



*Sedgwick County...*  
*working for you*

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## Division of Finance

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Chief Financial Officer

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Chair Thompson and members of the Committee.

As Chief Financial Officer for Sedgwick County Government, I would like to submit testimony on behalf of Sedgwick County in support of HB 2676.

1. Related to Section 1 - State budget law permits counties to create funds only with statutory authority. At this time, no statute exists that allows counties to create a fund for code inspection or enforcement. In Sedgwick County, we have a merged code department with the City of Wichita. This allows for greater efficiencies through shared functions and provides better customer service for citizens. However, finances must be handled through the County's General Fund, which shares operations with dozens of other departments. This creates unnecessary complexity in reporting to builders and others who are invested in the operations of the department. Creating a separate fund will provide much greater transparency and add simplicity to reporting to the public.
2. Related to Section 2 – The statute creating an equipment reserve fund, K.S.A. 19-119, was created in 1987 and has not been amended since that time. Since then, technology has obviously evolved significantly. Under current law, only certain software and hardware costs are allowable. With advancements in technology and shifts to cloud technology, an update to the uses of the equipment reserve fund would be beneficial to counties in planning and managing technology implementation and upgrades. It would permit counties to set aside designated funds and implement department user fees to plan for such expenses over a replacement schedule. In addition, we have seen that some larger technology projects can take years to develop and implement, similar to traditional capital projects. This bill would allow for such projects to be treated similarly to capital projects under current State budget law.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.