

## **Department of Public Safety Dispatch Services**

July 20, 2005

The DPS/Communications Bureau contracts with county agencies in Weber-Morgan, Davis, Tooele and Summit-Wasatch Counties for \$304,933 (FY05) annually so they will provide dispatch services for the UHP within those jurisdictions. The question for the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee is:

Should DPS continue to contract with those county agencies with costs proposed to increase \$240,000 annually making a total of \$545,000 for FY07?

Or, should DPS consider dispatching the UHP from the DPS/Salt Lake Communications Center located at the UDOT/Traffic Operations Center for about the same amount being spent currently on those contracts?

### **Issues:**

The counties desire to increase the state's contracts to reflect the counties' costs of providing the dispatch services. There is no set formula to determine the state's cost. A budget is set and the state is billed according to the cost incurred to operate a particular dispatch center and DPS is billed according to use.

Some costs included in a dispatch center's budget are for equipment, services and infrastructure that the state already pays for, ie Legal (AGs), Insurance (Risk Mgmt), Personnel System (DHRM), Payroll System (Finance), IT Support (ITS/MIS), and Radio Maintenance (ITS/Radio Shop).

The UCAN 800 MHZ radio system makes it technologically possible for the DPS/Salt Lake Communications Center to provide this service within the UCAN footprint along the Wasatch Front. The DPS/Salt Lake Communications Center has the infrastructure and equipment to provide the dispatch service required by the UHP in each area described, however, would require an additional 7.5 FTEs at a cost of \$350,000.

Political alliances may become strained because locals will be asked to make up the difference in cost if the state withdraws.

Locals and UHP enjoy being on the same radio system and talk groups, but most channels are so busy along the Wasatch Front that it is not possible for all to be on the same channel anyway, and officers must scan to know what other agencies activities are.

Contracts require six months to one year notice to terminate.

UHP will have to change from geographical boundaries defining channel assignment to one based on workload. This may be unpopular with the Troopers.

9-1-1 is answered at the county dispatch centers (Public Safety Answering Points – PSAPs) and response times could be adversely impacted by having to transfer calls to SLCC.