



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Public Safety**

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
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February 7, 2018

The Honorable Scott Kawasaki  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 502  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Kawasaki,

This letter is in response to questions asked by members of the House Finance Public Safety subcommittee during the Department of Public Safety's (DPS) FY2019 budget overview on January 27, 2018.

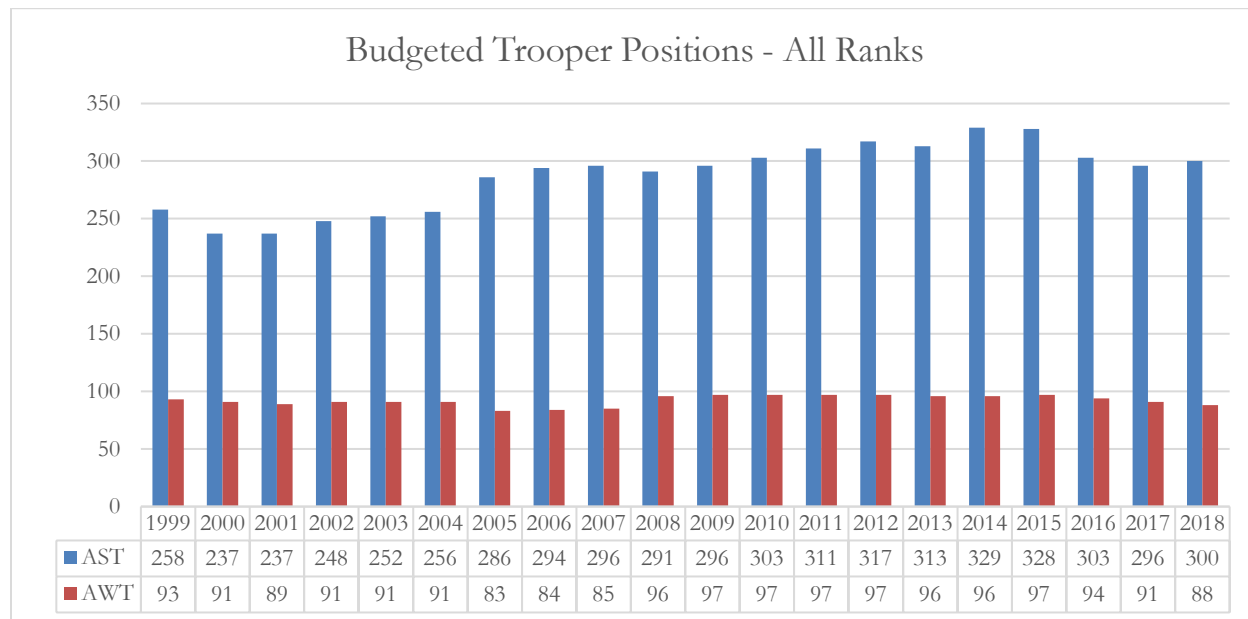
**Representative Saddler asked whether DPS' budget reflected any of the reductions claimed by the Walker Administration since FY2015.**

Attachment A provides a breakdown and comparison of DPS' authorized operating budget from FY2015 to FY2019 Governor's request which reflects an overall decrease of \$7,277.3 including all fund sources. The reduction in unrestricted general funds from FY2015 to FY2019 Governor's request is \$8,236.1. Additionally, the department has experienced a net loss of 81 permanent full-time positions during that period.

**Representative Kreiss-Tomkins asked, within present funding levels, how the department assesses whether the balance of Alaska State Troopers versus Alaska Wildlife Troopers is appropriately calibrated in different parts of Alaska.**

Trooper allocation decisions are based on a variety of factors and may be adjusted as necessary. Decision factors include the number of authorized trooper positions, the geographic location and population of the community, the level of calls for service and crime rates, and the availability of other law enforcement services in the community. Additionally, factors affecting Alaska Wildlife Trooper allocations include the geographic locations where fish and wildlife resource activities are occurring regardless of the availability of other law enforcement services.

