 $43,700 (3) a. Help desk + Softphone-one-time configuration $33,000 $0 Total Software License Increase $186,511 $140,062 Total, Capital Budget ~~**$832,390**~~ **$1,246,901** ~~**$585,390**~~ $640,452 Method of Financing (Capital Budget): General Revenue Fund ~~**$832,390**~~ **$1,246,901** ~~**$585,390**~~ $640,452 Total, Method of Financing ~~**$832,390**~~ **$1,246,901** ~~**$585,390**~~ $640,452
3	**I-46**	**Judgments and Settlements.** Notwithstanding Article IX, Section 16.04, Judgments and Settlements, of this Act, payment of judgments or settlements, including attorney's fees, resulting from actions brought under 42 U.S.C §1983 that arise from claims challenging the validity or constitutionality of a state law and prosecuted or defended by the Office of the Attorney General that are obtained against the Texas Ethics Commission, or any individual(s) acting in their official capacity on behalf of the Texas Ethics Commission, shall be paid out by the Comptroller and not from funds appropriated above to the Texas Ethics Commission.
4	**I-46**	**Appropriation for Retirement Payments.** Included in amounts appropriated above out of the General Revenue Fund to the Texas Ethics Commission for fiscal year ~~2026~~ 2028 are the following amounts: in ~~Strategy A.1.1, Disclosure Filing, $9,250; in Strategy A.1.2, Office of the General Counsel, $50,727;~~ in Strategy A.1.3, Enforcement, ~~$48,581~~ $41,218.27; in Strategy B.1.1, Central Administration, ~~$53,499~~ $44,717.03; and in Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources, ~~$44,749~~ $44,830.61 for the sole purpose of payment of unused annual leave to retiring agency employees. Any unexpended balances in the appropriation made herein and remaining as of August 31, ~~2026~~ 2028, are appropriated for the same purposes for the fiscal year beginning September 1, ~~2026~~ 2028. Any part of the appropriation made for retirement payouts due at the time of agency employees' retirement that are not necessary for that purpose shall be lapsed by the agency at the end of the biennium..
5	**I-46**	~~**Oversight of the Electronic Filing System.** The Texas Ethics Commission shall provide quarterly reports to the Legislative Budget Board with an accounting of vendor transactions related to the Electronic Filing System in a format prescribed by the Legislative Budget Board.~~
6	**I-46**	**Legal Services.** Included in amounts appropriated above in Strategy A.1.3, Enforcement, for fiscal year ~~2026~~ 2028 is $600,000 out of the General Revenue Fund to the Texas Ethics Commission for the sole purpose of the procurement of outside legal counsel related to the enforcement or defense of laws under the Commission's jurisdiction. Any unexpended balances in the appropriation made herein and remaining as of August 31, ~~2026~~

		2028, are appropriated for the same purposes for the fiscal year beginning September 1, ~~2026~~ 2028. Any part of the appropriation made for the procurement of outside legal counsel that are not necessary for that purpose shall be lapsed by the agency at the end of the biennium.

Agency Code: 356 Texas Ethics Commission

RIDER	STRATEGY	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
2 1	2.Capital Budget 2-1-2 INFORMATION RESOURCES	$532,154	$738,055	$585,390	$0	$0
OBJECT OF EXPENSE:						
	5000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	$532,154	$738,055	$585,390	$0	$0
Total, Object of Expense		**$532,154**	**$738,055**	**$585,390**	**$0**	**$0**
METHOD OF FINANCING:						
	1 General Revenue Fund	$532,154	$738,055	$585,390	$0	$0
Total, Method of Financing		**$532,154**	**$738,055**	**$585,390**	**$0**	**$0**

Description/Justification for continuation of existing riders or proposed new rider

Update Rider

Agency Code: 356 Texas Ethics Commission

RIDER	STRATEGY	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
4 1	4.Approp. for Retirement Payment 2-1-1 CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	$28,767	$56,642	$150,164	$0	$0
OBJECT OF EXPENSE:						
	1002 OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	$28,767	$56,642	$150,164	$0	$0
Total, Object of Expense		**$28,767**	**$56,642**	**$150,164**	**$0**	**$0**
METHOD OF FINANCING:						
	1 General Revenue Fund	$28,767	$56,642	$150,164	$0	$0
Total, Method of Financing		**$28,767**	**$56,642**	**$150,164**	**$0**	**$0**

Description/Justification for continuation of existing riders or proposed new rider

update Rider

Agency Code: 356 Texas Ethics Commission

RIDER	STRATEGY	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
5 1 5.Oversight of the EFS	2-1-2 INFORMATION RESOURCES	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
OBJECT OF EXPENSE:						
	2001 PROFESSIONAL FEES AND SERVICES	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total, Object of Expense		**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
METHOD OF FINANCING:						
	1 General Revenue Fund	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total, Method of Financing		**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

Description/Justification for continuation of existing riders or proposed new rider

Remove Rider

Agency Code: 356 Texas Ethics Commission

RIDER	STRATEGY	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
6	1 Legal Services 1-1-3 ENFORCEMENT	$102,892	$205,665	$0	$0	$0
OBJECT OF EXPENSE:						
	2001 PROFESSIONAL FEES AND SERVICES	$102,892	$205,665	$0	$0	$0
Total, Object of Expense		**$102,892**	**$205,665**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
METHOD OF FINANCING:						
	1 General Revenue Fund	$102,892	$205,665	$0	$0	$0
Total, Method of Financing		**$102,892**	**$205,665**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

Description/Justification for continuation of existing riders or proposed new rider

update Rider

Agency Code: 356 Texas Ethics Commission

RIDER	STRATEGY	Exp 2025	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
SUMMARY:						
OBJECT OF EXPENSE TOTAL		**$663,813**	**$1,000,362**	**$735,554**	**$0**	**$0**
METHOD OF FINANCING TOTAL		**$663,813**	**$1,000,362**	**$735,554**	**$0**	**$0**

3.D. Sub-strategy Request

Agency Code: 356	Agency Name: Texas Ethics Commission	Prepared By: Josh Splinter		Strategy Code: 2-1-2
AGENCY GOAL:	Provide essential software and programs			
OBJECTIVE:	Ensure TEC employees have the required programs to complete their work			
STRATEGY:	Software license			
SUB-STRATEGY:	Fortigate NextGen Firewall Subscription Renewal			

Code	Sub-strategy Request	Expended	Estimated	Budgeted	Requested	
		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
	Objects of Expense:					
	5000	$30,000			$30,000	
	Total, Objects of Expense	$30,000	$0	$0	$30,000	$0
	Method of Financing:					
	GR	$30,000			$30,000	
	Total, Method of Financing	$30,000	$0	$0	$30,000	$0
	Number of Positions (FTE)					

Sub-strategy Description and Justification:

Renewal of FortiGate firewall security and support subscriptions that provide threatintelligence updates, IPS signatures, malware protection, firmware updates, and vendor support essential for network security and compliance.

Several software tools that are essential to the agency's legal, enforcement, and administrative work are subject to subscription and license cost increases, and the agency needs to add a dedicated help-desk and softphone solution. The TEC requests a budget adjustment to cover these increases and the cost of the new help-desk system. To the extent multiple divisions rely on the same tools, the TEC asks that divisional budgets be adjusted consistently.

External/Internal Factors Impacting Sub-strategy:

As the current three-year SMARTNet term expires in August 2029, the TEC requests renewal funding to ensure the network remains secure, reliable, and compliant with statewide technology and security standards.

3.D. Sub-strategy Request

Agency Code:	Agency Name:	Prepared By:		Strategy Code:
356	Texas Ethics Commission	Josh Splinter		2-1-2

AGENCY GOAL:	Provide essential software and programs
OBJECTIVE:	Ensure TEC employees have the required programs to complete their work
STRATEGY:	Software license
SUB-STRATEGY:	Cisco SMARTNet Support Renewal

Code	Sub-strategy Request	Expended 2025	Estimated 2026	Budgeted 2027	Requested 2028	Requested 2029
	Objects of Expense:					
	5000		$12,000			$12,000
	Total, Objects of Expense	$0	$12,000	$0	$0	$12,000
	Method of Financing:					
	GR		$12,000			$12,000
	Total, Method of Financing	$0	$12,000	$0	$0	$12,000
	Number of Positions (FTE)					

Sub-strategy Description and Justification:
Renewal of Cisco SMARTNet support for four Catalyst 9300 switches, providing hardware replacement, firmware updates, security patches, and technical support required for network routing and switching operations. The TEC relies on four Cisco Catalyst 930048P switches as core components of the agency’s network infrastructure.

External/Internal Factors Impacting Sub-strategy:
As the current three-year SMARTNet term expires in August 2029, the TEC requests renewal funding to ensure the network remains secure, reliable, and compliant with statewide technology and security standards.

3.D. Sub-strategy Request

Agency Code:	Agency Name:	Prepared By:		Strategy Code:
356	Texas Ethics Commission	Josh Splinter		2-1-2

AGENCY GOAL:	Provide essential software and programs
OBJECTIVE:	Ensure TEC employees have the required programs to complete their work
STRATEGY:	Software license
SUB-STRATEGY:	Microsoft 365

Code	Sub-strategy Request	Expended 2025	Estimated 2026	Budgeted 2027	Requested 2028	Requested 2029
	Objects of Expense:					
	5000				$13,200	$13,800
	Total, Objects of Expense	$0	$0	$0	$13,200	$13,800
	Method of Financing:					
	GR					
	Total, Method of Financing	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
	Number of Positions (FTE)					

Sub-strategy Description and Justification:

Renewal of Microsoft 365 licenses for staff, commissioners, and 1 Teams Room, providing productivity, email, collaboration, and SharePoint access essential for daily operations.

Relied on to support daily work, document creation, communication, and file management in SharePoint across staff, commissioners, and agency technology resources.

External/Internal Factors Impacting Sub-strategy:

Costs for these tools increase annually; without continued funding the agency risks operational inefficiencies, reduced productivity, and security and compatibility gaps.

3.D. Sub-strategy Request

Agency Code:	Agency Name:	Prepared By:		Strategy Code:
356	Texas Ethics Commission	Josh Splinter		2-1-2

AGENCY GOAL:	Provide essential software and programs
OBJECTIVE:	Ensure TEC employees have the required programs to complete their work
STRATEGY:	Software license
SUB-STRATEGY:	Adobe Acrobat Pro

Code	Sub-strategy Request	Expended 2025	Estimated 2026	Budgeted 2027	Requested 2028	Requested 2029
	Objects of Expense:					
	5000	$3,495	$3,500	$3,505	$3,510	$3,515
	Total, Objects of Expense	$3,495	$3,500	$3,505	$3,510	$3,515
	Method of Financing:					
	GR	$3,495	$3,500	$3,505	$3,510	$3,515
	Total, Method of Financing	$3,495	$3,500	$3,505	$3,510	$3,515
	Number of Positions (FTE)					

Sub-strategy Description and Justification:

Annual renewal of Adobe Acrobat Pro licenses for 35 staff to support PDF creation, editing, digital signatures, and secure document workflows essential to agency operations.

Relied on to support daily work, document creation, communication, and file management in SharePoint across staff, commissioners, and agency technology resources.

External/Internal Factors Impacting Sub-strategy:

Costs for these tools increase annually; without continued funding the agency risks operational inefficiencies, reduced productivity, and security and compatibility gaps.

3.D. Sub-strategy Request

Agency Code:	Agency Name:	Prepared By:		Strategy Code:
356	Texas Ethics Commission	Josh Splinter		2-1-2

AGENCY GOAL:	Provide essential software and programs
OBJECTIVE:	Ensure TEC employees have the required programs to complete their work
STRATEGY:	Software license
SUB-STRATEGY:	Website Plugins and Techsmith

Code	Sub-strategy Request	Expended 2025	Estimated 2026	Budgeted 2027	Requested 2028	Requested 2029
	Objects of Expense:					
	5000	$853	$899	$945	$1,001	$1,047
	Total, Objects of Expense	$853	$899	$945	$1,001	$1,047
	Method of Financing:					
	GR	$853	$899	$945	$1,001	$1,047
	Total, Method of Financing	$853	$899	$945	$1,001	$1,047
	Number of Positions (FTE)					

Sub-strategy Description and Justification:

Annual renewals of WordPress plugins and TechSmith tools that support website search, structured content management, video preparation, and video streaming for the agency's publicfacing website.

The agency relies on several subscription-based software tools necessary to support core administrative, operational, and legal functions.

External/Internal Factors Impacting Sub-strategy:

Costs for these tools increase annually; without continued funding the agency risks operational inefficiencies, reduced productivity, and security and compatibility gaps.

3.D. Sub-strategy Request

Agency Code:	Agency Name:	Prepared By:		Strategy Code:
356	Texas Ethics Commission	Josh Splinter		2-1-2

AGENCY GOAL:	Provide essential software and programs
OBJECTIVE:	Ensure TEC employees have the required programs to complete their work
STRATEGY:	Software license
SUB-STRATEGY:	Jaspersoft

Code	Sub-strategy Request	Expended 2025	Estimated 2026	Budgeted 2027	Requested 2028	Requested 2029
	Objects of Expense:					
	5000		$38,000	$40,000	$1,000	
	Total, Objects of Expense	$0	$38,000	$40,000	$1,000	$0
	Method of Financing:					
	GR		$38,000	$40,000	$1,000	
	Total, Method of Financing	$0	$38,000	$40,000	$1,000	$0
	Number of Positions (FTE)					

Sub-strategy Description and Justification:

Annual renewal of Jaspersoft reporting licenses used to extract data from the electronic filing system and generate formatted data documents for publication on the agency’s website.

Jaspersoft is needed to provide a reliable, structured method for pulling data directly from the TEC database and presenting it to the public in a clear, meaningful format that supports their business needs.

External/Internal Factors Impacting Sub-strategy:

Its use ensures that public-facing information remains accessible, standardized, and aligned with the agency’s transparency and service objectives.

3.D. Sub-strategy Request

Agency Code: 356	Agency Name: Texas Ethics Commission	Prepared By: Josh Splinter		Strategy Code: 2-1-2

AGENCY GOAL:	Provide essential software and programs
OBJECTIVE:	Ensure TEC employees have the required programs to complete their work
STRATEGY:	Software license
SUB-STRATEGY:	Sworn Complaint Case Management

Code	Sub-strategy Request	Expended 2025	Estimated 2026	Budgeted 2027	Requested 2028	Requested 2029
	Objects of Expense:					
	5000	$24,000	$27,000	$30,000	$33,000	$36,000
	Total, Objects of Expense	$24,000	$27,000	$30,000	$33,000	$36,000
	Method of Financing:					
	GR	$24,000	$27,000	$30,000	$33,000	$36,000
	Total, Method of Financing	$24,000	$27,000	$30,000	$33,000	$36,000
	Number of Positions (FTE)					

Sub-strategy Description and Justification:

Renewal of GovQA case management software supporting sworn complaint intake, tracking, legal review workflows, and secure records management.

The case management software is a key public tool used by the public to submit sworn complaints. It is vital for keeping the filing process simple, direct and accessible to the citizens of Texas.

External/Internal Factors Impacting Sub-strategy:

The subscription is $33,000 per year, with an annual escalation of 8–10%. TEC

3.D. Sub-strategy Request

Agency Code: 356	Agency Name: Texas Ethics Commission	Prepared By: Josh Splinter		Strategy Code: 2-1-2

AGENCY GOAL: Provide essential software and programs

OBJECTIVE: Ensure TEC employees have the required programs to complete their work

STRATEGY: Software license

SUB-STRATEGY: Enterprise AI

Code	Sub-strategy Request	Expended 2025	Estimated 2026	Budgeted 2027	Requested 2028	Requested 2029
	Objects of Expense:					
	5000				$30,000	$30,000
	Total, Objects of Expense	$0	$0	$0	$30,000	$30,000
	Method of Financing:					
	GR				$30,000	$30,000
	Total, Method of Financing	$0	$0	$0	$30,000	$30,000
	Number of Positions (FTE)					

Sub-strategy Description and Justification:

Acquisition of enterprise AI tools to support document processing, information retrieval, workflow assistance, and improved staff productivity in enforcement, administrative, and technical operations.

The Enterprise AI Platform is needed to provide secure, governed access to advanced AI capabilities that support enforcement, technical, and administrative workflows through document summarization, discovery review, drafting assistance, structured analysis, code support, and data-driven research.

External/Internal Factors Impacting Sub-strategy:

Funding is required to procure an enterprise-grade solution that meets statewide AI governance requirements and delivers these capabilities through a subscription and controlled-consumption model.

3.D. Sub-strategy Request

Agency Code: 356	Agency Name: Texas Ethics Commission	Prepared By: Josh Splinter		Strategy Code: 2-1-2

AGENCY GOAL:	Provide essential software and programs
OBJECTIVE:	Ensure TEC employees have the required programs to complete their work
STRATEGY:	Software license
SUB-STRATEGY:	Help Desk and Softphone Annual Subscription

Code	Sub-strategy Request	Expended 2025	Estimated 2026	Budgeted 2027	Requested 2028	Requested 2029
	Objects of Expense:					
	5000				$41,800	$43,700
	Total, Objects of Expense	$0	$0	$0	$41,800	$43,700
	Method of Financing:					
	GR				$41,800	$43,700
	Total, Method of Financing	$0	$0	$0	$41,800	$43,700
	Number of Positions (FTE)					

Sub-strategy Description and Justification:

Annual licensing for a cloud based help desk and softphone platform that provides ticketing, call handling, communication tools, and a knowledge base driven chatbot for assisting callers after hours and during periods of heavy call volume.

