



Department of Public Safety Overview

House Community and Regional Affairs

Presentation by
Commissioner James Cockrell
Deputy Commissioner Bryan Barlow
April 11, 2023



Department of Public Safety

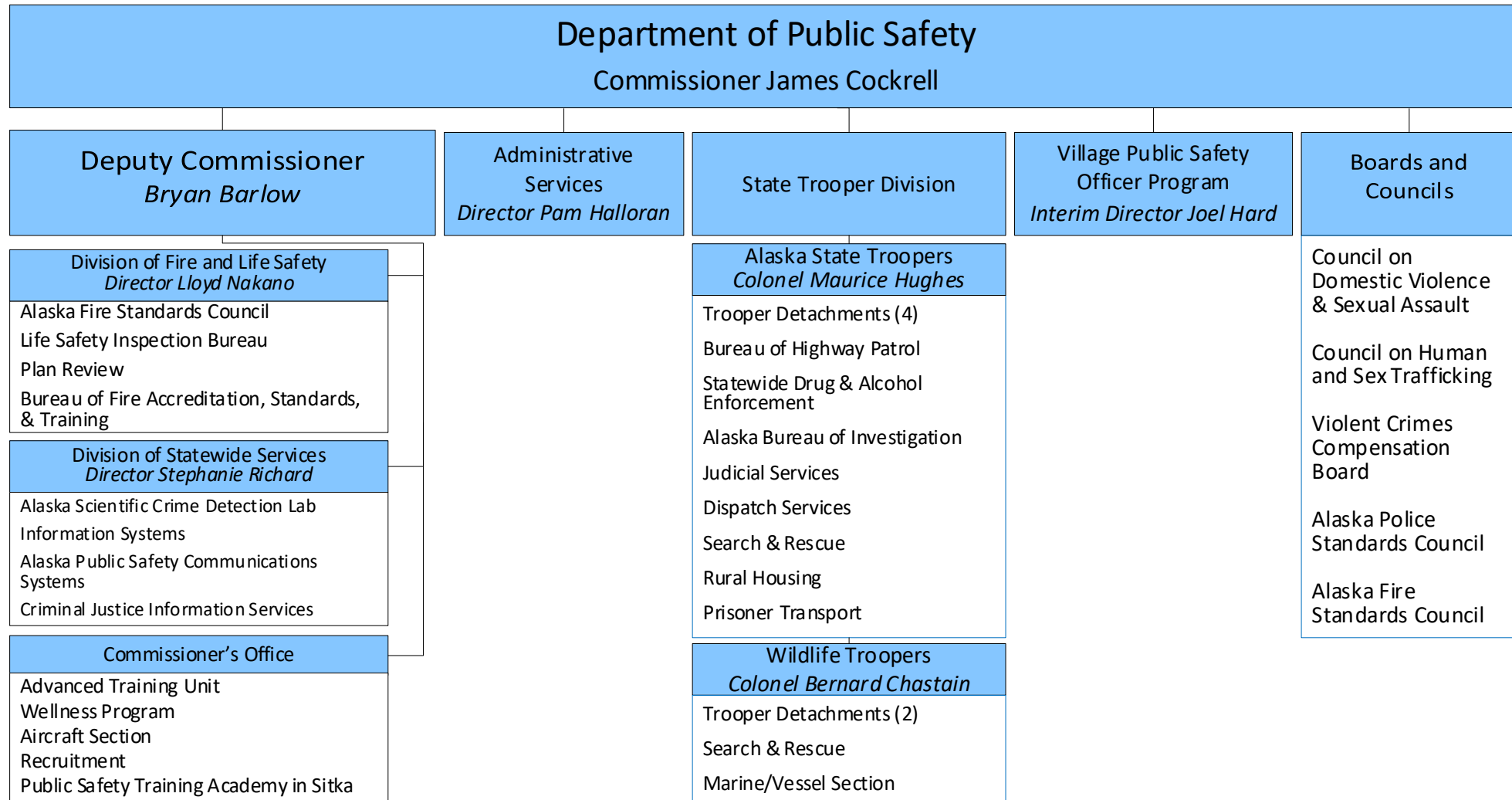
Mission: To ensure public safety and to enforce fish and wildlife laws