The breakdown of budgeted Alaska State Trooper and Alaska Wildlife Trooper positions for the past twenty fiscal years is reflected in the following graph. On average, the ratio is approximately 3:1; three Alaska State Troopers for every one Alaska Wildlife Trooper. Even though it has remained rather constant, the ratio is not used as a factor when considering requests for additional positions for either division.



**Representative Kreiss-Tomkins asked if there is vacant space within the State Crime Lab and, if so, can vacant space be subleased to other state agencies to save rent or facilities costs.**

Currently there is no vacant space in the State Crime Lab. All space within the lab is effectively being used for laboratory space, office space, storage space for submitted sexual assault evidence collection kits, the DPS supply warehouse, and records storage.

The DPS procurement unit and supply warehouse moved into the crime lab in early 2017 from a leased facility where it had been housed since 1982. Rather than renew the lease, DPS seized the opportunity to maximize the available space in the crime lab which resulted in efficiencies through merging of our operations.

In accordance with the real estate lease agreement between the Municipality of Anchorage and the State of Alaska, the State must first request and obtain approval from both the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Municipality of Anchorage for any additional intended use of the land or facility. Though possible, DPS would first need to obtain this approval before contracting with other agencies for use of any future vacant space in the crime lab.

**Representative Kreiss-Tomkins asked what other funding sources the Alaska Wing Civil Air Patrol receives and how essential the State funding they receive through DPS is.**

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force and a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization. The CAP has three primary missions: aerospace education, cadet programs, and emergency services. *See the Alaska Wing Civil Air Patrol website:* <http://www.akwg.cap.gov/home>.

The entire amount of funding appropriated to DPS under AS 18.60.146 (currently \$453,500) is passed through to the Alaska Wing CAP. Per Colonel Carl L. Brown Jr., Commander of the Alaska Wing CAP, their total funding is the State funding passed through DPS. They receive a small amount related to a rebate from Maxwell AFB of the membership dues in the total of \$3,500 per year. Col. Brown stated that the AK Wing CAP is fully dependent on the State funding received through DPS to provide the services they do in the areas of youth (Cadet Program), emergency services, and aerospace education.

**Representative Saddler asked how much of the department's budget is allocated or used on providing services that could be performed by local police.**

It is difficult to break out the cost of services currently provided by DPS that could be provided by local law enforcement. Many of the duties and responsibilities assigned to the Department of Public Safety are provided through statute. Alaska State and Wildlife Troopers are charged with the enforcement of all criminal laws of the state, and have the power of a peace officer of the state or a municipality and those powers usually and customarily exercised by peace officers. They may also assist other law enforcement agencies in detecting crime, apprehending criminals, and preserving law and order in the state. *See AS 18.65.080.*

**Chair Kawasaki asked what local law enforcement presence there is across the state.**

State and local law enforcement personnel counts are included in the department's annual *Crime Reported in Alaska – Uniform Crime Reporting* publication.<sup>1</sup> The counts provide a snapshot of the number of filled, full-time law enforcement officers at a point in time. The most recent data is the number of filled, full-time state and local law enforcement officers as of 10/31/2017 and is provided as Attachment B.

DPS does not have access to federal law enforcement officer counts which would include US Department of Defense officers.

