

We advocate and elevate our members' economic prosperity and are the catalyst for our community's future.

Located at the crossroads of I-70 and I-135, Salina has a population of 47,000 and serves as a regional hub to our labor basin of Saline and twelve other counties. We are not a metropolitan community, and yet our current level of connectivity and commerce doesn't classify us as rural either. We punch above our weight consistently in terms of investment and innovation, and have creatively leveraged public/private partnerships to make bold advancements in industry, education, infrastructure, and quality of life. We boast investments of over \$1 billion in the last five years, and continue to see rapid job and wage growth.

The **Salina Area Chamber of Commerce** and our community partners provide economic development, workforce opportunity, education options, healthcare access, and transportation support to this broad region.

The **City of Salina** is one of the area's top employers and manages major quality of life and amenities projects. **Saline County** maintains a 1,077-mile road network with 220 bridges, is nearing completion of construction on an \$89.6 million jail facility (the largest infrastructure investment in county history), and annually invests more than \$3.3 million in public and mental health and social services. **Salina Public Schools** is the 12th largest school district in the state and prepares 81% of the regional workforce. The **Salina Community Economic Development Organization** works in new business recruitment, as well as entrepreneurial development. The **Salina Airport Authority** provides \$1.3 billion economic impact to Saline County, and creates 42% of the county's Gross Regional Product (GRP). The **Salina Regional Healthcare Center** is the health care hub of North Central Kansas with a full scope of specialized clinics and three affiliate critical access hospitals in Abilene, Concordia and Lindsborg. **Salina Area Technical College, Kansas Wesleyan University, and Kansas State University-Salina** all provide over \$100 million in economic impact combined and provide a significant number of graduates to work in fields critical to the health of our communities. And the **Kansas University School of Medicine-Salina** and the **Kansas University School of Nursing-Salina** provide special training in rural medicine for their students to support access to healthcare in the region.



The 2023 Legislative Agenda focuses on eight priorities for regional growth, economic development, community health, and overall quality of life for Salina and the area.



Drive Regional Success & Economic Development



Strengthen a Skilled Workforce



Establish Affordable, Quality Housing



Fortify Transportation Initiatives



Invest in Education



Enhance Quality of Life & Community Amenities



Ensure Affordable Healthcare & Mental Health Resources



Secure Access to Early Childhood Programming & Childcare

For more information, please contact Renee Duxler,
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State Funding Requests

Summary

- The Kansas Advanced Immersive Research for Emergent Systems (K-AIRES) Center is the inaugural teaching and research facility of the Aerospace, Manufacturing, and Entertainment Collaborative (AMEC) in Salina. Community entities are working to recruit Tyrell Corporation to Salina to advance the state's capabilities and expertise in advanced simulation and immersive reality. A competitive recruitment package from the state is required to secure Tyrell's relocation to Kansas. The comprehensive package should include efforts to address facility needs, equipment, technology, and workforce and staffing incentives to successfully compete with the other states courting the company (New Mexico and California). If successful, the Salina area will realize an estimated creation of over 100 jobs at an average salary of \$150,000 per year within five (5) years, and the state of Kansas will gain an asset that enhances its competitiveness to attract smart manufacturing and aerospace industry to the state, and bolster the ability to support high impact defense research, projects, and contracts.

Summary of K-AIRES legislative request:

Facility	\$22,602,217
Equipment	\$17,100,000
Workforce	<u>\$10,198,588</u>
Total Request:	\$49,900,805

*Priorities addressed: Drive Regional Success & Economic Development,
Strengthen a Skilled Workforce, Invest in Education*

- In addition, infrastructure and improvements are necessary for both Magnolia Road and Holmes Road in Salina. Magnolia Rd. provides connectivity to major areas of industry, commerce, and education, as well as new residential development. Improvements include lighting, multimodal transportation, connectivity, and other amenities that make it safer for driving and walking. Holmes Road is currently a dirt road that provides connectivity to 1,264 acres of land that is developable for new housing (a critical need in Salina). Improvements would include upgrading the street and connecting the area to public water and sewer infrastructure that is not currently accessible.

