# State of Oklahoma 

COMPENSATION FINAL REPORT

March 1, 2023

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## Executive Summary

## Introduction

Per House Bill 3422 of the 2022 regular legislative session, Human Capital Management (HCM) is required to conduct a study to examine the overall compensation for positions covered by the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) under the Civil Service and Human Capital Management Act. As a result, EY was engaged to conduct a compensation study, job catalog review, and HR assessment.

The Compensation report is focused on achieving the following objectives:


This report does not include or represent EY recommendations or opinions. However, the report represents market consensus compensation data and considerations around the current state.

## Approach and key activities

Develop understanding of current strategy and programs

- Met with key stakeholders to understand the existing compensation strategy and human resources function as well as the desired future state and opportunities for improvement
- Conducted six group interviews with representatives from various agencies within the State of Oklahoma
- Collected and reviewed available documentation
- Identified gaps and opportunities in current compensation program and $H R$ functions

Compensation analysis

- Benchmarked 500 jobs provided by OMES
- 453 jobs $(91 \%)$ with validated matches
- 47 jobs $(9 \%)$ were not able to be benchmarked
- Analyzed published survey sources to determine typical market compensation levels in similarly-sized organizations within both the government and private sectors
- Compared market rates of pay to current pay within the State of Oklahoma for benchmarked jobs
- Prepared employee cost impact scenarios for benchmarked jobs and estimated projections for all State employees


## Job catalog

Timeline extended to March $15^{\text {th }}$

- Of the 175 jobs identified for job description (JD) creation, received data for 102 jobs
- Developed job descriptions for 102 jobs not previously in the job catalog
- Mapped 560 in-scope jobs for 120 agencies into the revised HCM job catalog with recommended new job families
- 500 jobs from benchmarking
- 102 jobs from JD development
- 42 jobs are part of both benchmarking and JD development
- Identified opportunities for job consolidation and for updating job titles for consistency

Implementation strategy

- Developed preliminary strategy for implementing results of compensation study
- Developed preliminary high-level change and communication plan to effectively communicate and implement results of compensation analysis
- Provided recommendations for continuous maintenance and administration of the compensation program


## Section 1: Compensation Assessment

## Section 1: Compensation Assessment

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## Background and overview

As part of the market-based compensation study, OMES identified key stakeholders to provide input into this project. Interviews were set up with all key stakeholders identified.
Through these interviews, the key stakeholders were asked to share their thoughts around:


Six group interviews ${ }^{(1)}$ were conducted. The key stakeholders included key leadership as well as representatives from various agencies of the State of Oklahoma, listed below.

Public Safety

Transportation

Economic Administration and OMES

Health and Mental Health

Energy and Environment

Human Services

[^0]
## Discussion themes

The stakeholder interviews went beyond the quantitative data to capture qualitative input. Below are the key topics from these discussions:

## Sample questions

- Who are your top competitors for talent? Do you feel your competitors for talent come from the private or public sector?
- What has been the employee turnover level due to salary? Are there specific roles where you see more turnover than others?
- On a scale of $1-5$, where 1 is limited change and 5 is extensive change, how much change do you foresee as necessary to compensation to meet your talent needs?
- Have you experienced change in the State's compensation programs since you have worked here? How did that experience impact you?
- What would be the ideal outcome of this project?


## Key themes we heard from stakeholders

## Summary of key findings

## Stakeholders feel current compensation programs require an extensive amount of change



- The gap in compensation between the State of Oklahoma and both public and private sector competitors makes it difficult to recruit and retain qualified employees
- There is opportunity to increase transparency around compensation decisions and establish consistency and equity across agencies


## Areas of priority

- Licensed professionals (nurses, medical staff, engineers, CPAs)
- Highly skilled professionals (technical Front line staff (counselors, case managers, child welfare specialists) staff)


## Here's what we heard:



Compensation
Competitors are offering higher rates of pay and the state struggles to compete for qualified candidates


