

# HOUSE BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

## Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2023 Regular Session

February 23, 2023

### Call to Order and Roll Call

The third meeting of the House Budget Review Subcommittee on General Government was held on February 23, 2023, at 12:00 PM in Room 171 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Chris Freeland, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

### Present were:

Members: Representative Chris Freeland, Chair

Guests: John Hicks, State Budget Director, OSBD; Jeremy Slinker, Division Director, Department of Military Affairs; Stephanie Robey, Assistant Director, Department of Military Affairs

LRC Staff: Joseph Holt, Emma Mills, and Jennifer Luttrell

### Approval of Minutes - February 9, 2023 & February 16, 2023

The approval of the February 9 and February 16, 2023, minutes was moved to the next meeting due to the quorum not being met.

### East Kentucky State Aid Funding for Emergencies (EKSAFE) and West Kentucky State Aid Funding for Emergencies (WKSAFE)

John Hicks, State Budget Director, Office of State Budget Director, Jeremy Slinker, Division Director, and Stephanie Robey, Assistant Director, Department of Military Affairs, provided information on the EKSAFE and WKSAFE programs.

In response to questions from Chair Freeland, Mr. Slinker replied that the FEMA wait time had improved. Mr. Hicks added that there were only a few denials and that the state is working with victims to meet requirements to receive funds. Mr. Slinker stated that there are 208 families in travel trailers, two in hotels, and five in state parks as part of the state's sheltering program. FEMA has several families in its direct housing program in eastern Kentucky. Disaster Case Managers are working with 13 families in western Kentucky to navigate the process to permanent housing. Mr. Hicks said the state is also working with landowners and eastern Kentucky community leaders to identify High Ground Sites. The state is issuing an RFP for a program manager to coordinate the development of neighborhoods along with philanthropists' donations of land and home building in a public-private partnership. Ms. Robey added that there are many projects for which FEMA has not determined eligibility. It will be several months before the state knows how much funds it will have to come up with for the victims. Mr. Hicks agreed that an extension is needed to utilize the funds in eastern Kentucky as it was extended in western Kentucky. The Transportation Cabinet was awarded \$6.1 million for 81 county bridges seeking contracts, in process, or completed.

### Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM.

