

MINUTES
JOINT FINANCE-APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 22, 2024
TIME: 8:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room C310
MEMBERS PRESENT: Senators Co-chairman Grow, Bjerke, Burtenshaw, Lent, Cook, VanOrden, Adams, Herndon, Ward-Engelking, Just
Representatives Co-chairman Horman, Miller, Bundy, Raybould, Furniss, Handy, Lambert, Petzke, Tanner, Green
ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None
CONVENED: **Co-Chairman Grow** called the meeting of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m.

LSO STAFF PRESENTATION: **IDAHO STATE POLICE (ISP), LBB 3-95, Christine Otto, Principal Budget and Policy Analyst, LSO Budget and Policy Analysis**

Ms. Otto provided the Base Review for Idaho State Police including organizational structure and budget detail (see, attachment 1). Idaho State Police includes the Director's Office, Capitol Protective Services, Investigations, Patrol, Law Enforcement Programs, Support Services, and Forensic Services.

She provided five-year averages for FTP and personnel costs. The Consolidated Fund Analysis for FY 21 – FY 25 showed the Idaho State Police has multiple dedicated funds including Alcohol Beverage Control Fund, Idaho Law Enforcement Fund, Idaho Law Enforcement (Project Choice Fund), Drug Enforcement Donation Fund, and Miscellaneous Revenue. She outlined total estimated and actual expenditures FY 20 – FY 24, with a spike in FY 23 spike related to a supplemental for replacement items a year early due to supply chain issues.

She outlined the FY 23 Expenditures broken out by percentages including 62.2% for Personnel Costs, 21.5% for Operating Expenditures, 12.4% Capital Outlay, and 3.9% Trustee and Benefits. The Five-year Base Snapshot for FY 20- FY 24 showed that total FTP have grown from 538 in FY 20 to 583 in FY 24.

She provided the Budget Enhancements for FY 23 and FY 24. The FY 25 Budget Requests included both ongoing and one time replacement items, District 6 Furniture, Instrumental Maintenance Agreements, IT Bandwidth, HAD Fund Shift, Microsoft 365 Licenses, Radio Dispatch Consoles, ILETS Sequel Server Licenses, Federal Funds, and Budget Realignment. The Governor recommends these line items and an additional \$200,000 onetime for a second training mission and \$50,000 ongoing for sexual assault cold cases.

DISCUSSION:

Colonel Kedrick Wills, Idaho State Police Director stood to answer questions from the Committee.

In response to a question from **Representative Tanner** about ongoing replacement items, Colonel Wills stated the amounts are higher for Idaho State Police than other agencies because all equipment including body armor, cars, and other equipment has an expiration. Replacement items are imperative for officer safety.

In response to a question from **Representative Raybould**, Colonel Wills stated he will get back to her with specific information regarding forensic instruments and anticipated future replacement dates.

In response to a question from **Co-Chairman Grow** about how to breakdown ongoing versus replacement items, Colonel Wills stated that they project going forward based on what has been done in the past five years.

In response to a question from **Senator Bjerke** about the benefits of \$200,000 spent on training at the border, Colonel Wills stated that he is working with a counterpart in Texas and is requesting funding to send ISP officers down to border. He stated what is happening at the border has a direct impact on what is happening in Idaho and the funding would be used to set up Idaho troopers with Texas troopers to learn about drug and human trafficking. ISP has intercepted 250,000 doses of fentanyl and the training ISP is receiving at the border has been hugely effective.

In response to a question from **Co-Chairman Horman** how funds were used from the FY 23 budget enhancement item to combat fentanyl, Colonel Wills stated the funds were used to Increase personnel for the highway enforcement team to target criminals on the road as drugs are brought into the state. Although the amount of drugs seized is increasing, there are more and more drugs coming into the state and it is a priority to get the DHE training information to all troopers. ISP is working to team up with the Office of Drug Policy, Idaho public television, and the Department of Education to achieve a united front in combatting drugs.

In response to a question from **Co-Chair Horman** about whether the funds provided in the prior FY for forensic and dispatcher retention funds were effective, Colonel Wills stated that yes the funds were effective and were used in targeting the three personnel areas that are the most expensive to replace including: dispatch, forensic scientists, commission troopers. ISP is currently 95% full in its commission ranks, compared with other states, where the average is closer to 75%.

**LSO STAFF
PRESENTATION:**

POST ACADEMY, LBB 3–105, Christine Otto, Principal Budget and Policy Analyst, LSO Budget and Policy Analysis

Ms. Otto provided a base review for Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Academy including organizational structure, FTP averages, and budget detail (see, attachment 2). POST delivers training and technical assistance to all levels of law enforcement throughout the state by providing both basic and specialized training programs for all commissioned peace officers, adult and juvenile corrections officers, and dispatchers.

The Consolidated Fund analysis for FY 21 – FY 25 showed two dedicated funds including: the Peace Officers Training Fund, and the Misdemeanor Probation Fund. She outlined the Five-Year Appropriations and Expenditures FY 20 – FY 24, with a spike in FY 23 relating to driving simulators and

general fund appropriation that year. The FY 23 Expenditures were broken out by percentages including 36.3% for Operating Expenditures, 5.42% for Personnel costs, 7.9% for Capital Outlay, and 3.4% for Trustee and Benefits. The Five-year Base snapshot for FY 20 – FY 24 showed increases in FY 23 and FY 24 largely due to CEC. She provided the FY 23 and FY 24 Budget Enhancements. The FY 25 budget request included: \$3,900 for Microsoft 365 Licenses, \$37,000 for Tech Records Spec.from PT to FT, \$28,000 for Pay Increase for Contract Employees, and a reduction (-\$8,700) for Budget realignment.

DISCUSSION:

Brad Johnson, Post Academy Administrator stood to answer questions from the Committee.

In response to a question from **Representative Raybould**, about capacity and current demand for POST academy, Mr. Johnson said POST is able to accommodate demand and get officers into training and none of the training sessions are completely full. In instances where there has been a backlog, other training programs in the state and at colleges have provided assistance.

In response to question from **Co-Chairman Horman** about who pays the cost of training at the institutions, Mr. Johnson stated at one college there was a nominal fee the agency paid for, and in other cases the college paid.

In response to a question from **Senator Just**, Mr. Johnson stated it is not a new model to use colleges for overflow ISP training. Additionally, there is specialized training at Ada county, Boise, Nampa and Meridian. Mr. Johnson stated that POST has received awards and regularly gets requests from other programs around the country about how to develop and deliver basic training to officers.

**COMMITTEE
PRESENTATION:**

**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS, Representative Kevin Andrus,
Chairman**

Representative Andrus presented a budget summary for the House Agricultural Affairs Committee before the Committee. He stated that Legislative Services Office has assisted in working through its budget. He outlined costs related to the Pharma Research facility, and emphasized the importance of maintaining food safety and sovereignty. He addressed the importance of staying on top of quagga mussel in Idaho and supported the associated costs.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business before the Committee, **Co-Chairman Grow** adjourned the meeting at 8:54 a.m.

Senator Grow
Chair

Linsy Heiner
Secretary