

**Commission on State Emergency Communications
Summary of Budget Recommendations - House**

Page I-34

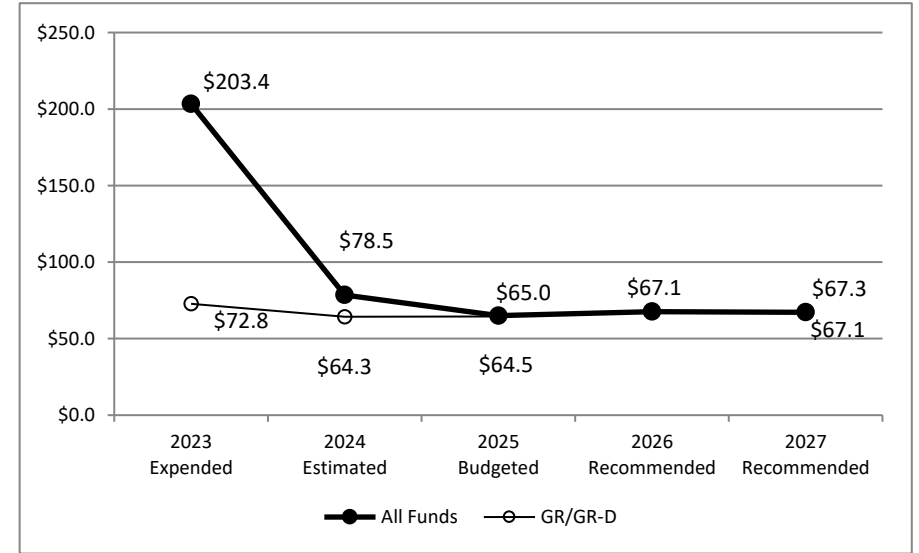
Andrew Friedrichs, Executive Director

George Purcell Jr, LBB Analyst

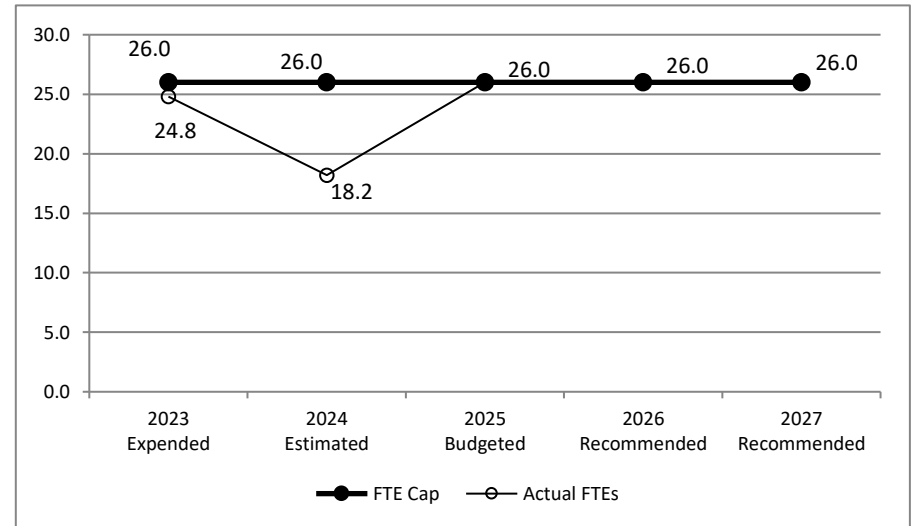
Method of Financing	2024-25 Base	2026-27 Recommended	Biennial Change (\$)	Biennial Change (%)
General Revenue Funds	\$21,304,120	\$21,304,120	\$0	0.0%
GR Dedicated Funds	\$107,464,485	\$112,889,619	\$5,425,134	5.0%
<i>Total GR-Related Funds</i>	<i>\$128,768,605</i>	<i>\$134,193,739</i>	<i>\$5,425,134</i>	<i>4.2%</i>
Federal Funds	\$14,759,091	\$746,977	(\$14,012,114)	(94.9%)
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
All Funds	\$143,527,696	\$134,940,716	(\$8,586,980)	(6.0%)

	FY 2025 Budgeted	FY 2027 Recommended	Biennial Change	Percent Change
FTEs	26.0	26.0	0.0	0.0%

Historical Funding Levels (Millions)



Historical Full-Time-Equivalent Employees (FTEs)



The bill pattern for this agency (2026-27 Recommended) represents an estimated 100.0% of the agency's estimated total available funds for the 2026-27 biennium.