Total Infrastructure Request: \$21M

*Priorities addressed: Fortify Transportation Initiatives, Enhance Quality of Life
& Community Amenities, Establish Affordable, Quality Housing*

State Funding Request-

Kansas Advanced Immersive Research for Emergent Systems Center (K-AIRES)

In partnership with the Salina Airport Authority, the Kansas Advanced Immersive Research for Emergent Systems (K-AIRES) Center will bring world-leading simulation and artificial intelligence capabilities to the major industry sectors of Kansas, with a heightened focus on aerospace, advanced manufacturing, and defense. Anchoring the south side of K-State Salina's Innovation Ramp, the Center will couple K-State Salina's existing expertise in crewed aviation, uncrewed aircraft systems, robotics, automation, and machine learning with Tyrell Corporation's strength and reputation in immersive environments and simulated training and entertainment. The facility will expand the quality and fidelity of simulation capabilities with high-definition large format displays, multi-purpose reconfigurable LED sets, motion platforms suites, an AR/VR development laboratory, a haptics laboratory, a holographic auditorium, 3-D model and rendering stations, motion capture capabilities, and a laser projection cave. Student classrooms, collaborative research spaces, and a K-12 STEM recruitment attraction are also included in the Center.

Once complete, this facility will provide exciting and engaging ways to educate and train students in the enabling technologies of the future. The foundational components of this facility will allow faculty and researchers to leverage immersive environments to reimagine what 21st-century education should be: the hands-on application of embedded industry projects with collaborative, multidisciplinary problem-solving driving the learning experience. Large-scale research grants, sponsored research projects, and targeted industry partnerships will support the growth of local and state workforce and economic development.

This facility will pair aerospace and advanced manufacturing professionals with programming experts and entertainment storytellers. Through 3-D augmented, virtual and mixed reality, this distinctive collaboration will produce real-world simulations that place individuals in designed scenarios. The intentional construction of a realistic, immersive environment allows students, researchers, and industry partners to evaluate human factor responses and situational awareness, validate product designs for rapid prototyping, reduce technical risks by identifying gaps in safety and performance, and increase efficiencies through specialized process training and modeling.

The facility will also leverage artificial intelligence to operate computer-based modeling and simulation scenarios. These simulated scenarios will support the education and research associated with scalable integrated data structures that support autonomous systems and cyber operations in aerospace, advanced air mobility, and smart manufacturing. These integrated computing, analytics, data, and information processing capabilities can also enable researchers to rapidly deploy model-based simulations that can evaluate productivity, performance, and risk in industry operations.

Due to a compressed workforce and rapidly changing infrastructure, aerospace and advanced manufacturing are stressed. The technologies driving the national airspace, manufacturing, and supply chain sectors are not built to compete at the pace the international economy now demands. There is tremendous opportunity in this crisis to innovate and integrate intellectual creativity across disparate domains to design the future. This facility will exploit the subtle intersection between engineering and entertainment to enable the acceleration of technological solutions to the urgent workforce, security and societal needs.

State Funding Request- K-AIRES Facility Proposal

The Opportunity – Tyrell Corporation and their commercial operation, Pure Imagination Studios (pistudios.com), is a world leader in advanced imaging, virtual reality, artificial intelligence, and simulation. The company's innovative technology supports the film production industry, digital media productions, advanced manufacturing, the global aerospace industry, and the U.S. Department of Defense. Tyrell Corporation has selected the Salina Airport Industrial Center as a potential location for its new advanced simulation R&D and production center. The center would be known as the Kansas Advanced Immersive Research for Emergent Systems Center (K-AIRES).

By attracting Tyrell Corporation to Kansas and specifically the Salina area, it will result in an estimated creation of over 100 new jobs at an average salary of \$150,000 per year (\$72.00 per hour) within five (5) years. The company will also see an ability to attract Fortune 100 technology companies to utilize the K-AIRES and invest in Kansas.

Project Partners – The State of Kansas, Kansas State University-Salina, Salina Airport Authority, City of Salina, Saline County, Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Salina Community Economic Development Corporation.

