

State of Alaska FY2022 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety

Department of Public Safety

Mission

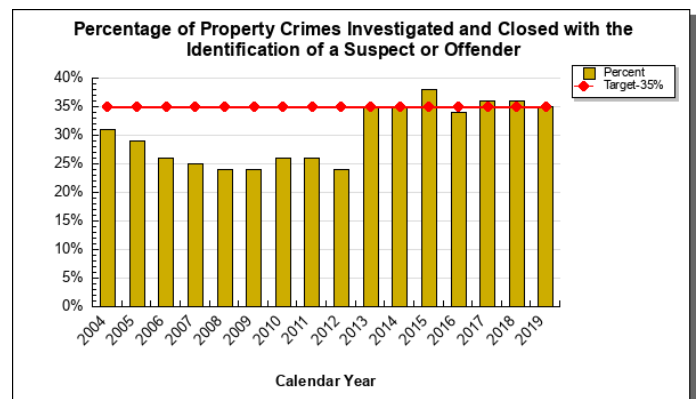
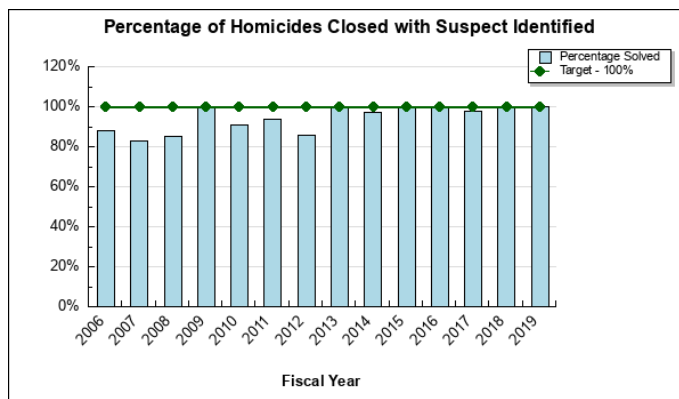
The mission of the Department of Public Safety is to ensure public safety and enforce fish and wildlife laws. AS 44.41.020

	Core Services (in priority order)	UGF	DGF	Other	Fed	Total	PFT	PPT	NP	% GF
1	Law Enforcement Patrol & Investigations	63,888.4	191.2	1,129.5	9,567.2	74,776.3	482.8	0.0	15.0	33.9%
2	Rural Law Enforcement	28,550.9	1,535.3	939.0	0.0	31,025.2	3.0	0.0	2.0	15.9%
3	Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Programs	30,599.8	2,000.8	626.6	13,738.8	46,966.0	13.2	0.0	0.0	17.3%
4	Statewide Public Safety Programs	26,069.7	4,833.8	8,148.0	4,366.5	43,418.0	234.0	0.0	2.0	16.4%
5	Resource Protection	29,404.3	175.8	535.3	0.0	30,115.4	139.0	18.0	1.0	15.7%
6	Highway Safety	1,516.3	0.4	1,990.3	0.0	3,507.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.8%
	FY2021 Management Plan	180,029.3	8,737.3	13,368.7	27,672.5	229,807.8	876.0	18.0	20.0	

Measures by Core Service

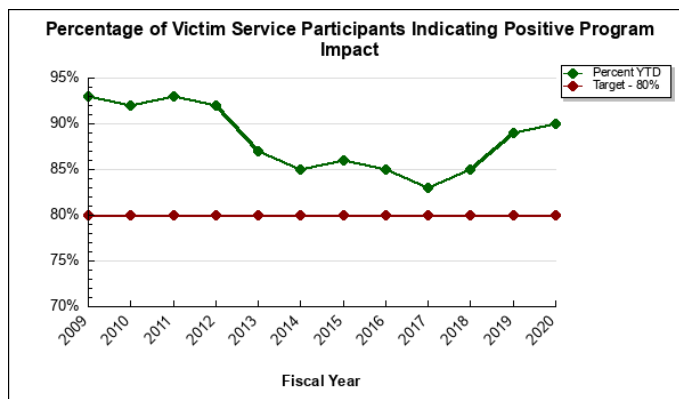
(Additional performance information is available on the web at <https://omb.alaska.gov/results>.)

1. Law Enforcement Patrol & Investigations



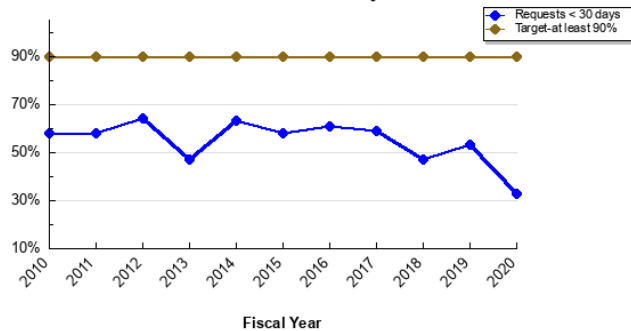
2. Rural Law Enforcement

3. Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Programs

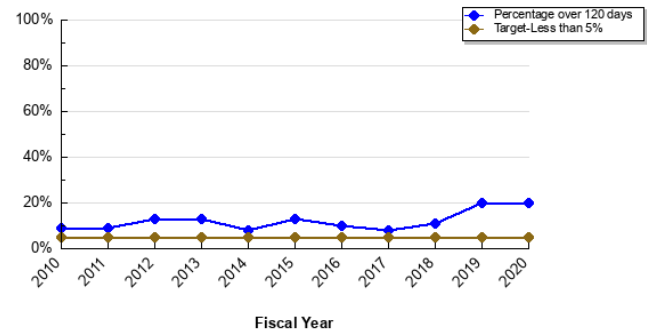


4. Statewide Public Safety Programs

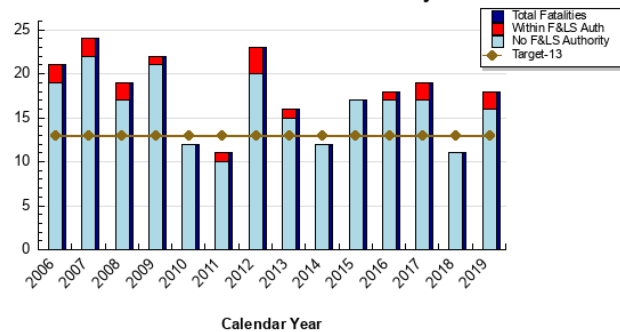
Percentage of State Crime Laboratory Service Requests Accomplished in Less than 30 Days



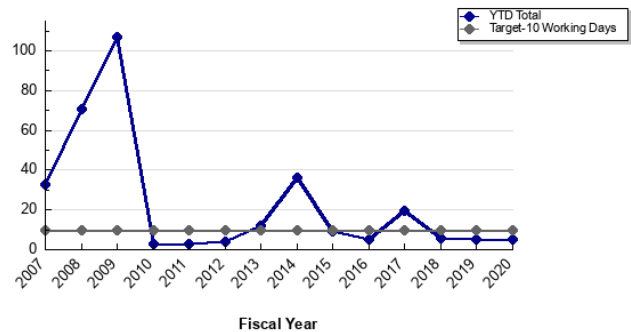
Percentage of State Crime Laboratory Service Requests Over 120 Days Old



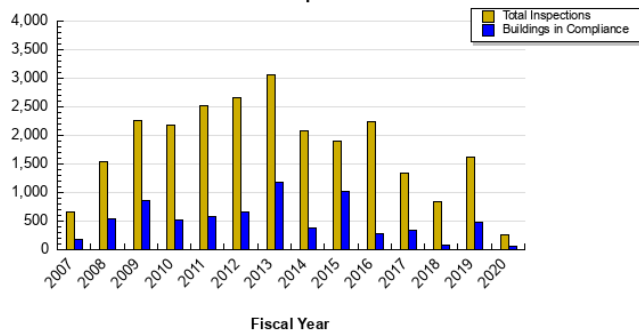
Number of Fatal Fires with DF&LS Authority vs Number of Fatal Fires with No DF&LS Authority



Average Number of Days to Disseminate Criminal History Information by Criminal Records and Identification