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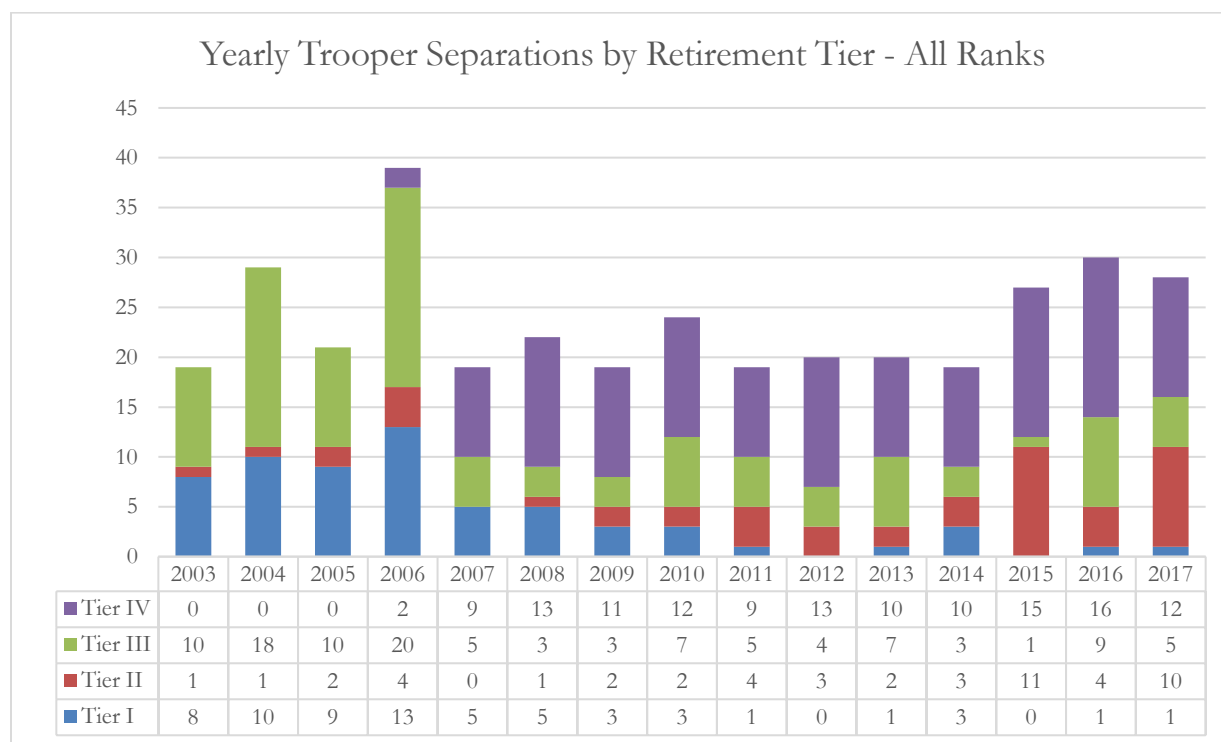
<sup>1</sup> <https://dps.alaska.gov/Statewide/R-I/UCR>

**Chair Kawasaki asked for details of how DPS will be involved with DEA or federal agencies when it comes to enforcing the federal drug laws surrounding marijuana considering the recent rescinding of the Cole memo by the USDOJ.**

DPS does not expect to be asked to do anything more than they previously were. The rescission of the Cole memo returned the discretion of enforcing federal marijuana law back to the local US Attorney. Discussions with the US Attorney's Office, combined with their public statements on this issue, lead us to believe that the US Attorney's Office will continue to prioritize the prosecution of violent offenders.

**Representative Parish asked for a breakdown of trooper attrition rate by retirement tier.**

The requested information is provided in the following graph. Employees who first entered the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) prior to July 1, 2006, are members of the PERS Defined Benefit Plan (Tiers I – III). Employees who first entered the PERS after 06/30/2006 are members of the PERS Defined Contribution Plan (Tier IV).



Representative Kawasaki

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide these responses. Please let me know if I can provide further information

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Walt Monegan", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Walt Monegan  
Commissioner

Attachments (2)

cc: Torrey Jacobson, Program Budget Analyst IV, Governor's Office of Management and Budget  
Amanda Ryder, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Finance Division  
Kelly Howell, Administrative Services Director, DPS  
Allison Hanzawa, Special Assistant to the Commissioner II, DPS

