

Savings and Targeted Cuts

Chief Information Technology Officer

The Information Services Act created the Chief Information Officer (CIO) position. The CIO will generate cost savings by consolidation of information technology and telecommunication resources and personnel, improved procurement of technology and telecommunication products and services, modernization of all technology and telecommunication systems of the State and elimination of duplication across state agencies. The Governor's budget includes \$50 million of savings statewide.

One-Time Reduction of Pass-Through Appropriations

The Governor's budget recommends a one-time reduction to agency pass-throughs at the Department of Commerce, Department of Agriculture and Health Department. These funds go to local governments, non-profits and other entities. Pass-through obligations, made when funding is available, must be reassessed when faced with a budget shortfall. Reducing agency pass-throughs will allow agencies to re-direct vital resources currently used for the monitoring and oversight of these funds. The Governor's budget includes \$8.7 million in savings from the these one-time reductions.

Agency Consolidations

Oklahoma has 180 state agencies, some of which have overlapping missions, responsibilities and duties. These overlapping responsibilities can lead to unclear lines of authority which limits accountability, decreases efficiency and increases the cost of government. It is in the light that the Governor has recommended the following agencies be consolidated:

- OBND to OSBI
- Medicolegal to OSBI
- CLEET to DPS
- Emergency Management to DPS
- ABLE to DPS
- Will Rogers to Historical Society
- JM Davis to Historical Society
- EBC to OPM
- Merit Protection to OPM
- Aeronautics to Commerce
- Conservation Commission to Agriculture
- Combine DEQ and OWRB
- Dept of Mines to Labor Department
- Indian Affairs to Commerce
- OCAST to Commerce
- ODSIDA to Commerce

Agency consolidation can lead to increased efficiency at a lower cost to the taxpayers by reducing administrative and overhead costs. By consolidating agencies and using a shared services methodology, agencies can focus on their core competencies by allowing other agencies or personnel to handle administrative functions such as human resources, payroll, financial functions and information technology duties. These consolidated agencies will also provide a one stop shop for many of the governmental services accessed by Oklahomans. By integrating programs in consolidated agencies, Oklahomans will be able to receive more comprehensive services from a single entity instead of fragmented services from multiple agencies. These agencies will now be prepared to handle the challenges facing Oklahoma in a more streamlined and effective manner. The Governor's budget includes \$5.3 million in savings from agency consolidations.