

**Department of Public Safety
FY26 Midyear Status Report**

Item No.	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	LFD Questions
1	Alaska State Troopers / Dispatch Services	Denied Request for Increased Costs for Dispatch Services Contracts in Kenai and Wasilla	N/A	A request of \$123.8 UGF was denied. Was the department able to maintain the contract? Were any services from the contract, or elsewhere in this allocation/appropriation, reduced as a result?
Agency Response				The Department was able to maintain dispatch services for both Kenai and Wasilla through contract extensions and existing authority. The Wasilla dispatch contract was extended for one year at the current cost, and the Kenai Borough contract was amended to reflect expanded service coverage. All payments for FY2026 have been issued and encumbrances are set up for remaining obligations. The department anticipates cost increases in future contracts and will continue working with partners to plan for those anticipated contract
2	Alaska State Troopers / AST Detachments	Trooper Overtime Pay: Letter of Agreement for Alternate Work Week	N/A	<p>An LOA for Troopers schedules was filed allowing 12 hour days for 7 days every pay period:</p> <p>A) Is this a new LOA or has this schedule existed in the past? Are all Troopers expected to be on this schedule or is this an opt-in situation?</p> <p>B) Is the overtime required by this schedule already included in the budgeted cost of each trooper? Was additional funding needed/granted at the time this schedule was initially implemented? The LOA claims savings of \$931.0, was this already factored in to the FY26 Request for additional trooper overtime?</p> <p>C) Are there any negative safety implications from Troopers working such long hours?</p> <p>D) What alternatives were considered prior to implementing this alternate workperiod schedule? Are there ways to reduce necessary overtime without impacting performance or public safety?</p>

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Agency Response A twelve hour alternate work schedule has been in place since 2017 and continues to be used selectively based on post needs, staffing levels, and calls for service. Participation varies by location and is determined by detachment commanders. Overtime costs are associated with positions and are not driven by the alternate schedule itself, as the additional hours are compensated at the regular rate. Extended shifts are common in law enforcement and can reduce shift changes while providing additional days off. Alternative schedules, including five eight and four ten models, remain available and are used where operationally feasible. The department continues to evaluate schedules to balance staffing needs, officer wellness, and public safety.				
3	Alaska State Troopers / Alaska State Trooper Detachments	Add Funding to Increase Budgeted Hours of Overtime per State Trooper	Total: \$1,000.0 \$1,000.0 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	Please provide an update on the use of Trooper overtime to date. Is the agency projecting to exceed the budgeted amount of overtime this fiscal year?
Agency Response Alaska State Troopers is experiencing higher utilization of budgeted overtime during FY2026, supported in part by the additional funding included in the operating budget. Overtime use typically increases during peak service periods, holidays, and required annual training. The department continues to monitor overtime expenditures closely and manages staffing and scheduling to minimize overtime where possible while maintaining public safety coverage.				
4	Alaska State Troopers / Alaska State Trooper Detachments	Denied funding to Purchase One Transit Van for Crime Scene Response	N/A	A request of \$65.0 UGF was denied. Please provide an update on the transportation status of forensic technicians in Palmer and Soldotna. Were you able to procure a van or make other changes, despite lack of additional funding?
Agency Response The department was not able to procure a replacement transit van for forensic technicians due to the denial of additional funding. Technicians continue to operate using existing vehicles to meet service needs.				
5	Alaska State Troopers / Various	Denied funding to Address Cost Increasing Law Enforcement Supply and Equipment Costs	N/A	A request of \$800.0 UGF between AST Detachments and Wildlife Troopers was denied. How was equipment and supplies procurement affected; did the agency reduce procurement or were these costs absorbed? Were any other services reduced in order to maintain funding for this item?
Agency Response To address rising costs for equipment and supplies, the department prioritized purchases related to officer safety and core operations. Some procurement quantities were reduced, and non essential purchases were deferred. Additional cost containment measures included reductions in travel and careful review of discretionary expenditures. These steps allowed the department to continue providing essential services while managing within available funding.				

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6	Alaska State Troopers / Alaska Bureau of Investigation	Add 75% Funding for Two New Temporary Troopers in Kotzebue for Child Crimes Investigations in Western Alaska	Total: \$527.7 \$537.7 Gen Fund (UGF) 2 TMP Positions Inc	<p>Have these new positions been recruited for and filled? Please provide details of progress and the hiring date.</p> <p>What is the current caseload for child crimes investigators in Western Alaska, and how does this compare historically?</p>
Agency Response				
<p>Two long term non permanent investigator positions were established and filled in Nome due to housing availability. Both positions were filled with hire dates of September 2025. The two investigators are currently managing a combined caseload of 23 open investigations. Historically, these cases were handled by patrol, which limits the availability of comparable historical caseload data specific to dedicated child crimes investigators in the region.</p>				
7	Alaska State Troopers / Alaska Bureau of Investigation	Pilot Program for New Investigative Genealogy Testing on Unidentified	Total: \$50.0 \$50.0 Gen Fund (UGF) IncOTI	Please provide an update on this pilot program. Have any samples successfully identified to date? Does the agency feel this program may warrant future investments?
Agency Response				
<p>The investigative genealogy pilot program remains an important tool for advancing unidentified human remains and cold case investigations, providing identification for 56 previously unidentified remains. While testing is resource intensive, the pilot has demonstrated potential value in supporting Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons and homicide cases. Future investment would be evaluated based on results, case outcomes, and available funding.</p>				
8	Alaska State Troopers / Aircraft Section	Denied Request to Add Funding for Increased Costs of Repair, Utilities, Fuel, and Parts for Aircraft Operations	N/A	A request of \$400.0 UGF was denied. Is the agency projecting to exceed the budgeted amount of aircraft operations this fiscal year?
Agency Response				
<p>Aircraft operations costs are trending higher than initially anticipated due to maintenance needs and fuel price volatility. The Aircraft Section continues to actively manage expenditures and prioritize essential maintenance to support safe operations. The department is monitoring costs closely and adjusting operational planning as needed to remain within available funding.</p>				

