

# Greenbook

## LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget

### Broadcast Educational Media Commission

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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 15 public radio stations, 11 public television stations, and six radio reading services.
- As of July 2025, BEMC employs 21 full-time permanent employees.
- Total appropriations: \$10.4 million in FY 2026 and \$9.7 million in FY 2027.
  - Nearly all (99.1%) of the total funding over the biennium comes from the GRF.
  - GRF funding decreases 3.1% in FY 2026 and 5.8% in FY 2027, mainly due to reduced financial assistance to public television and radio and radio reading services.

Fund Group	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
General Revenue (GRF)	\$10,836,761	\$10,593,347	\$10,264,106	\$9,663,969
Dedicated Purpose (DPF)	\$4,900	\$5,250	\$60,000	\$60,000
Internal Service Activity (ISA)	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$59,659	\$4,200
Total	\$10,845,661	\$10,602,597	\$10,383,765	\$9,728,169
% change	--	-2.2%	-2.1%	-6.3%
GRF % change	--	-2.2%	-3.1%	-5.8%

### 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.

BEMC's governing authority consists of 11 members, nine of which are appointed and required to be members of the public. The nine public members may include public officials or employees or individuals 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 or through service or experience in broadcast media, education, or government administration. The appointed members serve four-year terms. The Commission's other two members are the Director of Education and Workforce

and the Chancellor of Higher Education or their designees. As of July 2025, BEMC employs a staff of 21 full-time employees, led by the Executive Director, who is appointed by BEMC.

## Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget

### Summary of budget

Broadcast Educational Media Commission (BEMC) appropriations total \$20.1 million over the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium, of which 99.1% is supported by the General Revenue Fund (GRF) and 0.9% by four non-GRF funds.

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

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>GRF ALI 935430, Broadcast Education Operating</b>					
\$3,726,341	\$3,693,081	\$4,311,761	\$4,068,347	\$4,108,706	\$4,008,569
% change	-0.9%	16.8%	-5.6%	1.0%	-2.4%
<b>Fund 5FK0 ALI 935608, Media Services</b>					
\$700	\$250	\$250	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
% change	-64.3%	0.0%	-100.0%	--	0.0%
<b>Fund 5VB0 ALI 935650, Facility Rental</b>					
\$22,400	\$5,000	\$4,650	\$5,250	\$10,000	\$10,000
% change	-77.7%	-7.0%	12.9%	90.5%	0.0%
<b>Fund 4F30 ALI 935603, Affiliate Services</b>					
\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,200	\$4,200
% change	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%	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 11 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 other connectivity services in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. BEMC plans to use Fund 5FK0's cash balance to support maintenance of its broadcasting infrastructure and annual membership in the Ohio Distance Learning Association.

Fund 5VB0 ALI 935650, Facility Rental, pays a portion of BEMC's building rent and has been supported by payments from East Central Ohio Educational Service Center (ECOESC) to rent classroom space to provide online classes. ECOESC's sublease of this space ceased at the end of December 2024. As of late July 2025, BEMC has not yet secured a new tenant to sublease a portion of the facility.

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 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>GRF ALI 935410, Content Development, Acquisition, and Distribution</b>					
\$3,909,231	\$3,909,231	\$3,909,000	\$3,909,000	\$3,409,000	\$2,909,000
% change	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-12.8%	-14.7%

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 earmarks listed in the table below. The telecommunications operating subsidy receives about 68% of the line item, radio reading services receive 7%, and educational television stations receive 25% for multimedia programming. Additional details follow the table.

Earmark	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Telecommunications Operating Subsidy	\$2,650,000	\$2,311,039	\$1,972,077
Educational Television Stations	\$965,000	\$841,567	\$718,134
Radio Reading Services	\$294,000	\$256,394	\$218,789
Total	\$3,909,000	\$3,409,000	\$2,909,000
% change	--	-12.8%	-14.7%

### Telecommunications Operating Subsidy

The budget earmarks \$2.3 million in FY 2026 and \$2.0 million in FY 2027 to subsidize the operating costs of Ohio's eight public television broadcasters (operating a total of 11 stations) 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. The broadcasters distribute the payments they receive to their individual stations.