**Commission on State Emergency Communications
Summary of Funding Changes and Recommendations - House**

Funding Changes and Recommendations for the 2026-27 Biennium compared to the 2024-25 Base Spending Level (in millions)	General Revenue	GR-Dedicated	Federal Funds	Other Funds	All Funds	Strategy in Appendix A
--	-----------------	--------------	---------------	-------------	-----------	------------------------

SIGNIFICANT Funding Changes and Recommendations (each issue is explained in Section 3 and additional details are provided in Appendix A):

A)	Decrease in Federal Funds as a one-time ARPA appropriation from Senate Bill 8, 87th Legislature, Third Called Session, deposited into Fund 195, Next Generation 9-1-1 Service Fund, to complete the transition to Next Gen 9-1-1 service.	\$0.0	\$0.0	(\$14.0)	\$0.0	(\$14.0)	A.1.2
B)	Increase in Fund 5050, 9-1-1 Service Fees, by \$380,000 to fund 9-1-1 services in Howard County through the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission following dissolution of the Howard County Emergency Communications District.	\$0.0	\$0.4	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.4	A.1.1
C)	Increase in Fund 5050, 9-1-1 Service Fees, by \$5,000,000 to address a shortfall in 9-1-1 equipment replacement to Regional Planning Commissions.	\$0.0	\$5.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$5.0	A.1.1

OTHER Funding Changes and Recommendations (these issues are not addressed in Section 3 but details are provided in Appendix A):

D)	Increase in funding of \$45,134 to biennialize the statewide salary adjustments included in the 2024-25 appropriations.	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	A.1.3, B.1.3, C.1.1
E)	Recommendations replace \$3,997,772 from Fund 5050, 9-1-1 Service Fees, with an equal appropriation from Fund 5007, Commission on State Emergency Communications. Agency reduced grants to Regional Planning Commissions and allocated administration costs previously funded using Fund 5050 to Fund 5007. Method of Finance (MOF) swap has a net zero impact.	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	A.1.1, A.1.3, B.1.1, B.1.2, B.1.3, C.1.1.

TOTAL SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Changes and Recommendations (in millions)	\$0.0	\$5.4	(\$14.0)	\$0.0	(\$8.6)	As Listed
<i>SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Increases</i>	\$0.0	\$5.4	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$5.4	As Listed
<i>SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Decreases</i>	\$0.0	\$0.0	(\$14.0)	\$0.0	(\$14.0)	As Listed

