



BUDGET SECTION - GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS DIVISION

Wednesday, September 30, 2026
Room 327E, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Senator Terry M. Wanzek, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Members present: Senators Terry M. Wanzek, Randy A. Burckhard, Robert Erbele, Randy D. Lemm, Jonathan Sickler; Representatives Mike Brandenburg, Lisa Meier, David Monson, Brandy L. Pyle

Members absent: Senator Michael Dwyer; Representatives Glenn Bosch, Jay Fisher, Keith Kempenich

Others present: See [Appendix A](#).

It was moved by Representative Monson, seconded by Senator Burckhard, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the December 10, 2025, meeting be approved as distributed.

OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL

Mr. Grant Gader, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Council, presented the Adjutant General's [base budget summary report](#).

North Dakota National Guard

Brigadier General Mitchell Johnson, Adjutant General, presented information ([Appendix B](#)) regarding the North Dakota National Guard, including the agency's organizational chart; major programs, the purpose of the programs, funding amounts and sources, and full-time equivalent (FTE) positions allocated to each program; the status of major capital projects, including the Camp Grafton Regional Training Institute addition, fitness facility, and training area expansion, the Williston Readiness Center design, the Dickinson Readiness Center, and the line of communication bridge training site; critical infrastructure state matching funds, including projects supported by the funds, amounts obligated and spent, and federal funding leveraged; and significant items included in the agency's 2027-29 budget request, including the construction of the Jamestown and Williston Readiness Centers and additional critical infrastructure state matching funds. He noted:

- The Adjutant General employs 235 FTE positions, of which 78 FTE positions, or 33 percent, are funded from the General Fund, 134 FTE positions, or 57 percent, from federal funds, and 23 FTE positions, or 10 percent, from special funds.
- The North Dakota National Guard maintains facilities in 13 locations around the state, including Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot, Dickinson, Williston, Jamestown, Valley City, Devils Lake, Wahpeton, Wishek, Edgeley, and Lisbon.
- The North Dakota National Guard includes 4,288 service members, of which 720 reside outside of North Dakota, primarily in Minnesota.
- As of September 2026, 237 individuals were enrolled in the Military Preparation Program, which introduces young individuals to military career paths and opportunities.

- The National Guard Readiness Center in Dickinson opened in July 2025, the Line of Communication Bridge at the Camp Grafton Training Center opened in June 2026, and the fitness facility at the Camp Grafton Training Center opened in June 2026.
- The Adjutant General anticipates requesting \$13 million of state funding and \$39 million of federal funds for the Jamestown Readiness Center, \$38.3 million of state funding and \$205,000 of federal funds for the Williston Readiness Center, and carryover authority for \$34 million of federal funds for the Regional Training Institute for the 2027-29 biennium.

In response to questions from a committee member, Mr. Johnson noted the main source of special funds available to the Adjutant General is derived from cellular and emergency communication device fee revenue that is used primarily for the State Emergency Communications Center.

Department of Emergency Services

Mr. Darin Anderson, Director, State Emergency Communications Center, and Mr. Darin Hanson, Director, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, Department of Emergency Services, presented information ([Appendix C](#)) regarding the department, including major department programs, the purpose of the programs, funding amounts and sources, and FTE positions allocated to each program; recent disaster and emergency response activities, including expenditures, federal funding leverages, state and local cost-shares, and the status of the State Disaster Relief Fund; the status of major funding items, including the Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation Act Program and wildland fire disaster assistance; the status of the Dakota Access Pipeline response loan and related contingent appropriation; and significant items included in the 2027-29 budget request, including department sustainment funding. They noted:

- The balance in the State Disaster Relief Fund on August 31, 2026, was approximately \$27 million, of which approximately \$20 million was unobligated.
- After the Attorney General received \$27,854,867 of settlement proceeds related to the Dakota Access Pipeline lawsuit and deposited the proceeds in the General Fund, the Office of Management and Budget transferred \$13,600,000 to the Bank of North Dakota to pay for a portion of the loans held at the Bank for costs associated with the Dakota Access Pipeline protests. The Adjutant General has one remaining loan obligation, which totaled \$492,377 as of June 30, 2026. The Adjutant General anticipates requesting a deficiency appropriation during the 2027 session to repay the remaining loan balance and accrued interest.
- The Adjutant General anticipates requesting \$545,000 to hire a consultant for the replacement of a computer-aided dispatch system, \$290,000 for learning management software, \$5.75 million for department sustainment contingency funding if federal funding is no longer available for salaries and technology, and \$250,000 for the purchase of equipment and other capital assets for the 2027-29 biennium.

It was moved by Representative Pyle, seconded by Senator Burckhard, and carried on a voice vote that the Legislative Council staff prepare a summary of the division's activities for the 2025-26 interim for inclusion in the Budget Section's report to the Legislative Management.

No further business appearing, Chairman Wanzek adjourned the meeting at 2:23 p.m.

Levi Kinnischtzke
Senior Fiscal Analyst

Grant Gader
Fiscal Analyst

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