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General Fund Appropriation for FY 2026 = \$8,165,236

General Fund Appropriation Request for FY 2027 = \$8,265,236 (\$100,000 increase or 1.2%)
General Fund Appropriation Governor's Recommendation for FY 2027 = \$8,165,236

Overview: It is imperative to address increased and ongoing operations costs to ensure that Iowa PBS is able to meet its mission and deliver on its commitment to Iowans with 24/7 quality, educational television programming and emergency/public safety alerting as prioritized by FEMA through the Warning, Alert and Response Network (WARN) Act of 2006.

Justification for the request: Ongoing and increasing expenses to support Iowa PBS's 24/7 production, broadcast and streaming schedules include but are not limited to:

- Iowa PBS fleet expenses: the cost of replacement parts, repairs and regular vehicle maintenance increased more than \$9,000 from FY 2024 to FY 2025.
- The cost of auto insurance covering the Iowa PBS mobile unit more than doubled between FY 2024 (\$16,000) and FY 2025 (\$38,000). We are projecting additional premium increases based on history and market trends. The mobile unit is essentially the television studio on wheels which allows Iowa PBS to produce live programming of high school sports championships, the Iowa State Fair parade and the annual Condition of the State, Guard and Judiciary speeches.
- Lease agreements for the network's broadcast tower sites have increased annually. Increases depend on negotiated/renewal contracts. Iowa PBS experienced an increase of \$10,000 in lease expenses between FY 2024 and FY 2025.
- The governor's FY 2025 Budget recommendations included an increase of \$98,404 to address increasing costs of utilities required to operate the statewide network's Johnston studios, its nine transmission sites and eight translator sites. The 91st General Assembly approved an appropriation increase of \$49,202 in FY 2025.

Background: Iowa PBS is committed to serving Iowans through the delivery of quality, innovative media and services that educate, inform, enrich and inspire Iowans. The statewide network's 24/7 broadcast schedule provides four distinct programming channels providing an educational, inspirational and entertaining alternative to standard commercial services to our state's families and lifelong learners, no matter where they live or what they can afford:

- .1 Iowa PBS
- .2 PBS KIDS
- .3 WORLD
- .4 Create

In addition to our statewide broadcasts, Iowa PBS, WORLD and Create are available to livestream on iowapbs.org/live, pbs.org/livestream, and the PBS app for free. Iowa PBS KIDS is available to livestream on iowapbs.org/live or the PBS KIDS app, also for free. Iowa PBS programs are also available on most popular viewing platforms.

For the past 22 years, PBS has been ranked by parents as the most trusted national media brand relied upon for school readiness. Research also confirms that PBS KIDS 24/7 educational programming helps children build critical skills that enable them to find success in school and in life.