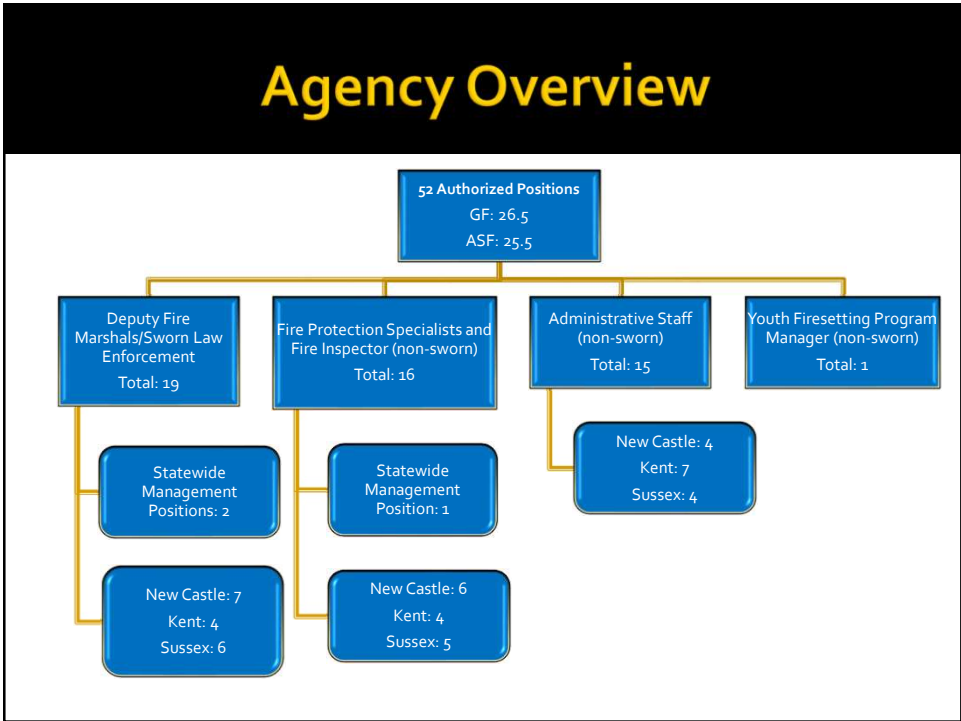




Office of the State Fire Marshal
Joint Finance Committee Hearing
February 27, 2025

John W. Rudd
State Fire Marshal

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Agency Overview

- **Total Budget for FY 25: \$6,442,206.18**
- **Total GF positions: \$2,930,800.00**
- **Total ASF positions: \$1,945,200.00**

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Agency Overview

Recurring Annual Costs

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Fleet Services | \$459,905.04 (2x greater than FY22) |
| Telephones | \$21,567.91 |
| DTI SUES | \$60,761.88 (<i>\$27,672.97 covered by contingency for GF positions</i>) |
| Salesforce/FMIS Program | \$43,369.70 |
| Cell Phones | \$22,990.89 |
| SWCAP | \$39,525.00 (<i>\$18,181.50 in FY22</i>) |

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Agency Overview

- Duties, Powers and Responsibilities of the Office of the State Fire Marshal are found in 16 *Del. C.* §6612-6616.
 - §6612(l) details the following:
 - Plan Review User Fee (PRUF) for all new construction and fire protection system reviews
 - PRUF is exempt for the following, per §6612 (l)(2) & (8)
 - projects financed in excess of 50% by state funds
 - housing developed by an organization exempt from tax under § 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3))
 - projects financed under Chapters 40 and 45 of Title 31
 - permit, licensing and plan review fee requirements of this chapter shall not apply to municipalities, towns or other subdivisions of this State or to fire companies that wish to construct improvements upon their fire stations.
 - A maximum of \$25 for all other permits

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Why the request for additional staff?