Transparency and consistency
Desire for increased transparency and consistency across
agencies around pay decisions
Non-compensation levers
State benefits package is no longer deemed a differentiator from competitors, placing competitive emphasis on salary


## Performance

Desire for defined link between performance and compensation

## Retention

Turnover is high across agencies and salary is cited as a driving force behind employees' decisions to leave

## Current state compensation gap analysis

Category

Compensation philosophy

Pay practices and
transparency

## Current State

- The state's published compensation philosophy under 74 O.S. § 840-2.15A states that they will pay at $90 \%$ of the market median; however, this policy is not necessarily followed
- The State of Oklahoma currently has 26 different pay bands in place for classified jobs
- Positions that are not classified in the pay bands do not adhere to the pay band structure
- Compensation for the same job titles is not consistent across agencies
- Some agencies pay higher salaries for the same job titles allowing employees to move jobs within the state to be compensated higher for the same position
- No formalized process across the state for merit increases
- No annual bonus program
- Longevity payments provide compensation to employees for continued employment
- Employees do not understand how pay decisions are made
- Compensation practices vary between agencies and are influenced by the allocation of funds available to each


## Future State Considerations

- Refine and follow a compensation philosophy to help guide future compensation related decisions
- Include jobs that are not classified within the pay band compensation system
- Align pay bands, where appropriate, to establish consistency across the state agencies
- Adopt a salary structure aligned to leading market practices and establish salary administration guidelines
- Alternatively, utilize market data, refreshed every 2-3 years, to help ensure positions are paid competitively
- Ensure alignment of employees to salary grades assigned to jobs within the job catalog
- Evaluate performance management process to identify opportunities to better align pay to performance
- Potential changes could include:
- Implement annual performance evaluation cycle across the state
- Utilize performance evaluations to reward contributions
- Adopt a merit pay system that incorporates performance to provide a consistent process for salary increases
- Establish consistent, clear pay practices across the state to increase transparency in the compensation adjustment process, while allowing each area to address its specific needs
- Develop communications around compensation decisions


## Current state compensation gap analysis

Market competitive pay

## Career pathing

development

## Current State

- Adoption of advanced technology has led to an increased demand for highly-skilled technical talent
- It is difficult to compete with private sector for licensed professional talent
- Employees feel current pay programs lack agility to keep up with market pay
- There is a perception that the state has difficulty competing with public and private sector due to pay
- Agencies compete with one another for talent due to decentralized and inconsistent pay practices
- There is currently no clear documentation regarding communication of expectations and requirements for career levels
- There are currently over 2,400 job titles with no assigned job family or job description
- Oklahoma has many job titles with employees in multiple pay ranges


## Future State Considerations

- Consider targeting above the market 50th percentile for "hot" jobs or specialized skill sets
- Increase transparency around compensation decisions and processes
- Consider "all industry" salary market data and target compensation at the market 50th percentile to reduce disparity in compensation between both public and private sector
- Align salary bands state-wide to reduce pay-related inter-agency competition
- Increase transparency around career levels and emphasize requirements for career development
- Implement clear, more structured career paths
- Review job titles and properly consolidate for more efficient career pathing
- This will also allow the organization to catch those pay inconsistencies with the same titles
- Ensure proper alignment of employees to jobs (job title and job code)


## Section 2: Competitive Market and Employee Impact Analysis

## Section 2: Competitive Market and Employee Impact Analysis

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## Market-based compensation analysis overview

## 1. Determined benchmarking criteria

- Met with key stakeholders to understand existing compensation strategy
- Defined and validated scope factors
- Reviewed job catalog
- Utilized job descriptions to determine best matches from library of published compensation surveys ${ }^{(1)}$
- Validated salary survey matches with key stakeholders


## 3. Aligned to salary structure

- Aligned benchmarked jobs to the existing salary structure utilizing market median
- Prepared employee impact analysis for changes to grades based on market data
- Provided cost projections for employees not captured in the 453 benchmarked jobs


## Final Report

- Final report delivered to OMES March $1^{\text {st }}$
- Additional readout scheduled on March 7 ${ }^{\text {th }}$



