

MINUTES
JOINT FINANCE-APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 2026

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room C310

MEMBERS PRESENT: Senators Co-Chairman Grow, Woodward, Cook, Bjerke, Hart, Carlson, Zuiderveld, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow
Representatives Co-Chairman Tanner (14), Miller, Furniss, Petzke, Manwaring, Mitchell, Price, Bruce, Harris, Green

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Galloway

CONVENED: **Co-Chairman Grow** called the meeting of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (Committee) to order at **8:00 a.m.** with a quorum present.

LSO STAFF PRESENTATION: **Workforce Development Council, LBB 6-139 Brooke Dupree, Senior Analyst, Legislative Services Office (LSO)**
Ms. Dupree presented a base budget review for the Workforce Development Council before the Committee (see, attachment 1). She explained the council operated under the Office of the Governor and was established in 2018 to strengthen Idaho's workforce by increasing access to training programs, administering Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act responsibilities, and overseeing Idaho Launch grants for eligible high school seniors. The council had one budgeted program with 14 FTP positions and one vacancy as of November, 2025.
She provided a consolidated fund analysis for FY 23 – 27 and reviewed the council's primary funding sources. These include the Workforce Development Training Fund, supported by 3% of unemployment insurance tax, and the In-Demand Careers Fund, created in 2022 and funded by an \$80 million sales tax distribution for Idaho Launch grants. She noted most appropriations were for trustee and benefit payments, with differences between estimated and actual expenditures largely due to reappropriation authority for multi-year grants, including ARPA funds and Launch grants.
For fiscal year 2027, she outlined an ongoing request to transfer funds from personnel and operating expenditures into trustee and benefit payments to fund additional student grants. She also described a proposal to consolidate the STEM Action Center into the Workforce Development Council, shifting about \$3 million in General Fund support and generating anticipated savings.

DISCUSSION: **Wendi Secrist, Executive Director** stood to answer questions from the Committee related to STEM dedicated funds, cash transfer amounts from Launch, grant repayments, ARPA funds, worker training, Launch outcomes, and Workforce Development Council accomplishments and challenges.

She highlighted Launch has increased postsecondary enrollment by 5%, reducing out-of-state attendance, expanding access to short-term and two-year programs aligned with in-demand careers, and supporting semiconductor workforce training.

**LSO STAFF
PRESENTATION:**

Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, LBB 6-053 Brooke Dupree, LSO

Ms. Dupree presented a budget base review for the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (see, attachment 2). The Commission's statutory mission was to help individuals who are blind or visually impaired achieve independence through vocational rehabilitation and independent living services. The agency operated as one budgeted division with 43.12 authorized FTP positions. Over five years, the agency averaged about 41.92 FTPs filled at 97% and spent 98% of its personnel appropriation on staffing.

She highlighted two key dedicated funds. The Rehabilitation Revenue and Refunds Fund received reimbursements from the Social Security Administration for successfully closed cases involving Social Security recipients. The Adaptive Aids and Appliances Fund generated revenue from the agency's store, which sold specialized items to assist individuals in daily living, with proceeds used to restock inventory. She provided five-year appropriations and expenditures for FY 22 – FY 26. In fiscal year 2026, the agency received one budget enhancement of \$28,900 onetime for IT hardware.

For fiscal year 2027, the agency requested \$62,700 ongoing from Social Security refund revenues to increase spending authority for client services, anticipating higher reimbursements than current appropriation allowed. It also requested \$65,000 onetime from the Adaptive Aids and Appliances Fund for two replacement vehicles used by counselors to serve clients.

DISCUSSION:

Beth Cunningham, Administrator stood to answer questions from the Committee related to appropriation from the Adaptive Aids and Appliances Fund, the effect of budget holdbacks on the division, and candidates for vision surgery.

**LSO STAFF
PRESENTATION:**

Idaho State Historical Society, LBB 5-067 Brooke Dupree, LSO

Ms. Dupree presented a budget base review for the Idaho State Historical Society before the Committee (see, attachment 3). The agency is responsible for identifying and preserving historically significant items, including buildings, objects, and photographs, and for maintaining 60 historic properties throughout Idaho. The agency has 62 authorized FTP across Administration, State Archives and Records, the State Historic Preservation Office, the State Museum, and the Old Idaho Penitentiary and other historic sites.

She provided a consolidated fund analysis for FY 23 – FY 27 and reviewed agency dedicated funds. She highlighted the Miscellaneous Revenue Fund, which derived from private donations, membership fees, and Old Penitentiary entry fees. She explained that differences in estimated versus actual expenditures, particularly in fiscal year 2022, were due to a \$5 million supplemental for infrastructure projects re-appropriated into fiscal year 2023.

She outlined the FY 26 enhancements, including \$133,200 ongoing for Old Penitentiary staff, \$62,900 ongoing for an archivist technician to make collections searchable online, \$7,800 onetime for Old Penitentiary staff, \$90,200 for OITS Hardware, and \$450,000 for the first year of a two-year state collections and archival moving project. For FY 27 enhancement requests, she reported year two of the State Collections and Archival Moving project of \$450,000, to consolidate 150,000 linear feet of materials into a single location. Additionally, for FY 27 the agency requested \$36,300 for OITS hardware and re-appropriation authority to carry over moving costs from fiscal year 2026 to 2027. She stated all enhancements were recommended by the Governor.

DISCUSSION:

In response to a Committee question, **Ms. Dupree** explained the decrease in the miscellaneous revenue fund from fiscal year 2026 to 2027 was due to the agency requesting to spend \$450,000 on professional moving services to consolidate state archives, artifacts, and capital collections into a single purpose-built facility.

Janet Gallimore, Executive Director stood before the Committee. She stated the agency's role had remained consistent for 145 years: preserving and sharing Idaho's historical records, artifacts, and sites while educating the public on how history shapes communities and civic life. In response to Committee questions, she emphasized that the \$450,000 request was focused on stewardship, not expansion, ensuring the safe relocation of over 51,000 square feet of collections to a new facility with proper environmental controls, security, and improved public access. She noted that dedicated funds were being used to support this move.

She explained the State Historic Preservation Office followed the National Historic Preservation Act, consulting with federal agencies to review construction projects and minimize impacts on cultural resources. In response to Committee questions, she confirmed staff often traveled to sites and agreed to provide travel records for archeological surveys in Bonner County. She also highlighted prior accomplishments, including restoration of the state capitol, enhancements to the state museum, public access improvements, and contributions to America 250 commemorations.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business before the Committee, **Co-Chairman Grow** adjourned the meeting at **9:08 a.m.**

Senator Grow
Chair

Linsy Heiner
Secretary