



Legislature of the Virgin Islands

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COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET HEARING

VIRGIN ISLANDS TAXICAB COMMISSION

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BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

The Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission was re-established in 2007 by Act No. 6968 as a semi-autonomous agency.

The Commission is comprised of a seven (7) member board, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands. The names are as follows:

Board Members	Title
Lorretta LLOYD	Chairperson
Elizabeth Hansen -Watley	Vice Chairperson
Myrna George	Secretary
Vincent Georges	Member
Sweeney Toussaint Jr	Member
Camille Paris Jr.	Member
Franklyn Brathwaite	Member

The Taxi License Fund is the sole funding source for this agency. This fund covers all personnel and operating expenses throughout the territory. Revenues for the Commission are derived from the issuance of business licenses, forms, publications, penalties, and citations.

The Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission is charged with the responsibility of regulating the:

- Automobile-for-hire industry which includes taxis.
- Tour operators and limousines.

In order to execute these responsibilities safely, the agency must improve operational efficiency and effectiveness by educating industry operators and consumers.

Achievements of organizational goals necessitate:

- a) Updating the Rules and Regulations Handbook for all automobile-for-hire operators and operators.
- b) Implementation of “United in Pride and Hope”; a professional development program designed for the benefit of all first-time industry operators and all other industry operators interested in service improvement.

The automobile-for-hire industry is a valuable and critical asset to the Territory’s #1 industry, tourism, and to the local community. Periodic reviews of policy and procedures ensure a safe, reliable, and regulated industry, as well as growth in revenue.

STRATEGIC AND PERFORMANCE GOALS

Strategic Goal(s):

1. Regulate the automobile for hire industry.
2. Maintain operational effectiveness and efficiency.

Performance Goal(s):

1. Ensure all businesses and individuals are licensed and in compliance.
2. Ensure all monies collected are deposited into the Taxi Licensed Fund.
3. Launch the Professional Development Program for all new industry operators.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

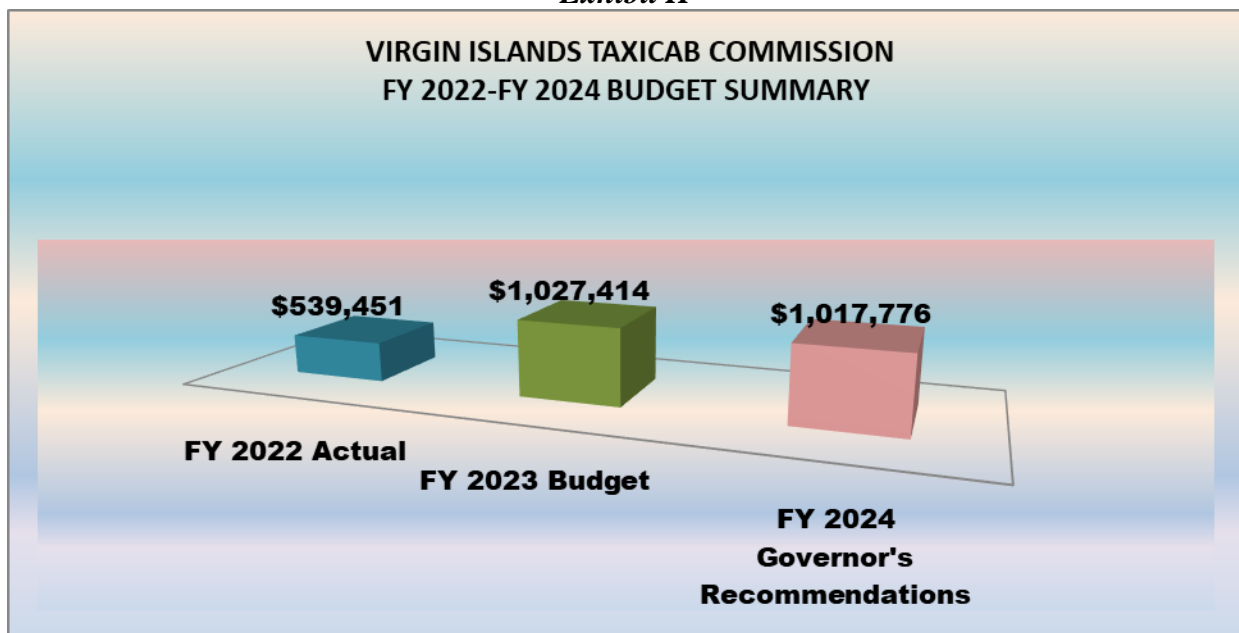
The Governor has recommended a Taxi License Fund appropriation of **\$1,017,776** for FY 2024. This represents a decrease of **(\$9,638)** below the FY 2023 appropriation of **\$1,027,414** (*According to the FY 2024 Executive Budget Book*). *Exhibit I* displays a budget overview (FY 2022- FY 2024).

Exhibit I

Taxi License Fund	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Appropriation	FY 2024 Recommendation	Variance FY24-FY23
Miscellaneous	539,451	1,027,414	1,017,776	(\$9,638)
Totals	\$539,451	\$1,027,414	\$1,017,776	(\$9,638)

Exhibit II displays a pictorial overview of the Commission three (3) year budget summary (FY 2022-FY 2024). *According to the FY 2024 Executive Budget Book*.

