

**Public Service Commission
Budget No. 408
House Bill No. 1008 and Senate Bill No. 2404**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2025-27 legislative appropriation	45.00	\$9,546,704 ¹	\$14,234,468	\$23,781,172
2023-25 legislative appropriation	<u>45.00</u>	<u>7,672,852</u>	<u>13,797,845</u>	<u>21,470,697</u>
2025-27 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2023-25 appropriation	0.00	\$1,873,852	\$436,623	\$2,310,475

¹This amount includes \$580,580 of one-time funding. Excluding this amount, the agency's ongoing General Fund appropriation is \$8,966,124.

Item Description

New and vacant FTE pool - The Legislative Assembly transferred \$265,735 for the new and vacant FTE pool line item for the Public Service Commission (PSC) for estimated savings from vacant FTE positions.

Federal lawsuit intervention funding - During the 2025 regular legislative session, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$475,000 of funding, of which \$225,000 is ongoing and \$250,000 is one-time funding, for federal lawsuit interventions. During the 2026 special legislative session an additional \$325,000 of one-time funding was appropriated for federal lawsuit interventions. Authority was also provided to allow the PSC to borrow additional funds for federal lawsuit interventions.

Drone remote sensing technology - The Legislative Assembly appropriated one-time funding of \$155,000, of which \$5,580 is from the General Fund, for drone remote sensing technology to scan landscapes and produce digital surface models to review mine reclamation efforts.

Rail rate complaint case - Section 4 of House Bill No. 1008 authorizes the PSC to obtain a Bank of North Dakota loan of up to \$900,000 to pay costs associated with a rail rate complaint case.

Status/Result

The PSC has not utilized any funding from the new and vacant FTE pool line item. Through January 2026, the PSC had estimated vacant FTE positions savings of \$55,251, which has been utilized for accrued leave payouts, extra salary increases, and temporary salaries.

The PSC has used \$480,259 of federal lawsuit intervention funding through April 2026. The PSC anticipates using additional funding through the end of the biennium and it is unknown if the loan authorization will be utilized.

The PSC has purchased a drone utilizing federal funds in its capital assets line item. The drone remote sensing technology has also been purchased. The PSC anticipates using ongoing funding for supporting software and insurance for the drone.

As of April 2026, a rail rate complaint case has not been filed.