

Department of Environmental Management

Staff Presentation to the
Subcommittee on Environment and Transportation
Governor's FY 2026 Revised, FY 2027 Recommended, and
FY 2027 - FY 2031 Capital Recommendation
April 2, 2026

Department Overview

- Agency Responsibilities
 - Preserve the quality of the environment
 - Maintain the health and safety of residents
 - Provide environmental assistance to individuals, businesses and municipalities
 - Conduct research
 - Enforce all environmental laws and regulations

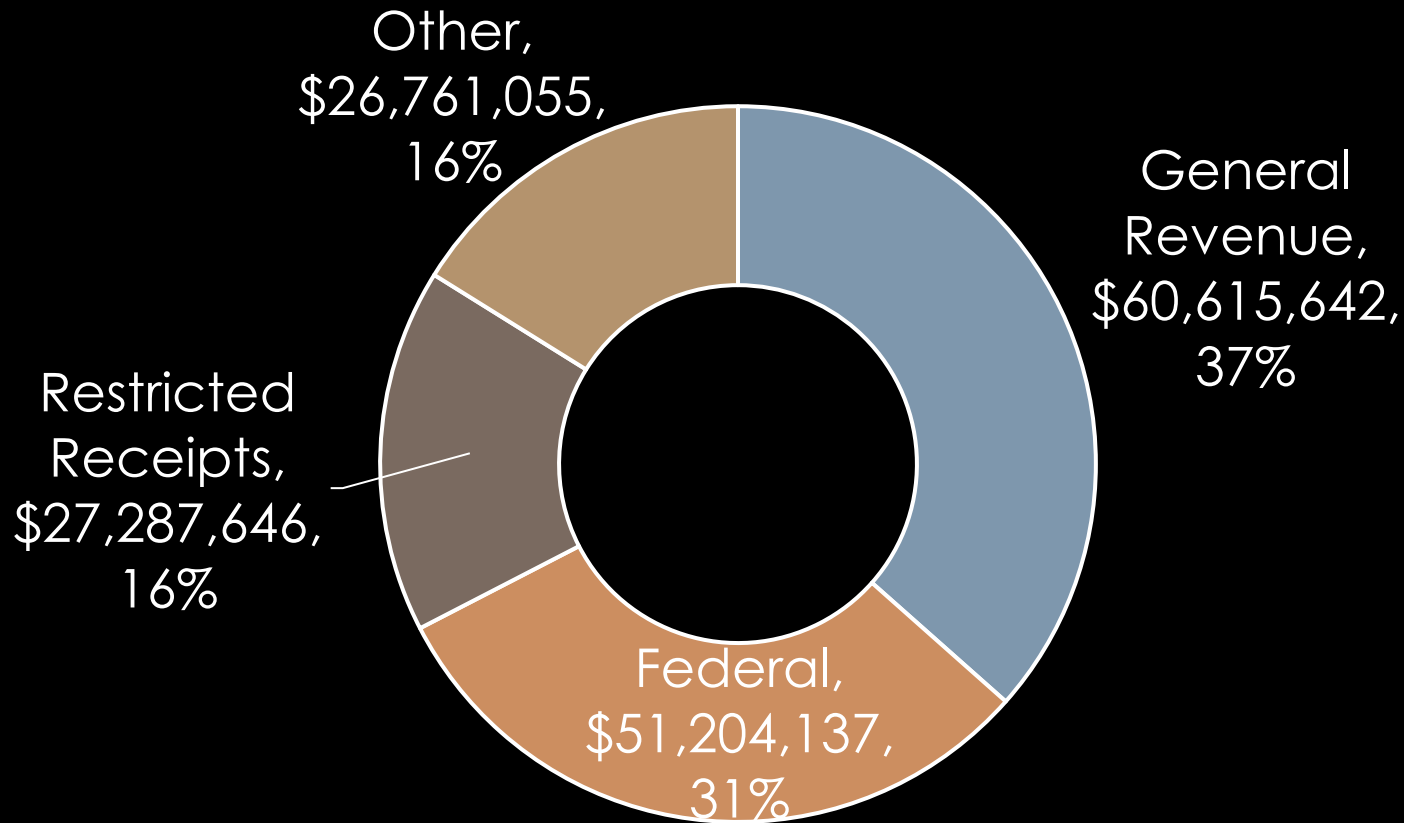
Summary by Category

	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2026 Revised	FY 2027 Governor	Chg. to Enacted
Salaries & Benefits	\$68.6	\$71.3	\$73.2	\$4.5
Contracted Services	16.9	45.6	41.5	24.6
Operating	22.3	21.7	20.9	(1.4)
Grants	10.8	11.4	8.1	(2.7)
Capital	45.8	14.0	22.2	(23.5)
Total	\$164.4	\$164.1	\$165.9	\$1.4

