

Greenbook

LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget

Broadcast Educational Media Commission

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Quick look.....	1
Agency overview	1
Analysis of FY 2024-FY 2025 budget	2
Summary of budget	2
Broadcast Education Operating, Media Services, Facility Rental, and Affiliate Services (ALIs 935430, 935608, 935650, and 935603)	2
Content Development, Acquisition, and Distribution (ALI 935410)	3
Statehouse News Bureau and Ohio Government Telecommunications Operations (ALIs 935401 and 935402)	4

Attachment:

Appropriation Spreadsheet

LBO Greenbook

Broadcast Educational Media Commission

Quick look...

- The Broadcast Educational Media Commission (BEMC) is responsible for the state's educational broadcasting services, including educational television and radio and radio reading services.
- BEMC provides financial assistance and technical services to six radio reading services, eight public television stations, and 15 public radio stations.
- BEMC's budget also includes operating support for the Ohio Government Telecommunications Service and Statehouse News Bureau.
- As of July 2023, BEMC employs 21 full-time permanent employees.
- Total appropriations: \$10.6 million in each of FY 2024 and FY 2025.
 - Nearly all (99.9%) of the total funding over the biennium comes from the GRF.

Fund Group	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Appropriation	FY 2025 Appropriation
General Revenue (GRF)	\$9,937,991	\$9,994,731	\$10,633,000	\$10,633,000
Dedicated Purpose (DPF)	\$23,100	\$5,250	\$6,700	\$7,900
Internal Service Activity (ISA)	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Total	\$9,965,091	\$10,003,981	\$10,643,700	\$10,644,900
% change	--	0.4%	6.4%	0.0%
GRF % change	--	0.6%	6.4%	0.0%

Agency overview

The Broadcast Educational Media Commission (BEMC) promotes access to and the use of educational broadcasting services, including public television and radio and radio reading services. BEMC does so by providing broadcast operations services to public broadcasting stations and managing the distribution of operating subsidies for educational television and radio, radio reading services, the Ohio Government Telecommunications Service, and the Statehouse News Bureau.

The budget modifies BEMC's governing authority. Under prior law, BEMC's governing authority consisted of 15 members, 11 of whom were voting members and four of whom were nonvoting members who were members of the General Assembly (two from the House of Representatives and two from the Senate). Of the 11 voting members, nine were required to be members of the public selected from among citizens in the state who have an interest in educational broadcast media demonstrated through service on boards or advisory councils of educational television and radio stations, educational technology agencies, or radio reading

services. The other two voting members were the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Chancellor of Higher Education.

The budget eliminates the four nonvoting members from the General Assembly, maintaining the number of voting members at 11. Further, it permits any of the nine public members to be public officials or employees and allows public members to demonstrate interest in educational broadcast media through service or experience in broadcast media, education, or government administration. The budget also replaces the Superintendent with the Director of Education and Workforce as part of the budget's transfer of state K-12 education governance to the Department of Education and Workforce. BEMC members continue to serve four-year terms.

Analysis of FY 2024-FY 2025 budget

Summary of budget

Broadcast Educational Media Commission (BEMC) appropriations total \$21.3 million over the FY 2024-FY 2025 biennium, of which 99.9% is supported by the General Revenue Fund (GRF). The remainder is supported by three non-GRF funds.

Broadcast Education Operating, Media Services, Facility Rental, and Affiliate Services (ALIs 935430, 935608, 935650, and 935603)

FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Appropriation	FY 2025 Appropriation
GRF ALI 935430, Broadcast Education Operating					
\$3,454,982	\$3,470,385	\$3,726,341	\$3,693,081	\$4,108,000	\$4,108,000
% change	0.4%	7.4%	-0.9%	11.2%	0.0%
Fund 5FK0 ALI 935608, Media Services					
\$47,057	\$250	\$700	\$250	\$500	\$500
% change	-99.5%	180.0%	-64.3%	100.0%	0.0%
Fund 5VB0 ALI 935650, Facility Rental					
\$20,000	\$21,200	\$22,400	\$5,000	\$6,200	\$7,400
% change	6.0%	5.7%	-77.7%	24.0%	19.4%
Fund 4F30 ALI 935603, Affiliate Services					
\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
% change	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