Key Objectives:

- Recruit and Retain
- Rural Alaska Law Enforcement and Safety
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Village Public Safety Officer Program
- Fisheries and Wildlife Resource Protection
- Narcotics and Major Crime Investigations



Department of Public Safety





Department Success in 2022-2023

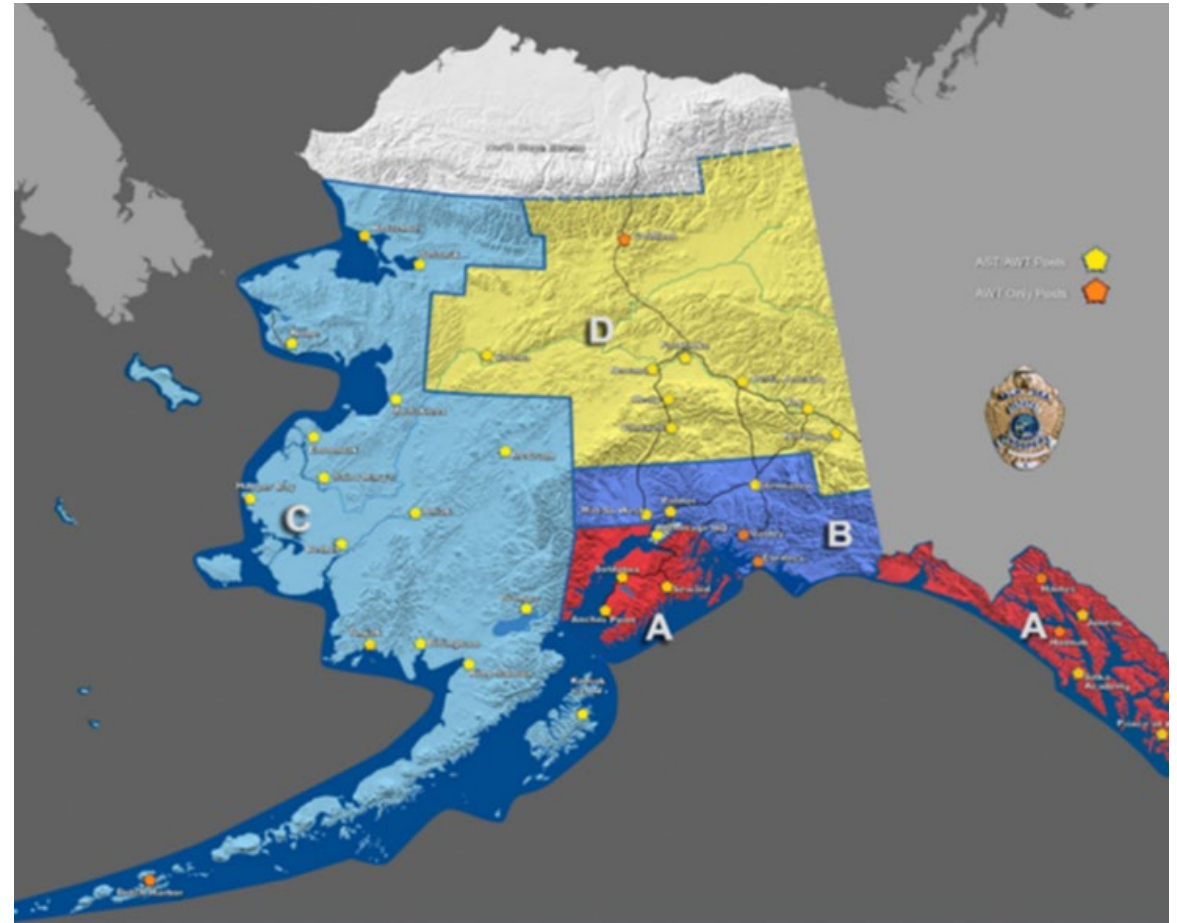
- Added two missing and/or murdered indigenous people investigators
- Hired two Tribal Liaisons
- Seized 13.4 million potentially fatal doses of illicit fentanyl
- 64 Village Public Safety Officer positions filled (as of March 2023)
- Continuing to hire State Troopers; 51 new Troopers started training in 2022
- Expansion of the wellness program; budget request for a mental health clinician
- Body worn camera pilot project in progress
 - Draft policy posted/closed for public feedback; final policy being implemented April 2023
 - Training started on 4/4/2023
- 118,000 pounds of illegally harvested salmon forfeited in Bristol Bay





