

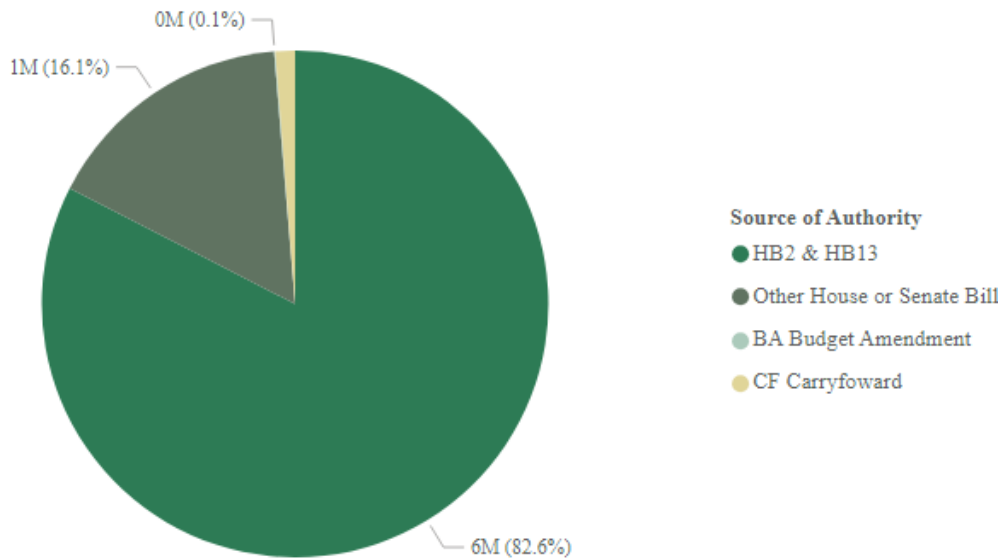
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

(Spending report July 1 through November 30, 2023)

TOTAL APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY

The total appropriation authority for the Public Service Commission is shown in the pie chart below. HB 2 and HB 13 provide 82.6% of the total authority for this agency. All types of appropriation authority for this agency are described below, including total budget and the percent expended by source of authority.

Total Modified Budget by Source of Authority



% Expended, Percent Expended Graphic, Modified Budget, Expended ...

BY SOURCE OF AUTHORITY

Source of Authority	Modified Budget	Expended Budget	% Expended
Other House or Senate Bill	1,082,000	480,001	44.4%
CF Carryforward	83,675	0	0.0%
BA Budget Amendment	5,503	0	0.0%
HB2 & HB13	5,541,368	1,901,570	34.3%
Total	6,712,546	2,381,571	35.5%

Budget Amendments

The Public Service Commission (PSC) continued \$5,503 in federal budget amendment authority into FY 2024 for the inspection of underground natural gas storage facilities. No expenditures were made from this funding which has expired as of September 30, 2023.

Other House and Senate Bill Authority

House bill 10 provides authority for the REDDI software modernization project. \$1.082 million has been authorized for this project this year, and \$179,000 has been spent. REDDI has “incrementally replace[d] EDDI to support the entire range of Commission business including Public Participation, Docket Management, Rate Cases, Cost Trackers, Investigations, Rulemaking Proceedings, Legislative Tracking, Licensing & Registration, Annual Reports, Consumer Assistance, Railway and Pipeline Inspections, Litigation Management, Online Payments, and related document processing, data management, and security.”¹

Carryforward

The PSC has \$83,675 in carryforward authority in FY 2024. The carryforward authority includes \$25,000 personal services authority, and \$58,675 operating expenses funding. No expenditures have been made from carryforward authority through November 2023.

HB 2 BUDGET MODIFICATIONS

The following chart shows the HB 2 budget as passed by the legislature, including the pay plan, and the HB 2 modified budget from July 1, 2023 through November 30, 2023. Net modifications to the budget include operating plan , changes from one expenditure account to another, program transfers, reorganizations, and agency transfers of authority. The **positive modifications** and **negative modifications** are shown by program, expenditure account, and fund type.

