

TESTIMONY
OF
MICHAEL J. SAUSCHUCK
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Before the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and
Transportation

Hearing Date: March 2, 2023

“An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025”

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Chipman, Representative Williams, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. My name is Michael Sauschuck, and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety. I am here today to testify in support of the biennial budget.

Overall Budget

This budget advances the Governor’s guiding belief that to build a stronger, more prosperous state where opportunity is available to all, we must invest in the infrastructure that supports the people of Maine, our greatest asset.

That is why this budget proposal strengthens the very things that Maine people rely on every day to succeed, building on the strong success of the currently enacted budget and the last legislative session to tackle Maine’s greatest challenges.

We have governed cautiously and in a fiscally prudent way over the past four years, making sure that – even in the hardest of times during the pandemic – we lived within our means. This budget proposal continues that practice.

We look forward to the discussions over the next several months as we outline each initiative and impact of the proposed investments.

Departmental Overview

The Department of Public Safety was established to serve the people by providing, coordinating, and leading a responsive and comprehensive public safety system to protect their lives, rights, and properties. This broad mission is accomplished with 643 positions spread across 10 bureaus. The Bureaus are Administration, Capitol Police, Consolidated Emergency Communications, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Marshal's Office, Gambling Control, Highway Safety, Maine Criminal Justice Academy, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Maine State Police.

State Police

The Maine State Police Program begins on page A-602. The Maine State Police provides full law enforcement services to areas that do not have organized police departments. Troopers respond to all manners of calls for service much like any other police department would. Troopers also patrol the rural roads, interstate system, and Maine Turnpike enforcing motor vehicle laws and responding to accidents. Maine State Police detectives investigate all homicides outside of Portland and Bangor as well as other major crimes. The Maine State Police operates a crime lab, computer crimes lab, and a commercial vehicle unit. They maintain the state's criminal history records and sex offender registry. They also provide many other specialized teams and law enforcement services to the State of Maine.

The first initiative provides funding for a higher anticipated cost of fuel for State Police vehicles. The request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$442,000 in FY24 and

FY25. There is also a Highway Fund impact labeled as “HIGHWAY FUND – Informational” as State Police expenditures have both general fund and highway fund impacts. You will see entries labeled as “HIGHWAY FUND – Informational” throughout the budget document. To be respectful of everyone’s time this will be the only time it is mentioned in my testimony.

The next initiative provides one-time funding to add 13 required redundant air supply systems for the State Police Dive Team. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$7,749 in FY24 only.

The third initiative provides one-time funding to replace 13 dive computers for transmitters for the State Police Dive Team. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$11,779 in FY24 only.

The fourth initiative provides one-time funding to replace one trailer for the State Police Dive Team. This request will increase the Capital Expenditures in the General Fund by \$6,175 in FY24 only.

The fifth initiative provides one-time funding to add pyrolysis equipment for the gas chromatography mass spectrometry machine for the State Police Crime Lab. This request will increase the Capital Expenditures in the General Fund by \$6,500 in FY24 only.

The sixth initiative provides one-time funding to replace one DNA testing machine for the State Police Crime Lab. This request will increase the Capital Expenditures in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$53,000 in FY24 only.

The seventh initiative provides one-time funding to purchase two rifle light/laser switches for the State Police. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$4,420 in FY24 only.

The eighth initiative provides one-time funding to add two optics to the equipment inventory for the State Police Tactical Team. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$3,250 in FY24 only.

The ninth initiative provides one-time funding for specialized training for the State Police Tactical Team. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$13,000 in FY24 only.

The tenth initiative provides one-time funding for repairs to the current State Police Crisis Negotiation Team mobile unit. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$26,183 in FY24 only.

The eleventh initiative provides one-time funding to add hydraulic breaching equipment for the State Police. This request will increase the Capital Expenditures in the General Fund by \$11,050 in FY24 only.

The twelfth initiative provides one-time funding to replace 6 dry suits for the State Police Dive Team. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$12,652 in FY24 only.

The next initiative provides one-time funding to replace 307 rifle upper receiver devices for the State Police. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$72,836 in FY24 only.

The fourteenth initiative provides one-time funding to replace 50 pistols for the State Police. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$16,250 in FY24 only.

The fifteenth initiative provides one-time funding to purchase noise suppression equipment for the State Police. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$49,779 in FY24 only.

The sixteenth initiative provides one-time funding to replace the portable X-ray equipment for the State Police Bomb Team. This request will increase the Capital Expenditures in the General Fund by \$45,500 in FY24 only.

The seventeenth initiative provides one-time funding to purchase a replacement bomb suit for the State Police Bomb Team. This request will increase the Capital Expenditures in the General Fund by \$22,750 in FY24 only.

The eighteenth initiative provides funding for increases to insurance premium rates and increases the All Other in the General Fund by \$59,021 in both FY24 and FY25, in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$308 in both FY24 and FY25 as well as the All Other in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$154 in FY24 and FY25.

The nineteenth initiative provides one-time funding to replace the standard-issued taser equipment including holsters, cartridges, and spare batteries for 290 State Police positions. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$942,500 in FY24 only.

The twentieth initiative provides funding for a marketing campaign to advertise the benefits of joining the State Police. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$13,000 in FY24 and FY25.

The next initiative provides funding for an anticipated 10% increase in the cost of firearms. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$650 in FY24 and FY25.

The twenty-second initiative provides funding for an anticipated 30% increase in the cost of ammunition. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$22,750 in FY24 and FY25.

The twenty-third initiative provides funding for an anticipated 65% increase in uniform costs due to rising production and shipping costs. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$80,275 in FY24 and FY25.