Division of Alaska State Troopers

- Four Detachments
- Alaska Bureau of Investigation
 - Major Crimes Investigations
 - Technical/Financial Crime Investigations
- Statewide Drug and Alcohol Enforcement
- Statewide Support
 - Search and Rescue Coordination
 - Advanced Training Unit
 - Recruitment Unit
 - Prisoner Transport





Division of Alaska State Troopers

Accomplishments

Seized 215% more methamphetamine, 440% more fentanyl, and 334% more heroin from 2021

Solved 85% of homicides in Trooper jurisdiction

Expansion of the two-on/two-off posts in rural Alaska

Online reporting program

Challenges

Recruitment and retention

Technological changes in how crimes are committed

Importation of drugs and alcohol into rural Alaska

Rural housing





Division of Alaska State Troopers

\$ in thousands

Significant Budget Changes of Interest

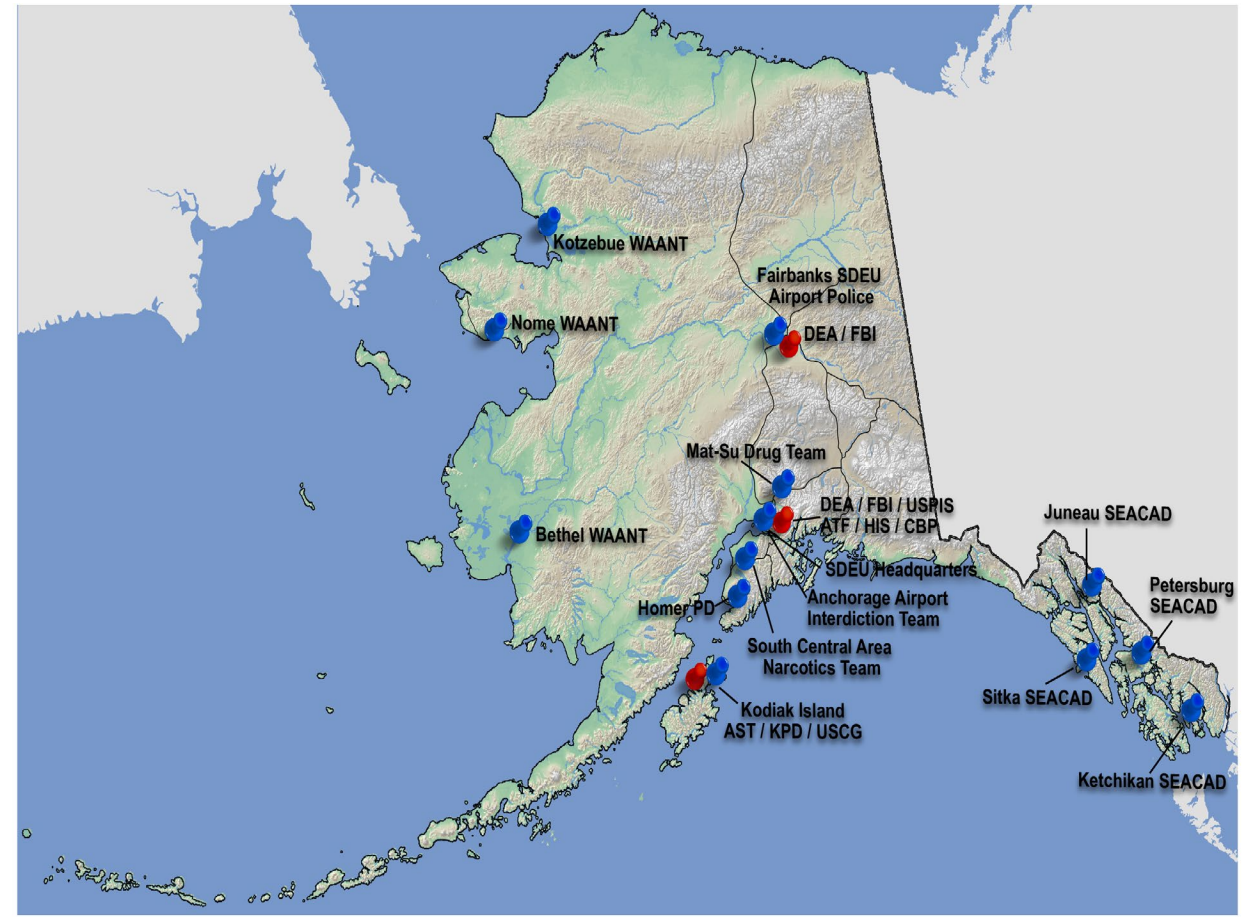
FY2024 Operating Budget Changes	Amount	Fund Source	Impact
Rural Trooper Housing Leases	\$1,387.0	UGF	Rural Trooper Housing; To support lease cost increases and lease additions in rural Alaska
Criminal Justice Technician 1/2, Anchorage (personal services, travel, services, commodities)	\$112.6	UGF	Statewide Drug and Alcohol Drug Enforcement Unit for airport drug and alcohol interdiction
Aircraft Pilot, Bethel (personal services, travel, services, commodities)	\$259.4	UGF	Aircraft Section; To provide uninterrupted service in the Western Alaska region
Expand Internet Connectivity in Rural Posts (Increment Temporary)	\$582.0	UGF	Alaska State Trooper Detachments; To address high data transfer demands related to body worn camera