Local Support and Impact – In addition to drawing new business activity to Kansas, Tyrell Corporation will support the growing aviation and advanced technology programs at the K-State Salina Aerospace and Technology Campus, CJ Group's Schwan's Food Company Salina plant, Kubota's Great Plains Manufacturing plants in Kansas, 1 Vision Aviation (Salina's world class Kansas MRO center), and General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. at the Salina Regional Airport.

Facility Requirements – The K-AIRES Center requires a total of 58,415 SF of existing and new construction space for use by Tyrell Corporation and all follow-on activities. The Salina Airport Authority's existing hangar H724 (30,655 SF) provides space for expanded aircraft maintenance training and application of new simulation airframe and power plant simulation technology. A new 27,750 SF constructed adjacent to hangar H724 will house advanced simulation R&D activity and advanced manufacturing simulation training. The total cost for hangar H724 remodeling and new construction is estimated to be **\$22,602,217**. The estimated cost includes A&E design fees, bond issue costs and costs for construction.

Project Financing – The Salina Airport Authority can issue leasehold revenue bonds to finance K-AIRES Center construction. Project financing would include both hangar H724 rehabilitation work and new building construction as follows:

Hangar H724 Rehabilitation (30,665 SF)	\$8,876,319
New K-AIRES Construction (27,750 SF)	\$12,525,897
Rehabilitation and Construction (58,415 SF)	\$21,402,217
Leasehold Revenue Bond Issuance Costs	<u>\$200,000</u>

Total Project Cost **\$22,602,217**

State Funding Request- K-AIRES Facility Proposal

In 2023 -2024, a \$22.6 million project can again be financed by means of Salina Airport Authority leasehold revenue bond financing. The proposed terms are (these are estimates):

Project cost: \$22,602,217

Lease term: Twenty (20) years

Option to purchase: Lessee can pay off the unamortized balance on a selected date or the annual anniversary of the lease

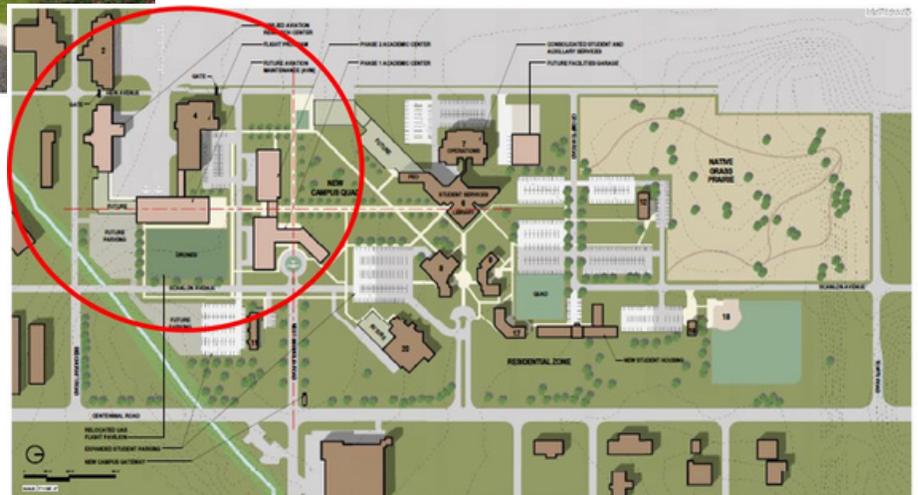
Annual bond payment: \$2,201,500 per year

Annual administrative fee: \$95,000 per year

Annual lease payment: \$2,296,500 per year

Ownership of improvements: State of Kansas at end of twenty (20) years

Kansas Legislature Action Requested – Approval of a 20-year, \$2,296,500 per year rental lease agreement between the State of Kansas and the Salina Airport Authority for the construction of the K-AIRES to bring Tyrell Corporation with the creation of over 100 new direct jobs at an average salary of \$150,000 per year (\$72.00 per hour) to the Salina economy. This critical investment will be the catalyst to support bringing new film production industry, digital media productions, advanced manufacturing, the global aerospace industry, and the U.S. Department of Defense projects, jobs, and additional payroll to the benefit the State of Kansas economy as well.



K-STATE POLYTECHNIC CAMPUS SITE CONCEPT PLAN

State Funding Request- K-AIRES Equipment Proposal

Equipment Requirements – High tech equipment is required to equip the facility with the capabilities for Tyrell to conduct work and research. Equipment requirements are outlined per space allocation.