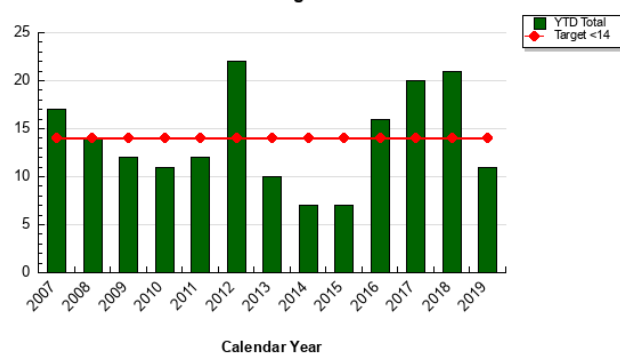


Percentage of Buildings in Compliance with Legal Standards According to Inspections

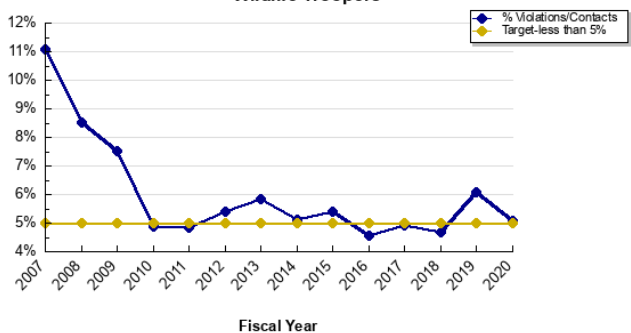


5. Resource Protection

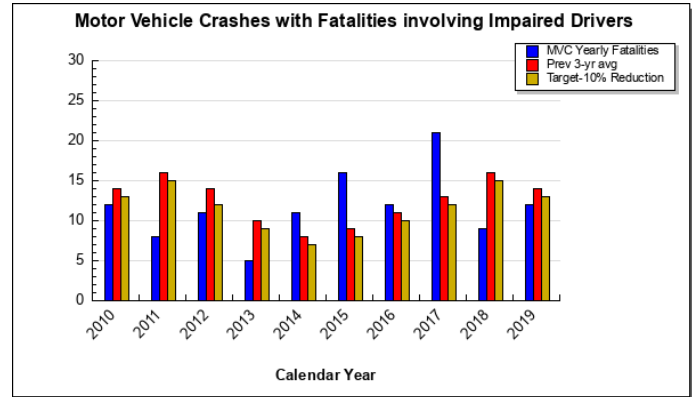
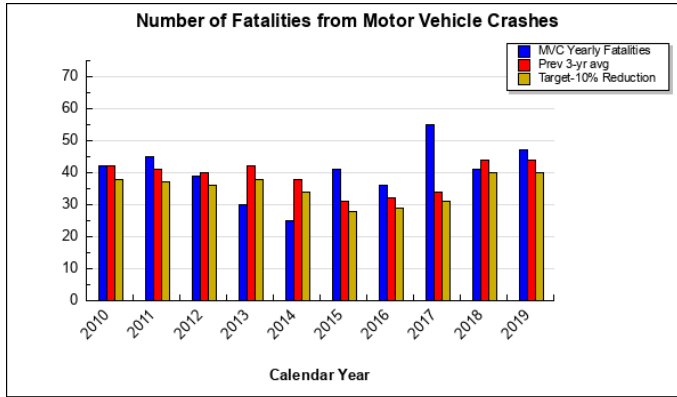
Number of Alaska Boating Accidents with Fatalities



Percentage of Wildlife Violations Detected per User Contacts by Alaska Wildlife Troopers



6. Highway Safety



Major Department Accomplishments in 2020

Law Enforcement Patrol and Investigations:

The Alaska State Troopers (AST):

In FY2020, the Alaska State Troopers (AST) accomplished the following:

- Handled more than 91,965 calls for service within AST jurisdiction.
- Responded to more than 2,348 motor vehicle collisions.
- The Department of Public Safety (DPS) responded to 566 search and rescue related incidents in FY2020. These incidents included overdue hunters, snowmobilers, hikers, boaters, and medical evacuations off the road system. After investigation of these incidents, 398 incidents required SAR resources. Within these 398 incidents, 739 persons were assisted, located, or recovered.
- DPS and SAR partners statewide responded to 50 emergency beacon alerts and 19 reported aircraft crashes. The 19 aircraft crashes incidents included 5 aircraft fatality crashes, 3 aircraft injury crashes, and 11 aircraft crashes involving property damage only.
- Solved 93 percent of the homicides that occurred within AST jurisdiction or for which AST was asked to adopt the investigation from a borough, city, or municipality.
- Served or closed over 8,085 warrants.
- Served or closed over 15,330 writs.
- Served or closed over 1,738 Domestic Violence Orders.
- Partnered with Department of Health and Social Services on Project Hope to help combat the opioid epidemic. Introduced the life-saving drug Naloxone into field use with Alaskan law enforcement officers.
- Implemented continued integration of other agencies into the Alaska Records Management System (ARMS).
- Conducted crime scene investigations for rural law enforcement.
- Held Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Development seminar.
- Held K-9 training for both AST and multiple municipal police agencies.
- Held advanced forensic investigative training.
- Ongoing recertification / training in firearms, use of force and mental health awareness training.
- Held Rural Trooper Advanced Training covering topics related to domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Deployment of a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) application in the DPS Fairbanks dispatch center.

State Trooper Special Patrol Activities:

During the past year, all detachments have conducted special patrol activities. Those activities typically include special annual events such as the Alaska State Fair in Palmer, Mount Marathon race in Seward, the Iron Dog start, the Iditarod restart, Memorial Day events, the Deltana Fair, the Tanana Valley Fair, and the Ninilchik Fair. Due to COVID-19 mitigation efforts, however, the Iditarod restart was the only event on this list attended in

FY2020. Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol members also conducted dedicated patrols in Department of Transportation (DOT) construction zones and designated highway safety corridors.

The Alaska State Troopers also partnered with several municipal police departments for multi-jurisdictional patrols over the holidays to improve highway safety and shifted resources to reduce vehicle related incidents on the surface transportation system when popular personal use and sport fisheries were opened and traffic flow increased.

Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT):

The AWT participated in the national boating safety program titled "Operation Dry Water". Operation Dry Water is a program run by the National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), during which law enforcement officers from around the country conduct patrols for boating safety enforcement and specifically boaters operating under the influence (BUI). Boating related fatalities dropped in calendar year 2019 to 11 fatalities down significantly from the 21 boating related fatalities in calendar year 2018.

The AWT are organized in two detachments; Southern Detachment and Northern Detachment. Southern Detachment is commanded by a Captain, and encompasses the areas of southeast Alaska, southwest Alaska, Kodiak Island, the Gulf of Alaska, Aleutian Islands, and Bering Sea. Northern Detachment, also commanded by a Captain, encompasses western Alaska including the Kuskokwim River drainage northward, the North Slope and interior Alaska, as well as south-central, the Kenai Peninsula, and Prince William Sound.

- *Made 62,242 contacts with resource users.*
- *Gave 3,804 citations for violations.*
- *Gave 4,481 warnings for violations.*
- *Made 3,539 contacts relating to general boating safety laws.*
- *Participated in numerous search and rescue missions with AWT vessels and aircraft.*
- *Provided the only trooper presence in eight communities.*

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Rural Law Enforcement:

The focus in FY2020 was on improving management of the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program. The VPSO program statutory responsibilities which DPS is tasked with are not bound to a single unit within the department. Following input from the legislative working group in January 2020, the core services of monitoring the annual grant program, equipment, and supply responsibilities shifted to the Division of Administrative Services (DAS) within DPS. DAS core services include the centralized services of budget, finance, procurement and grant oversight. Moving the administration of the VPSO program under DAS has been a smooth transition within DPS and streamlined the department's approach to a cooperative relationship with grantees on fiscal planning and implementation of the program.

