Department of Safety and Homeland Security

Nathaniel McQueen Jr.
Cabinet Secretary
Office of the Secretary

- Division of Forensic Science
- Office of Highway Safety
- Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement
- State Council for Persons with Disabilities
- Developmental Disabilities Council

- Division of Capitol Police
- Division of Communications
- Delaware Emergency Management Agency
- Division of Gaming Enforcement
- Office of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commissioner
- Delaware State Police
Helicopter
800 MHZ Technology Refresh
Laptop Replacement
Seaford Shelter Replacement
Troop 4 Georgetown
Good afternoon, Senator Poore, Representative Heffernan, and members of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Capital Improvement Program.
I am Secretary Nathaniel McQueen.

It is a honor appear before you today to present the FY 2023 Capital Improvement Program Request for the Department of Safety & Homeland Security. I would like to begin by introducing my Executive Staff and Division Directors joining me today:

- Chief of Administration Joseph Swiski
- Colonel Melissa Zebley, Superintendent of the Delaware State Police
- Director Eric Wagner of the Division of Communications

On behalf of the men and women of the Department of Safety & Homeland Security I would like to thank the members of the Capital Improvement Committee, the Governor’s Office, the Office of Management and Budget, the Controller General’s Office and the members of the General Assembly for your support of our Department as we strive to fulfill our mission to promote and protect the safety of people and property in Delaware.

Today I will provide brief comments on seven significant projects: the status of the Delaware State Police Aviation Unit Helicopters, the 800 MHz Radio Technology Refresh project, improvements using Minor Capital Improvement funds, the Troop 6 replacement project, replacement of the Seaford 800 MHz shelter, and the Troop 4 replacement initiative.

Our first funding request in the amount of $584,180 is for the final payment of a ten-year lease agreement with the State’s third-party finance vendor for the two State Police Bell 429 helicopters procured in FY13.

The State Police Aviation Section has a tri-mission function that consists of medevac, criminal/traffic support, as well as search and rescue missions. There has been a significant increase in requests for aviation support from ground patrol units due to the tremendous
effectiveness of the Bell 429 in assisting to locate missing persons, fleeing suspects, and in conducting search and rescue operations. The State Police continues to have great success with the Bell 429.

Our second Capital Budget request is for the seventh year of the Technology Refresh, which is an eight-year program with annual expenses of $6,354,100, amounting to a total investment of $50,832,000, over eight years. The State of Delaware 800 MHz radio system is approaching the end of its service life. It supports all first responders and public safety users statewide. The Technology Refresh initiative provides an upgrade of the current 1993 vintage SmartZone radio communication system to an IP based P-25 compliant Astro 25 interoperability national standard. In addition to the infrastructure upgrades the initiative will also replace transmitters, microwave and older end-user portable and mobile radio equipment.

Our third funding request is for one $1,000,000. For Minor Capital Improvement and Equipment Funding (or MCI) predominately used to repair and maintain the State Police troops and facilities consistent with the recommendations of Facilities Management as set forth in a study that was conducted for the Department by an independent architect. These funds are also used for projects, throughout the Department, that are not funded by Facilities Management.

We continue to work very closely with the leadership team at Facilities Management to ensure that we utilize our MCI funds in the most efficient and effective manner. Despite this collaborative and prudent approach, the costs of maintaining our facilities continue to increase.

Our fourth funding request is for $18,250,000 for the Troop 6 replacement project. The FY 2023 allocation will fund the architectural and engineering services to include civil and mechanical engineering services. Funds will also be used for site demolition of the Webb Correctional Facility and DSP moving and relocation costs of the current Troop 6 contingent to temporary quarters.
Our fifth request is for $251.0 for the Local Law Enforcement Laptop Replacement Program. This funding is for the final year of a five-year lease agreement for the replacement of mobile computers for local law enforcement patrol cars.

Our sixth request is for $587,000 for the Division of Communications to replace the 800 MHz shelter located in Seaford. The shelter contains the computers and other electrical equipment that is needed to operate the radio system. The current shelter was constructed of wood and was built approximately 20 years ago. Over the years, water has caused the structure to rot to the point the floor has deteriorated lost its ability to support weight.

Our final request is for $3,500,000 for architectural and engineering, design, permitting, and potential land acquisition for a new DSP Troop 4. The current troop was built 33 years ago and houses Patrol, Criminal Investigations, the Sussex County Drug Unit, the Sussex County Task Force, and the Evidence Detection Unit. The currently assigned contingent is faced with overcrowded conditions which has created a need for portable buildings.

This concludes our FY2023 Capital Improvement Program presentation. We appreciate your continued support of the Department of Safety and Homeland Security. We are ready to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.