

Sedgwick County Zoo

Mission: Sedgwick County Zoo - Inspiring respect and conservation of wildlife and wild places.

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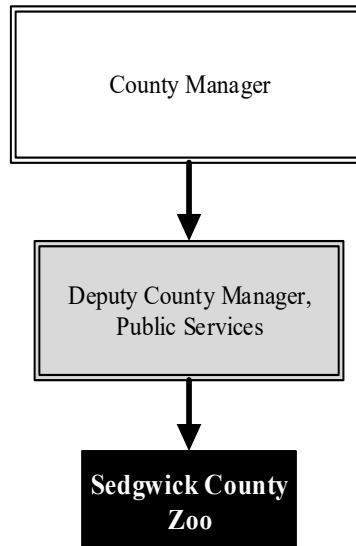
Overview

The Zoo is funded through a unique partnership between Sedgwick County government and the Sedgwick County Zoological Society, Inc. and is formalized through a 50-year operating agreement between the two. The Society operates the Zoo, sets membership and entrance fees and uses the revenue to pay most Zoo operating costs, determines what exhibits will be offered, and obtains funding to pay for new facilities. The County owns and insures the facilities. The County also provides funding for all County employees who work for the Zoo and funds half of the annual budgeted capital improvement project expenditures.

The 224-acre Sedgwick County Zoo (SCZ) opened in 1971 and has been ranked among the best zoos in the world. Displaying more than 3,000 animals of nearly 400 species, the Zoo is the number one outdoor tourist attraction in Kansas.

Highlights

- Rescued two orphaned bear cubs after their mother was killed in the Oregon wilderness and welcomed them to their permanent home at SCZ
- Participated in the successful release of Guam kingfishers, or Sihek, on Palmyra Atoll. This marks the first time the birds have been in the wild since the 1980's
- Launched participation in the Museums for All program, offering discounted admission to those who receive government benefits
- Zoo volunteers contributed 23,164 hours, equal to 11.0 Full-time Equivalents (FTE)



Strategic Goals:

- *Be the pride of the community and the best zoo possible by maximizing the collective commitment and available resources of the County*
- *Meet the projected attendance goal for 2026*
- *Meet the projected per capita goal in lines of revenue, expenses, and membership sales for 2026*
- *Complete fundraising and construction of Elephant Family Boma*



Accomplishments and Strategic Results

Accomplishments

The SCZ has been recognized with national and international awards for support of field conservation programs and successful breeding of rare and endangered species. The Zoo has the 13th largest animal collection in all North American Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) facilities. The collection includes the 13th largest of both species and specimens, including amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

The Zoo offers education programs for all ages, sponsors special events for the public, accommodates after-hour rentals for corporate events, and provides volunteer opportunities for more than 800 individuals. In addition to recreational opportunities, SCZ is dedicated to the conservation of natural heritage and is active in the preservation of both zoo and wild animals.

Strategic Results

Strategic results for the SCZ included the following measures in 2024:

- The SCZ had 649,284 visitors in 2024, which exceeded the estimated attendance of 560,000 visitors;
- The SCZ was able to maintain its status as the number one tourist attraction in the State of Kansas, having greater attendance numbers than any other attraction in the State according to Kansas Tourism;
- In its fourth year, Wild Lights welcomed 82,286 guests to SCZ;
- 51,556 Kansans enjoyed free admission to SCZ through the Sunflower Summer Program; and
- Education programs reached 129,941 on-site contacts and 7,582 through remote programs.

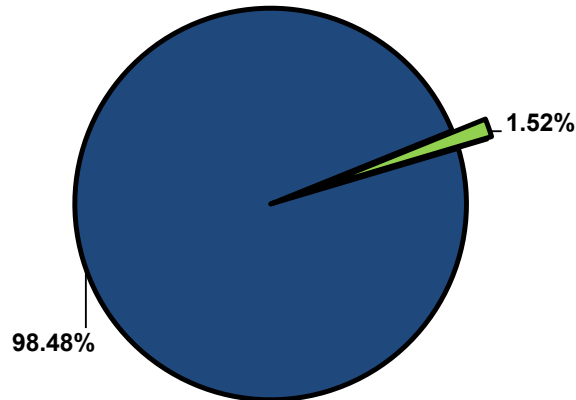


Significant Budget Adjustments

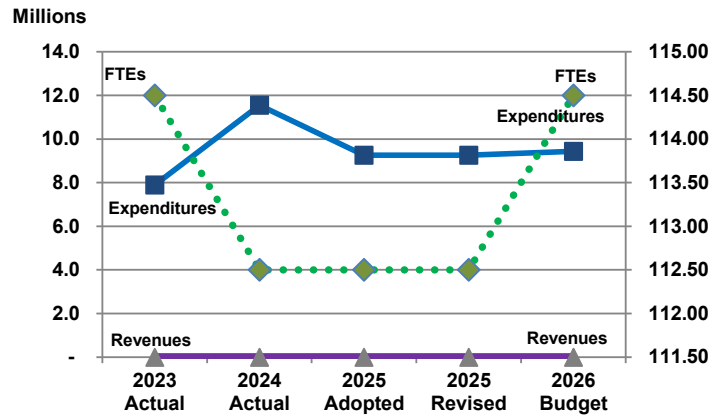
Significant adjustments to the Sedgwick County Zoo's 2026 budget include an increase in personnel (\$147,846) due to the addition of 2.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) Zookeeper positions

