

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 24

5 By: Joint Budget Committee
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES
9 AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE ARKANSAS STATE GAME
10 AND FISH COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE
11 30, 2026; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
13

Subtitle

14 AN ACT FOR THE ARKANSAS STATE GAME AND
15 FISH COMMISSION APPROPRIATION FOR THE
16 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES. There is hereby established for the
23 Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the
24 following maximum number of regular employees.
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Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2025-2026
30	(1) Q249U	AGFC DIRECTOR	1	\$170,437
31	(2) Q250U	AGFC CHIEF OF STAFF	1	\$136,703
32	(3) Q251U	AGFC DEPUTY DIRECTOR	3	\$135,253
33	(4) Q255U	AGFC CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER	1	\$132,292
34	(5) Q252U	AGFC VETERINARIAN	1	\$130,050
35	(6) Q256U	AGFC COLONEL	1	\$128,282
36	(7) Q266U	AGFC IT ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR	1	\$127,986



1	(8)	Q371U AGFC CHIEF OF HUMAN RESOURCES	1	\$125,049
2	(9)	Q370U AGFC CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	1	\$125,049
3	(10)	Q254U AGFC GENERAL COUNSEL	1	\$125,049
4	(11)	Q404U AGFC LIEUTENANT COLONEL	1	\$121,923
5	(12)	Q375U AGFC CHIEF OF FISHERIES	1	\$121,321
6	(13)	Q374U AGFC CHIEF OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT	1	\$121,321
7	(14)	Q373U AGFC CHIEF OF EDUCATION	1	\$121,321
8	(15)	Q372U AGFC CHIEF OF OPERATIONS	1	\$121,321
9	(16)	Q393U AGFC DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL	1	\$117,593
10	(17)	Q392U AGFC CONTROLLER	1	\$117,593
11	(18)	Q381U AGFC CHIEF OF RESEARCH	1	\$117,593
12	(19)	Q380U AGFC CHIEF OF SHOOTING SPORTS	1	\$117,593
13	(20)	Q379U AGFC CHIEF OF PRIVATE LANDS MANAGEMENT	1	\$117,593
14	(21)	Q378U AGFC CHIEF OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION	1	\$117,593
15	(22)	Q377U AGFC CHIEF OF GIS	1	\$117,593
16	(23)	Q376U AGFC CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS	1	\$117,593
17	(24)	Q261U AGFC MAJOR	3	\$115,563
18	(25)	Q265U AGFC IT SOFTWARE ENGINEER LEAD	1	\$113,591
19	(26)	Q258U AGFC GIS LEAD	1	\$113,591
20	(27)	AGFC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POOL	13	\$113,591
21		Q383U AGFC IT SECURITY SPECIALIST		\$113,591
22		Q382U AGFC IT DATA SCIENTIST		\$113,591
23		Q384U AGFC IT SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR		\$113,591
24		Q386U AGFC IT SENIOR SOFTWARE SUPPORT SPECIALIST		\$98,718
25		Q385U AGFC IT DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR		\$98,718
26		Q283U AGFC IT SENIOR SOFTWARE SUPPORT ANALYST		\$95,269
27		Q387U AGFC IT PROJECT MANAGER		\$95,269
28		Q388U AGFC IT NETWORK SUPPORT ANALYST		\$95,269
29		Q389U AGFC IT SYSTEMS SPECIALIST		\$95,269
30		Q410U AGFC IT PROJECT COORDINATOR		\$90,064
31		Q390U AGFC IT COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST		\$90,064
32		Q308U AGFC IT WEBSITE DEVELOPER		\$78,575
33		Q391U AGFC IT ASSET MANAGER		\$78,575
34		Q365U AGFC IT SOFTWARE SUPPORT ANALYST		\$72,345
35		Q311U AGFC IT COMPUTER SUPPORT ANALYST		\$72,345
36		Q409U AGFC IT DATA ANALYST		\$67,267

