



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Public Safety

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March 18, 2019

The Honorable Bart LeBon
Chair, House Finance DPS Budget Subcommittee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 418
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative LeBon,

This response provides answers to questions posed in your letter dated March 12, 2019.

- 1. In the Department's FY2018 actuals for the Alaska State Trooper Detachment allocation, it appears that the Department was going to revert some \$2 million in personal services and ended up spending it on capital outlay instead. What did the Department purchase with those funds?**

Funds were used for the purchase of aircraft equipment and software, travel trailers and replacement off-road vehicles, Special Emergency Reaction Team (SERT) equipment, and law enforcement safety equipment (such as Tasers and ammunition). All the items purchased were for the direct support of law enforcement duties, SERT, and search and rescue operations, specifically:

- Aircraft Equipment & Software: Crash resistant fuel tanks and Wescam MX-10 camera multi-spectrum imaging systems to include installation and training/education services for the two AStar helicopters.
- Vehicles and replacement equipment: Travel trailers, ATVs, snowmachines, side-by-side ATV, snowbunches travel pods for remote location law enforcement duties and search and rescue operations.
- SERT Equipment: SERT Bearcat Gas Injector units for support of SERT operations.
- Security/Safety/Storage Equipment: Tasers and ammunition, GPS tracker units, Connex units.

- 2. Does the Department expect to lapse any funding within the Alaska State Trooper Detachments personal services line for FY19 and, if so, could any of that funding be used against the department's FY19 Supplemental request?**

The department does not expect a significant lapse in FY2019. Historically, funding for unfilled positions has been needed to absorb increased costs on other line items. If all positions were filled, additional funding would be needed.

- 3. The FY20 Governor Amended budget proposes to transfer 3 Human Resources PCNs and 2 Grants staff to the Commissioner's Office from Administrative Services. What is the purpose of housing those staff within the Commissioner's Office instead of Administrative Services and then funding those positions through Interagency Receipts?**

Administrative Order 302 centralized all department Administrative Services Directors under the Office of Management & Budget. This presented an opportunity for the department to realign and shift the management of these department-wide services from the Administrative Services Division to the Commissioner's Office for improved organizational structure.

- DPS serves as the State Administering Agency (SAA) for federal grants awarded through the US Department of Justice. SAAs are entities within state governments that are responsible for comprehensive criminal justice planning and policy development.
- The Human Resources section provides professional human resource consultation to management in reviewing high-liability incidents involving commissioned employees including allegations of potential criminal matters, use-of-force, emergency vehicle operations and pursuits, and professional conduct, in addition to general human resource and personnel services.

These positions have historically been funded via Interagency Receipts.

- 4. Why did the Alaska Wildlife Troopers Aircraft Section have a \$538.2 surplus in FY19 and what will the Alaska Wildlife Troopers be using with the transferred funding for FY20?**

This transfer was done to align available funding to better reflect anticipated expenditures for the coming fiscal year for each of the components. It should be noted that FY2019 is not yet complete; funding needs for FY2020 were estimated based on the best information available at the time the budget request was submitted.

- 5. To what extent has the Department leveraged partnerships with the Civil Air Patrol for Search and Rescue missions?**

The funding DPS provides to the Alaska Wing Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is specifically appropriated by the legislature under AS 18.60.146 as the state's contribution towards support of the authorized activities of the CAP. It is essentially pass-through funding. The department has no authority over the CAP, nor can DPS direct the activities of the CAP. Requests for assistance of the CAP must go through the 11th Air Force Alaska Rescue Coordination Center at JBER.

- 6. In increasing the Federal Receipt authority for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault under the Victim of Crime Act (VOCA), how long is the funding going to continue for and does the program have a plan for when (or if) those Federal funds discontinue?**

There is currently no indication that federal grant funding through the Victims of Crime Act will be discontinued in the foreseeable future. CDVSA's most recent award under the VOCA program was for federal fiscal year 2018 and has a period of availability extending until 9/30/2021. CDVSA will receive an FFY2019 award which will be available until 2022. VOCA is a formula grant and, as the SAA, the department expects to receive an annual award as long as the program is authorized.

- 7. What is the vacancy factor for the Alaska State Troopers Detachments?**

The vacancy factor for Alaska State Troopers Detachments is 5.89% for the FY2020 Governor Amended request.

- 8. While Commissioner-Designee Price noted that conversations between the Department of Public Safety and Department of Corrections have not occurred regarding the proposed relocation of prisoners out of state, can the Department elaborate on how that process may be budgeted for? Would a FY20 Supplemental appropriation be necessary to fulfil that task?**

We do not want to speculate on what these costs might be, though we understand after consulting with the Department of Corrections that DOC may have included these costs in their FY2020 Governor's Amended budget request.

- 9. On Slide 7 of the OMB-DPS FY2020 Budget Overview, the Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol is listed as "critical" to the Department's mission but rated as "ineffective." Could the Department please explain that rating and the steps the Department is taking to correct that situation?**

The rating of "ineffective" was in reference to the fact that staffing for the Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol (ABHP) decreased from 23 (19 commissioned) in FY2015 to 6 (4 commissioned) in FY2019. The 19 State Trooper positions were moved from the ABHP component into vacant PCNs under the AST Detachments component. Though we no longer have the same number of dedicated positions within ABHP, highway safety is a department core function and all patrol troopers perform these functions as part of their duties.

- 10. How many patrol vehicles does the Department own and how many of those vehicles are presently assigned to active personnel?**

The department currently owns a total of 304 marked patrol units. This includes 252 vehicles assigned to active personnel, 24 reserved for vacant positions, and 28 designated as spares. Spares are located in places where staff are not permanently assigned, but must respond to calls for assistance (e.g. Hyder, Haines, McGrath). There are also seasonal spares in locations where staff

are deployed for fisheries enforcement (e.g. King Salmon, Dillingham, and Egegik). This count does not include investigator vehicles, command vehicles, or specialty vehicles such as SERT or armored Bearcat vehicles.

- 11. During the March 12 HDPS Hearing, Commissioner-Designee Price commented that it was the Department's intention to fill all the vacant trooper PCNs that are funded in the FY20 budget proposal and that the Department intends to ask for a supplemental request next year. Could the Department clarify what that supplemental request would be for if all the requested trooper positions were fully funded?**

If DPS is successful in filling every authorized State Trooper position, it would be our intent to request additional new State Trooper positions in the FY2021. The department is pursuing additional staffing studies to gather the data to help us determine what adequate staffing should be. At this time, we are not able to provide what that additional cost might be.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to these questions. I look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues on our shared goal of improving public safety in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Amanda Price
Commissioner-Designee

cc: Dan Spencer, Administrative Services Director, Office of Management and Budget
Morgan Foss, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Finance Division
Kelly Howell, Special Assistant to the Commissioner II, DPS