

Department of Public Safety FY2026 Budget Overview

House Finance Committee

James Cockrell, Commissioner

Dianna Thornton, Administrative Services Director

February 17, 2025



Mission: To ensure public safety and to enforce fish and wildlife laws

Key Objectives	Statewide Impact
➤ Recruitment, Retention & Wellness	➤ Strengthen workforce resilience
➤ Rural Alaska Law Enforcement & Safety	➤ Expand safety in rural communities
➤ Establish Parks Highway North Trooper Post	➤ Improve Parks Highway patrol
➤ Purchase Long Range Response Aircraft	➤ Enhance remote emergency response
➤ Illicit Drug and Child Abuse Investigations	➤ Target drug trafficking and child abuse
➤ Fisheries and Wildlife Resource Protection	➤ Protect Alaskans, our resources, and ecosystems statewide



Highlights in FY2024

Fire and Life Safety

Prioritized fire safety inspections and education in rural Alaska to prevent fire-related deaths, enhancing community safety.

Alaska State Troopers

The Alaska State Troopers coordinated and responded to 598 search and rescue events, demonstrating their critical role in ensuring public safety across Alaska's vast and challenging terrains.

Alaska Wildlife Troopers

The Alaska Wildlife Troopers protected Alaska's multi-billion-dollar fish and wildlife resources from illegal harvest through enforcement and education across urban and rural areas, benefiting various user groups.

Integrated Victim Assistance

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault held the final meeting of the current Pathways Statewide Strategic Plan, focusing on identifying future prevention targets and forming new goals and initiatives to be integrated into upcoming Requests for Proposals.

Village Public Safety Operations

The Division grew the number of Village Public Safety Officers working in rural Alaska, strengthening law enforcement presence and community safety in these areas.

Alaska Police Standards Council

The Council sponsored 712 officers across 48 advanced and in-service training events, totaling 23,298 hours of training. This included utilizing Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipt grant funds to sponsor 2,103 officers in six training events, delivering 10,334 officer hours of training.



Department Appropriation Structure

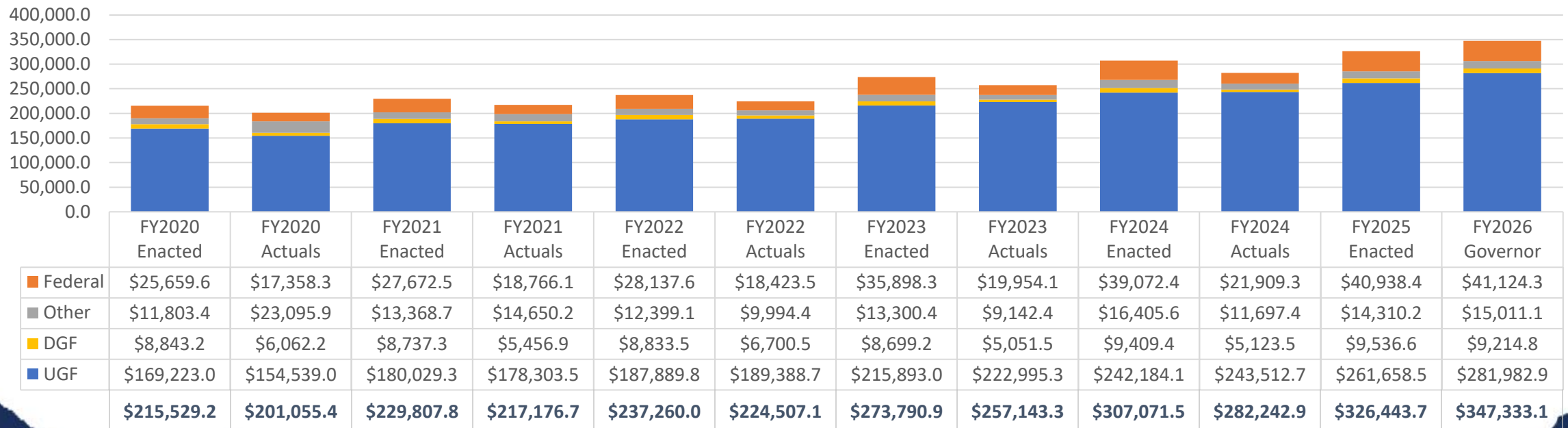
Fire and Life Safety	Alaska State Troopers	Integrated Victim Assistance	Statewide Support	Village Public Safety Operations	Alaska Police Standards Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Fire Marshall• Life Safety Inspection Bureau• Plan Review Bureau• Bureau of Fire Accreditation, Standards, and Training• Alaska Fire Standards Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four detachments• Drug/alcohol enforcement• Dispatch services• Search and rescue• Alaska Bureau of Investigation• Alaska Wildlife Troopers• Marine enforcement• Aircraft section• Prisoner transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault• Violent Crimes Compensation Board• Victim Navigator Unit• Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Training Unit• Missing Persons Clearinghouse• Crime Lab	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commissioner's Office• Division of Administrative Services• Division of Statewide Services• Office of Professional Standards• Training Academy• Public Information Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certification, training and standards• Ten regional grantees partnered with 156 communities• Rural Alaska public safety: community policing, search and rescue operations, emergency medical response, fire prevention and suppression	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certification and de-certification of police officers• Misconduct and disqualification investigations• Develop and maintain police officer training and training requirements