NOTE: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

**Commission on State Emergency Communications
Selected Fiscal and Policy Issues - House**

1. Projections of 9-1-1 Service Fee Fund 5050 Fund Balances

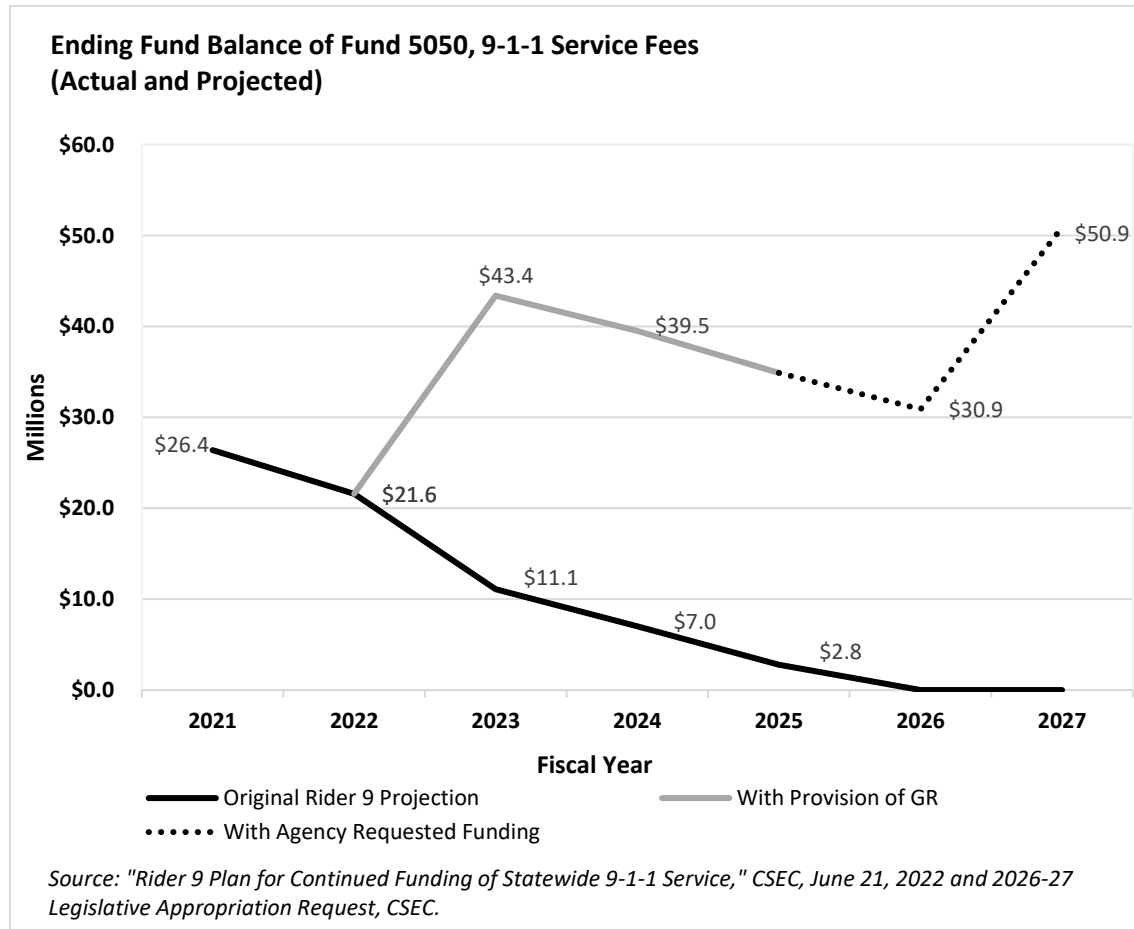
General Revenue-Dedicated Fund 9-1-1 Service Fees Account No. 5050 has historically provided most funds for the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) 9-1-1 program. Fund 5050 receives revenue from three sources: statutory Emergency Service Fees of 50 cents on wireless and wired connections and a two percent Prepaid Wireless Service fee. Since 2014, appropriations from Fund 5050 have outpaced declining revenues from these fees. These revenue declines reflected the departure of regional planning commissions (RPCs), which take their revenue with them when they exit the statewide program, as well as reduced revenue from landline service.

In fiscal year 2022, the agency reduced grants to RPCs, used to replace and modernize 9-1-1 equipment, by \$15.4 million to preserve the balance of Fund 5050. In the 2022-23 General Appropriations Act, Rider 9, Plan for Continued Funding of Statewide 9-1-1 Services, the agency was directed to develop a plan for the sustainable funding of the statewide 9-1-1 program. In that report, the agency determined that, at existing rates of appropriation, the balance of Fund 5050 would be exhausted in fiscal year 2024. To address this funding need, the 88th Legislature provided \$21,304,120 for the 2024-25 biennium in General Revenue based on estimated appropriation needs as identified in the Rider 9 report; this amount is continued in the 2026-27 recommendations.

In addition, House Bill 9 and House Joint Resolution 125, Eighty-eighth Legislature, Regular Session, authorized \$155.2 million in General Revenue from the Broadband Infrastructure Fund, to be transferred to Fund 195, Next Generation 9-1-1 Service Fund.

House Bill 3290, Eighty-eighth Legislature, Regular Session, directed the distribution under Health and Safety Code 771.0713(c-1 and c-2) of \$133.0 million of those funds to the 57 Emergency Communications Districts and authorized the deposit of the remaining \$22.3 million into Fund 5050 for the use of the statewide 9-1-1 program, responsible for funding the 20 RPCs. Because earned interest in this fund is exempted from Government Code 404.071 under the provisions of Health and Safety Code 771.0713(d), the agency anticipates leaving these funds in Fund 195 and transferring an estimated \$26.1 million to Fund 5050 in fiscal year 2027 as described under Health and Safety Code 771.0713(c-3).

Recommendations include a \$652,134 reduction in grants to RPCs from Fund 5050, offset by an increase of \$905,585 from Fund 5007, Commission on State Emergency Communications. The chart above shows an estimate on the projected balance of Fund 5050 following these recommendations.