Department of Public Safety  
Operating Budget

	FY2015 - FY2016 Compare		FY2017 Management Plan	FY2016 - FY2017 Compare		FY2015 - FY2017 Compare	FY2017 - FY2018 Compare	FY2015 - FY2018 Compare		FY2019 Governor's	FY2018 - FY2019 Compare		FY2015 - FY2019 Compare	
	FY2015 Management Plan	FY2016 Management Plan		Change from FY2015	Percent Change from FY2015			Change from FY2015	Percent Change from FY2015		Change from FY2018	Percent Change from FY2018	Change from FY2015	Percent Change from FY2015
Personal Services	118,700.0	111,044.3	(7,655.7)	-6.4%	107,855.9	(3,188.4)	-2.9%	(10,844.1)	-9.1%	112,963.2	281.5	0.2%	(5,736.8)	-4.8%
Travel	8,127.6	7,562.0	(565.6)	-7.0%	7,309.2	(252.8)	-3.3%	(818.4)	-10.1%	7,100.6	2,265.4	46.9%	(1,027.0)	-12.6%
Services	40,145.9	39,198.0	(947.9)	-2.4%	39,333.1	135.1	0.3%	(812.8)	-2.0%	39,613.5	(1,213.4)	-3.0%	(532.4)	-1.3%
Commodities	6,933.1	6,725.7	(207.4)	-3.0%	6,609.4	(116.3)	-1.7%	(323.7)	-4.7%	7,197.7	324.1	4.7%	264.6	3.8%
Capital Outlay	1,852.7	1,805.5	(47.2)	-2.5%	1,755.5	(50.0)	-2.8%	(97.2)	-5.2%	1,409.4	(93.1)	-6.2%	(443.3)	-23.9%
Grants, Benefits	30,822.1	26,151.0	(4,671.1)	-15.2%	26,510.3	359.3	1.4%	(4,311.8)	-14.0%	31,019.7	3,599.4	13.1%	197.6	0.6%
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>206,581.4</b>	<b>192,486.5</b>	<b>(14,094.9)</b>	<b>-6.8%</b>	<b>189,373.4</b>	<b>(3,113.1)</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>	<b>(17,208.0)</b>	<b>-8.3%</b>	<b>199,304.1</b>	<b>5,163.9</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>(7,277.3)</b>	<b>-3.5%</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>														
1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	10,787.7	10,799.6	11.9	0.1%	10,806.7	7.1	0.1%	19.0	0.2%	16,487.6	4,321.9	35.5%	5,699.9	52.8%
1003 G/F Match (UGF)	693.3	693.3	0.0	0.0%	693.3	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	693.3	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	170,859.9	159,980.4	(10,879.5)	-6.4%	155,901.2	(4,079.2)	-2.5%	(14,958.7)	-8.8%	162,623.8	3,767.9	2.4%	(8,236.1)	-4.8%
1005 GF/Prgrm (DGF)	6,555.7	6,599.9	44.2	0.7%	6,564.3	(35.6)	-0.5%	8.6	0.1%	6,282.4	(65.2)	-1.0%	(273.3)	-4.2%
1007 I/A Rcpts (Other)	11,908.1	9,887.9	(2,020.2)	-17.0%	9,881.8	(6.1)	-0.1%	(2,026.3)	-17.0%	8,488.9	(1,285.8)	-13.2%	(3,419.2)	-28.7%
1055 I/A/OIL HAZ (Other)	49.7	50.7	1.0	2.0%	50.3	(0.4)	-0.8%	0.6	1.2%	0.0	(50.6)	-100.0%	(49.7)	-100.0%
1061 CIP Rcpts (Other)	5,523.1	4,270.8	(1,252.3)	-22.7%	4,271.9	1.1	0.0%	(1,251.2)	-22.7%	2,457.1	(1,391.4)	-36.2%	(3,066.0)	-55.5%
1108 Stat Desig (Other)	203.9	203.9	0.0	0.0%	203.9	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	271.0	(132.9)	-32.9%	67.1	32.9%
1246 Recid Redu (DGF)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%	1,000.0	1,000.0	0.0%	1,000.0	0.0%	2,000.0	0.0	0.0%	2,000.0	0.0%
<b>Funding Totals:</b>														
Unrestricted GF	171,553.2	160,673.7	(10,879.5)	-6.3%	156,594.5	(4,079.2)	-2.5%	(14,958.7)	-8.7%	163,317.1	3,767.9	2.4%	(8,236.1)	-4.8%
Designated GF	6,555.7	6,599.9	44.2	0.7%	7,564.3	964.4	14.6%	1,008.6	15.4%	8,282.4	(65.2)	-0.8%	1,726.7	26.3%
Other	17,684.8	14,413.3	(3,271.5)	-18.5%	14,407.9	(5.4)	0.0%	(3,276.9)	-18.5%	11,217.0	(2,860.7)	-20.3%	(6,467.8)	-36.6%
Federal	10,787.7	10,799.6	11.9	0.1%	10,806.7	7.1	0.1%	19.0	0.2%	16,487.6	4,321.9	35.5%	5,699.9	52.8%
<b>Positions:</b>														
Permanent Full Time	885	847	(38)	-4.3%	816	(31)	-3.7%	(69)	-7.8%	804	(4)	-0.5%	(81)	-9.2%
Permanent Part Time	18	18	0	0.0%	18	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	18	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Non Permanent	23	14	(9)	-39.1%	8	(6)	-42.9%	(15)	-65.2%	11	3	37.5%	(12)	-52.2%