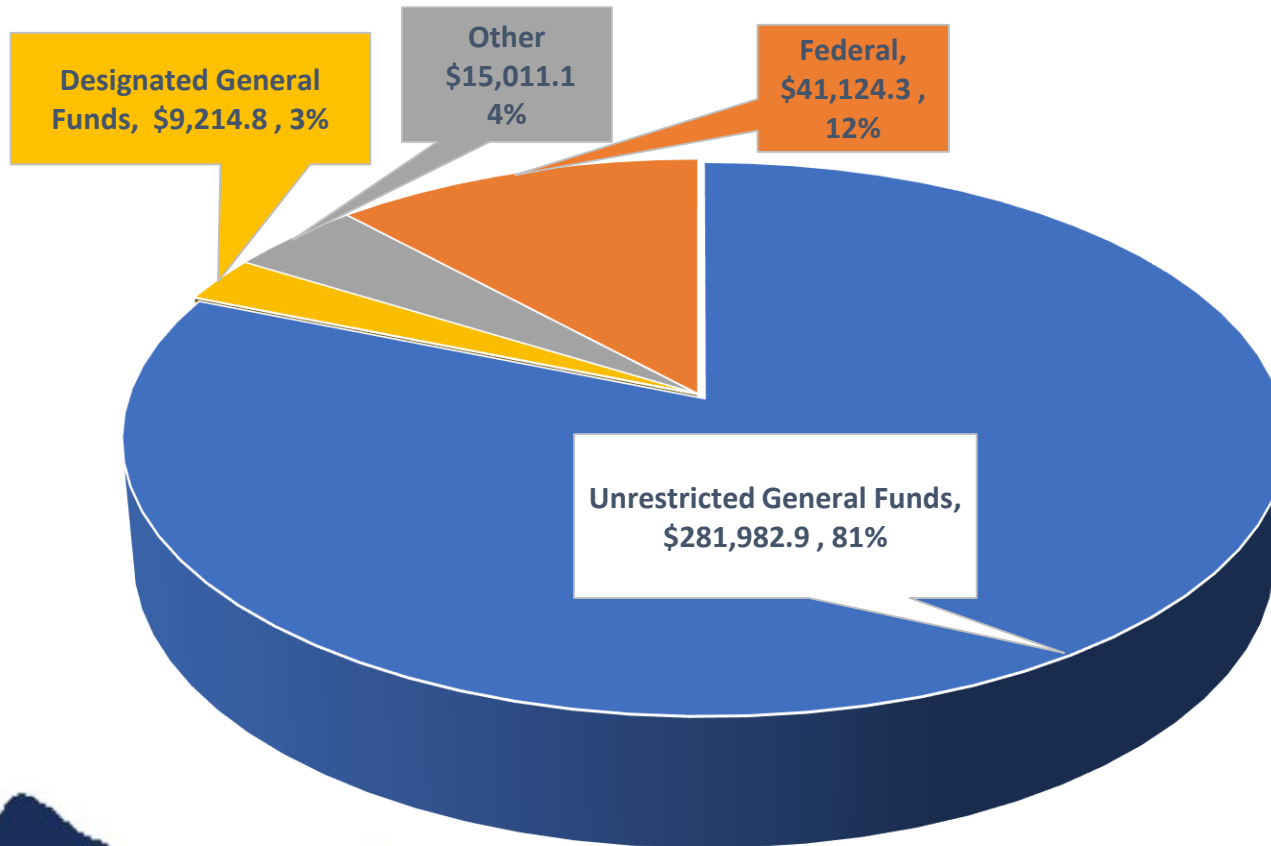
Historical Budget by Funding Source FY2020-FY2026 (\$ in thousands)

