



30th Alaska State Legislature  
House Finance Budget Subcommittee  
Department of Public Safety  
FY19 Operating Budget

February 22, 2018

**Chair:**

Rep. Scott Kawasaki  
Capitol Room 502  
465-3466

**Members:**

Rep. Harriet Drummond  
Capitol Room 108  
465-3875

Rep. John Lincoln  
Capitol Room 432  
465-3473

Rep. Justin Parish  
Capitol Room 24  
465-3744

Rep. George Rauscher  
Capitol Room 426  
465-4859

Rep. Dan Saddler  
Capitol Room 428  
465-3783

Rep. Dave Talerico  
Capitol Room 110  
465-4527

Rep. Tammie Wilson  
Capitol Room 422  
465-4797

Vacant – HD38  
Capitol Room 416  
465-4942

Alternate: Rep. Kreiss-Tomkins  
Capitol Room 411  
465-3732

**Committee Aide:**  
Mercedes Colbert  
465-6249

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

The House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Public Safety held five meetings with the Department during the review of the FY19 budget request.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Public Safety recommends that the House Finance Committee accept the Department of Public Safety's FY19 budget with the following amendment recommendations.

The numbers-only budget with amendment recommendations totals:

**Fund Source:** (dollars are in thousands)

Unrestricted General Funds (UGF)	\$161,792.7
Designated General Funds (DGF)	8,282.4
Other Funds	11,217.0
Federal Funds	16,487.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$197,779.7</b>

The Unrestricted General Fund difference from FY15 Management Plan to the FY19 House Subcommittee Recommended budget is a reduction of \$9,617.9, a decrease of 5.6 percent.

The Unrestricted General Fund difference from FY18 Management Plan to the FY19 House Subcommittee Recommended budget is an increase of \$2,243.5, an increase of 1.4 percent.

**Positions:**

Permanent Full-time	804
Permanent Part-time	18
Temporary	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>833</b>

## GOVERNOR'S AMENDMENTS

The Governor did not submit any amendments for this agency.

## SUBCOMMITTEE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

The following budget amendments are submitted by the subcommittee for consideration by the House Finance Committee:

1. **Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol Decrement to Align FY19 Budgeted Consulting Services and Software Funding with FY16 and FY17 Actual Expenditures:** Delete 100.0 UGF to services line.

The Department had no objection to this amendment.

2. **Prisoner Transportation Decrement to Reflect Downward Trend to Actual Expenditures in FY13-FY17:** Delete 400.0 UGF from Travel line.

Between FY13-17, actual expenditures for AST prisoner transportation decreased by 41 percent, from \$3.1 million to \$1.8 million. The Legislative Finance Division worked with the Department to ensure this decrement amount would not deeply impact its statutory requirements to provide prisoner transportation.

3. **Transfer Funding from AST Detachments to VPSO Program to Increase VPSO Travel:** Transfer 585.0 UGF from AST Detachment travel line to VPSO Program grants, benefits line.

The Department noted VPSO grant recipients use travel funds for many modes of transportation, including fuel for boats, snowmachines and four-wheelers, as well as airfare and cars and trucks. One member voiced concern that the VPSO grantees do not have enough infrastructure available to them to be dispatched to rural areas.

4. **Align AST Travel Line with FY14-FY17 Actual Expenditures:** Delete 773.2 UGF from AST Detachment travel line.
5. **AST Detachments Wordage Requiring Travel Expenditures:** "Of the amount appropriated in this allocation, \$641,800 must be expended in the travel line to improve law enforcement access to rural communities."
6. **VPSO Intent Language for Travel to Rural Communities:** "It is the intent of the legislature that the amount of \$585,000 be provided to VPSO grantees for the purpose of

travel to rural communities. It is also the intent of the legislature that the Department support VPSO contractors' efforts to provide public safety services to the maximum geographic area surrounding their duty station.”

7. **Intent to Maintain VPSO Rural Firefighter Specialist Training Intent in Sitka:** “It is the intent of the legislature that the VPSO Rural Firefighter Specialist Training remain in Sitka.”

The Department generated estimates of the cost per day per VPSO for training in Palmer (\$97.00) versus Sitka (\$91.66). Following discussion of information provided by the Department, it was unconfirmed and unclear whether moving VPSO Rural Firefighter Training from Sitka to Palmer would generate substantial cost savings.

8. **Village Public Safety Officer Intent Language:** “It is the intent of the legislature that the Department disperse funding meant for the VPSO Program to VPSO grant recipients. VPSO grantees are encouraged to use the funding for recruitment and retention of VPSOs, however they may use the funds for other purposes within their mission, such as operational costs to better utilize filled positions or housing multiple VPSOs in a single community, if judged to be more beneficial to public safety.”

The Department said they are charged with ensuring all VPSO funds are used appropriately and do so to the best of their ability. Some members said they were concerned the language may force the Department to disperse all appropriated funds to VPSO grantees while the Department is charged to approve requests VPSO grantee spending.

Members expressed concerns that VPSO grantees are often denied requests to spend funds that would improve the quality of public safety in rural communities and help toward retaining and recruiting VPSOs to those tribal regions in need.

9. **Commissioner’s Office -- Decrement to Align the FY19 Budget for Printing Charges and Training Materials with FY16 and FY17 Actual Expenditures:** Delete 100.0 UGF from services line.

10. **Alaska Wing Civil Air Patrol Decrement:** Delete 453.5 UGF to services line, Add 302.3 UGF to services line as One-Time Increment (IncOTI).