To track, coordinate, and quickly and accurately answer questions from the more than 32,000 inbound calls the TEC receives each year, the agency requests a new, dedicated help-desk and softphone solution.

External/Internal Factors Impacting Sub-strategy:

The TEC has stepped up its efforts to carry out this recommendation, but a purpose-built help-desk platform — most of which now include AI-assisted ticket routing, categorization, and knowledge-base suggestions — would meaningfully improve response time and reduce staff workload.

3.D. Sub-strategy Request

Agency Code:	Agency Name:	Prepared By:		Strategy Code:
356	Texas Ethics Commission	Josh Splinter		2-1-2

AGENCY GOAL:	Provide essential software and programs
OBJECTIVE:	Ensure TEC employees have the required programs to complete their work
STRATEGY:	Software License
SUB-STRATEGY:	Help Desk and Softphone Annual Onetime Configuration

Code	Sub-strategy Request	Expended 2025	Estimated 2026	Budgeted 2027	Requested 2028	Requested 2029
	Objects of Expense:					
	5000				$33,000	
	Total, Objects of Expense	$0	$0	$0	$33,000	$0
	Method of Financing:					
	GR				$33,000	
	Total, Method of Financing	$0	$0	$0	$33,000	$0
	Number of Positions (FTE)					

Sub-strategy Description and Justification:

Onetime setup and configuration services required to implement the agency's new cloud based help desk and softphone platform. This configuration is required only if the annual subscription component is funded.

To track, coordinate, and quickly and accurately answer questions from the more than 32,000 inbound calls the TEC receives each year, the agency requests a new, dedicated help-desk and softphone solution.

External/Internal Factors Impacting Sub-strategy:

The TEC has stepped up its efforts to carry out this recommendation, but a purpose-built help-desk platform — most of which now include AI-assisted ticket routing, categorization, and knowledge-base suggestions — would meaningfully improve response time and reduce staff workload.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Salary Increases (All Divisions)
Item Priority: 1
IT Component: No
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: No
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies:
01-01-01 Serve as the Repository for Statutorily Required Information
01-01-02 Perform All Legal and Regulatory Functions of the Agency
01-01-03 Respond to Complaints and Enforce Applicable Statutes
02-01-01 Central Administration
02-01-02 Information Resources

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:

Code	Description	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	117,684	117,684
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	589	589
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$118,273**	**$118,273**

METHOD OF FINANCING:

Code	Description	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1	General Revenue Fund	118,273	118,273
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$118,273**	**$118,273**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

The TEC’s most important resource is its staff. As a small agency that performs specialized legal and technical work, the TEC competes directly with larger state agencies and the private sector for attorneys, technologists, and experienced administrative professionals. Persistent salary compression and below-market pay have made it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain qualified employees, and turnover in key positions imposes real costs on the agency’s ability to meet its statutory deadlines. The TEC has had three executive directors in the last nine years — an average tenure of about three years. This exceptional item requests funding for salary adjustments across all divisions to address compression, restore competitiveness with statewide and regional benchmarks, and retain institutional knowledge. The division-specific components are summarized below.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

Non-Exempt: The TEC requests a four percent salary increase for its non-exempt employees. The last salary adjustments for non-exempt TEC employees were granted by the 87th Legislature. Since then, the cost of living has continued to increase. Salary adjustments are necessary to maintain and recruit skilled employees. A four percent across the board increase for current non-exempt employees is a $118,273 annual cost or $236,546 across the biennium.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	**DESCRIPTION**	**Excp 2028**	**Excp 2029**

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

Biennial cost for both Exempt and non-exempt salary increases including the benefit adjustments of 0.5% totals $118,272.10.

4% Non-Exempt Salary Adj.		0.5%	4% Tl	Exempt Salary Adj	.5%	Exempt Adj. Tl
A.1.1 (DFS)	$16,805.68	$84.02	$16,889.70			
A.1.2 (OGC)	$25,016.00	$125.08	$25,141.08	$5,920.00	$29.60	$5,949.60
A.1.3 (ENF)	$32,392.00	$161.96	$32,553.96			
B.1.1 (ADM)	$13,720.00	$68.6	$13,788.60			
B.1.2 (CSD)	$23,830.00	$119.15	$23,949.15			
Total	$111,763.68	$558.82	$112,322.50	$5,920.00	$29.60	$5,949.60

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	**2031**	**2032**
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$118,272	$118,272	$118,272

OUT-YEAR GR ONLY COSTS FOR ITEM:

		2030	2031	2032
1	General Revenue Fund	$118,272	$118,272	$118,272
	TOTAL OUT-YEAR GR ONLY:	$118,272	$118,272	$118,272

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Cloud Hosting and AWS Cost Increase
Item Priority: 2
IT Component: Yes
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: Yes
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	90,000	0
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$90,000**	**$0**

METHOD OF FINANCING:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1	General Revenue Fund	90,000	0
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$90,000**	**$0**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

The TEC hosts its electronic filing system, public disclosure portal, and supporting infrastructure in the cloud, principally through Amazon Web Services (AWS), supplemented by the Department of Information Resources' Data Center Services (DCS). Cloud-hosting costs have risen with the growth in disclosure-data volume, public traffic to the agency's websites, storage, and the compute required to keep the filing system available and performant. The TEC requests that its cloud-hosting appropriation — currently governed by rider — be increased by $90,000 for the biennium to absorb these AWS and data-center cost increases. With the increase, budgeted cloud-hosting costs would be approximately $165,000 in FY2028 and $172,500 in FY2029, for a biennial total of approximately $337,500.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

Because cloud costs are usage-based and can vary from month to month, the TEC also requests that any unexpended balance from FY2028 be permitted to forward to FY2029. Without this adjustment, the agency would have to absorb rising cloud costs from its baseline operating funds, reducing the resources available for its core regulatory functions.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

N/A

DESCRIPTION OF IT COMPONENT INCLUDED IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM:

The Commission is requesting a $90,000 biennial increase (raising budgeted cloud hosting to $337,500 for the biennium; Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources) with UB Authority. The estimated out-year shortage cost from FY 2028 to FY 2032 is estimated to be $270,000 over a five year span, with an estimated out-year license subscription cost from FY 2026-2032 to be $1,259,500, all from GR funds.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

IS THIS IT COMPONENT RELATED TO A NEW OR CURRENT PROJECT?

CURRENT

STATUS:

TEC's electronic filing system has operated in the AWS Public Cloud since October 2022. The system uses a managed cloud infrastructure configured for stable performance and efficient resource utilization. The vendor maintains and optimizes the environment to reduce compute and storage consumption, which helps manage ongoing operating costs. The cloud deployment provides significant performance improvements for filers, and campaign finance reports are scrubbed and made publicly available within minutes of submission.

TEC's new website is hosted on a fully managed instance in the State Data Center's DCS PCM AWS Public Cloud. The environment uses an AWS EC2 virtual machine and a MySQL compatible Amazon RDS database to support the WordPress platform. The DCS PCM provides patching, monitoring, and backup services, while the agency manages website content, application configuration, and functional testing. Because the current cloud hosting allocation covers only the electronic filing system, and hosting costs continue to increase annually, the agency requires additional Managed Cloud Services funding to support ongoing hosting, monitoring, and operational costs for the new website.

OUTCOMES:

Continued investment in AWS Public Cloud resources for the electronic filing system provides measurable long term benefits. Operational efficiencies are gained through improved performance and the ability to scale compute resources up or down based on workload demand. Cost efficiencies are achieved through optimized resource utilization and improved return on investment. Security is enhanced through ongoing alignment with established cloud security standards. User satisfaction is increased by providing filers with faster filing performance and enabling the public to access filed campaign finance reports and related data within minutes of submission.

The new website's deployment in the DCS PCM AWS Public Cloud provides improved long term operational effectiveness. Hosting in a fully managed environment enhances reliability, resiliency, and cybersecurity protections. Cloud based infrastructure supports consistent performance during periods of high public and filer traffic and enables scalable resource allocation as demand increases. Disaster recovery capabilities are strengthened through PCM managed backups and monitoring. Overall user satisfaction is improved by providing faster, more stable access to agency information and filings, resulting in a more efficient and dependable public facing service.

OUTPUTS:

For the agency's electronic filing system, quantifiable results of continued investment in AWS Public Cloud resources include consistent and efficient utilization of compute and storage services, service continuity approaching 100% uptime, reliably executed maintenance activities such as weekly scheduled software updates and daily backups, and effective management of operating costs through monitored resource consumption.

For the agency's new website, quantifiable results of hosting in the DCS PCM AWS Public Cloud include consistent and scalable use of EC2 and RDS resources, service availability supported by managed patching and monitoring, reliably executed backup and maintenance activities, and effective cost management through monitored resource utilization. The cloud based environment ensures stable performance during high traffic periods and dependable delivery of website content to the public

TYPE OF PROJECT

Cloud Computing

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

An alternative to cloud hosting would be to operate the electronic filing system. This would require significant investment in servers, storage, cooling, backup systems, power redundancy, and contracted system administrators. Meeting modern cybersecurity, scalability, and performance requirements, especially for large reports, would require multiyear effort and exceed available agency staffing and resources. The alternative is not operationally or financially feasible.

An alternative to hosting the new website in the DCS PCM AWS Public Cloud would be to run it on premises. Supporting high filer, public, and media traffic onsite would require significant hardware, security controls, disaster recovery capabilities, and specialized system administration. The agency lacks the expertise needed to manage an on premises web platform at this scale, and implementing such infrastructure would require considerable cost and multiyear effort. As a result, this alternative is not feasible.

ESTIMATED IT COST

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$247,000	$0	$337,500	$0	$337,500	$0	$337,500	$1,259,500

SCALABILITY

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0

FTE

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

The Commission is requesting a $90,000 biennial increase (raising budgeted cloud hosting to $337,500 for the biennium; Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources) with UB Authority. The estimated out-year shortage cost from FY 2028 to FY 2032 is estimated to be $270,000 over a five year span, with an estimated out-year license subscription cost from FY 2026-2032 to be $1,259,500, all from GR funds.

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$90,000	$0	$90,000

APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE OF EXCEPTIONAL ITEM : 100.00%

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

CONTRACT DESCRIPTION :

State law requires the Commission to provide an electronic filing system for campaign finance, lobby, and personal financial statement filers. The system has been hosted in the AWS Public Cloud since October 2022, where the vendor manages the cloud infrastructure and hosting services. Cloud deployment has significantly improved application performance for all filers, particularly those submitting large reports. The ability to scale compute resources on demand has reduced error checking and PDF rendering times from hours to minutes. Filed campaign finance reports are scrubbed and published for public access within minutes of submission. Maintaining equivalent capabilities on premises is not feasible due to the infrastructure, cybersecurity controls, middleware, and specialized staff required. Cloud hosting provides a more cost effective, secure, and scalable solution for meeting statutory filing requirements.

The agency’s public website is a primary source of information for statewide campaign finance, lobby, personal financial statement filers, and for business and governmental entity filers submitting Certificates of Interested Parties. The site also supports significant public and media traffic. Reliable availability, strong security controls, and timely delivery of content are essential for meeting statutory transparency requirements and for supporting statewide filers. Hosting the new website in the State Data Center’s DCS PCM AWS Public Cloud provides fully managed infrastructure services, including patching, monitoring, backup, and disaster recovery. The managed cloud environment offers enhanced cybersecurity protections, improved operational resiliency, and the ability to scale to meet demand compared to the on premises website. Because the current cloud hosting allocation funds only the electronic filing system, and hosting costs continue to increase annually, additional Managed Cloud Services funding is required to support ongoing hosting and operational costs for the new website. This contract will expand across multiple biennia.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Restore the One Full-Time Employee Cut in the Three Percent Reduction to Baseline and Reallocate Full-Time Employee
Item Priority: 3
IT Component: No
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: No
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:

Code	Description	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	115,224	115,224
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	1,728	1,728
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$116,952**	**$116,952**

METHOD OF FINANCING:

Code	Description	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1	General Revenue Fund	116,952	116,952
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$116,952**	**$116,952**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

The TEC requests the restoration of funding for the OGC (A.1.2.) attorney position and reallocating the baseline funding and FTE to Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources, to fund a Web Administrator/Data Analyst. The position responds to documented structural gaps, identified in the agency's Sunset review and the agency's unmet capacity to build out its public-facing web tools and analyze its disclosure data. Per the LAR instructions, the salary figures below include the 1.5% GAA payroll contribution add-on required for exceptional items affecting FTE positions — the 1.0% Payroll Contribution for Group Health Insurance (GAA Art. IX, § 17.03) and the 0.5% Additional Payroll Contribution for Retirement (GAA Art. IX, § 17.06).

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

The 88th Legislature reduced the number of FTEs from 34.5 to 28.4. The 89th Legislature added back three, to bring the total FTEs to 31.4. The TEC requests to maintain the FTE count at 31.4.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

The TEC requests the restoration of funding for the OGC (A.1.2.) attorney position and reallocating the baseline funding and FTE to Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources, to fund a Web Administrator/Data Analyst. The position responds to documented structural gaps, identified in the agency's Sunset review and the agency's unmet capacity to build out its public-facing web tools and analyze its disclosure data. Per the LAR instructions, the salary figures below include the 1.5% GAA payroll contribution add-on required for exceptional items affecting FTE positions — the 1.0% Payroll Contribution for Group Health Insurance (GAA Art. IX, § 17.03) and the 0.5% Additional Payroll Contribution for Retirement (GAA Art. IX, § 17.06).

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$116,952	$116,952	$116,952

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Enhancements to Electronic Filing System
Item Priority: 4
IT Component: Yes
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: Yes
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	275,000	0
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$275,000**	**$0**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	275,000	0
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$275,000**	**$0**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:
State law requires the Commission to provide an electronic filing solution for campaign finance, lobby, and personal financial statement filers. Enhancements to the system are not included in the vendor's maintenance contract and must be procured separately on a time and materials basis at $150 per hour. Updates to the filing applicationsapplication are required when legislative changes, new Commission rules, or internal and public requests modify underlying business requirements. The system contains more than 2.3 million lines of code operating in a virtualized Linux environment in the AWS Public Cloud, and all enhancements must be performed by the original developer. Legislative changes enacted during the 90th Legislative Session may necessitate modifications to one or more components of the filing system, requiring continued funding for enhancement activities.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:
This request continues the previously appropriated enhancement funding. If awarded, the TEC intends to use the funds to continue automating and electronically transmitting late-filing notices; modernize account management, including online filing and amendment of treasurer appointments; revise the personal financial statement reporting forms; enable online penalty payment; and automate tracking of referrals to the Office of the Attorney General. Without this funding, the agency may be unable to make enhancements required by legislative mandate, creating a risk that filed reports will not comply with current law.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:
NA

DESCRIPTION OF IT COMPONENT INCLUDED IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM:
The agency is requesting $275,000 for the FY 28/29 biennium with UB authority ($137,500 in both FY 2028 and FY2029) to fund enhancements to the electronic filing system. The filing system is fully managed by the vendor that developed the software, and this vendor must make the code changes to the system. Enhancements to the filing system are not covered under the maintenance contract with the vendor. Enhancement work is billed as time and materials at $150/hour. The Method of finance would be in

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CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Strategy B.1.2 and expand multiple fiscal years through FY 2032 totaling $825,000 over the five year span. $137,500 per year / $275,000 for the biennium

IS THIS IT COMPONENT RELATED TO A NEW OR CURRENT PROJECT?

CURRENT

STATUS:

Current legislative appropriations fund maintenance for the electronic filing system but do not include funding for enhancements to the campaign finance, lobby, personal financial statement, or Filing Application Manager components. Each legislative session results in unfunded mandates requiring updates to one or more filing applications, typically involving several hundred hours of development to implement required changes to the system's source code. The Commission anticipates additional modifications will be needed to implement legislative changes passed during the 90th Legislative Session. The agency has also identified several enhancements to the campaign finance, lobby, personal financial statement, and Filing Application Manager applications that it intends to pursue if funding is awarded, including Automate Treasurer Appointments, Identity Verification, Filer Type Bulk Generation, and PFS Agency Survey Simplification

OUTCOMES:

Enhancements to the Commission's filing applications improve compliance with state laws and regulations by ensuring that system functionality reflects current statutory and rule requirements. These updates can improve usability and performance, supporting a more efficient filing experience for filers. Enhancements also generate operational efficiencies by automating manual staff tasks that are susceptible to data entry errors, increasing processing speed and accuracy while reducing the likelihood of human error.

OUTPUTS:

Enhancements to the filing applications improve the accuracy and completeness of information disclosed by filers by aligning data entry processes with statutory requirements. Usability improvements simplify complex data entry steps, reducing the number of technical and legal assistance requests. Enhancements that automate repetitive staff tasks increase processing efficiency and allow staff to focus on higher priority responsibilities.

TYPE OF PROJECT

Data Management / Data Warehousing

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

The electronic filing system is fully managed by the contracted vendor, and enhancements must be performed by this vendor. If the project is not funded or is funded only in part, the Commission would be unable to implement required updates to the code base resulting from legislative mandates, Commission rule changes, or usability needs identified by staff and filers. Without these enhancements, the filing applications may not fully support current statutory disclosure requirements, creating a risk that filed reports may not be compliant with state law. There are no viable alternatives for completing this work outside of the contracted vendor.