- Based on a review of data from the Office of State Planning Coordination (OSPC) and the Delaware Population Consortium, continued growth is projected for all three Counties.
- There has been a corresponding increase in agency activity.

Our requests:

- (1) Fire Protection Specialist III
- (1) Deputy Fire Marshal
- (3) Fire Protection Specialist I

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County Projected Growth

Sussex County

| 2020 | 2025 | 2030 | 2035 | 2040 | 2045 | 2050 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 237,378 | 270,818 | 290,861 | 307,874 | 324,894 | 340,305 | 361,422 |

Kent County

| 2020 | 2025 | 2030 | 2035 | 2040 | 2045 | 2050 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 181,851 | 192,507 | 198,237 | 203,275 | 207,454 | 210,829 | 213,883 |

New Castle

| 2020 | 2025 | 2030 | 2035 | 2040 | 2045 | 2050 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 539,519 | 584,426 | 595,892 | 602,230 | 602,742 | 598,832 | 592,561 |

Source: Delaware Population Consortium 2023 Current Population Projections

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Building Permits Issued

Building Permits

Total Number of Residential Units in Building Permits

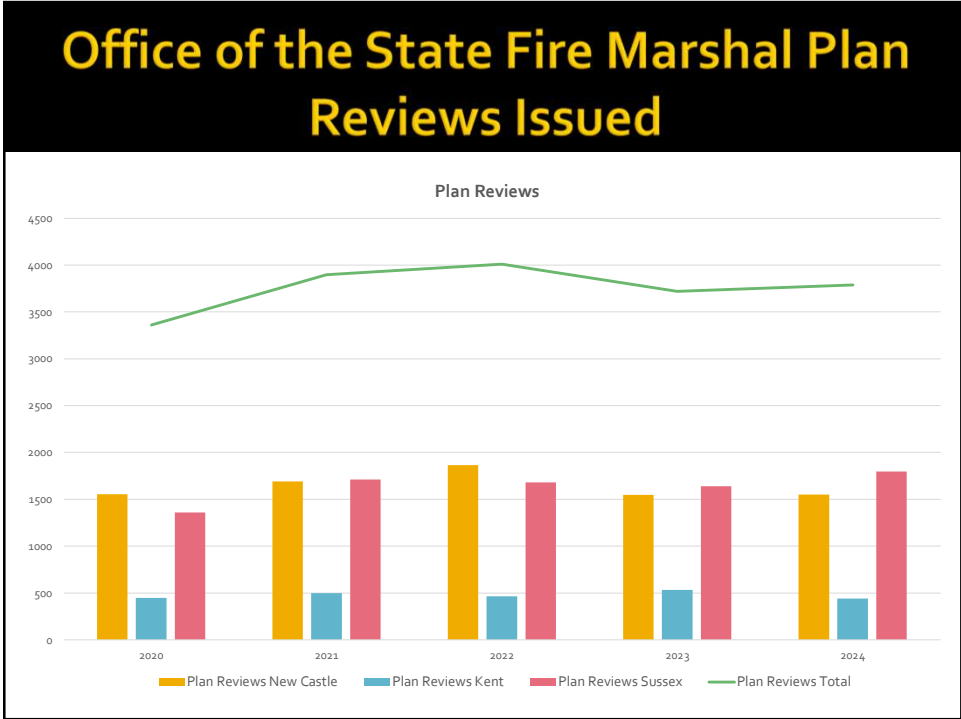
| Residential Units by Permit | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|------|
| County | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Total | |
| New Castle | 1,647 | 2,299 | 2,221 | 1,439 | 1,622 | 9,228 | 24% |
| Kent | 1,070 | 1,318 | 1,008 | 1,104 | 965 | 5,465 | 14% |
| Sussex | 4,099 | 5,582 | 5,256 | 4,772 | 4,562 | 24,271 | 62% |
| Total | 6,816 | 9,199 | 8,485 | 7,315 | 7,149 | 38,964 | 100% |