High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

HIDTA Task Force

- Alaska has one of 33 programs in the country
- Funds 752 initiatives nationwide
- Supports coordinated law enforcement strategies to maximize available resources and reduce the supply of illegal drugs





Statewide Drug/Alcohol Enforcement Unit

Fairbanks Areawide Narcotics Team (FANT) focuses on drug interdictions and investigations in the Interior Region, Utqiagvik, and east to Canada

Southcentral Areawide Narcotics Team (SCAN) focuses on drug interdictions and investigations throughout the Mat-Su Valley, Anchorage, Kenia Peninsula, and Kodiak Island

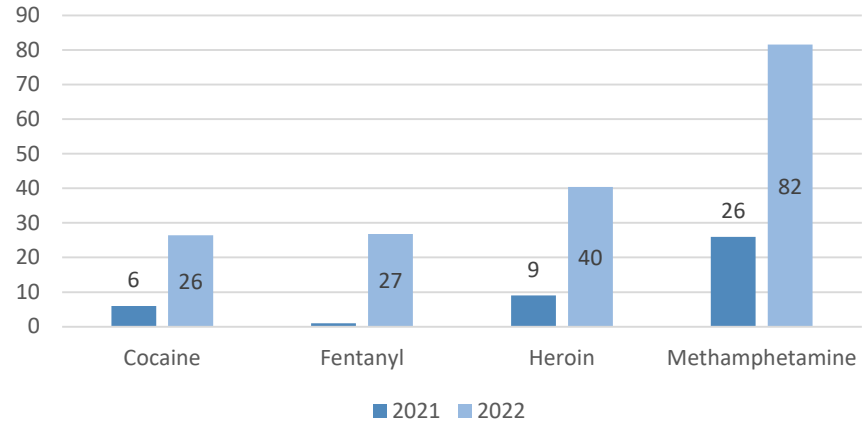
Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team (WAANT) focuses predominately on alcohol enforcement in Western Alaska as well as drug interdictions and investigations