ESTIMATED IT COST

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$137,500	$137,500	$275,000	$0	$275,000	$0	$275,000	$1,100,000

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CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

SCALABILITY

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0

FTE

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

The agency is requesting $275,000 for the FY 28/29 biennium with UB authority ($137,500 in both FY 2028 and FY2029) to fund enhancements to the electronic filing system. The filing system is fully managed by the vendor that developed the software, and this vendor must make the code changes to the system. Enhancements to the filing system are not covered under the maintenance contract with the vendor. Enhancement work is billed as time and materials at $150/hour. The Method of finance would be in Strategy B.1.2 and expand multiple fiscal years through FY 2032 totaling $825,000 over the five year span. $137,500 per year / $275,000 for the biennium

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$275,000	$0	$275,000

APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE OF EXCEPTIONAL ITEM : 100.00%

CONTRACT DESCRIPTION :

The electronic filing system is fully managed by the contracted vendor, and enhancements must be performed by this vendor. The Commission currently has a contract agreement for maintenance and support of the electronic filing system with the vendor that developed the Electronic filing system and the 1295 filing application. Enhancements to the system are not considered maintenance activities but are handled in the contract as time and materials billed at an hourly rate. This project includes enhancements by the contractor to the system for items that are beyond the initial design of the project ($137,500 per year). If the project is not funded or is funded only in part, the Commission would be unable to implement required updates to the code base resulting from legislative mandates, Commission rule changes, or usability needs identified by staff and filers. Without these enhancements, the filing applications may not fully support current statutory disclosure requirements, creating a risk that filed reports may not be compliant with state law. There are no viable alternatives for completing this work outside of the contracted vendor. Therefore the Texas Ethics Commission requests $275,000 with UB authority for the biennium.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Software License Cost Increases
Item Priority: 5
IT Component: Yes
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: Yes
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	186,511	140,062
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$186,511**	**$140,062**

METHOD OF FINANCING:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1	General Revenue Fund	186,511	140,062
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$186,511**	**$140,062**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

Several software tools that are essential to the agency’s legal, enforcement, and administrative work are subject to subscription and license cost increases, and the agency needs to add a dedicated help-desk and softphone solution. The TEC requests a budget adjustment to cover these increases and the cost of the new help-desk system. To the extent multiple divisions rely on the same tools, the TEC asks that divisional budgets be adjusted consistently.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

LexisNexis and GovQA components, which serve the Office of the General Counsel and the Enforcement Division, are still being finalized.Microsoft 365 and Adobe Acrobat Pro. Relied on for day-to-day work and for file management in SharePoint; the request covers anticipated subscription cost increases across staff, commissioners, and the agency’s management-and-technology resources.

Website plug-ins and Techsmith tools. Licenses for the agency’s new website and supporting content tools (Camtasia, Screencast, SearchWP, ACF Table Field Pro, and The Events Calendar) used to build and maintain public-facing pages and search tools.

Jaspersoft reporting. Reporting and analytics software; the FY2028 amount is a safety-net renewal, and the agency is evaluating whether to migrate to an alternative tool in a future biennium.

Help-desk and softphone software (new). A new, dedicated help-desk and softphone solution to manage the high volume of inbound public-assistance calls and tickets. Based on the agency’s call volume — more than 32,000 inbound contacts annually across roughly 35 lines — the agency has budgeted a combined help-desk and softphone subscription covering all 37 staff at $41,800 in FY2028 and $43,700 in FY2029, plus a one-time configuration and training cost of approximately $33,000.

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CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

LexisNexis (Lexis). Legal research relied on by the Office of the General Counsel and the Enforcement Division; the request covers anticipated subscription cost increases (figure being compiled).

GovQA. Used for sworn-complaint case management and the online complaint-filing portal, and a strong candidate for consolidating the agency's public-information-request workflow (currently spread across SharePoint, email, and separate databases); the request covers anticipated subscription cost increases (figure being compiled).

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

N/A

DESCRIPTION OF IT COMPONENT INCLUDED IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM:

Software License Cost Increases and New Productivity Tools
Biennial cost: $326,573 in known CSD components; LexisNexis, GovQA increases and AI software like Claude.

Several software tools that are essential to the agency's legal, enforcement, and administrative work are subject to subscription and license cost increases, and the agency needs to add a dedicated help-desk and softphone solution. The TEC requests a budget adjustment to cover these increases and the cost of the new help-desk system. To the extent multiple divisions rely on the same tools, the TEC asks that divisional budgets be adjusted consistently.

Tool / License
Cybersecurity and Networking Security Software/Hardware Next-Generation Firewall Subscription Renewal- FortiGate- Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$30,000	---	$30,000

Cisco SMARTNet Support Renewal- Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
----	$12,000	$12,000

Microsoft 365 (staff, commissioners) -Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$13,200	$13,800	$27,000

Adobe Acrobat Pro (35 licenses) - Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$3,510	$3,515	$7,025

Website plug-ins & Techsmith (Camtasia, Screencast, SearchWP, ACF Table Field Pro, The Events Calendar) - Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$1,001	$1,047	$2,048

Jaspersoft reporting (FY2028 shortfall) - Existing

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CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

FY 28 FY 29 Biennium TL
$1,000 — $1,000

GovQA case management / public-information requests -Existing
FY 28 FY 29 Biennium TL
$33,000 $36,000 $69,000

Enterprise AI -New
FY 28 FY 29 Biennium TL
$30,000 $30,000 $60,000

Help desk + softphone — annual subscription (37 staff) - New
FY 28 FY 29 Biennium TL
$41,800 $43,700 $85,500

Help desk + softphone — one-time configuration - New
FY 28 FY 29 Biennium TL
$33,000 — $33,000

TL: $186,511 $140,062 $326,573

IS THIS IT COMPONENT RELATED TO A NEW OR CURRENT PROJECT?

NEW

STATUS:

TEC currently carries operating software and hardware license agreements that continue to increase in cost by 5-10% on each annual renewal. These licenses include: Microsoft 365 and Adobe Acrobat Pro. Relied on for day-to-day work and for file management in SharePoint; the request covers anticipated subscription cost increases across staff, commissioners, and the agency's management-and-technology resources.

Website plug-ins and Techsmith tools. Licenses for the agency's new website and supporting content tools (Camtasia, Screencast, SearchWP, ACF Table Field Pro, and The Events Calendar) used to build and maintain public-facing pages and search tools.

Jaspersoft reporting. Reporting and analytics software; the FY2028 amount is a safety-net renewal, and the agency is evaluating whether to migrate to an alternative tool in a future biennium.

LexisNexis (Lexis). Legal research relied on by the Office of the General Counsel and the Enforcement Division; the request covers anticipated subscription cost increases (figure being compiled).

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CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

GovQA. Used for sworn-complaint case management and the online complaint-filing portal. As the TEC's caseload as dramatically increased the TEC has come to rely on a sworn complaint case management system to receive complaints, track deadlines, manage its line attorneys, and track measures.

New exceptional item requests include:
Help-desk and softphone software (new). A new, dedicated help-desk and softphone solution to manage the high volume of inbound public-assistance calls and tickets. Based on the agency's call volume — more than 32,000 inbound contacts annually across roughly 35 lines — the agency has budgeted a combined help-desk and softphone subscription covering all 37 staff at $41,800 in FY2028 and $43,700 in FY2029, plus a one-time configuration and training cost of approximately $33,000.

OUTCOMES:

Maintaining current software licenses supports secure, stable, and fully functional application environments for agency operations. Updated productivity tools improve staff efficiency and reduce support incidents. Renewed website plugins and reporting systems ensure reliable public access to filings and data. Legal research and case management tools enable timely and accurate legal work. Cybersecurity licenses help safeguard systems from threats and ensure compliance with statewide security standards. Fully funded licensing allows the agency to sustain continuous service availability and meet statutory and operational requirements effectively.

OUTPUTS:

Outputs resulting from the license renewals include continued availability of productivity software, reporting tools, website components, cybersecurity systems, and legal research platforms. Staff retain uninterrupted access to Microsoft 365, Adobe Acrobat Pro, website plugins, Jaspersoft reports, and case management tools. Legal and IT teams maintain required research capabilities and incident tracking. Renewed security licenses support continuous monitoring and protection of agency systems. Funding for the help desk and softphone platform will result in improved issue tracking and communication quality across the agency.

TYPE OF PROJECT

Acquisition and Refresh of Hardware and Software

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

There are no viable alternatives to renewing required software licenses for productivity, reporting, website functionality, case management, and cybersecurity. Core products, including Microsoft 365, Adobe Acrobat Pro, WordPress plugins, Jaspersoft, LexisNexis, GovQA, and the FortiGate firewall, are proprietary and cannot be replaced with unsupported or unlicensed versions without compromising security, functionality, or compliance with state standards.

Some components of this project may be deferred if funding is not available. The new help desk and softphone solution can be postponed without impacting current operations, as these tools are not yet implemented. GovQA and LexisNexis subscriptions may also be procured on shorter terms if full multiyear funding is unavailable. However, there is no feasible alternative that provides the required capability using existing tools or manual processes. Maintaining required software licensing is necessary to ensure secure, reliable, and supported environments for agency operations.

ESTIMATED IT COST

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$186,511	$140,062	$0	$0	$0	$325,573

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

SCALABILITY

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0

FTE

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

Software License Cost Increases and New Productivity Tools
Biennial cost: $326,573 in known CSD components; LexisNexis, GovQA increases and AI software like Claude.

Several software tools that are essential to the agency's legal, enforcement, and administrative work are subject to subscription and license cost increases, and the agency needs to add a dedicated help-desk and softphone solution. The TEC requests a budget adjustment to cover these increases and the cost of the new help-desk system. To the extent multiple divisions rely on the same tools, the TEC asks that divisional budgets be adjusted consistently.

Tool / License
Cybersecurity and Networking Security Software/Hardware Next-Generation Firewall Subscription Renewal- FortiGate- Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$30,000	---	$30,000

Cisco SMARTNet Support Renewal- Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
----	$12,000	$12,000

Microsoft 365 (staff, commissioners) -Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$13,200	$13,800	$27,000

Adobe Acrobat Pro (35 licenses) - Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$3,510	$3,515	$7,025

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	**DESCRIPTION**	**Excp 2028**	**Excp 2029**

Website plug-ins & Techsmith (Camtasia, Screencast, SearchWP, ACF Table Field Pro, The Events Calendar) - Existing
FY 28 FY 29 Biennium TL
$1,001 $1,047 $2,048

Jaspersoft reporting (FY2028 shortfall) - Existing
FY 28 FY 29 Biennium TL
$1,000 — $1,000

GovQA case management / public-information requests -Existing
FY 28 FY 29 Biennium TL
$33,000 $36,000 $69,000

Enterprise AI -New
FY 28 FY 29 Biennium TL
$30,000 $30,000 $60,000

Help desk + softphone — annual subscription (37 staff) - New
FY 28 FY 29 Biennium TL
$41,800 $43,700 $85,500

Help desk + softphone — one-time configuration - New
FY 28 FY 29 Biennium TL
$33,000 — $33,000

TL: $186,511 $140,062 $326,573

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	**2031**	**2032**
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$133,615	$169,175	$156,835

APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE OF EXCEPTIONAL ITEM : 100.00%

CONTRACT DESCRIPTION :

This project includes multiple software subscription, licensing, and maintenance contracts that support agency operations, reporting, legal research, security, and website

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

functionality. Contract durations vary by product: several tools, including Microsoft 365, Adobe Acrobat Pro, website plug-ins, Jaspersoft reporting components, Camtasia, Screencast, and LexisNexis, renew on an annual subscription cycle, while other products, such as Cisco network switch support and Fortinet security and hardware support, are renewed on a three-year cycle. All contracts provide essential software access, maintenance, updates, and security features necessary for continued operation of agency systems.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Fund the Rider Relating to Retirement Payouts
Item Priority: 6
IT Component: No
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: No
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies:
01-01-01 Serve as the Repository for Statutorily Required Information
01-01-03 Respond to Complaints and Enforce Applicable Statutes
02-01-01 Central Administration
02-01-02 Information Resources

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	0	0
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	130,766	0
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$130,766**	**$0**

METHOD OF FINANCING:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1	General Revenue Fund	130,766	0
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$130,766**	**$0**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

The TEC is required to pay retiring employees a lump sum for unused annual leave. Five of the Commission's current employees are or will be eligible for retirement in fiscal year 2028. Combined, this represents nearly 15.9 percent of the current workforce, and they will be owed a maximum total payment of $130,766 in lump sum entitlements upon their retirement. Many of these employees occupy senior positions within the agency.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

Because the rider was removed from the FY 28/29 adjusted GR/GRD, the agency is requesting the retirement funding be restored at $130,766 with UB authority over the biennium. If the rider is not separately funded, it ties up baseline budget across all strategies. If retirement-eligible employees do not in fact retire during the biennium, the agency will lapse the encumbered salary money rather than use it for agency operations. If not seperately funded the agency would face leaving vacant positions unfilled to account for the entitled unused annual leave payments. This will cause an estimated lapse of $130,766.

The TEC requests one of the following two alternatives:

Remove the rider. Strike the "Appropriation for Retirement Payments" rider so that the agency is not required to encumber and then lapse baseline salary funds when retirement-eligible employees do not retire. This is the agency's preferred option.

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CODE	**DESCRIPTION**	**Excp 2028**	**Excp 2029**

Or, fund the payouts with the rider in place. Alternatively, appropriate funding for the lump-sum payouts so the rider amounts are covered by dedicated dollars rather than by encumbering baseline salary appropriations.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

Biennium cost $130,766 with UB authority from FY 28 into FY 29 is requested. The TEC is required to pay retiring employees a lump sum for unused annual leave. Five of the Commission's current employees will be eligible for retirement in fiscal year 2028. Combined, this represents 15.92 percent of the current workforce, and they will be owed a maximum total payment of $130,766 in lump sum entitlements upon their retirement. Two of these employees occupy senior positions within the agency.

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	**2031**	**2032**
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$130,766	$0	$130,766

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
	Item Name: Hardware Refresh (laptops)		
	Item Priority: 7		
	IT Component: Yes		
	Anticipated Out-year Costs: No		
	Involve Contracts > $50,000: Yes		
	Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0	52,500
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$0**	**$52,500**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	0	52,500
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$0**	**$52,500**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

The agency's computing hardware is reaching the end of its serviceable life and must be refreshed to maintain security, reliability, and staff productivity. The Computer Services Division maintains laptops on a three-to-five-year replacement cycle. Under that schedule, the agency's 35 laptops are due for replacement in FY2029 at approximately $1,500 each ($52,500). Refreshing this equipment on schedule avoids the higher support costs, downtime, and security exposure that accompany aging hardware and ensures staff have equipment capable of running current software and supporting the agency's regulatory work.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

The agency's end-user computing hardware is reaching the end of its serviceable life and must be refreshed to maintain security, reliability, and staff productivity

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

na

DESCRIPTION OF IT COMPONENT INCLUDED IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM:

The commission is requesting a one-time funding of $52,500 in FY 2029. (Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources; capital) from GR to replace 35 laptops in FY2029 at an estimated cost of $52,500. The Commission must maintain reliable, secure, and fully supported workstation equipment to ensure staff can perform statutory responsibilities. This project provides scheduled end-of-life replacement of agency laptops. The Commission plans to replace 35 laptops in FY2029 at an estimated cost of $52,500. Regular hardware refresh cycles are required to maintain security compliance, ensure compatibility with modern applications, reduce equipment failures, and support staff productivity. This item qualifies as Electronic and Information Resources (EIR) for procurement purposes; however, as hardware not accessed through a dedicated end-user software interface, it is not subject to TAC 206/213 accessibility requirements.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

IS THIS IT COMPONENT RELATED TO A NEW OR CURRENT PROJECT?

NEW

STATUS:

The agency's workstation equipment is used daily to support statutory filing, administrative processes, and internal operations. A portion of the agency's laptops have reached or are approaching end of life and no longer meet recommended lifecycle or performance standards. Maintaining security, compatibility with current software, and reliable functionality requires periodic replacement of aging workstation hardware. The planned refresh includes laptops scheduled for replacement in FY2029.

OUTCOMES:

Replacing end of life laptops improves system reliability, reduces hardware failures, and ensures compatibility with current operating systems and security requirements. Updated workstation equipment enhances staff productivity by providing faster performance, consistent access to agency applications, and improved support for remote and hybrid work. Modern hardware also supports ongoing cybersecurity measures, reducing operational risk and enabling staff to perform statutory duties efficiently and without interruption.

OUTPUTS:

The workstation hardware refresh produces measurable outputs including the deployment of new laptops that meet current performance, security, and support standards. Replacing aging equipment reduces the number of hardware-related support requests, improves system stability, and ensures staff have reliable access to agency applications and data. Updated devices also support required operating system and software updates, enabling continued compliance with security policies and maintaining consistent productivity across all divisions.

TYPE OF PROJECT

Acquisition and Refresh of Hardware and Software

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

There are no viable alternatives to scheduled workstation hardware replacement. Aging equipment increases the risk of hardware failure and may not meet current performance, security, or support requirements. Extending the use of end of life hardware is not a feasible alternative, as doing so would impair staff productivity, reduce system reliability, limit compatibility with modern software, and increase the likelihood of security vulnerabilities. Regular refresh cycles are required to maintain a secure and reliable workstation environment for agency operations.