Legislative Budget Compared to Modified Budget - HB 2 and HB 13

Net Modifications, Modified Budget, Legislative Budget, Modifications Graphic, Starting Budget, Prior Period Modifications

BY ACCT & LVL 1 DESC

Acct & Lvl 1 DESC	Starting Budget	Prior Period Modifications	Legislative Budget	Net Modifications	Modified Budget
61000 Personal Services	4,156,998		4,156,998		4,156,998
62000 Operating Expenses	1,079,994		1,079,994		1,079,994
69000 Debt Service	304,376		304,376		304,376

¹ <https://psc.mt.gov/News/news-article1>

Net Modifications, Modified Budget, Legislative Budget, Modifications Graphic, Starting Budget, Prior Period Modifications

BY FUND TYPE

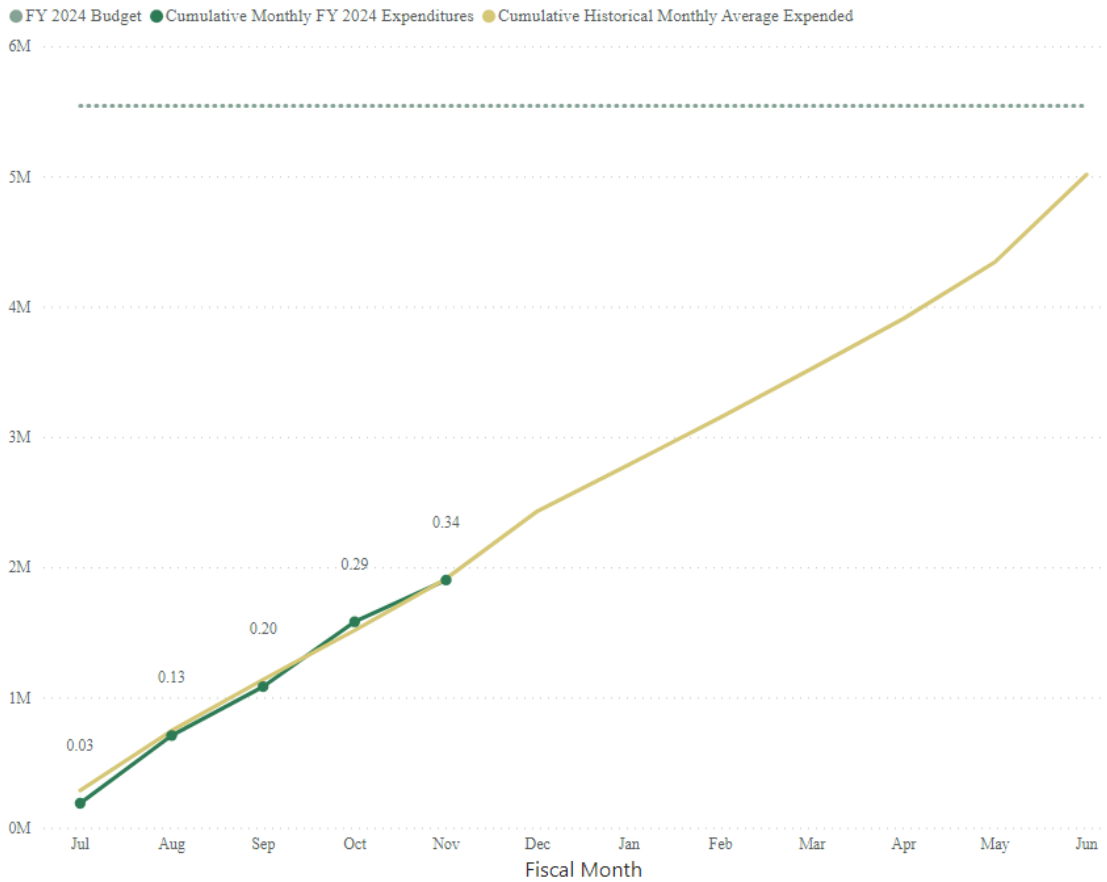
Fund Type	Starting Budget	Prior Period Modifications	Legislative Budget	Net Modifications	Modified Budget
02 State/Other Spec Rev	5,267,608		5,267,608		5,267,608
03 Fed/Other Spec Rev	273,760		273,760		273,760

As seen in the figures above, the PSC has made no modifications to the HB 2 budget through November of FY 2024.