\$ in millions

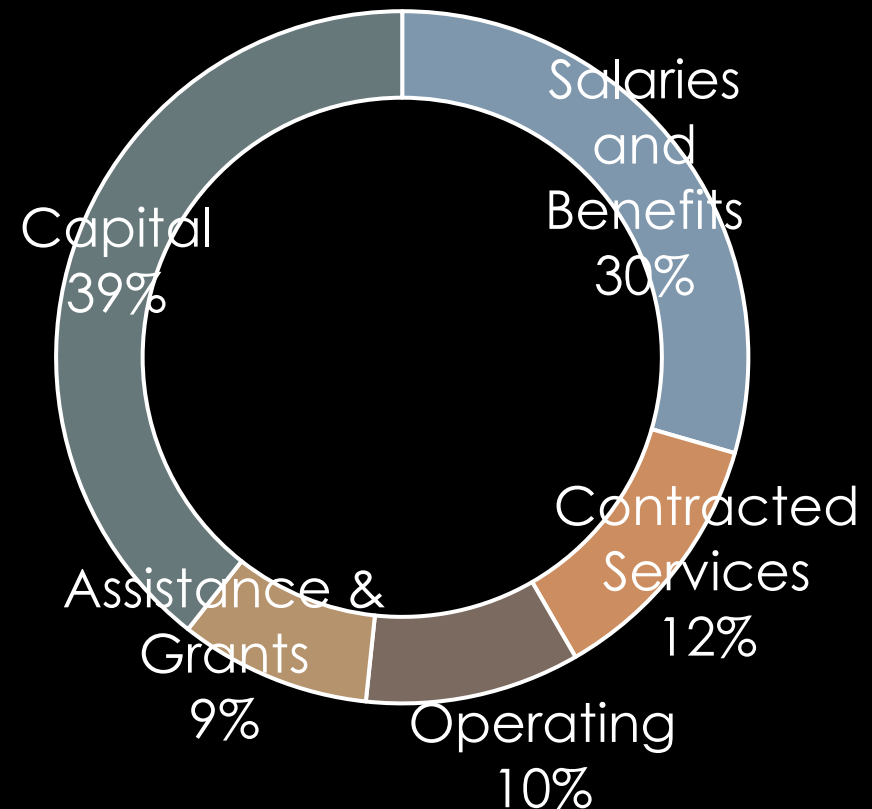
Summary by Source

Governor's FY 2027 Recommendation

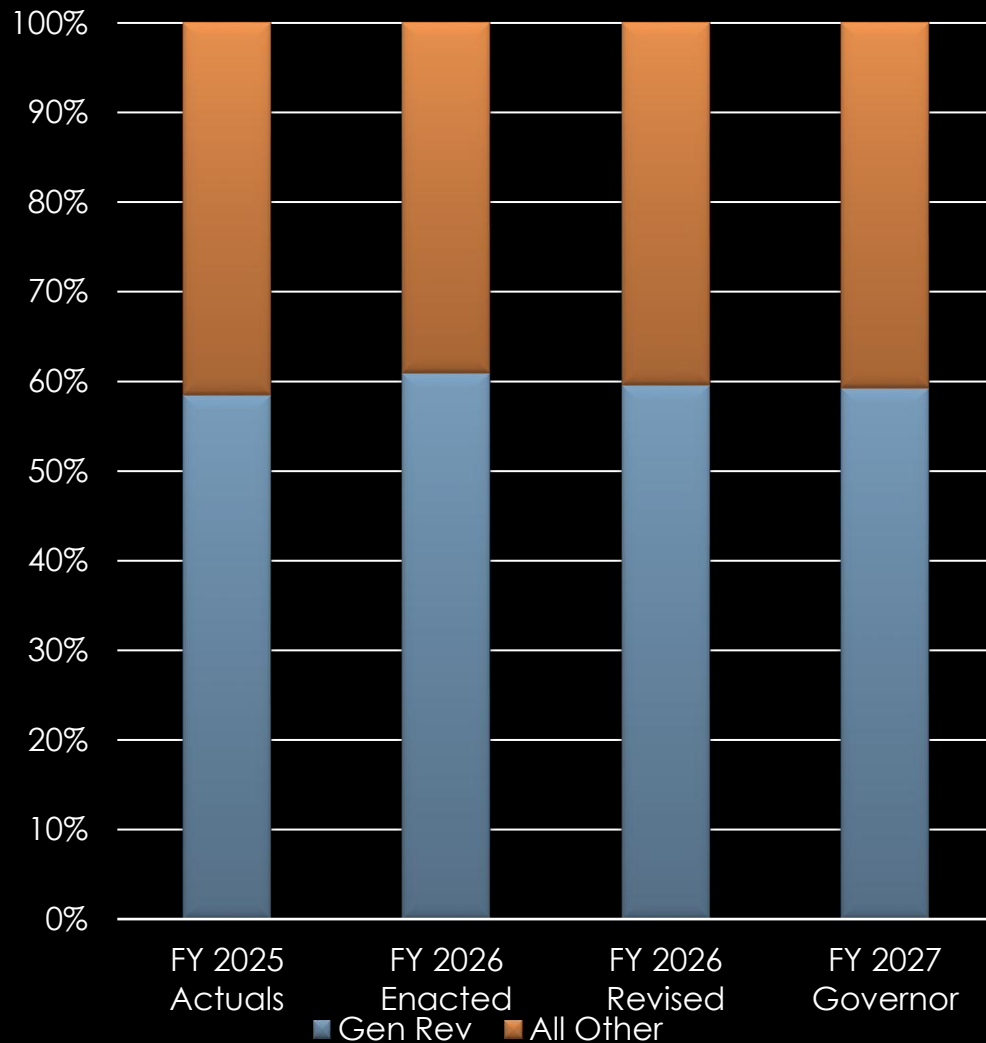


Federal Grants

- DEM receives over 170 federal grants
 - Outdoor recreation
 - Fish and wildlife
 - Habitat restoration
 - Marine fishing and monitoring
 - Animal health and behavior
- FY 2027 = \$51.2M



