

# **JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, April 23, 2026**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Senate Hearing Room 109**



STATE OF ARIZONA

## Joint Legislative Budget Committee

STATE  
SENATE

DAVID C. FARNSWORTH  
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LELA ALSTON  
BRIAN FERNANDEZ  
MARK FINCHEM  
JOHN KAVANAGH  
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MICHAEL WAY

### JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 23, 2026

11:00 A.M.

Senate Appropriations, Room 109

#### MEETING NOTICE

- Call to Order
- [Approval of Minutes of March 5, 2026.](#)
- EXECUTIVE SESSION - Attorney General - Consideration of Proposed Settlements under Rule 14.
- 1. [ATTORNEY GENERAL - Review of Opioid Settlement Expenditure Plan.](#)
- 2. [ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION - Consider Approval of Requested Transfer of Appropriations.](#)

The Chairman reserves the right to set the order of the agenda.

04/16/2026

KP

People with disabilities may request accommodations such as interpreters, alternative formats, or assistance with physical accessibility. Requests for accommodations must be made with 72 hours prior notice. If you require accommodations, please contact the JLBC Office at (602) 926-5491.



STATE OF ARIZONA

# Joint Legislative Budget Committee

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

### JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET COMMITTEE

March 5, 2026

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m., Thursday, March 5, 2026, in Senate Hearing Room 109. The following were present:

Members:	Senator Farnsworth, Chairman Senator Alston Senator Angius (Temporary member in place of Senator Werner) Senator Fernandez Senator Finchem Senator Kavanagh  Senator Kuby	Representative Livingston, Vice-Chairman Representative Austin Representative N. Carter (Temporary member in place of Representative Gress) Representative Olson Representative Stahl Hamilton Representative Volk (Temporary member in place of Representative Blattman)
Absent:	Senator Mesnard	Representative Blattman Representative Carbone Representative Gress Representative Way
Excused:	Senator Werner	

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Representative Livingston moved that the Committee approve the minutes of January 29, 2026. The motion carried by voice vote.

### REGULAR AGENDA

**1. SECRETARY OF STATE (SOS) – Review of FY 2026 Special Election Expenses Line Item Transfer of \$2,490,000 to the Operating Budget.**

Ms. Micaela Andrews, JLBC Staff, stated an FY 2026 General Appropriations Act footnote requires the Secretary of State to submit an expenditure plan to the Committee for review before transferring monies in or out of the Special Election Expenses line item. SOS requested review of the transfer of

\$2,850,000 from the Special Election Expenses line item to the FY 2026 Operating Budget, of which the Committee reviewed the transfer of \$2,490,000. The review did not include \$200,000 associated with voter registration database replacement planning and \$160,000 for retroactive reimbursement of physical security costs. The JLBC Staff provided options.

Representative Livingston discussed adding 3 potential provisions.

Mr. Rex Bartlett, Senior Associate, Policy and Government Affairs, Molera Alvarez, representing the Secretary of State, responded to member questions.

Representative Livingston moved that the Committee give a favorable review of SOS's transfer of \$2,490,000 from the Special Election Expenses line item to the FY 2026 Operating Budget for the 10 items detailed in Table 1 with the 3 proposed provisions:

1. Starting on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 and the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month thereafter through December 2026, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the JLBC Staff on the previous month's expenditures and year-to-date expenditures of the monies transferred from the Special Election Expenses line item.
2. Any monies transferred from the Special Election Expenses line item may not be used by the Secretary of State for contracts with individuals or entities for lobbying services.
3. Any monies transferred from the Special Election Expenses line item may not be used for providing assistance to groups or individuals for conducting voter registration drives or by the Secretary of State to conduct voter registration drives.

<b>Secretary of State –March 2026 Transfer Expenditure Plan</b>	
<b><u>2026 Election - State Expenses for Primary/General Election</u></b>	
1. Election Management System/Election Night Reporting System Programming	\$ 300,000
2. Ballot Measure Signature Validation (Initiatives Due July 2, 2026)	100,000
3. Primary Election Logic and Accuracy Testing (Begins on June 17, 2026)	50,000
4. Candidate Petition Signature Verification (Due April 6, 2026)	<u>50,000</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>
<b><u>SOS Expenses</u></b>	
5. Physical Security for the Secretary of State (March '26 – June '26 Services)	\$ 240,000
<b><u>SOS Initiatives for Counties</u></b>	
6. Fund County Share of FY 2026 Voter Registration Database Payments	\$ 1,000,000
7. Rural County Ballot Tracking and Verification	250,000
8. Additional County Election Workers	250,000
9. Security Exercises for Counties for Potential Scenarios	150,000
10. County Assistance Fund for IT and Operational Issues	<u>100,000</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 1,750,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,490,000</b>

