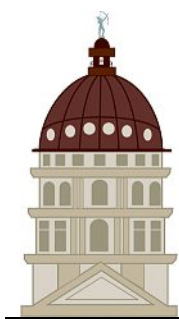




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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026 | CJONLINE.COM

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# Kansas budget deficit persists

## Outlook improving, but tax revenue lower than expected

**Jason Alatidd**  
Topeka Capital-Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Economists predict Kansas will collect less in taxes than previously expected as state officials grapple with budget deficits.

Despite reduced tax revenues, budget deficit projections are slightly improved.

The new budget profile from the Kansas Legislative Research Department comes after the state's Consensus Revenue Estimating Group met on April 20. It's too late for lawmakers to do much with the information because the Legislature adjourned on April 11.

Experts predict a roughly \$703 million deficit in the current fiscal year and a deficit next fiscal year of about \$408 million. Over the next four fiscal years,

the average annual projected deficit is about \$379 million. Those numbers are slightly better than the last budget profile, which was produced when the Legislature passed its budget bill.

"Receipts are still below expenditures, so we are forecasted to overspend over the next several years," said Adam Proffitt, the governor's budget director. He added that the budget profile "certainly improved" but there's "still some work to do."

Lawmakers can afford a few years of deficit spending thanks to years of bud-

get surplus building up a sizeable ending balance. Under the new projections, the state will go from a \$3.2 billion ending balance for fiscal year 2024 to a \$2.2 billion ending balance for the current fiscal year 2026 to \$1.4 billion ending balance for fiscal year 2028 to a \$686 million ending balance for fiscal year 2030.

The state also has about \$2 billion in a rainy day fund.

"In my professional opinion as the

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# Canada geese harassing prison

Canada geese have become a problem at Hutchinson Correctional Facility, which is looking for a contractor to help.

PHOTOS BY CHARLES RANKIN/HUTCHINSON NEWS

## State is seeking help to rid site of aggressive visitors

**Jason Alatidd**  
Topeka Capital-Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Canada geese are harassing a Kansas prison. Now state officials want help to harass the geese.

The Kansas Department of Corrections is looking for a vendor "to provide environmentally safe Canada goose control" at Hutchinson Correctional Facility.

"The agency's goal is to provide for an environmentally friendly harassment technique to discourage the geese with the mandate that all federal and state migratory laws governing the management of the Canada goose be followed," said Jennifer King, a KDOC spokesperson.

### Aggressive geese and goose poop are a safety issue

Canada geese have been a problem at the Hutchinson prison for more than a decade, King said in an email.

"The geese at Hutchinson Correc-

tional Facility, which number in the hundreds during peak migratory and nesting seasons, create a two-part problem," King said. "Primarily, they are causing damage to facility roofs, landscaping, and staff vehicles. Secondly, they become highly territorial during nesting season and when goslings are present."

Mating and nesting season is February to May, while goslings mature from May through July.

The geese have become a safety issue because of "aggressive encounters" with prison staff and visitors, King said. Additionally, goose poop poses a slip hazard on sidewalks.

"A single goose drops between one and two pounds of feces each day," King said, "and each goose carries bacteria in its feces, including parasites in the form of E Coli, Salmonella, Giardia, Listeria, and many others."

Hutchinson "is in the heart of the central flyaway migration route for geese," King said. The prison property

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Canada geese have become a problem at Hutchinson Correctional Facility, which is looking for a contractor to help.

# Air Museum celebrates 50 years

## New exhibit honors Lebo gunner killed after Doolittle Raid

**Tim Hrenchir**  
Topeka Capital-Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kansan Harold A. "Skinny" Spatz was among the 80 U.S. airmen who helped in April 1942 to bomb cities in Japan that included its capital, Tokyo.

A new exhibit at Topeka's Combat Air Museum honors Spatz, who was executed by a Japanese firing squad later that year.

The exhibit opened April 18 in the museum at Forbes Field, where admission will be free when it celebrates its 50th birthday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 25.

The museum that morning will offer all-you-can-eat pancakes from Perkins Restaurant and Bakery for \$8 per plate. Local celebrities will be flipping pancakes. The museum from noon to 4 p.m. will then offer a hamburger plate meal for a free-will offering. The pancakes will be accompanied by a serving of sausage, orange juice and coffee.

### Museum offers chance to see 47 historic combat aircraft

The Combat Air Museum, founded in 1976, is located at 7016 SE Forbes Avenue, its Facebook page said. It is three blocks south of the terminal at Topeka Regional Airport.

The museum offers visitors a chance to see 47 historic combat aircraft, many types of historic aircraft engines, an extensive display of artifacts and a growing gallery of military aviation art, said its director, Kevin Drewelow.

The museum's newest attraction is its display honoring Spatz, a native of Lebo, about 50 miles south of Topeka.

### Who was Harold Spatz?

Spatz, a 1939 graduate of Lebo High School, was the only Kansan among those who volunteered to take part in

See **MUSEUM**, Page 4A

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Volume 153 | No. 145  
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