Salaries and Benefits



- Current service adjustments
 - Payscale adjustments, high recruitment numbers
- GR savings from shifting to RR & federal funds
 - \$2.0M in FY 2026
 - \$3.0M in FY 2027
 - GR 60% in FY 2026 and 59% in FY 2027

Staffing

FTE	Authorized	Avg. Filled	Avg. Vacant
FY 2019	395.0	374.5	20.6
FY 2020	394.0	389.2	4.8
FY 2021	394.0	385.8	8.2
FY 2022	401.0	385.3	15.7
FY 2023	417.0	395.9	21.1
FY 2024	425.0	399.3	25.7
FY 2025	439.0	414.3	24.7
FY 2026*	439.0	432.9	5.2

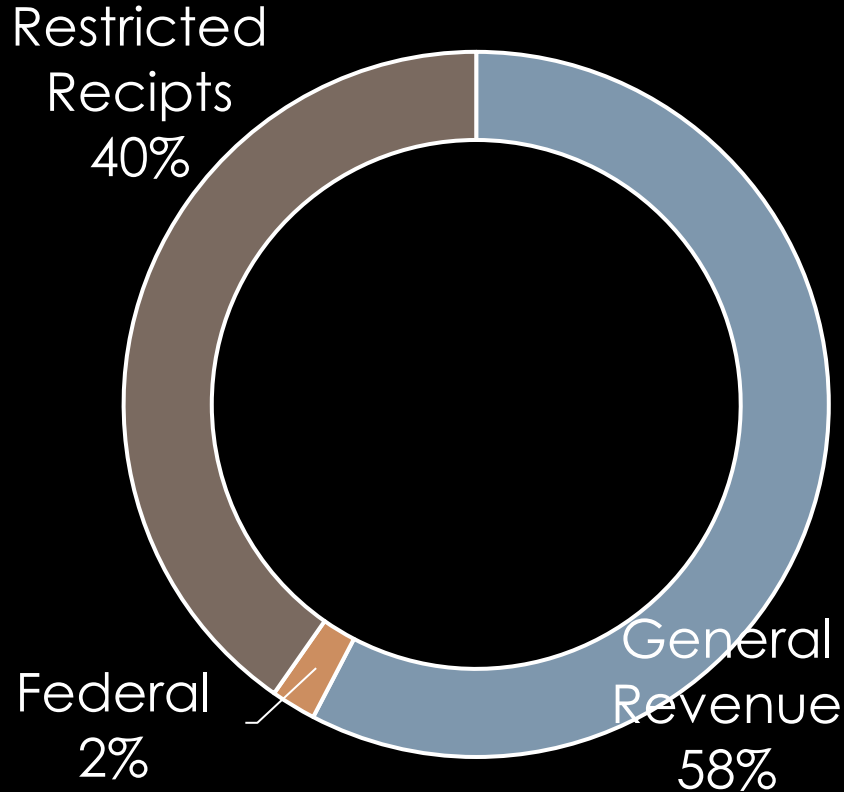
*As of March 9 pay period

Office of the Director

- Administrative branch of the Department for fiscal, legal, etc.
 - 5 Divisions
 - Administration
 - Administrative Adjudication
 - Environmental Coordination
 - Legal Services
 - Management Services

Office of the Director

SUMMARY BY SOURCE OF FUNDS



SUMMARY BY CATEGORY

Salaries & Benefits	\$9,053,947
Contracted Services	1,124,780
Operating	6,770,588
Grants	1,251,942
Capital	28,750
Total	\$18,230,007

Office of the Director

- Online Licensing Application Portal
 - DEM's Salesforce permitting platform launched in 2024
 - Permits for Freshwater and Groundwater Protection, Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment, etc.
 - \$752,000 from GR for maintenance and operating costs
 - Previously covered by DOA IT Fund

Office of the Director

LITTER REMOVAL

- \$100,000 from general revenues
 - Began in 2022
 - Funds mostly used for grants to municipalities and organizations
 - For litter clean-ups
 - Same as enacted

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- Federal EPA grant
 - Reportedly terminated
 - Began in 2025
 - Funding went to The Nature Conservancy
 - Climate change issues
 - Reconnect marine & coastal systems
 - Advance science
 - Build partnerships
- \$0.3 million for FY 2026 & FY 2027

Office of the Director

ARTICLE 1 GRANTS

- General revenue support as enacted
 - Conservation Districts -\$180,000
 - Wildlife Clinic of RI - \$100,000

