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Taxation and Revenue Department budget aims to improve security and customer service

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department next week will ask state lawmakers to grant a \$140.6 million budget request aimed at improving security and services for taxpayers and local governments.

Cabinet Secretary Stephanie Schardin Clarke will present the department's Fiscal Year 2026 budget to the House Appropriations and Finance committee on Monday and the Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday.

The Executive Budget Recommendation includes three one-time budget requests focused on system improvements. The budget request seeks \$5.6 million for the Revenue Processing Division to replace aging imaging and data capture software, and \$2.5 million to purchase a data analytics solution. These purchases would lower processing times, identify fraud, catch errors, and improve the department's overall workflow and return processing times.

The department is also requesting \$1.4 million to replace the paper-based vehicle titling system with electronic vehicle titling. Electronic vehicle titling would modernize systems and result in a more secure and efficient process.

Another budget priority is reducing the department's 20 percent vacancy rate in an effort to improve security and customer service.

"Job vacancies at the Taxation and Revenue Department remain a stubborn challenge, which is why we must offer more competitive pay and a rewarding work environment. My goal is to make certain that this Department has the staff needed to ensure excellent service to our customers," said Secretary Stephanie Schardin Clarke.

The Taxation and Revenue Department serves the State of New Mexico by providing fair and efficient tax and motor vehicle services. It administers more than 35 tax programs and distributes revenue to the State and to local and tribal governments throughout New Mexico.

The Motor Vehicle Division strives to offer customers convenient channels to conduct their business. MVD regularly adds to services offered online and through convenient retail kiosks.

The Department strives to reduce customer burden through clearer communication, statutes, regulations, forms, correspondence and instructions.

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