Total Non-Residential Square Footage in Building Permits

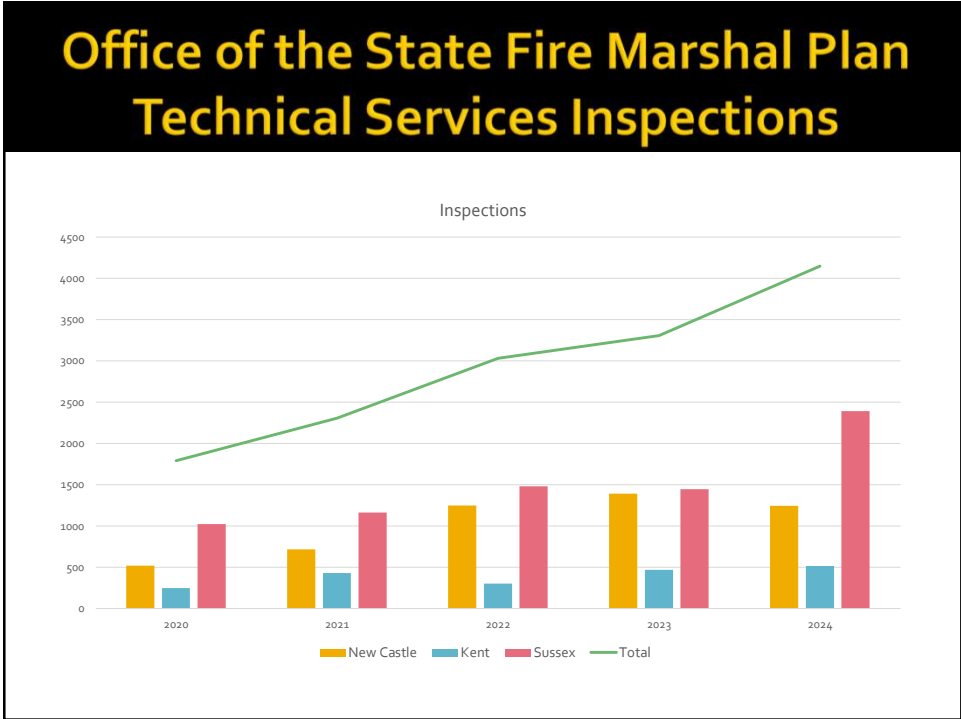
| Non-res. SqFt | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------|
| County | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Total | |
| New Castle | 2,592,967 | 7,429,329 | 2,492,406 | 3,544,504 | 2,930,140 | 18,989,346 | 70% |
| Kent | 398,043 | 450,018 | 1,094,134 | 338,700 | 683,159 | 2,964,054 | 11% |
| Sussex | 792,397 | 1,038,969 | 1,103,092 | 1,049,261 | 1,162,073 | 5,145,792 | 19% |
| Total | 3,783,407 | 8,918,316 | 4,689,632 | 4,932,465 | 4,775,372 | 27,099,192 | 100% |