BAYS, RIVERS & WATERSHEDS

- \$1.3M from RR
 - Watershed & marine monitoring
 - Water pollution abatement
 - Climate change
- From \$1 per hundred-gallon charge on septage disposal
- Gov shifts \$0.3M of GR staffing costs to Fund
 - Office of Water Resources
 - Will end FY 2027 w/ \$0.8M balance

Office of the Director

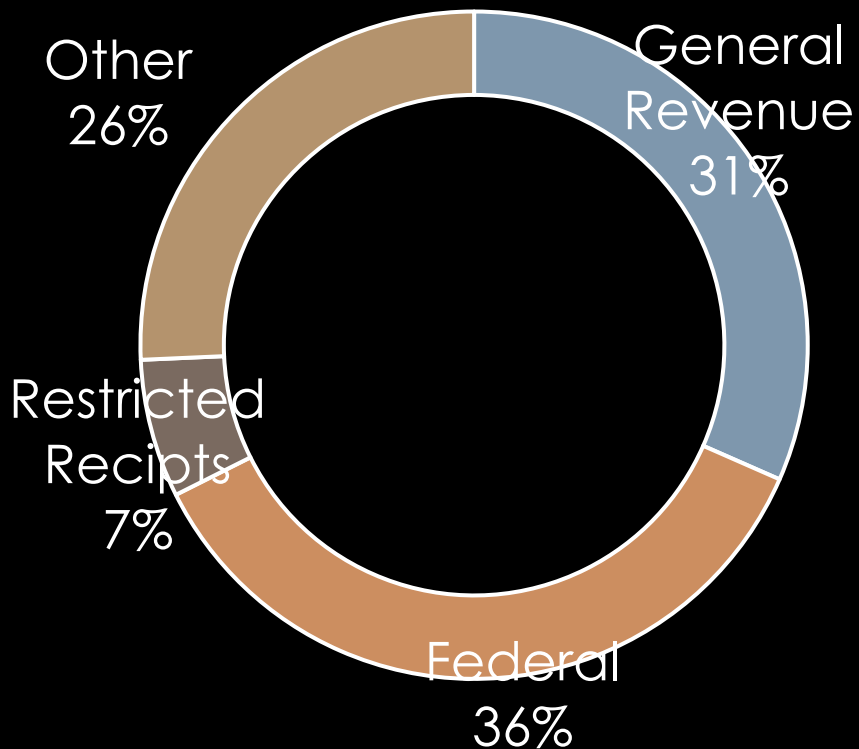
- Foundry Headquarters Lease
 - 10-year lease effective July 2016
 - Current lease is set to expire in FY 2026
 - Lease costs - \$2.6 million annually
 - 300 workstations/staff and 126,184 square feet
- Governor supports renewing lease
 - Maintains enacted level of funding but with less space – 115,328 square feet
 - Lease agreement still being drafted; costs/terms may change

Bureau of Natural Resources

- Protects, manages, and restores the state's wide array of historic parks, beaches, recreational facilities, and green spaces
 - Nine divisions
 - Agriculture
 - Coastal Resources
 - Law Enforcement
 - Forestry
 - Fish and Wildlife
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Planning and Development
 - Marine Resources
 - Narragansett Bay Estuarine Research Reserve

Bureau of Natural Resources

SUMMARY BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

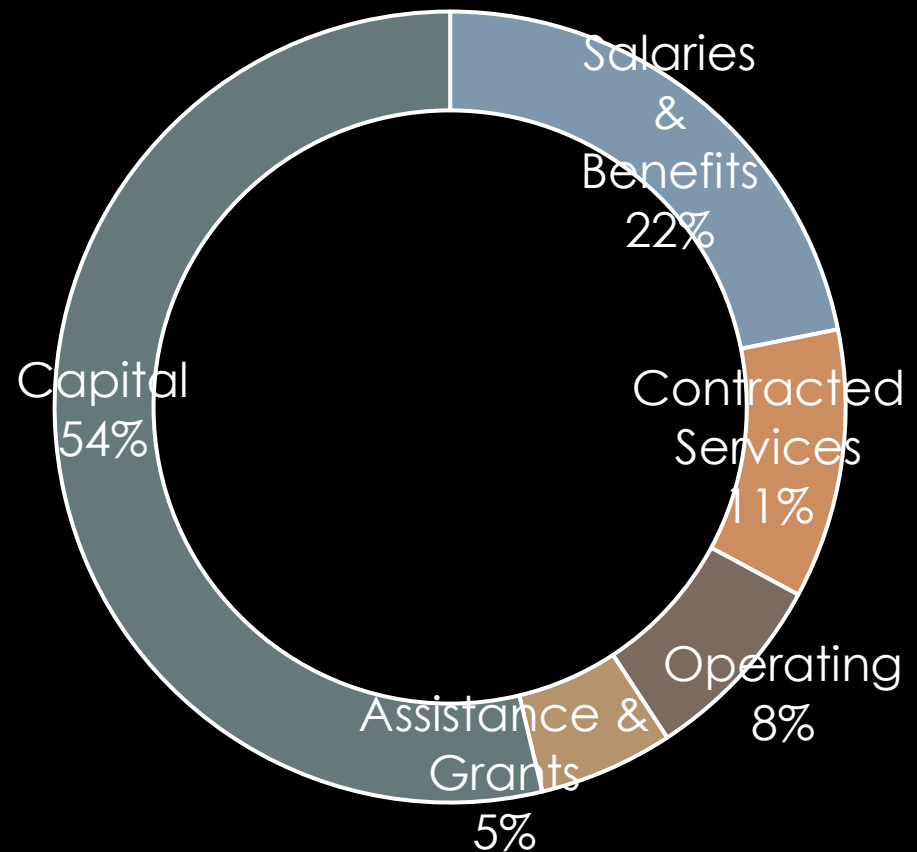


SUMMARY BY CATEGORY

Salaries & Benefits	\$35,351,709
Contracted Services	32,610,538
Operating	10,373,824
Grants	3,464,186
Capital	22,086,992
Total	\$103,887,249