The motion carried by voice vote.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

*Kristy Paddack*

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Kristy Paddack, Secretary

*Richard Stavneak*

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Richard Stavneak, Director

*David C Farnsworth*

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Senator David Farnsworth, Chairman

NOTE: A full audio recording of this meeting is available at the JLBC Staff Office, 1716 W. Adams. A full video recording of this meeting is available at <https://www.azjlbc.gov/jlbc-meetings/>.





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**DATE:** April 15, 2026

**TO:** Members of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee

**FROM:** Gordon Robertson, Senior Fiscal Analyst

**SUBJECT:** Attorney General – Review of Opioid Settlement Expenditure Plan

### Request

A.R.S. § 44-1531.02(C) requires the Attorney General (AG) to submit an expenditure plan for review by the Committee prior to spending any monies from the Consumer Remediation Subaccount of the Consumer Restitution and Remediation Revolving Fund. The AG requests the Committee review its plan to spend \$10,000,000 from opioid-claims related revenues in the Consumer Remediation Subaccount to distribute as grants of \$2,000,000 each to Coconino, Mohave, Navajo, Pinal, and Yavapai counties to support existing coordinated reentry programs in those counties, as required by the FY 2026 General Appropriations Act.

### Committee Options

The Committee has at least the following 2 options:

1. A favorable review of the request.
2. An unfavorable review of the request.

### Key Points

- 1) As a result of litigation against pharmaceutical companies and distributors for promoting the use of opioid drugs, the state is receiving a share of court settlements.
- 2) The One Arizona Agreement, which governs how the state may spend opioid settlement monies, restricts expenditures of these monies to a list of Approved Purposes.
- 3) The FY 2026 budget appropriated \$10.0 million of settlement proceeds to the AG to distribute to specific counties for coordinated reentry programs.
- 4) Pursuant to statute, the AG is requesting review of its expenditure plan prior to distributing the settlement monies as required by the FY 2026 budget.

## Analysis

### Background

A.R.S. § 44-1531.02(C) establishes the Consumer Remediation Subaccount of the Consumer Restitution and Remediation Revolving Fund, consisting primarily of settlement monies associated with consumer protection cases litigated by the AG. The first \$4.0 million of non-opioid claims-related monies spent annually in the Consumer Remediation Subaccount are continuously appropriated; any expenditures in excess of that amount—as well as any expenditures of opioid claims-related monies—are subject to legislative appropriation. Statute further requires that the AG submit an expenditure plan for JLBC review before spending any monies from the Consumer Remediation Subaccount, whether related to opioid claims or not.

The AG is the recipient of numerous settlements on behalf of Arizona as part of multistate agreements with pharmaceutical companies and opioid distributors. The AG estimates that through FY 2041, the state will receive approximately \$534 million in opioid settlement revenues, excluding local distributions. In FY 2025, the state received \$40.9 million in opioid settlement monies; the AG estimates comparable revenues in FY 2026.

The use of these settlement monies is governed by the One Arizona Memorandum of Understanding (One Arizona Agreement) between Arizona, all 15 counties, and 90 cities and towns in the state. Under the terms of the agreement, the state receives 44% of settlement revenues (representing the \$534 million revenue figure noted above), with the remaining 56% distributed among the 15 counties, who then further distribute monies to each city and town within their jurisdiction. Local distributions are determined according to various metrics which estimate the proportional share of harm caused by the opioid crisis borne by each unit of local government.

The FY 2026 budget requires the AG to distribute \$2.0 million of opioid settlement monies to each of Coconino, Mohave, Navajo, Pinal, and Yavapai counties to supplement costs associated with the operation of an existing coordinated reentry planning services program within each county. The FY 2026 Criminal Justice Budget Reconciliation Bill requires counties who receive state monies for such a program to provide an annual report on the demographics and outcomes of these programs, beginning December 2027.

### Expenditure Plan

The AG's proposed plan would distribute the \$10.0 million FY 2026 appropriation as required by the FY 2026 budget by distributing 5 grants of \$2.0 million each to Coconino, Mohave, Navajo, Pinal, and Yavapai counties for their existing coordinated reentry programs. Under statute, these programs are designed to connect individuals booked into county jails "with behavioral health and substance abuse disorder treatment providers at the earliest possible stage in the criminal justice process." The AG notes that these funds will be used "for purposes of facilitating successful reentry into the community of criminal-justice-involved individuals who have been affected by the opioid crisis."

