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**STATE OF MAINE**  
**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE**  
**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

**TO:** Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair  
Representative Drew Gattine, House Chair, and  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

**FROM:** Senator Rachel Talbot Ross, Senate Chair *RTB KSN*  
Representative William Pluecker, House Chair, and *WP*  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

**DATE:** January 23, 2025

**RE:** Supplemental Budget

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The Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) Committee is pleased to submit the following report for the proposed 2024-2025 supplemental budget initiatives related to Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (see attached report-back document). The ACF Committee voted unanimously in favor all initiatives with the exception of one initiative and its corresponding language part.

A majority of committee members voted in favor of the initiative relating to spruce budworm response to protect forest resources (Ref. #45) and language Part T. Eight committee members voted in favor of this initiative and corresponding language part as proposed. Three members of the committee voted to amend this initiative (and corresponding language) by proposing to provide \$1,000,000 rather than \$2,000,000 as proposed in the supplemental budget. Two members of the committee were absent.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

**c:** Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Sec. A-2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Animal Welfare Fund 0946**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for extraordinary costs associated with animal welfare seizures.

Ref. #: 30                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 11-0                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
All Other	\$250,000	\$0	\$0
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Notes:**

See Part T

**Justification:**

The Department has recently completed an unusually long, large animal welfare seizure and is unable to absorb these extraordinary costs. These costs are primarily due to increased animal housing costs, court schedules and the length of the appeal process.

**Bureau of Agriculture 0393**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Volunteer Services Coordinator position to a Volunteer Services Program Director position, retroactive to May 17, 2023. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 24                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 11-0                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
Personal Services	\$6,372	\$0	\$0
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,372</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Ref. #: 25                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 11-0                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
Personal Services	\$4,246	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$178	\$0	\$0
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,424</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Notes:**

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives

**Justification:**

This initiative funds a reclassification and retroactive payment to align work functions with the appropriate classification. The reclassification was approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on July 1, 2024.

**Division of Forest Protection Z232**

Initiative: Provides funding for equipment installation in vehicles, including radios.

Ref. #: 38                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 11-0                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL FUND	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$18,000	\$0	\$0
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Justification:**

This initiative provides funding for cost increases for radio and equipment installations for Forest Ranger vehicles. This will fund the increase of 18 vehicles in fiscal year 2024-25.

**Division of Forest Protection Z232**

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide insurance coverage provided through the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, risk management division for essential aircraft liability coverage based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney's fees on claims and actuarially recommended reserves.

Ref. #: 39                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 11-0                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL FUND	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$8,601	\$0	\$0
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,601</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Justification:**

This insurance premium increase is the result of increasing the liability limit from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 coverage for our Huey helicopters.

**Division of Forest Protection Z232**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Office Associate II position to an Office Specialist I position, retroactive to October 4, 2023.

Ref. #: 40                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 11-0                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL FUND	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$9,016	\$0	\$0

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$9,016	\$0	\$0
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**Notes:**

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

**Justification:**

This employee-initiated reclassification was approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on December 5, 2024.

**Division of Forest Protection Z232**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved range change of 48 Forest Ranger II positions from range 19 to range 21, retroactive to February 10, 2024.

Ref. #: 41                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 11-0                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND			
Personal Services	\$643,343	\$0	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$643,343	\$0	\$0

**Notes:**

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

**Justification:**

This initiative funds an employee initiated reclassification. This employee-initiated range change was approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on November 5, 2024.

**Forest Resource Management Z233**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Office Associate II position to an Office Specialist I position, retroactive to February 17, 2023.

Ref. #: 43                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 11-0                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND			
Personal Services	\$12,327	\$0	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$12,327	\$0	\$0

**Notes:**

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

**Justification:**

This initiative funds a reclassification and retroactive payment to align work functions with the appropriate classification. This reclassification was approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on June 4, 2024.

**Forest Resource Management Z233**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Senior Planner position to a Resource Management Coordinator position, retroactive to December 29, 2022.

Ref. #: 44                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 11-0                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL FUND	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$24,351	\$0	\$0
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24,351</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Notes:**

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

**Justification:**

This position serves as a Water Resources Specialist. This initiative funds a reclassification and retroactive payment to align work functions with the appropriate classification. This reclassification was approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on May 17, 2024.

**Forest Resource Management Z233**

Initiative: Provides funding for Spruce Budworm response to protect the forest resource.

Ref. #: 45                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 8-3\*                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Notes:**

*\* Details in attached memo.*

See Part U

**Justification:**

This initiative will provide resources for management and early intervention response with regard to the Spruce Budworm outbreak in Maine's forests, including any match requirements necessary to utilize federal and other resources.

**Harness Racing Commission 0320**

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align with revenue projections from the December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

Ref. #: 22                      One Time                      Committee Vote: \_\_\_\_\_                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

11-0

**OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS**

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	(\$962,281)	\$0	\$0
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>(\$962,281)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Notes:**

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue allocations with the Revenue Forecast.