Bureau of Natural Resources

- \$37.4M from fed grants
 - Food safety
 - Forestry
 - Fish hatcheries
 - Hunter safety education
 - Bird conservation
 - Wildlife resource mgmt.
 - Boating safety
 - Aquatic mammal research
 - Colt State Park restrooms
 - Recreational trails



Bureau of Natural Resources

PARKS AND RECREATION

- \$18.0M & 68 FTE
 - \$16.1M from GR
- Operates & maintains campgrounds, parks & beaches
 - Seasonal staff recruitment much higher this past season than previous years
 - DEM must rely on contracted janitorial & security services

ENFORCEMENT

- \$8.0M & 34 FTE
 - \$45.1M from GR
- 24-hour water patrols
- Enforces laws & regs
 - Marine safety
 - Recreational fishing & hunting
- Environmental Police
 - Pay scale adjustments

Bureau of Natural Resources

SEAFOOD MARKETING

- \$100K from GR
 - Same as enacted
- Supports contracted seafood marketing specialist
 - Promotion & marketing to increase awareness & demand for local seafood
 - Emphasis on undervalued species

LOCAL AGRICULTURE & SEAFOOD GRANTS

- \$500K from GR
 - Same as enacted
- Grants to local agriculture & food businesses
 - Supports growth, development & marketing of local food & seafood

Bureau of Natural Resources

CHAFEE VESSEL REPAIRS

- \$150K GR maintained from enacted
 - For each FY 2026 & FY 2027
- Repairs to John H. Chafee research boat
 - Conducts surveys on finfish and crustaceans
 - Built in 2002
 - Needs ~\$300K in repairs

MARINE MAMMAL RESPONSE

- \$150K GR
 - State match to federal funds
 - Same as enacted
 - Supports rescue & rehabilitation of marine mammals that become stranded in RI waters
 - Two contracts for emergency response & marine mammal research

Bureau of Natural Resources

- Host Beach Communities
 - DEM collects fees for daily & seasonal parking at seven facilities across the state
 - Reimburses four host communities 27% of all daily parking fees from Memorial Day to Labor Day
 - Charlestown, Westerly, Narragansett & South Kingstown
 - 2021 Assembly authorized DEM to increase fees at Westerly state facilities
 - Governor recommends \$0.7 million
 - \$12,820 more than enacted based on anticipated collections

Article 3, Secs. 6, 7, 19-21 – Big River Management Transfer

- Big River Management Area
 - 8,319 acre “open space”
 - EG, WG, Exeter, & Coventry
 - 1964 Big River-Wood River Reservoir Site Acquisition Act
 - Water Resources Board
 - Was stand alone agency
 - Now in DOA
 - 1.0 FTE & associated operating costs
- Article 3 transfers ownership from DOA to DEM
 - DEM maintains and enforces rules and regulations
 - Budget transfers staff & operating costs
 - GBA #2
 - Transfers RICAP support from DOA

Bureau of Natural Resources

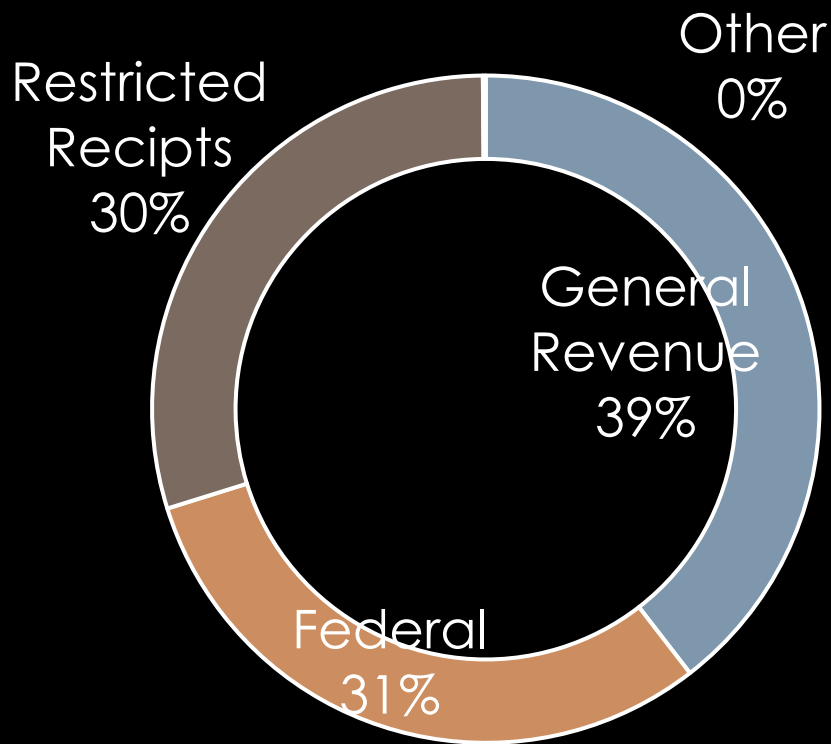
- Land Surplus Revenue
 - Governor recommends selling three properties
 - House – Hartford Ave, Smithfield (\$350,000)
 - Vacant Lot – Rocky Point, Warwick (\$155,000)
 - St. Germain Property – Hill Farm Road, Coventry (\$395,000)
 - Estimated \$900,000 total based on dated appraisals
 - RIGL 37-7-15