Southeast Alaska Cities Against Drugs (SEACAD) focuses on drug interdictions and investigations in Southeast Alaska

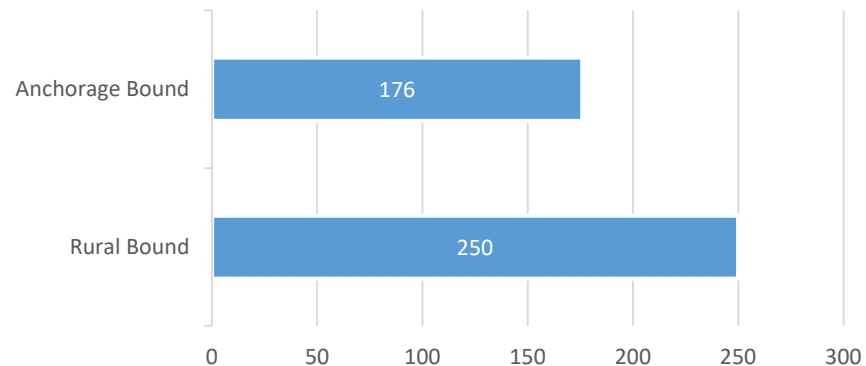


Statewide Drug Enforcement

2021 -2022 Illicit Drug Seizures in Kilograms



2022 Southcentral Illicit Drug Interdictions





Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers



Alaska Wildlife Troopers



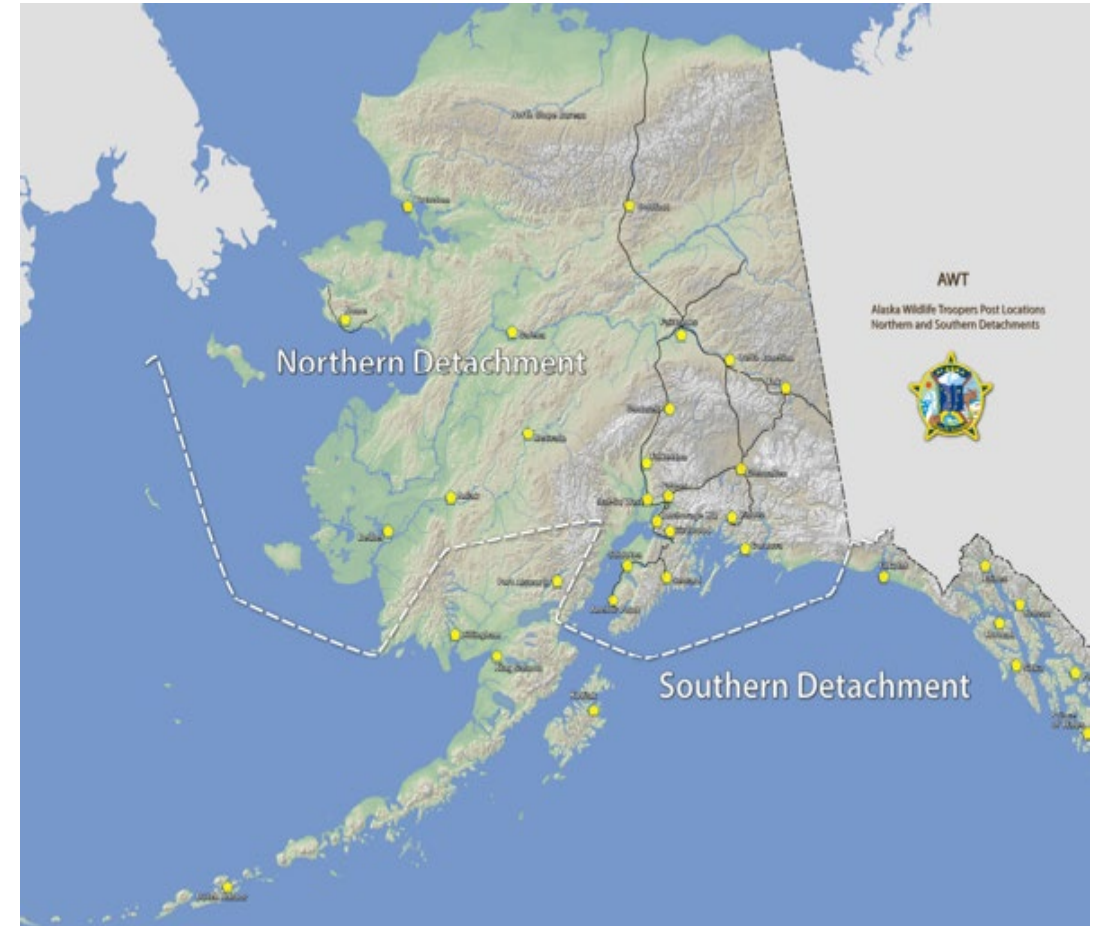
Alaska Wildlife Troopers Marine Enforcement