Haptic Lab	\$1,200,000
Holographic Auditorium	\$3,000,000
Dome Screen	\$7,000,000
Motion Simulator Bay	\$800,000
AR/VR Volumetric Zone	\$300,000
Laser Projection Cave	\$1,500,000
LED Set	\$1,125,000
Classroom IT Suites	\$375,000
Network Infrastructure & Control Center	\$1,000,000
Contingency	<u>\$800,000</u>
Total Equipment Cost	\$17,100,000

Kansas Legislature Action Requested – Approval of \$17,100,000 for equipment and technology infrastructure to support facility capabilities, and attract Tyrell Corporation as the anchor tenant. This critical investment will be the catalyst to support bringing new film production industry, digital media productions, advanced manufacturing, the global aerospace industry, and the U.S. Department of Defense projects, jobs, and additional payroll to the benefit the State of Kansas economy as well.

State Funding Request- K-AIRES Workforce Proposal

Staffing Requirements – Highly trained and specialized staffing will be required for Tyrell as the anchor tenant at this facility. A recruitment package should include dollars to attract exceptionally skilled workers to Kansas.

Core and Subject Matter Expert Team Members	\$7,327,213
IT Staff	\$1,210,875
Faculty and Education Support	<u>\$1,660,500</u>

Total Workforce Cost **\$10,198,588**

Kansas Legislature Action Requested – Approval of \$10,198,588 over four years for Tyrell's staffing and capacity building to support facility capabilities. This critical investment will be the catalyst to support bringing new film production industry, digital media productions, advanced manufacturing, the global aerospace industry, and the U.S. Department of Defense projects, jobs, and additional payroll to the benefit the State of Kansas economy as well.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Distribution Schedule	\$1,700,000	\$1,935,000	\$3,201,750	\$3,361,838
			Total	\$10,198,588

Traditional Kansas Department of Commerce tax abatement incentives for equipment investment will not meet the immediate need to staff and equip Tyrell's proposed Kansas location. Furthermore, these are the similar proposals being offered by New Mexico and California and therefore these specific requests are what are necessary to be competitive.

State Funding Request- Magnolia Road Improvements

Magnolia Road: Critical Perimeter Road Upgrade/Reconstruction

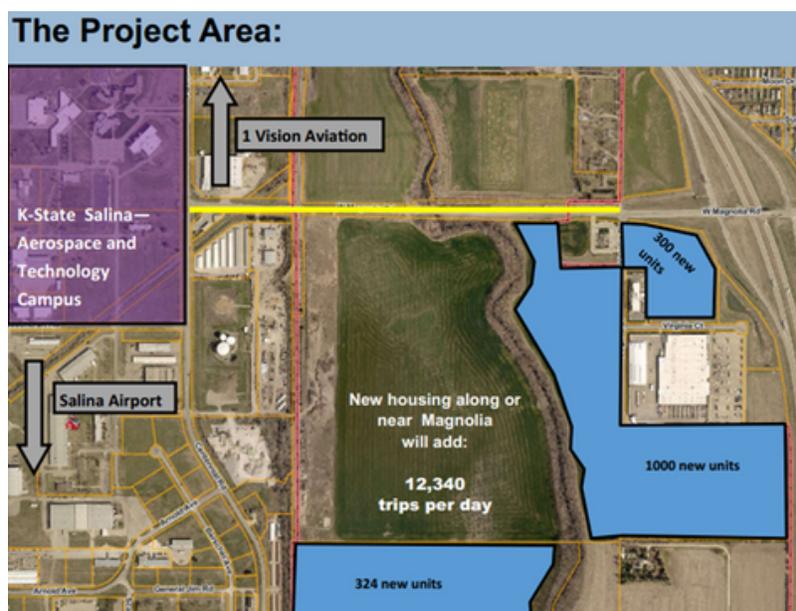
Magnolia is the main route from the interstate to the campus of K-State-Salina Aerospace and Technology Campus, Salina Area Technical College, and the Salina Airport and industrial complex. The road is a narrow two-lane road with no curbs and no shoulders with steep ditches along the route from the interstate. Magnolia gets high usage of both semi-trucks and passenger vehicles. The area lacks multimodal transportation connectivity to the retail and commercial areas for Salina east of I-135 (grocery stores, Salina mall, eating establishments, etc.).