Bureau of Environmental Protection

- Responsible for preventing and minimizing pollution to environmental resources
- Monitors the quality and oversees the restoration of water, air, and land
 - Six offices
 - Water Resources
 - Air Resources
 - Waste Management
 - Emergency Response
 - Compliance & Inspection
 - Customer & Technical Assistance

Bureau of Environmental Protection

SUMMARY BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

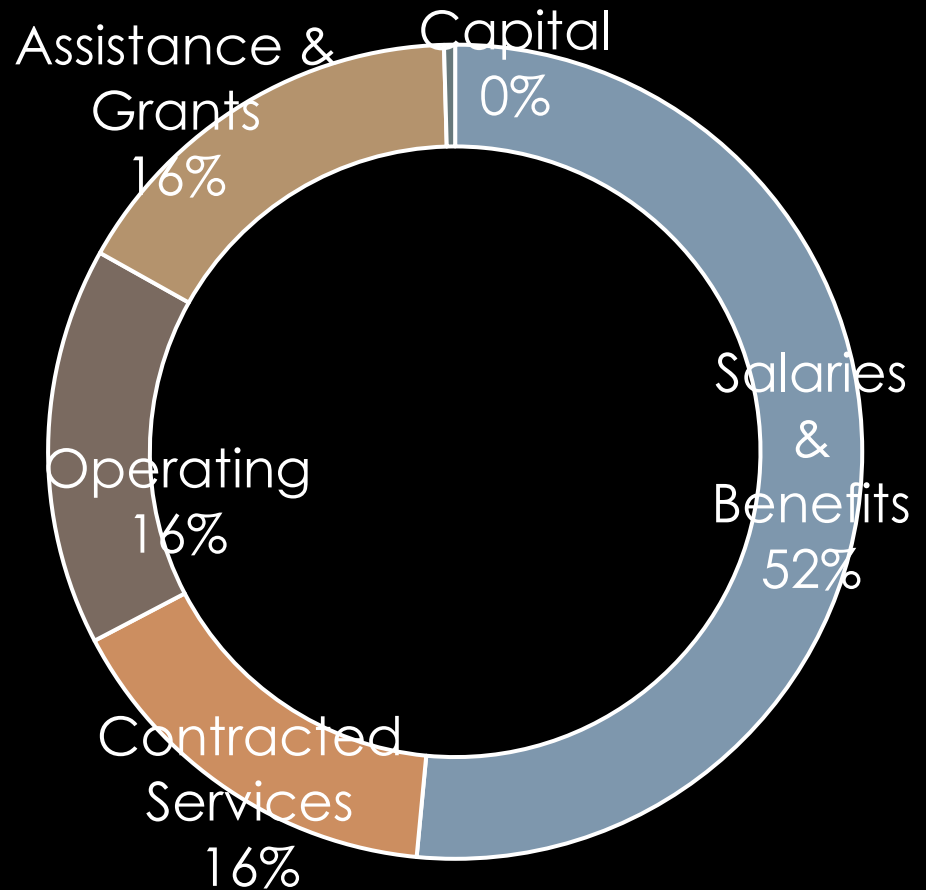


SUMMARY BY CATEGORY

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 28,752,747
Contracted Services	7,720,505
Operating	3,775,840
Grants	3,377,382
Capital	124,750
Total	\$ 43,751,224

Bureau of Environmental Protection

- \$13.4M from federal grants
 - Water and air quality
 - Pollution management
 - Air and water
 - Brownfields
 - Leaking underground storage tanks
 - Hazardous waste



Bureau of Environmental Protection

- OSPAR - Oil Spill Prevention, Administration & Response Fund
 - Receipts from \$0.05 per barrel fee on petroleum products
 - Respond to & remediate oil spills
 - Maintain emergency readiness through responder training & equipment acquisition
 - Claims not covered by responsible parties or federal government
 - Governor shifts \$0.4M of GR staffing costs to Fund in FY 2027
 - Would leave a \$1.4M balance

Prior Spending	
FY 2022	\$1.9
FY 2023	\$1.8
FY 2024	\$1.9
FY 2025	\$2.1
FY 2026*	\$2.2
FY 2027*	\$2.3

\$ in millions;

