

# IDAHO SPENDING INDEX

The Idaho Spending Index examines appropriation bills on several fronts to add important context to lawmakers' discussions as they are considered on the floor of the House and Senate.

## Among the issues we look at in drawing a conclusion about a budget:

- ▶ Does the agency requesting these funds serve a proper role of government?
- ▶ Has wasteful or duplicative spending been identified within the agency, and if so, has that spending been eliminated or corrected?
- ▶ Does the budget examine existing spending to look for opportunities to contain spending, e.g., through a base reduction?
- ▶ If there is a maintenance budget, is that maintenance budget appropriate?
- ▶ Are the line items appropriate in type and size, and are they absolutely necessary for serving the public?
- ▶ Does the budget contemplate the addition of new employees or programs?
- ▶ Does the appropriation increase dependency on the federal government?

IFF analyses are intended to provide lawmakers and constituents with a frame of reference for conservative budgeting by summarizing whether appropriation measures contain items that are sincerely objectionable or supportable.