

Business Plan

2023-24

WATER SECURITY AGENCY

Saskatchewan! 

Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Jeremy Cockrill
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water Security Agency*

I am pleased to present the Water Security Agency's (WSA) Business Plan for 2023-24.

In 2023-24, WSA continues to focus on ensuring Saskatchewan's water resources support *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan for the Next Decade of Growth 2020-2030*. WSA provides safe, reliable water that drives economic growth through management of the province's vital water supplies.

WSA continues to focus on improving programs and services to better serve the citizens of Saskatchewan. In 2022-23, WSA created new units to support economic development and improve client services. This year, these units will work with clients to explore new opportunities to contribute to *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan for the Next Decade of Growth 2020-2030*.

Damage from floods is one of the costliest impacts from natural disasters in the province. As part of its mandate, WSA is the lead agency on flood mitigation for the province. This year, WSA will continue to protect communities through the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program. This program works with at-risk communities to identify and map local flood risks. The data gathered from these studies helps local communities build mitigation plans to keep their homes and livelihoods safe.

As the agency responsible for 72 dams and other control structures across Saskatchewan, WSA has invaluable experience in operating, maintaining, and building water infrastructure. As such, WSA will be launching a pilot program to work with owners of infrastructure that either cross WSA-owned canals, or that cross channels downstream of WSA dams. This program will provide cost-sharing resources to ensure they meet the needs of their owners and are safe.

In addition to working with 3rd parties on their water infrastructure, WSA continues to invest in the safe operation and ongoing upkeep of province-owned dams and control structures. This year, WSA will continue to make significant capital investments for infrastructure and irrigation across Saskatchewan.

The Water Security Agency will report on progress towards the targets laid out in this plan, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2023-24 Annual Report.



2023-24 Budget Highlights

1	\$40 million for water infrastructure rehabilitation to ensure a safe and reliable water supply to support a growing population and economy.
2	\$32 million to support irrigation development contributing to the economic, and food security goals of <i>Saskatchewan's Growth Plan</i> .
3	\$10 million for Grant Devine Dam to ensure continued flood management and safe operations of the dam.
4	\$2 million to expedite flood plain mapping to mitigate community flood risk, resulting in cost savings to citizens, local businesses and the province.
5	\$0.5 million towards cost-share upgrades on non-WSA bridges and culverts in order to mitigate their effect on water structure operations.

Government Vision and Goals

Saskatchewan's Vision

“...to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life.”

>> Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

Saskatchewan's vision and three goals provide the strategic direction for organizations to align their programs and services to build a strong Saskatchewan.

All organizations will report on progress in their 2023-24 annual reports.

Water Security Agency Overview

Mandate

The Water Security Agency is responsible for managing the water supply, protecting water quality, ensuring safe drinking water, managing dams and water supply channels, reducing flood and drought damage and providing information on water. The Agency works to integrate all aspects of provincial water management to ensure water supplies support economic growth, quality of life and environmental well-being.

Mission

To manage water resources for a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people.

Vision

To be the best water management agency in North America providing safe, reliable water that drives economic growth.

Core Values

Respect and Integrity

Serving Citizens

Excellence and
Innovation

One team

Goal 1: Saskatchewan's Water Infrastructure Drives Growth

WSA plays a central role in supporting *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan for the Next Decade of Growth* through its mandate to responsibly and sustainably manage our water resources to enhance and expand economic growth, improve quality of life, and enhance environmental well-being.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*
Ensure infrastructure meets the desired level of service

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Pilot a framework to prioritize infrastructure rehabilitation and maintenance

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*
Implement policies to promote using water as an economic driver

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Develop a policy framework to guide future policy development in the agency

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*
Use available water to expand irrigation capacity

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Complete the preliminary design of the Westside Rehabilitation and Expansion Project
- Expand new irrigation opportunities through continuous planning and development of small irrigation projects

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

- **Dam Infrastructure Risk Index** - a qualitative assessment of the overall condition of WSA dams and associated components.
- **Water Infrastructure Service Index** - a qualitative assessment of the ability of WSA water infrastructure to perform the services desired of them (such as convey water or store water).
- **Number of new Irrigation acres** - the number of new irrigation acres given approvals to irrigate.

Goal 2: Clean, Safe, Reliable Water that is Responsive to Change

Regardless of where we live or what we do, water is essential to life. We need it in our homes for drinking, cooking and bathing. We irrigate our gardens and fields. Water is essential to farmers, ranchers and many industries. Most of us spend at least some of our leisure time on water-based recreation, often along our majestic lakes and rivers. To support our growing population, economy, and quality of life, as the central water agency in Saskatchewan, WSA must take strong action to ensure clean, safe and reliable water.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Build Saskatchewan's capacity to be resilient to change

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Work with communities to identify communities at risk to droughts and flood; and support communities in developing drought and flood mitigation plans
- Develop options to address the impact of extreme weather events, such as flooding and drought
- Develop a hydrologic drought management plan

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Facilitate responsible drainage within resilient watersheds

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Complete Demonstration & Research projects and engage with stakeholders to inform development of the Agricultural Water Stewardship Policy
- Complete an independent review of third-party water management organizations, including Watershed Stewardship Groups, Conservation and Development Area Authorities, and Watershed Association Boards, and their respective membership associations to guide next steps to build capacity to support effective delivery of water management programming
- Develop and implement Agricultural Water Management service standards

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

- **Percentage of water treatment plants that meet or exceed minimum treatment standards** - minimum treatment standards help ensure clean, safe and reliable water for drinking purposes.
- **Percentage of sewage treatment plants that meet or exceed treatment standards and do not pose a risk to source waters.**
- **Municipalities with flood mapping completed.** This measures the number of communities in Saskatchewan identified as being at risk of flooding that have completed or have access to floodplain maps.