1		Q364U AGFC IT SOFTWARE SUPPORT SPECIALIST		\$66,316
2	(28)	Q267U AGFC CAPTAIN	14	\$107,692
3	(29)	Q260U AGFC DIVISION ASST CHIEF	24	\$105,933
4	(30)	Q276U AGFC LIEUTENANT	15	\$103,930
5	(31)	Q284U AGFC SERGEANT	26	\$100,285
6	(32)	AGFC CONS PROGRAM BIOLOGIST POOL	90	\$99,107
7		Q394U AGFC CONS PROGRAM BIOLOGIST III		\$99,107
8		Q402U AGFC CONS PROGRAM BIOLOGIST II		\$89,744
9		Q403U AGFC CONS PROGRAM BIOLOGIST I		\$86,609
10	(33)	Q268U AGFC ASSISTANT CONTROLLER	1	\$98,718
11	(34)	AGFC ATTORNEY POOL	2	\$98,718
12		Q452U AGFC ATTORNEY SPECIALIST		\$98,718
13		Q269U AGFC ATTORNEY		\$89,744
14	(35)	AGFC GIS POOL	6	\$98,718
15		Q271U AGFC SENIOR GIS ANALYST		\$98,718
16		Q279U AGFC GIS ANALYST		\$95,269
17		Q356U AGFC GIS TECHNICIAN		\$68,354
18	(36)	Q368U AGFC STATEWIDE PROJECT MANAGER	8	\$98,718
19	(37)	AGFC ENFORCEMENT POOL	126	\$96,748
20		Q288U AGFC CORPORAL		\$96,748
21		Q299U AGFC GAME WARDEN 1ST CLASS		\$90,004
22		Q309U AGFC GAME WARDEN		\$85,718
23	(38)	AGFC SKILLED TRADES POOL	28	\$89,744
24		Q278U AGFC OPERATIONS & FACILITY MANAGER		\$89,744
25		Q396U AGFC FLEET MANAGER		\$86,609
26		Q307U AGFC SURVEYOR		\$78,576
27		Q306U AGFC REAL ESTATE OFFICER		\$75,004
28		Q285U AGFC CONSTRUCTION MANAGER		\$71,432
29		Q315U AGFC MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR		\$71,432
30		Q400U AGFC REGIONAL FACILITY MANAGER		\$71,432
31		Q319U AGFC COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS SUPERVISOR		\$68,031
32		Q326U AGFC SKILLED TRADESMAN		\$68,031
33		Q304U AGFC CENTRAL WAREHOUSE OPERATIONS MANAGER		\$61,706
34		Q327U AGFC AUTO/DIESEL MECHANIC		\$61,706
35		Q335U AGFC MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN		\$61,706
36		Q329U AGFC CALIBRATION TECHNICIAN		\$58,767

1	Q331U FIRING RANGE SPECIALIST		\$58,767
2	(39) AGFC HR POOL	4	\$89,744
3	Q408U AGFC PAYROLL MANAGER		\$89,744
4	Q292U AGFC PERSONNEL MANAGER		\$89,081
5	Q301U AGFC ASSISTANT PERSONNEL MANAGER		\$75,004
6	Q313U AGFC HUMAN RESOURCE ANALYST		\$68,031
7	(40) AGFC EDUCATION PROGRAM POOL	51	\$86,609
8	Q277U AGFC NATURE CENTER/SHOOTING FAC MGR II		\$86,609
9	Q296U AGFC EDUCATION STATEWIDE COORDINATOR		\$75,004
10	Q353U AGFC NATURE CENTER/SHOOTING FAC MGR I		\$75,004
11	Q302U AGFC EDUCATION PROGRAM SPECIALIST		\$71,432
12	(41) AGFC GRANTS MANAGEMENT POOL	4	\$86,609
13	Q291U AGFC GRANTS MANAGER		\$86,609
14	Q398U AGFC GRANTS COORDINATOR II		\$75,004
15	Q297U AGFC GRANTS COORDINATOR I		\$71,432
16	(42) Q354U AGFC ACCOUNTING COORDINATOR	1	\$86,609
17	(43) AGFC BIOLOGIST POOL	109	\$80,624
18	Q395U AGFC BIOLOGIST II		\$80,624
19	Q294U AGFC BIOLOGIST I		\$75,004
20	Q310U AGFC BIOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN II		\$68,031
21	Q337U AGFC BIOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN I		\$61,706
22	(44) Q450U AGFC FOI COORDINATOR	1	\$75,004
23	(45) Q303U AGFC EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	1	\$75,004
24	(46) AGFC ADMIN SUPPORT POOL	37	\$75,004
25	Q318U AGFC REGIONAL OFFICES ADMINISTRATOR		\$75,004
26	Q323U AGFC ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST		\$68,031
27	Q328U AGFC ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE COORDINATOR		\$64,644
28	Q339U AGFC ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST		\$58,767
29	(47) AGFC ACCOUNTING POOL	3	\$75,004
30	Q357U AGFC ACCOUNTANT II		\$75,004
31	Q406U AGFC ACCOUNTANT I		\$71,432
32	(48) AGFC COMMUNICATIONS POOL	10	\$75,004
33	Q397U AGFC CREATIVE ARTIST		\$75,004
34	Q399U AGFC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR		\$71,432
35	Q316U AGFC PHOTOGRAPHER		\$71,432
36	Q330U AGFC COMMERCIAL GRAPHIC ARTIST		\$64,444