ESTIMATED IT COST

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$0	$52,500	$0	$0	$0	$52,500

SCALABILITY

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

FTE

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$0	$0	$0

APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE OF EXCEPTIONAL ITEM : 100.00%

CONTRACT DESCRIPTION :

This project will require future procurement of workstation hardware through standard state purchasing processes. The contract will consist of a one-time purchase order for laptop computers, with the exact specifications and vendor determined at the time of purchase. Contract duration will be a single fiscal year, consistent with hardware delivery and acceptance.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Code Description		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
Item Name:	Salary Increases (All Divisions)		
Allocation to Strategy:	1-1-1 Serve as the Repository for Statutorily Required Information		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	16,806	16,806
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	84	84
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$16,890**	**$16,890**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	16,890	16,890
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING		**$16,890**	**$16,890**

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Code Description		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
Item Name:	Salary Increases (All Divisions)		
Allocation to Strategy:	1-1-2 Perform All Legal and Regulatory Functions of the Agency		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	30,936	30,936
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	155	155
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$31,091**	**$31,091**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	31,091	31,091
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING		**$31,091**	**$31,091**

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Code	Description	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
Item Name:	Salary Increases (All Divisions)		
Allocation to Strategy:	1-1-3 Respond to Complaints and Enforce Applicable Statutes		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	32,392	32,392
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	162	162
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$32,554**	**$32,554**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	32,554	32,554
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING		**$32,554**	**$32,554**

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Code Description	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
Item Name: Salary Increases (All Divisions)		
Allocation to Strategy: 2-1-1 Central Administration		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:		
1001 SALARIES AND WAGES	13,720	13,720
2009 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	69	69
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$13,789**	**$13,789**
METHOD OF FINANCING:		
1 General Revenue Fund	13,789	13,789
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$13,789**	**$13,789**

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Code	Description	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
Item Name:	Salary Increases (All Divisions)		
Allocation to Strategy:	2-1-2 Information Resources		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	23,830	23,830
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	119	119
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$23,949**	**$23,949**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	23,949	23,949
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING		**$23,949**	**$23,949**

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Code Description	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
Item Name: Cloud Hosting and AWS Cost Increase		
Allocation to Strategy: 2-1-2 Information Resources		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:		
5000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	90,000	0
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$90,000**	**$0**
METHOD OF FINANCING:		
1 General Revenue Fund	90,000	0
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$90,000**	**$0**

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Code Description	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
Item Name: Restore the One Full-Time Employee Cut in the Three Percent Reduction to Baseline and Reallocate Full-Time Employee		
Allocation to Strategy: 2-1-2 Information Resources		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:		
1001 SALARIES AND WAGES	115,224	115,224
2009 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	1,728	1,728
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$116,952**	**$116,952**
METHOD OF FINANCING:		
1 General Revenue Fund	116,952	116,952
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$116,952**	**$116,952**

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Code Description	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
Item Name: Enhancements to Electronic Filing System		
Allocation to Strategy: 2-1-2 Information Resources		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:		
5000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	275,000	0
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$275,000**	**$0**
METHOD OF FINANCING:		
1 General Revenue Fund	275,000	0
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$275,000**	**$0**

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Code Description	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
Item Name: Software License Cost Increases		
Allocation to Strategy: 2-1-2 Information Resources		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:		
5000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	186,511	140,062
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$186,511**	**$140,062**
METHOD OF FINANCING:		
1 General Revenue Fund	186,511	140,062
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$186,511**	**$140,062**

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Code Description		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
Item Name:	Fund the Rider Relating to Retirement Payouts		
Allocation to Strategy:	1-1-1 Serve as the Repository for Statutorily Required Information		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	0	0
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$0**	**$0**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	0	0
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING		**$0**	**$0**

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Code Description		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
Item Name:	Fund the Rider Relating to Retirement Payouts		
Allocation to Strategy:	1-1-3 Respond to Complaints and Enforce Applicable Statutes		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	41,218	0
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$41,218**	**$0**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	41,218	0
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING		**$41,218**	**$0**

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Code Description		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
Item Name:	Fund the Rider Relating to Retirement Payouts		
Allocation to Strategy:	2-1-1 Central Administration		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	44,717	0
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE		**$44,717**	**$0**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	44,717	0
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING		**$44,717**	**$0**

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Code Description	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
Item Name: Fund the Rider Relating to Retirement Payouts		
Allocation to Strategy: 2-1-2 Information Resources		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:		
1002 OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	44,831	0
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$44,831**	**$0**
METHOD OF FINANCING:		
1 General Revenue Fund	44,831	0
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$44,831**	**$0**

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Code Description	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
Item Name: Hardware Refresh (laptops)		
Allocation to Strategy: 2-1-2 Information Resources		
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:		
5000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0	52,500
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$0**	**$52,500**
METHOD OF FINANCING:		
1 General Revenue Fund	0	52,500
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$0**	**$52,500**

Agency Code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

GOAL: 1 Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws

OBJECTIVE: 1 Access Required Reports; Respond to Advisory Reqs & Sworn Complaints

STRATEGY: 1 Serve as the Repository for Statutorily Required Information

Service Categories:
Service: 02 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
STRATEGY IMPACT ON OUTCOME MEASURES:			
1	Percent of Reports Available for Public Inspection within Two Days	99.00 %	99.00 %
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	16,806	16,806
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	84	84
	Total, Objects of Expense	**$16,890**	**$16,890**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	16,890	16,890
	Total, Method of Finance	**$16,890**	**$16,890**

EXCEPTIONAL ITEM(S) INCLUDED IN STRATEGY:

Salary Increases (All Divisions)

Fund the Rider Relating to Retirement Payouts

Agency Code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

GOAL: 1 Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws

OBJECTIVE: 1 Access Required Reports; Respond to Advisory Reqs & Sworn Complaints — Service Categories:

STRATEGY: 2 Perform All Legal and Regulatory Functions of the Agency — Service: 01 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
	STRATEGY IMPACT ON OUTCOME MEASURES:		
1	Percent of Reports Available for Public Inspection within Two Days	24.00 %	24.00 %
	OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:		
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	30,936	30,936
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	155	155
	Total, Objects of Expense	**$31,091**	**$31,091**
	METHOD OF FINANCING:		
1	General Revenue Fund	31,091	31,091
	Total, Method of Finance	**$31,091**	**$31,091**

EXCEPTIONAL ITEM(S) INCLUDED IN STRATEGY:

Salary Increases (All Divisions)

Agency Code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

GOAL: 1 Administer Public Disclosure/Ethics Laws
OBJECTIVE: 1 Access Required Reports; Respond to Advisory Reqs & Sworn Complaints — Service Categories:
STRATEGY: 3 Respond to Complaints and Enforce Applicable Statutes — Service: 01 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
STRATEGY IMPACT ON OUTCOME MEASURES:			
2	% of Sworn Complaints Processed within Five Working Days after Filing	100.00 %	100.00 %
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	32,392	32,392
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	41,218	0
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	162	162
	Total, Objects of Expense	**$73,772**	**$32,554**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	73,772	32,554
	Total, Method of Finance	**$73,772**	**$32,554**

EXCEPTIONAL ITEM(S) INCLUDED IN STRATEGY:

Salary Increases (All Divisions)

Fund the Rider Relating to Retirement Payouts

Agency Code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

GOAL: 2 Indirect Administration

OBJECTIVE: 1 Indirect Administration

STRATEGY: 1 Central Administration

Service Categories:
Service: 09 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	13,720	13,720
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	44,717	0
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	69	69
	Total, Objects of Expense	**$58,506**	**$13,789**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	58,506	13,789
	Total, Method of Finance	**$58,506**	**$13,789**

EXCEPTIONAL ITEM(S) INCLUDED IN STRATEGY:

Salary Increases (All Divisions)

Fund the Rider Relating to Retirement Payouts

Agency Code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

GOAL: 2 Indirect Administration

OBJECTIVE: 1 Indirect Administration

STRATEGY: 2 Information Resources

Service Categories:
Service: 09 Income: A.2 Age: B.3

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	139,054	139,054
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	44,831	0
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	1,847	1,847
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	551,511	192,562
	Total, Objects of Expense	**$737,243**	**$333,463**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	737,243	333,463
	Total, Method of Finance	**$737,243**	**$333,463**

EXCEPTIONAL ITEM(S) INCLUDED IN STRATEGY:

Salary Increases (All Divisions)

Cloud Hosting and AWS Cost Increase

Restore the One Full-Time Employee Cut in the Three Percent Reduction to Baseline and Reallocate Full-Time Employee

Enhancements to Electronic Filing System

Software License Cost Increases

Fund the Rider Relating to Retirement Payouts

Hardware Refresh (laptops)

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Salary Increases (All Divisions)
Item Priority: 1
IT Component: No
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: No
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies:

01-01-01	Serve as the Repository for Statutorily Required Information
01-01-02	Perform All Legal and Regulatory Functions of the Agency
01-01-03	Respond to Complaints and Enforce Applicable Statutes
02-01-01	Central Administration
02-01-02	Information Resources

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	117,684	117,684
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	589	589
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$118,273**	**$118,273**

METHOD OF FINANCING:

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1	General Revenue Fund	118,273	118,273
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$118,273**	**$118,273**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

The TEC's most important resource is its staff. As a small agency that performs specialized legal and technical work, the TEC competes directly with larger state agencies and the private sector for attorneys, technologists, and experienced administrative professionals. Persistent salary compression and below-market pay have made it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain qualified employees, and turnover in key positions imposes real costs on the agency's ability to meet its statutory deadlines. The TEC has had three executive directors in the last nine years — an average tenure of about three years. This exceptional item requests funding for salary adjustments across all divisions to address compression, restore competitiveness with statewide and regional benchmarks, and retain institutional knowledge. The division-specific components are summarized below.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

Non-Exempt: The TEC requests a four percent salary increase for its non-exempt employees. The last salary adjustments for non-exempt TEC employees were granted by the 87th Legislature. Since then, the cost of living has continued to increase. Salary adjustments are necessary to maintain and recruit skilled employees. A four percent across the board increase for current non-exempt employees is a $118,273 annual cost or $236,546 across the biennium.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

Biennial cost for both Exempt and non-exempt salary increases including the benefit adjustments of 0.5% totals $118,272.10.

4% Non-Exempt Salary Adj.		0.5%	4% Tl	Exempt Salary Adj	.5%	Exempt Adj. Tl
A.1.1 (DFS)	$16,805.68	$84.02	$16,889.70			
A.1.2 (OGC)	$25,016.00	$125.08	$25,141.08	$5,920.00	$29.60	$5,949.60
A.1.3 (ENF)	$32,392.00	$161.96	$32,553.96			
B.1.1 (ADM)	$13,720.00	$68.6	$13,788.60			
B.1.2 (CSD)	$23,830.00	$119.15	$23,949.15			
Total	$111,763.68	$558.82	$112,322.50	$5,920.00	$29.60	$5,949.60

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$118,272	$118,272	$118,272

OUT-YEAR GR ONLY COSTS FOR ITEM:

		2030	2031	2032
1	General Revenue Fund	$118,272	$118,272	$118,272
	TOTAL OUT-YEAR GR ONLY:	$118,272	$118,272	$118,272

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Cloud Hosting and AWS Cost Increase
Item Priority: 2
IT Component: Yes
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: Yes
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	90,000	0
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$90,000**	**$0**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	90,000	0
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$90,000**	**$0**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

The TEC hosts its electronic filing system, public disclosure portal, and supporting infrastructure in the cloud, principally through Amazon Web Services (AWS), supplemented by the Department of Information Resources' Data Center Services (DCS). Cloud-hosting costs have risen with the growth in disclosure-data volume, public traffic to the agency's websites, storage, and the compute required to keep the filing system available and performant. The TEC requests that its cloud-hosting appropriation — currently governed by rider — be increased by $90,000 for the biennium to absorb these AWS and data-center cost increases. With the increase, budgeted cloud-hosting costs would be approximately $165,000 in FY2028 and $172,500 in FY2029, for a biennial total of approximately $337,500.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

Because cloud costs are usage-based and can vary from month to month, the TEC also requests that any unexpended balance from FY2028 be permitted to forward to FY2029. Without this adjustment, the agency would have to absorb rising cloud costs from its baseline operating funds, reducing the resources available for its core regulatory functions.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

N/A

DESCRIPTION OF IT COMPONENT INCLUDED IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM:

The Commission is requesting a $90,000 biennial increase (raising budgeted cloud hosting to $337,500 for the biennium; Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources) with UB Authority. The estimated out-year shortage cost from FY 2028 to FY 2032 is estimated to be $270,000 over a five year span, with an estimated out-year license subscription cost from FY 2026-2032 to be $1,259,500, all from GR funds.

IS THIS IT COMPONENT RELATED TO A NEW OR CURRENT PROJECT?

CURRENT

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

STATUS:

TEC's electronic filing system has operated in the AWS Public Cloud since October 2022. The system uses a managed cloud infrastructure configured for stable performance and efficient resource utilization. The vendor maintains and optimizes the environment to reduce compute and storage consumption, which helps manage ongoing operating costs. The cloud deployment provides significant performance improvements for filers, and campaign finance reports are scrubbed and made publicly available within minutes of submission.

TEC's new website is hosted on a fully managed instance in the State Data Center's DCS PCM AWS Public Cloud. The environment uses an AWS EC2 virtual machine and a MySQL compatible Amazon RDS database to support the WordPress platform. The DCS PCM provides patching, monitoring, and backup services, while the agency manages website content, application configuration, and functional testing. Because the current cloud hosting allocation covers only the electronic filing system, and hosting costs continue to increase annually, the agency requires additional Managed Cloud Services funding to support ongoing hosting, monitoring, and operational costs for the new website.

OUTCOMES:

Continued investment in AWS Public Cloud resources for the electronic filing system provides measurable long term benefits. Operational efficiencies are gained through improved performance and the ability to scale compute resources up or down based on workload demand. Cost efficiencies are achieved through optimized resource utilization and improved return on investment. Security is enhanced through ongoing alignment with established cloud security standards. User satisfaction is increased by providing filers with faster filing performance and enabling the public to access filed campaign finance reports and related data within minutes of submission.

The new website's deployment in the DCS PCM AWS Public Cloud provides improved long term operational effectiveness. Hosting in a fully managed environment enhances reliability, resiliency, and cybersecurity protections. Cloud based infrastructure supports consistent performance during periods of high public and filer traffic and enables scalable resource allocation as demand increases. Disaster recovery capabilities are strengthened through PCM managed backups and monitoring. Overall user satisfaction is improved by providing faster, more stable access to agency information and filings, resulting in a more efficient and dependable public facing service.

OUTPUTS:

For the agency's electronic filing system, quantifiable results of continued investment in AWS Public Cloud resources include consistent and efficient utilization of compute and storage services, service continuity approaching 100% uptime, reliably executed maintenance activities such as weekly scheduled software updates and daily backups, and effective management of operating costs through monitored resource consumption.

For the agency's new website, quantifiable results of hosting in the DCS PCM AWS Public Cloud include consistent and scalable use of EC2 and RDS resources, service availability supported by managed patching and monitoring, reliably executed backup and maintenance activities, and effective cost management through monitored resource utilization. The cloud based environment ensures stable performance during high traffic periods and dependable delivery of website content to the public

TYPE OF PROJECT

Cloud Computing

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

An alternative to cloud hosting would be to operate the electronic filing system. This would require significant investment in servers, storage, cooling, backup systems, power redundancy, and contracted system administrators. Meeting modern cybersecurity, scalability, and performance requirements, especially for large reports, would require multiyear effort and exceed available agency staffing and resources. The alternative is not operationally or financially feasible.

An alternative to hosting the new website in the DCS PCM AWS Public Cloud would be to run it on premises. Supporting high filer, public, and media traffic onsite would require significant hardware, security controls, disaster recovery capabilities, and specialized system administration. The agency lacks the expertise needed to manage an on premises web platform at this scale, and implementing such infrastructure would require considerable cost and multiyear effort. As a result, this alternative is not feasible.

ESTIMATED IT COST

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$247,000	$0	$337,500	$0	$337,500	$0	$337,500	$1,259,500

SCALABILITY

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0

FTE

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

The Commission is requesting a $90,000 biennial increase (raising budgeted cloud hosting to $337,500 for the biennium; Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources) with UB Authority. The estimated out-year shortage cost from FY 2028 to FY 2032 is estimated to be $270,000 over a five year span, with an estimated out-year license subscription cost from FY 2026-2032 to be $1,259,500, all from GR funds.

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$90,000	$0	$90,000

APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE OF EXCEPTIONAL ITEM : 100.00%

CONTRACT DESCRIPTION :

State law requires the Commission to provide an electronic filing system for campaign finance, lobby, and personal financial statement filers. The system has been hosted in the AWS Public Cloud since October 2022, where the vendor manages the cloud infrastructure and hosting services. Cloud deployment has significantly improved application performance for all filers, particularly those submitting large reports. The ability to scale compute resources on demand has reduced error checking and PDF rendering times from hours to minutes. Filed campaign finance reports are scrubbed and published for public access within minutes of submission. Maintaining equivalent capabilities on premises is not feasible due to the infrastructure, cybersecurity controls, middleware, and specialized staff required. Cloud hosting provides a more cost effective, secure, and scalable solution for meeting statutory filing requirements.