The AG notes that the current balance in the Consumer Remediation Subaccount is \$9.5 million. Based on known opioid settlement payment schedules, the AG expects sufficient revenues in the fund through the remainder of the fiscal year to make the full \$10.0 million distribution as required by the FY 2026 budget.



KRIS MAYES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

OFFICE OF THE ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF ARIZONA

April 9, 2026

The Honorable David C. Farnsworth, Chair  
Arizona State Senate  
Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1716 West Adams  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable David Livingston, Vice-Chair  
Arizona House of Representatives  
Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1716 West Adams  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**Re: Expenditure Plan for \$10 Million of Opioid Settlement Funds**

Dear Senator Farnsworth and Representative Livingston:

In accordance with A.R.S. 44-1531.02(C), the Arizona Attorney General's Office ("AGO") respectfully submits this Expenditure Plan for monies held in the remediation subaccount of the consumer restitution and remediation revolving fund ("Remediation Subaccount") as a result of seven opioid settlements. These settlements require the Attorney General, with the advice and consent of the Arizona Legislature, to direct how and when the funds are used, provided that such uses conform to the requirements of the settlement agreements and the One Arizona Distribution of Opioid Settlement Funds Agreement ("One Arizona Agreement"). This Expenditure Plan is subject to a \$10 million appropriation for FY2026 and will be used in accordance with that appropriation.

**Background**

The opioid settlement funds come from Consent Judgments filed in (1) *State of Arizona v. McKesson Corporation; Cardinal Health, Inc; and AmerisourceBergen Corporation* (Case No. CV2022-005454) (the "Distributor Settlement Agreement"); (2) *State v. Johnson & Johnson; Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; and Janssen Pharmaceutica, Inc.* (Case No. CV2022-007393) (the

## JLBC Expenditure Plan for \$10M in Opioid Settlement Funds

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“Janssen Settlement Agreement”); (3) *State v. Allergan Limited; Allergan Finance, LLC; Watson Laboratories, Inc.; Actavis Pharma, Inc.; Actavis LLC; Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd.; Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.; and Cephalon, Inc.* (Case No. CV2023-015458) (the “Teva/Allergan Settlement Agreement”); (4) *State v. CVS Pharmacy, Inc.* (Case No. CV2023-017049) (the “CVS Settlement Agreement”); (5) *State v. Walgreen Co.* (Case No. CV2023-018466) (the “Walgreens Settlement Agreement”); (6) *State v. Walmart, Inc.* (Case No. CV2023-017530) (the “Walmart Settlement Agreement”); and (7) *State v. The Kroger Co.* (Case No. CV2025-006169) (the “Kroger Settlement Agreement”).

The One Arizona Agreement provides the framework for distribution and uses of opioid settlement funds. It allocates 56% of opioid settlement funds to the local governments (counties, cities, and towns) and the remaining 44% to the State. Also, it restricts the use of all opioid settlement funds, whether distributed to the State or Regions, to the Approved Purposes listed in Exhibit A of the One Arizona Agreement and provides that the State will “endeavor to prioritize up to 30% of the State Share” for (1) opioid education, (2) addressing criminal justice related opioid use, and (3) opioid abatement on Arizona’s southern border. Section C.8.

The legislature appropriated and the AGO awarded grants of \$5 million in FY2023 and \$12 million in FY2024. The legislature also appropriated and the AGO disbursed approximately \$155 million for the Arizona Department of Corrections Rehabilitation and Reentry in FY2024-FY2026 (\$75 million in FY2024, \$40 million in FY2025 and \$40 million in FY2026) and \$1 million for the Arizona Department of Health Services in FY2025. A \$3 million appropriation for the Arizona Department of Emergency Management in FY2025. The current available cash balance in the Account is approximately **\$9.5 million and additional payments are expected to be received by the end of FY26.**

### Expenditure Plan

In conjunction with an appropriation from the Remediation Subaccount for FY2026, the AGO is requesting JLBC approval for a total of \$10 million from the opioid settlement funds for five grants of \$2 million each to address reentry programs in rural counties, namely, Coconino, Mohave, Navajo, Pinal, and Yavapai.