## 2. Market priced jobs

- Analyzed published survey sources to determine typical market compensation levels
- Developed market consensus estimates for base salary, and Total Cash Compensation (TCC)
- Prepared benchmarking statistics and observations of external market data at job title level for 453 of 500 jobs ( $91 \%$ ) identified for benchmarking ${ }^{(2)}$


4. Developed Sprint 2 draft report

- Combined findings of benchmarking statistics and observations and employee impact analysis to present to key stakeholders
(2) Employee placement in jobs was not validated
(2) 47 of 500 jobs ( $9 \%$ ) were not able to be benchmarked


## Preface

## This analysis contains two sections:

1. Benchmarking statistics and observations

- Analysis and findings at the job-level of the 453 out of 500 ( $91 \%$ ) benchmarked jobs
- Compares benchmarked roles directly to market consensus data

2. Employee analysis statistics and observations

- Analysis and findings at the employee-level of the 453 out of 500 (91\%) benchmarked jobs
- Benchmarked jobs aligned to the existing salary structure utilizing market median
- Compares incumbent pay to the revised salary grade


## Benchmarking statistics and observations



## Employee analysis statistics and observations <br> Aligning to State of Oklahoma salary structure

Benchmarked jobs were aligned to Oklahoma's existing salary structure based on the market median and incumbent pay was analyzed against the proposed salary grade.

Of the 18,784 employees within the 453 benchmarked jobs, about $57 \%$ fall below the market competitive range ${ }^{(1)}$ for their salary grade ${ }^{(2)}$

Distribution of individual salary against proposed salary grade midpoint


[^1] salary is within the competitive range.

Illustrative salary grade

| Fully proficient employees should generally be paid within the market competitive range ${ }^{(1)}(85 \%-115 \%$ of range midpoint) |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Minimum | 85\% | Midpoint | 115\% | Maximum |
|  | X | Y | 7 |  |
| Market competitive range |  |  |  |  |
| Beginner earning to perform the role |  | Fully pro <br> Able to perfo | Subject matter expert Strong performer |  |

The market study revealed that incumbent pay for the 453 benchmarked jobs is below the market competitive range ${ }^{(1)}$ of their salary grade for many employees

> If employees are brought to the minimum of the proposed salary grade:

A
4,275 employees would receive an average salary increase of $\$ 7,376$
B
If employees are brought to $75 \%$ of the midpoint of the proposed salary grade:
6,120 employees would receive an average salary increase of $\$ 9,818$
C
If employees are brought to the market competitive range of the salary grade:
10,778 employees would receive an average salary increase of $\$ 11,341$

## Building on previous results

Distribution of individual salary against proposed salary grade midpoint



|  | Scenario $\mathbf{A}$ <br> Employees are brought to the minimum of the proposed <br> salary grade: |  |
| ---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sprint 2 Update | \# Employees Impacted | Average Salary Increase |
| Final Report | $\mathbf{1 , 8 8 6}$ | $\$ 6,284$ |
| Difference | $+2,389$ | $\$ 7,376$ |

## Potential cost impact

| Scenario B |
| :---: | :---: |
| Employees are brought to $75 \%$ of the midpoint of the |
| proposed salary grade: |


| Scenario C <br> Employees are brought to the market competitive range <br> of the proposed salary grade: |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| \# Employees Impacted | Average Salary Increase |
| 5,206 | $\$ 10,275$ |
| 10,778 | $\$ 11,341$ |
| $+5,572$ | $+\$ 1,066$ |

## Prelude to potential cost impact

The next slide contains Potential cost impact scenarios based on the 453 of 500 (91\%) benchmarked jobs.

Estimated costs on the next page are for the 18,784 employees aligned to the 453 of the 500 (91\%) jobs.
Projected costs are included for the remaining 12,018 employees and were calculated using the same percent of payroll as employees in jobs that were benchmarked for each scenario.