Source: 2024 Report on State Planning Issues, OSPC

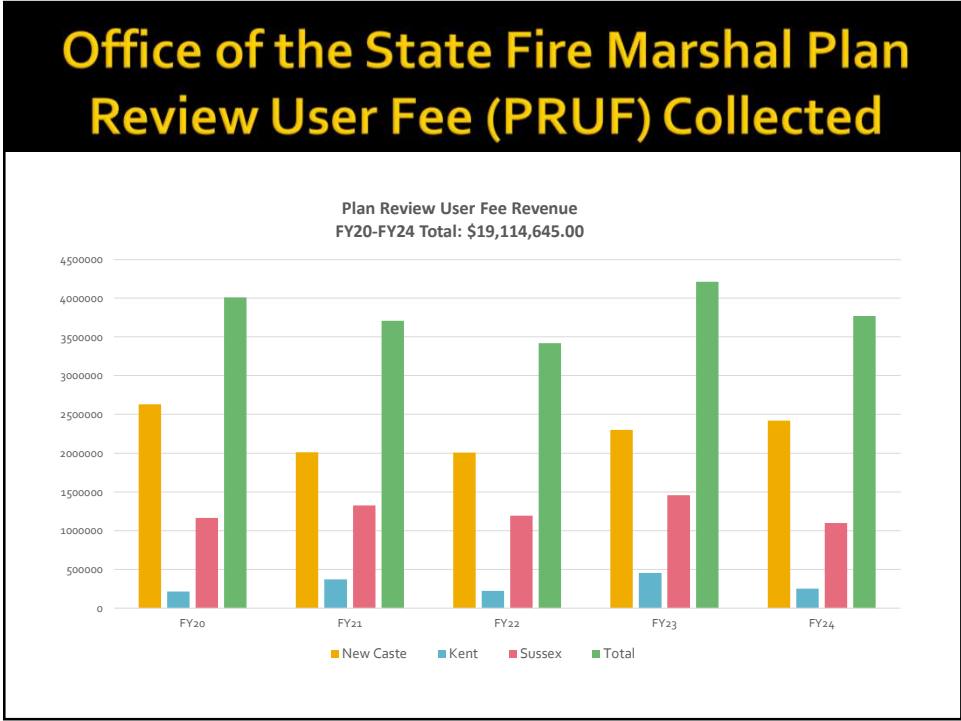
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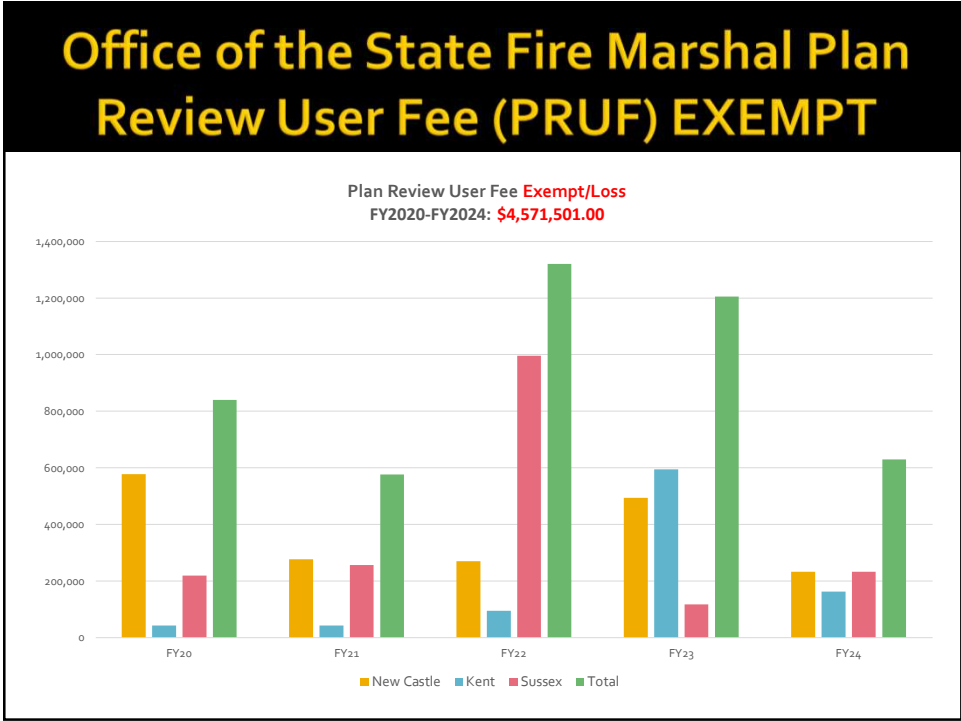
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