A new residential subdivision is expected to be developed in this area that will add over 12,000 trips a day. Magnolia road improvements are necessary as it becomes a link for students, residents, employees, airline passengers, members of the military, businesses, and industries throughout the City and region.

The City of Salina is seeking \$10 million for one mile of improvements to Magnolia Road. Funding would specifically address:

- Upgrading 4,200 feet of three-lane roadway with medians and turn lanes
- 10 foot hike and bike trail (south side) , 5 foot sidewalk (north side)
- Street lighting, landscaping, public art
- Bridge and culvert replacements
- Channel realignment
- Railroad crossing widening and improvements

This project was not approved during the first round of BASE grant funding, but is being considered for round two (BASE 2.0). There may be some opportunity for Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) as a phased project, pulling from several of their funding sources.



State Funding Request- Holmes Road Improvements

Holmes Road: Critical Perimeter Road and Utility Upgrades Required for Housing

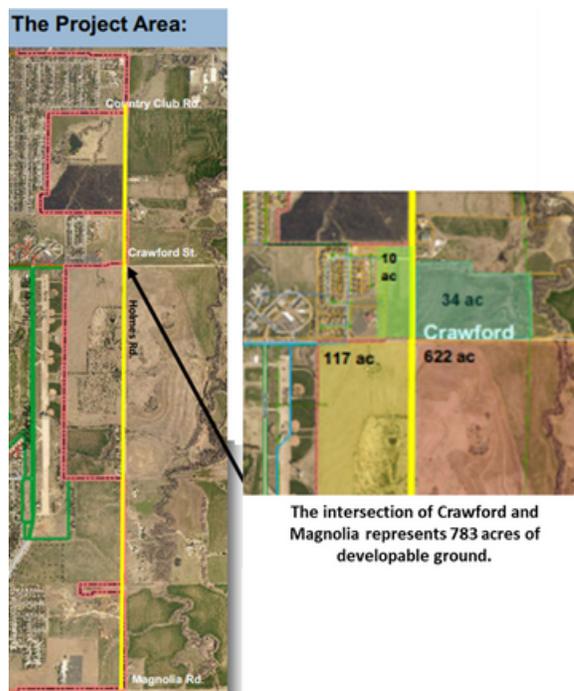
Holmes Road is an unpaved road flanking the Eastern most border of the City. The portion of Holmes Road that is being considered for upgrades is a three-mile stretch from Magnolia Road to the South to Country Club Road to the North.

This project would include upgrading the street and connecting the area to public water and sewer infrastructure that is not currently assessable. Upgrades to this section of Holmes Road would create 1,264 acres of development ready property that would encourage private developers to invest in Salina and increase the housing stock to meet current and future housing needs of the community.

The City of Salina is seeking \$11 million to improve a three-mile stretch of Holmes Road. To include widening and paving of Holmes Road and providing water and sewer access to all properties adjacent to the Road. This project would provide the following benefit:

- Create 1,264 new acres of developable land for housing
- Speed up the development process by creating development-ready properties
- Keep housing affordable by removing benefit district costs
- Allow for better design and maintenance of infrastructure because of a comprehensive approach
- Provide funding for a project that does not qualify for typical state or federal programs

This project was not approved during the first round of BASE grant funding, but is being considered for round two (BASE 2.0). Most Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) or federal funding options are tied directly to economic development, and not a match for this project.



Federal Funding Requests

Summary

- The State of Kansas and Salina/Saline County have adopted economic development strategic plans that target the aerospace industry for business and job growth. We have the capability to build off the successful growth by 1 Vision Aviation to attract more MRO business and jobs. We support a Salina Airport Authority federal grant application for renovations to hangars H606 and H626 or the construction of new MRO hangars at the Salina Regional Airport for the establishment of the Kansas MRO Center of Excellence.

