



# 2022 ACOG **FINAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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acog

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# LEGISLATIVE DEADLINES

## MAY 2022

- SB 1040: Budget agreement sent to Governor for final action
- May 27: Sine Die Adjournment

## SPECIAL SESSION

- ARPA Allocation

# SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

## MEDICAL MARIJUANA LAND USE LEGISLATION

SB 1511 – Rosino  
SB 1543 – Treat  
SB 1726 – Leewright  
HB 3530 – Hardin

## 9-1-1 & PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 3278 – Humphrey

## COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HB 3363 – McCall  
HB 4455 – Wallace  
SB 1768 – Howard

## LIMITING LOCAL AUTHORITY & SOURCES OF REVENUE

SB 1495 – Treat  
HB 3344 – Sims  
HB 1058 – Boles  
HB 3344 – Sims

## WATER RESOURCES

HB 3824 – Newton

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING SERVICES

HB 3037 – Boles & Sen. Allen  
SB 1541 – Rosino  
SB 1224 – Garvin

● SUPPORT ● OPPOSE ● MONITOR

# DEAD BILLS

HB 3415 – PAE

HB 3734 – Fetgetter

SB573 – Montgomery

SB 629 – Bullard & Rep. Humphrey

SB 1188 – Taylor

SB 1479 – Jech

SB 1610 – Sterling

● SUPPORT ● OPPOSE ● MONITOR

# APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

## RURAL FIRE DEFENSE PROGRAM

The Rural Fire Defense Program supports and equips rural fire departments in protecting lives and property of rural Oklahomans. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF) contracts through the Oklahoma Association of Regional Councils (OARC) for the Councils of Governments (COGs) to employ a Rural Fire Coordinator. Coordinators annually certify approximately 875 fire departments across Oklahoma for state operational funding. State funding for the Rural Fire Defense program has declined over the last decade from about \$75,000 per COG to \$61,000. Program costs now average \$90,000 per year and the COGs must absorb the deficits.

ACOG is the ONLY COGs in Oklahoma that DOES NOT RECEIVE FUNDING for a Rural Fire Coordinator. **Currently our four counties (Canadian, Cleveland, Oklahoma and Logan) and its 32 rural volunteer fire departments are serviced by two adjacent COGs – Central Oklahoma Economic Development District (COEDD) located in Shawnee and Northern Oklahoma Development Authority (NODA) located in Enid.**

***Recommend: Increase Rural Fire Coordinator Contracts to \$90,000 per all 11 Oklahoma COGs and make it a line item in the State budget through the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture.***

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Nominal (\$380,000 above current allocation of \$610,000)

**RESULT:** The Department of Agriculture received a 44.5% increase in funds in the proposed budget. There is no clarification yet on if a portion of this allocation would allow ACOG to hire a Rural Fire Coordinator.

# APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

## STATE SUPPORT OF COGS

Substate planning funding through the Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC) allows COGs to leverage local funds to help COGs provide matching funds for federal and state grant programs through the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to supplement local resources. Substate funding has declined by 86% over the last decade from \$50,000 to its current level of \$8,000.

**Recommend:** Increase Substate planning funding to \$75,000 per all 11 Oklahoma COGs and make it a line-item in the State budget through the Oklahoma Dept. of Commerce.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Nominal (\$460,000 above current allocation of \$88,000)

**RESULT:** ODOC could receive a 12% increase in the proposed budget. ACOG will not be advised of any increase in substate planning funds from ODOC until a budget is passed.

# APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

## RURAL ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN (REAP)

REAP provides grants to small communities, towns, counties and other organizations serving populations under 7,000 that have little or no funding capabilities. REAP grants require no match, which is a necessity for small communities and organizations. There are currently 30 cities, towns or unincorporated county areas in the ACOG four-county region that qualify for REAP grants. For FY22 the REAP allocation through the COGs was \$15.5 million; however, ACOG and the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG) must split the REAP funds. Increasing REAP funding and ensuring that all 11 COGs are allocated equal monies will enable more small, rural communities to sustain their economic viability.

***Recommend: Increase REAP funding to \$20 million, which by statute will distribute equal REAP allocations to all 11 Oklahoma COGs.***

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Low (\$4.5 million above current allocation of \$15.5 million)

**RESULT:** The REAP program received \$30M in funding. All 11 COGS will receive an equal allocation.

# QUESTIONS?

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