Between FY2025 Enacted and FY2026 Governor's Budget:

- \$20,889.4 or 6.01% increase in Unrestricted General Funds (UGF)
 - \$11,388.6 or 3.28% is State employee salary increases, \$185.9 in federal funds
 - \$321.8 net reduction in Designated General Funds (DGF)
 - \$9,500.8 or 2.74% in UGF is initiatives detailed in this presentation



FY2026 Budget by Funding Source, \$347,333.1 (\$ in thousands)



Federal

- **US Department of Justice**
 - Office for Victims of Crime
 - Bureau of Justice Assistance
 - Community Oriented Policing Services
 - Bureau of Justice Statistics
- **Department of Homeland Security**
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency

Other

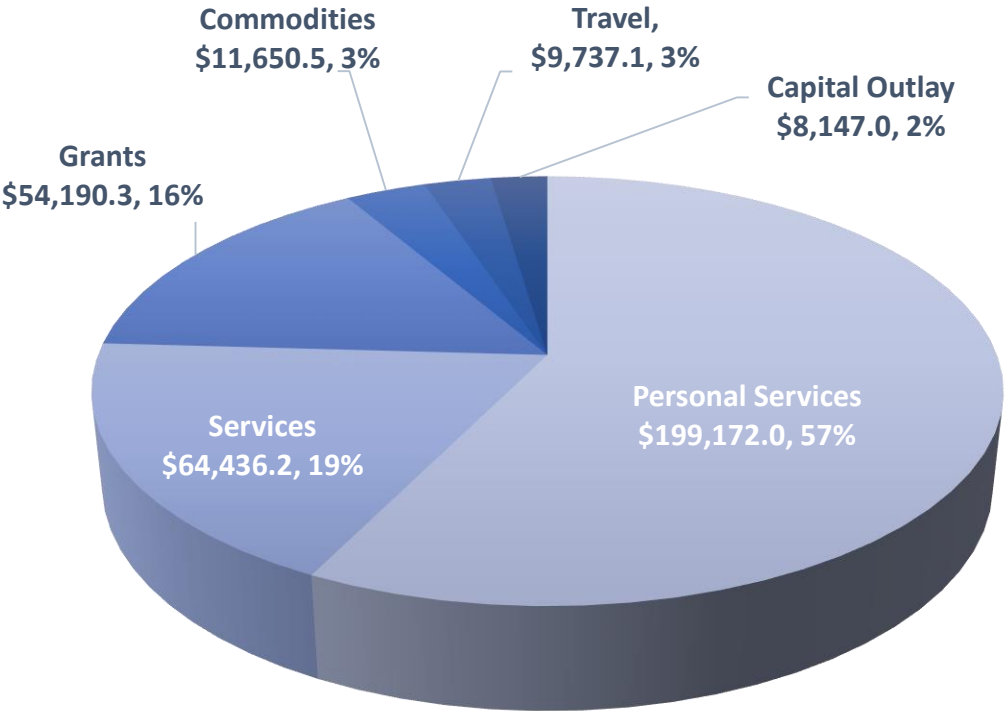
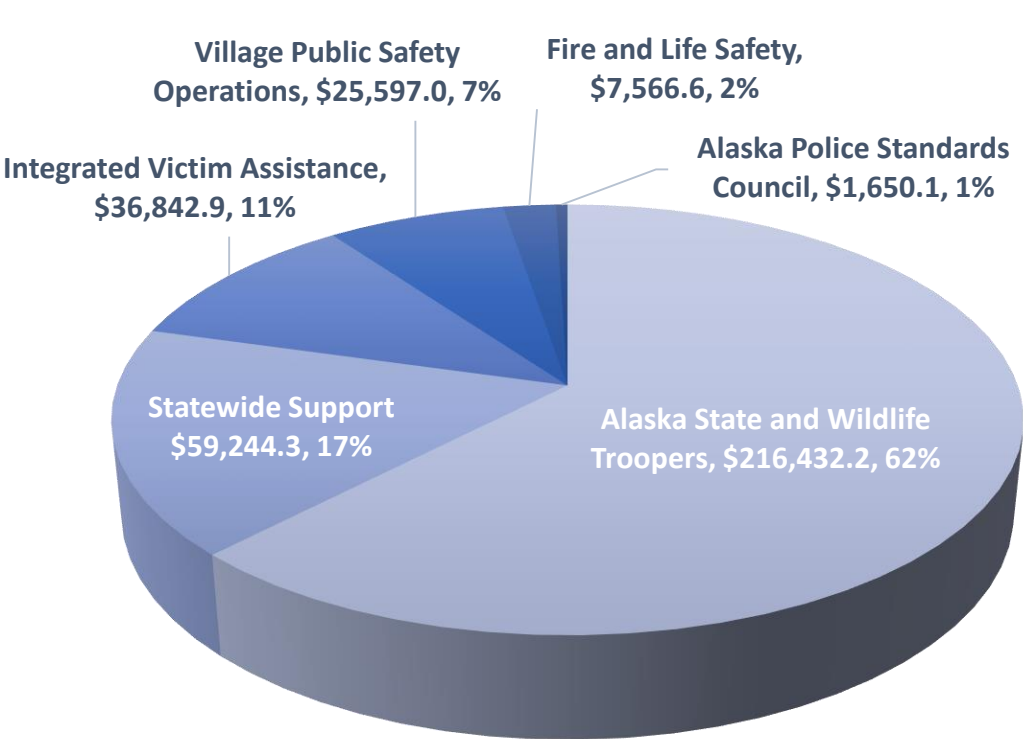
- Interagency Receipts
- Capital Improvement Project
- Mental Health Trust Authority
- Crime Victim Compensation Fund

