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## **BUDGET SECTION - GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS DIVISION**

Wednesday, December 10, 2025  
Room 327B, State Capitol  
Bismarck, North Dakota

Senator Terry M. Wanzek, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Members present:** Senators Terry M. Wanzek, Randy A. Burckhard, Michael Dwyer, Robert Erbele, Randy D. Lemm, Jonathan Sickler; Representatives Mike Brandenburg, Jay Fisher, Keith Kempenich, Lisa Meier, Brandy L. Pyle

**Members absent:** Representatives Glenn Bosch, David Monson

**Others present:** Lindsey Ashley, Crystal Hoggarth, Joe Morrisette, and Brandon Solberg, Office of Management and Budget; Randy Christmann, Public Service Commission

**It was moved by Senator Erbele, seconded by Representative Fisher, and carried on a voice vote to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2025, meeting as distributed.**

### **OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

Mr. Brandon Solberg, Director, Facility Management Division, Ms. Crystal Hoggarth, Accounting Manager, and Ms. Lindsey Ashley, Construction Manager, Office of Management and Budget, presented information ([Appendix A](#)) regarding the Facility Management Division and the status of major state capital projects.

Ms. Hoggarth presented information regarding the budget of the Facility Management Division and rent charged to state agencies. She noted:

- The Facility Management Division is supported through General Fund appropriations and the Capitol space rent model.
- For the 2025-27 biennium, state agencies are charged \$16.21 per square foot for office space in the Capitol and \$12.69 per square foot in the Liberty Memorial Building.
- A total of \$2,889,428 of rent was collected by the Facility Management Division in fiscal year 2025.

Ms. Ashley presented information regarding the status of the new State Hospital and north central state office building projects. She noted:

- The new State Hospital facility project began in July 2025 and is anticipated to be substantially completed by winter of 2027. A steering committee is being used to guide the construction of the facility.
- The north central state office building project is being constructed in Minot to provide office and storage space for the Highway Patrol and Bureau of Criminal Investigation. Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2026 and be completed by June 2027.

Mr. Solberg presented information regarding State Capitol grounds projects. He noted:

- The Capitol boiler replacement project is ongoing and is anticipated to be complete by May 2026.
- The Capitol window replacement project is anticipated to begin in January 2026 and be complete by October 2026.
- The Liberty Memorial Building roof replacement project is anticipated to begin in April 2026 and be complete by August 2026.
- The new State Health Laboratory project is ongoing and is anticipated to be complete by May 2026.
- The Military Museum Project has begun and is anticipated to be complete by November 2027.
- The Governor's Residence Driveway and Fence Project is scheduled to begin in spring 2026.
- A total of \$2.9 million is being allocated to enhance visitor experiences at the Capitol. Some projects include renovating the 18<sup>th</sup> floor, adding signage, and improving exterior lighting.

Mr. Solberg noted the Capitol Grounds Planning Commission is updating the Capitol Complex master plan. The plan provides a 20-year outlook for the facility needs of the Capitol grounds.

Mr. Joe Morrisette, Director, Office of Management and Budget, responded to committee member questions regarding the Capitol Building Fund.

### **PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Mr. Randy Christmann, Chair, Public Service Commission, presented information ([Appendix B](#)) regarding the commission. He provided the following overview of the various divisions of the commission:

- Public Utilities - Provides regulation and oversight of electric and gas utilities, regulates siting facilities such as electric generation, gas processing, oil refining, pipelines, and transmission lines and regulates investor-owned telecommunication companies.
- Mine Reclamation and Abandoned Mine Lands - Administers and enforces laws and rules relating to surface coal mining and reclamation operations.
- Compliance - Consists of railroad regulation and safety, damage prevention and enforcement (811 excavation notice), weights and measures, and gas pipeline safety programs.

Mr. Christmann provided the following updates regarding major budget items for the 2025-27 biennium:

- Drone equipment and remote sensing technology were purchased using federal funds as approved by the Legislative Assembly.
- The commission is using funding to intervene in federal litigation by using \$475,000 of federal intervention funding provided for the 2025-27 biennium.
- The commission continues to evaluate agency operations and consolidate and improve efficiencies where possible.

No further business appearing, Chairman Wanzek adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

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Brady A. Larson  
Assistant Legislative Budget Analyst and Auditor

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Alex J. Cronquist  
Senior Fiscal Analyst

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