



J. Kevin Stitt
Office of the Governor
State of Oklahoma

May 22, 2026

Hon. Cindy Byrd
Oklahoma State Auditor & Inspector
2300 North Lincoln Boulevard, Room 123
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Via email to cbyrd@sai.ok.gov

RE: Governor's Request for Special Audit of the Office of the Attorney General

Dear Auditor Byrd,

In response to recent public concerns regarding the financial practices of one of the agency with one of the largest budget increases in state government, I hereby respectfully request a special investigative audit of the Office of the Attorney General ("OAG") pursuant to the powers vested in me by Article VI, Section 8 of the Constitution and Section 212(C) of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

Financial records reveal that over the last three years the OAG has transformed from a traditional statewide law office into a much larger and bloated government agency. Between FY 2023 and FY 2026, OAG legislative appropriations more than doubled, rising from \$38.1 million to \$90.5 million—making the OAG the second fastest growing agency in state government. The office's overall budget grew even more sharply, rising from \$43.2 million to \$131.8 million, an increase of approximately 205%. Put differently, the OAG more than tripled its budget in just three years. What's even more disturbing is that a recent discovery shows some taxpayer-funded grants were awarded to DEI-related programming at the Diversity Center of Oklahoma, which were authorized by the Attorney General.

For an office with established legal and investigative functions, growth of that magnitude requires a clear accounting. The public deserves to know what new duties, cases, programs, grants, or operational needs drove the increase, and whether those tax dollars have been deployed responsibly. That concern is heightened because many of the fastest-growing categories, including salaries, travel, professional services, office equipment, and related operational expenses, involve discretionary management decisions. In those areas, strong documentation, clear authority, and effective internal controls are essential to ensure taxpayer funds are properly managed and protected against fraud, waste, and abuse.

Spending patterns beneath the topline growth underscore the need for scrutiny. Over this three-year period, OAG employee headcount increased by approximately 61%, adding more than 100

employees, while salary spending more than doubled. The growth was especially concentrated at the upper end of the salary scale, meaning the OAG was not merely adding staff to meet increased workload, but substantially expanding high-dollar compensation.

Taken together, these trends reflect a pattern of bloated government and unprecedented agency growth. When any agency grows this quickly across so many discretionary spending categories, Oklahoma taxpayers deserve to know that those funds are being properly managed, that the growth is tied to legitimate operational needs, and that adequate safeguards are in place to protect against fraud, waste, and abuse.

Given the nature of this request, the relationship between your office and the OAG, and established auditing standards requiring impartiality and the avoidance of actual or perceived conflicts of interest, I further direct you to employ an outside, independent auditor to conduct the requested audit. *See* 74 O.S. § 212(J). Under these circumstances, the use of an impartial outside auditor is necessary to ensure both actual independence and public confidence in the integrity of the audit process. If your office encounters any delay, objection, or other legal impediment in retaining an outside auditor, including from your counsel at the OAG, please notify me immediately.

Please respond by Wednesday, May 27, 2026, with a detailed plan outlining how you will choose the independent auditor, anticipated delivery date of audit results and any other information that will give Oklahoma taxpayers assurance that this matter is a top priority. I look forward to reviewing the findings of this special audit and appreciate the State Auditor & Inspector's assistance with enforcing the rule of law and safeguarding taxpayers' hard-earned dollars.

Sincerely,



Governor Kevin Stitt