Designated General Funds

- General Fund Program Receipts
- Recidivism Reduction Fund



FY2026 Budget Breakdown by Appropriation and Line Item (\$ in thousands)



Alaska State Troopers FY2026 UGF \$194,369.2 (\$ in thousands)

UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS



Contribution to the Overall Department Mission: Preserve public peace; protect life, property, and wildlife resources

Staff: 701 permanent full-time positions, 12 part-time positions, 34 non-permanent positions

Core Services:

- Provide statewide law enforcement, ensuring public safety in both urban and remote communities
- Enforce fish and wildlife laws to protect Alaska’s natural resources through patrols, investigations, and public education
- Investigate major crimes, including homicides and sexual assaults, and combat drug trafficking to uphold public safety



AST: Detachments FY2026 UGF \$4,887.7 (\$ in thousands)



\$2,348.0 State Trooper and Wildlife Trooper overtime

\$65.0 Crime scene van
and
\$500.0 for duty gear

\$1,485.6 Re-Open
Talkeetna post
Five positions: one Sergeant,
three Troopers, one criminal
justice technician

\$489.1 One-time increment
for Talkeetna post vehicles
and equipment



AST: Dispatch FY2026 UGF \$123.8 (\$ in thousands)

Provide 24/7 emergency and non-emergency dispatch services, including 9-1-1 call handling, incident data entry, and law enforcement database management to support public safety operations



AST: Alaska Bureau of Investigations FY2026 UGF \$1,395.5 (\$ in thousands)



\$1,075.5 and \$270.0 one-time increment for three Child Sexual Abuse Material Investigators in Northwest Arctic Borough

\$50.0 unidentified human remains pilot project



AST: Aircraft Section FY2026 UGF \$400.0 (\$ in thousands)



\$400.0 Increase for fuel
and aircraft supplies

- Over the last five years, Jet A fuel has increased 46.6%, and Avgas increased 51.8%
- Operational Impact = Less proactive law enforcement presence such as reduced patrols and village visits



AST: Alaska Wildlife Troopers FY2026 UGF \$729.9 (\$ in thousands)