HB 2 APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY

The following chart shows the appropriated budget for the agency compared to expenditures through November 30, 2023.

Monthly Expenditures Compared to Historical Average



Expended Budget and Remaining Budget by Fund Type - HB 2 Only

Fund Type	Modified Budget	Expended Budget	% Expended
02 State/Other Spec Rev	5,267,608	1,901,570	36.1%
03 Fed/Other Spec Rev	273,760	0	0.0%
Total	5,541,368	1,901,570	34.3%

Modified Budget, Expended Budget, % Expended

BY EXPENDITURE TYPE

Expenditure Type	Modified Budget	Expended Budget	% Expended
Personal Services	4,156,998	1,484,429	35.7%
Operating Expenses	1,079,994	312,817	29.0%
Debt Service	304,376	104,325	34.3%
Total	5,541,368	1,901,570	34.3%

Modified Budget, Expended Budget, % Expended

BY PROGRAM NAME

Program Name	Modified Budget	Expended Budget	% Expended
01 PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION PROG	5,541,368	1,901,570	34.3%
Total	5,541,368	1,901,570	34.3%

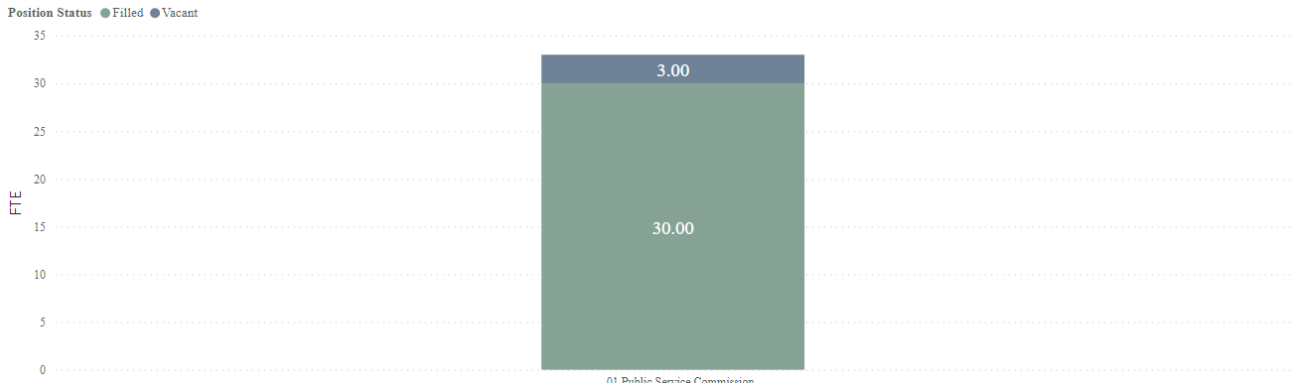
The Public Services Commission expended 34.3% of its \$5.5 million modified budget through November 30, 2023. This is very close to the five-year Olympic average. (The Olympic average is the average of the percent expended for the most recently completed seven years with the exclusion of the highest and lowest numbers during this time period.)

The PSC was provided restricted one-time-only authority of \$80,225 for retirement payouts, which has not been spent as the expected retirements have not yet occurred. The appropriation is biennial and can be spent in either fiscal year.