Needs Assessment. In 2020, nearly 550,000 people returned to the community from state and federal prisons, while millions more cycled through local jails. During the first two weeks following release, mortality rates among formerly incarcerated people are more than 12 times higher than among the general public. Overdose was the leading cause of death of persons

## JLBC Expenditure Plan for \$10M in Opioid Settlement Funds

February 19, 2026

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on probation or parole in Arizona in 2022. Ensuring access to substance use and mental health treatment services is critical to saving the lives of incarcerated individuals with opioid use disorder. Nearly half of those in state and federal prisons met the criteria for a substance use disorder in the year prior to admission.

Successful reintegration after incarceration requires facilitating access to housing, food security, health care, education, and employment – breaking down silos between agencies. Participants in correctional education were 43 percent less likely to return to prison compared to their peers who did not access educational programming. The same analysis found that vocational training within prisons increased participants' likelihood of obtaining employment by 28 percent upon release. Programs begin on the first day of an individual's sentence.

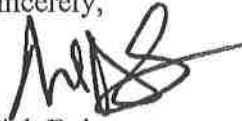
**Grant Program.** The \$10 million grant award plan for FY2026 will fund existing programs operated by the five named rural county governments for purposes of facilitating successful reentry into the community of criminal-justice-involved individuals who have been affected by the opioids crisis. Each grant will be capped at \$2 million.

### **Conclusion**

Rural counties' criminal-justice-involved individuals suffering from the opioids crisis have experienced some of the most critical needs. This Expenditure Plan is designed to provide resources where they are most needed and most effective by facilitating successful reentry programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Nick Debus

Director of Government Affairs





STATE OF ARIZONA

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**DATE:** April 15, 2026

**TO:** Members of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee

**FROM:** Ethan Scheider, Fiscal Analyst

**SUBJECT:** Arizona Department of Administration - Consider Approval of Requested Transfer of Appropriations

### Request

A.R.S. § 35-173 requires Committee approval of any transfer of spending authority within the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA). ADOA is requesting authorization to transfer \$7,000,000 of Risk Management Revolving Fund monies out of its FY 2026 Risk Management Losses and Premiums line item:

- \$5,000,000 would be transferred into the Risk Management Administrative Expenses line item for higher-than-budgeted Attorney General costs; and
- \$2,000,000 would be transferred to the Workers' Compensation Losses and Premiums line item for higher workers' compensation claims.

### Committee Options

The Committee has at least the following 2 options:

1. Approval of the transfer.
2. Disapproval of the transfer.

**Key Points**

- 1) ADOA is requesting to transfer \$7.0 million of surplus Risk Management Revolving Fund monies in the Losses and Premiums line item to the following line items:
  - a. \$5.0 million to the Workers' Compensation Losses and Premiums line item to pay for increased workers' compensation program costs.
  - b. \$2.0 million to the Administrative Expenses line item to pay for higher-than-budgeted Attorney General risk management contracted legal costs.

**Analysis**

Background

The FY 2026 budget included \$131.7 million from the Risk Management Revolving Fund across the following 3 line items in ADOA: Risk Management Administrative Expenses, Risk Management Losses and Premiums, and Workers' Compensation Losses and Premiums. For several years, ADOA has requested Committee approval to transfer monies between the operating budget and other line items to cover various shortfalls in these line items. Each of these requests were approved by the Committee.

Request

The Risk Management Losses and Premiums line item funds expenses related to the state's payment of liability and property settlements, medical expenses, and supplemental insurance premiums. ADOA reports that the Risk Management Losses and Premiums line item has sufficient funding available for the transfer. The FY 2026 budget included \$93.9 million for Risk Management Losses and Premiums. The proposed transfer would decrease the total line item appropriation to \$86.9 million (see *Table 1*).

ADOA requests that 5.0 million be transferred to the Workers' Compensation Losses and Premiums Line Item to pay for increased workers' compensation program claim costs. The Workers' Compensation Losses and Premiums line item funds expenses related to the state's liability in workplace injuries. The line item was appropriated \$28.7 million in FY 2026. This amount covers payments for workers' compensation beneficiaries, hospital and medical expenses, and supplemental insurance premiums. ADOA reports that this increase is attributable to rising hospital and medical expenses within the program. The proposed transfer would increase the total line item appropriation to \$33.7 million.

