



MINNESOTA ZOO

FY 2024 – FY 2025 Budget Request Summary

Change Item Title: Maintain Current Service Levels

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
General Fund				
Expenditures	2,872	3,290	3,290	3,290
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	2,872	3,290	3,290	3,290
FTEs	18	18	18	18

Recommendation: The Governor recommends additional funding of \$2.872 million in FY 2024 and \$3.290 million in each subsequent year from the general fund to maintain the current level of service delivery at the Minnesota Zoo.

Rationale/Background: Each year, the cost of doing business rises. This cost growth puts pressure on operating budgets that remain flat from year to year. The Minnesota Zoo has faced challenging decisions to manage these costs within existing budgets, while maintaining the services Minnesotans expect.

This funding will allow the Minnesota Zoo to:

- Maintain world-class zoo experience and highest quality animal care
- Continue revenue-generating initiatives vital to sustainable business model
- Address rapidly rising costs outside of Zoo’s control
 - Employee compensation, animal care, safety and security, maintenance, utilities, fuel
- Remain accessible to Minnesotans by keeping price increases modest
 - Data shows cultural institutions across the country are increasing admission prices substantially; some as much as 33% per guest ticket. With this funding, we can keep price increases modest so that the Zoo remains affordable for families, schools, and guests of all ages.



Additionally, the Governor recommends \$850,000 as a one-time investment to improve public safety and security at the Minnesota Zoo. Increased security camera coverage, new access controls, and reliable communications are necessary for the safety of animals, volunteers, staff, and over 1 million guests annually. This appropriation matches a related investment in safety and security systems already made by the Minnesota Zoo.

Change Item Title: Public Safety & Security Systems

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
General Fund				
Expenditures	850	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	850	0	0	0
FTEs	0	0	0	0

This request will greatly improve the Zoo’s ability to maintain safety and security for over 1 million annual visitors by supporting critical public safety and security upgrades, including:

- Expanded security camera coverage (\$110,000)
- Installing badge readers or re-coring locks in highest priority areas (\$295,000)
- Upgrade of radio system from analog to digital (\$135,000)
- Replacement of an obsolete analog phone system (\$310,000)



MINNESOTA ZOO

Campus Facts



Zoo campus size

485 acres

Undeveloped natural areas

282 acres including:
14 protected wetlands and
140 acres of oak forest (3% of the state's
remaining unlogged forest)

Number of buildings

121 buildings totaling over 644,000 square
feet

Miles of roads

6.5 miles

Miles of pathways

3.5 miles

Miles of fencing

25 miles

Acres of parking lots

48 acres

North creek greenway

1 mile ped/bike pathway through the Zoo
campus and managed by Dakota County