

UTAH WASTE BOOK



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UTAH

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Americans For Prosperity-Utah has prepared this comprehensive list of wasteful spending in Utah.

Often, the decision to spend limited revenue on these projects comes not just at the expense of core services, but also at the expense of the larger goal of the projects themselves. When government grows too large and moves into a space where voluntary cooperation would work better than coercion, it hampers the ability of other institutions in society such as businesses, community groups, higher education to create value and meet the needs of individuals.

Utahns work hard for the tax dollars they send the state government and don't want their hard-earned money wasted on pet projects and frivolous handouts. In Utah's most recent budget, we discovered close to \$43.5 million in wasteful spending that you, the taxpayer, should know about so you can hold your elected officials accountable.

Why is this important? The millions of dollars for special interest hand-outs and boondoggles could be used for other pressing needs, such as roads, education, or social services – legislators could even decide to put it back in your pocket. But if wasteful spending keeps climbing, it won't be too long before we're staring at a tax increase. We hope this report will spur you to contact your state legislator and tell them to stop the wasteful spending!

This is the 2017 Utah Wastebook.

Source: <https://le.utah.gov/lfa/cobi/currentCobi/cobi.html?cobiID=1&tab=issuesTab>



ARTS, FAIRS, CELEBRATIONS & HISTORY PROJECTS....

While we all enjoy visiting a great museum, participating in a fun festival, and seeing great art, using taxpayer money to fund any of them is a misuse of scarce resources that could be put to better use. Too often, these kinds of expenditures go toward the pet projects of a powerful legislator or local governments. Instead, they should be privately funded through voluntary donations, sales, or grants from foundations and individuals who see value in them.

BETTER DAYS 2020

Appropriation will be leveraged to bring down private funds to allow Better Days 2020 to initiate a state-wide, multi-channel campaign to celebrate the significant suffrage anniversaries in 2020 — the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women across the country the right to vote, and the 150th anniversary of women's suffrage in the state of Utah.

\$200,000

CENTER POINT THEATER CAPITAL PROJECTS

Capital projects funding to expand theater offerings and customer experience, including: Handicapped entrance doors, sound system, structural improvements, barcode scanning ticketing, new phones, additional storage, stage reconstruction.

\$175,000

“MISSING STORIES” HISTORY PROJECT

Update, publish, and re-issue this publication, originally published by the University of Utah Press in 1996. Funding will also be used to provide a curriculum guide for K-12 Utah social studies teachers.

\$40,000

BEVERLY SORENSON ARTS LEARNING PROGRAM

Provides for program expansion. There is already a significant investment of tax dollars in education. These funds are in addition to the \$7B spent and go specifically to this non-profit. This program should be funded by private donors and sponsors.

\$1 million

ARTS SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

Grant program

\$250,000 (ongoing)

DISCOVERY GATEWAY CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Refurbish exhibits and onsite programming. This should be funded by private donors and ticket sales.

\$500,000

HALE CENTER THEATER

This money will be used to subsidize pay to contracted performers and other expenses.

\$100,000 (ongoing)

HILL AIR FORCE BASE AIR SHOW

Provide funding for staging the bi-annual air show at Hill Air Force Base. This event should be funded by private entity sponsors and ticket sales.

\$150,000

HILL AEROSPACE MUSEUM

Funding would be used each year for the Museum's greatest current needs.

\$175,000 (ongoing)

Arts, Fairs, Celebrations & History Projects....

DESERT STAR

Funds for building repair, payroll theater program.

\$100,000

GEORGE BEARD PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

Fund Springville art museum exhibit.

\$2,000

VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL

Architectural and engineering PLANS for a building.

\$100,000

DEPARTMENT OF HERITAGE & ARTS

Additional security for Rio Grande.

\$130,000 *(ongoing)*

STATE FAIR PARK

Funding for new arena.

\$10 million

FREEDOM FESTIVAL

Operational support.

\$100,000

CACHE VALLEY CENTER FOR ARTS

Logan Eccles theater improvements.

\$200,000

THE LEONARDO

Exhibit maintenance.

\$75,000

PERCENT FOR THE ARTS PROGRAM

Arts outreach.

\$1.3 million

DRAPER DAYS FESTIVAL

\$20,000

ODYSSEY DANCE COMPANY

\$100,000

TUACAHN THEATER

\$1.3 million

RESTORATION OF GRANTSVILLE DONNER REED MUSEUM

\$100,000

SALT LAKE COUNTY CHILDREN'S THEATER

\$20,000

UTAH LAKE COMMISSION LAKE FESTIVAL

\$10,000

UTAH MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

\$10,000

UTAH SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

\$150,000 *(ongoing)*



STUDIES, STUDIES AND MORE STUDIES....

It's not the proper role of government to fund scientific, feasibility, and economic studies that have no public value or public purpose, particularly when the beneficiaries are private entities. These studies should be funded by grants or individual donations from foundations and individuals who would derive value from the results of these studies.