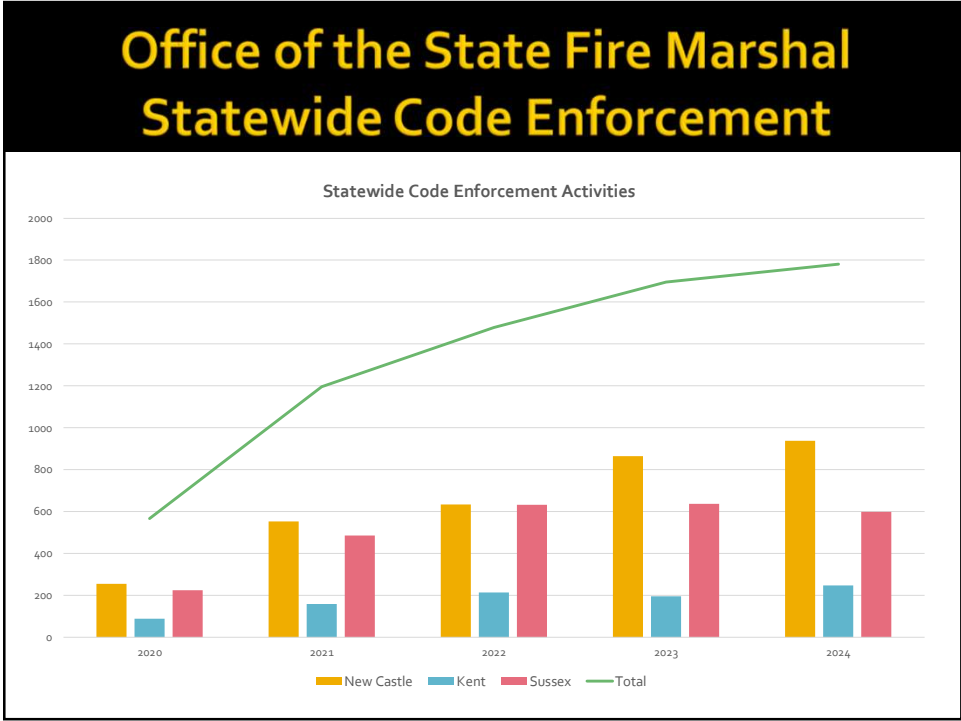
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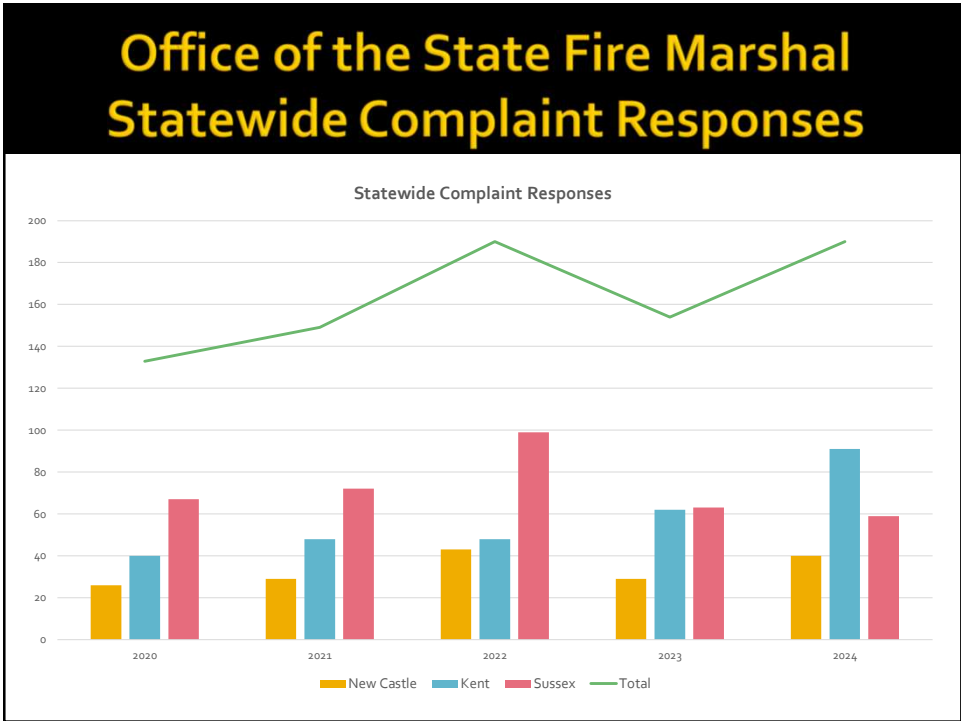
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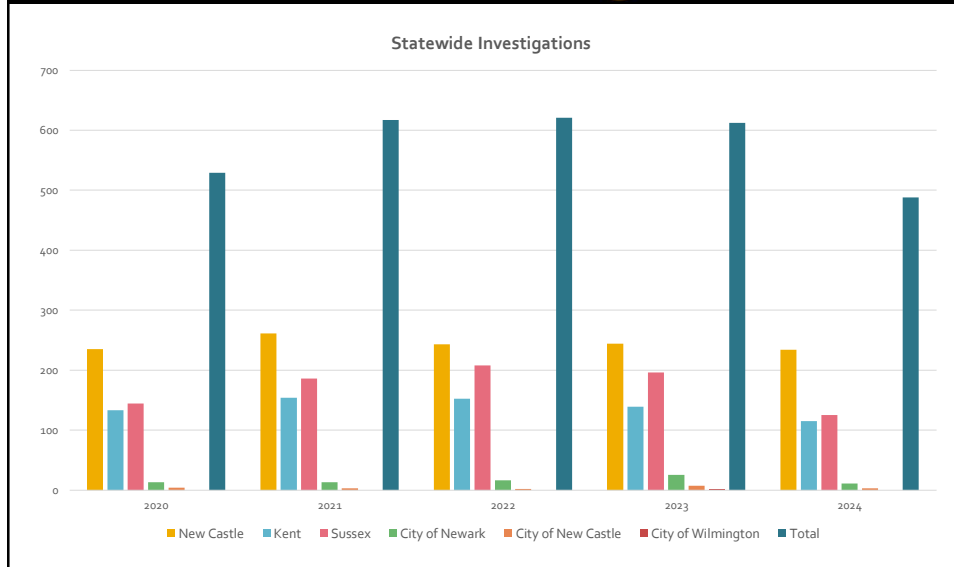


