



## Shawnee County Office of County Treasurer

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**LARRY MAH**  
COUNTY TREASURER

Kansas House Transportation Committee

Chairman Shannon Francis

HB 2148

January 31, 2023

Chairman Francis and Members of the House Transportation Committee. I am submitting testimony in support of House Bill HB 2148. The current fee model is unnecessarily complicated and has not been modified since 2013. Significant changes in the work flow and responsibilities associated with motor vehicle registrations have taken place in the last 9 years. The current fee model has not been modified during that time. Consequently, it fails to recognize the current costs associated with today's process.

A review of the revenues and expenses in Shawnee County from 2014 through 2022 illustrates how much the discrepancy between revenues and expense has grown. In 2014 fees collected by Shawnee County were \$1,572,611. The fees collected in 2022 were \$1,533,876. This equates to a decrease of \$38,735. During the same period, expenses grew from \$1,200,277 to \$1,429,389. An increase of \$229,211 while the work force was reduced by 13% and the number of transactions grew by 1%.

Wages account for 90% of expenses. In 2014, Shawnee County paid \$9.40 per hour for entry level clerical. That wage has increased to \$11.76 in 2021. The wage was increased to \$13.67 in 2022 resulting in a single year increase in expenses for wages of \$220,875.

While the \$13.67 per hour wage is a significant increase, it cannot compete with the \$15 per hour that McDonalds offers and the \$20 per hour being paid at the Home Depot and Target warehouses located on Topeka. Consequently, we are currently understaffed by three positions.

The current fee structure is not sustainable. HB 2148 provides additional revenue required to properly fund the Motor Vehicle operation while simplifying an out dated fee structure and reducing the cost to taxpayers by an average \$2.36. I respectfully request your support of HB 2148.

Thank you,

Larry Mah

Shawnee County Treasurer