Total Request: \$11.2M

*Priorities addressed: Drive Regional Success & Economic Development,
Fortify Transportation Initiatives, Strengthen a Skilled Workforce*

- The City of Salina has been working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to develop a project that will reestablish the flow of the Smoky Hill River through the community and provide environmental lift along the Old Smoky Hill River channel. The total investment for the Revised Feasibility Study, Design and Implementation of this project is estimated at \$21.3 million. The federal cost share is \$13.7 million and the non-federal cost share is \$7.6 million.

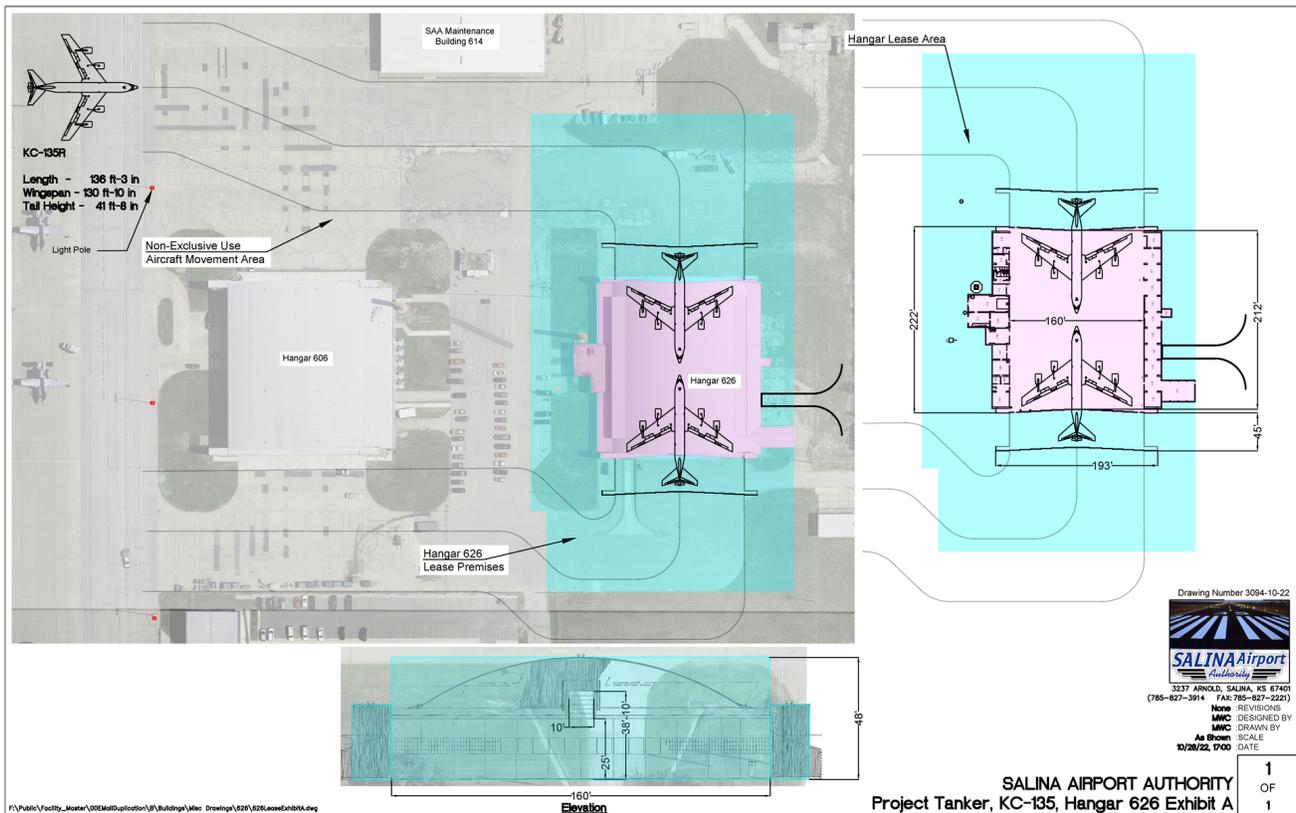
Total Request: \$13.7M

*Priorities addressed: Drive Regional Success & Economic Development,
Enhance Quality of Life & Community Amenities*

Federal Funding Request- MRO Center Of Excellence

Kansas MRO Center of Excellence

The Salina Airport Authority is in the process of completing architectural and engineering design work to rehabilitate a former U.S. Air Force maintenance hangar at the Salina Regional Airport. Hangar H626 is ideal for locating an aircraft maintenance apprenticeship and training program in partnership with the K-State Salina Aerospace and Technology Campus. The total cost to design and rehabilitate H626 and surrounding aircraft taxi-lanes, aircraft aprons and employee/student parking is \$14M. The Airport Authority intends to apply for a \$11.2M Economic Development Administration grant to fund 80% of total project costs.