2. Increase in Grants to Poison Control Centers

The agency funds six Regional Poison Control Centers (RPCCs) through yearly grants from General Revenue-Dedicated Fund Commission on State Emergency Communications Account No. 5007. Fund 5007 receives revenue through an equalization surcharge of six cents per telecommunications connection. Under the provisions of Health and Safety Code, Section. 771.072, no more than 40 percent of revenue can be allocated to regional planning commissions for the statewide 9-1-1 program and no more than 60 percent of the revenue can be allocated to RPCCs and related activities. Fund 5007 also provides grants to regional trauma centers through the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), estimated at \$1,757,950 per year in fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

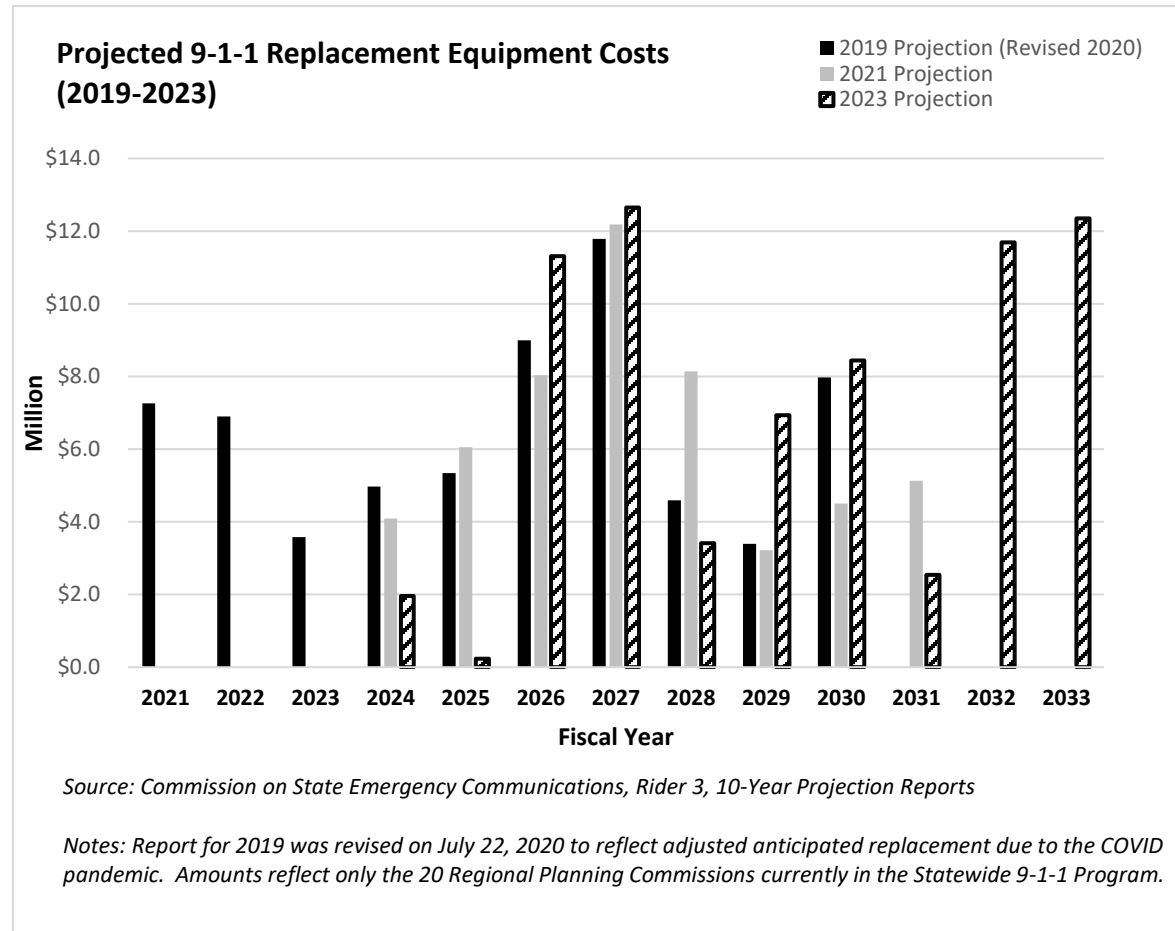
The agency included \$24,507,153 in their Legislative Appropriations Request for Strategy 2.1.1, Poison Call Center Operations, to fund RPCC operations, an increase in grants to the RPCCs of \$1,731,405 (7.6 percent) for the 2026-27 biennium as compared to the 2024-25 biennium. Of this amount, \$1,646,679 was identified by the agency for increased grants for Specialists in Poison Control hiring with the remaining \$84,726 for increases in Data Center Services (DCS) used by the RPCCs. Based on these recommendations, the estimated ending fund balance for Fund 5007 declines from \$62.4 million in fiscal year 2025 to \$58.5 million in fiscal year 2027.

