

Sedgwick County Zoo

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

Scott Newland
President/CEO

5555 Zoo Blvd.
Wichita, KS 67212
316.660.9453

scott.newland@scz.org

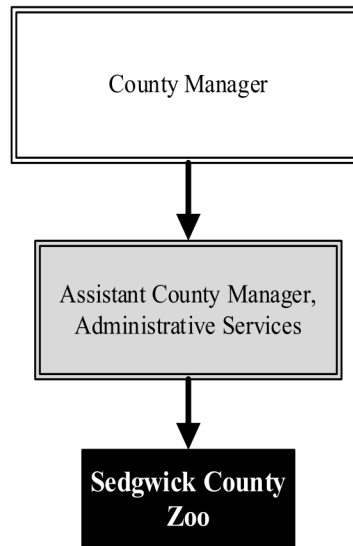
Overview

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 the 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

The Sedgwick County Zoo had the following goals and results in 2025:

The Sedgwick County Zoo aimed to have 680,000 visitors in 2025, and exceeded that goal with 702,401 visitors. They also aimed 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, which the Sedgwick County Zoo was able to accomplish.

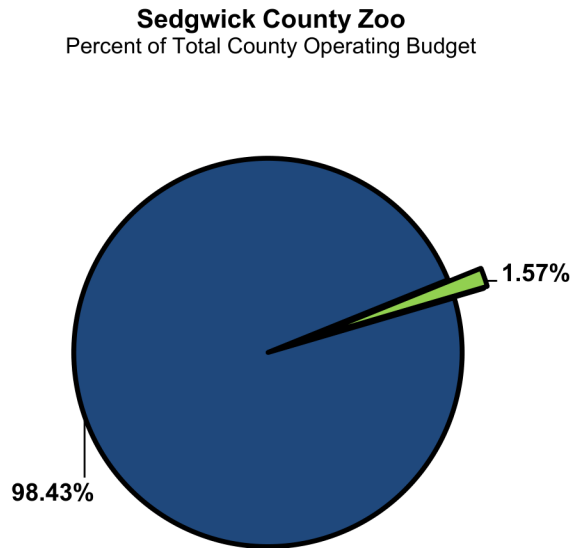
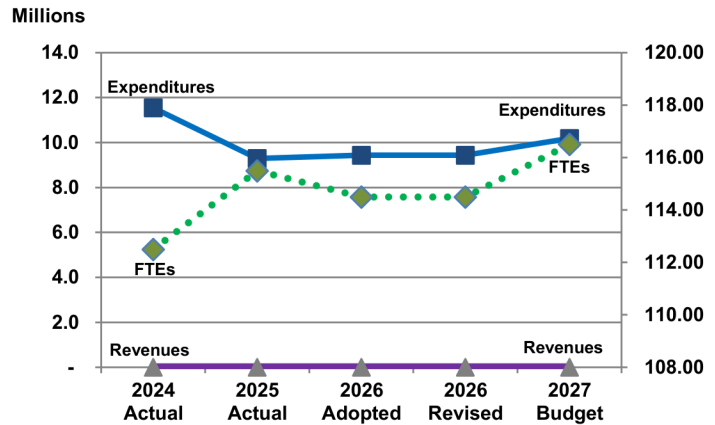
The Sedgwick County Zoo also aimed to deliver quality education programming and maximize student participation. Education programs reached 18,582 on-site contacts and 4,417 people through remote programs.



Significant Budget Adjustments

Significant adjustments to the Sedgwick County Zoo's 2027 Recommended Budget include an increase in contractals (\$250,000) for capital improvement program (CIP) projects and an increase in personnel (\$152,355) due to the addition of 2.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) Zookeeper positions.