Operational oversight of the program has remained under the responsibility of the Alaska State Troopers (AST). A core service for AST is providing rural law enforcement training, as such the operational oversight of VPSOs in the

communities are the responsibility of the four AST detachments. This reorganization recognizes that local AST detachments are best suited to provide localized mentoring and oversight, including field training, report approvals, assistance with investigations, and overall performance management.

Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program:

The VPSO program support staff continues to focus on improving programmatic management. During the past year all ten grantees received a formal on-site visit to evaluate financial and programmatic activities of each grantee ensuring proper administrative and financial management and compliance with the parameters of the grant agreement.

At the beginning of FY2020, there were 45 VPSOs employed, two Certified VPSO Coordinators and eight non-VPSO grantee program coordinators. By the end of FY2020 there were 47 VPSOs employed, three Certified VPSO Coordinators and eight non-VPSO grantee program coordinators.

Statewide Public Safety Programs:

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault:

FY2020 was a year unlike others with the arrival of COVID-19 in January and by March Alaska enacting “stay at home mandates” to prevent further spread of the virus. Through the first six (6) months of FY2020 the work of CDVSA focused on FY19 sub-grantee close-outs and FY20 sub-grantee funding awards, new budgets and finalizing grant awards. FY2020 was a continuation year for CDVSA’s three (3) competitive grant programs – Victim Services, Battering Intervention and Prevention. Twenty-six (26) community-based sub-grant awards, focusing on services to victims of domestic and sexual violence and other violent crimes, perpetrator rehabilitation, and prevention strategies and interventions were made across Alaska from Utqiagvik to Unalaska. Due to an increase in our federal VOCA funding, victim service programs received an additional \$400,000 to increase and enhance community service availability.

Data collection, analysis and relying on data to drive programming decisions was more strongly emphasized in FY2020 due to the addition of a new Research Analyst II with exceptional research skills. CDVSA is committed to improving our collection and use of all program and service delivery data moving forward.

Due to the pandemic and the need for sub-grantee programs to modify and find alternative ways of providing services during a pandemic, service data may look skewed in relation to FY19 data. To better understand the impact of DVSA services in the early months of the emergency health order, CDVSA conducted a survey of all grant funded program from March 11-April 24. An 85% return rate showed that due to social distancing shelters reduced their bed capacity by 57% within shelters and increased their use of other housing options such as hotels, apartments and safe homes by 60%. Programs saw an overall increase in crisis line calls of 52%. Additionally, agencies increased their use of telehealth and telephonic services from 24% pre-COVID-19 to 65% of services being offered virtually or telephonically post-COVID-19.

Total FY2020 victim service program data include 81,863 nights of safe shelter across the state. It is important to note that not all 24 victim service providers have on-site shelter programs; some programs may work with safe homes, hotels and/or other agencies to provide emergency shelter. This number is significantly lower than FY19, and we believe this is due to the disruption related to COVID-19. To meet social distancing and quarantine requirements programs reduced their bed capacity by 57%, as noted above. Additionally, these numbers are missing three of our smaller programs who have not yet submitted their final FY2020 service data. The estimated cost per night of emergency shelter aggregated across Alaska rose from \$94.00 in FY19 to \$104 per night in FY2020, again due to reduced bed capacity and costs associated with finding alternative safe shelter for participants during the pandemic. Because of the significant changes and challenges for DVSA service programs during FY2020, data is still being reviewed and analyzed to better understand how COVID-19 impacted service requests, service delivery and alternative service availability. CDVSA will conduct a full analysis of FY2020 data in FY2021.

Ninety percent and 89 percent respectively of responding participants answered “Yes” to the outcome measure

question: *I know more or different intervention strategies for safety than I did before* and to the outcome measure question: *I know more about what resources and help are available and how to access those resources*. These percentages are slightly increased from FY2019, continuing to meet and exceed the goal of 80% positive response. During FY2021 CDVSA will review and revise these outcome measures to be sure the surveys are asking the right questions to obtain quality data for analysis.

One key accomplishment in FY2020 was the development of an agency-wide Language Access Plan, to improve access to services for victims of violent crimes who do not speak English or are English-limited speakers. In partnership with the Alaska Institute for Justice, CDVSA conducted an assessment of needs and then developed a plan of action finalized in November 2019 and approved by the CDVSA Board of Directors. This important step begins to bring CDVSA into compliance with the federal Civil Rights Act. Due to the onset of COVID-19, progress to implement the plan was delayed and work will continue in FY2021.

A second key accomplishment was the initiation of a new 5-year Strategic Plan that will cover 2020-2024. The goal is to have a living, breathing Strategic Plan that guides and encourages the Council's work going forward. Progress on the Strategic Plan included a 2-day staff retreat to begin framing issues important to the work of CDVSA, followed by a 1-day working Board meeting to review and add to the initial staff work—both of these sessions were facilitated by Professional Grow Systems, an Anchorage-based organization. The final input was gathered from broad and multi-disciplinary stakeholders in four (4) roundtable discussions in March. Sessions were held in Fairbanks, Bethel, Anchorage and Juneau with over 70 stakeholders attending and providing critical feedback. Following these multiple input sessions with staff, board and stakeholders, four (4) external strategic initiatives were identified as most critical: decreased barriers to access; increased collaboration with stakeholders; increased emphasis and resources for primary prevention effort; and improved programming for perpetrator rehabilitation. Once again, COVID-19 slowed our progress and work will continue in FY2021.

A final key accomplishment was the ability to create a new sub-grantee funding program – Enhanced Services for Victims of Crime. This program is funded exclusively with federal VOCA funding and focuses on three priority areas:

1. Alaska's Child Advocacy Center Enhanced Services;
2. Children's trauma-informed mental health services for victims of violence or children who witnessed violence in their home;
3. Civil legal advocacy and services for those impacted by interpersonal and other violent crimes.

A competitive RFP was released on October 25, 2019, with a total of 19 proposals being received. All but one proposal was approved for funding. New grant awards were issued effective February 1. A total of \$1.2 million funded these 18 programs for the remaining 5-months of FY2020; continuation awards will be made in FY21 and FY22. The addition of these sub-grantees increased our number of grantees from 26 to 35.

The Division of Fire and Life Safety:

- Conducted 302 building fire and life safety inspections. There were 2775 follow-up communication actions in support of the 302 fire and life safety inspections that were not in compliance and 470 fire and life safety inspections were found to be in compliance.
- The Plan Review Bureau has received and completed 716 building plan reviews, 15 Application for Modifications, 107 applications processed for the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office, and 45 Impairments Plans. The Bureau creates a safe public and work environment across Alaska while reducing review time to four weeks.

Plan Review Bureau's seven personnel are charged with enforcing the law on all public and commercial facilities within a reasonable time to review plans and issue fire and life safety certificates of approval. The bureau has acquired two new positions; Plans Examiner II, Supervisor; and a Plans Examiner I, Reviewer. The two new positions have reduced the plan review turnaround time by over 70% and provide outstanding customer service to Alaskans statewide.

- Investigated 30 significant fires involving fatalities and/or significant damage outside of deferral jurisdictions.
- Provided various levels of fire training to a broad spectrum of students from urban and rural communities to industry-based personnel.

- Delivered rural fire protection “train-the-trainer” material statewide.
- Provided fire training for the Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO) program.
- Provided direct and indirect fire safety education presentations to Alaska groups through participation in state fairs, home shows, inspections, educational briefings, radio advertising and local television. ‘Train the Trainer’ efforts were conducted by providing educational material, early warning smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and training to local fire departments whose staff are then able to present the information to their communities.
- Procured and implemented over \$416,585 worth of fire training and training equipment funded through the FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) Program.
- Provided incidental and formal technical assistance to departments and communities throughout the state.
- Delivered health and wellness programs, specifically targeting prevention of suicide in the first responder community of Alaska.
- Received, processed and reported 69,801 fire and emergency incident reports from 172 fire departments across the state. These reports were incorporated into the national fire incident reporting database. Feedback reports based on these statistics were then supplied to departments and user groups and were published in the annual “Fire in Alaska” report.
- Provided fire extinguisher maintenance and inspection knowledge testing, fire alarm and suppression system maintenance, inspection and design licensing, and firework pyrotechnic operator and firework pyrotechnic operator and retail sales permits which resulted in the issuance of 383 permits.
- Completed the 2018 International Code Council code amendments on minimum building, fire, fuel gas and mechanical standards for building plan reviews on all commercial buildings, fire and life safety in assembly, educational, institutional, residential type facilities such as apartments and hotels and high impact facilities including fish processing plants, fire detection, fire suppression systems, fireworks and processing oil and gas facilities. The division also met with stakeholders (i.e. architects, engineers, fire officials, building officials, oil and gas industry, tourism industry, recreation vehicle campground association, fire protection system industries, etc.) for comments.

