

Redbook

LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

Architects Board

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LBO Redbook

Architects Board

Quick look...

- The Ohio Architects Board and Ohio Landscape Architects Board are responsible for the regulation of the practices of architecture and landscape architecture, respectively, in the state of Ohio; together they license more than 9,000 individuals and firms.
- The two boards operate under a combined budget, utilizing the same staff and shared facilities.
- The boards are funded through licensing fees and receive no money from the GRF.
- The executive budget proposes funding of \$674,000 in FY 2026 and \$690,001 in FY 2027.
- Existing service levels to be maintained; proposed funding increases are tied to anticipated expenses in payroll and DAS services.

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
Fund 4K90 ALI 891609, Operating					
\$665,847	\$618,890	\$611,451	\$667,469	\$674,000	\$690,001
% change	-7.1%	-1.2%	9.2%	1.0%	2.4%

Agency overview

The Ohio Architects Board and the Ohio Landscape Architects Board are two boards that operate under a combined budget and share staff and facilities. Each board consists of five members appointed by the Governor. For the Architects Board, four members must be architects who have been in active practice in Ohio for at least five years and one member of the public who is not an architect. For the Landscape Architects Board, three members must be landscape architects registered with the state for at least five years, one must be a licensed design professional, and one must represent the public. Each board member is entitled to receive compensation and necessary expenses incurred while engaged in attendance at meetings, in conducting examinations, or in the performance of official duties.

A staff of four employees, led by an executive director, handles the day-to-day operations of both boards. The boards are funded entirely by licensing fees credited to the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K90), which is used by many occupational licensing and regulatory boards and commissions as an operating account into which receipts are deposited and from which expenses are paid. Each licensing board or commission is generally expected to be self-sufficient, i.e., generate enough revenues to cover its expenses.

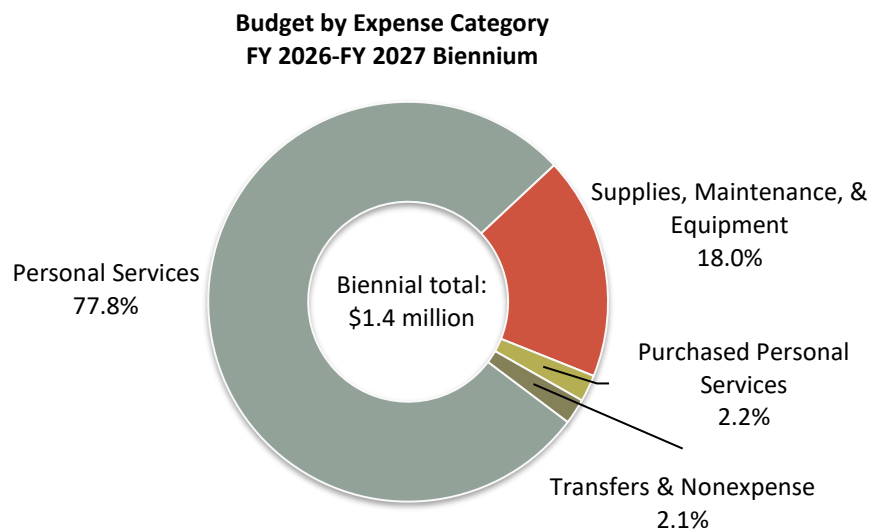
Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget proposal

Overview

The executive recommended funding in each fiscal year will allow both boards to maintain current operations during the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium.

Executive recommendations by expense category

The chart below shows the \$1.4 million proposed budget for the biennium by expense category. As shown, the personal services category accounts for the largest share of the boards' budget at 77.8%. This category provides wages and benefits for the boards' full-time staff. The next largest category is supplies, maintenance, and equipment totaling 18.0% of the budget. This category includes rent, information technology, and other services provided by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). Purchased personal services and transfers and nonexpense account for 2.2% and 2.1% of the boards' budget, respectively.



Revenue and license statistics

The boards do not receive any GRF funding; all of their funding comes from fees paid by licensed professionals, candidates for licensure, and businesses providing architectural or landscape architectural services in Ohio. Table 1 below lists each type of credential issued by the boards. The boards do not expect any fee changes during the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium.

Table 1. License and Service Fees by Type	
License Type	Fee
Individual License – Initial	\$50
Individual License – Renewal	\$125
Individual License by Reciprocity	\$250
Firm Registration – Initial	\$125
Firm Registration – Renewal	\$100

Fees collected by the boards are credited to the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K90), which is used by many occupational licensing and regulatory boards and commissions, including the boards, to finance their annual operating expenses. As stated above, each licensing board or commission that uses Fund 4K90 is generally expected to be self-sufficient, i.e., generate enough revenues to cover its expenses. When expenditures outpace revenues, a board or commission may consider a fee increase. Table 2 below shows the boards’ combined operating and revenue expenditure history from FY 2019 to FY 2024.

Table 2. Revenues and Expenditures, FY 2019-FY 2024						
Category	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Revenue	\$389,446	\$1,000,491	\$404,108	\$1,140,361	\$416,535	\$1,125,876
Expenses	\$517,652	\$598,865	\$579,545	\$665,847	\$618,890	\$611,451
Net	-\$128,206	\$401,626	-\$175,437	\$474,514	-\$202,355	\$514,425

The boards issue licenses on a biennial renewal cycle, with architects and landscape architects renewing in opposite years. As seen in Table 2, the boards incurred a deficit in each of the odd-numbered fiscal years (when landscape architects renew) and a surplus in even-numbered fiscal years (when architects renew). This is due to architects outnumbering landscape architects by approximately ten to one. The revenue collected during even-numbered fiscal years has historically been able to cover the deficit that happens during odd-numbered fiscal years.

Table 3 shows the number of licenses issued by the boards that were active from FY 2019 through FY 2024.

Table 3. Active Licenses by Type, FY 2019-FY 2024						
License Type	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Architecture						
Individuals	6,849	6,473	6,893	6,704	7,172	6,734
Firms	1,544	1,651	1,584	1,648	1,727	1,793
Landscape Architecture						
Individuals	625	647	589	637	635	674
Firms	155	167	155	160	158	166