

STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
AND
HOMELAND SECURITY



FY 2022

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Presented by

Secretary
Nathaniel McQueen

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“To promote and protect the safety of people and property in Delaware”

Senator Poore and Representative Heffernan, and the members of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Capital Improvement Program, Good afternoon.

I appear before you today to present the FY 2022 Capital Improvement Program Request for the Department of Safety & Homeland Security. I would like to begin by introducing my Executive Staff and Division Director 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 four significant projects: the status of the Delaware State Police Aviation Unit Helicopters, the 800 MHz Radio Technology Refresh project, the Troop 6 replacement project and the improvements using Minor Capital Improvement funds.

Our first funding request in the amount of \$1,168,359 is for the ninth year 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. As a result of the expansion of the video capabilities in the aircraft, which include the video downlink system, we are able to not only record critical incidents, but to provide live video feed to dispatch centers and mobile command posts at a critical incident.

Our second Capital Budget request is for the sixth 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 over eighteen years old and 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 any 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, and we are anticipating significant expenditures in the future.

Our fourth funding request is for \$3,500,000 to begin the Troop 6 replacement project. The FY 2022 allocation will fund the architectural and engineering basic services to include civil engineering services. Funds will also be used for site demolition of the Webb Correctional facility and DSP moving and relocation costs to temporary quarters.

Our final request is for \$251.0 for the Local Law Enforcement Laptop Replacement Program. This funding is for the third year of a five-year lease agreement for the replacement of mobile computers for local law enforcement patrol cars.

This concludes our FY2022 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.