Accomplishments

- Collaboration with state and federal agencies, search and rescue groups, and public resource users
- Boating safety education and enforcement to reduce boating fatalities
- Identification of commercial resource crime and successful prosecution

Challenges

- 6,640 miles of coastline, significant hunts and fisheries
- Complicated regulatory structure and limited resources; 891,000 licenses sold and 90 Troopers





Aircraft and Marine Sections

Aircraft Section

- Law enforcement response/investigation
- Search and rescue
- Wildlife resource protection
- Prisoner transport
- Major fleet refreshment underway
 - 44 fixed wing and rotor wing aircraft
 - 19 aircraft bed-down bases
 - 5,667 hours flown in 2022 (calendar year)



Marine Section

- Marine fisheries enforcement
- Search and rescue
- Fleet management
 - Two 35' vessels and two patrol skiffs being built to replace older vessels
 - P/V Stimson, Kodiak (156' deployable statewide)
 - P/V Enforcer, Juneau (84' being decommissioned)
 - P/V Cama'i, Kodiak (69' catamaran)
 - 12 medium-sized vessels (27' to 35') in 12 different communities
 - Multiple other small skiffs and river boats





Village Public Safety Officer Program

Program Status

- \$15,207.7 awarded (\$ in thousands)
- 10 grantees, agreements with 143 villages
- VPSOs in 56 communities
- 2022 statute reform: added program clarity and improved wages and support (multi-officer assignment, traveling officers, training reform, Tribal relationships w/ DPS liaison)

Challenges

- Recruitment and retention
- Insufficient rural public safety infrastructure, lack of housing





Village Public Safety Officer Program

\$ in thousands

Significant Budget Changes of Interest

FY2024 Operating Budget Changes	Amount	Fund Source	Impact
Policy and Programs Director (personal services, travel, services, commodities)	\$196.5	UGF	Program stability and growth
Expansion to Better Serve Rural Alaskan Communities	\$2,830.0	UGF	Provides for 10 additional Village Public Safety Officers along with housing and other support



Division of Fire and Life Safety

Rural Fire Protection

Fire Training Programs

Safety Inspections

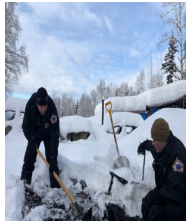
Building Plan Review

Public Education

Alaska Fire Standards Council

Mission: to prevent the loss of life and property from fire and explosion. Fire safety is improved through three means:

