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State of New Hampshire

POLICE STANDARDS & TRAINING COUNCIL

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John V. Scippa
Director

Full Text Remarks of John V. Scippa, Director New Hampshire Police Standards & Training Governor's Budget Hearing November 28, 2022

Good afternoon. For the record, my name is John Scippa. I am the Director of New Hampshire Police Standards and Training. Our mission is to shape, strengthen and sustain the competency and professionalism of New Hampshire Law Enforcement in service to our state. The Police Standards and Training Council regulates the hiring and educational standards for all police, state corrections, and probation-parole officers in New Hampshire. We operate the NH Police Academy which all municipal police, county sheriff deputies, state troopers, conservation officers, liquor investigators and other full-time law enforcement officers must attend to become certified as a full-time police officer in this state. We also operate the part-time officer basic training classes that all part-time police officers must complete to obtain part-time police officer certification, as well as the NH Corrections Academy that all state corrections officers attend in order to obtain corrections officer certification.

We also provide specialized, advanced and in-service refresher training at our facility in Concord and regionally around the state, to assist officers in completing the annual requirements to maintain their certification.

As part of our responsibility for regulating over 4000 certified officers in our state, we convene and rule on disciplinary hearings that may suspend or revoke the certification of officers that have violated Council rules or committed a crime or an act of moral turpitude.

We are an independent executive branch agency, governed by a 14 member Police Standards and Training Council. We are not affiliated with any law enforcement or prosecutorial agency, thereby avoiding potential conflicts of interest with our regulatory function and decertification duties.

We provide services with 26 full-time and 6 part-time positions, which includes sworn staff, administrative and maintenance employees. Our staff is assisted by adjunct instructors, most of whom are unpaid volunteers and a small number of contracted instructors. We operate a 77,000 square foot training facility located on 20.87 acres of grounds across from NHTI – Concord's Community College.

Efficiency Budget Request

DAS provided PSTC with target allocations from the Governor's Office of no more than a 3% increase in FY24 and 0% increase in FY25. Our submitted efficiency budget request meets those requirements.

Our adjusted authorized budget for FY23 is currently \$5,620,030.

Our FY24 request of \$5,788,631 represents a 3% increase above the FY23 adjusted authorized budget.

Our FY25 request of \$5,788,631 represents a 0% increase from FY24.

New Programs

It's important to note that Police Standards and Training has taken on a number of new responsibilities since the last budget cycle. These new responsibilities are the result of 2022 legislation, through administrative rule changes based on recommendations made by the Governor's Law Enforcement Accountability, Community and Transparency (LEACT) Commission, and through realignment of responsibilities between state agencies.

SB 376-FN, 2022 session, assigned PSTC with providing Crisis Intervention Training to NH law enforcement officers with the target of having at least one officer from every law enforcement agency in the state trained.

Executive Order 2022-06 assigned PSTC with the responsibility of overseeing the statewide accreditation program for law enforcement agencies. This program is not funded beyond a DOJ grant that will expire at the end of FY23.

HB 1682-FN-A, 2022 session, established the Law Enforcement Conduct Review Committee under Police Standards and Training . This committee will be responsible for overseeing and reviewing all investigations regarding allegations of police misconduct as defined in statute.

Through Executive Order #2020-19, Administrative Rule POL 403.01 has been amended to increase the number of annual in-service training hours for all certified Law Enforcement officers, as a condition of continued certification, from 8 hours annually increasing incrementality to 24 hours of annual training by 2025.

Police Standards and Training has assumed primary responsibility for overseeing and delivering active shooter ALERRT training from the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in 2022 so as to define training areas of responsibility more clearly.

Additional Prioritized Needs Request

Our prioritized needs request in FY24 includes (2) full-time positions to assist with some of these new responsibilities. One position is a Program Specialist III to manage new programs given to PSTC in FY23, to include active shooter ALERRT Training from HSEM and statewide accreditation of law enforcement agencies given to PSTC by Executive Order #2022-06.

The second full-time position is a Training Development Manager, which is critically needed to develop online training content for law enforcement agencies. Through LEACT recommendations and Executive Order #2020-19, annual in-service training requirements were increased from 8 to 24 hours annually for all law enforcement officers.

DOIT has requested an additional \$16,998 in FY24 and \$18,145 in FY25 for shared cost increases in software costs, support and consulting services, and DOIT increases for additional funded positions.

Our total agency additional prioritized needs request is for an additional \$192,105 in FY24 and \$196,186 in FY25.

Conclusion

Our proposed FY24-25 budget reflects compliance with target allocations set forth by DAS while attempting to appropriately resource our current obligations of providing contemporary recruit training to newly hired officers, creating and delivering in-service training, regulating and monitoring compliance with professional standards as well as preparing to meet the number of new obligations as outlined above.

Thank you for listening to our presentation. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.