

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

HOUSE BILL 4063

By: Wallace

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to counties and county officers; creating the Oklahoma Sheriff's Office Salary Assistance Grant Program Act; providing certain reference; defining terms; creating grant program to provide additional resources to sheriff's offices; establishing certain eligibility criteria; authorizing and limiting certain utilizations of grant awards; prohibiting certain reduction or supplantation of funds; authorizing the promulgation of rules; creating the Oklahoma Sheriff's Office Salary Assistance Revolving Fund; vesting the fund with Oklahoma Tax Commission; establishing revolving fund characteristics; requiring and limiting fund utilization; establishing budgeting and expenditure procedures; amending 19 O.S. 2021, Sections 180.62 and 180.67, which relate to salaries of county officers; providing certain exception to certain structures and limits; providing for noncodification; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Sheriff's Office Salary Assistance Grant Program Act".

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 180.66A of Title 19, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. As used in this section:

5 1. "Combined service-load" means the sum of the service-load
6 factor multiplied by the service-area factor of a qualified county;

7 2. "Grant" means an amount authorized to be awarded under the
8 provisions of this section;

9 3. "Qualified county" means any county recognized as a county
10 of this state as of the effective date of this act;

11 4. "Service-area factor" means the total number of square miles
12 within the boundaries of a qualified county; and

13 5. "Service-load factor" and "population" shall have the same
14 meaning as provided in Section 180.60 of Title 19 of the Oklahoma
15 Statutes.

16 B. The Oklahoma Tax Commission shall establish and administer
17 the Oklahoma Sheriff's Office Salary Assistance Grant Program to
18 support the state purpose of ensuring professional law enforcement
19 throughout the state by providing financial assistance to sheriff's
20 offices in qualified counties. Such program shall embody the
21 following procedures and criteria:

22 1. Not later than the 30th day after the first day of a
23 qualified county's fiscal year, the county may submit an application
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1 for a grant to the Oklahoma Tax Commission. A county may submit
2 only one application each fiscal year;

3 2. Grants awarded under the provisions of this section shall be
4 to qualified counties in the following amounts:

5 a. Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) for a
6 county in the lower twenty-six (26) of qualified
7 counties ranked by combined service-load factor,

8 b. Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000.00) for
9 a county ranked higher than twenty-six (26) but lower
10 than fifty-three (53) of qualified counties ranked by
11 combined service-load factor, and

12 c. Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) for a
13 county ranked equal to or greater than fifty-three
14 (53) of qualified counties ranked by combined service-
15 load factor.

16 C. Counties awarded a grant from the program shall limit use of
17 the grant proceeds to the following:

18 1. To provide a minimum annual salary of not less than:

19 a. Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) for a
20 county sheriff,

21 b. Forty-five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000.00) for each
22 deputy sheriff, and

23 c. Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) for each jailer
24 employed by the county;
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1 2. To increase the salary of officers and employees described
2 in paragraph 1 of subsection C of this section;

3 3. To hire additional deputy sheriffs or staff for the
4 sheriff's office; or

5 4. To purchase vehicles, firearms, and safety equipment for the
6 sheriff's office.

7 D. No county shall budget or expend an amount of an award
8 provided under the provisions of this section for a purpose other
9 than one listed in subsection C of this section; provided, that no
10 amount shall be expended by a county as otherwise authorized by
11 paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 of subsection C of this section unless the
12 minimum salaries as described in paragraph 1 of subsection C of this
13 section have been achieved in such county.

14 E. No county shall reduce or supplant existing funding or the
15 county's methodology for allocating funds to a county sheriff's
16 office due to the award of grant funding as provided under the
17 provisions of this section.

18 F. The Oklahoma Tax Commission shall promulgate rules as need
19 to implement the provisions of this section, including, but not
20 limited to, rules addressing the application process, application
21 submission timelines, and procedures for assuring compliance with
22 the provisions of this section.
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1 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 180.66B of Title 19, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
5 for the Oklahoma Tax Commission to be designated the "Oklahoma
6 Sheriff's Office Salary Assistance Revolving Fund". The fund shall
7 be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and
8 shall consist of all monies directed to the fund and eligible for
9 deposit by law. All monies accruing to the credit of said fund are
10 hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma
11 Tax Commission exclusively for the purposes and in compliance with
12 the Oklahoma Sheriff's Office Salary Assistance Grant Program.
13 Expenditures from said fund shall be made upon warrants issued by
14 the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with
15 the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for
16 approval and payment.

17 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2021, Section 180.62, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Section 180.62 A. ~~The~~ Except as otherwise provided in the
20 Oklahoma Sheriff's Office Salary Assistance Grant Program Act
21 created in Sections 1 through 3 of this act, the basic salaries of
22 county officers upon which all salaries and future increases or
23 decreases thereof shall not be less than Nineteen Thousand Dollars
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1 (\$19,000.00) per annum nor shall they exceed Forty-nine Thousand
2 Five Hundred Dollars (\$49,500.00) per annum.

3 B. The board of county commissioners, or if the county has
4 elected to come under the County Budget Act, the budget board
5 members of the county, shall set the salaries for all elected county
6 officials within the limits allowed by law.

7 C. The annual salaries fixed by this act shall be paid either
8 monthly or twice a month, by order of the board of county
9 commissioners, for each month or fraction thereof the incumbent
10 lawfully occupies and holds title to such office.

11 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2021, Section 180.67, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Section 180.67 A. Except as otherwise provided in subsection B
14 of this section and except as provided in the Oklahoma Sheriff's
15 Office Salary Assistance Grant Program Act created in Sections 1
16 through 3 of this act, it is hereby declared to be the intent of the
17 Legislature that this act shall be the comprehensive salary code for
18 all counties of the state and no county officer in paragraph 1 of
19 Section 180.61 of this title, or their assistants, deputies, or
20 other employees by whatever title designated, shall receive any
21 salary or wages except as provided in Section 180.58 et seq. of this
22 title.

B. Counties may opt to utilize the appropriate State of Oklahoma pay structure in lieu of or in addition to the salary code referenced in subsection A of this section.

SECTION 6. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

SECTION 7. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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