\$323.0 Re-Open Talkeetna
post

One Wildlife Trooper

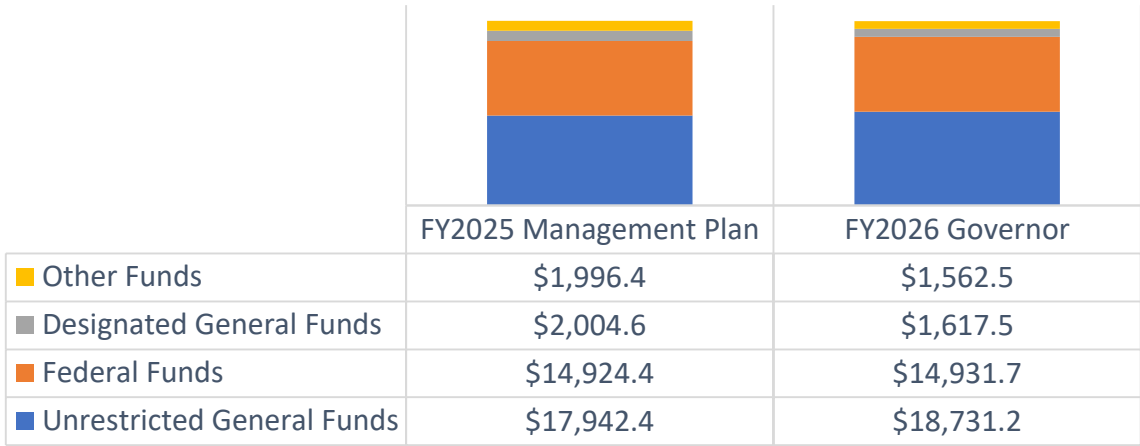
\$106.9 One-time
increment for Talkeetna
post vehicles and
equipment

\$300.0 For duty gear



Integrated Victim Assistance FY2026 Budget \$36,842.9 (\$ in thousands)

ALL FUNDING SOURCES



- FY2026 adjustments:**
- \$87.0 in UGF to replace a portion of Restorative Justice Funds to Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA)
 - -\$387.1 reduction in Restorative Justice Funds for CDVSA (DGF)
 - -\$361.6 reduction in Permanent Fund Dividend Criminal Fund for the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (Other Funds)

Contribution to the Overall Department Mission: To provide victim-centered responses, enhanced services, and training that are vital to the safety, stability, and healing of crime victims/survivors and family members. To uphold victims' rights, are culturally responsive and ultimately lead to enhanced public safety and community trust.

Staff: 29 permanent full-time positions.

Core Services:

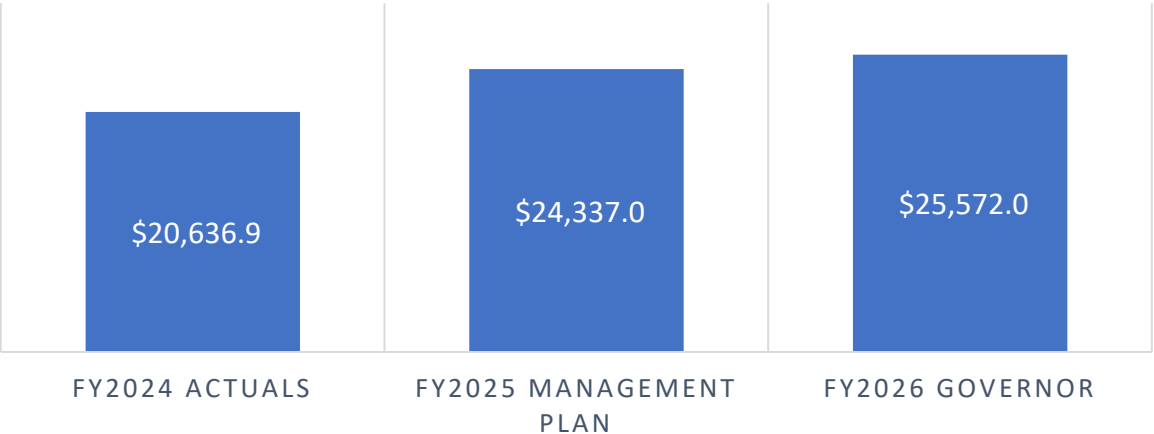
- Provides financial assistance, emergency shelter, and advocacy for victims of violent crimes, domestic violence, and sexual assault.
- Fund community-based prevention programs and law enforcement training to improve victim services statewide.

