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Kansas Technology Enterprise Corp. adds transparency, makes cutbacks

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Kansas Technology Enterprise Corp. has added tools and processes to promote transparency as its new leaders try to address criticism that was leveled at KTEC in the most recent legislative session.

The quasi-public state agency and former CEO Tracy Taylor sparked controversy **in the spring when lawmakers were grappling with budget shortfalls**. After near elimination, KTEC's budget was slashed from about \$12 million to about \$7 million.

So far, KTEC has directed the bulk of cuts to Kansas incubators and other state efforts it helps finance, trying to preserve core functions. In addition, KTEC absorbed the COO position after COO Kevin Carr became interim CEO, and one administrative position was eliminated, spokeswoman Kelly Pearl said Tuesday.

Cutbacks include reducing program financing and staffing, though leaders tried to preserve core parts of the KTEC network, KTEC said in a Tuesday release.

Efforts to improve transparency include making sure board members get the information they need, posting more information on the KTEC Web site, adding three board members to the KTEC investment committee and increasing the detail and regularity of staff presentations about KTEC investments, the release said. They also include implementing annual economic impact surveys and other processes to offer more detail about KTEC's performance, seeking best-practices advice about governance structure and policies from other tech-based economic development organizations and being more open and positive in communications.

The board created a seven-member strategic task force in June to develop recommendations for the agency. The group will present initial results to the legislative interim committee in October, the release said.

"Our goals are to restore KTEC as a model among state-based technology organizations and, most importantly, to maximize our impact on Kansas," Chairman Kyle Elliott said in the release. "We have already taken significant strides toward these goals, and I am confident we will reach them."

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