## Potential cost impact

| Estimated costs (in millions) ${ }^{(1)}$ | Estimate ${ }^{(2)}$ <br> (18,784 employees) | Projected Estimate ${ }^{(5)}$ <br> (30,802 employees) ${ }^{(6)}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Scenario A: Bring employees to minimum of salary grade | \$42.30 | \$76.38 |
| \# of Employees below minimum | 4,275 | TBD |
| Cost to bring employees to minimum | \$31.53 | \$56.93 |
| Additional fringe ${ }^{(3)}$ | \$7.62 | \$13.75 |
| Additional budget to address compression ${ }^{(4)}$ | \$3.15 | \$5.69 |
| Scenario B: Bring employees to 75\% of the salary grade midpoint | \$80.60 | \$145.54 |
| \# of Employees below 75\% of salary grade midpoint | 6,120 | TBD |
| Cost to bring employees to 75\% of salary grade midpoint | \$60.08 | \$108.49 |
| Additional fringe ${ }^{(3)}$ | \$14.51 | \$26.20 |
| Additional budget to address compression(4) | \$6.01 | \$10.85 |
| Scenario C: Bring employees to market competitive range ( $85 \%$ of the salary grade midpoint) | \$163.98 | \$296.08 |
| \# of Employees below market competitive range | 10,778 | TBD |
| Cost to bring employees to market competitive range | \$122.24 | \$220.71 |
| Additional fringe ${ }^{(3)}$ | \$29.52 | \$53.30 |
| Additional budget to address compression ${ }^{(4)}$ | \$12.22 | \$22.07 |

(1) Data based on census provided 12/14/2022
(2) 18,784 employees are in the 453 benchmarked jobs
(3) Fringe rate of $24.15 \%$
(4) Budget for compression is approximately $10 \%$ of the total cost excluding fringe
(5) Cost projection could be over- or under-stated
(6) 30,802 total employees listed as regular employees in census

## Potential cost impact updates

The changes observed in the cost impact projections are driven by the employee population in benchmarked jobs. While the methodology and approach to these calculations did not change ${ }^{(1)}$, the increase in employees in benchmarked jobs results in a more precise Projected Estimate.


## Supplemental Documents

In addition to the analysis in this presentation, the following supplemental documents will be provided to the State of Oklahoma. A preview of each is provided on the upcoming slides.

1. Benchmark analysis and market consensus data (document password Oklahoma2023): excel file containing two tabs:
i. Job Analysis: job-level detail
ii. Employee Analysis: employee-level detail
2. Survey benchmark descriptions slide deck with approved survey titles and sources used for each benchmark job

## Job analysis

An accompanying detailed job analysis, with market data for all benchmarked jobs will be provided to the State of Oklahoma.

| Job Data |  |  |  |  |  | Current Pay Range |  |  | Market Base |  |  | Avg Incumbent Salary Competitiveness | Market TCC |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| OK Job Code | OMES Job Title | Current Pay | $\begin{gathered} \text { \# of } \\ \text { Employees } \end{gathered}$ | Average Incumbent Salary | Average Bonus | Min | Mid | Max | 25th \%ile | 50th \%ile | 75th \%ile | Market 50th \%ile | 25th \%ile | 50th \%ile | 75th \%ile |
| Current job information as provided by State of Oklahoma |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Market data and average incumbent salary competitiveness |  |  |  |  |  |  |


| Proposed Salary Grade Cost Scenarios |  |  |  |  |  | Proposed Salary Structure |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { \# of } \\ \text { employees } \end{gathered}$ | Cost to proposed Salary Grade Minimum | $\begin{gathered} \text { \# of } \\ \text { emploges } \end{gathered}$ | Cost to $75 \%$ of proposed Salary Grade Midpoint | $\begin{gathered} \text { \#of of } \\ \text { emploges } \end{gathered}$ | $\qquad$ | $\underset{\substack{\text { Proposed Salary } \\ \text { Grade }}}{\text {. }}$ | Salary Grade Min | Salary Grade Mid | Salary Grade Max | Salary Structure Midpoint competivenes |
| Cost impact analysis by job |  |  |  |  |  | Proposed salary grade information |  |  |  |  |

## Employee analysis

An accompanying detailed employee analysis, identifying individuals who would be eligible to receive increases under each scenario (A, B, and C), will be provided to the State of Oklahoma.


