

Fiscal Year 2027 Disbursement Request for Vehicle Funds

TO: Council on Resources and Development (CORD)
Department of Business and Economic Affairs

FROM: Charlotte Harding, Conservation Land Stewardship Program, NH Fish and Game
Kathy LaBonte, Business Division Chief, NH Fish and Game

RE: Request to disburse funds from the Land Conservation Endowment (LCE) to procure a vehicle

DATE: August 6, 2026

Background

The Monitoring Endowment, also known as the Land Conservation Endowment (LCE), was established in 1993 by the Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) Board of Directors and is administered by the Council on Resources and Development (CORD) pursuant to RSA 162-C:8 I. Under RSA 162-C:6 II, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG) is responsible for monitoring property acquired through the former LCIP on behalf of CORD. This work is carried out by the Conservation Land Stewardship Program (CLSP) within the NHFG Business Division.

Income disbursed from the LCE directly supports CLSP's statewide monitoring and enforcement responsibilities. These duties require reliable access to remote conservation lands located from the Canadian border to Massachusetts border – and annual mileage for fieldwork has historically exceeded 12,000 miles. For many years, CLSP relied on shared vehicles assigned to other agencies. After the dissolution of the Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI) in 2021, CLSP continued using OSI's former vehicle until it failed in 2024 and was surplus in 2025.

CLSP has never previously purchased its own vehicle, nor has CORD previously authorized the use of endowment funds for this purpose. While NHFG has provided access to vehicles when possible, most are assigned to specific divisions or individual staff, resulting in inconsistent access and delays in fulfilling statutory monitoring obligations. To ensure continuity, efficiency, and compliance with RSA 162-C, CLSP now seeks to procure a dedicated vehicle solely for monitoring duties across the state.

Request for Disbursement

In addition to previously authorized fiscal year 2027 expenditures, CLSP requests a disbursement of approximately \$37,871 from the LCE in fiscal year 2027 to purchase a dedicated vehicle suitable for year-round monitoring operations. Upon CORD's authorization, written approval will accompany an Accept and Expend submission to Governor and Council (G&C). Following G&C approval, the funds will be incorporated into CLSP's FY27 budget under Class 030 – Equipment New Replacement, for procurement of one RAM 1500 Tradesman 4x4 Quad Cab.

Recommended Motion for CORD: Authorize the disbursement of approximately \$37,871 from the Land Conservation Endowment for fiscal year 2027 for the procurement of a dedicated CLSP vehicle.