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State Policy Priorities

Enhance Quality of Life & Community Amenities

Local Autonomy and Control

Our local governing bodies and school districts know our communities and understand the nuances of how policy will affect us best. We support all efforts to allow for local control whenever possible.

Sales Tax Revenue in STAR Bond Districts

The reduction and elimination of the state food sales tax threatens the financial success and viability of existing STAR Bond project districts that include groceries by eliminating a source of revenue pledged to repay the bonds. We support creation of a long-term funding mechanism to ensure state reimbursement of lost funds caused by the reduction and elimination of the state share of food sales tax in impacted STAR Bond districts.

Funding for Kansas Wesleyan University's Community Resilience Hub

The Kansas Wesleyan University (KWU) Community Resilience Hub is focused on promoting food security, local food systems, and transitioning to regenerative agriculture for farmers. We support KWU's request for a 3-year, \$1 million per year appropriation to the Resilience Hub for these activities.

Strengthen a Skilled Workforce

College Affordability and the Kansas Comprehensive Grant

The Kansas Comprehensive Grant (KCG) program is both a highly efficient and a highly effective use of state dollars to support higher education and recruit students to our schools. We support efforts to fund the KCG, but we also encourage Kansas legislators to first look to enhance this program that supports students' freedom of choice among all Kansas public and non-profit institutions, prior to implementing any new student need-based aid initiatives that are tied to any one particular sector of higher education.

Investment in K-12 Public Education

Quality public education is required to ensure an educated workforce. Salina Public Schools educates 81% of the school-age students in Salina. With over 70 percent of the jobs in today's workforce requiring more than a high school diploma, it is critical that students leave K-12 education prepared for postsecondary school. The school finance formula, as currently written, accounts for adequate and equitable funding of K-12 schools. The weightings in the formula for Career and Technical Education, bilingual education, transportation, at-risk, and high density at-risk funding are critical to ensure equitable funding. We support the existing school funding formula, as well as funding special education at 92 percent of excess cost as required by Kansas law.

State Policy Priorities, cont.

Ensure Affordable Healthcare & Mental Health Resources

Expansion of Medicaid

Expansion states have realized sustainability of federal funds for expansion, while Kansas has missed out on \$5.5 billion in federal funding. Medicaid expansion is an effective, sure-fire way to provide non-emergency healthcare, help 150,000 of Kansas residents and workforce afford medicine, and stabilize costs for hospitals. We support efforts to expand Medicaid.

Improve Mental Healthcare

The increasing number of mental health crises patients is a heavy burden on our local law enforcement entities, health care entities, and educational institutions. We support having a robust behavioral health care infrastructure that includes targeted resources for patients before they are in crisis, and sufficient crisis beds ensuring patients are not forced to wait hours or days for an available bed.

Fortify Transportation Initiatives

Increased Funding for Kansas Airport Improvement Program

Increased funding is needed for Kansas airports. For over a decade the KDOT Kansas Airport Improvement Program has been stuck at \$5 million. We support an FY 2024 increase to \$10 million to adequately fund the State's airport system.

Establish Affordable Quality Housing

Infrastructure to Support Residential Development

The availability of funding to improve, or extend, infrastructure for new housing developments is limited. We support the creation of programs that would assist municipalities in funding infrastructure specifically for residential developments to support our growing need for quality housing.

Secure Access to Early Childhood Programming & Childcare

Childcare and Early Education Programming

Kansas families, communities, and employers need high quality childcare and early education programming, and the demand is significant. Quality early education is the most cost-effective and efficient way to prepare children to succeed in school and life. We support initiatives to constructively and creatively invest in childcare programs and workers.