## Survey benchmark descriptions

An accompanying report of the approved survey titles and sources used for each benchmark job will be provided to the State of Oklahoma.


## Considerations for the future state

| High Impact |
| :--- | \(\left.\begin{array}{l}Align jobs without market data to <br>


salary structure\end{array}\right]\)| Determine critical jobs that may be |
| :--- |
| harder to recruit for and may require |
| higher levels of pay |


| Quick Wins | Ongoing |
| :---: | :---: |
| Refine compensation philosophy to help guide future compensation-related decisions and define approach to Total Cash Compensation (TCC) | Monitor and adjust salary structure annually to maintain alignment with the market. Leading practices suggest conducting market studies every 2-3 years. |
| Develop salary administration guidelines to support clear and transparent compensation decisions | Continue to create job descriptions for jobs not included in the 102 job descriptions created as part of this effort |
| - Implement consistency in titling with |  |
| Map the remaining jobs in the job catalog to the recommended job family | Finalize job catalog and ensure proper alignment of employees to job codes and salary grades |
| groups and job families | Create an intermediate level for level descriptors in the job catalog to bridge experience and responsibility gap between entry and career levels |

## Next steps for implementation

In connection with the compensation analysis, below are the next steps for the State of Oklahoma:

1 Obtain legislative approval for funding

2 Determine which scenario ( $A, B$, or $C$ ) is possible based on funding

3 Determine activation date of compensation impact

4 Create implementation plan to include timing and responsibilities

5 Develop change management and communications strategy

## Roadmap to implementation - July $1^{\text {st }}$ activation



## Roadmap to implementation - October $1^{\text {st }}$ activation



## High-level communication strategy

Create Communication
Brief


Ensure alignment before content development

- Who is impacted?
- Who are the key stakeholders?
- What approvals are needed?
- What is the best strategy and channel for communication?

Create/Develop Content


Develop materials to enhance employee understanding

## Examples:

- Talking points for Senior Leadership
- FAQs - for both people leaders and employees
- Education materials on new salary for Human Resources Team


Roll Out Communication


Execute communication plan and distribute content to employees

## Potential channels:

- E-mail
- Newsletter
- Townhall meeting
- Team meetings


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Detailed interview findings ..... 40

Key stakeholders

## Methodology

## EY benchmarking methodology

- Review of State of Oklahoma's data: Review the State's data to identify appropriate industry benchmarks: industry, general company information and financial information.
- Published Survey Data Review: Published surveys contain compensation data on both privately held and publicly traded organizations.
- Analyze multiple published survey sources to determine typical market compensation levels in similarly sized organizations in an all-industry data cut, as requested by the State
- Survey providers: CompAnalyst, Mercer, WTW
- Identification of Market Competitive Compensation Benchmarks: From the survey data, develop market consensus estimates for base salary, annual incentive and target bonuses, and Total Cash Compensation (TCC), where available, for benchmarked positions.
- Our standard methodology involves identifying market consensus base, annual incentive, and TCC levels at 25th, 50th (median), and 75th percentiles.
- For example, the 75th percentile market consensus compensation represents the data point at which $75 \%$ of the market data is below the report level and $25 \%$ of the market data is above the reported level.