3. 9-1-1 Equipment Replacement

Rider 3, Equipment Replacement, requires the Commission to develop a ten-year projected equipment replacement schedule for the statewide 9-1-1 program in November of odd-numbered years. The chart to the right shows the anticipated equipment replacement costs for the last three projections developed by the Commission and its 20 current Regional Planning Commission (RPC) partners. Note that the 2019 projection was revised in July 2020 because of the COVID pandemic.

All three projections suggest that the 2026-27 biennium has been anticipated by the Commission to be a peak in anticipated replacement of this equipment. Examples of the kinds of equipment being replaced on a scheduled basis are back-up generators, firewalls, routers, and server racks needed to host the Next Gen 9-1-1 IP-based network. The next anticipated surge in these costs is anticipated for the 2032-33 biennium.

Funding of \$5.0 million in General Revenue-Dedicated Fund 5050, 9-1-1 Service Fees, is included in recommendations to address a shortfall for the 2026-27 biennium. The Commission also indicates that, following the transition to Next Gen 9-1-1 services, equipment replacement is expected to begin to move to a recurring, subscription-based model which will reduce but not eliminate physical replacement of equipment and could result in a more steady level of demand in future years.



4. **Dissolution of Howard County Emergency Communications District**

On July 3, 2024, the Howard County Emergency Communications District (ECD) dissolved itself. As a result, the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission (RPC) stepped in to provide 9-1-1 services to the county. In its Legislative Appropriations Request, CSEC requested \$190,000 from Fund 5050, 9-1-1 Service Fees, in each fiscal year to compensate the Permian Basin RPC for this increase in service. Because these funds would otherwise have been distributed to Howard County ECD there is no net effect on the fund balance of Fund 5050. Recommendations include funding this exceptional item. The agency does not anticipate further dissolutions of ECDs.

**Commission on State Emergency Communications
Rider Highlights - House**

Modification of Existing Riders

2. **Capital Budget.** Data Center Services capital budget increased from \$744,557 in the 2024-25 biennium to \$949,589 in the 2026-27 biennium to meet updated estimates.

The following riders include recommendations to remove obsolete language and make conforming changes such as updating fiscal years and amounts to reflect funding recommendations: Rider 3, Equipment Replacement; Rider 4, Unexpended Balances Within the Biennium; Rider 5, Regional Planning Commissions; and Rider 6, Reimbursement of Advisory Commission Members.

**Commission on State Emergency Communications
Items Not Included in Recommendations - House**

		2026-27 Biennial Total			Information Technology Involved?	Contracting Involved?	Estimated Continued Cost 2028-29
		GR & GR-D	All Funds	FTEs			
Agency Exceptional Items Not Included (in agency priority order)							
1)	Texas Poison Control Network. Request would provide an additional \$1,000,000 per year from Fund 5007, State Emergency Communications Account, for operational and maintenance costs at the Texas Poison Control Network.	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	0.0	No	Yes	\$2,000,000
2)	Executive Director Group Change. Agency request for a group change for the Executive Director position from Group 4 to Group 5. Agency also requests an increase to the salary cap from \$171,688 to the maximum amount of Group 5 (\$203,337). Funding request includes an increase for the salary change and associated personnel costs and would be paid from General Revenue-Dedicated Fund 5050, 9-1-1 Service Fees Account.	\$65,356	\$65,356	0.0	No	No	\$65,356
TOTAL Items Not Included in Recommendations		\$2,065,356	\$2,065,356	0.0			\$2,065,356

**Commission on State Emergency Communications
Appendices - House**

Table of Contents		
Appendix	Appendix Title	Page
A	Funding Changes and Recommendations by Strategy	9
B	Summary of Federal Funds	*
C	FTE Highlights	11