1	Q336U AGFC MULTIMEDIA SPECIALIST		\$61,706
2	(49) Q435U AGFC TELECOMMUNICATIONS MANAGER	1	\$75,004
3	(50) Q300U AGFC LICENSING SUPERVISOR	2	\$75,004
4	(51) Q298U AGFC PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR	1	\$75,004
5	(52) Q322U AGFC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SUPERVISOR	1	\$68,031
6	(53) Q314U AGFC LEGAL SERVICES SPECIALIST	1	\$68,031
7	(54) Q305U AGFC FISCAL SUPPORT SUPERVISOR	1	\$67,877
8	(55) AGFC FISCAL SUPPORT POOL	12	\$61,706
9	Q324U AGFC FISCAL SUPPORT ANALYST		\$61,706
10	Q340U AGFC FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST		\$58,767
11	(56) Q333U AGFC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST	9	\$61,706
12	(57) Q401U AGFC PRINTER/MAIL SERVICES SPECIALIST	1	\$58,767
13	(58) Q343U AGFC LICENSING SPECIALIST	8	\$58,767
14	(59) Q334U AGFC INVENTORY CONTROL MANAGER	1	\$58,767
15	(60) Q332U AGFC FOOD PREPARATION MANAGER	1	\$58,767
16	(61) Q341U AGFC FOOD PREPARATION SUPERVISOR	<u>1</u>	\$50,131
17	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	644	

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19 SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP. There is hereby authorized, for the Arkansas
 20 State Game and Fish Commission for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following
 21 maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra
 22 Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such purposes: one hundred
 23 eighty-five (185) temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at rates of
 24 pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and
 25 Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate
 26 classification.

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28 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated,
 29 to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable from the Game
 30 Protection Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Arkansas
 31 State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the
 32 following:

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34	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
35	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
36	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$45,121,544

1	(02)	EXTRA HELP	1,891,500
2	(03)	PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	16,455,708
3	(04)	OVERTIME	250,000
4	(05)	UNIFORM ALLOWANCE	1,000,000
5	(06)	MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
6		(A) OPER. EXPENSE	54,728,848
7		(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	517,727
8		(C) PROF. FEES	4,070,553
9		(D) CAP. OUTLAY	8,628,647
10		(E) DATA PROC.	0
11	(07)	GAME AND FISH GRANTS	9,292,451
12	(08)	CONSTRUCTION	<u>17,238,903</u>
13		TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$159,195,881</u>

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15 SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - GAS LEASE REVENUES. There is hereby
 16 appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable
 17 from the Game Protection Fund, for maintenance and general operations,
 18 capital projects, acquisition of land and conservation easements, grants, and
 19 expenses associated with Disaster Response of the Arkansas State Game and
 20 Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

21

22	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
23	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
24	(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
25	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$850,000
26	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
27	(C) PROF. FEES	350,000
28	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	750,000
29	(E) DATA PROC.	0
30	(02) GAS LEASE GRANTS	50,000
31	(03) DISASTER RESPONSE	<u>3,000,000</u>
32	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$5,000,000</u>

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34 SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - FARM BILL BIOLOGISTS. There is hereby
 35 appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable
 36 from the Game Protection Fund, for personal services and operating expenses

1 associated with implementing Farm Bill Programs of the Arkansas State Game
 2 and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