The Alaska Fire Standards Council:

- Issued fire certification for 893 applicants
- Facilitated testing and certification for 111 separate examination groups.
- Tested 608 individuals for fire service professional qualification advancement.
- Increased the access and functionality of statewide records management system for fire service web-based access to training, testing, and certification information.
- Supported 42 Alaska fire departments with local accreditation.
- The council held two general meetings during the fiscal year, as required under AS 18.70.340(b).
(Note: These statistics are based on fiscal year data as opposed to the calendar year statistics presented in other publications.)
- *A process improvement plan was successfully initiated to fully implement our modernization of the certification testing delivery systems. The reduction of administrative costs and expansion of industry certification continues to be a core mission priority to increase professional development opportunities for fire service personnel. Additionally, AFSC successfully garnered an additional Accredited Certification for Fire Instructor III, in concert with beta success on an associated online instructional component.*

Information Services:

- Continued successful deployment of the Alaska Records Management System (ARMS) to state and municipal agencies. During FY2020 Homer PD, Fairbanks Airport Police, and Dillingham PD were onboarded into ARMS.
- Deployed a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system for AST's Fairbanks dispatch center. The first phase of the CAD deployment was successfully completed on schedule in June 2020, and a project to interface between CAD and ARMS is ongoing and expected to be completed before the end of 2020.
- Continued migrating DPS headquarters database and application servers to the Office of Information Technology (OIT) South Anchorage Data Center (SADC). The majority of DPS systems have been successfully migrated SADC, and the remaining systems are in progress or planned to be decommissioned.
- Upgraded evidence management, case management, and laboratory information management systems for the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory, maintaining continuity of lab operations and data integrity/chain of custody during the projects.

Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory (Crime Lab):

A total of 4,262 database samples (17% increase over FY2019 with a 28% duplication rate) and 411 forensic profiles (from submitted cases – a 70% increase over FY2019) were entered into the DNA database with the following results:

- 4 forensic hits (linking currently unsolved cases).
- 167 instances of an Alaskan suspect being identified in an unsolved Alaska case (a 43% increase on FY2019)
- 9 instances of a non-Alaskan suspect being identified in an unsolved Alaska case. (350% increase on FY2019)
- 8 instances of an Alaskan offender being identified as a suspect in a case from another state (63% decrease on FY2019)

A total of 126 cases were searched against the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) resulting in 45 fingerprint hits.

Resource Protection:

In FY2020 the largest department patrol vessels (*P/V Stimson*, *P/V Enforcer*, and *P/V Camai*) spent a combined total of 332 days at sea and logged 24,975 miles patrolling waters of Alaska primarily for commercial fisheries patrols. The skiffs assigned to these vessels patrolled an additional 11,744 miles. Approximately 723 fishing vessels were boarded and checked. Fishing gear on the grounds was also checked, including 614 crab pots. These patrol efforts resulted in 200 case investigations that included fishing during closed season and closed waters, illegal gear and over limit of gear, fishing without permits, and license violations.

Key Department Challenges**Law Enforcement Patrol and Investigations:****Increased Need for Core Police Services:**

As Alaska's population continues to grow, requests for services in many core areas have increased. Alcohol and drug involvement in crime remains a significant challenge. Technological changes and sophistication allow new criminal exploitations of the populace, including identity theft, child pornography and online child sexual exploitation, and computer fraud schemes. Terroristic threats to infrastructure require greater patrols, more response planning, and more efforts aimed toward public reassurance. The complexity of calls for service and the commensurate time involved in current requirements for documentation and reporting of events has resulted in Alaska State Troopers

(AST) becoming a very reactive organization.

For most of the commissioned personnel assigned to AST, proactive enforcement such as highway traffic patrols, burglary suppression, and community policing have been forced to a lower priority as personnel respond from one call for service to the next, day in and day out. This trend is expected to continue into FY2022 with areas such as proactive traffic enforcement being further negatively impacted due to the realignment of most commissioned positions previously assigned to the Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol. The contrast between the actual capabilities and resources of AST and the beliefs and expectations of the public requires significant staff time dedicated to explanation in a myriad of forums.

AST's technology base continues to lag far behind other police and public service organizations in all these areas. One example of this is the ancient in-car video technology that AST is currently using. Although AST was allowed to re-appropriate some Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds in FY2016 to partially address this issue, there will continue to be both technical and funding challenges in implementing a more widespread utilization of new in-car video technology.

Another example of this is the significant lag in connectivity speeds that AST personnel experience in many of Alaska's rural areas. This results in tremendous challenges for personnel who are entering necessary information into police reports Alaska Records Management system (ARMS) and related databases. This problem exists due to infrastructure gaps and will be an issue no matter the platform for electronics records management.

AST continues to refine the merger of data between the Alaska Public Safety Information Network (APSIN) and ARMS. As case activity is incorporated into ARMS, there have been some identified hurdles in clearly capturing all of the enforcement activity and subsequently reporting it in the same format as in prior years. AST expects to continue to see some deviation in reportable activity with some downward trends not accurately reflecting the current levels of true calls for service and responses. Prior years have seen improvement, but there are still challenges in mining the data to create accurate reports depicting a true picture of AST activity. AST anticipates that this will continue into FY2022. DPS has identified business process development and standardization as a key component to correctly collect data for reporting purposes.

State Trooper Recruitment:

The number of applicants for trooper positions over the past year has continued to increase from prior years. Of those who were recruited, a significant percentage of the applicants were attributable to the recruiting efforts done by working AST and AWT personnel, fresh new advertising videos, as well as the recruitment website and paid Facebook and Instagram advertising. However, recruitment and retention continue to be the largest challenge for troopers. Although the recruitment unit has been successful in increasing applications, attracting *quality* applicants is especially challenging when competing with other agencies in and out of Alaska. The requirement that troopers be willing to attend a residential academy in Sitka, then eventually transfer to rural locations where housing and amenities are limited or inadequate creates recruitment challenges for AST that are not faced by other police agencies in the state.

Court Security:

DPS has received an increase of five (5) court service positions and is working toward deploying personnel in these positions around the state. This addition works toward helping DPS properly handle increased court security concerns, transport prisoners, and serve domestic violence protective orders, stalking, and other court writs in a timely manner, but does not completely solve our existing staffing concerns.

Prisoner Transportation:

The cost of prisoner transports depends greatly on the amount of time the Alaska Court System (ACS) provides to Judicial Services to arrange transport, the types of transport available and the availability of officers to staff the transport. Additionally, Judicial Services must always keep public safety in mind when arranging transport of prisoners who pose greater potential risk during transport. The department has put into practice numerous cost saving

procedures, but most of the costs associated with prisoner transportation are out of the department's control. The Alaska Court System (ACS) and the Department of Corrections (DOC) make the decisions regarding when to transport prisoners. The DOC is under mandate by the courts to limit the number of inmates at all institutions, which often requires Department of Public Safety assistance to balance the inmate population among different institutions.

Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program:

Lack of clearly articulated responsibilities of the grantee and DPS within statute has hindered the effectiveness of the program. For example, statutes do not include detailed instructions on financial management of the VPSO program. Differing interpretation of the statutes has created barriers to communication by not providing clear directions and measurable program performance.