## Methodology

## Trend, industry, and scope

Trend Date, Factor ${ }^{(1)}$ and
Industry Mix


Market data reflects the $25^{\text {th }}, 50^{\text {th }}$ (median), and $75^{\text {th }}$ percentiles


Organizations with revenue \$20B+

- All data was trended to March 1, 2023, to allow for varying effective dates of information collected in published surveys
- Survey trended by a factor of $3.0 \%$ to January 1, 2022; 3.8\% to March 1, 2023


All industries

Per discussions with the State of Oklahoma, a geographic differential has been applied. Cost of Labor in Oklahoma City is approximately $10.5 \%$ below the national average

Match Premium

Where the survey match was a level lower than the State of Oklahoma's job, a 10\% premium was added to the survey data; alternatively, when the survey match was a level higher than the State of Oklahoma's job, a $10 \%$ discount was applied

[^2]
## Methodology

## Assumptions

- The IS Analyst (job code: 4125) is benchmarked against three (3) job descriptions (Business Intelligence, Database Administrator, Data Analyst). All three (3) benchmarked descriptions have similar market data that align to the same salary grade ( N ). For the sake of the analysis, incumbents assigned to job code 4125 will align to IS Analyst - Data Analyst.
- One (1) incumbent currently assigned to the Business Filing Specialist (job code: E18D) has been manually removed from the job based on feedback from OMES. The incumbent is being considered for the cost impact projections.

Key stakeholders

## Key stakeholders

As detailed on page 7, six (6) stakeholder group interviews were conducted during the data gathering phase of the project. The tables below detail the individual stakeholders selected to represent their respective groups in interviews.

| Public Safety | Title | Transportation |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Name | HR Director | Name | Title |
| Mitzi Bennet | Executive Coordinator | Tim Gatz* |  |
| Kathryn Brewer* | Brian Jepsen | HR Director |  |
| Todd Fenimore | Assistant Commissioner | Scott Lange | Director |
| Justin Giudice | HR Manager | Kelli Massey | HR Director |
| Steven Harpe* | Director | Daniel Ridings | HR Director |
| Felicia Jackson | HR Director | Vicky Scaggs | HR Manager |
| Shavonne Lafayette | HR Assistant Director | Amanda Storck | Director of Administrative Services |
| Adam Liu* | Administrative Specialist | Keith Stout | HR Administrator |
| Lia Tepker-McHughes | Finance Director | J.D. Strong | Chief of Administration and CFO |
| Tim Tipton | Commissioner | Dawn Sullivan | HR Operations Manager |
|  |  | Shelley Zumwalt | Director |

## Key stakeholders

As detailed on page 7, six (6) stakeholder group interviews were conducted during the data gathering phase of the project. The tables below detail the individual stakeholders selected to represent their respective groups in interviews.

| Economic Administration and OMES |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Name | Title |
| Lisa Boyd* | Administrative Assistant |
| Jamie Bush $^{*}$ | Interim Chief HR Officer |
| Nina Calvert | HR Management Specialist |
| Sarah Fite | HR Director |
| Lisa Hoelscher | HR Director |
| Katie Holderread | HR Special Projects Manager |
| Doug Linehan | Executive Director |
| Heidi McComb | HR Manager |
| Trae Rahill | CEO |
| Tralynn Stevenson | HR Programs Admin |
| John Suter | COO |
| Angela Tackett | CFO |
| Shay Varner | HR Director |
|  |  |


| Human Services | Title |
| :--- | :--- |
| Name | Deputy Director of HR |
| Rena Bigby | Public Health Specialist |
| Craig Glassock | HR Programs Director |
| Tommi Ledoux | Deputy Director of Human Services |
| Cathy Menefee | HR Program Director |
| Tom Patt | Deputy Director of HR |
| Sajan Philip | CFO |
| Kevin Statham | HR Programs Manager |
| April Story |  |
| Randy Weaver* |  |

## Key stakeholders

As detailed on page 7, six (6) stakeholder group interviews were conducted during the data gathering phase of the project. The tables below detail the individual stakeholders selected to represent their respective groups in interviews.