*Governor

Bureau of Environmental Protection

- Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund
 - Created in 1994
 - 1 cent per gallon motor fuel sold to owners or operators of UST
 - Amended in 2009, one-half cent for UST
 - \$8.0 million cap on fee collection
- Eligible uses
 - Reimbursement of claims
 - Property or natural resource damage
 - DEM costs for investigation, remediation, & corrective actions

Spending	
FY 2022	\$0.8
FY 2023	\$1.0
FY 2024	\$0.6
FY 2025	\$1.6
FY 2026*	\$2.7
FY 2027*	\$2.7

*Governor;
\$ in millions

Bureau of Environmental Protection

- Environmental Response Fund
 - \$0.8 million more than enacted
 - Reflects plan for 24 contaminated sites
 - Also supported by Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund
 - Supported by hazardous waste transport violation fees, and any settlements or penalties allowed under Rhode Island General Law
- Governor shifts \$0.8M in GR personnel costs to Fund in FY 2027

Spending	
FY 2022	\$1.7
FY 2023	\$1.5
FY 2024	\$1.7
FY 2025	\$2.4
FY 2026*	\$5.2
FY 2027*	\$6.0

\$ in millions;
*Governor

Article 3, Secs. 22 and 23 – Lakes Management

- Freshwater Lake Management Program established in 2024
 - No revenue source currently available
- Article 3 authorizes Bays, Rivers, and Watersheds restricted receipts for this purpose
 - Adds lakes and ponds and expands eligible projects to include control and abatement activities
 - Governor's budget assumes \$\$\$

Article 3, Secs. 22 and 23 – Lakes Management

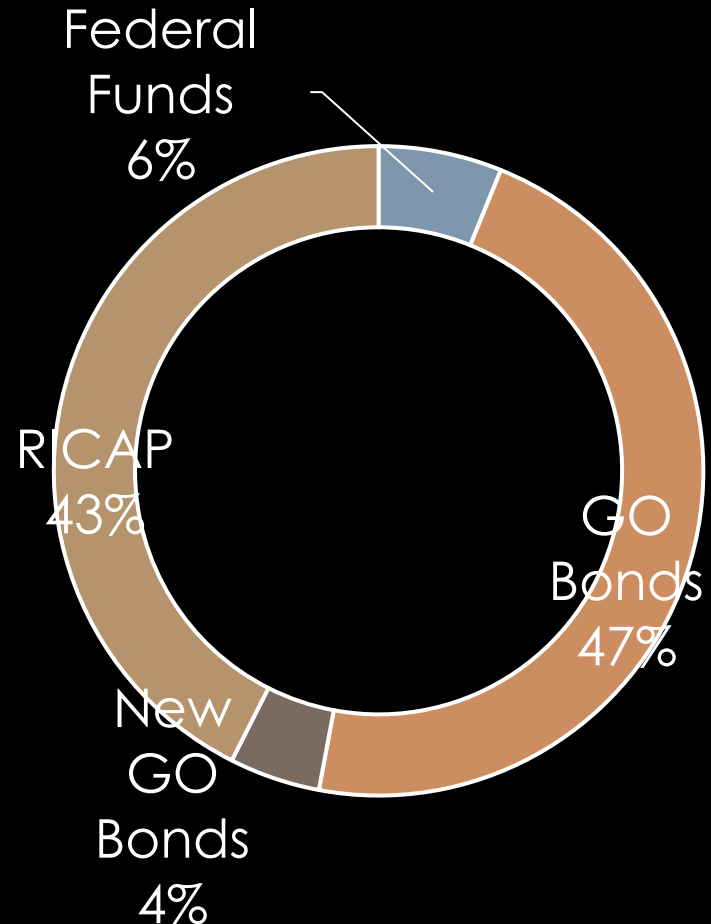
- Fund not expected to have sufficient resources to support the budget recommendation
 - Expenses historically support personnel

Bays Fund	FY 2025	Enacted	FY 2026 Governor	FY 2027 Governor
Carryforward	\$1.4	\$1.2	\$0.9	\$0.3
Receipts	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7
Total Available	\$2.2	\$1.9	\$1.6	\$1.1
Expenditures	\$1.4	\$1.0	\$1.2	\$1.3
Balance	\$0.8	\$1.0	\$0.3	\$(0.3)

\$ in millions

Capital Development Plan

- Governor recommends \$442.3 million for 25 projects
 - \$174.8 million between FY 2027 and FY 2031



Capital Development Plan

- \$86.7M RICAP in 5-year period
- Major revisions
 - Recreational Facility Improvements
 - \$6.7M more
 - Galilee Piers
 - \$10.3M more
 - Marine Infrastructure/Pier Development
 - \$2.0M more
- Natural Resources Offices and Visitors Center
 - \$500k more
- Dam Repair
 - \$2.4 million less

Capital Development Plan

- Galilee Piers
 - Total cost of \$99.4M
 - \$40.4M in 5-year period
 - \$15.0M from federal funds & \$84.3M from RICAP
 - Consistent with request but adds \$5.1 M in post-FY 2031 expenses
 - Asset protection, pier replacement, pier improvements
 - New projects include Pier Replacement B and State Pier 4 Replacement