Recruitment and retention remain a challenge for the program. Although not a new problem for the VPSO program, law enforcement agencies across the nation are suffering from recruitment difficulties. The rural to urban migration which has existed for most of Alaska's modern history limits the number of qualified, interested applicants looking to remain in rural Alaska. The VPSO program must also compete for applicants with every public safety program in Alaska. Insufficient rural public safety infrastructure, lack of housing, and local public funding to support a VPSO are common problems. As costs increase and community revenue remains the same or decreases, a higher demand is placed on providing funding from the VPSO program for costs such as office space, infrastructure construction and upkeep, utilities, vehicle and heating fuel to support rural public safety services.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA):

Safety:

While Alaska has a strong, regionally diverse network of victim service programs across the state in both urban and rural hub locations, COVID-19 brought significant challenges for this network of service providers to address. Managing a contagious virus within 24/7 shelter programs created difficult situations for both victims and program staff. First, there were significant concerns about vulnerable people “hunkered down” at home, living with a violent partner or in an unhealthy relationship, unable to reach out for help. Second, how were programs supposed to manage this virus while working in a 24/7, congregate living program? The good news is that all 35 sub-grantees kept their doors open and services available continuously through the remainder of FY2020. Services were different, more distant and provided in alternative ways, but still available 24-7 for anyone in need.

To help ease the burden to CDVSA's sub-grantee community, staff worked closely with all sub-grantees to relax grant regulations and policies to provide greater flexibility to spend grant funding where most needed. Additionally, CDVSA reduced the percentage of required match funding for all general fund dollars; and allowed funds to be used where most needed, reallocating funds to best meet the needs of alternative service delivery during FY2020.

Staff recruitment and retention continues to be a challenge for most domestic violence and sexual assault shelter programs in Alaska. While low salaries and high turnover continue to be a concern, this challenge was exacerbated during the pandemic. DVSA Advocates and shelter program workers ARE front-line workers. Their service is vital—critical and necessary. Without a healthy workforce, programs cannot maintain 24-7 services. Being able to maintain full staffing was near impossible with schools closing, other services and business closed and the highly contagious nature of COVID-19. If a staff person had young children at home suddenly childcare was a significant issue. If an employee was exposed to someone with the virus, they had to quarantine for 14-days, if an employee had someone in their home with high-risk conditions for getting COVID-19, they were unable to maintain a full work schedule. An additional challenge was maintaining sufficient cleaning supplies and personal protective gear and the availability of testing options. Through collaboration with DOC, CDVSA was able to keep a constant supply of cloth face masks that we sent to programs across the state – nearly 2,000 masks were distributed in FY2020 and early FY21.

In an effort to assist programs meet these many challenges, CDVSA set aside approximately \$100,000 for Emergency Funds for the 35 sub-grantee agencies to help combat the impact of COVID-19. These funds were intended to cover necessary costs (outside of existing grant funds) for programs to stay open and provide critical

services to those Alaskans seeking emergency and safety services. Between April 24 and June 10 CDVSA issued nine (9) Emergency Fund awards for a total of \$81,484. Funds helped pay for cleaning supplies, PPE, hotel and alternative housing space to maintain social distancing and quarantines, hazard pay and administrative leave for personnel continuing to work or unable to work due to exposure or child or elder care issues, hardware to enable programs to offer alternative virtual services, and updating/enhancing internet services to better handle virtual services and telework opportunities.

CDVSA anticipates many of these challenges to continue into FY2021 as the virus continues to plague our state and our country.

Prevention:

FY2020 was a year of continuing partnerships, growth and importance for CDVSA prevention activities. While CDVSA has always recognized the importance of prevention in order to reduce and end domestic and sexual violence, it has been difficult to make it a priority when funding is limited and progress is more difficult to capture. With limited resources, CDVSA must put a priority on emergency shelter and safety for those victims in immediate need. CDVSA continues to receive designated DVSA prevention funding in the amount of \$2 million per year – funding that began in FY2017 from SB91 Reinvestment funds and continues as a line item in the CDVSA budget specifically to implement community-based prevention and early intervention strategies. These funds focus on public education to change public attitudes and behaviors related to interpersonal violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence, and all forms of violence. The goal is to turn the curve to prevent these long-term behaviors. For an update on FY2020 prevention activities and outcomes review the FY2020 Prevention Report for ACJC located at: <https://dps.alaska.gov/CDVSA/Resources>.

The biggest challenge with prevention programming is the fact that prevention takes time and the results come “down the road” and not within the same fiscal year or two as when programs start; often leading to the misperception there are no positive outcomes. Prevention takes time, the results may come a generation later; results do not come quickly.

Changing the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors of individuals along with community norms is a monumental effort. Alaskans know the importance of putting resources into prevention and support a more focused and dedicated effort to end domestic and sexual violence. Data gathered by the Centers for Disease Control show that in Alaska communities with prevention programming, it takes a minimum of seven years before the tipping point to healthier behaviors, attitudes and beliefs begin to take hold.

During FY2020, as we engaged in our strategic planning process, more attention to Primary Prevention was identified as a top priority by staff, Board members and at each of the four Stakeholder Roundtables. Moving forward, over the next five years there will be a specific strategic initiative focused on Primary Prevention. Our challenge is to maintain consistency in prevention funding that can allow communities time to develop readiness, awareness, strategies and interventions to begin changing community norms regarding domestic violence and sexual assault. Currently 12 community agencies have prevention grant funding in Valdez, Anchorage, Juneau, Cordova, Fairbanks, Kenai, Dillingham, Sitka, Homer, Bethel, Petersburg and Ketchikan. In FY2020 these twelve programs facilitated 356 coalition/prevention team meetings and dedicated, on average, 114 hours per week to the prevention of domestic and sexual violence.

In the spring of FY21, a new Community Prevention Request for Proposals will be issued, providing new community-based funding opportunities across Alaska.

Perpetrator Rehabilitation and Accountability:

Perpetrator rehabilitation services are a critical component of the CDVSA continuum of services. The need for assessment, programming, intervention, treatment and accountability for individuals who exhibit battering behavior is a necessary component for those impacted by domestic and interpersonal violence. For years, the belief was that all individuals who engage in domestic violence had the same characteristics, perpetrators were all male, and that a one-size-fits-all model was the best approach.

The current array of battering intervention programs (BIP) in Alaska provide inconsistent programming and limited data to determine if there are positive outcomes. Alaska’s Battering Intervention Program (BIP) regulations are

outdated and limited and do not afford agencies the ability to address issues of cultural appropriateness, newer evidence programming, or the diversity of who is defined as perpetrators of violence. More women are alleged perpetrators; more partners in same-sex relationships; and a changing view of gender that impacts the dynamics of abusive behavior and the gender-based model of male power and control. An additional challenge is that the BIP program regulations and responsibility live within the Department of Corrections, but the task of developing standards, approving programs and monitoring programs are carried out (via a Memorandum of Understanding) within the Department of Public Safety, Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Funding currently comes from both DOC and CDVSA.

Similar to our Primary Prevention work, Perpetrator Rehabilitation was also identified as a key strategic initiative during our development of a new strategic plan. Among our four Stakeholder Roundtables, perpetrator rehabilitation received the highest ranking to be addressed over the next 5-years. Plans are underway to create a working group to make specific recommendations for approach, content, accountability, healing and clear outcomes of what it means to successfully complete a perpetrator rehabilitation program. Once those decision are made, CDVSA will work closely with the Department of Corrections to revise and update the program regulations. Additionally, we will redesign the application process to become an approved program and begin the process of expanding the number and type of perpetrator programs available across Alaska.

One key step will be to coordinate with providers, DOC, prosecutors, OCS, tribes, courts, and victim service programs to guarantee a new approach that works for all disciplines—each of these entities will be represented on the PR work group. Seamless coordination can close the gaps that offenders use to circumvent the system and provide the most effective process to change offenders' behavior.

Statewide Public Safety Programs:

Fire Safety:

The adoption of 2018 codes from the Department of Law is a lengthy process and a challenge to the division. The 2018 International Code Council's codes for building, fire, mechanical and fuel gas are now available to the public. The division is awaiting approval to move forward with the next step of the regulation process.

Fire and life safety inspections from FY2019 to FY2020 have decreased by 81 percent and fire loss during the same period increased by \$24.8 million, or 46%. The decrease in the number of fire and life safety inspections was due to COVID-19 and retention of Deputy Fire Marshals.