Exhibit II



BUDGET OVERVIEW CONTINUED

Exhibit III displays a detailed listing of the Commission’s FY 2022 actual expenditures, FY 2023 expenditures as of June 30, 2023, and FY 2024 Projections. *According to Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission*

Exhibit III

Taxi License Fund	FY 2022 Actual	Year to Date Oct 1, 2022- June 30, 2023	FY 2024 Projections
Personnel Services			
Classified Employee Salaries	\$135,860	\$ 118,419	\$291,640
Unclassified Employee Salaries	103,242	52,835	205,500
Temp/ Part Time Salaries	-	-	-
Overtime Salaries	11,396	(1,694)	-
Lump sum Payments	-	-	102,167
Fees & Compensation NOC	9,479	-	-
Holiday Pay	18,664	18,535	28,000
All Other	75,418	58,358	-
Total Personnel Services	354,058	246,452	627,307
Fringe Benefits			
Employer’s Contribution Retirement	80,526	143,963	110,953
FICA	21,952	14,622	37,157
Medicare	5,134	3,420	8,835
Health Insurance Premium	76,584	67,173	119,508
Workers Compensation Premium	-	2,929	1,508
Total Fringe Benefits	184,196	232,107	277,961
Supplies			
Office Supplies	960	359	1,500
Operating Supplies	118	-	1,500
Small Tools/ Minor Equipment	-	-	2,000
All Other	-	-	3,500
Total Supplies	1,078	359	8,500
Other Services & Charges			
Professional Services	-	-	60,000
Communications	-	-	500
Travel	-	-	2,000
Transportation- Not travel	-	-	1,657
Advertising and Promotion	-	-	1,000

Taxi License Fund	FY 2022 Actual	Year to Date Oct 1, 2022- June 30, 2023	FY 2024 Projections
Printing & Binding	-	3,923	500
Repairs & Maintenance	120	4,869	9,851
Rental- Land & Building	-	41,402	12,000
Training	-	-	500
Automotive Repairs & Maintenance	-	-	1,000
All Other	-	-	15,000
Total Other Services & Charges	120	55,194	104,008
Totals	\$539,451	\$534,112	\$1,017,776

PERSONNEL SERVICES SUMMARY

Personnel Services represents approximately **60%** of the Governor’s FY 2024 recommended appropriation of **\$1,017,776**. A summary listing is displayed in *Exhibit IV*. A detailed listing of all funded positions can be viewed in *Appendix I*.

Exhibit IV

480 Taxicab Commission		
Org 21144801	Salary	No. of Pos.
Unclassified Filled	\$90,000	1
Unclassified Vacant	85,500	3
Unclassified New	30,000	1
Classified Filled	254,398	6
Classified Vacant	37,242	2
Adjustments	112,167	-
Totals	\$609,307	13

LEASED PROPERTY

The Commission’s leased property agreement comprises several costs. The square footage of the office space, electricity, and water charges associated with that specific area. *Exhibit V* displays the current lease.

Exhibit V

Landlord	Physical Address	Sq. Ft.	Annual Rent
Department of Property & Procurement	1 st Floor Building No. 1 Subbase, St. Thomas	1,600	\$12,000

VEHICLE LISTING

Exhibit VI provides a detailed listing of the Commission’s vehicles

Exhibit VI

St. Thomas / St. John District					
Tag No.	Year	Model	Make	Maintenance	Gasoline
TCC-6	2020	Chevy	Equinox	\$-	\$ -
TCC-10	2020	Chevy	Equinox	-	-
TCC-8	2020	Chevy	Blazer	-	-
TCC-1	2020	Chevy	Equinox	-	-
			Totals	-	-
St. Croix District					
Tag No.	Year	Model	Make	Maintenance	Gasoline
TCC -2	2020	Chevy	Equinox	-	-
TCC -5	2020	Chevy	Equinox	-	-
			Totals	\$-	\$-

NB: No maintenance and gasoline charges were provided at the time of the budget submission

POST AUDIT COMMENTS

The Governor’s recommendation from the Taxi License Fund for FY 2024 is **\$1,017,776**. This represents a decrease of **(\$9,638)** below the FY 2023 appropriation of **\$1,027,414**. However, Act No. 8635 appropriated in Fiscal Year 2023 an additional **\$305,312** in the Miscellaneous Section of the main budget act. This amount was not extended in FY 2024.

Vincent J. Samuel
 Post Auditor

**APPENDIX I
 VIRGIN ISLANDS TAXICAB COMMISSION
 PERSONNEL LISTING**

POSITION TITLE	SALARY	STATUS
480 TAXICAB COMMISSION		
<u>ADJUSTMENTS</u>		
GS SALARY INCREASES	\$102,167	
FEES & COMPENSATION	10,000	
SUBTOTAL	112,167	
<u>UNCLASSIFIED</u>		
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	90,000	FILLED
FISCAL OFFICER/ HUMAN RESOURCES COORDINATOR	30,000	NEW
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	32,500	VACANT
ADMIN ENFORCEMENT OFFICER	25,000	VACANT
CHIEF INSPECTOR	28,000	VACANT
SUBTOTAL	205,500	
<u>CLASSIFIED</u>		
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY	40,671	FILLED
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY	37,244	FILLED
COLLECTION CLERK	37,244	FILLED
TAXI INSPECTOR	46,413	FILLED
TAXI INSPECTOR	46,413	FILLED
TAXI INSPECTOR	46,413	FILLED
TAXI INSPECTOR	18,621	VACANT
TAXI INSPECTOR	18,621	VACANT
SUBTOTAL	291,640	
TOTAL	\$609,307	