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9	Village Public Safety Operations / Village Public Safety Operations	Add Funding for Five New Village Public Safety Officers and Additional Village Public Safety Officer Housing and Support	Total: \$1,660.5 \$1,660.5 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	<p>Have these new positions been recruited for and filled? Please provide details of progress and the hiring date.</p> <p>Please describe how much of the funding was used for officer housing and/or support, and what the funding was used for. Please also discuss the current retention rates for VPSOs, and how many communities have requested but do not currently have an assigned VPSO.</p>
Agency Response				
<p>VPSO positions have fluctuated between filled and vacant throughout the reporting period. At the time of this report, there are 85 VPSOs statewide with 5 vacancies. Several positions are actively moving through the hiring process, including candidates pending final background screening and clearance. Because the VPSO program operates through 10 regional grantees, each of which serves as the employer, hiring timelines and processes vary by grantee and staffing levels may fluctuate. As a result, precise hiring dates cannot be reliably projected. In its oversight role, the Department tracks filled and vacant positions and conducts formal assessments on a quarterly basis. Currently, there are up to 7 potential candidates in the early stages of the hiring process across multiple grantees who may fill existing vacancies later in the fiscal year.</p>				
<p>The majority of program funding is allocated to personnel costs, which represent the largest component of each VPSO position. The remaining approximately 25% supports housing, travel, standard supplies, and safety equipment. This proportion varies by region and community. Costs associated with housing, travel, and safety equipment have increased in recent years and fluctuate based on geographic location, community infrastructure, and individual officer needs.</p>				
<p>From a retention standpoint, turnover in FY25 was approximately 32%, which is below the program's 10 year average turnover rate of approximately 36%. Despite ongoing turnover challenges, the program experienced net staffing growth during FY25. Retention and turnover continue to be influenced by regional housing availability and community infrastructure, which vary significantly across the state. FY26 retention and turnover trends will be more accurately assessed near the end of the fiscal year. To date, 186 communities have requested a VPSO. Of those, 62 communities are currently served, leaving 124 communities without an</p>				
10	Statewide Support / Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	Decrease Funding Due to Reduced Recidivism Reduction Fund Revenue	Total: (\$387.1) (\$387.1) RcdvsmFund (DGF) Dec	<p>How was the CDVSA affected by this reduction? Please provide detail on any impacts to grant distributions.</p> <p>What is the status of federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding?</p>

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	Agency Response The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault mitigated the reduction in Recidivism Reduction Fund revenue by transferring unrestricted general funds from their services allocations to their grants allocation providing to continued prevention grant distributions. This allowed the council to maintain core grant activities despite the reduction. The council was notified of its federal Victims of Crime Act award in September 2025, totaling approximately \$3.0 million. VOCA funding continues to fluctuate year to year and remains significantly lower than prior peak levels. The council continues to prioritize core victim services and manage grants within available resources.			
11	Statewide Support / Commissioner's Office	Denied Request for Additional Funding for Project Manager Previously Added for Oversight of Capital and Special Projects	N/A	A request for \$151.1 UGF was denied. Was the Department able to absorb those costs and retain the Project Manager position? Is the position currently filled?
	Agency Response Following the denial of additional funding, the department did not fill the project manager position. Oversight of capital and special projects continues to be managed within existing staff capacity.			
12	Statewide Support / Laboratory Services	Denied Request for Crime Lab Equipment Replacement	N/A	A request for \$347.0 UGF was denied. Is the lab equipment still operating and if so, are there concerns about functionality? Was accreditation of the lab affected?
	Agency Response In FY2025, the Division of Victim Services and Forensic Science reallocated internal funding on a one time basis to support critical laboratory upgrades, including DNA quantification systems and the Tubewriter application. The Tubewriter system is operational, and the DNA quantification systems are undergoing final validation and are expected to be fully integrated into operations in FY2026. These upgrades improved efficiency and accuracy, but continued investment will be important to sustain modernization efforts and meet ongoing forensic demand.			
13	Statewide Support / Laboratory Services	Denied Request for Crime Lab Supplies DNA Reagent	N/A	A request for \$124.6 UGF was denied. Please describe the impacts of not receiving this funding. Was processing of DNA tests impacted? Has the Department been able to meet the six month statutory requirement for DNA sexual assault examination kit testing?
	Agency Response In FY2025, the laboratory temporarily offset increased reagent and supply costs by reallocating funds from vacant personnel positions, allowing essential testing to continue without disruption. This approach was a one time solution. The department has met statutory turnaround requirements to date, and sustained funding will be important to maintain performance levels and avoid future delays.			