FY20/21 Key Issues – Department of Public Safety

1. **Laboratory Services**: In FY20 the Legislature provided $342.5 DGF and 2 PFT positions to reduce the backlog of work and meet HB 49 requirements regarding the turnaround time for processing sexual assault test kits. The Legislature also approved an additional $150.0 Fed.
    a. Has the program reduced its backlog, and is the Department meeting statutory requirements for processing sexual assault test kits?
    b. Have the added positions been filled, and how many positions remain vacant?
    c. How will the Governor’s FY21 request for $872.8 UGF and four PFT positions reduce the current backlog and meet operational requirements?
2. **Alaska State Troopers (AST)**: The FY21 proposal would station an additional 15 Alaska State Troopers in rural Alaska and add another 16 PFT positions in AST Detachments. This proposal includes $2.7 million to reduce vacancy.
    a. What is the status of AST retention and recruitment efforts, and how many positions are currently filled out of the 389 included in the FY20 Management Plan?
    b. How does the Department calculate the cost of adding an Alaska State Trooper?
        i. Are one-time start-up costs (training, vehicle, supplies) included in this request? If not, how will the Department pay for those costs?
    c. Will these added positions focus on Legislative intent of prioritizing the investigation of sex crimes in rural Alaska?
3. **Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program**: In FY20, the Governor vetoed $3.0 million from the VPSO Program.
    a. What is the status of FY20 grant funding: have all available funds been distributed to grantees? Do grantees report additional need beyond what has been provided?
    b. Has the Department met Legislative intent regarding collaboration with the VPSO grantees to develop a recruitment and retention plan?
4. **Anchorage Emergency Communications Center**: The FY21 proposal includes funding and 7 PFT positions for a new emergency communications center. The Department also plans to transfer positions in from existing facilities and cancel services contract work with external agencies.
    a. Which facilities or service contracts will be impacted, and will there be a savings?
5. **Fire and Life Safety**: How has the Department worked to reduce the turnaround time for building plan review, and what is status of these efforts?
    a. The FY21 request includes $436.1 GF 4 PFT positions. How quickly could the Department fill these positions and reduce the current turnaround time?
6. **Alaska Wing Civil Air Patrol**: In FY20, the Governor vetoed $250.0 UGF for the Alaska Wing Civil Air Patrol, eliminating all state support of the program.
    a. What are the impacts of this reduction?
    b. Has the Department met Legislative intent to “strengthen the liaison between the State and the Civil Air Patrol’s capabilities in partnership with the Department’s mission”?