The agency's public website is a primary source of information for statewide campaign finance, lobby, personal financial statement filers, and for business and governmental entity filers submitting Certificates of Interested Parties. The site also supports significant public and media traffic. Reliable availability, strong security controls, and timely delivery of content are essential for meeting statutory transparency requirements and for supporting statewide filers. Hosting the new website in the State Data Center's DCS PCM AWS Public Cloud provides fully managed infrastructure services, including patching, monitoring, backup, and disaster recovery. The managed cloud environment offers enhanced cybersecurity protections, improved operational resiliency, and the ability to scale to meet demand compared to the on premises website. Because the current cloud hosting allocation funds only the electronic filing system, and hosting costs continue to increase annually, additional Managed Cloud Services funding is required to support ongoing hosting and operational costs for the new website. This contract will expand across multiple biennia.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Restore the One Full-Time Employee Cut in the Three Percent Reduction to Baseline and Reallocate Full-Time Employee
Item Priority: 3
IT Component: No
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: No
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	115,224	115,224
2009	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	1,728	1,728
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$116,952**	**$116,952**

METHOD OF FINANCING:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1	General Revenue Fund	116,952	116,952
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$116,952**	**$116,952**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

The TEC requests the restoration of funding for the OGC (A.1.2.) attorney position and reallocating the baseline funding and FTE to Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources, to fund a Web Administrator/Data Analyst. The position responds to documented structural gaps, identified in the agency's Sunset review and the agency's unmet capacity to build out its public-facing web tools and analyze its disclosure data. Per the LAR instructions, the salary figures below include the 1.5% GAA payroll contribution add-on required for exceptional items affecting FTE positions — the 1.0% Payroll Contribution for Group Health Insurance (GAA Art. IX, § 17.03) and the 0.5% Additional Payroll Contribution for Retirement (GAA Art. IX, § 17.06).

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

The 88th Legislature reduced the number of FTEs from 34.5 to 28.4. The 89th Legislature added back three, to bring the total FTEs to 31.4. The TEC requests to maintain the FTE count at 31.4.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

The TEC requests the restoration of funding for the OGC (A.1.2.) attorney position and reallocating the baseline funding and FTE to Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources, to fund a Web Administrator/Data Analyst. The position responds to documented structural gaps, identified in the agency's Sunset review and the agency's unmet capacity to build out its public-facing web tools and analyze its disclosure data. Per the LAR instructions, the salary figures below include the 1.5% GAA payroll contribution add-on required for exceptional items affecting FTE positions — the 1.0% Payroll Contribution for Group Health Insurance (GAA Art. IX, § 17.03) and the 0.5% Additional Payroll Contribution for Retirement (GAA Art. IX, § 17.06).

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$116,952	$116,952	$116,952

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Enhancements to Electronic Filing System
Item Priority: 4
IT Component: Yes
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: Yes
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	275,000	0
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$275,000**	**$0**

METHOD OF FINANCING:

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1	General Revenue Fund	275,000	0
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$275,000**	**$0**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

State law requires the Commission to provide an electronic filing solution for campaign finance, lobby, and personal financial statement filers. Enhancements to the system are not included in the vendor's maintenance contract and must be procured separately on a time and materials basis at $150 per hour. Updates to the filing applicationsapplication are required when legislative changes, new Commission rules, or internal and public requests modify underlying business requirements. The system contains more than 2.3 million lines of code operating in a virtualized Linux environment in the AWS Public Cloud, and all enhancements must be performed by the original developer. Legislative changes enacted during the 90th Legislative Session may necessitate modifications to one or more components of the filing system, requiring continued funding for enhancement activities.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

This request continues the previously appropriated enhancement funding. If awarded, the TEC intends to use the funds to continue automating and electronically transmitting late-filing notices; modernize account management, including online filing and amendment of treasurer appointments; revise the personal financial statement reporting forms; enable online penalty payment; and automate tracking of referrals to the Office of the Attorney General. Without this funding, the agency may be unable to make enhancements required by legislative mandate, creating a risk that filed reports will not comply with current law.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

NA

DESCRIPTION OF IT COMPONENT INCLUDED IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM:

The agency is requesting $275,000 for the FY 28/29 biennium with UB authority ($137,500 in both FY 2028 and FY2029) to fund enhancements to the electronic filing system. The filing system is fully managed by the vendor that developed the software, and this vendor must make the code changes to the system. Enhancements to the filing system are not covered under the maintenance contract with the vendor. Enhancement work is billed as time and materials at $150/hour. The Method of finance would be in Strategy B.1.2 and expand multiple fiscal years through FY 2032 totaling $825,000 over the five year span. $137,500 per year / $275,000 for the biennium

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

IS THIS IT COMPONENT RELATED TO A NEW OR CURRENT PROJECT?

CURRENT

STATUS:

Current legislative appropriations fund maintenance for the electronic filing system but do not include funding for enhancements to the campaign finance, lobby, personal financial statement, or Filing Application Manager components. Each legislative session results in unfunded mandates requiring updates to one or more filing applications, typically involving several hundred hours of development to implement required changes to the system's source code. The Commission anticipates additional modifications will be needed to implement legislative changes passed during the 90th Legislative Session. The agency has also identified several enhancements to the campaign finance, lobby, personal financial statement, and Filing Application Manager applications that it intends to pursue if funding is awarded, including Automate Treasurer Appointments, Identity Verification, Filer Type Bulk Generation, and PFS Agency Survey Simplification

OUTCOMES:

Enhancements to the Commission's filing applications improve compliance with state laws and regulations by ensuring that system functionality reflects current statutory and rule requirements. These updates can improve usability and performance, supporting a more efficient filing experience for filers. Enhancements also generate operational efficiencies by automating manual staff tasks that are susceptible to data entry errors, increasing processing speed and accuracy while reducing the likelihood of human error.

OUTPUTS:

Enhancements to the filing applications improve the accuracy and completeness of information disclosed by filers by aligning data entry processes with statutory requirements. Usability improvements simplify complex data entry steps, reducing the number of technical and legal assistance requests. Enhancements that automate repetitive staff tasks increase processing efficiency and allow staff to focus on higher priority responsibilities.

TYPE OF PROJECT

Data Management / Data Warehousing

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

The electronic filing system is fully managed by the contracted vendor, and enhancements must be performed by this vendor. If the project is not funded or is funded only in part, the Commission would be unable to implement required updates to the code base resulting from legislative mandates, Commission rule changes, or usability needs identified by staff and filers. Without these enhancements, the filing applications may not fully support current statutory disclosure requirements, creating a risk that filed reports may not be compliant with state law. There are no viable alternatives for completing this work outside of the contracted vendor.

ESTIMATED IT COST

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$137,500	$137,500	$275,000	$0	$275,000	$0	$275,000	$1,100,000

SCALABILITY

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

FTE

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

The agency is requesting $275,000 for the FY 28/29 biennium with UB authority ($137,500 in both FY 2028 and FY2029) to fund enhancements to the electronic filing system. The filing system is fully managed by the vendor that developed the software, and this vendor must make the code changes to the system. Enhancements to the filing system are not covered under the maintenance contract with the vendor. Enhancement work is billed as time and materials at $150/hour. The Method of finance would be in Strategy B.1.2 and expand multiple fiscal years through FY 2032 totaling $825,000 over the five year span. $137,500 per year / $275,000 for the biennium

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$275,000	$0	$275,000

APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE OF EXCEPTIONAL ITEM : 100.00%

CONTRACT DESCRIPTION :

The electronic filing system is fully managed by the contracted vendor, and enhancements must be performed by this vendor. The Commission currently has a contract agreement for maintenance and support of the electronic filing system with the vendor that developed the Electronic filing system and the 1295 filing application. Enhancements to the system are not considered maintenance activities but are handled in the contract as time and materials billed at an hourly rate. This project includes enhancements by the contractor to the system for items that are beyond the initial design of the project ($137,500 per year). If the project is not funded or is funded only in part, the Commission would be unable to implement required updates to the code base resulting from legislative mandates, Commission rule changes, or usability needs identified by staff and filers. Without these enhancements, the filing applications may not fully support current statutory disclosure requirements, creating a risk that filed reports may not be compliant with state law. There are no viable alternatives for completing this work outside of the contracted vendor. Therefore the Texas Ethics Commission requests $275,000 with UB authority for the biennium.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Software License Cost Increases
Item Priority: 5
IT Component: Yes
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: Yes
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	186,511	140,062
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$186,511**	**$140,062**

METHOD OF FINANCING:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1	General Revenue Fund	186,511	140,062
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$186,511**	**$140,062**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

Several software tools that are essential to the agency's legal, enforcement, and administrative work are subject to subscription and license cost increases, and the agency needs to add a dedicated help-desk and softphone solution. The TEC requests a budget adjustment to cover these increases and the cost of the new help-desk system. To the extent multiple divisions rely on the same tools, the TEC asks that divisional budgets be adjusted consistently.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

LexisNexis and GovQA components, which serve the Office of the General Counsel and the Enforcement Division, are still being finalized.Microsoft 365 and Adobe Acrobat Pro. Relied on for day-to-day work and for file management in SharePoint; the request covers anticipated subscription cost increases across staff, commissioners, and the agency's management-and-technology resources.

Website plug-ins and Techsmith tools. Licenses for the agency's new website and supporting content tools (Camtasia, Screencast, SearchWP, ACF Table Field Pro, and The Events Calendar) used to build and maintain public-facing pages and search tools.

Jaspersoft reporting. Reporting and analytics software; the FY2028 amount is a safety-net renewal, and the agency is evaluating whether to migrate to an alternative tool in a future biennium.

Help-desk and softphone software (new). A new, dedicated help-desk and softphone solution to manage the high volume of inbound public-assistance calls and tickets. Based on the agency's call volume — more than 32,000 inbound contacts annually across roughly 35 lines — the agency has budgeted a combined help-desk and softphone subscription covering all 37 staff at $41,800 in FY2028 and $43,700 in FY2029, plus a one-time configuration and training cost of approximately $33,000.

LexisNexis (Lexis). Legal research relied on by the Office of the General Counsel and the Enforcement Division; the request covers anticipated subscription cost increases (figure being compiled).

GovQA. Used for sworn-complaint case management and the online complaint-filing portal, and a strong candidate for consolidating the agency's public-information-request workflow (currently spread across SharePoint, email, and separate databases); the request covers anticipated subscription cost increases (figure being compiled).

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

N/A

DESCRIPTION OF IT COMPONENT INCLUDED IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM:

Software License Cost Increases and New Productivity Tools
Biennial cost: $326,573 in known CSD components; LexisNexis, GovQA increases and AI software like Claude.

Several software tools that are essential to the agency's legal, enforcement, and administrative work are subject to subscription and license cost increases, and the agency needs to add a dedicated help-desk and softphone solution. The TEC requests a budget adjustment to cover these increases and the cost of the new help-desk system. To the extent multiple divisions rely on the same tools, the TEC asks that divisional budgets be adjusted consistently.

Tool / License

Cybersecurity and Networking Security Software/Hardware Next-Generation Firewall Subscription Renewal- FortiGate- Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$30,000	---	$30,000

Cisco SMARTNet Support Renewal- Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
----	$12,000	$12,000

Microsoft 365 (staff, commissioners) -Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$13,200	$13,800	$27,000

Adobe Acrobat Pro (35 licenses) - Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$3,510	$3,515	$7,025

Website plug-ins & Techsmith (Camtasia, Screencast, SearchWP, ACF Table Field Pro, The Events Calendar) - Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$1,001	$1,047	$2,048

Jaspersoft reporting (FY2028 shortfall) - Existing

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	**DESCRIPTION**	**Excp 2028**	**Excp 2029**

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$1,000	—	$1,000

GovQA case management / public-information requests -Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$33,000	$36,000	$69,000

Enterprise AI -New

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$30,000	$30,000	$60,000

Help desk + softphone — annual subscription (37 staff) - New

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$41,800	$43,700	$85,500

Help desk + softphone — one-time configuration - New

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$33,000	—	$33,000

TL: $186,511 $140,062 $326,573

IS THIS IT COMPONENT RELATED TO A NEW OR CURRENT PROJECT?

NEW

STATUS:

TEC currently carries operating software and hardware license agreements that continue to increase in cost by 5-10% on each annual renewal. These licenses include: Microsoft 365 and Adobe Acrobat Pro. Relied on for day-to-day work and for file management in SharePoint; the request covers anticipated subscription cost increases across staff, commissioners, and the agency's management-and-technology resources.

Website plug-ins and Techsmith tools. Licenses for the agency's new website and supporting content tools (Camtasia, Screencast, SearchWP, ACF Table Field Pro, and The Events Calendar) used to build and maintain public-facing pages and search tools.

Jaspersoft reporting. Reporting and analytics software; the FY2028 amount is a safety-net renewal, and the agency is evaluating whether to migrate to an alternative tool in a future biennium.

LexisNexis (Lexis). Legal research relied on by the Office of the General Counsel and the Enforcement Division; the request covers anticipated subscription cost increases (figure being compiled).

GovQA. Used for sworn-complaint case management and the online complaint-filing portal. As the TEC's caseload as dramatically increased the TEC has come to rely on a

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

sworn complaint case management system to receive complaints, track deadlines, manage its line attorneys, and track measures.

New exceptional item requests include:
Help-desk and softphone software (new). A new, dedicated help-desk and softphone solution to manage the high volume of inbound public-assistance calls and tickets. Based on the agency's call volume — more than 32,000 inbound contacts annually across roughly 35 lines — the agency has budgeted a combined help-desk and softphone subscription covering all 37 staff at $41,800 in FY2028 and $43,700 in FY2029, plus a one-time configuration and training cost of approximately $33,000.

OUTCOMES:

Maintaining current software licenses supports secure, stable, and fully functional application environments for agency operations. Updated productivity tools improve staff efficiency and reduce support incidents. Renewed website plugins and reporting systems ensure reliable public access to filings and data. Legal research and case management tools enable timely and accurate legal work. Cybersecurity licenses help safeguard systems from threats and ensure compliance with statewide security standards. Fully funded licensing allows the agency to sustain continuous service availability and meet statutory and operational requirements effectively.

OUTPUTS:

Outputs resulting from the license renewals include continued availability of productivity software, reporting tools, website components, cybersecurity systems, and legal research platforms. Staff retain uninterrupted access to Microsoft 365, Adobe Acrobat Pro, website plugins, Jaspersoft reports, and case management tools. Legal and IT teams maintain required research capabilities and incident tracking. Renewed security licenses support continuous monitoring and protection of agency systems. Funding for the help desk and softphone platform will result in improved issue tracking and communication quality across the agency.

TYPE OF PROJECT

Acquisition and Refresh of Hardware and Software

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

There are no viable alternatives to renewing required software licenses for productivity, reporting, website functionality, case management, and cybersecurity. Core products, including Microsoft 365, Adobe Acrobat Pro, WordPress plugins, Jaspersoft, LexisNexis, GovQA, and the FortiGate firewall, are proprietary and cannot be replaced with unsupported or unlicensed versions without compromising security, functionality, or compliance with state standards.

Some components of this project may be deferred if funding is not available. The new help desk and softphone solution can be postponed without impacting current operations, as these tools are not yet implemented. GovQA and LexisNexis subscriptions may also be procured on shorter terms if full multiyear funding is unavailable. However, there is no feasible alternative that provides the required capability using existing tools or manual processes. Maintaining required software licensing is necessary to ensure secure, reliable, and supported environments for agency operations.

ESTIMATED IT COST

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$186,511	$140,062	$0	$0	$0	$325,573

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

SCALABILITY

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0

FTE

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

Software License Cost Increases and New Productivity Tools
Biennial cost: $326,573 in known CSD components; LexisNexis, GovQA increases and AI software like Claude.

Several software tools that are essential to the agency's legal, enforcement, and administrative work are subject to subscription and license cost increases, and the agency needs to add a dedicated help-desk and softphone solution. The TEC requests a budget adjustment to cover these increases and the cost of the new help-desk system. To the extent multiple divisions rely on the same tools, the TEC asks that divisional budgets be adjusted consistently.