This group of line items supports BEMC's operating expenses, including costs for payroll and fringe benefits, supplies and maintenance (such as rent, information technology, and other services provided by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and the Office of Budget and Management (OBM)), and equipment. GRF ALI 935430, Broadcast Education Operating,

funds the daily operations of BEMC, including network services to Ohio's public broadcasters, agency administration, and information technology initiatives.

Most of GRF ALI 935430 funds BEMC's broadcast operations services, which provide various services to its affiliated public television and radio stations. BEMC operates a full-time joint master control center for public broadcasting and maintains round-the-clock monitoring of the live video feeds that are provided to affiliates. It also provides network traffic and scheduling resources for the affiliates and maintains an archive of content for rebroadcasting. The facility, located in Columbus, enables BEMC to broadcast all of Ohio's eight public television channels. BEMC connects to Ohio's public television stations in a statewide system through the Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet), a dedicated high speed fiber optic network for Ohio's public institutions. BEMC utilizes National Public Radio's satellite systems as a provider for distribution to Ohio's public radio stations.

Fund 5KF0 ALI 935608, Media Services, supports statewide video conferencing services for state agencies and institutions of higher education. Historically, it has been supported by subscription fees paid by state agencies and higher education institutions associated with the use of the video conferencing services. However, no new revenue is expected in this fund as many educational institutions moved to Zoom and other such connectivity services in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This item will use Fund 5FK0's cash balance to purchase goods and services related to video conferencing, including annual membership in the Ohio Distance Learning Association and Zoom licenses.

Fund 5VB0 ALI 935650, Facility Rental, pays a portion of BEMC's building rent and is supported by payments from East Central Ohio Educational Service Center (ECOESC) to rent classroom space to provide online classes. After evaluating its classroom and office space usage following the COVID-19 pandemic, ECOESC has reduced the number of offices it leases from BEMC, resulting in lower payments to the Commission.

Fund 4F30 ALI 935603, Affiliate Services, is supported by fees charged for additional services, such as satellite connections to affiliated entities and other state, federal, and private entities. BEMC uses the funds to purchase internet address registration from the American Registry of Internet Numbers (ARIN) for broadcast operations, public broadcasting partners, and information technology centers.

Content Development, Acquisition, and Distribution (ALI 935410)

FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Appropriation	FY 2025 Appropriation
GRF ALI 935410, Content Development, Acquisition, and Distribution					
\$3,963,381	\$3,222,000	\$3,909,231	\$3,909,231	\$3,909,000	\$3,909,000
% change	-18.7%	21.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

This line item funds subsidies to Ohio's public television and radio stations and radio reading services for the development, acquisition, and distribution of information resources for educational use in the classroom and online. It is comprised of the following earmarks.

Earmark	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Appropriation	FY 2025 Appropriation
Telecommunications Operating Subsidy	\$2,650,261	\$2,650,000	\$2,650,000
Educational Television Stations	\$964,496	\$965,000	\$965,000
Radio Reading Services	\$294,474	\$294,000	\$294,000
Total	\$3,909,231	\$3,909,000	\$3,909,000
% change	--	0.0%	0.0%

Telecommunications Operating Subsidy

The budget earmarks \$2.7 million in each fiscal year to subsidize the operating costs of Ohio's eight public television broadcasters and 15 public radio broadcasters. Funds are distributed based on a formula BEMC developed in consultation with Ohio's public television stations and radio stations and is based on the type of television and radio station.