Departmental Graphical Summary

Sedgwick County Zoo
Percent of Total County Operating Budget



Expenditures, Program Revenue & FTEs
All Operating Funds



Budget Summary by Category

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Adopted	2025 Revised	2026 Budget	Amount Chg '25 Rev.-'26	% Chg '25 Rev.-'26
Expenditures							
Personnel	7,492,126	8,646,820	9,104,568	9,104,568	9,289,192	184,624	2.03%
Contractual Services	400,000	2,900,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	-	0.00%
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interfund Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	7,892,126	11,546,820	9,254,568	9,254,568	9,439,192	184,624	1.99%
Revenues							
Tax Revenues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Licenses and Permits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charges for Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Other Revenue	-	60	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	-	60	-	-	-	-	-
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)							
Property Tax Funded	114.50	112.50	112.50	112.50	114.50	2.00	1.78%
Non-Property Tax Funded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total FTEs	114.50	112.50	112.50	112.50	114.50	2.00	1.78%

Budget Summary by Fund

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Adopted	2025 Revised	2026 Budget	Amount Chg '25 Rev.-'26	% Chg '25 Rev.-'26
Fund							
General Fund	7,892,126	11,546,820	9,254,568	9,254,568	9,439,192	184,624	1.99%
Total Expenditures	7,892,126	11,546,820	9,254,568	9,254,568	9,439,192	184,624	1.99%

Increase in personnel due to the addition of 2.0 FTE Zookeeper positions

Expenditures	Revenues	FTEs
147,846		2.00

Total	147,846	-	2.00
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Program	Fund	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Adopted	2025 Revised	2026 Budget	% Chg '25 Rev.-'26	25'-26' FTEs
Sedgwick County Zoo	110	7,892,126	11,546,820	9,254,568	9,254,568	9,439,192	1.99%	114.50
Total		7,892,126	11,546,820	9,254,568	9,254,568	9,439,192	1.99%	114.50

Personnel Summary by Fund

Position Titles	Fund	Grade	Budgeted Compensation Comparison			FTE Comparison		
			2025 Adopted	2025 Revised	2026 Budget	2025 Adopted	2025 Revised	2026 Budget
Zoo President & CEO	110	CONTRACT	157,716	165,602	165,602	1.00	1.00	1.00
Zoo Operations Manager	110	GRADE 71	117,423	123,294	123,294	1.00	1.00	1.00
Zoo Chief Operating Officer	110	GRADE 71	111,804	117,379	117,379	1.00	1.00	1.00
Director of Animal Health	110	GRADE 72	99,094	104,049	104,049	1.00	1.00	1.00
Associate Veterinarian	110	GRADE 70	173,082	180,213	180,213	2.00	2.00	2.00
Curator	110	GRADE 63	454,774	474,700	474,700	6.00	6.00	6.00
Horticulture Supervisor	110	GRADE 59	70,283	73,778	73,778	1.00	1.00	1.00
Zoological Manager	110	GRADE 59	676,005	693,971	693,971	11.00	11.00	11.00
Senior Administrative Officer	110	GRADE 59	53,067	55,723	55,723	1.00	1.00	1.00
Zoo Construction-Maint. Mgr.	110	GRADE 59	51,183	53,747	53,747	1.00	1.00	1.00
Tropical Gardener	110	GRADE 53	51,033	53,581	53,581	1.00	1.00	1.00
Graphic Artist	110	GRADE 56	104,358	106,267	106,267	2.00	2.00	2.00
Veterinary Technician	110	GRADE 57	146,163	153,504	153,504	3.00	3.00	3.00
Zookeeper	110	GRADE 56	2,466,329	2,565,909	2,651,231	50.00	50.00	52.00
Zoo Registrar	110	GRADE 56	48,033	50,419	50,419	1.00	1.00	1.00
Zoo Construction-Maint. Tech.	110	GRADE 57	433,601	449,446	449,446	9.00	9.00	9.00
PT Veterinary Technician	110	EXCEPT	23,770	24,960	24,960	0.50	0.50	0.50
Horticulturist	110	GRADE 53	339,189	349,523	349,523	8.00	8.00	8.00
PT Zookeeper	110	GRADE 56	309,211	302,222	302,222	7.00	7.00	7.00
Education Specialist	110	GRADE 54	39,441	41,413	41,413	1.00	1.00	1.00
PT Horticulturist	110	EXCEPT	75,938	79,737	79,737	2.00	2.00	2.00
Administrative Support II	110	GRADE 52	79,591	73,674	73,674	2.00	2.00	2.00
Subtotal					6,378,431			
Add:								
Budgeted Personnel Savings					-			
Compensation Adjustments					341,153			
Overtime/On Call/Holiday Pay					-			
Benefits					2,569,608			
Total Personnel Budget					9,289,192	112.50	112.50	114.50