Tool / License
Cybersecurity and Networking Security Software/Hardware Next-Generation Firewall Subscription Renewal- FortiGate- Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$30,000	---	$30,000

Cisco SMARTNet Support Renewal- Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
----	$12,000	$12,000

Microsoft 365 (staff, commissioners) -Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$13,200	$13,800	$27,000

Adobe Acrobat Pro (35 licenses) - Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$3,510	$3,515	$7,025

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Website plug-ins & Techsmith (Camtasia, Screencast, SearchWP, ACF Table Field Pro, The Events Calendar) - Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$1,001	$1,047	$2,048

Jaspersoft reporting (FY2028 shortfall) - Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$1,000	—	$1,000

GovQA case management / public-information requests -Existing

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$33,000	$36,000	$69,000

Enterprise AI -New

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$30,000	$30,000	$60,000

Help desk + softphone — annual subscription (37 staff) - New

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$41,800	$43,700	$85,500

Help desk + softphone — one-time configuration - New

FY 28	FY 29	Biennium TL
$33,000	—	$33,000

TL: $186,511 $140,062 $326,573

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$133,615	$169,175	$156,835

APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE OF EXCEPTIONAL ITEM : 100.00%

CONTRACT DESCRIPTION :

This project includes multiple software subscription, licensing, and maintenance contracts that support agency operations, reporting, legal research, security, and website functionality. Contract durations vary by product: several tools, including Microsoft 365, Adobe Acrobat Pro, website plug-ins, Jaspersoft reporting components, Camtasia,

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Screencast, and LexisNexis, renew on an annual subscription cycle, while other products, such as Cisco network switch support and Fortinet security and hardware support, are renewed on a three-year cycle. All contracts provide essential software access, maintenance, updates, and security features necessary for continued operation of agency systems.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Software License Cost Increases
Sub Request Name: Cybersecurity/Next-Gen Firewall subscription renewal
Sub Request Priority: (a)
IT Component: Yes
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: No
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	30,000	0
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$30,000**	**$0**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	30,000	0
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$30,000**	**$0**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

Several software tools that are essential to the agency's legal, enforcement, and administrative work are subject to subscription and license cost increases, and the agency needs to add a dedicated help-desk and softphone solution. The TEC requests a budget adjustment to cover these increases and the cost of the new help-desk system. To the extent multiple divisions rely on the same tools, the TEC asks that divisional budgets be adjusted consistently.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

As the current three-year SMARTNet term expires in August 2029, the TEC requests renewal funding to ensure the network remains secure, reliable, and compliant with statewide technology and security standards.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

NA

DESCRIPTION OF IT COMPONENT INCLUDED IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM:

Renewal of FortiGate firewall security and support subscriptions that provide threatintelligence updates, IPS signatures, malware protection, firmware updates, and vendor support essential for network security and compliance.

IS THIS IT COMPONENT RELATED TO A NEW OR CURRENT PROJECT?

CURRENT

STATUS:

Current FortiGuard and FortiCare subscriptions remain active through December 2027; renewal is required on a threeyear cycle to maintain supported, secure firewall operations.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

OUTCOMES:
Renewal ensures continued protection against evolving threats, supports statewide security compliance, and maintains stable, reliable network operations.

OUTPUTS:
Secure perimeter enforcement, current threat intelligence feeds, updated IPS signatures, and supported firewall availability across agency systems.

TYPE OF PROJECT
Other Administrative Functions

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS
No viable alternative; discontinuing subscription services would significantly reduce security coverage. Renewal cannot be deferred without increasing cybersecurity risk.

ESTIMATED IT COST

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$30,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$30,000

SCALABILITY

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0

FTE

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

Continued annual subscription renewals

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$0	$30,000	$0

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Software License Cost Increases
Sub Request Name: CISCO Smartnet Support Renewal
Sub Request Priority: (b)
IT Component: Yes
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: No
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0	12,000
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$0**	**$12,000**

METHOD OF FINANCING:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1	General Revenue Fund	0	12,000
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$0**	**$12,000**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:
he TEC relies on four Cisco Catalyst 930048P switches as core components of the agency’s network infrastructure.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

As the current three-year SMARTNet term expires in August 2029, the TEC requests renewal funding to ensure the network remains secure, reliable, and compliant with statewide technology and security standards.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:
NA

DESCRIPTION OF IT COMPONENT INCLUDED IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM:

Renewal of Cisco SMARTNet support for four Catalyst 9300 switches, providing hardware replacement, firmware updates, security patches, and technical support required for network routing and switching operations.

IS THIS IT COMPONENT RELATED TO A NEW OR CURRENT PROJECT?
CURRENT

STATUS:
SMARTNet support is active and must be renewed every three years; next renewal occurs in FY2029.

OUTCOMES:
Maintains secure, stable network infrastructure, reduces downtime risk, and ensures availability of critical routing and switching functions.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

OUTPUTS:

Continued support, timely hardware replacement, updated firmware, and reliable performance of network infrastructure serving all onpremises devices.

TYPE OF PROJECT

Network Services

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

No alternative support source exists. Allowing SMARTNet to lapse would expose the network to failures without vendor hardware replacement or patching.

ESTIMATED IT COST

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$0	$12,000	$0	$0	$0	$12,000

FTE

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

Continued annual subscription renewals

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$0	$0	$12,000

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Software License Cost Increases
Sub Request Name: Microsoft 365 (Staff and Commissioners)
Sub Request Priority: (c)
IT Component: Yes
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: No
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	13,200	13,800
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$13,200**	**$13,800**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	13,200	13,800
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$13,200**	**$13,800**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:
Relied on to support daily work, document creation, communication, and file management in SharePoint across staff, commissioners, and agency technology resources.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

Costs for these tools increase annually; without continued funding the agency risks operational inefficiencies, reduced productivity, and security and compatibility gaps.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:
NA

DESCRIPTION OF IT COMPONENT INCLUDED IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM:

Renewal of Microsoft 365 licenses for staff, commissioners, and 1 Teams Room, providing productivity, email, collaboration, and SharePoint access essential for daily operations.

IS THIS IT COMPONENT RELATED TO A NEW OR CURRENT PROJECT?
CURRENT

STATUS:
Licenses are active and must be renewed annually; subscription costs increase regularly with user counts and statewide pricing adjustments.

OUTCOMES:
Maintains productivity tools, secure email, collaboration capabilities, and access to cloud services supporting agency workflows.

OUTPUTS:
Continued availability of Word, Excel, Outlook, Teams, and SharePoint across all staff and commissioners.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

TYPE OF PROJECT

Acquisition and Refresh of Hardware and Software

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

No feasible alternative exists. Productivity suites cannot be replaced with unsupported tools without operational disruption or security concerns.

ESTIMATED IT COST

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$13,200	$13,800	$0	$0	$0	$27,000

FTE

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

Continued annual subscription renewals

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$14,400	$15,000	$15,700

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Software License Cost Increases
Sub Request Name: Adobe Acrobat Pro (35 Liscenses)
Sub Request Priority: (d)
IT Component: Yes
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: No
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	3,510	3,515
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$3,510**	**$3,515**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	3,510	3,515
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$3,510**	**$3,515**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:
Relied on to support daily work, document creation, communication, and file management in SharePoint across staff, commissioners, and agency technology resources.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

Costs for these tools increase annually; without continued funding the agency risks operational inefficiencies, reduced productivity, and security and compatibility gaps.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:
NA

DESCRIPTION OF IT COMPONENT INCLUDED IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM:

Annual renewal of Adobe Acrobat Pro licenses for 35 staff to support PDF creation, editing, digital signatures, and secure document workflows essential to agency operations.

IS THIS IT COMPONENT RELATED TO A NEW OR CURRENT PROJECT?
CURRENT

STATUS:
Licenses are active and renewed annually; subscription costs increase with statewide pricing adjustments.

OUTCOMES:
Supports standardized document processing, secure PDF workflows, and compliance with reporting and filing requirements.

OUTPUTS:
Continued availability of PDF authoring, redaction, form processing, and secure document exchange across all staff.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

TYPE OF PROJECT

Acquisition and Refresh of Hardware and Software

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

No alternative exists; Adobe tools cannot be replaced without significant operational disruption and loss of secure document capabilities.

ESTIMATED IT COST

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$3,510	$3,515	$0	$0	$0	$7,025

FTE

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

Continued annual subscription renewals

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$3,520	$3,525	$3,530

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Software License Cost Increases
Sub Request Name: Website Plug in (Camstasia, Screencast, SearchWP, ACF Table Field Pro, The Events Calendar)
Sub Request Priority: (e)
IT Component: Yes
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: No
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	1,001	1,047
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$1,001**	**$1,047**

METHOD OF FINANCING:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1	General Revenue Fund	1,001	1,047
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$1,001**	**$1,047**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:
aThe agency relies on several subscription-based software tools necessary to support core administrative, operational, and legal functions.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

Costs for these tools increase annually; without continued funding the agency risks operational inefficiencies, reduced productivity, and security and compatibility gaps.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:
NA

DESCRIPTION OF IT COMPONENT INCLUDED IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM:

Annual renewals of WordPress plugins and TechSmith tools that support website search, structured content management, video preparation, and video streaming for the agency’s publicfacing website.

IS THIS IT COMPONENT RELATED TO A NEW OR CURRENT PROJECT?
CURRENT

STATUS:
All licenses are active and require annual renewal to maintain website functionality, search features, and video delivery capabilities.

OUTCOMES:
Ensures reliable website operation, effective content publishing, accurate search results, and continued availability of streaming video resources.

OUTPUTS:
Updated plugins, functioning website search tools, supported content structures, and maintained video preparation and hosting workflows.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

TYPE OF PROJECT

Acquisition and Refresh of Hardware and Software

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

No viable alternatives; these tools provide required functionality not included in base WordPress. Deferring renewals would reduce website performance and public access to content.

ESTIMATED IT COST

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$1,001	$1,047	$0	$0	$0	$2,048

SCALABILITY

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0

FTE

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

Continued annual subscription renewals

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$1,095	$1,150	$1,205

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Software License Cost Increases
Sub Request Name: Jaspersoft Reporting (Annual cost increase)
Sub Request Priority: (f)
IT Component: Yes
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: No
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	1,000	0
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$1,000**	**$0**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	1,000	0
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$1,000**	**$0**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:
Jaspersoft is needed to provide a reliable, structured method for pulling data directly from the TEC database and presenting it to the public in a clear, meaningful format that supports their business needs.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

Its use ensures that public-facing information remains accessible, standardized, and aligned with the agency's transparency and service objectives.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:
NA

DESCRIPTION OF IT COMPONENT INCLUDED IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM:

Annual renewal of Jaspersoft reporting licenses used to extract data from the electronic filing system and generate formatted data documents for publication on the agency's website.

IS THIS IT COMPONENT RELATED TO A NEW OR CURRENT PROJECT?
CURRENT

STATUS:
Licenses are active; annual renewals are required to maintain report generation and integration with agency systems.

OUTCOMES:
Supports timely, accurate reporting, maintains structured data output, and ensures continued delivery of public facing reports.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

OUTPUTS:

Consistent availability of automated reports, updated reporting components, and functional integration with filing and website systems.

TYPE OF PROJECT

Acquisition and Refresh of Hardware and Software

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

No alternative reporting tool is compatible with current systems. Without renewal, report generation for public access and internal work would be disrupted.

ESTIMATED IT COST

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$1,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0

SCALABILITY

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0

FTE

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

Continued annual subscription renewals

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$0	$0	$0

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Software License Cost Increases
Sub Request Name: Sworn Complaint Case Management (GovQA)
Sub Request Priority: (g)
IT Component: Yes
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: No
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:			
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	33,000	36,000
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$33,000**	**$36,000**
METHOD OF FINANCING:			
1	General Revenue Fund	33,000	36,000
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$33,000**	**$36,000**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:
The case management software is a key public tool used by the public to submit sworn complaints. It is vital for keeping the filing process simple, direct and accessible to the citizens of Texas.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

The subscription is $33,000 per year, with an annual escalation of 8–10%. TEC

PCLS TRACKING KEY:
NA

DESCRIPTION OF IT COMPONENT INCLUDED IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM:

Renewal of GovQA case management software supporting sworn complaint intake, tracking, legal review workflows, and secure records management.

IS THIS IT COMPONENT RELATED TO A NEW OR CURRENT PROJECT?
CURRENT

STATUS:
Subscriptions are active and may be renewed on one, two, or three year terms depending on available appropriations.

OUTCOMES:
Enables structured case processing, secure document handling, and timely legal workflow management.

OUTPUTS:
Maintained case tracking, complaint workflow support, document management, and reporting functions for legal and enforcement staff.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

TYPE OF PROJECT

Acquisition and Refresh of Hardware and Software

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

Minimal scalability. Shorter subscription terms may be purchased if full funding is unavailable; no viable replacement supports current legal workflows.

ESTIMATED IT COST

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$33,000	$36,000	$0	$0	$0	$69,000

FTE

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

Continued annual subscription renewals

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$39,000	$42,000	$45,000

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Software License Cost Increases
Sub Request Name: Enterprise AI
Sub Request Priority: (h)
IT Component: Yes
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: No
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	30,000	30,000
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$30,000**	**$30,000**

METHOD OF FINANCING:

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1	General Revenue Fund	30,000	30,000
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$30,000**	**$30,000**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:
The Enterprise AI Platform is needed to provide secure, governed access to advanced AI capabilities that support enforcement, technical, and administrative workflows through document summarization, discovery review, drafting assistance, structured analysis, code support, and data-driven research.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

Funding is required to procure an enterprise-grade solution that meets statewide AI governance requirements and delivers these capabilities through a subscription and controlled-consumption model.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:
NA

DESCRIPTION OF IT COMPONENT INCLUDED IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM:

Acquisition of enterprise AI tools to support document processing, information retrieval, workflow assistance, and improved staff productivity in enforcement, administrative, and technical operations.

IS THIS IT COMPONENT RELATED TO A NEW OR CURRENT PROJECT?
NEW

STATUS:
This is a new initiative for the biennium; no current licensing exists.

OUTCOMES:
Improves staff efficiency, accelerates document analysis, and enhances access to information across agency systems.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

OUTPUTS:
AI enabled search, summarization, document support, and productivity enhancements for staff workflows.

TYPE OF PROJECT
Acquisition and Refresh of Hardware and Software

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS
The project may be deferred if funding is unavailable; manual processes would continue but at reduced efficiency and higher staff workload.

ESTIMATED IT COST

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$30,000	$30,000	$0	$0	$0	$60,000

FTE

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

Continued annual subscription renewals

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Software License Cost Increases
Sub Request Name: Help Desk and Softphone -- Annual Subscription (37 Staff)
Sub Request Priority: (i)
IT Component: Yes
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: No
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	41,800	43,700
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$41,800**	**$43,700**

METHOD OF FINANCING:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1	General Revenue Fund	41,800	43,700
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$41,800**	**$43,700**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

To track, coordinate, and quickly and accurately answer questions from the more than 32,000 inbound calls the TEC receives each year, the agency requests a new, dedicated help-desk and softphone solution.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

The TEC has stepped up its efforts to carry out this recommendation, but a purpose-built help-desk platform — most of which now include AI-assisted ticket routing, categorization, and knowledge-base suggestions — would meaningfully improve response time and reduce staff workload.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

NA

DESCRIPTION OF IT COMPONENT INCLUDED IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM:

Annual licensing for a cloud based help desk and softphone platform that provides ticketing, call handling, communication tools, and a knowledge base driven chatbot for assisting callers after hours and during periods of heavy call volume.

IS THIS IT COMPONENT RELATED TO A NEW OR CURRENT PROJECT?

NEW

STATUS:

The system is not yet implemented. Annual licensing will begin in FY2028, supporting agency wide ticketing, softphone communication, and automated caller assistance.

OUTCOMES:

Improves support efficiency, enhances call responsiveness, extends service capabilities through a knowledgebase chatbot, and strengthens communication reliability across the agency.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

OUTPUTS:
Operational ticketing and call handling tools, automated chatbot responses using the agency's imported knowledge base, and improved service tracking and communication across 37 staff users.

TYPE OF PROJECT
Acquisition and Refresh of Hardware and Software

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS
If funding is unavailable, the project may be deferred; existing manual tracking and physical phones would continue with reduced efficiency.

ESTIMATED IT COST

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$41,800	$43,700	$0	$0	$0	$85,500

FTE

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

Continued annual subscription renewals

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$45,600	$47,500	$49,400

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Software License Cost Increases
Sub Request Name: Help Desk and Softphone -- One time configuration
Sub Request Priority: (j)
IT Component: Yes
Anticipated Out-year Costs: No
Involve Contracts > $50,000: No
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	33,000	0
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$33,000**	**$0**

METHOD OF FINANCING:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1	General Revenue Fund	33,000	0
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$33,000**	**$0**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:
To track, coordinate, and quickly and accurately answer questions from the more than 32,000 inbound calls the TEC receives each year, the agency requests a new, dedicated help-desk and softphone solution.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

The TEC has stepped up its efforts to carry out this recommendation, but a purpose-built help-desk platform — most of which now include AI-assisted ticket routing, categorization, and knowledge-base suggestions — would meaningfully improve response time and reduce staff workload.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:
NA

DESCRIPTION OF IT COMPONENT INCLUDED IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM:

Onetime setup and configuration services required to implement the agency’s new cloud based help desk and softphone platform. This configuration is required only if the annual subscription component is funded.

IS THIS IT COMPONENT RELATED TO A NEW OR CURRENT PROJECT?
NEW

STATUS:
Implementation has not begun; configuration will occur once funding is approved.

OUTCOMES:
Enables deployment of the help desk and softphone tools, establishing baseline call routing, ticket workflows, and system integration.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

OUTPUTS:

Completed configuration, initial system setup, integration with agency workflows, and onboarding of staff users.

TYPE OF PROJECT

Acquisition and Refresh of Hardware and Software

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

If funding is not provided, system deployment would be postponed and existing manual processes would remain in place.

