

ACOG LEGISLATIVE REPORT

APRIL 2023

Rachel Meinke

Public Information Director

O: 405.234.2264

rmeinke@acogok.org

acog 



LEGISLATIVE DEADLINES – APRIL 2023



- Thursday, [April 27](#), 2023 – Deadline for Third Reading of Bills and Joint Resolutions from Opposite Chamber
- Wednesday, [May 31](#), 2023 – SINE DIE

LEGISLATIVE VISITS

acog



ACOG Staff and OARC members held a Legislative Breakfast on April 18 at the Capitol

COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORM

While ACOG, in principle, is in favor of a fair and reasonable taxation policy, our municipal member governments are highly concerned that removal of the state sales tax on groceries will precipitate a political movement to eliminate the municipal sales tax on groceries, as well.

Due to Oklahoma cities being predominately dependent on sales tax revenue for operations and the only state in the U.S. that does not allow municipalities access to ad valorem tax revenues which places our cities at a distinctive economic disadvantage in comparison to municipalities in other states. [Therefore, ACOG is requesting that the Legislature take a comprehensive approach to tax reform and relief by addressing all potential revenue components, including sales and ad valorem tax and income tax structure for the state.](#)

Likelihood of tax reform is minimal due to education/voucher issue.

MAJOR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



EMINENT DOMAIN

ACOG strongly **opposed** **HB 2191** due to the proposed legislation limiting a municipality's authority to use eminent domain, which effect local government economic development and future growth.

(As of BOD meeting, HB 2191 not on the Senate agenda, therefore Dormant)

DIVERSIFY MUNICIPAL FUNDING

ACOG **supported** **HB 2234** which would eliminate sales tax fraud by renewing sale for resale tax exemptions annually rather than the current three-year schedule.

(Dormant in Senate A&B Committee)

UNFUNDED MANDATES

ACOG strongly **supported** **SB 495** that prevents passage of unfunded mandates, thus creating a commonsense litmus test for all future legislation.

(Dormant in House Committee)

PUBLIC SAFETY: OKLAHOMA 911 MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

ACOG conditionally **supported** **HB 1590** (Grego, Murdock) which will fund the cutting-edge Next Generation 911 technology for the state and increase the monthly 911 telephone fee from .75 cents to \$1.25 for any device that dials 911.

The original language in **HB 1590** set the Oklahoma 911 Management Authority as the sole expert and provider of 911 telecommunicator training across the state. After many visits with the House author, Rep. Grego, and the Senate author, Sen. Murdock, both legislators and ACOG compromised on amended language in the bill to read in Section 1 B, to read: “The Oklahoma 911 Management Authority shall create, maintain, and certify a list of qualified online and in person training programs that include the basic requirements for a 911 emergency 911 telecommunicator *as well as coordinate and collaborate with local and regional 911 training authorities.*”

HB 1590 passed the Senate 46-1 on April 26 and is Engrossed to the House.

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 can be used to fund much needed capital improvements for infrastructure and public facilities, road and street construction, and equipment for health and public safety.

FY 2024 RECOMMENDATION

Increase REAP funding by **\$14 million**, which by statute will distribute equal REAP allocations of **\$4 million** to all 11 Oklahoma Councils of Government (COGs).



FISCAL IMPACT

\$14 million above current allocation of **\$30 million**.



There are currently **539 municipalities** in Oklahoma under 7,000 in population (**90%** of all Oklahoma municipalities).

APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS



RURAL FIRE DEFENSE + WET HYDRANT PROGRAM

The Rural Fire Defense Program supports and equips rural fire departments in protecting lives and property of rural Oklahomans. Oklahoma Rural Fire Defense (RFD) Coordinators annually assist close to **875 fire departments** across the state with training, grant writing, inventory and equipment support, including the proposed Rural Fire Wet Hydrant Program (WHP). Funding for the WHP will install wet hydrants and assist RFD with water distribution.

FY 2024 RECOMMENDATION

RFD: Increase Rural Fire Defense Coordinator Contracts to **\$100,000** per all 11 Oklahoma COGs.

WHP: **\$250,000** for the pilot program to purchase distribution hydrants.

FISCAL IMPACT

RFD: **\$300,000** above current allocation of **\$800,000**.

WHP: **\$250,000** to purchase **70-80 hydrants** statewide.



State funding for the Rural Fire Defense program has declined from about **\$75,000** per COG to **\$72,727** in FY 2023.



SUBSTATE PLANNING DISTRICT PROGRAM

The Substate Planning District Program allows Oklahoma's 11 designated Substate Planning Districts (COGs) to provide planning and technical assistance to local governments. Oklahoma COGs are the primary resource for many local governments to apply for federal and state grants, coordinate efforts to develop capacity to attract business investments, job creation, and make the delivery of governmental services more effective. Increased Substate funding is necessary for COGs to continue to provide essential intergovernmental services to local governments in their Districts.

FY 2024 RECOMMENDATION

Increase Substate planning funding to **\$50,000** per each of the 11 Oklahoma COGs and make it a line-item in the State budget through the **Oklahoma Department of Commerce**.



FISCAL IMPACT

\$402,600 above current allocation of **\$147,400**.



Substate funding has declined from **\$50,000** to its current level of **\$13,400** for FY 2023.

DORMANT BILLS



FIREARM BILLS

HB 1001 - Olsen
HB 1021 - Olsen
HB 1782 - Williams

OTA BILLS

HB 2262 - Sterling
HB 2264 - Sterling
HB 2606 - Humphrey
HB 2728 - Menz

MARIJUANA BILLS

HB 1014 - Olsen
HB 2797 - Stinson

LOCAL AUTHORITY BILLS

HB 2191 - K. West
HB 2786 - Munson
SB 495 - McCortney

TAX RELIEF BILLS




HB 1275* - McCall
HB 1276* - McCall
HB 1444 - Provenzano
HB 2086 - Echols
HB 2234 - Lawson
HB 2447 - May

911 & PUBLIC SAFETY BILLS

SB 492 - Paxton

WATER RESOURCES BILLS

HB 2313 - Hilbert
SB 165 - Dahm
SB 659 - Murdock

 *Support*
 *Oppose*
 *Monitor*
**Shell Bill*

AIR QUALITY BILLS

HB 1330 – Strom
HB 1892 – Cantrell
HB 2099 – Bennett
HB 2245* – Dobrinski

SAFETY BILLS

HB 1022 – Olsen

REAP PROGRAM BILLS

HB 2508 – Fugate

OPEN MEETING ACT BILLS

HB 2399 – Kannady

NEXT STEPS



- Monitor remaining bills
- Visit Legislators regarding Appropriations Requests
- Email a “Call to Action” to our Board members on various relevant legislative issues

QUESTIONS?

Rachel Meinke

Public Information Director

O: 405.234.2264

rmeinke@acogok.org

acogok.org

ASSOCIATION OF
CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
GOVERNMENTS