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Office of the State Fire Marshal Statewide Investigations



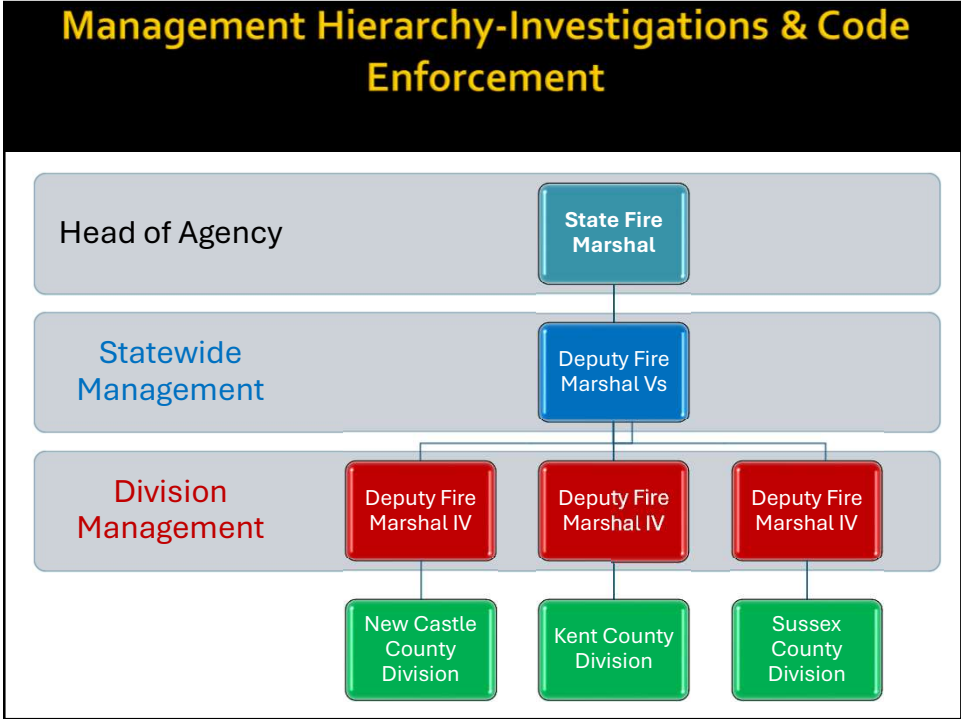
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Performance Measures