ADOA requests that the remaining \$2.0 million be transferred to the Risk Management Administrative Expenses line item to pay for increased costs associated with Attorney General contracted outside legal counsel. The Risk Management Administrative Expenses line item was appropriated \$14.8 million in FY 2026. This amount funds a variety of expenses including actuarial analyses, investigations, and related travel. Most of the appropriation, however, is used by the Attorney General to contract with outside attorneys to defend risk management claims against the state. The Attorney General's Office has the responsibility of determining whether it is in the best interest of the state to use their own in-house attorneys or contracted attorneys to defend a particular claim. For example, the AG may be conflicted out if they provided legal advice to an agency that subsequently faced a risk management claim for its actions. The proposed transfer would increase the total line item appropriation to \$16.8 million.

<b><u>Line Item</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2026 Original Appropriation</u></b>	<b><u>Requested Transfer</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2026 Revised Appropriation</u></b>
Risk Management Losses and Premiums	\$93,864,300	\$(7,000,000)	\$86,864,300
Risk Management Administrative Expenses	14,770,700	2,000,000	16,770,700
Workers' Compensation Losses and Premiums	28,741,000	5,000,000	33,741,000

ES:kp

April 8, 2026

The Honorable David Livingston, Chairman  
Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
Arizona House of Representatives  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable David D. Farnsworth, Vice-Chairman  
Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
Arizona State Senate  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Ben Henderson, Director  
Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting  
1700 West Washington Street; 6th Floor  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Representative Livingston, Senator Farnsworth, and Director Henderson,

In accordance with A.R.S. § 35-173, which requires that transfers of spending authority within the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) shall be made only with the approval of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting, ADOA is requesting two transfers of appropriation authority related to the Risk Management Fund as established by A.R.S. § 41-622.

These transfers shift authority from the Risk Management Losses & Premiums Special Line Item (SLI) to the Administrative Expenses SLI and the Workers' Compensation SLI. Under current projections, ADOA anticipates running out of appropriation authority in these two SLIs before the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. The table below outlines the specific amounts being requested for each SLI:

Table 1: Summary of Requested Appropriation Transfers

<b>FY 2026 Enacted Budget</b>	<b>Current Appropriation</b>	<b>Requested Transfer</b>	<b>Revised Appropriation</b>
<b>Risk Management Fund</b>			
<i>Losses &amp; Premiums SLI</i>	\$93,864,300	(\$7,000,000)	\$86,864,300
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>	\$14,770,700	\$2,000,000	\$16,770,700
<i>Workers' Compensation SLI</i>	\$28,741,000	\$5,000,000	\$33,741,000

***Administrative Expenses***

Consistent with prior fiscal years, costs incurred by the Attorney General's Office for external legal services to defend the state in Risk Management cases continue to drive the projected deficit in the Administrative Expenses SLI. Specifically, the Risk Management Administrative Expenses SLI is used for non-operating administrative expenses such as actuarial analyses, relevant investigations, and related travel. In recent years, nearly all of the funding has gone toward outside legal counsel to defend the State in risk management lawsuits. The Attorney General's Office (AG's Office) has the statutory responsibility to provide this legal defense; however, when they determine it is in the best interest of the State to use a private law firm, ADOA is required to cover the costs using this SLI. Additional FY 2026 appropriation capacity is necessary to continue engaging with external legal counsel.

***Workers' Compensation***

Funding for the Workers' Compensation program covers payments for workers' compensation beneficiaries, hospital and medical expenses, and supplemental insurance premiums. This program has faced steep increases in claims costs as it is subject to pricing pressures similar to the health insurance program. Additional FY 2026 appropriation capacity is necessary to continue the Workers' Compensation program without interruption.

***Losses and Premiums***

The Losses and Premiums SLI is able to cover these expenses in the short term in order to maintain Arizona's Risk Management system, but is still facing a number of claims expected to resolve towards the end of FY 2026.

Risk Management costs are continuously evolving, and the Department is focused on being a responsible steward of public funds and ensuring Arizona is meeting its financial obligations. I look forward to working with you to address these challenges. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Jacob Wingate, ADOA Chief Financial Officer, at [jacob.wingate@azdoa.gov](mailto:jacob.wingate@azdoa.gov).

Thank you,



Elizabeth Alvarado-Thorson  
Director

Cc: Richard Stavneak, Director, JLBC  
Ethan Schieder, Fiscal Analyst, JLBC  
Rémy Gaudin, Budget Analyst, OSPB  
Sean Price, Deputy Director, ADOA  
Jacob Wingate, Chief Financial Officer, ADOA  
Keith Johnson, Assistant Director, ADOA  
John Owens, Chief Strategy Officer, ADOA