Alaska has a history of high fire loss; however, the state has seen an overall decrease in civilian fatalities due to fire. Residential fires continue to be Alaska's largest number of structure fires and are responsible for 72 percent of fire fatalities. The Division of Fire and Life Safety has no authority to enforce single-family residential code requirements. Without incorporating the inherent safety factors provided within a residential building code, these statistics will continue. The division also has no authority to enforce codes for marine vessel fires, which accounted for two fatalities this year. Alcohol and drugs are leading contributors to fire fatalities and the ratio of fire fatalities to the number of events involved with drugs and alcohol remains constant. The division continues to provide a significant cultural public education focus centered on personal responsibility. The challenge will be to provide cost effective methods to reach high-risk groups and areas.

The Bureau of Fire Accreditation, Standards and Training (BFAST) through their Office of Rural Fire Protection (ORFP) continues to serve the needs of small rural fire departments throughout the state. Many rural fire departments require essential support for equipment, public education efforts and training. Most small rural fire departments do not have qualified personnel and lack the depth of experience to manage emergency response operations. These limitations coupled with a lack of equipment pose an extreme challenge for many Alaska communities. The ORFP serves as a primary source of technical assistance, education, and training. A significant challenge for the ORFP is determining the relevance of national standards and their impact on rural firefighting training, which includes the mandated Village Public Safety Officer firefighter training.

The Plan Review Bureau has an electronic data base for plan reviews. It is not designed as a web-based solution for application, payment, customer interactions, or digital plan review, permitting, and inspection system and there is no

offline solution for construction and inspections that synchronizes with the online system. The current process is not efficient, especially in light of COVID-19 and increased utilization of telework. The division worked on a Request for Proposal to have a digital online plan review, permitting and mobile solution to streamline the plan review process for both customers, architects, engineers, contractors and plan reviewers.

The TransAlaska Pipeline Fire Safety Specialist was filled in May 2019. This position performs all pipeline oil and gas fire inspections and plan reviews. Due to COVID-19 the annual fire inspections for the TransAlaska Pipeline could not be accomplished in FY2020.

Alaska Fire Standards Council (AFSC):

Most Alaskan communities have severely limited emergency response capabilities. Consequently, local community members respond with only rudimentary equipment and minimal training. These communities cannot complete and/or maintain minimum training standards compliant with National Consensus Standards. Many of these locations require tailored core training commensurate with local resources and focused on Community Risk Reduction (CRR) programs; to include public education, fire prevention, and minimizing personal risk while mitigating hazards.

The Alaska Fire Standards Council (AFSC) has the authority to establish applicable training levels and performance standards of fire services personnel in these communities. However, administratively maintaining these qualification programs is a significant challenge. Certification directives require routine revision to maintain relevance and compliance with applicable fire standards. Current workload significantly exceeds resource capability by 50%. The criticality and significance of these standards is evidenced in the countless hours committee volunteers donate to offset this operational fail point, and while unsustainable, lends significance and urgency to the need. Despite these daunting challenges, AFSC is committed to identifying measures that effectively provide relevant certification training.

Small Police Departments:

Training opportunities are provided based on available funding and the number of eligible attendees who can take time away from their duties to attend training. More and more state and municipal agencies are seeing staffing shortfalls and are carrying significant vacancies. This often thwarts efforts for existing staff to attend training, even when training events are sponsored. The restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the cancellation and elimination of all training events for the second half of 2020. This restriction appears to be extending well into FY2021 and drove the decision to focus on developing and providing distance learning and online training events for public safety officers.

The council remains committed to supporting advanced inservice training for police, corrections, probation, parole, and municipal correctional officers. APSC intends to increase regionalized training opportunities to maximize officer attendance from smaller rural agencies in FY2021 and hopes to do so once pandemic travel and social distancing restrictions are relaxed.

The Council is primarily funded through program receipts from court surcharge fees remitted to the Police Training Fund; certification fees contribute about 2% each year. At the department's request, the annual carryforward limitation for program receipts was lifted for FY2021. Considering the pandemic's impacts on training and travel for council meetings, this change will provide enhanced financial resources for development of online course content and future regional training programs.

Information Systems:

Vacancies throughout FY2020 continued to be a challenge for the DPS programming teams. Staff were forced to spend significantly more of their time on supporting existing systems and had reduced capacity to develop and implement upgrades/improvements and new applications. Through aggressive recruitment, most of these vacancies have been filled with junior Analyst/Programmers that will require continued training, mentoring, and time to learn DPS and SOA systems and procedures to reach desired levels of performance and productivity.

The deployment of the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system for Fairbanks AST was a significant project for

Information Services, requiring many resources during project planning and system implementation phases. Of note were the substantial GIS requirements which required DPS to contract professional GIS services for creation of CAD maps, aggregating existing state and municipality maps and manipulating GIS data to conform to CAD and/or 911 standards. Without a DPS GIS system or GIS positions, DPS is unable to perform GIS edits/corrections, additions, or updates without further professional services. This represents a serious risk to the department and first responders that will increase over time as the maps become outdated.

Increased risks in managing legacy technologies with Alaska Public Safety Information System (APSIN) and other back office process automation software will continue to limit efforts to modernize the department. With the implementation of a CAD system for the dispatch center in Fairbanks and first responders there is a strong need for application support and GIS services within the department that Information Services cannot fulfill with current positions and expertise.

Criminal Justice Information Systems Program:

In June 2019, the Alaska Supreme Court ruled that sex offenders are entitled to the opportunity to argue for early release from registration and reporting requirements. In order to obtain early release, offenders must do and prove the following: first, the offender must file a civil action in the Superior Court requesting a hearing. Second, at the hearing, the offender must present evidence that he or she no longer “poses a risk to the public that justifies continued registration.” With this ruling, the Sex Offender Registration Office is working with the Department of Law on how to implement an early release from registration process, a process which may involve statutory changes.

There were several staffing changes and vacancies during FY2020 that resulted in project delays in the NIBRS transition project, a large scale project to digitize Trooper case reports prior to 2012, and resulted in backlogs in processing disposition information, criminal arrest fingerprint cards, and employment/licensing background checks. Each is being addressed and gradually resolved as positions are filled.

Resource Protection:

The Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) provides trooper presence in remote areas of Alaska where little or no other law enforcement exists. While patrolling a complex array of sport, commercial, personal use, or subsistence fisheries, and commercial, sport, or subsistence hunting seasons, AWT are fully commissioned Alaska State Troopers (AST) who independently recognize and act upon many other public safety emergencies, enforcement matters, and concerns.

AWT enforce all state wildlife laws and regulations without support from local village or tribal law enforcement agencies. Further, these troopers are frequently called upon to assist other federal, state, and local law enforcement entities, due to their outdoor skills and the equipment they operate.

Alaska’s coastline of 6,640 miles is more than all the other states combined. The AWT patrol area is unrivaled and is the equivalent in distance from the Carolinas to California and from Texas to the Great Lakes. Each AWT field trooper has such a large patrol area that many areas of the state are not patrolled or infrequently receive attention.

AWT continues to operate at an unacceptable enforcement level due to a lack of available personnel. Only with the support of AWT Marine Enforcement with its current fleet of 15 vessels ranging from 25’ to 156’, and AWT Aircraft Section with its complement of 42 patrol aircraft can AWT core services be effectively administered. Maintaining skilled personnel and providing the proper training to conduct these unique patrols is increasingly challenging. Most new troopers require extensive training in the nuances of enforcing Alaska’s laws and regulations related to natural resources, as well as several years of field experience learning their local operating area and the patterns/rhythms of the resource users.

The primary search and rescue helicopters for the divisions of Alaska State Troopers (AST) and Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) are currently maintained by third-party vendors. These helicopters are extremely complex. Due to the significant workload associated with maintaining other aircraft in the department’s fleet, third party maintenance is required to maximize the efficiency of maintenance. It is challenging to maintain these assets in a continuous public safety “ready state”. DPS fixed wing assets have similar requirements and are often stationed in remote areas. This presents problems with finding qualified maintenance personnel to work on these aircraft. Establishing contracts with vendors in hub communities is necessary to provide adequate maintenance. In

FY2020, the aircraft section will establish additional long-term maintenance contracts that will serve this purpose.