ESTIMATED IT COST

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$33,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$33,000

FTE

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Fund the Rider Relating to Retirement Payouts
Item Priority: 6
IT Component: No
Anticipated Out-year Costs: Yes
Involve Contracts > $50,000: No
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies:
01-01-01 Serve as the Repository for Statutorily Required Information
01-01-03 Respond to Complaints and Enforce Applicable Statutes
02-01-01 Central Administration
02-01-02 Information Resources

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1001	SALARIES AND WAGES	0	0
1002	OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	130,766	0
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$130,766**	**$0**

METHOD OF FINANCING:

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1	General Revenue Fund	130,766	0
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$130,766**	**$0**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

The TEC is required to pay retiring employees a lump sum for unused annual leave. Five of the Commission's current employees are or will be eligible for retirement in fiscal year 2028. Combined, this represents nearly 15.9 percent of the current workforce, and they will be owed a maximum total payment of $130,766 in lump sum entitlements upon their retirement. Many of these employees occupy senior positions within the agency.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

Because the rider was removed from the FY 28/29 adjusted GR/GRD, the agency is requesting the retirement funding be restored at $130,766 with UB authority over the biennium. If the rider is not separately funded, it ties up baseline budget across all strategies. If retirement-eligible employees do not in fact retire during the biennium, the agency will lapse the encumbered salary money rather than use it for agency operations. If not seperately funded the agency would face leaving vacant positions unfilled to account for the entitled unused annual leave payments. This will cause an estimated lapse of $130,766.

The TEC requests one of the following two alternatives:

Remove the rider. Strike the "Appropriation for Retirement Payments" rider so that the agency is not required to encumber and then lapse baseline salary funds when retirement-eligible employees do not retire. This is the agency's preferred option.

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Or, fund the payouts with the rider in place. Alternatively, appropriate funding for the lump-sum payouts so the rider amounts are covered by dedicated dollars rather than by encumbering baseline salary appropriations.

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS :

Biennium cost $130,766 with UB authority from FY 28 into FY 29 is requested. The TEC is required to pay retiring employees a lump sum for unused annual leave. Five of the Commission’s current employees will be eligible for retirement in fiscal year 2028. Combined, this represents 15.92 percent of the current workforce, and they will be owed a maximum total payment of $130,766 in lump sum entitlements upon their retirement. Two of these employees occupy senior positions within the agency.

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$130,766	$0	$130,766

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Item Name: Hardware Refresh (laptops)
Item Priority: 7
IT Component: Yes
Anticipated Out-year Costs: No
Involve Contracts > $50,000: Yes
Includes Funding for the Following Strategy or Strategies: 02-01-02 Information Resources

OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0	52,500
	TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$0**	**$52,500**

METHOD OF FINANCING:

		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
1	General Revenue Fund	0	52,500
	TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$0**	**$52,500**

DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

The agency's computing hardware is reaching the end of its serviceable life and must be refreshed to maintain security, reliability, and staff productivity. The Computer Services Division maintains laptops on a three-to-five-year replacement cycle. Under that schedule, the agency's 35 laptops are due for replacement in FY2029 at approximately $1,500 each ($52,500). Refreshing this equipment on schedule avoids the higher support costs, downtime, and security exposure that accompany aging hardware and ensures staff have equipment capable of running current software and supporting the agency's regulatory work.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS:

The agency's end-user computing hardware is reaching the end of its serviceable life and must be refreshed to maintain security, reliability, and staff productivity

PCLS TRACKING KEY:

na

DESCRIPTION OF IT COMPONENT INCLUDED IN EXCEPTIONAL ITEM:

The commission is requesting a one-time funding of $52,500 in FY 2029. (Strategy B.1.2, Information Resources; capital) from GR to replace 35 laptops in FY2029 at an estimated cost of $52,500. The Commission must maintain reliable, secure, and fully supported workstation equipment to ensure staff can perform statutory responsibilities. This project provides scheduled end-of-life replacement of agency laptops. The Commission plans to replace 35 laptops in FY2029 at an estimated cost of $52,500. Regular hardware refresh cycles are required to maintain security compliance, ensure compatibility with modern applications, reduce equipment failures, and support staff productivity. This item qualifies as Electronic and Information Resources (EIR) for procurement purposes; however, as hardware not accessed through a dedicated end-user software interface, it is not subject to TAC 206/213 accessibility requirements.

IS THIS IT COMPONENT RELATED TO A NEW OR CURRENT PROJECT?

NEW

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

STATUS:

The agency’s workstation equipment is used daily to support statutory filing, administrative processes, and internal operations. A portion of the agency’s laptops have reached or are approaching end of life and no longer meet recommended lifecycle or performance standards. Maintaining security, compatibility with current software, and reliable functionality requires periodic replacement of aging workstation hardware. The planned refresh includes laptops scheduled for replacement in FY2029.

OUTCOMES:

Replacing end of life laptops improves system reliability, reduces hardware failures, and ensures compatibility with current operating systems and security requirements. Updated workstation equipment enhances staff productivity by providing faster performance, consistent access to agency applications, and improved support for remote and hybrid work. Modern hardware also supports ongoing cybersecurity measures, reducing operational risk and enabling staff to perform statutory duties efficiently and without interruption.

OUTPUTS:

The workstation hardware refresh produces measurable outputs including the deployment of new laptops that meet current performance, security, and support standards. Replacing aging equipment reduces the number of hardware-related support requests, improves system stability, and ensures staff have reliable access to agency applications and data. Updated devices also support required operating system and software updates, enabling continued compliance with security policies and maintaining consistent productivity across all divisions.

TYPE OF PROJECT

Acquisition and Refresh of Hardware and Software

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

There are no viable alternatives to scheduled workstation hardware replacement. Aging equipment increases the risk of hardware failure and may not meet current performance, security, or support requirements. Extending the use of end of life hardware is not a feasible alternative, as doing so would impair staff productivity, reduce system reliability, limit compatibility with modern software, and increase the likelihood of security vulnerabilities. Regular refresh cycles are required to maintain a secure and reliable workstation environment for agency operations.

ESTIMATED IT COST

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$0	$52,500	$0	$0	$0	$52,500

SCALABILITY

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Total Over Life of Project
$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

FTE

2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

ESTIMATED ANTICIPATED OUT-YEAR COSTS FOR ITEM:

	2030	2031	2032
OUT-YEAR ALL FUNDS:	$0	$0	$0

APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE OF EXCEPTIONAL ITEM : 100.00%

CONTRACT DESCRIPTION :

This project will require future procurement of workstation hardware through standard state purchasing processes. The contract will consist of a one-time purchase order for laptop computers, with the exact specifications and vendor determined at the time of purchase. Contract duration will be a single fiscal year, consistent with hardware delivery and acceptance.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Excp 2028	Excp 2029

Sub Request Out-Year GR Only Amounts Summary with MOF

Item Priority/Name	GR MOF Code/Name

There are no Sub Request Out-Year GR only amounts for this agency.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Category Code / Category Name *Project Sequence/Project Id/ Name* OOE / TOF / MOF CODE		Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
5005 Acquisition of Information Resource Technologies					
2/2 Vendor Support for Electronic Filing & Disclosure Database Systems					
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE					
Capital					
General	5000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	$447,890	$447,890	$375,156	$375,156
	Capital Subtotal OOE, Project 2	$447,890	$447,890	$375,156	$375,156
	Subtotal OOE, Project 2	**$447,890**	**$447,890**	**$375,156**	**$375,156**
TYPE OF FINANCING					
Capital					
General	CA 1 General Revenue Fund	$447,890	$447,890	$375,156	$375,156
	Capital Subtotal TOF, Project 2	$447,890	$447,890	$375,156	$375,156
	Subtotal TOF, Project 2	**$447,890**	**$447,890**	**$375,156**	**$375,156**
4/4 Enhancements to Electronic Filing System					
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE					
Capital					
General	5000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	$137,500	$137,500	$0	$0
	Capital Subtotal OOE, Project 4	$137,500	$137,500	$0	$0
	Subtotal OOE, Project 4	**$137,500**	**$137,500**	**$0**	**$0**
TYPE OF FINANCING					
Capital					
General	CA 1 General Revenue Fund	$137,500	$137,500	$0	$0

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Category Code / Category Name *Project Sequence/Project Id/ Name* **OOE / TOF / MOF CODE**	**Est 2026**	**Bud 2027**	**BL 2028**	**BL 2029**
Capital Subtotal TOF, Project 4	$137,500	$137,500	$0	$0
Subtotal TOF, Project 4	**$137,500**	**$137,500**	**$0**	**$0**
Capital Subtotal, Category 5005	$585,390	$585,390	$375,156	$375,156
Informational Subtotal, Category 5005				
Total, Category 5005	**$585,390**	**$585,390**	**$375,156**	**$375,156**
5007 Acquisition of Capital Equipment and Items				
1/1 Daily Operations				
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE				
Capital				
General 5000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	$0	$0	$0	$0
Capital Subtotal OOE, Project 1	$0	$0	$0	$0
Subtotal OOE, Project 1	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
TYPE OF FINANCING				
Capital				
General CA 1 General Revenue Fund	$0	$0	$0	$0
Capital Subtotal TOF, Project 1	$0	$0	$0	$0
Subtotal TOF, Project 1	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Capital Subtotal, Category 5007	$0	$0	$0	$0
Informational Subtotal, Category 5007				
Total, Category 5007	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
9500 Legacy Modernization				

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Category Code / Category Name *Project Sequence/Project Id/ Name* OOE / TOF / MOF CODE	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
3/3 Managed Cloud Services for TEC Electronic Filing System				
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE				
Capital				
General 5000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	$247,000	$0	$247,000	$0
Capital Subtotal OOE, Project 3	$247,000	$0	$247,000	$0
Subtotal OOE, Project 3	**$247,000**	**$0**	**$247,000**	**$0**
TYPE OF FINANCING				
Capital				
General CA 1 General Revenue Fund	$247,000	$0	$247,000	$0
Capital Subtotal TOF, Project 3	$247,000	$0	$247,000	$0
Subtotal TOF, Project 3	**$247,000**	**$0**	**$247,000**	**$0**
Capital Subtotal, Category 9500	$247,000	$0	$247,000	$0
Informational Subtotal, Category 9500				
Total, Category 9500	**$247,000**	**$0**	**$247,000**	**$0**
AGENCY TOTAL -CAPITAL	**$832,390**	**$585,390**	**$622,156**	**$375,156**
AGENCY TOTAL -INFORMATIONAL				
AGENCY TOTAL	**$832,390**	**$585,390**	**$622,156**	**$375,156**

DATE: 8/6/2026
TIME : 8:35:10PM

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Category Code / Category Name *Project Sequence/Project Id/ Name* OOE / TOF / MOF CODE	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
METHOD OF FINANCING:				
Capital				
General 1 General Revenue Fund	$832,390	$585,390	$622,156	$375,156
Total, Method of Financing-Capital	$832,390	$585,390	$622,156	$375,156
Total, Method of Financing	**$832,390**	**$585,390**	**$622,156**	**$375,156**
TYPE OF FINANCING:				
Capital				
General CA CURRENT APPROPRIATIONS	$832,390	$585,390	$622,156	$375,156
Total, Type of Financing-Capital	$832,390	$585,390	$622,156	$375,156
Total,Type of Financing	**$832,390**	**$585,390**	**$622,156**	**$375,156**

Agency Code:	**356**	Agency name:	**Texas Ethics Commission**
Category Number:	**5007**	Category Name:	**ACQUISITN CAP EQUIP ITEMS**
Project number:	**1**	Project Name:	**Daily Operations**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

General Information

The Texas Ethics Commission's Computer Services Division (CSD) supports all aspects of the agency's daily IT operations. These activities include acquisition and maintenance of desktop hardware and software, administration of on-premises server infrastructure, and management of local area network resources. CSD also administers a system hosted in the State Data Center DCS PCM and has resources deployed in the AWS Public Cloud. Daily operations support the agency's current on-premises website as well as the fully managed EC2 instance hosting the new WordPress website. Additional responsibilities include internal and distributed application development, help desk services, network and endpoint security, agency database administration, and website design and management across both on-premises and cloud environments.

PLCS Tracking Key	N/A
Number of Units / Average Unit Cost	$609,947 per fiscal year/$1,219,894 biennium
Estimated Completion Date	08/31/2029

	2030	**2031**
Additional Capital Expenditure Amounts Required	609,947	609,947

Type of Financing	CA CURRENT APPROPRIATIONS
Projected Useful Life	$609,947
Estimated/Actual Project Cost	$609,947
Length of Financing/ Lease Period	annual

ESTIMATED/ACTUAL DEBT OBLIGATION PAYMENTS

2028	**2029**	**2030**	**2031**	**Total over project life**
609,947	609,947	609,947	609,947	2,439,788

REVENUE GENERATION / COST SAVINGS

REVENUE_COST_FLAG	**MOF_CODE**	**AVERAGE_AMOUNT**
C	1	609,947.00

Explanation: Daily operations support critical activities including electronic filing, data processing, website availability, security monitoring, help desk support, database administration, and network and server maintenance across both on premises and cloud environments. TEC relies on these functions to manage more than 34,000 annual statewide filings, Certificates of Interested Parties submissions, public access data services, and internal business processes.

Project Location: Texas Ethics Commission headquarters in Austin, Texas.

Beneficiaries: Agency staff

Frequency of Use and External Factors Affecting Use:

Daily

Agency Code:	**356**	Agency name:	**Texas Ethics Commission**
Category Number:	**5005**	Category Name:	**ACQUISITN INFO RES TECH.**
Project number:	**2**	Project Name:	**Vendor Support**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

General Information

The agency plans to extend the current maintenance contract with the vendor that designed and developed the agency's electronic filing system to cover maintenance and warranty and hosting of the system. The contract includes maintenance for the Filing Application Manager, the campaign finance filing application, the Lobby filing application, the Personal Financial Statement filing application, the certificate of Interested Parties (Form 1295) filing application, and the underlying software infrastructure developed by the vendor.

PLCS Tracking Key	N/A		
Number of Units / Average Unit Cost	1@350,000 until the end of FY 27. Unknown after the contract exp		
Estimated Completion Date	Until end of use of EFS		
Additional Capital Expenditure Amounts Required		**2030**	**2031**
		447,890	447,890
Type of Financing	CA CURRENT APPROPRIATIONS		
Projected Useful Life	7 years or Until end of use of EFS		
Estimated/Actual Project Cost	$1,791,560		
Length of Financing/ Lease Period	Annual		

ESTIMATED/ACTUAL DEBT OBLIGATION PAYMENTS

2028	**2029**	**2030**	**2031**	**Total over project life**
447,890	447,890	447,890	47,890	1,791,560

REVENUE GENERATION / COST SAVINGS

REVENUE_COST_FLAG	MOF_CODE	AVERAGE_AMOUNT
C	1	447,890.00

Explanation: The Commission plans to extend the current maintenance contract with the vendor that designed and developed the Commission's electronic filing system. The filing system is fully managed by this vendor.

Project Location: EFS is running in the AWS cloud. The vendor managing the system and TEC staff are in ATX. Users are mostly in TX, but can be from other areas. CIP entities are mostly in TX, but are also from other locations.

Beneficiaries: Officials, candidates for office in TX , PACs registered in TX, out-of-state PACs active in TX, state/agency employees, registered lobbyists, business and gov. entities going into contract, and general public.

Frequency of Use and External Factors Affecting Use:

Daily/Laws of the Legislature and court ruling that impact filing requirements.

Agency Code:	**356**	Agency name:	**Texas Ethics Commission**
Category Number:	**9500**	Category Name:	**Legacy Modernization**
Project number:	**3**	Project Name:	**Managed Cloud Services**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

General Information

The Texas Ethics Commission's (TEC) electronic filing system software has been running in the Amazon Web Services (AWS) public cloud since October 2022. The vendor that developed the system is managing the hosting services for the agency. The TEC electronic filing system implementation requires the computational resources of 14 AWS EC2 virtual machines used for production and development/UAT servers. The EC2 server resources are tuned and sized to meet the needs of the various applications that make up the electronic filing system. The TEC electronic filing system deployment uses the AWS Aurora PostgreSQL Compatible Relational Database Services (RDS) Platform as a Service (PaaS) product that AWS sells as a unique resource. The filing system also uses two additional software products, Dynatrace Application Security and CrowdStrike Falcon Endpoint Security Enterprise, that are not sourced by AWS and must be procured from different software vendors. In addition to using the AWS Web Application Firewall (WAF), several AWS cybersecurity programs are employed as safeguards for the system.

PLCS Tracking Key

Number of Units / Average Unit Cost $247,000 with UB authority in 2026-27 biennium, add $90,000/bie

Estimated Completion Date Until End of Use

Additional Capital Expenditure Amounts Required	**2030**	**2031**
	337,000	0

Type of Financing CA CURRENT APPROPRIATIONS

Projected Useful Life Until End of Use

Estimated/Actual Project Cost $1

Length of Financing/ Lease Period annual

ESTIMATED/ACTUAL DEBT OBLIGATION PAYMENTS

2028	**2029**	**2030**	**2031**	**Total over project life**
337,000	0	337,000	0	674,000

REVENUE GENERATION / COST SAVINGS

REVENUE_COST_FLAG	**MOF_CODE**	**AVERAGE_AMOUNT**
C	1	674,000.00

Explanation: TEC's EFS has been running in AWS since October 2022. The vendor vendor that developed the system is managing the hosting services for the agency. The TEC electronic filing system implementation requires the computational resources of 14 AWS EC2 virtual machines used for production and development/UAT servers. The EC2 server resources are tuned and sized to meet the needs of the various applications that make up the electronic filing system.

Project Location: The EFS is running in the AWS cloud. The vendor and TEC staff are located in Austin, Texas. System users are primarily in Texas. CIPS business entities are located from around the country and internationally.