CANNABINOID RESEARCH

12 annual board meetings and .01 FTE staff support

\$5,200 *(one time)*
\$20,600 *(ongoing)*

TECH COMMERCIALIZATION AND INNOVATION PROGRAM (TCIP)

Provides grant to small business to accelerate the commercialization of the innovative technologies. First 3 years \$250,000 used for STEM lab pilot, \$50,000 one time this year to pay for a life sciences study.

\$1.2 million *(ongoing)*

REIMBURSEMENT FOR NON-COMPETE STUDY

GOED, Salt Lake chamber, and industry commissioned a non-compete survey. Survey done by Cicero Group to address issue of non-compete contracts and their use and impact in various industries. Paid by GOED- legislature approved money to reimburse GOED.

\$50,000

INFERTILITY STUDY

Open an RFP for an infertility study to get an educated number of how many families are impacted by infertility, the cost of treatment and the impact on the economy of the state.

\$45,000

LIFE SCIENCE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Used by GOED to contract with Gardner Center at U of U for life science industry economic impact analysis

\$50,000

USTAR RESEARCH ON MEDICINAL MARIJUANA

Grant administered by USTAR to study the effects of medicinal marijuana.

\$500,000

INLAND PORT STUDY

Study the feasibility to bring an inland port to Utah. This should be funded by private companies who would benefit from an inland port.

\$150,000

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE

To fund a study.

\$10,000



THE GREAT OUTDOORS....

Utahns love spending time outdoors in the gorgeous landscapes of our state. But that doesn't mean taxpayers should have to foot the bill for programs and projects that should be supported by environmental groups and their private donors. State government should stick to providing basic services, such as utilities, predicated on user costs.

CENTER FOR EDUCATION, BUSINESS, AND THE ARTS IN KANE COUNTY

Trails and bike paths in the county. This should be funded by the county or through user fees.

\$200,000

AVIAN SANCTUARY AND PROTECTION

Funding will be used for ongoing operations for Avian Sanctuary & Protection Corporation that includes: facility maintenance, accounting services, facility upgrades, and program subsidies.

\$250,000 *(ongoing)*

BIG OUTDOOR EXPO

This is an expo that showcases all of Utah's many outdoor recreation opportunities from National Parks, to County attractions. This includes the skiing industry, hiking, biking, golfing, and hunting and fishing.

\$150,000

WILDLIFE EMERGENCY FEEDING

Extreme cold temperatures and elevated snow packs have led to the Division of Wildlife Services provide emergency feeding of the wildlife in certain areas.

\$800,000

UTAH OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT

Recreational infrastructure projects, creates the 'Hospitality and Tourism Management Career & Tech Education' pilot program under Utah State Board of Ed.

\$500,000

VIRGIN RIVER PROGRAM

Virgin River Threatened and Endangered Mitigation fund. This effort should be funded by environmental groups who operate by private donations.

\$100,000

LERAY MCALLISTER FUND

Trail creation, park creation, preservation, etc. Trails and parks are already funded by local cities and ZAP funds. Additional funding should come from private donations.

\$500,000

PUBLIC HUNTING ACCESS

Provide public access to state institutional trust lands. If the state already manages this land why do we need to spend \$1M to make sure the public can access it?

\$1 million *(ongoing)*

HEALTH AND WELLNESS....



Government already plays too big a role in health care, as we are discovering at the federal level. Health care should be patient-centered and market driven. The more government involvement, the higher the costs, lower quality of services, and fewer health care options.

ALCOHOL AMENDMENTS

To implement two alcohol education programs in the Public Education System.

\$385,000

ANESTHESIA COMPLICATIONS DATABASE

Creation/maintenance/analysis of a database to monitor death and acceleration of care associated with outpatient anesthesia use. This should be funded by hospitals or insurance companies.

\$100,000

ANTI-PORN INITIATIVE

This money went to the Utah Coalition Against Pornography (UCAP) to assist with the organization's operating costs and to host an anti-pornography convention.

\$50,000

GET HEALTHY UTAH/ UTAH HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Reducing obesity through healthy eating and active lifestyle.

\$250,000



IT'S FOR THE CHILDREN....

We all love children and want to see them succeed, but parents, schools, and local community groups are much better positioned to innovate and respond to the demand for enrichment programs. If we really want to help our children, we can leave them a strong state economy and a state government that lives within its means.

WEBER SCHOOL DISTRICT ROY CONE PROGRAM

Originally appropriated \$250,000 one time in 2014, Governor's office of Management and Budget (GOMB) falsely assumed money was for a student counseling program requested by the Governor that session. The GOMB spent \$191,000 before being questioned by Weber School District about the location of the funds. Realizing the error, the GOMB gave the remainder of the appropriation, \$59,000 one time to the school district and asked the legislature for a supplemental appropriation to cover the remaining \$191,000 one time that was appropriated for the program.

\$191,000

BOYS/GIRLS STATE EVENT @ WEBER STATE

Funding for Boys State/Girls State Event at Weber State University. This is a week-long educational government experience setting up mock cities, counties, and state government.

\$50,000

EL SYSTEMA SALTY CRICKETS

After School program.