The section's civilian aircraft pilots currently serve as both as primary instructors and complex turbine helicopter and multi-engine airplane pilots. These positions require master-level ability and federal licensure to conduct the complex air support and training needs of the department and state. These positions are staffed by personnel licensed and capable in both complex airplane and helicopter operations. While maintaining the entire department's training program records and curriculum, they also provide search and rescue capability with the A-star helicopters. During FY2020, pilots have supported departmental mission requests, dignitary transport missions, prisoner transports, and requests from other areas of state government to provide thousands of hours of transport and flight support.

Encompassing nearly two thirds of the nation's coastline, Alaska's marine patrol area is unrivaled by any other state. Providing minimum levels of law enforcement in commercial fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska, Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, the Bering Sea, and the Aleutian Islands offshore areas continues to be a challenge with the reduction in patrol vessels and funding to operate with existing resources. The ability to provide expedient service is hampered by aging equipment. The major patrol vessels also serve as critical response platforms in the event of a major disaster, such as a tsunami in coastal areas. The three large vessels are self-sufficient and have full communications connectivity to include satellite capability.

Critical maintenance costs for an aging fleet to include small vessels and skiffs used throughout all regions of the state present challenges when determining mission capability and operational crew safety. This equipment is operated in a highly corrosive environment which requires continual preventative maintenance, upgrade and replacement of the fleet.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2022

Law Enforcement Patrol and Investigations:

Alaska State Troopers (AST) is continuing to aggressively pursue technologies to better capture data collected by DPS as members of the public report criminal and suspicious activity. DPS deployed a CAD at the end of FY2020 and in early FY2021 connected the CAD with the ARMS to see an increase in data being housed in a single law enforcement database and to reduce redundancy of data entry into multiple systems. AST will continue to refine business processes and procedures to aide in data collection including the implementation of an online reporting system that the public can utilize to report non-emergency activity to AST. These new programs will enable the division to conduct its duties more efficiently.

AST anticipates providing access to the Alaska Records Management System (ARMS) to other agencies both state and municipal. This will create significant efficiencies for both DPS and other agencies and will exponentially increase the information sharing capabilities that Alaska law enforcement will be able to experience. Long term, this will undoubtedly result in more timely identification of offenders as well as the ability to address some of the current trends which affect the public on a statewide basis. This effort was started in FY2014 and will continue into FY2022.

AST will continue its active support of the previously implemented Strategic Highway Safety Plan to reduce the number of serious injury and fatality collisions on Alaska's roadways. This includes proactive enforcement efforts, educational presentations and specialized fatal and serious injury crash investigations.

Resource Protection:

AWT currently has 89 commissioned Troopers including field and command positions statewide. Prior to FY2016, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers had 97 commissioned state troopers. In fiscal years 2016 through 2018, a total of 8 commissioned trooper positions were eliminated. This reduction created an enforcement challenge statewide, forcing the division to make difficult resource allocation decisions. During this time span, resource use and harvest opportunities increased, adding to the strain on the division. In FY2022 the AWT will work to continue to keep commissioned trooper positions full through enhanced recruitment, effective communication to the field and strategic planning.

The Alaska Wildlife Troopers will continue to focus on education; realizing that an informed public increases voluntary compliance with regulations. More of the division's resources will be allocated to patrolling commercial take, protection of wild stocks, and stocks that have not yet reached escapement levels set by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Aviation operations conducted by the Alaska DPS are governed by, and must comply with, federal regulations and department policies. The training events that require out of state travel include light fixed wing upset recovery / emergency maneuver training, King Air training (initial and recurrent), Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) training, Cessna C208 training (initial and recurrent), Tactical Flight Officer training (initial and recurrent), and turbine helicopter training (initial and recurrent).

Alaska DPS's turbine aircraft (King Air, C208s, and AS350 helicopters) have a regulatory requirement to complete these training events at regular intervals, and if not accomplished will result in the department not being able to operate these assets. Operations involving reciprocating engine aircraft or Tactical Flight Officers are essential to the mission of the Alaska DPS, wherein a lack of training will grossly compromise safety (to employees and the public), as well as the department's ability to provide essential services. Furthermore, by policy, all out of state training events described above are required in FY21 to continue flight operations.

In concert with the continued development of our Safety Management System (SMS) the department will formalize the Aviation Life Support Equipment (ALSE) and the Ground Support Equipment (GSE) programs in FY21 with dedicated funds forecasted to fund safety equipment.

During FY21, the aircraft section will fully transition to vendor-based maintenance. This will require the existing maintenance positions be reclassified to different positions and new contracts will be created to ensure

maintenance is completed timely, accurately and within budget constraints. This reorganization has been planned for several years and through attrition and budgetary realities, this will be completed this fiscal year.

Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) expects a similar level of service in FY2022. However, through the Joint Enforcement Agreement with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Office of Law Enforcement, AWT purchased a new patrol vessel. This 28-foot patrol vessel will primarily operate in and around Nome and Norton Sound including the outer coast. Its primary mission is for resource enforcement of the commercial King Crab and Salmon fisheries in the area, but is also used for sport, subsistence fishing, and hunting activities. The incorporation of this vessel in the fleet will result in improved service delivered during the Norton Sound fisheries. We expect this boat to be in action late in FY2022.

AWT will continue to closely monitor the vessel fleet through comprehensive inspections for needed repairs and replacements in order to keep the fleet serviceable and viable to achieve our mission.

Rural Law Enforcement:

Changes in program management within DPS have increased participation by grantees in the annual grant award process. Following the recommendations from the legislative working group to provide the grantee organizations with an effective voice in planning and implementing the program, each grantee program coordinator was consulted on proposed budget changes for FY2021. Each program identified which activities would be prioritized and grantee program coordinators were consulted before final funding decisions were made. With this approach, each grantee received funding for the items that they deemed to be priorities. This approach greater planning and financial control within individual programs, and thereby more control over program outcomes.

The VPSO Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual is under review and will receive significant updates. The VPSO SOP Manual provides instruction to VPSOs on public safety and community policing activities such as basic standards and job duties, use of force, search and rescue, investigations and arrests, incident reporting and prisoner transport. During this update, DPS and grantees are cooperatively reviewing the VPSO SOP Manual and will seek input from subject matter experts such as the Council on Domestic Violence Awareness program coordinator on domestic violence statutory requirements and victims' rights, the Department of Law, and will consult with the statewide search and rescue coordinator on best practices for responding to search and rescues in Alaska.

Each program was fully funded for all recruitment activities requested in the FY2021 grant application. Recruitment activities include advertising and a request to create ten short recruitment videos intended for dissemination on social media platforms. The videos will represent the lifestyle of VPSOs as well as the cultures, communities, and landscapes of rural Alaska.

The VPSO salary schedule is under review this year. An increase in the base salary would improve VPSO morale, enhance recruitment and retention, and VPSO positions would be much more competitive in the job market. An increase in base salary is even more crucial now that VPSOs attending the full Alaska Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALET), and the corresponding ability to receive Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) certification. A 6% cost of living increase was made in 2019, but no increase to the base salary.

The VPSO program is conducting physical inventory of durable property such as computers and Tasers, as well as an inventory of uniforms and law enforcement equipment. Updating the records and performing an inventory of supplies will enable the program to accurately plan supply purchases and maintain an appropriate level on hand for equipping VPSOs. Due to recent industry advancements in ballistic vest technology, the program is currently reviewing a change to the standard issued ballistic vest. Construction, fit and function as well as input from VPSOs working in their communities will be used in the evaluation process. Sample vests will be sent to working VPSOs to try different vests and their input will help guide the decision.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault:

CDVSA continues working hard to improve efficiency and effectiveness of our financial and programmatic operations.

FY2020 is the first full year implementing many critical areas of change, and FY2021 will be a year of fully operationalizing the changes to have clear direction and implementation of the critical regulatory responsibility for management and oversight of millions of dollars in state and federal funding.