Goal 3: Service Excellence

Service excellence means we continually strive to meet or exceed client expectations. We take the time to listen and understand their needs and concerns and collaboratively work together to solve problems. We respond timely to all and any issues and have a positive attitude.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Develop and implement an integrated client service model

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Implement a client service model
- Develop an engagement strategy to involve stakeholders in program, policy, and service standard development
- Develop and implement a comprehensive marketing and communications strategy to promote programs and services, including digital and social media

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Develop a Business Continuity Plan

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Develop and implement a Business Continuity Management System

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

- **Client Satisfaction** - the per cent of clients satisfied or very satisfied with the service they receive from WSA.

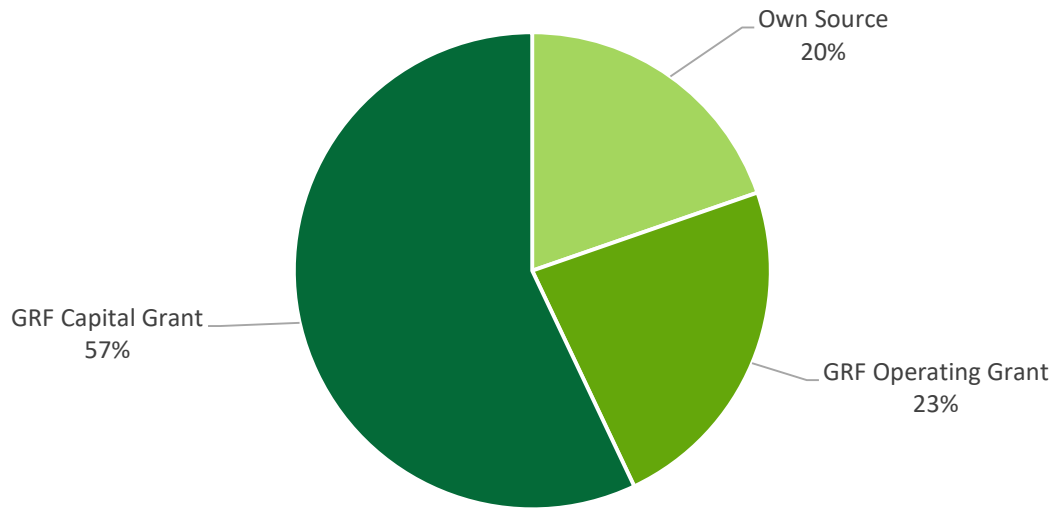
Financial Summary

Water Security Agency 2023-24 Budget		(in thousands of dollars)
Revenue Budget		
Own Source Revenue		\$25,253
GRF Operating Grant		\$29,877
GRF Capital Grant		\$73,153
Total Revenue Budget		\$128,283
Expense Budget		
Science & Licensing		\$15,134
Infrastructure		\$14,225
Agriculture Services & Economic Development		\$10,478
Finance		\$8,690
Corporate Services		\$4,220
President & CEO's Office		\$2,383
Amortization (non-cash)		\$9,661
Total Expense Budget		\$64,791
Capital Budget		
Capital Rehabilitation of Water Management Infrastructure		\$40,000
Irrigation		\$32,000
Grant Devine Dam Flood Passage Project		\$10,000
Total Capital Budget		\$82,000

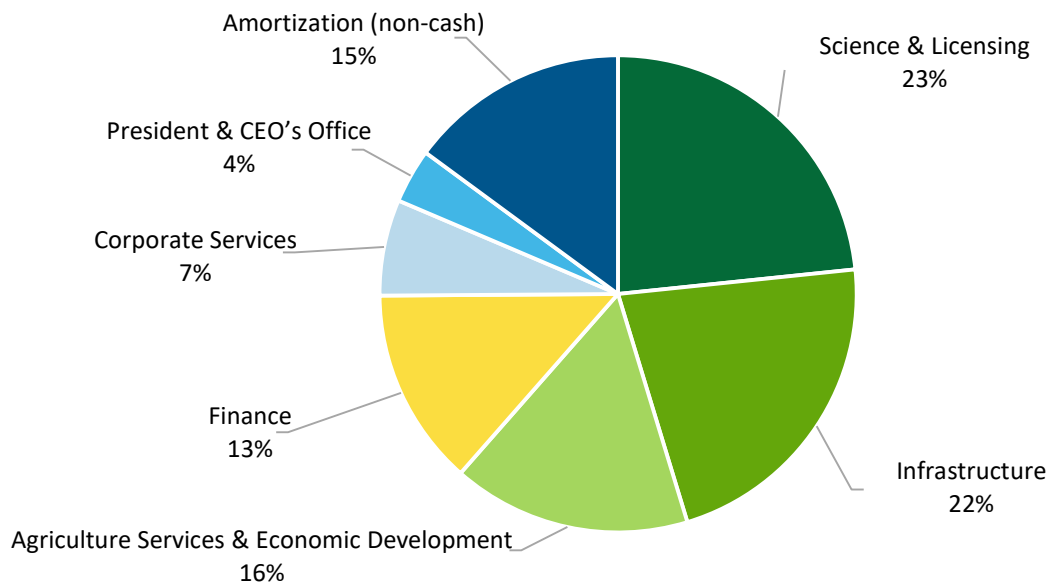
Links to More Information

- [Water Security Agency website](#)
- [Government of Saskatchewan Budget, Planning and Reporting](#)

2023-24 Revenue Budget



2023-24 Expense Budget



2023-24 Capital Budget