The biennial authority for the Software Modernization Project (REDDI) has been expended at 83.8% of the original appropriation of \$170,000. In FY 2024, the appropriation includes only licensing fees, and not implementation costs

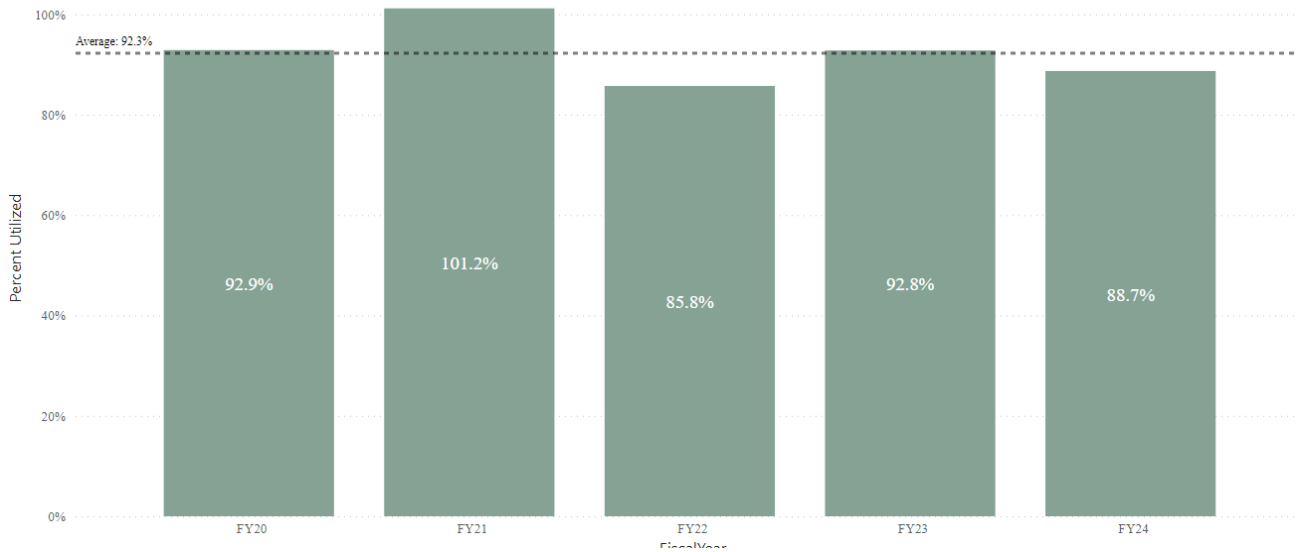
Personal Services

The following chart shows the filled and vacant FTE within the agency as of November 1, 2023.



In FY 2024, the PSC is budgeted for 38.00 FTE within HB 2, including 5.00 elected positions. The PSC had 30.00 FTE positions filled with 3.00 positions vacant as of November 1, 2023. These positions can be seen in the table provided further down in the report.

The chart below shows the hourly utilization percentage for the PSC between July 1 and November 1 for each fiscal year. Overall, the department has utilized 88.7% of the hours budgeted for FY 2024, as shown in the chart below, which is close to the previous five-year average of 92.3%.