- Enforcement
- Engineering
- Education



Accomplishments

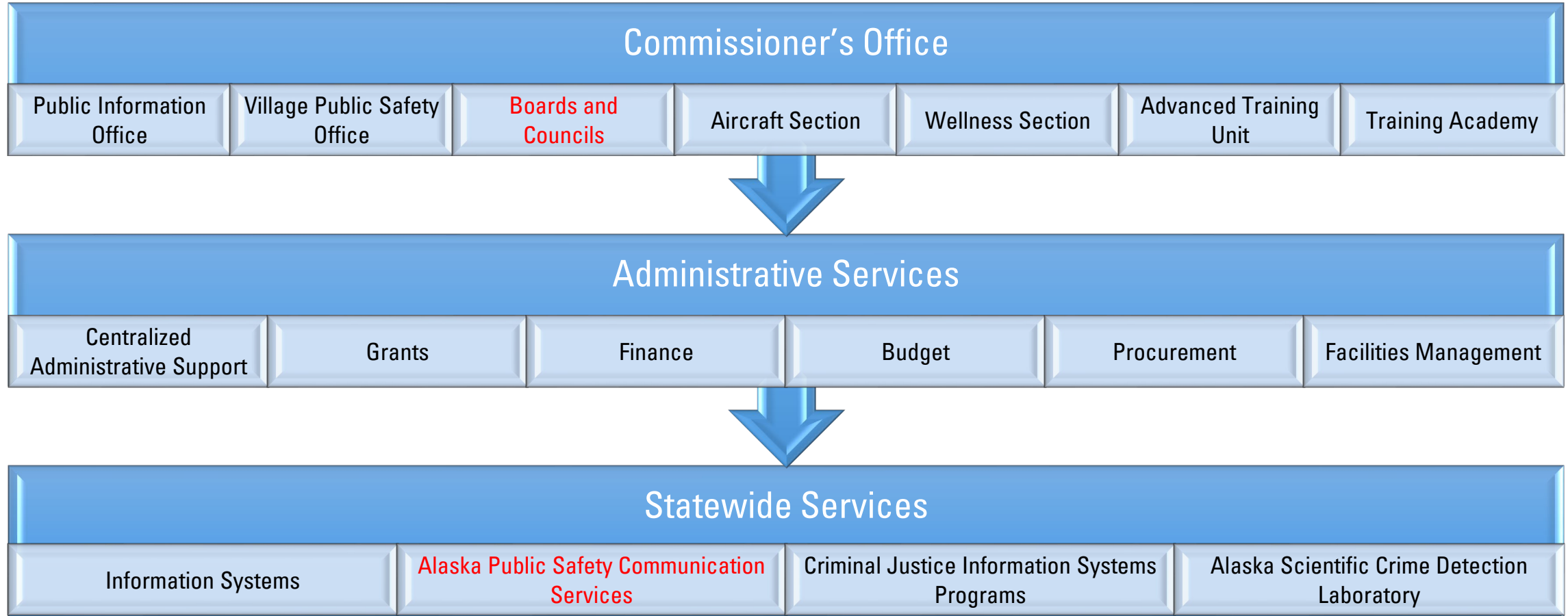
- 664 building fire and life safety inspections
- 776 fire and building plan reviews completed
- 45 significant fire investigated
- New web-based application to process permits deployed on Nov 17, 2022; 170 applications processed in two to four weeks

Challenges

- Rural fire department capacity
- Communication methods to reach high-risk groups and areas regarding personal responsibility to decrease loss



Division of Statewide Support



The Violent Crimes Compensation Board was recently transferred from DOA, and the Alaska Public Safety Communication Services was recently transferred from DMVA



Statewide Support

- **State Crime Lab**
 - Process DNA on violent crimes, felony crimes, and other qualifying offenses within 65 days on average
 - Process latent fingerprints, firearm and tool mark analysis, footwear analysis, and crime scenes
- **Criminal Justice Information Services**
 - Maintain the state's criminal history repository used by law enforcement and for processing applicant background checks
 - Maintain the state's sex offender registry, concealed handgun permits, and civilian process server and security guard licensing programs
- **Alaska Police Standards Council**
 - Certification and standards for statewide peace officers
- **Violent Crimes Compensation Board**
 - Financial assistance to victims of violent crimes up to \$40,000
- **Alaska Public Safety Communications Services**
 - Provide public safety infrastructure, services, and support to first responders