* Appendix is not included - no significant information to report

**Commission on State Emergency Communications
Funding Changes and Recommendations by Strategy - House -- ALL FUNDS**

Strategy/Goal	2024-25 Base	2026-27 Recommended	Biennial Change	% Change	Comments
9-1-1 NTWK OPER & EQUIP REPLACEMENT A.1.1	\$96,439,165	\$99,922,640	\$3,483,475	3.6%	Recommendations include a decrease of \$652,134 from Fund 5050, 9-1-1 Service Fees, for grants to Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) offset by an increase of \$905,585 in Fund 5007, Commission on State Emergency Communications, for this purpose. Recommendations in include an increase of \$380,000 in Fund 5050 for provision of 9-1-1 services to Howard County, as requested by the agency as an exceptional item. Recommendations include an increase of \$1,861,883 in Fund 5050 and an increase of \$988,141 in Fund 5007 for GeoComm cost increases, DCS cost increases, and increases in administrative costs.
NEXT GEN 9-1-1 IMPLEMENTATION A.1.2	\$14,759,091	\$746,977	(\$14,012,114)	(94.9%)	Recommendations include a decrease in Federal Funds as a one-time ARPA appropriation from SB 8, 87th Legislature, Third Called Session, deposited into Fund 195, Next Generation 9-1-1 Service Fund, is expended to complete the transition to Next Gen 9-1-1 service.
CSEC 9-1-1 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION A.1.3	\$3,827,842	\$3,682,188	(\$145,654)	(3.8%)	Recommendations include a decrease of \$500,214 from Fund 5050, 9-1-1 Service Fees, for geospatial services offset by an increase of \$354,560 from Fund 5050 to fully fund authorized FTEs, including the statewide salary increase included in 2024-25 appropriations.
Total, Goal A, STATEWIDE 9-1-1 SERVICES	\$115,026,098	\$104,351,805	(\$10,674,293)	(9.3%)	
POISON CALL CENTER OPERATIONS B.1.1	\$22,775,748	\$24,507,153	\$1,731,405	7.6%	Recommendations include increases in Fund 5007, Commission on State Emergency Communications, of \$1,646,679 for larger grants to Regional Program Control Centers (RPCCs) for the hiring and retention of pharmacists and poison control specialists and \$84,726 for DCS costs related to system licenses at RPCCs and costs reallocated from Strategy B.1.2.
STATEWIDE POISON NETWORK OPERATIONS B.1.2	\$2,471,318	\$2,457,107	(\$14,211)	(0.6%)	Recommendations include reallocation of \$14,211 in Fund 5007, Commission on State Emergency Communications, to Strategy B.1.1 for DCS costs.

**Commission on State Emergency Communications
Funding Changes and Recommendations by Strategy - House -- ALL FUNDS**

Strategy/Goal	2024-25 Base	2026-27 Recommended	Biennial Change	% Change	Comments
CSEC POISON PROGRAM MANAGEMENT B.1.3	\$592,842	\$846,153	\$253,311	42.7%	Recommendations include an increase of \$253,311 in Fund 5007, Commission on State Emergency Communications, to fully fund authorized FTEs, including the statewide salary increase included in 2024-25 appropriations.
Total, Goal B, POISON CONTROL SERVICES	\$25,839,908	\$27,810,413	\$1,970,505	7.6%	
INDIRECT ADMINISTRATION C.1.1	\$2,661,690	\$2,778,498	\$116,808	4.4%	Recommendations include an increase of \$178,675 in Fund 5007, Commission on State Emergency Communications and a reduction of \$61,867 in Fund 5050, 9-1-1 Service Fees. Net increase in strategy used to fully fund authorized FTEs, including the statewide salary increase included in 2024-25 appropriations.
Total, Goal C, INDIRECT ADMINISTRATION	\$2,661,690	\$2,778,498	\$116,808	4.4%	
Grand Total, All Strategies	\$143,527,696	\$134,940,716	(\$8,586,980)	(6.0%)	

**Commission on State Emergency Communications
FTE Highlights - House**

Full-Time-Equivalent Positions	Expended 2023	Actual 2024	Budgeted 2025	Recommended 2026	Recommended 2027
Cap	26.0	26.0	26.0	26.0	26.0
Actual/Budgeted	24.8	18.2	26.0	NA	NA

Schedule of Exempt Positions (Cap)					
Executive Director, Group 4	\$140,698	\$171,688	\$171,688	\$171,688	\$171,688

Notes:

a) The State Auditor's Office Report, Executive Compensation at State Agencies (Report 25-702, October 2024), indicates a market average salary of \$159,959 for the Executive Director position at the Commission and recommends an increase from Group 4 to Group 5. The agency is requesting a reclassification of the Executive Director position to Group 5 and an increase in the salary cap to \$203,337.

b) The State Auditor's Office is the source of the FY 2023 and FY 2024 annual average (actual) FTE levels.