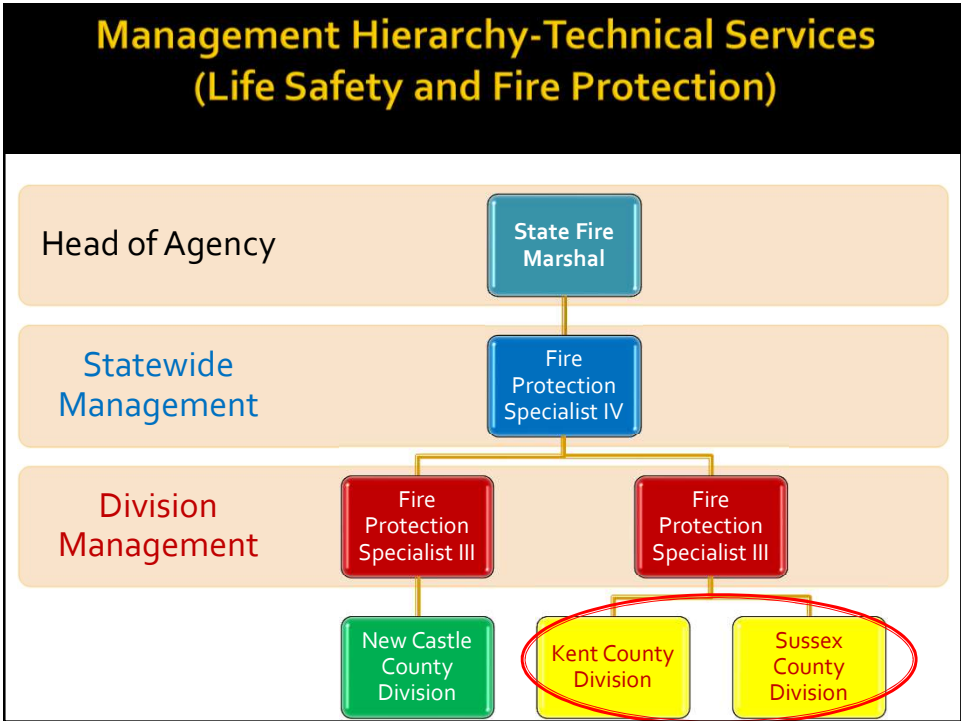
Performance Measures

| IPU | Performance Measure Name | Fiscal Year 2023 Actual | Fiscal Year 2024 Budget | Fiscal Year 2025 Governor's Recommended |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 75-01-01 | Office of the State Fire Marshal | | | |
| | Life Safety Inspections conducted per deputy (13) | 123 | 125 | 130 |
| | Fire Code Complaints handled per deputy (13) | 13 | 20 | 25 |
| | Average turnaround time for full plan reviews (days) | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| | Fire investigation caseload per deputy (13) | 50 | 60 | 65 |
| | Plan review caseload per fire protection specialist | 417 | 425 | 450 |
| | Full plan reviews/ inspections: | | | |
| | New Castle County | 2,690 | 2,700 | 2,835 |
| | Kent County | 825 | 830 | 870 |
| | Sussex County | 2,740 | 2,780 | 2,920 |

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