Drive Regional Success & Economic Development

Preservation and Funding of Incentive Programs

Economic Development incentive programs are critical to the recruitment of new and expansion of existing businesses. We support the preservation of Angel Investors Network, Promoting Employment Across Kansas (PEAK), High Performance Incentive Program (HPIP), Sales Tax and Revenue (STAR) Bonds, and Job Creation Fund (JCF).

Federal Policy Priorities

Strengthen A Skilled Workforce

Doubling the Pell Grant

The Pell Grant is one of the most affordable and effective programs to provide college grants to students with need. With inflation and the rising costs of education, Pell Grants no longer cover a large portion of the cost of attending. More than 400 students combined from our local postsecondary schools qualified for and received Pell Grant dollars this last year. We support doubling the Pell Grant to not only continue to provide affordable education, but also as an investment in workforce.

Federal Special Education Funding

Today's special education students represent over 20 percent of tomorrow's workforce. There is no doubt that preparing students with disabilities for their substantial role in society's economic health is critical. All children, including those with disabilities, have a right to a free appropriate public education (FAPE). School districts are required to provide this, including any special education services necessary to achieve a FAPE, to students with disabilities. While the federal government has committed to cover up to 40 percent of the excess cost of providing students their essential IDEA-mandated special education services, most estimates place the federal contribution at 14-16 percent. The shortfall places the burden of meeting the federal IDEA law on Kansans at both the state and local levels. Specifically, this causes Salina Public Schools to divert over 2.4 million general fund dollars every year to cover the unfunded excess cost of special education for Salina students. This money should be supporting the development of a strong workforce by providing education to all students. We support federal special education funding at 40 percent of the excess cost of special education services.

Ensure Affordable Healthcare & Mental Health Resources

Abolish the COVID Vaccine Mandate

As a Chamber and community, we support and represent many businesses with 100 employees and over. Our county has an extremely tight labor market and the proposed vaccine mandates and/or weekly testing by OSHA is a direct threat to many businesses in the community. The Emergency Temporary Order has the potential to severely compromise the operational integrity of critical business operations in Saline County through a loss of labor resources. Although we fully believe in vaccine efficacy, we support the abolishment of the Emergency Temporary Order by OSHA on vaccine mandates and weekly testing.

We would additionally support efforts to limit any government authority to impose masking and vaccine mandates that create an unfair competitive environment between hospitals and other businesses offering health care services.

Federal Policy Priorities, cont.

Drive Regional Success & Economic Development

Farm Bill Reauthorization

The Farm Bill intersects with a multitude of priorities for our region, including healthcare, poverty, climate change, and school foods. We support reauthorization of the Farm Bill for 2023.

Funding for Kansas Wesleyan University's Community Resilience Hub

The Kansas Wesleyan University (KWU) Community Resilience Hub is focused on promoting food security, local food systems, and transitioning to regenerative agriculture for farmers. We support KWU's request for a 3-year, \$2 million per year appropriation to the Resilience Hub for these activities.

Fortify Transportation Initiatives

Federal Aviation Administration Funding and Support

The effectiveness of the multi-year Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill is contingent on full appropriations of the FAA's authorized programs. Programs and functions such as the Airport Improvement Program, the Federal Contract Tower Program, airway facilities maintenance, aircraft certification and safety enforcement impact the Salina Regional Airport, Kansas State University-Salina, United/SkyWest Airlines, 1 Vision Aviation Salina, and aviation businesses based at the Salina Airport. We support full funding for FAA programs, as well as specifically requesting that authorization and appropriations bills for the Federal Contract Tower Program should be specific about the program and limit the FAA's discretion over program budget cuts.

We also support the passage of bi-partisan, five-year FAA reauthorization legislation that provides for aviation industry stability, predictable funding for FAA programs and operations and supports the national air transportation system.

U.S. Department of Transportation Essential Air Service Funding

The Essential Air Service (EAS) program subsidizes air service at the Salina Regional Airport for the benefit of Salina, Saline County and North Central Kansas residents. Full funding will allow United and SkyWest the ability to continue to offer Denver and Chicago flights for the region, a crucial support for economic and workforce development. We support full EAS program funding.