## ATTACHMENT A

Department Level Summary  
Prepared by DPS

## Law Enforcement Personnel Counts 2017

Agency Name	Full-time Law Enforcement Officers		Full-time Civilian Employees		Total Full-time Law Enforcement Employees
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Alaska State Troopers	331	16	103	131	581
Anchorage Airport Police	48	4	3	10	65
Anchorage Police Department	351	57	36	111	555
Bethel Police Department	10	1	5	6	22
Bristol Bay Borough Police Department	4	0	0	5	9
Cordova Police Department	4	0	3	2	9
Craig Police Department	4	0	0	5	9
Dillingham Police Department	6	0	8	3	17
Emmonak Police Department	0	0	0	0	0
Fairbanks Airport Police and Fire	24	3	0	8	35
Fairbanks Police Department	37	2	0	5	44
Fort Yukon Police Department	3	0	0	0	3
Galena Police Department	0	0	0	0	0
Haines Police Department	5	0	1	4	10
Homer Police Department	11	1	5	4	21
Hoonah Police Department	4	0	1	3	8
Juneau Police Department	40	4	7	21	72
Kenai Police Department	15	3	4	3	25
Ketchikan Police Department	20	1	2	9	32
Kake Police Department	0	0	0	0	0
King Cove Police Department	5	0	0	0	5
Klawock Police Department	3	0			3
Kodiak Police Department	15	2	11	10	38
Kotzebue Police Department	10	0	6	1	17
Nenana Police Department	0	0	0	0	0
Nome Police Department	7	1	2	5	15
North Pole Police Department	12	1	0	1	14
North Slope Borough Police Dept	43	3	13	15	74
Palmer Police Department	12	2	1	10	25
Petersburg Police Department	9	0	0	5	14
Sand Point Police Department	2	0	0	1	3
Seldovia Police Department	1	0	0	0	1
Seward Police Department	9	1	7	3	20
Sitka Police Department	13	1	6	6	26
Skagway Police Department	3	0	2	5	10
Soldotna Police Department	14	0	0	2	16
St. Paul Police Department	2	2	3	4	11
Togiak Police Department	0	0	0	0	0
Unalaska Police Department	9	3	8	5	25
University of Alaska Anchorage Poli	11	2	4	1	18
University of Alaska Fairbanks Polic	4	1	2	3	10
Valdez Police Department	11	0	0	0	11
Wasilla Police Department	22	1	6	23	52
Whittier Police Department	5	0	0	1	6
Wrangell Police Department	5	0	0	6	11
Yakutat Police Department	3	0	0	2	5
	1147	112	249	439	1947