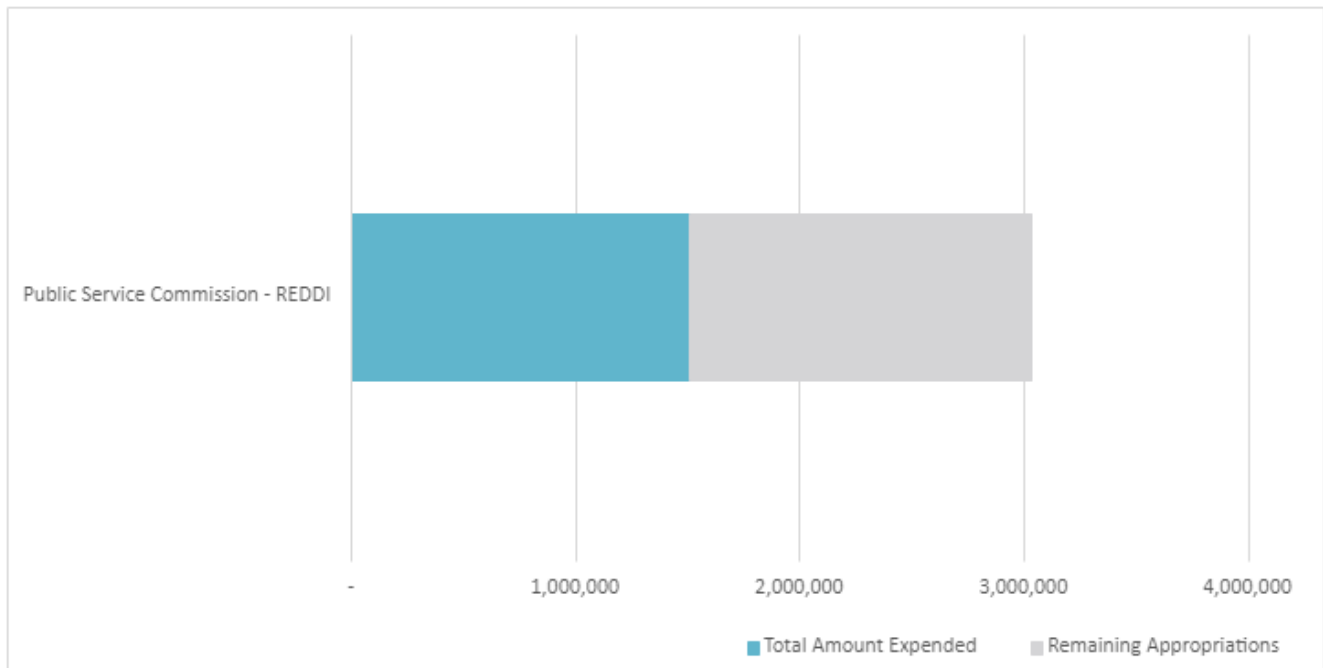
The chart below shows the vacant FTE in the PSC, the number of months each position has been vacant, and the midpoint hourly pay rate. The PSC’s vacant positions have a median months vacant of 3. The personal staff positions have been open since mid-spring, with one expected to be filled soon. PSC has experienced turnover in two positions so far in FY 2024 with one position retiring, and the other position transferring to a new agency within state government.

Vacant Positions Report

	FTE	Median Months Vacant	Market Midpoint (Hourly)
42010 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION	3.00	4.03	
01 Public Service Commission	3.00	4.03	
Lawyer 2	1.00	4.03	55.14
Personal Staff/EO-Admin	2.00	6.56	
Total	3.00	4.03	

OTHER ISSUES

Information Technology Project Expenditures



The REDDI project is 80.0% complete, and \$1.5 million of the \$3.0 million revised budget has been spent. The revised delivery date is December 31, 2023. The original delivery date was September 1, 2023 and the original budgeted amount was \$2.3 million. The final budget of \$3.0 million is after factoring in configuration, project management, SITSD fees, and licensing costs through FY 2025.

The REDDI project assesses the agency’s software needs and manages the procurement and implementation of a new and/or enhanced software solution to fulfill the agency’s technology needs for case management, data management, and customer relations.

Large Information Technology Projects Original and Revised Budgets			
Project	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Change from Original Budget
Public Service Commission - REDDI	2,305,314	3,032,282	726,968

ADDENDUM: CONTRACTORS

No contractors were paid as a result of staff vacancies in FY 2023. However, temporary employees (up to one year) were hired to assist with existing workloads, including IT support, document processing, and compliance and customer service. The cost of these temporary hires from July 1 through the pay period ending November 3rd was \$34,757 in salaries and benefits. The IT Support position (\$11,740) was hired to assist with workload related to the REDDI project until the new IT Analyst position was hired.

One employee worked exempt (from FLSA) compensatory (comp) time of 110.50 hours because of a vacancy and during training of the new employee. The approximate salary cost of these hours is \$3,552.

Other exempt staff worked an additional 351 hours because of workload requirements for an approximate salary cost of \$16,530.

Nonexempt (from FLSA) staff also worked additional hours because of workload requirements. These employees earned 60.75 hours of nonexempt comp time for an approximate salary cost of \$2,032. Compensatory time was elected by the employees, rather than overtime.