\$50,000

MULTICULTURAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

\$30,000

UTAH REFUGEE SCOUT PROGRAM

\$100,000

UTAH'S NEW LIFE SCIENCE DISCOVERY CENTER AT THANKSGIVING POINT

\$750,000

TEEN CHEF MASTERS

Teen Chef Masters is a cooking competition where students compete for a four-year scholarship to culinary school. Local chefs serve as the show host and chef mentors

\$250,000



PICKING WINNERS & LOSERS IN THE NON-PROFIT WORLD....

When the government uses our tax dollars to support certain non-profits over others, it is essentially issuing a government stamp of approval, which can sway potential donors away from other good causes. Non-profits should have to compete with each other for donations without the government getting in the way.

COLUMBUS HUB OF OPPORTUNITY

The hub of opportunity is a transit-oriented development that will provide a unique combination of integrated community living and employment for individuals with disabilities.

\$250,000

FOUNDATION FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (FIRM)

NGO, non-profit which advocates for State's rights and multiple use and sustained rights of public lands.

\$400,000

GO JANE GIVE

Helping individuals turn talents to interests into fundraisers for causes that matter.

\$12,000

HUMANITIES COUNCIL

Funding to expand ongoing support for the Humanities Council.

\$30,000 *(ongoing)*

DEBATE COMMISSION

Debate preparations.

\$65,000 *(per year)*

SALT LAKE CHAMBER EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

\$10,000

UNITED WAY 2-1-1 INFO & REFERRAL SYSTEM

\$650,000 *(ongoing)*

UNITED WAY OF OGDEN

\$50,000



THE WORLD OF SPORTS AND.... FILM?

Utahns enjoy a sporting event or good movie as much as anyone. But should lower income families who cannot afford the price of a ticket be subsidizing the leisure activities of others? Taxpayer dollars should be spent on those things that benefit everyone and fit within the proper role of government.

SPORTS COMMISSION

Rocky Mountain Golden Gloves

\$200,000 *(ongoing)*

UTAH SUMMER GAMES

\$50,000

INDEPENDENT WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE WORLDWIDE CHAMPIONSHIP WEEKEND

\$30,000

MOTION PICTURE INCENTIVE FUND

\$3 million

SALT LAKE CITY FILM CENTER

\$50,000

UTAH SPORTS HALL OF FAME

\$200,000

WEB.COM PROFESSIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

\$75,000 *(one time)*

\$50,600 *(ongoing)*

OLYMPIC VENUE CRITICAL REPAIRS & IMPROVEMENTS

\$500,000



PROMOTING “GOOD STUFF”....

Government should not be in the marketing and PR business for programs that benefit private companies or promote lifestyle choices. We should leave that to the businesses sector, churches, non-profits, and other non-governmental entities.

SUNDANCE & GOED COBRANDING

Allows the State of Utah to be a high level sponsor of the Sundance festival and allows the Life Elevated brand shown in many of the key backdrops of the festival.

\$500,000

UTAH'S OWN

Create consumer awareness of the importance of supporting the local food and agriculture industry.

\$75,000

ENERGY EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Educate the public on benefits of energy production in Utah.

\$50,000

LOCAL FOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

Setting up a local food advisory council.
(HB 121)

\$28,800 *(ongoing)*

TASTE UTAH

For a state culinary advertising program.

\$50,000 *(one time)*

\$50,000 *(ongoing)*

UTAH MARRIAGE COMMISSION

Promote marriage.

\$150,000

TOURISM MARKETING

\$6 million *(ongoing)*





SUBSIDIZING BIG BUSINESS....

Government should not be in the practice of picking winners and losers in the marketplace, yet every year the legislature allocates money to certain companies or industries in the interest of “economic development.” This type of crony capitalism distorts markets and is unfair to competitors.

UTAH ADVANCED MATERIALS AND MANUFACTURING INITIATIVE

Subsidize Utah’s manufacturing clusters aerospace, outdoors, medical and energy.

\$1 million

CNG/ALTERNATIVE FUEL DEPOT DISTRICT

Facility that will service natural gas and electric buses. Repurposes old garage/ maintenance facility into a mixed-use public/private partnership.

\$2.5 million *(ongoing)*

RAIL MANUFACTURING ECONOMIC INCENTIVES

Help Davis Co. develop infrastructure associated with fixed rail manufacturing.

\$1.4 million

RURAL TAX CREDIT AMENDMENTS

HB 219

\$75,000

WHAT THE???....

This section includes the wasteful items that didn't fit other categories. There is little reason for the government to be spending this kind of money on projects like these when there are other competing priorities. We think you'll agree, what the...?

CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION BOOKS (CVI'S)

Covers cost of manually entering livestock information recorded by veterinarians.

\$20,000 *(ongoing)*

BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTERS

Expand program throughout the state. This could be funded by those individuals who take advantage of this resource.

\$500,000

UTAH UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEM TESTING & TRAINING CENTER

Drone site. We don't know why Utah needs to test drones either.

\$125,000

REVITALIZATION OF DOWNTOWN HELPER

Hey we like Helper but why are people paying taxes from the rest of state on the hook to pay for this?

\$40,000

HOUSE CHAMBERS VIDEO UPGRADE

Upgrades monitors and audio in the House chambers to latest technology.

\$405,000



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