

**Full Text Remarks of Chief John Scippa, Director
New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council
Senate Budget Hearing
April 20, 2023**

Good afternoon. For the record, my name is John Scippa. I am the Director of New Hampshire Police Standards and Training. The mission of NH Police Standards and Training is to shape, sustain and strengthen the competency and professionalism of NH Law Enforcement, in service to our State.

We are an independent executive branch agency, governed by a 17 member Police Standards and Training Council. We are not affiliated with any law enforcement or prosecutorial agency, thereby avoiding potential conflict of interest with our regulatory function and decertification duties.

We set the hiring and educational standards for all police, state corrections, and probation-parole officers in New Hampshire. We operate the NH Police Academy that every full-time municipal, county and state law enforcement professional must attend to become certified as a full-time police officer in this state. We also operate the part-time police academy 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 to obtain corrections officer certification.

We oversee the Law Enforcement Conduct Review Committee that receives allegations of police misconduct, oversees the investigations into such matters and then reviews the results of such investigations to validate the findings and, if necessary, presents those findings to the Council for their consideration.

Created by Executive Order and administratively attached to NHPSTC is the Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, a body that has created a voluntary accreditation program to advance law enforcement professionalism through the establishment of professional standards and the administration of a formal mechanism by which New Hampshire police agencies can be systematically measured, evaluated, and updated.

We provide a catalog of 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.

The Council holds disciplinary hearings and may suspend or revoke the certification of officers that have violated Council rules or committed police misconduct.

We provide services with 1 unclassified, 25 full-time and 8 part-time positions, which include sworn staff, clerical staff, and building 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 in Concord.

We provide services to law enforcement agencies including a monthly newsletter that informs the police community about new laws, court decisions and tactics. We offer assistance and advice in the areas of police administration and management.

FY23 Adjusted Authorized Budget Details

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL	General
L21, 90 Budget Bill	4,286,752	4,286,752
FY23 Pay Raise		
Warrant	55,246	55,246
FY23 DoIT Warrant	3,032	3,032
FY23 Adj Authorized	4,345,030	4,345,030
Legislation	0	0
Crisis Intervention Training. SB376-FN, RSA 332:7	1,100,000	1,100,000
Law Enforcement Conduct Review Committee. HB1682-FN RSA 106-L ,312:11	175,000	175,000
	0	0
Budget Footnotes:	0	0
	0	0
	0	0
G&C Date & Item #:	0	0
	0	0
	0	0
	0	0
Other:	0	0
	0	0
	0	0
Rounding:	0	0
Total Adjusted Authorized FY23	5,620,030	5,620,030

New Programs

It’s important to note that Police Standards and Training has taken on several 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. A non-lapsing amount of 1,100,000 was added to our budget through this legislation.

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. I made a request at the Division II Fiscal Hearing to add 75,000 per year, (150,000 total) to help support this newly established program.

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. Legislative action provided for a mid-budget addition of 150, 000 dollars to fund this legislative mandate.

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.