Educational Television Stations

The budget earmarks \$965,000 in each fiscal year for educational television stations. The funds are to be divided equally among the eight television stations (each station receiving \$120,625 annually) for the production of interactive instructional programming that aligns with Ohio's academic content standards.

Radio Reading Services

The budget earmarks \$294,000 in each fiscal year to subsidize the operating costs of Ohio's six radio reading service operators. These operators provide daily broadcasts of printed materials such as newspapers, magazines, and books to visually impaired Ohioans. Payments are allocated according to the number of production hours for local programming.

Statehouse News Bureau and Ohio Government Telecommunications Operations (ALIs 935401 and 935402)

FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Appropriation	FY 2025 Appropriation
GRF ALI 935401, Statehouse News Bureau					
\$355,000	\$355,000	\$382,893	\$382,893	\$383,000	\$383,000
% change	0.0%	7.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
GRF ALI 935402, Ohio Government Telecommunications Services					
\$1,783,526	\$1,708,526	\$1,919,526	\$2,009,526	\$2,233,000	\$2,233,000
% change	-4.2%	12.3%	4.7%	11.1%	0.0%

These items provide operating subsidies for the Statehouse News Bureau (SNB) and Ohio Government Telecommunications (OGT). As the sole dedicated news outlets for Ohio government, SNB and OGT provide coverage of governmental activities for Ohio's citizens. SNB

provides news reports of legislative and other activities for broadcast on SNB's website and Ohio's 15 public radio stations and their affiliates. In addition, SNB produces a weekly half-hour video program, which focuses on the latest statewide news and events and is made available for broadcast on Ohio's public television stations.

While SNB is primarily responsible for news reports of state government events, OGT broadcasts activities of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government and other public affairs programming through the Ohio Channel. The broadcasts are aired on cable access channels and Ohio's public television stations. In addition to archiving these broadcasts, OGT makes the footage available on its website for Ohio's citizens. OGT produces educational documentaries on Ohio civics, history, government, and culture for use in Ohio's schools as well as for broadcast on public television stations. OGT is also responsible for coordinating all media events for members of the General Assembly and events at the Statehouse.

FY 2024 - FY 2025 Final Appropriations

All Fund Groups

Line Item Detail by Agency			Appropriations			FY 2023 to FY 2024	Appropriations	FY 2024 to FY 2025
			FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	% Change	FY 2025	% Change
Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill			Version: As Enacted					
ETC Broadcast Educational Media Commission								
GRF	935401	Statehouse News Bureau	\$ 382,893	\$ 382,893	\$ 383,000	0.03%	\$ 383,000	0.00%
GRF	935402	Ohio Government Telecommunications Services	\$ 1,919,526	\$ 2,009,526	\$ 2,233,000	11.12%	\$ 2,233,000	0.00%
GRF	935410	Content Development, Acquisition, and Distribution	\$ 3,909,231	\$ 3,909,231	\$ 3,909,000	-0.01%	\$ 3,909,000	0.00%
GRF	935430	Broadcast Education Operating	\$ 3,726,341	\$ 3,693,081	\$ 4,108,000	11.24%	\$ 4,108,000	0.00%
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 9,937,991	\$ 9,994,731	\$ 10,633,000	6.39%	\$ 10,633,000	0.00%
5FK0	935608	Media Services	\$ 700	\$ 250	\$ 500	100.00%	\$ 500	0.00%
5VB0	935650	Facility Rental	\$ 22,400	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,200	24.00%	\$ 7,400	19.35%
Dedicated Purpose Fund Group Total			\$ 23,100	\$ 5,250	\$ 6,700	27.62%	\$ 7,900	17.91%
4F30	935603	Affiliate Services	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	0.00%	\$ 4,000	0.00%
Internal Service Activity Fund Group Total			\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	0.00%	\$ 4,000	0.00%
Broadcast Educational Media Commission Total			\$ 9,965,091	\$ 10,003,981	\$ 10,643,700	6.39%	\$ 10,644,900	0.01%