Departmental Graphical Summary

Expenditures, Program Revenue & FTEs
All Operating Funds

Budget Summary by Category

	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget	Amount Chg '26 Rev.-'27	% Chg '26 Rev.-'27
Expenditures							
Personnel	8,646,820	9,142,285	9,289,192	9,289,192	9,780,740	491,548	5.29%
Contractual Services	2,900,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	400,000	250,000	166.67%
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interfund Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	11,546,820	9,292,285	9,439,192	9,439,192	10,180,740	741,548	7.86%
Revenues							
Tax Revenues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Licenses and Permits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charges for Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Other Revenue	60	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	60	-	-	-	-	-	-
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)							
Property Tax Funded	112.50	115.50	114.50	114.50	116.50	2.00	1.75%
Non-Property Tax Funded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total FTEs	112.50	115.50	114.50	114.50	116.50	2.00	1.75%

Budget Summary by Fund

Fund	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget	Amount Chg '26 Rev.-'27	% Chg '26 Rev.-'27
General Fund	11,546,820	9,292,285	9,439,192	9,439,192	10,180,740	741,548	7.86%
Total Expenditures	11,546,820	9,292,285	9,439,192	9,439,192	10,180,740	741,548	7.86%

Significant Budget Adjustments from Prior Year Revised Budget

	Expenditures	Revenues	FTEs
Increase in contractuals for CIP projects	250,000		
Increase in personnel due to the addition of 2.0 FTE Zookeeper positions	152,355		

Total 402,355 - -

Budget Summary by Program

Program	Fund	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget	% Chg '26 Rev.-'27	26'-27' FTEs
Sedgwick County Zoo	110	11,546,820	9,292,285	9,439,192	9,439,192	10,180,740	7.86%	116.50
Total		11,546,820	9,292,285	9,439,192	9,439,192	10,180,740	7.86%	116.50

Personnel Summary by Fund

Position Titles	Fund	Grade	Budgeted Compensation Comparison			FTE Comparison		
			2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget	2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Budget
Zoo President & CEO	110	CONTRACT	165,602	172,226	172,226	1.00	1.00	1.00
Zoo Operations Manager	110	GRADE 71	123,294	128,225	128,225	1.00	1.00	1.00
Zoo Chief Operating Officer	110	GRADE 71	117,379	122,062	122,062	1.00	1.00	1.00
Director of Animal Health	110	GRADE 72	104,049	108,210	108,210	1.00	1.00	1.00
Associate Veterinarian	110	GRADE 70	180,213	187,421	187,421	2.00	2.00	2.00
Curator	110	GRADE 63	474,700	462,829	462,829	6.00	6.00	6.00
Horticulture Supervisor	110	GRADE 59	73,778	76,710	76,710	1.00	1.00	1.00
Zoological Manager	110	GRADE 59	693,971	668,533	668,533	11.00	11.00	11.00
Senior Administrative Officer	110	GRADE 59	55,723	57,949	57,949	1.00	1.00	1.00
Zoo Construction-Maint. Mgr.	110	GRADE 59	53,747	55,890	55,890	1.00	1.00	1.00
Tropical Gardener	110	GRADE 53	53,581	55,723	55,723	1.00	1.00	1.00
Graphic Artist	110	GRADE 56	106,267	110,510	110,510	2.00	2.00	2.00
Veterinary Technician	110	GRADE 57	153,504	159,640	159,640	3.00	3.00	3.00
Zoo Registrar	110	GRADE 56	50,419	52,437	52,437	1.00	1.00	1.00
PT Veterinary Technician	110	EXCEPT	24,960	25,958	25,958	0.50	0.50	0.50
Zookeeper	110	GRADE 56	2,692,644	2,738,026	2,824,220	53.00	53.00	55.00
Zoo Construction-Maint. Tech.	110	GRADE 57	449,446	459,222	459,222	9.00	9.00	9.00
PT Zookeeper	110	GRADE 56	302,222	321,588	321,588	7.00	7.00	7.00
Horticulturist	110	GRADE 53	349,523	362,024	362,024	8.00	8.00	8.00
PT Horticulturist	110	EXCEPT	79,737	79,342	79,342	2.00	2.00	2.00
Administrative Support II	110	GRADE 52	73,674	75,525	75,525	2.00	2.00	2.00
Subtotal					6,566,245			
Add:								
Budgeted Personnel Savings					-			
Compensation Adjustments					285,469			
Overtime/On Call/Holiday Pay					-			
Benefits					2,929,025			
Total Personnel Budget					9,780,740	114.50	114.50	116.50