

MEDIA ADVISORY
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Date: January 24, 2012

COMMISSIONER COSTELLO DETAILS \$415,000 IN SAVINGS TO GOVERNOR

OKLAHOMA CITY – Labor Commissioner Mark Costello issued a five page report to the Governor’s office to be included in her executive budget that details cost savings, efficiencies, reforms, and goals that the commissioner has initiated since his taking office. To date, the Oklahoma Department of Labor has saved the taxpayers more than \$415,000 during 2011 by applying a business approach to streamlining agency’s processes, improving financial procedures, and increasing efficiencies.

Other costs saving identified by Costello include: returned computer equipment (ordered by previous administration) resulting in a savings of \$110,347.83, vacated a Deputy position for a savings of \$98,285, reduced legal staff from 4 to 3 attorneys saving \$40,000, cross trained Labor Compliance Officers to handle both Wage & Hour Claims and Worker’s Compensation Compliance for a cost savings of \$20,000 and outsourced Certified Purchasing Officer duties to Office of State Finance Agency Business Services for a savings of \$10,000.

Costello stated, “These savings offset a reduction in appropriations for the current budget and a 30% federal grant reduction. The agency was hit with increases in health insurance costs, workers’ compensation costs and a rise in fuel costs.”

“I will continue to apply a common sense business approach to the Department of Labor by realigning limited resources to insure those most important activities are carried out in an efficient manner. Even with downsizing, we continue to deliver the same level of professional service to the taxpayer’s of Oklahoma as in the past,” Costello concluded.

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