**Add intent language:** “It is the intent of the legislature that the Alaska Wing Civil Air Patrol actively search for non-state funding to support its operations.”

Some members expressed interest in finding if it was relevant to link insurance claims to help cover costs of deploying Civil Air patrol for search and rescue.

A member wanted more information about how much funding and resources are provided by volunteers and the U.S. Department of Defense to support Civil Air Patrol.

11. **Criminal Justice Information Systems Program:** Delete 297.5 UGF from personal services line and 3 permanent full-time positions; Add 297.5 UGF to personal services line and 3 permanent full-time positions as Temporary Increment (IncT) for FY19-FY21.

The Department stated the current 3 temporary positions input 600 AST reports a day, on top of an unknown amount of reports from local police departments, into the federal Uniform Crime Reporting system. The backlog is deep, and there is a need for additional staff to update the crime data system to the new National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) by January 2021. While the subcommittee recognizes that creating new systems is labor intensive, adding six new positions to the base budget with no further scrutiny did not seem to be prudent.

Some members felt this amendment should address the FY2019 budget, not only the out-years of this request.

12. **Laboratory Services – Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory Intent Language:** “It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Public Safety actively seek arrangements to rent space in the Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory to municipalities, federal agencies, and other state agencies.”

While a member did not offer an amendment to the amendment, he wished to ensure that any efforts to rent the underutilized space would be to the highest cost benefit ratio possible.

#### OTHER INFORMATION:

The subcommittee discussed a variety of issues during the meetings, including one amendment proposal the subcommittee failed to pass:

1. An amendment proposal was discussed that would have deleted \$1,000.0 UGF from the Grants, Benefits line of the Village Public Safety Officer Program. The subcommittee voted down this proposal 2 yeas to 8 nays.

The Department voiced concern that while approximately \$2,300.0 UGF of unexpended VPSO funds in FY2017 lapsed back to the General Fund, having funds available to hire unfilled positions is still necessary. (Members were reminded the FY2018 Enacted budget included intent language that any unexpended VPSO funds would lapse back to the General Fund.) The Department said approximately half of the requests to expend funds were accepted from VPSO contractors.

Some subcommittee members noted that the VPSO Program lacks resources, filled positions and could use funding to help recruit. A member voiced optimism that if the funds are left available for the Department and VPSO contractors, they can hire more VPSOs.

A member felt that funds were left unexpended because of the overly restrictive environment of distributing the funds from DPS to VPSO contractors. Another member voiced concern that any failure in the program is not just because of funds. This discussion lent itself to the subsequent statutory recommendation to revisit the VPSO statutes.

### SUBCOMMITTEE STATUTORY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following statutory recommendations are shared with the House Finance Committee. These recommendations will be submitted to the relevant policy committees for consideration.

1. **House State Affairs Committee** – Amend AS 18.70.080 to authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to establish by regulation a schedule of reasonable fees for services provided by the Department of Public Safety under AS 18.70.050. The fee established for a service may not exceed the actual cost of providing the service. The commissioner may define or establish the “actual cost of providing a service” by regulation. The Department of Public Safety shall charge and collect the fees established under this subsection. The department may waive collection of a fee upon a finding that collection is not economically feasible or in the public interest.

As heard in subcommittee on February 6, the Division of Fire & Life Safety cannot charge fees for regular building inspections – only for plan reviews, as authorized under AS 18.70.080(b). Currently, the Designated General Funds are raised by charging for plan reviews, but the funds are used for conducting regular building inspections.

The Department stated that because of the current lack of authority to charge fees for regular inspections, the Division is unlikely to raise the additional \$125.0 of GF/Program Receipts (DGF) requested in the Governor’s FY19 budget.

By giving the Department authority to charge fees for regular inspections, with a waiver available to entities such as nonprofits or childcare facilities that cannot bear the cost of an inspection fee, the Division of Fire & Life Safety may be better able to recoup some of the cost of regular inspections.

In subcommittee on February 20, the House State Affairs Committee Chair expressed interest in introducing this proposal, which was agreed upon with the House Community & Regional Affairs Committee Chair.

2. **House Community & Regional Affairs Committee** – In coordination with Village Public Safety Officer Program grantees and the Department of Public Safety, the subcommittee recommends the Legislature revisits the VPSO Program statutes, AS 18.65.670, to enhance the mission of the VPSO Program to preserve public peace, protect life and property in rural villages.

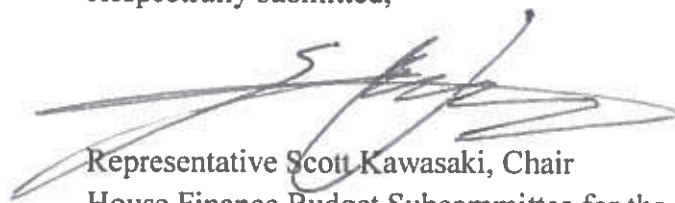
The VPSO Program statutes have not been updated in nearly 40 years, except to authorize firearms for Village Public Safety Officers. Over the years, the legislature has provided direction to the Department of Public Safety through budget intent language.

Revisiting the statutory language may not only improve communication between the Legislature, Department of Public Safety and the VPSO Grantees, but also enhance the function of this vitally important public service in rural communities.

**ATTACHED REPORTS (House Structure, Numbers Only):**

Transaction Detail – House Structure - Subcommittee Recommended Amendments  
Allocation Summary  
Multi-Year Allocation Summary – Operating Budget

Respectfully submitted,



Representative Scott Kawasaki, Chair  
House Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Department of Public Safety