

Redbook

LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

Gavin Enseleit, LSC Fellow
February 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Quick look	1
Overview	1
Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget proposal	2
Highlights for FY 2026-FY 2027	2
Veterinary student debt forgiveness	2
Operating Expenses (ALI 888609)	3
Operating revenues and expenses.....	3
Licensing and investigation and enforcement statistics	4
Veterinary Student Loan Program (ALI 888602).....	4
Veterinary Student Debt Assistance Program (ALI 888603).....	5

LBO Redbook

Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

Quick look...

- The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board (DVM) is funded entirely by fees and assessments paid by professionals working in the veterinary field. The Board oversees just under 11,000 active licenses.
- The Board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor. Day-to-day operations are handled by an executive director, a license coordinator, and one part-time staffer. The part-time position is being replaced with a program administrator role. The Board contracts with the Department of Agriculture for inspections and investigations.
- The executive budget proposes total funding of \$652,551 in FY 2026 and \$674,811 in FY 2027.
 - Uses of the budget include: 62.1% for personal and purchased personal services, 19.8% for supplies and maintenance, and 18.1% for the Veterinary Student Loan and Veterinary Student Debt Assistance programs.

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
Fund 4K90 ALI 888609, Operating Expenses					
\$423,991	\$407,356	\$397,823	\$448,000	\$532,551	\$554,811
% change	-3.9%	-2.3%	12.6%	18.9%	4.2%
Fund 5BU0 ALI 888602, Veterinary Student Loan Program					
\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
% change	-100.0%	0.0%	N/A	0.0%	0.0%
Fund 5YG0 ALI 888603, Veterinary Student Debt Assistance Program					
\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$250,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
% change	--	N/A	150.0%	-60.0%	0.0%
Total funding:					
\$433,991	\$407,356	\$497,823	\$718,000	\$652,551	\$674,811
% change	-6.1%	22.2%	44.2%	-9.1%	3.4%

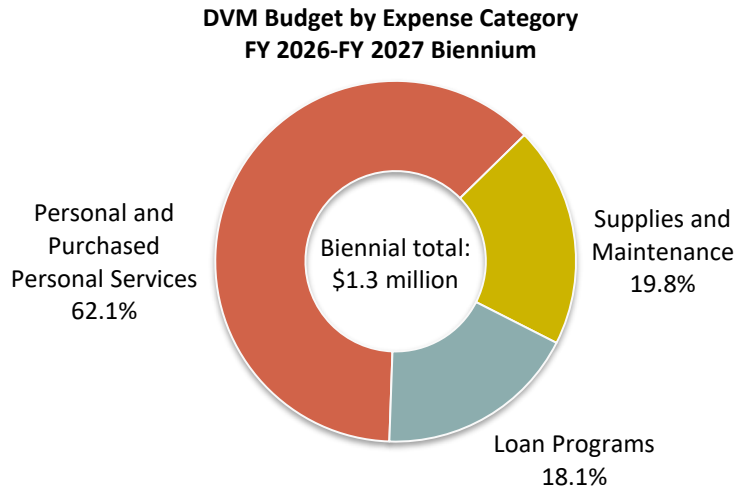
Overview

The seven-member Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board (DVM) ensures the professional and competent conduct of veterinarians and veterinary technicians throughout the state. DVM confirms that applicants for licensure in the veterinary field have passed the proper examinations, issues licenses, approves continuing education courses, and carries out disciplinary hearings when necessary. It contracts with the Department of Agriculture to handle inspections

and investigations. All revenue comes from licensing fees and other assessments. DVM receives no GRF funding. As of February 2025, the Board employs two full-time staff persons and has a part-time clerk position that is unfilled.

Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget proposal

The chart below shows DVM’s recommended biennial funding of just over \$1.3 million for the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium broken down by expense category. As with many other licensing boards, payroll and fringe benefit costs represent a majority of operating expenses, accounting for approximately \$825,000 (61.8%) of proposed spending over the biennium. Supplies and maintenance, including rent, information technology, and other services provided by the Department of Administrative Services, makes up roughly \$263,000 of the total (19.8%). The amount for awards under both the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program and the Student Debt Assistance Program over the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium accounts for \$240,000 (18.1%) of the recommended budget. The remaining \$4,000 (0.3%) is for purchased personal services.



Highlights for FY 2026-FY 2027

Veterinary student debt forgiveness

H.B. 67 of the 133rd General Assembly established the Veterinary Student Debt Assistance Program. Under the program, DVM repays all or part of educational loans taken out by a veterinarian while in college if certain criteria are met, including a commitment to provide charitable veterinary services. Eligible students are selected through a lottery procedure established by DVM and may receive loan forgiveness in an amount between \$5,000 and \$10,000. The loan repayments are made through the Student Loan Debt Assistance Fund (Fund 5YG0). The fund consists of money received for issuing licenses and registrations deposited into the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K90), calculated by a formula consisting of revenues and expenditures from prior veterinary license renewal cycles. In FY 2024, DVM distributed \$100,000 under this program.