Capital Development Plan

- Natural Resources Offices and Visitor's Center
 - Total cost of \$5.2M
 - \$13.3M less than approved
 - Excludes \$13.8M in unrealized federal funding and \$500k more from RICAP
 - Major revision to original plan
 - Offices now moved to Alton Jones Campus in West Greenwich
 - Initial plan includes renovations and improvements to existing facilities on campus

Capital Development Plan

- Dam Repair
 - Total cost of \$26.3M
 - \$2.4M less than approved
 - Repairs to “high hazard” state-owned dams at various recreational and management areas operated by DEM
 - Reflects savings to two dam projects based on lower-than-expected costs
 - New projects include repairs to Barberville Dam (Hope Valley) & Simmons Pond Dam (Little Compton)

Capital Development Plan

- Other ongoing RICAP funded capital projects

RICAP	Status	5-Year	Total
Facilities Asset Protection	Revised	\$3.2	\$7.3
Fish and Wildlife Facilities	Ongoing	\$2.6	\$4.0
Fort Adams Trust	Ongoing	\$1.5	\$4.6
Newport Piers	Ongoing	\$0.5	\$2.3

\$ in millions

3/5 – Q5 – Green Economy & Clean Energy

DEM

Project	Total
Brownfields Remediation	\$3.0
Facility Improvements	8.0
Local Recreation Projects	1.0
Marine Infrastructure Development	1.0
Narragansett Bay & Watershed Restoration	7.0
Total	\$20.0

OTHER ENTITIES

Project		Total
Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund	RIIB	\$20.0
Energy Efficiency	OER	10.0
Total		\$30.0

\$ in millions

3/5 – Article 6, Question 5

Background

- Brownfields Remediation and Economic Development - \$3.0 million
 - Up to 80.0% matching grants to public, private, and non-profit entities
 - Brownfields: Hazardous materials present

Ballot	Approved	Committed	Remaining
2014	\$5.0	\$5.0	-
2016	5.0	4.9	0.1
2018	4.0	3.9	0.1
2022	4.0	3.4	0.6
2024	5.0	-	5.0
Total	\$23.0	\$17.2	\$5.8

\$ in Millions

3/5 – Article 6, Question 5

Background

- Local Recreation Projects \$1.0 million
 - Up to 80% matching grants to acquire, develop, or rehabilitate local recreational facilities

Ballot	Approved	Committed	Available	Active Grants	Completed Grants
2016	\$5.0	\$5.0	\$0.0	-	28
2018	5.0	4.1	0.9	1	19
2020	4.0	3.6	0.4	3	12
2022	2.0	2.0	0.0	8	2
2024	5.0	-	5.0	-	-
Total	\$21.0	\$14.7	\$6.3	12	61

\$ in millions

3/5 – Article 6, Question 5

Background

- Marine Infrastructure Development \$1.0M
 - Repairs boat ramps & dock facilities
 - May also include recreational facilities & office space
 - Governor also adds \$2.0M from RICAP over 4 years
 - \$1.7M already approved
 - through FY 2026
 - Excludes \$0.8M from unrealized federal funds

Governor FY 2027-FY 2031	
RICAP	\$2.0
Federal Funds	0.1
GO Bonds	1.0
Total	\$3.1

\$ in millions

3/5 – Article 6, Question 5

Background

- Narragansett Bay and Watershed Restoration - \$7M
 - Improve water quality in Narragansett Bay
 - Stormwater management, nutrient pollution, aquatic invasive plants, restoring riparian buffers

Ballot	Approved	Committed	Available
2004	\$8.5	\$8.5	\$-
2012	4.0	4.0	-
2022	3.0	3.0	0.0
Total	\$15.5	\$15.4	\$0.0

\$ in millions

3/5 – Article 6, Question 5

Background

- Facility Improvements \$8.0 M
 - Projects at state parks, beaches, campgrounds
 - Beavertail State Park, Burlingame Sanitary Amenities, master plans, demolitions

Gov	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	Total
FF	\$4.1	\$1.0	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$5.1
New GO	-	6.0	1.0	1.0	-	8.0
GO	10.2	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	12.4
RICAP	4.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.0	18.1
Total	\$18.9	\$11.2	\$5.0	\$5.0	\$3.5	\$43.6

\$ in millions

Article 6, Question 5 Background

Project	Years	Approved	Committed	Available
Coastal Resiliency	2018/2024	\$7.0	\$5.0	\$2.0
Farmland Development Rights Acquisition	2012/2014 2018/2024	\$14.5	\$9.0	\$5.5
Forest Conservation & Habitats	2022/2024	\$8.0	\$3.5	\$4.5
Local Land Acquisition Grants	2018/2022	\$4.0	\$3.9	\$0.1
State Land Acquisition – Open Space	2012/2016 2022/2024	\$12.5	\$11.5	\$1.0

\$ in millions

Article 3, Sec 2 – Paint Recycling (2/3 Hearing)

- Article 3 revises paint recycling program
 - PaintCare would have to submit revised programming for review and approval every 5 years, regardless of program changes
 - First revision due December 31, 2026
 - Current law only requires reapproval when plan changes

Department of Environmental Management

House Fiscal Staff Presentation to the Subcommittee on
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