### Educational Television Stations

The budget earmarks \$841,567 in FY 2026 and \$718,134 in FY 2027 for educational television stations. The funds are to be divided equally among the 11 television stations (each station receiving \$76,506 in FY 2026 and \$65,285 in FY 2027) for the production of interactive instructional programming that aligns with Ohio's academic content standards.

### Radio Reading Services

The budget earmarks \$256,394 in FY 2026 and \$218,789 in FY 2027 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.

## Statehouse News Bureau and Ohio Government Telecommunications Operations (ALIs 935401, 935402, and 935605)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>GRF ALI 935401, Statehouse News Bureau</b>					
\$382,893	\$382,893	\$383,000	\$383,000	\$402,000	\$402,000
% change	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%
<b>GRF ALI 935402, Ohio Government Telecommunications Services</b>					
\$1,919,526	\$2,009,526	\$2,233,000	\$2,233,000	\$2,344,400	\$2,344,400
% change	4.7%	11.1%	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>Fund 4T20 ALI 935605, Government Television/Telecommunications Operating</b>					
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$55,459	\$0
% change	--	--	--	--	-100.0%

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.

The budget appropriates \$55,459 in FY 2026 in Fund 4T20 ALI 935605, Government Television/Telecommunications Operating, to support OGT equipment purchases. This one-time appropriation is intended to exhaust the cash balance of the Governmental Television and Telecommunications Operating Fund (Fund 4T20), which generally has been dormant for over 20 years.

**FY 2026 - FY 2027 Final Appropriations  
All Fund Groups - Detail**

**H.B. 96 - Main Operating Appropriations Bill**

Detail by Agency			FY 2024	FY 2025	Appropriation FY 2026	Appropriation FY 2027	FY 2025 to FY 2026 % Change	FY 2026 to FY 2027 % Change
<b>ETC Broadcast Educational Media Commission</b>								
GRF	935401	Statehouse News Bureau	\$383,000	\$383,000	\$402,000	\$402,000	4.96%	0.00%
GRF	935402	Ohio Government Telecommunications Services	\$2,233,000	\$2,233,000	\$2,344,400	\$2,344,400	4.99%	0.00%
GRF	935410	Content Development, Acquisition, and Distribution	\$3,909,000	\$3,909,000	\$3,409,000	\$2,909,000	-12.79%	-14.67%
GRF	935430	Broadcast Education Operating	\$4,311,761	\$4,068,347	\$4,108,706	\$4,008,569	0.99%	-2.44%
<b>General Revenue Fund Subtotal</b>			<b>\$10,836,761</b>	<b>\$10,593,347</b>	<b>\$10,264,106</b>	<b>\$9,663,969</b>	<b>-3.11%</b>	<b>-5.85%</b>
5FK0	935608	Media Services	\$250	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	N/A	0.00%
5VB0	935650	Facility Rental	\$4,650	\$5,250	\$10,000	\$10,000	90.48%	0.00%
<b>Dedicated Purpose Fund Group Subtotal</b>			<b>\$4,900</b>	<b>\$5,250</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>1,042.86%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
4F30	935603	Affiliate Services	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,200	\$4,200	5.00%	0.00%
4T20	935605	Government Television/Telecommunications Operating	\$0	\$0	\$55,459	\$0	N/A	-100.00%
<b>Internal Service Activity Fund Group Subtotal</b>			<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$59,659</b>	<b>\$4,200</b>	<b>1,391.48%</b>	<b>-92.96%</b>
<b>Broadcast Educational Media Commission Total</b>			<b>\$10,845,661</b>	<b>\$10,602,597</b>	<b>\$10,383,765</b>	<b>\$9,728,169</b>	<b>-2.06%</b>	<b>-6.31%</b>