4 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
5 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
6 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$479,508
7 (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	164,143
8 (03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
9 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	1,350
10 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	14,580
11 (C) PROF. FEES	0
12 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
13 (E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
14 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$659,581</u></u>

15
 16 SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - CONSERVATION PARTNERS PROGRAM GRANTS. There
 17 is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be
 18 payable from the Game Protection Fund, for grants to conservation partners,
 19 or other eligible entities for operating, equipment, and maintenance expenses
 20 associated with addressing statewide hunger needs of the Arkansas State Game
 21 and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

23 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
24 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
25 (01) CONSERVATION PARTNERS PROGRAM GRANTS	<u><u>\$150,000</u></u>

26
 27 SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - BLACK RIVER SETTLEMENT FUNDS. There is
 28 hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be
 29 payable from the Game Protection Fund, for all expenses associated with the
 30 mitigation to the hardwood timber destruction in the Wildlife Management
 31 Area, inclusive of Regular Salaries and Personal Services Matching of the
 32 Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30,
 33 2026, the following:

35 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
36 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>

1 (01) RESTORATION OF BLACK RIVER WMA
 2 EXPENSES \$13,250,000
 3

4 SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - MARINE FUEL TAX PROGRAM. There is hereby
 5 appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable
 6 from the Game Protection Fund, for personal services, operating expenses and
 7 expenditures associated with increasing and improving access to waterways of
 8 the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June
 9 30, 2026, the following:

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11 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
12 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
13 (01) MARINE FUEL TAX PROGRAM	<u>\$6,000,000</u>

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15 SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - GTR AND WETLAND HABITAT RESTORATION. There
 16 is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be
 17 payable from the Game Protection Fund, for all expenses associated with
 18 Greentree reservoir renovation and other wetland habitat restoration of the
 19 Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30,
 20 2026, the following:

21

22 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
23 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
24 (01) GTR & WETLAND HABITAT RENOVATION	<u>\$20,000,000</u>

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26 SECTION 10. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
 27 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. PAYMENT OF
 28 REWARDS. Payment of rewards shall be from the Game Protection Fund from the
 29 Commission's Maintenance and General Operation appropriation as herein
 30 appropriated in the Operating Expenses line item of the Operations
 31 appropriation.

32 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2024
 33 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

34

35 SECTION 11. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
 36 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER

1 PROVISION. After receiving approval from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the
2 State, and prior review by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget
3 Committee, the Agency is authorized to transfer appropriation from any line
4 item authorized in the Operations appropriation to any other line item
5 authorized in the Operations appropriation and the Agency is authorized to
6 transfer appropriation from any line item authorized in the Gas Lease
7 Revenues appropriation to any other line item authorized in the same section.

8 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~
9 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

10
11 SECTION 12. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
12 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

13 PROMOTIONAL ITEMS. The Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission is hereby
14 authorized to purchase from the Maintenance & General Operation
15 Classifications in the Operations Appropriation provided by this Act for
16 promotional items in an amount not to exceed fifty thousand dollars
17 (\$50,000), as authorized by the Director of the Commission to meet fish and
18 wildlife conservation and education needs.

19 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~
20 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

21
22 SECTION 13. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
23 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. DIRECTOR

24 SALARY INCREASE RESTRICTION. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Director
25 shall not receive any salary adjustment that exceeds their June 17, ~~2024~~ 2025
26 actual salary by more than five percent (5%) without first receiving prior
27 approval from the Legislative Council or if the General Assembly is in
28 regular session, fiscal session, or extraordinary session, the Joint Budget
29 Committee.

30 It is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain
31 oversight by requiring prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint
32 Budget Committee as provided by this section. The requirement of approval by
33 the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of
34 this section. If the requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or
35 Joint Budget Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a court of competent
36 jurisdiction, this entire section is void.

1 The provisions of this section shall be in effect through June 30, 2025
2 2026.

3
4 SECTION 14. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds
5 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency
6 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and
7 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and
8 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary
9 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal
10 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by
11 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be
12 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

13
14 SECTION 15. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
15 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
16 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for
17 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
18 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
19 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
20 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
21 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

22
23 SECTION 16. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
24 General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits
25 the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the
26 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2025 is essential to the operation of
27 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
28 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
29 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2025 could work irreparable harm
30 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
31 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
32 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
33 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2025.

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