**Justification:**

This initiative aligns allocation with December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

**Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of 4 Environmental Specialist III positions to Environmental Licensing Specialist II positions, retroactive to September 7, 2023.

Ref. #: 48                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 11-0                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL FUND**

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$53,274	\$0	\$0
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$53,274</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Notes:**

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

**Justification:**

This employee-initiated reclassification was approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on December 10, 2024.

**Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of 2 Environmental Specialist IV positions to Environmental Licensing Supervisor positions, retroactive to May 9, 2023.

Ref. #: 49                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 11-0                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL FUND**

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$40,512	\$0	\$0
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$40,512</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Notes:**

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

**Justification:**

This initiative funds a reclassification and retroactive payment to align work functions with the appropriate classification. This reclassification was approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on July 31, 2024.

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**Milk Commission 0188**

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align with revenue projections from the December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

Ref. #: 20                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 11-0                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
All Other	(\$5,880,687)	\$0	\$0
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>(\$5,880,687)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Notes:**

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue allocations with the Revenue Forecast.

**Justification:**

This initiative aligns allocation with December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

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**Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Program Z224**

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align with revenue projections from the December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

Ref. #: 34                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 11-0                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
All Other	(\$619,689)	\$0	\$0
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>(\$619,689)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Notes:**

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue allocations with the Revenue Forecast.

**Justification:**

This initiative aligns allocation with December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**

<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$815,796</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>\$4,424</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>(\$5,212,657)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>(\$4,392,437)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>



**Sec. A-11. Appropriations and allocations.**

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

**Dairy Improvement Fund Z143**

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align with revenue projections from the December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

Ref. #: 107

One Time

Committee Vote:

11-0

AFA Vote:

**OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS**

All Other

**OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL**

<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
(\$30,319)	\$0	\$0
<b>(\$30,319)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Notes:**

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue allocations with the Revenue Forecast.

**Justification:**

This initiative aligns allocation with December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

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**FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

**DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

**OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS**

**DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS**

<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
(\$30,319)	\$0	\$0
<b>(\$30,319)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**PART G** IN 11-0

**Sec. G-1. Carrying provision; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, at the end of fiscal year 2024-25, the State Controller shall carry forward any unexpended balance remaining of the \$500,000 appropriated in Public Law 2021, chapter 635, in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture program, General Fund account, All Other line category to the next fiscal year to be used for replacement of the feed, seed, and fertilizer database.

**PART G  
SUMMARY**

This Part authorizes the State Controller to carry forward up to \$500,000 of unexpended balance in the All Other line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources at the end of fiscal year 2024-25 to the All Other line category for the next fiscal year in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to be used to replace the feed, seed, and fertilizer database.

**PART H**

IN 11-0

**Sec. H-1. Carrying provision; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, at the end of fiscal year 2024-25, the State Controller shall carry forward any unexpended balance remaining of the \$1,500,000 appropriated in Public Law 2023, chapter 412, in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture program, General Fund account, Capital Expenditures line category to the next fiscal year to be used for replacement of the licensing and inspection database.

**PART H  
SUMMARY**

This Part authorizes the State Controller to carry forward up to \$1,500,000 of unexpended balance in the Capital Expenditures line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources at the end of fiscal year 2024-25 to the Capital Expenditures line category for the next fiscal year in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to be used to replace the licensing and inspection database.

**PART I**

IN 11-0

**Sec. I-1. Carrying provision; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, at the end of fiscal year 2024-25, the State Controller shall carry forward any unexpended balance remaining of the \$750,000 appropriated in Public Law 2023, chapter 412, in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture program, General Fund account, Capital Expenditures line category to the next fiscal year to be used to upgrade the Cony Road facility in Augusta.

**PART I  
SUMMARY**

This Part authorizes the State Controller to carry forward up to \$750,000 of unexpended balance in the Capital Expenditures line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources at the end of fiscal year 2024-25 to the Capital Expenditures line category for the next fiscal year in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to be used to upgrade the Cony Road facility in Augusta.

**PART T**

IN 11-0

**Sec. T-1. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Animal Welfare Fund.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2025, the State Controller shall transfer \$250,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Animal Welfare Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account for extraordinary costs related to animal seizures.

**PART T  
SUMMARY**

This Part provides one-time funding to assist with extraordinary costs related to animal seizures.

**PART U**

8-3\* See attached  
memo for minority  
report -

**Sec. U-1. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Forest Resource Management.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2025, the State Controller shall transfer \$2,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Forest Resource Management, Other Special Revenue Funds account to provide one-time funding to address the management and early intervention of Spruce Budworm.

**PART U  
SUMMARY**

This Part provides one-time funding to address the early intervention and management of Spruce Budworm in Maine.