FY2024 Accomplishments: A \$3.7M increase approved by the Legislature in FY2024 offset declining federal funds, ensuring continued victim support and prevention programs across Alaska.



Village Public Safety Operations FY2026 UGF \$1,215.2 (\$ in thousands)

UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS



Significant Budget Change:

Five new Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) positions, \$1,215.2 UGF

Contribution to the Overall Department Mission: Preserve public peace, protect life and property in rural villages, and provide public safety outreach to communities through various community policing programs.

Staff: Five permanent full-time positions, 85 grant funded VPSO positions.

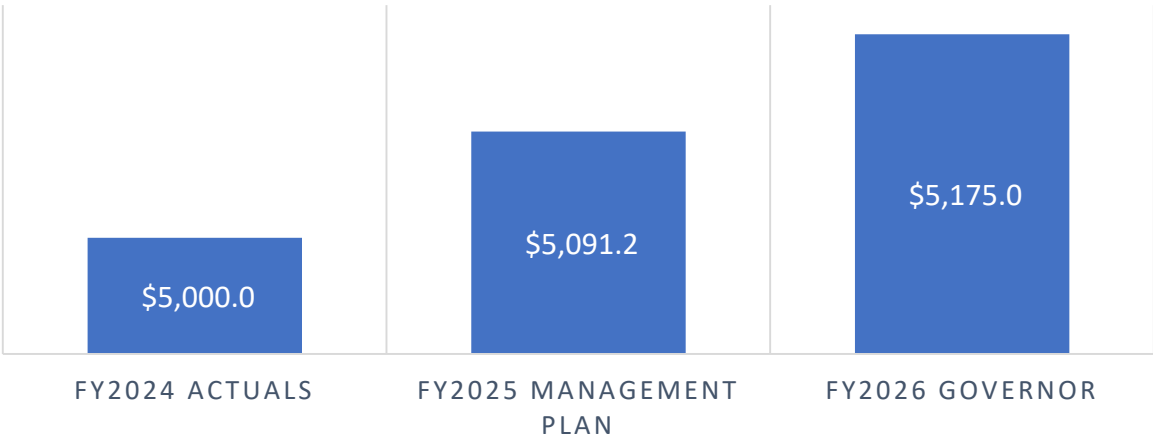
Core Services:

- Administer and oversee VPSO program grant agreements to ensure fiscal accountability.
- Provide VPSO certification and ongoing training in law enforcement, fire suppression, and emergency medical care.
- Collaborate with the Alaska State Trooper divisions to support VPSOs and align with public safety objectives.
- Manage and track law enforcement equipment distribution for VPSOs.



Fire, Life and Safety FY2026 UGF \$5,175.0 (\$ in thousands)

UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS



FY2026 adjustments that continue current service levels include a \$83.8 increase in UGF

Contribution to the Overall Department Mission: Prevent the loss of life and property from fire and explosions.

Staff: 30 permanent full-time positions.

Core Services:

- Fire training programs and public education
- Fire and life safety inspections
- Building plan review for code compliance

FY2024 Accomplishments: Enforced fire prevention codes, conducted inspections, investigated fires, and provided public education to enhance statewide fire safety.

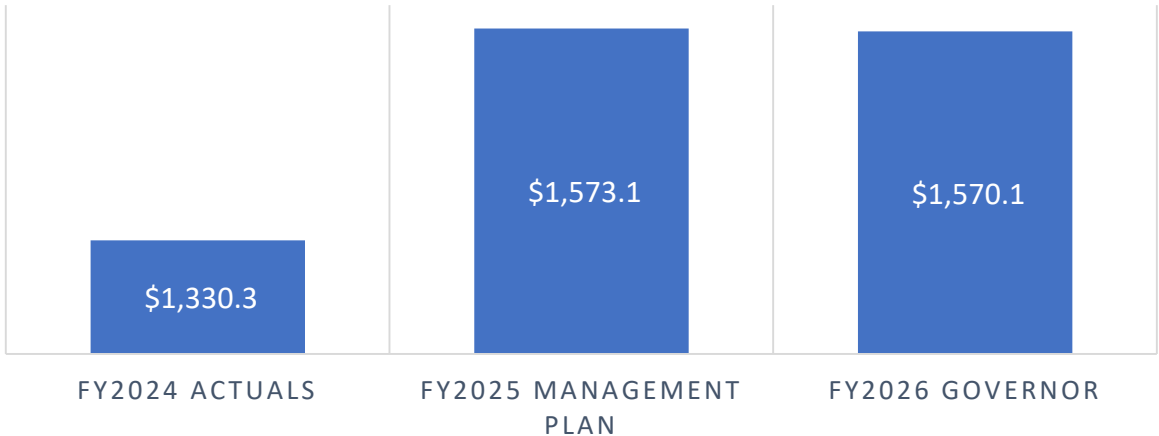
Challenges: Increased demand for fire prevention services.