| Health and Mental Health | Title |
| :--- | :--- |
| Name | Chief of Staff |
| Ellen Buettner | HR Manager |
| Julie Chambers | Agency Administrator |
| Kevin Corbett | HR Manager |
| Katie Cummings | HR Programs Manager |
| Kristin Elsenbeck | Senior Director |
| Jennifer Lamb-Hornsby | HR Manager |
| Lina Long | Senior HR Coordinator |
| Brittany Lowe | HR Assistant Director |
| Jason Maricle | HR Director |
| Rosangela Miguel | Senior Director |
| Pam Mulvaney | HR Manager |
| Julie Pollard | HR Manager |
| Brandy Reames | Commissioner |
| Carrie Slatton-Hodges |  |


| Energy and Environment |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Name | Title |
| Karla Addington | HR Program Director |
| Melissa Atkinson | Programs Manager |
| Bridgett Griffin | HR Programs Manager |
| Lori Mize | HR Programs Manager |
| Jim Nelson | Programs Manager |
| Scott Thompson | Executive Director |
| Brandy Wreath | Executive Director |

Detailed interview findings

## Interview findings

## Business goals and talent needs

- Attracting and retaining a qualified workforce
- Low compensation and competition with other public and private entities has made recruitment and retention difficult
- The adoption of advanced technology has created a critical demand for high-caliber technical, licensed, and engineering talent
- Pay bands that promote equitable pay across state agencies and sustainable salary growth through career progression
- Formal performance management policy that clearly links merit and pay to promote market competitive pay and provide transparency in the overall pay decision process
- Defined job families that provide transparency in career and salary progression


## Areas that are particularly hard to fill or have high turnover

- Turnover is high across agencies with many departed employees citing compensation as a key factor behind the decision to leave
- Several areas were deemed hard to fill because of the value of the State's total compensation package compared to private sector and other public agencies
- Nursing and medical staff
- Engineers and technical staff


## Interview findings

## Compensation decisions and transparency

- Pay bands are regularly evaluated against the market, but the allocation of adjustments is constrained by the availability of funds within the budget
- Salary decisions are made by agency leadership in conjunction with HR
- There is no formalized system in place for merit-based increases
- There is a perceived lack of transparency surrounding compensation, as employees do not understand how pay decisions are made with regards to annual increases and promotions
- Agencies might lose talent to other agencies because of pay since there is no consistent pay band alignment across the State


## Need to increase compensation

- There is a gap in compensation between the state and private sector, making it difficult to attract and retain talent
- The benefits package was previously more extensive and would attract employees when compensation was lower; however, the benefits package has been reduced over the years, making it difficult to retain employees when pay and benefits are higher elsewhere
- Benefits have historically differentiated OMES from competitors, but the scaling back of benefits means that the state must compete on salary alone
- Other agencies across the Oklahoma government are also competitors for talent
- There is a desire to be positioned in the 50th to 75th percentile compared to market rates
- Lack of pay for performance system inhibits the ability to influence and reward high performance


## Interview findings

## Areas of priority for increases

- Licensed professionals (nurses, medical staff, engineers, CPAs)
- Highly skilled professionals (technical staff)
- Front line staff (counselors, case managers, child welfare specialists)
- Duplicative jobs across agencies


## Considerations when implementing the results of this work

- Stakeholders feel that there is a lack of consistency across the state agencies, resulting in scenarios where employees with the same job titles and responsibilities are being compensated differently across agencies
- Establishing internal equity across the state through a compensation structure can improve retention and reduce the pay related interagency competition for talent
- There is a high degree of interest in being able to pay for performance
- Providing incentives (higher salary, bonuses, etc.) for higher performers can help retain skilled employees


## Interview findings

## $\Lambda$ I

Several future state outcomes were identified, and include:

- Attract and retain a staff of experienced and skilled professionals
- Become competitive with both public and private sectors
- Consistently and equitably set pay for jobs across agencies
- Increase transparency regarding pay and establish clear criteria for compensation decisions
- Establish a compensation system that is cohesive across agencies


[^0]:    (1) Group interview participants detailed in Appendix

[^1]:    (1) Market competitive range is defined as pay between $\mathbf{8 5 \%}$ and $115 \%$ of the proposed salary grade midpoint
    (2) Three (3) benchmarked roles do not have incumbents
    (3) While job titles should be aligned to the market data, employee salaries should not be reduced. Rather, employees who are significantly above the market competitive range for their job titles should receive lower or zero increases until their

[^2]:    (1) Annual percentages

