



Safety Enhancements to State Air Fleet

Department of Transportation

Overview

Like virtually all other states, South Dakota maintains a small fleet of aircraft for use by state officials and employees. The state's three aircraft provide an efficient, cost-effective option for government officials to conduct business in and on behalf of the state of South Dakota. The fleet is also used to respond to fires in the Black Hills. As the current fleet ages, however, these planes are less safe and require more frequent, complex, and expensive maintenance. Governor Noem's recommended budget includes \$5 million to optimize the state's fleet by selling two of the aircraft—one of which is more than 32 years old—and replace them with one newer, safer, and more cost-effective plane.

South Dakota's Fleet

The state's current fleet is more than 26 years old on average. The largest plane, the King Air 200, is 32 years old and has flown more than 2.2 million miles over the course of its lifetime. Maintenance costs for the King Air 200 are estimated to be over \$1.1 million in the next five years alone.

Employee Safety

The state's top priority when considering aircraft must be the safety of state employees. A newer plane will help avoid costly maintenance and provide safer transportation for state officials, while having just two planes will incentivize even more efficient use of the fleet. This will allow state officials to continue to do their jobs safely—and effectively.