Goals in FY2026: Expand fire prevention training and outreach, increase fire inspections, strengthen partnerships with local fire departments and first responders to improve statewide fire safety.



Alaska Police Standards Council FY2026 UGF \$1,570.1 (\$ in thousands)

UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS



- No significant FY2026 adjustments to continue current service levels
- \$80.0 Continuation of Mental Health Trust Authority Receipts (MHTARR) to expand Crisis Intervention Training for law enforcement

Contribution to the Overall Department Mission: To produce and maintain highly trained and positively motivated professional officers, capable of meeting contemporary law enforcement standards of performance.

Staff: 5 permanent full-time positions.

Core Services:

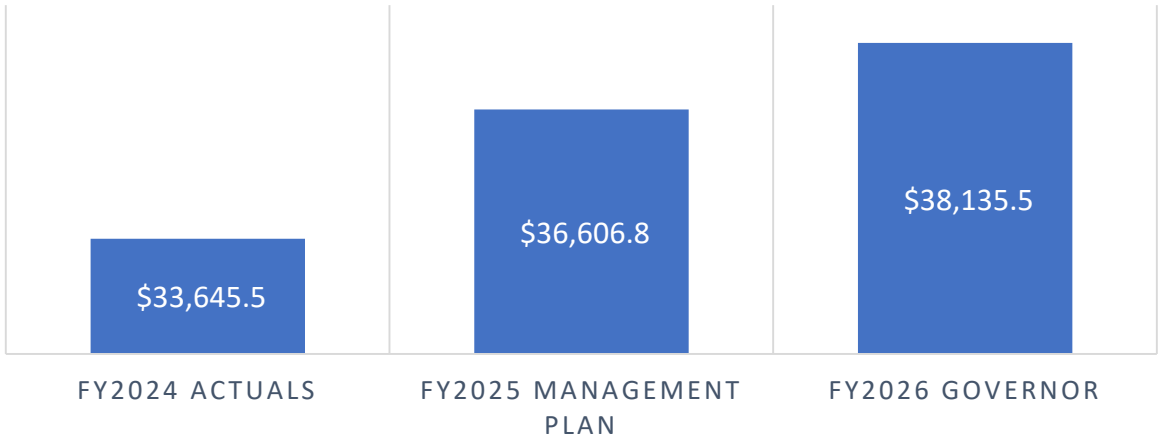
- Provide academy, in-service, and advanced training for police, corrections, probation, parole, and municipal correctional officers.
- Ensure compliance with Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) minimum qualification regulations.

FY2024 Accomplishments: APSC sponsored 712 officers across 48 advanced and in-service training events, totaling 23,298 hours of training. This included utilizing Mental Health Trust Authority Authorized Receipts grant funds to sponsor 2,103 officers in six training events, delivering 10,334 officer hours of training.



Statewide Support FY2026 UGF \$38,135.5 (\$ in thousands)

UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUNDS



FY2026 adjustments that continue current service levels include a \$1,528.7 increase in UGF

Contribution to the Overall Department Mission: Provides essential executive management and administrative services, ensuring the department's effective operation.

Staff: 230 permanent full-time positions, two 2 non-permanent positions.

Core Services:

- **Administrative Services:** Centralized support for budgeting, finance, procurement, personnel, grants, and facilities maintenance.
- **Statewide Services:** Maintains law enforcement data systems and criminal history records for justice and public safety agencies.
- **Public Safety Training Academy:** Provides basic and specialized police training, including VPSO training, in partnership with University of Southeast.
- **Commissioner's Office:** Manages legislative relations, policy development, labor relations, and public information coordination.





Thank You

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