Improved data collection and analysis is allowing us to use sub-grantee program data that can truly show the progress being made, as well as the areas presenting ongoing challenges. During FY2019 CDVSA made improved collection and use of data a top priority, and hired a new Research Analyst with the analytical background needed to track trends, changes, comparisons and present data in a manner that facilitates programming decisions, drawing a clear picture of the outcomes CDVSA is accomplishing. Data in FY19 and FY20 has been the best we have ever had available to us. Unfortunately, the Research Analyst moved on and a new hire will take place in FY2021. In late FY2021 CDVSA will begin soliciting for a new Victim Services database, to provide sub-grantees and CDVSA with a data collection system that will allow us to be a data-driven agency.

With the uncertainty of living and operating during a pandemic, it is difficult to know what the year will bring. We know that CDVSA along with all 35 funded agencies have made accommodations, are providing services in alternative ways, and are working to better understand our “new normal.” CDVSA will move into FY21 with the expectation that our past behaviors, protocol and business model will not return quickly – clearly, it may be FY22 before the impacts of COVID-19 no longer require such modifications and alterations to our work. CDVSA also recognizes that going back to the way we used to do business will not fully return and everyone has and will continue to adapt and revise how we engage and provide services in the future.

Statewide Public Safety Programs:

Fire and Life Safety:

- The majority of fire deaths occur in residential occupancies. The leading strategy to prevent deaths from fire is by providing fire safety education to the public. The Division of Fire and Life Safety will continue to focus fire safety educational materials on personal responsibility and to increase public awareness to prevent fires in residential homes. Given the current fiscal limitations, the Bureau of Fire Accreditation, Standards and Training (BFAST) will aggressively seek alternative funding sources to include organizational and local community partnerships through cost sharing that provides fire safety education and grants that resource support materials, smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. These funds will also support training opportunities and efforts for rural fire department personnel with the future intent for conducting home safety inspections at the local level.
- A divisional review indicates that maintaining a high level of visibility through the media may be a factor in reducing fire deaths. The division will continue issuing recurring media releases and using radio, internet, social media sites and television to promote awareness of fire safety and prevention. Utilizing the networking benefits of social media platforms, the division has concentrated outreach efforts on the Alaska State Fire Marshal page which incorporates divisional information.
- Fire and Life Safety will continue to support and train fire service personnel throughout the state. As budgets statewide continue to constrict, alternate funding opportunities will be pursued to ensure training is conducted as required by statute.
- The BFAST will continue to provide relevant emergency responder support for fire training activities, firefighter professional qualifications, and fire department accreditation. Operational targets are to simplify fire department accreditation and increase efficiency between state fire training and certification testing; such as electronic course registration and/or certification application submission with a transition to online testing, including the introduction of a self-assessment and audit process. BFAST through the Divisions Community Risk Reduction plan will develop and implement Alaska specific processes for accomplishing CRR assessments as part of our ongoing technical support to Fire Departments and local communities of all sizes throughout the state. Additionally, the Office of Rural Fire Protection (ORFP) will implement a process improvement plan to tailor localized training to relevant national standards.
- The number of local fire departments with the capacity to deliver their own training continues to increase,

thereby reducing the number of entry-level firefighting courses delivered. The division may provide entry-level courses in cases where an organization is requesting support, but its primary focus will be advanced technical and specialty firefighting courses that are not supported at the fire department level. Meeting these specialized needs with the introduction of division assets that provide the required training and certification through the division's Mobile Fire Training Simulator.

- In FY2022, the division will provide training with established departments to increase emphasis on firefighter safety and survival. This training will be part of the basic elements of firefighting and fire service leadership.
- The process for conducting fire department accreditation audits is under revision, to streamline the administrative oversight review process and effectively address the pending or overdue audits. Current local restrictions on travel may reduce on-site audits and limit technical support that results in safer fire department practices. Alternatives may include the use of video conferencing and other electronic media to achieve core accreditation requirements will be assessed.
- Fire inspections are the number one priority for the Life Safety Inspection Bureau (LSIB). The LSIB employs five Deputy Fire Marshals (DFMs) who work to remove the backlog of fire inspections across the state. The end goal is to create a two-year inspection cycle for the state, subject to travel funding and retention of DFMs.
- The LSIB provides one DFM certified as a bomb technician to support the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Bomb Squad. Since the DFM is the only one in the Department of Public Safety, he serves as the Department of Public Safety's liaison for Bomb Squad responses. The DFM also assists the FBI with operational manning.
- The number of fire fatalities in high-risk groups will continue to be the division's top priority. Public education, continued fire and life safety inspections and rural fire protection training continue to decrease the number of fire fatalities within high-risk groups and contribute to the overall decline of the statewide fire fatality rate.
- The Plan Review Bureau is responsible to ensure buildings are constructed to a minimum level of fire and life safety which is primarily conducted by reviewing construction designs. The bureau has implemented construction inspections to visit sites, ensuring the building is constructed according to the reviewed plans. The Plan Review Bureau is scheduling four inspections and accomplishing two inspections this year.

The Alaska Fire Standards Council (AFSC):

- In FY2022, the AFSC endeavors to provide emergency responder support through core fire certification services, and fire department accreditation. The AFSC will fully implement an electronic certification test management resource, in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Conservation, and sourced by NetExams. This platform is anticipated to significantly reduce the complexity of the fire department accreditation testing, while increasing a variety of staffing efficiencies.
- In fulfilling the mission of the AFSC, council members will continue to maintain, while endeavoring to expand, collaboration with subject matter experts, organizations and communities across the state. Actions that ensure existing programs effectively support local emergency response training. Process improvement planning to be utilized in identifying areas for revision, efficiencies, and applicability. This to balance Bureau of Fire Accreditation, Standards and Training (BFAST) compliance with national consensus standards, accreditation requirements, and relevant training needs addressing challenges faced by local emergency responders.

Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory (Crime Lab):

In the first quarter of FY2021 the Alaska SCDL has seen submissions increase dramatically in many disciplines within the lab (Forensic Alcohol 16%, Seized Drug 9%, Forensic Biology 15%, Footwear 23%). This trend continues last year's submission increases. If this trend continues throughout the year, maintaining current turnaround times may not be possible.

The legislature provided an increased budget for the Alaska SCDL for 4 additional positions. All positions should be

filled by the end of 2020. Once trained the two additional DNA analysts will allow the laboratory to continue to meet the mandated 12 month sexual assault kit turnaround. If case submissions do not further increase it is hoped these positions will allow us to reduce the backlog and turnaround time. Two more forensic technicians will provide coverage to the evidence room and support to the scientific disciplines allowing forensic scientists to focus on analytical casework and not routine technical or administrative duties.

The new Laboratory Information Management System will be implemented extended to include a DNA module and an external portal to allow submitting agencies to check on case status, pre-log evidence and pick up reports. These additions will provide increased efficiency, digital documentation and data-mining in DNA and decreased administrative time fielding case status enquiries from stakeholders.

The Alaska SCDL intends to extend the scope of training provided to include all parties within the Alaska criminal justice system.

In September 2020 DPS entered into a memorandum of understanding and lease agreement with Anchorage Police Department (APD) to allow the APD crime lab to cohabitate within the Alaska SCDL. This arrangement provides previously under-utilized lab space to APD for their fingerprints and firearms disciplines and ensures the quality and standardization of forensic science within the state by having APD work to Alaska SCDL accreditation standards. This agreement will allow DPS to input and access the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (provided by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and hosted by APD).

Highway Safety:

Alaska State Troopers (AST) will continue active support of the previously implemented Strategic Highway Safety Plan to reduce the number of serious injury and fatality collisions on Alaska's roadways.

The Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol will continue to work with highway safety stakeholders to address the Four "E's" of highway safety: Enforcement, Education, Engineering, and Emergency Services. Each "E" is a key component in the overall plan to move toward zero deaths on the highway.

ABHP will coordinate additional new and/or advanced crash investigation training to enhance the expertise of law enforcement personnel in both AST and municipal agencies.

Additionally, through the continued use of Highway Traffic Safety Plans, ABHP members will continue to address specific, one-time, and ongoing traffic safety needs through collaborative efforts with regular AST Patrol Troopers and other municipal agencies.

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