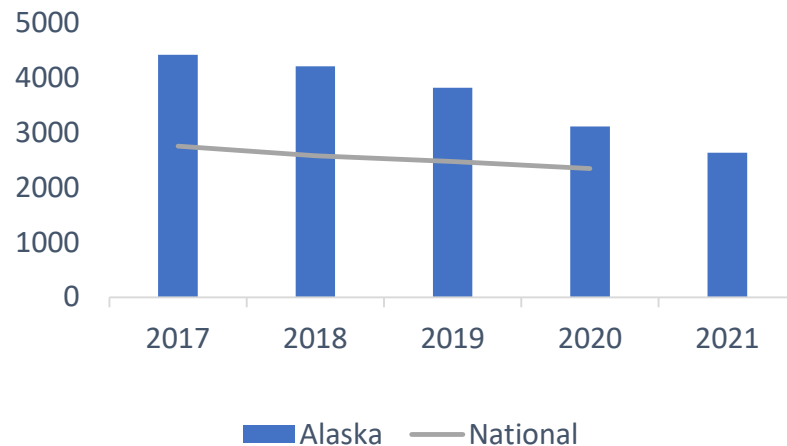


Uniform Crime Reporting

2021 Crime in Alaska Publication

- Overall reported crime rate, based on 100,000 population, decreased 15.2%
- Overall violent crime rate decreased 9.7%
- Overall property crime rate decreased 17.2%

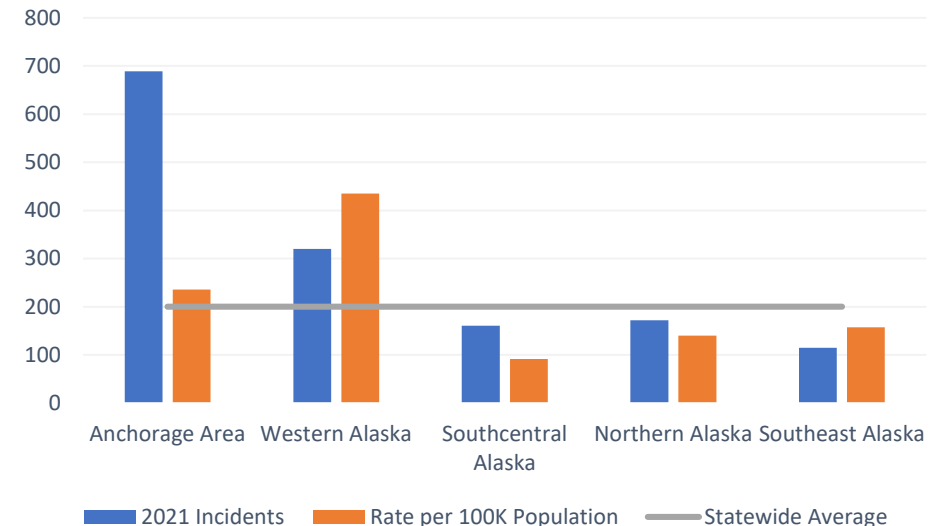
Total Crime Rate



2021 Felony Sex Offense Publication

- Victims over 18 year of age reported being assaulted by a stranger in 17% of incidents
- Nearly 58% of victims are juveniles
- Alaska Native females comprised 51% of victims in which race was reported

Incidents Reported to Law Enforcement





Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Mission: Prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault, providing safety for victims through a statewide system of crisis intervention and support and by supporting perpetrator accountability and rehabilitation

- Fund 34 community-based agencies, manage and monitor 90 grant awards
- 2022 success
 - Created four-year Implementation Plan for Alaska to prioritize training and service needs to better prevent and respond to interpersonal violence
 - Implemented a Language Access Plan to translate how to access services into the eight most frequently spoken languages in Alaska





Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

\$ in thousands

Significant Budget Changes of Interest

FY2024 Operating Budget Changes	Amount	Fund Source	Impact
Replace Lost Victim Services Federal Grant Funding	\$3,000.0 (one-time)	UGF	One-time general fund to cover the depleted federal Crime Victim Fund to maintain statewide emergency services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault
Increase and Enhance Community- Based Prevention and Battering Intervention Program Activities	\$1,200.0	UGF	Enhance and expand prevention programming including a media and community education campaign; and support revision and expansion of perpetrator programs/activities



Thank You



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