Operating Expenses (ALI 888609)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
DPF Fund 4K90 ALI 888609, Operating Expenses					
\$423,991	\$407,356	\$397,823	\$448,000	\$532,551	\$554,811
% change	-3.9%	-2.3%	12.6%	18.9%	4.2%

This ALI is used to support general operating expenses, including payroll for three full-time employees and board member compensation, supplies, and equipment. Because of an approximate 40% increase in complaints filed from FY 2023 (227) to FY 2024 (315), DVM is planning to replace one currently vacant part-time position with a full-time Program Administrator 1. The additional payroll cost is the primary reason for the increase in recommended funding for the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium.

The Board contracts with the Department of Agriculture to handle veterinary office and facility inspections and investigations instead of hiring additional full-time staff. Under this arrangement, DVM pays only for the hours and mileage of the person assigned to a specific inspection or investigation at a lower cost than employing its own inspector to carry out these functions. There were 87 random inspections in FY 2024.

Operating revenues and expenses

Table 1 below shows the various licenses issued by the Board and the associated fees. All are renewed biennially. As mentioned above, fee revenue collected from the various licenses issued by DVM is deposited into Fund 4K90, a pooled operating fund used by many of Ohio’s occupational licensing and regulatory boards and commissions.

License Type	Fee
Veterinarian	\$275/\$155
Veterinary Business Facility	\$300
Veterinary Specialist	\$50
Veterinary Technician	\$30
Limited License	\$35/\$155
Provisional Graduate License	\$100
Temporary Permit	\$100

Table 2 below shows DVM’s revenue and expenditure history in recent fiscal years. The biennial renewal cycle causes fluctuations in the amount of revenue received on a year-to-year basis, with the vast majority of revenue coming in even-numbered fiscal years when veterinarian renewals occur. The revenue collected during the renewal year covers the deficit created in the off year when lesser amounts of license fee revenues are received.

Table 2. Revenues and Expenditures, FY 2019-FY 2024						
	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Revenue	\$347,834	\$852,436	\$339,112	\$925,587	\$401,795	\$938,175
Expenses	\$366,745	\$427,208	\$378,657	\$433,991	\$407,356	\$497,823
Net	-\$18,911	\$425,228	-\$39,545	\$491,596	-\$5,561	\$440,352

Licensing and investigation and enforcement statistics

Table 3 below shows the number of active licenses by type for the current and prior fiscal year and the percentage change between them.

Table 3. Active Licenses by Type, FY 2023-FY 2024			
License Type	FY 2023	FY 2024	Percent Change
Veterinarian	5,126	4,885	-4.7%
Veterinary Specialist	78	153	96.2%
Registered Veterinary Technician	4,649	5,059	8.8%
Business Facility License	233	281	20.6%
Limited License for Resident	20	34	70.0%
Limited License	188	179	-4.8%
Provisional License	17	5	-70.6%
Temporary Permit	9	1	-88.9%
Total	10,321	10,601	2.7%

The four Department of Agriculture investigators contracted by DVM conduct inspections of veterinary clinics to ensure that they conform to veterinary laws and board standards. They also investigate credible complaints the Board receives. Overall, DVM received 315 total complaints in FY 2024.

Veterinary Student Loan Program (ALI 888602)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
DPF Fund 4K90 ALI 888602, Veterinary Student Loan Program					
\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
% change	-100.0%	--	--	0.0%	0.0%

This ALI is used to reimburse veterinary students interested in large animal medicine, regulatory services, or veterinary public health in areas of the state where these professional services are lacking. The program is funded by the proceeds from a \$10 portion of every

veterinarian license renewal. The awards may be used to cover tuition, other educational expenses, and room and board of up to \$10,000 per year with a \$20,000 maximum. Recipients must agree to practice in Ohio for a certain period of time. If the grant is less than \$10,000, recipients must stay in Ohio for at least one year; if the grant is greater than \$10,000, recipients must stay in Ohio for at least two years. The amount recommended for this purpose is \$20,000 in each fiscal year of the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium.

Veterinary Student Debt Assistance Program (ALI 888603)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
DPF Fund 4K90 ALI 888603, Veterinary Student Debt Assistance Program					
\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$250,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
% change	--	--	150.0%	-60.0%	0.0%

This ALI is used to repay educational loans taken out by a veterinarian participating in the Veterinary Student Debt Assistance Program. Under the program, a recipient must agree to provide 12 hours of charitable services annually and reside in Ohio for a period of time. Eligible individuals may receive loan forgiveness of between \$5,000 and \$10,000. The fund consists of money transferred into the fund from Fund 4K90 by a formula in statute.