



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
Office of the Director

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February 22, 2013

The Honorable Kevin Meyer, Senate Finance Co-Chairman
The Honorable Pete Kelly, Senate Finance Co-Chairman
State Capitol, Rooms 518 and 516
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Co-Chairmen Meyer and Kelly:

At the Senate Finance Committee meeting on February 19th, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) presented our FY2014 capital budget overview. A number of questions were raised within the committee regarding various aspects of the DPS budget. DPS would like to respond to these questions as follows.

Sen. Fairclough asked how DPS disposes of used Tasers:

Broken Tasers (stun guns) are repaired or traded-in to the manufacturer if possible, however obsolete stun guns are not salvageable and are warehoused by DPS until a proper disposal method is available. DPS will send batches of stun guns to a contractor in Arizona where they will be evaluated for repair and refurbishment, however historically only about 20 to 25% of those units can be put back into service. In the past five years, DPS has sent three batches of units for this evaluation. Disposing of obsolete and un-repairable units at the common land fill is not recommended because of the electronics and metals within the units.

Sens. Fairclough and Olson asked why equipment purchases were not funded with operating funds instead of capital funds:

Equipment purchases have been funded out of the capital budget since 2002 (maybe earlier, but this is the year listed in the capital backup). Capital budget funding provides the department flexibility in purchasing all types of equipment throughout the year without being restricted by fiscal year periods. The procurement law and types of purchases (e.g. law enforcement equipment) make it very time consuming for DPS to fully implement within one fiscal year.

Generally, small equipment (up to 25K) is purchased out of the operating budget, but if many small equipment items (e.g. Tasers) are purchased at one time then the total cost

increases and the capital budget funding are used. The Capital Outlay line in the DPS Operating budget does cover some small equipment purchases but it certainly does not contain enough funds to cover the capital projects requested in the FY2014 capital budget. In order to keep the procurement flexibility with larger equipment purchases, DPS would like the committee to maintain the equipment funding in the capital budget.

Sen. Fairclough asked if UCR data is still reported “by hand” and if DPS is investing in technology that would modernize the reporting of this data:

Though some agencies are able to provide data electronically, for the most part, local law enforcement agencies in Alaska that participate in the FBI’s Uniform Crime Report (UCR) program complete the FBI’s standardized crime report forms manually and submit them monthly to DPS – the centralized crime records agency in Alaska. DPS in turn forwards the data to the national program electronically. The FBI has provided tools for use by agencies, such as Excel spreadsheets, to streamline the completion and submission of crime reports.

In addition to UCR data and under the authority of AS 12.62.130, DPS has implemented a reporting system that requires criminal justice agencies to report to DPS data regarding each felony sex offense as defined under AS 12.63.100. Though an electronic method of reporting this information is available, not all agencies are capable of providing the data in this manner and are therefore submitting the information manually.

Sen. Meyer mentioned the transfer of the ABC Board to Commerce and questioned why there wasn’t a savings to DPS:

This is an operating budget item, but there are no general fund savings to DPS with the transfer of the ABC Board. DPS transferred all ABC funds and expenses within the FY13 fiscal note. In FY12, DPS paid Law \$206.3 for an attorney dedicated to DPS issues who apparently spent about 25% of his time on work related to the ABC board. For this attorney, Law’s billing practice did not break out the efforts between divisions of DPS because DPS allocated the cost of the attorney across the department using position counts. The ABC board paid a small share of the total legal cost since they only had about 9 positions out of approximately 900 positions or about 1% of the total. Approximately \$2.3 of the total legal costs were charged to the ABC board and this amount was included in the fiscal note transfer to Commerce.

The transfer also resulted in Dept. of Law changing the division that provided the legal services to the ABC Board because the Civil Division provides legal advice to Commerce, including the Boards and Commissions administered by Commerce. This also resulted in a different attorney providing the legal services to the board and a change

in the manner how the legal services are billed. In the current fiscal year, the legal billings are now specific to the ABC Board and charged the hourly legal services rate (\$156.35).

For DPS, the legal service costs have increased in FY13 and FY14 and the dedicated attorney is now spending 100 percent of his time on DPS legal issues. Again, there is no general fund savings due to the transfer of the ABC Board to Commerce.

Please call if you have additional or follow up questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Hoover". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeff Hoover
Administrative Services Director
Department of Public Safety

CC: The Honorable Sen. Fairclough
The Honorable Sen. Dunleavy
The Honorable Sen. Bishop
The Honorable Sen. Olson
The Honorable Sen. Hoffman
Commissioner Joseph Masters
DPS Special Assistant Kelly Howell
OMB Analyst Brook Larson
Legislative Finance Analyst Kelly Cunningham
DPS Budget Manager Dennis Girardot