Beneficiaries: Elected/appointed public official, PACS registered in Texas and out-of-state active in Texas, state/agency employees, candidates for office, registered lobbyists and general public, entities going into contract

Frequency of Use and External Factors Affecting Use:

Daily 24x7x365 / The filings system is hosted in the AWS public cloud and consumed resource charges must be paid to AWS.

Agency Code:	**356**	Agency name:	**Texas Ethics Commission**
Category Number:	**5005**	Category Name:	**ACQUISITN INFO RES TECH.**
Project number:	**4**	Project Name:	**Enhancements to E-Filing System**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

General Information

Viable information resources infrastructure is necessary for all divisions of the Commission to carry out their statutory responsibilities. Daily operations support critical activities including electronic filing, data processing, website availability, security monitoring, help desk support, database administration, and network and server maintenance across both on premises and cloud environments. TEC relies on these functions to manage more than 34,000 annual statewide filings, Certificates of Interested Parties submissions, public access data services, and internal business processes.

PLCS Tracking Key

Number of Units / Average Unit Cost $275,000 with UB authority over biennium or at the rate of $150/hr

Estimated Completion Date Until end of use of EFSS

Additional Capital Expenditure Amounts Required	**2030**	**2031**
	275,000	0

Type of Financing CA CURRENT APPROPRIATIONS

Projected Useful Life 7 years or Until end of use of EFSS

Estimated/Actual Project Cost $550,000

Length of Financing/ Lease Period Biennium

ESTIMATED/ACTUAL DEBT OBLIGATION PAYMENTS

2028	**2029**	**2030**	**2031**	**Total over project life**
275,000	0	275,000	0	550,000

REVENUE GENERATION / COST SAVINGS

REVENUE_COST_FLAG	MOF_CODE	AVERAGE_AMOUNT
C	1	137,500.00

Explanation: Updates include infrastructure improvements, workflow automation, expanded integration, and strengthened security to increase reliability, reduce processing time, and support growing electronic filing demands.

Project Location: The system is maintained at the Texas Ethics Commission headquarters in Austin, Texas. The system benefits filers throughout the state.

Beneficiaries: Elected/appointed public officials, political committees registered in Texas and out-of-state committees active in Texas, state/agency employees, candidates for office in Texas, registered and general public.

Frequency of Use and External Factors Affecting Use:

System is used daily by internal and external users. Activity varies with statutory deadlines, regulatory cycles, and increased digital service expectations.

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Category Code/Name / *Project Sequence/Project Id/Name* / Goal/Obj/Str		Strategy Name	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
5005 Acquisition of Information Resource Technologies						
2/2		***Vendor Support***				
GENERAL BUDGET						
Capital	2-1-2	INFORMATION RESOURCES	447,890	447,890	$375,156	$375,156
		TOTAL, PROJECT	$447,890	$447,890	$375,156	$375,156
4/4		***Enhancements to E-Filing System***				
GENERAL BUDGET						
Capital	2-1-2	INFORMATION RESOURCES	137,500	137,500	0	0
		TOTAL, PROJECT	$137,500	$137,500	$0	$0
5007 Acquisition of Capital Equipment and Items						
1/1		***Daily Operations***				
GENERAL BUDGET						
Capital	2-1-2	INFORMATION RESOURCES	0	0	0	0
		TOTAL, PROJECT	$0	$0	$0	$0
9500 Legacy Modernization						
3/3		***Managed Cloud Services***				
GENERAL BUDGET						
Capital	2-1-2	INFORMATION RESOURCES	247,000	0	247,000	0
		TOTAL, PROJECT	$247,000	$0	$247,000	$0

Agency code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Category Code/Name

Project Sequence/Project Id/Name

Goal/Obj/Str	Strategy Name	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
	TOTAL CAPITAL, ALL PROJECTS	**$832,390**	**$585,390**	**$622,156**	**$375,156**
	TOTAL INFORMATIONAL, ALL PROJECTS				
	TOTAL, ALL PROJECTS	**$832,390**	**$585,390**	**$622,156**	**$375,156**

Agency Code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**
Project Number: **2** Project name: **Vendor Support for Electronic Filing & Disclosure Database Systems**

Operating Expenses Estimates (For Information Only)

CODE DESCRIPTION	2028	2029	2030	2031
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:				
5000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	$370,073	$370,073	$447,890	$447,890
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$370,073**	**$370,073**	**$447,890**	**$447,890**
METHOD OF FINANCING:				
1 General Revenue Fund	$370,073	$370,073	$0	$0
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$370,073**	**$370,073**	**$0**	**$0**
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

OPERATING COSTS DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The architecture of the electronic filing system is complex, consisting of more than 2.3 million lines of code that run in a virtualized Linux environment in the AWS public cloud. Maintenance and support activities include defect management, infrastructure upgrades, maintenance and security patching, system and security monitoring, system and network configuration, among other standard system administration tasks. The filing system is fully managed by the vendor with which the commission has contracted for maintenance and support.

Agency Code:	**356**	Agency name:	**Texas Ethics Commission**
Project Number:	**3**	Project name:	**Managed Cloud Services for TEC Electronic Filing System**

Operating Expenses Estimates (For Information Only)

CODE DESCRIPTION	2028	2029	2030	2031
OBJECTS OF EXPENSE:				
5000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	$247,000	$0	$247,000	$0
TOTAL, OBJECT OF EXPENSE	**$247,000**	**$0**	**$247,000**	**$0**
METHOD OF FINANCING:				
1 General Revenue Fund	$247,000	$0	$247,000	$0
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	**$247,000**	**$0**	**$247,000**	**$0**
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS:	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

OPERATING COSTS DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The commission’s electronic filing system is used by approximately 9,000 statewide filers who annually file more than 33,000 campaign finance, lobby, and personal financial statements with the State of Texas, and approximately 37,000 active business and government entity filers who create and file more than 70,000 acknowledged Certificates of Interested Parties annually. Not only is the system required to be operational 24x7x365, very large reports require more CPU and memory resources for the filing and rendering processes. The filing system’s AWS infrastructure is configured to allocate on-demand extensions for the short periods when extra compute resources are needed. In addition to using the AWS Web Application Firewall (WAF), several AWS cybersecurity programs are employed as safeguards for the system.

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Category Code/Name / *Project Sequence/Name* / Goal/Obj/Str Strategy Name	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
5005 Acquisition of Information Resource Technologies				
2 Vendor Support				
OOE				
Capital				
2-1-2 INFORMATION RESOURCES				
General Budget				
5000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	447,890	447,890	375,156	375,156
TOTAL, OOEs	**$447,890**	**$447,890**	**375,156**	**375,156**
MOF				
GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Capital				
2-1-2 INFORMATION RESOURCES				
General Budget				
1 General Revenue Fund	447,890	447,890	375,156	375,156
TOTAL, GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS	**$447,890**	**$447,890**	**375,156**	**375,156**
TOTAL, MOFs	**$447,890**	**$447,890**	**375,156**	**375,156**

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Category Code/Name

Project Sequence/Name

Goal/Obj/Str	Strategy Name	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
4 Enhancements to E-Filing System					
OOE					
Capital					
2-1-2 INFORMATION RESOURCES					
General Budget					
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	137,500	137,500	0	0
	TOTAL, OOEs	**$137,500**	**$137,500**	**0**	**0**
MOF					
GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS					
Capital					
2-1-2 INFORMATION RESOURCES					
General Budget					
1	General Revenue Fund	137,500	137,500	0	0
	TOTAL, GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS	**$137,500**	**$137,500**	**0**	**0**
	TOTAL, MOFs	**$137,500**	**$137,500**	**0**	**0**

5007 Acquisition of Capital Equipment and Items

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Category Code/Name

Project Sequence/Name

Goal/Obj/Str	Strategy Name	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
1 Daily Operations					
OOE					
Capital					
2-1-2 INFORMATION RESOURCES					
General Budget					
5000	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL, OOEs	**$0**	**$0**	**0**	**0**
MOF					
GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS					
Capital					
2-1-2 INFORMATION RESOURCES					
General Budget					
1	General Revenue Fund	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL, GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS	**$0**	**$0**	**0**	**0**
	TOTAL, MOFs	**$0**	**$0**	**0**	**0**

9500 Legacy Modernization

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Category Code/Name / *Project Sequence/Name* / Goal/Obj/Str Strategy Name	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
3 Managed Cloud Services				
OOE				
Capital				
2-1-2 INFORMATION RESOURCES				
General Budget				
5000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	247,000	0	247,000	0
TOTAL, OOEs	**$247,000**	**$0**	**247,000**	**0**
MOF				
GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Capital				
2-1-2 INFORMATION RESOURCES				
General Budget				
1 General Revenue Fund	247,000	0	247,000	0
TOTAL, GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS	**$247,000**	**$0**	**247,000**	**0**
TOTAL, MOFs	**$247,000**	**$0**	**247,000**	**0**

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	Est 2026	Bud 2027	BL 2028	BL 2029
CAPITAL				
General Budget				
GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS	$832,390	$585,390	622,156	375,156
TOTAL, GENERAL BUDGET	832,390	585,390	622,156	375,156
TOTAL, ALL PROJECTS	**$832,390**	**$585,390**	**622,156**	**375,156**

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Category Code / Category Name *Project Number / Name* OOE / TOF / MOF CODE		Excp 2028	Excp 2029
5005 Acquisition of Information Resource Technologies			
4 Enhancements to E-Filing System			
Objects of Expense			
5000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES		137,500	137,500
Subtotal OOE, Project	4	**137,500**	**137,500**
Type of Financing			
CA 1 General Revenue Fund		137,500	137,500
Subtotal TOF, Project	4	**137,500**	**137,500**
Subtotal Category	**5005**	**137,500**	**137,500**
5007 Acquisition of Capital Equipment and Items			
1 Daily Operations			
Objects of Expense			
5000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES		52,500	52,500
Subtotal OOE, Project	1	**52,500**	**52,500**
Type of Financing			
CA 1 General Revenue Fund		52,500	52,500
Subtotal TOF, Project	1	**52,500**	**52,500**
Subtotal Category	**5007**	**52,500**	**52,500**
9500 Legacy Modernization			
3 Managed Cloud Services			
Objects of Expense			
5000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES		90,000	0
Subtotal OOE, Project	3	**90,000**	**0**

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Category Code / Category Name *Project Number / Name* OOE / TOF / MOF CODE	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
Type of Financing		
CA 1 General Revenue Fund	90,000	0
Subtotal TOF, Project 3	**90,000**	**0**
Subtotal Category **9500**	**90,000**	**0**
AGENCY TOTAL	**280,000**	**190,000**
METHOD OF FINANCING:		
1 General Revenue Fund	280,000	190,000
Total, Method of Financing	**280,000**	**190,000**
TYPE OF FINANCING:		
CA CURRENT APPROPRIATIONS	280,000	190,000
Total,Type of Financing	**280,000**	**190,000**

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Category Code/Name / Project Number/Name / Goal/Obj/Str	Strategy Name	Excp 2028	Excp 2029
5005 Acquisition of Information Resource Technologies			
4 Enhancements to E-Filing System			
2 1 2	INFORMATION RESOURCES	137,500	137,500
	TOTAL, PROJECT	137,500	137,500
5007 Acquisition of Capital Equipment and Items			
1 Daily Operations			
2 1 2	INFORMATION RESOURCES	52,500	52,500
	TOTAL, PROJECT	52,500	52,500
9500 Legacy Modernization			
3 Managed Cloud Services			
2 1 2	INFORMATION RESOURCES	90,000	0
	TOTAL, PROJECT	90,000	0
	TOTAL, ALL PROJECTS	**280,000**	**190,000**

Agency Code: **356** Agency: **Texas Ethics Commission**

COMPARISON TO STATEWIDE HUB PROCUREMENT GOALS

A. Fiscal Year - HUB Expenditure Information

Statewide HUB Goals	Procurement Category	% Goal	HUB Expenditures FY 2024 % Actual	Diff	Actual $	Total Expenditures FY 2024	% Goal	HUB Expenditures FY 2025 % Actual	Diff	Actual $	Total Expenditures FY 2025
23.7%	Professional Services	23.7 %	100.0%	76.3%	$3,860	$3,860	23.7 %	100.0%	76.3%	$4,040	$4,040
26.0%	Other Services	26.0 %	67.6%	41.6%	$453,920	$671,336	26.0 %	54.1%	28.1%	$493,642	$912,722
21.1%	Commodities	21.1 %	45.8%	24.7%	$59,533	$130,002	21.1 %	3.9%	-17.2%	$1,105	$28,214
	Total Expenditures		**64.2%**		**$517,313**	**$805,198**		**52.8%**		**$498,787**	**$944,976**

B. Assessment of Attainment of HUB Procurement Goals

Attainment:

Professional Services: TEC meets goal
Other Services: TEC meets goal
Commodities: TEC meets goal

Applicability:

Heavy Construction: N/A to TEC
Building Construction: N/A to TEC
Special Trade: N/A to TEC

Factors Affecting Attainment:

In both FY 2024 and FY 2025, 100% of the applicable goals were met. The goals for FY 2026-2027 will remain as those listed for FY 2025.

C. Good-Faith Efforts to Increase HUB Participation

Outreach Efforts and Mentor-Protégé Programs:

The Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) has two employees in the Procurement Division (1) Director of Finance and Administration with a CTPM certification and 27.5 years experience in Purchasing and (1) Staff Services Officer/Purchaser with a CTCM certification and 5.0 years experience in Purchasing. Both employees are Hispanic females and are not service-disabled veterans.

HUB Program Staffing:

Agency Code: **356** Agency: **Texas Ethics Commission**

Even though TEC is not required to have a HUB Coordinator by Statute; Gov Code 2161.062 (e); TEC procurement employee(s) strive to show good faith efforts towards the HUB program. The Commission does not have a full time HUB Program or Coordinator, however the Staff Services Officer fills the duties of unofficial HUB Coordinator by ensuring she seeks quotes and does business with HUB vendors as applicable . Also, submits reports to ensure TEC meets the state mandated Texas Gov Codes §2161.121 & §2161.125.

Current and Future Good-Faith Efforts:

The Staff Services Officer plans to continue TEC's commitment to meet HUB goals by enhancing efforts to seek quotes and do business with HUB vendors for goods and services needed in FY2026 and FY2027 as applicable. TEC has maintained good past performance with HUBS, and Staff Services Officer has shown an increase in the diversity of HUB Vendor awards and plans to continue in this direction for the expenditures with HUBS in the Semi Annual and Annual HUB reports to meet state mandated 34 TAC 20.284, Texas Gov Codes §2161.121 & §2161.125 & §2161.126. Furthermore, Staff Services Officer plans to extend HUB goals for TEC with a commitment to establish at least one or more NEW HUB Vendor relationship(s) in fiscal year 2025 and in fiscal year 2026 to meet Government code under Section 2161.123; and will strive to attend more HUB meetings/activities.

Agency Code: **356** Agency name: **Texas Ethics Commission**

FUND/ACCOUNT	Act 2025	Exp 2026	Est 2027	Est 2028	Est 2029
666 Appropriated Receipts					
Beginning Balance (Unencumbered):	$2,190	$421	$400	$400	$400
Estimated Revenue:					
DEDUCTIONS:					
Expenditure for agency operations	(2,190)	(421)	(400)	(400)	(400)
Total, Deductions	**$(2,190)**	**$(421)**	**$(400)**	**$(400)**	**$(400)**
Ending Fund/Account Balance	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

REVENUE ASSUMPTIONS:

Appropriated receipts revenue is comprised of the amounts charged to customers for providing copies of information (i.e., paper copies of reports filed with the agency or information from agency databases) maintained by the commission. The commission has no control over the the number, size, or amounts of copy orders that will be received. During the 86th Legislature, the commission requested to eliminate the contingency rider for FY 2020- 2021 and any future biennium and have the $8,190 included within the baseline of strategy 1.1. (Disclosure Filings Division). This request was approved.

CONTACT PERSON:

Cristina Hernandez

Part 6.L. Interagency Contracts
90th Regular Session, Agency Submission

Agency Code: 356	Agency: Texas Ethics Commission	Prepared by:Josh Splinter
Date:08/05/2026		

Funding Agency	Recipient Strategy	Description of Service Provided	Expended FY 2024	Expended FY 2025	Estimated FY 2026	Budgeted FY 2027	Requested FY 2028	Requested FY 2029
Comptroller-Mail Operations		he Performing Agency will provide mail services to collect and apply metered postage to USPS mail and packages up to (70) pounds for Receiving Agency, as authorized by 34 Texas Administrative Code 20.381 on a daily basis, less weekends and holidays (the "Services").	$ 32,474	$ 36,643	$ 20,000	$ 19,500	$ 19,500	36643.35
Comptroller - CAPPS		CPA shall provide, or cause to be provided, CAPPS Services to Receiving Agency. CPA will perform CAPPS Services through its own staff or, at its option, CPA may engage one or more contractors to perform all or assist in performing a portion of the services provided under this Contract.	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	0
State Library and Archive Commission		The Performing Agency will perform recordsstorage and imaging related servicesin levels not to exceed the total billable amounts in Section V of this Contract. Billable fees for records storage and imaging related services will be assessed monthly based on actual services performed. Fees for services under this Contract are outlined in the attached Fee Schedules	$ 2,735	$ 2,101	$ 2,160	$ 2,800	$ 2,800	2800