The twenty-fourth initiative provides one-time funding to replace 8 sniper scope units for the State Police Tactical Team. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$13,000 in FY24 only.

The twenty-fifth initiative provides one-time funding to replace two sniper night vision units for the State Police Tactical Team. This request will increase the Capital Expenditures in the General Fund by \$13,650 in FY24 only.

The next initiative provides one-time funding to replace the thermal imaging equipment. This request will increase the Capital Expenditures in the General Fund by \$42,250 in FY24 only.

The twenty-seventh initiative provides one-time funding to purchase a second unmanned aerial vehicle for use by the State Police Evidence Response Team. This request will increase the Capital Expenditures in the General Fund by \$11,870 in FY24 only.

The twenty-eighth initiative provides one-time funding to purchase a thermal equipped unmanned aerial vehicle for the Maine State Police Crime Lab. This request will increase the Capital Expenditures in the General Fund by \$6,500 in FY24 only.

The twenty-ninth initiative establishes one DNA Forensic Analyst position funded by 65% General Fund and 35% Highway Fund to assist with case work for the State Police Crime Lab and provides funding for related All Other costs. This request increases the General Fund appropriation by one headcount, Personal Services of \$72,651 in FY24 and \$76,491 in FY25, and All Other of \$3,495 in both FY24 and FY25.

The next thirteen initiatives all involve necessary repairs, replacements, and repairs at the Troop Barracks and total \$227,825 in one-time funding in Highway Funds.

The first of these initiatives provides one-time funding to replace an air conditioning unit at one of the troop barracks. This request will increase the Capital Expenditures in the General Fund by \$3,575 in FY24 only.

The second of these initiatives provides one-time funding to repair siding and stairs at one of the troop barracks. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$9,750 in FY24 only.

The third of these initiatives provides one-time funding to replace an exterior door at one of the troop barracks. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$7,150 in FY24 only.

The fourth of these initiatives provides one-time funding to replace a generator at one of the troop barracks. This request will increase the Capital Expenditures in the General Fund by \$18,200 in FY24 only.

The fifth of these initiatives provides one-time funding to replace a garage bay door at one of the troop barracks. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$7,150 in FY24 only.

The sixth of these initiatives provides one-time funding to replace an interior tiled floor at one of the troop barracks. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$4,550 in FY24 only.

The seventh of these initiatives provides one-time funding to replace the roof at the State Police Garage. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$19,500 in FY24 only.

The eighth of these initiatives provides one-time funding to resurface the parking lot at one of the troop barracks. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$65,000 in FY24 only.

The ninth of these initiatives provides one-time funding to replace the concrete entry at one of the troop barracks. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$13,000 in FY24 only.

The tenth of these initiatives provides one-time funding to repair the entrance area and provide office space for new State Police personnel at one of the troop barracks. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$16,250 in FY24 only.

The eleventh of these initiatives provides one-time funding to replace the exterior siding at one of the troop barracks. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$26,000 in FY24 only.

The twelfth of these initiatives provides one-time funding to renovate the lobby and kitchen at the State Police Crime Lab. This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$32,500 in FY24 only.

The last of these initiatives provides one-time funding to replace office furniture at one of the troop barracks. This request will increase the Capital Expenditures in the General Fund by \$5,200 in FY24 only.

The next initiative provides funding for the annual license renewal for Laboratory Information Management System for the State Police Computer Crimes Unit. A federal grant will provide the funding for the acquisition costs. This request will increase the All Other in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$55,972 in FY24 and FY25.

The final initiative for the State Police account provides funding for increased debt service associated with the purchase of State Police vehicles on a regular vehicle replacement schedule.

This request will increase the All Other in the General Fund by \$585,550 in FY24 and \$964,861 in FY25.

Traffic Safety – Commercial Vehicle Enforcement

The next program to be discussed is the Traffic Safety – Commercial Vehicle Enforcement program which begins on page A-613. This unit, referred to as CVEU, oversees and enforces the laws regarding vehicle size and weight for the protection of Maine's infrastructure. The unit verifies compliance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations through both roadside enforcement efforts and terminal safety reviews of Motor Carriers, to reduce commercial vehicle-related crashes statewide. Roadside enforcement includes the verification of valid commercial driver's licenses, hours-of-service for drivers, vehicle safety inspections, and the weighing of vehicles.

The only initiative in this program continues and makes permanent one Contract/Grant Specialist position previously continued by Financial Order 002273 F3 and provides funding for related All Other costs. This request increases the Federal Expenditures Fund by one headcount and Personal Services of \$102,443 in FY24 and \$104,470 in FY25 and All Other of \$2,534 in FY24 and FY25.

Turnpike Enforcement

The Maine State Police provides full law enforcement services to areas that do not have police departments. Troopers respond to all manners of calls for service much like any other police department would. Troopers also patrol the rural roads, interstate system, and Maine Turnpike enforcing motor vehicle laws and responding to accidents. Turnpike Enforcement

(Troop G) patrols the Maine Turnpike 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to ensure safety and enforce the laws of the State.

The first initiative provides funding for increases to statewide technology services and increases the All Other in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$3,326 in FY24 and FY25.

The second initiative provides funding for increases to insurance premium rates and increases the All Other in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$4,499 in both FY24 and FY25.

The third initiative provides funding for the purchase of hybrid vehicles for turnpike enforcement consistent with an established vehicle replacement schedule. This request will increase the Capital Expenditures in the Other Special Revenue Funds by \$351,044 in FY24 and FY25.

Language Part 000

The final item I will be testifying on today is Language Part 000 which can be found on page 51. This Part authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and the Department of Public Safety to enter into financial arrangements in fiscal year 2023-24 and 2024-25 for the acquisition of motor vehicles for the State Police.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.