"GREEN SHEET"

Meeting dates: August 3-4, 2012, Commission Meeting

Agenda item #4: 2013-2015 Proposed Operating Budget Request – Briefing

Staff Contact: Owen Rowe, Budget Officer, Technology and Financial Management
David Giglio, Assistant Director, Technology and Financial Management

Presenter(s): Owen Rowe, Budget Officer, Technology and Financial Management

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Background:

In September of every even-numbered year, state agencies submit their Operating Budget Proposals for the ensuing biennium to OFM and the Legislature. The Department is developing its 2013-15 BN Budget Request and will present it to the Commission for review.

The operating budget request is developed from the department's Carry Forward Level budget (CFL). The CFL is calculated using the current budget as a base and adjusting for one-time spending authority and costs that increase from one budget period to the next.

The proposed Maintenance Level budget (ML) is built upon the CFL, reflecting technical corrections and the costs of mandatory caseload, enrollment, inflation and other legally unavoidable costs not included in the current budget. These costs may include items such as OASI rate revisions, existing lease/purchase contract payments, utility and fuel expenses, and increased costs for existing leases.

The final step in the operating budget building process is the policy or Performance Level (PL). It includes incremental expenditure changes that may represent revised strategies or substantial differences in program direction and can include program reductions.

Currently, OFM has signaled that agencies should not expect state general fund to be available. A recent State Supreme Court decision is driving many Legislators to look for more funding for education, which could come at the expense of other uses.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:
N/A

Public involvement process used and what you learned:
N/A

Action requested:
No action required. The purpose of this briefing is to provide context and answer questions about agency budget proposals. Maintenance Level adjustments will be listed but not discussed, as these are technical items. Policy Level requests will be presented with a chance to provide clarification or note guidance from the Commission.

The Department will request Commission approval of the draft budget request at the August 17, 2012, conference call. Once approved, the request will be submitted the Office of Financial Management for consideration and inclusion in the Governor's Proposed 2013-15 Biennium Operating Budget.

Draft motion language:

None.

Justification for Commission action:

RCW 77.04.055(6), "The commission shall have final approval authority for the department's budget proposals." The Fish and Wildlife Commission sets policy for the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and is responsible for approving Department budget requests for submittal to the Office of Financial Management.

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