

**MINUTES OF THE
EXECUTIVE OFFICES & CRIMINAL JUSTICE
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
Room 25 House Building
January 29, 2014**

Members Present: Sen. Daniel Thatcher, Co-Chair
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings, Co-Chair
Rep. Keven J. Stratton, House Vice Chair
Sen. Jim Dabakis
Sen. Stuart C. Reid
Rep. Rich Cunningham
Rep. Richard Greenwood
Rep. Craig Hall
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes
Rep. Brian S. King
Rep. Merrill F. Nelson
Rep. Curtis Oda
Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig

Members Excused: Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Sen. Ralph Okerlund

Staff Present: Mr. Gary Syphus, Fiscal Analyst
Mr. Zackery King, Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Jennifer Eyring, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Co-Chair Thatcher called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

1. Minutes

No minutes were approved.

2. State Courts (Judicial Branch)

Mr. Gary Syphus, Fiscal Analyst, reviewed budget information, trend analysis, and individual line item analysis prepared for the committee.

Mr. Dan Becker, Court Administrator, gave an update on their new business model, moving from a paper based system to an electronic system, clerical reorganization, case management, and training. A handout detailing Court Performance Measures, General Fund Appropriations, and Nonlapsing Fund balances was explained. He noted that the average age of active pending cases has steadily decreased as they have improved efficiency. Priorities have been handled within the budget and no new funding will be requested.

Mr. Derek Byrne, Budget Director, stated that Federal grants can be accessed over several years. The

budget increase shown is due to the flexibility they have in using those funds over time.

Mr. Syphus discussed analyst base budget recommendations as found on the Recommendation handout, concerning the State Court Complex Account and the Juror, Witness, and Interpreter line item.

Mr. Becker responded that they could work with the recommendations, but noted that the State Court Complex Account is funded by civil filing fees, which could fluctuate. He also stated that it is often a cost savings to hire full time court interpreters. As a result of discussion in a previous meeting, a handout "Courts Traffic Caseload Over Time" was distributed.

4. Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Mr. Syphus, provided background budget information.

Colonel Keith Squires, Commissioner, provided a handout "Requirements Based on Years of Service" for the Utah Highway Patrol (UHP). Through the use of a slide presentation and handout, he discussed progress and challenges with UHP compensation and overtime.

Colonel Danny Fuhr, Superintendent, UHP, discussed the age of UHP helicopters.

Col. Squires continued the slide presentation which covered the State Bureau of Investigation, Division of Emergency Management, and the Bureau of Forensic Services.

Major Jeff Carr, Deputy Director, in response to committee questions, stated they do not charge agencies for DNA tests, but do use a screening process. They are looking for a quicker and more cost effective way to process the testing.

Col. Squires discussed efficiencies implemented in the Driver License Division and DPS restricted, unrestricted and reserve budget carryover.

Mr. Joe Brown, Finance Director, explained that restricted carryover can only be used for specific programs and cannot be used for general purposes.

Col. Squires discussed the DPS unrestrictive carryover priorities.

Mr. Brown noted that about \$5.4 million of the carryover has been committed or spent.

Col. Squires discussed the DPS carryover held in reserve, including the Concealed Weapons Reserve and Governor's Office of Management and Budget Request Reserve.

The committee continued discussing Concealed Weapon Permit fees and improvements in the Driver License Division.

Col. Fuhr stated it takes about \$35,000 to get a new recruit trained and equipped. He expressed concern that the current top wage for UHP troopers may make it hard to retain experienced troopers. The age, maintenance and replacement of UHP helicopters was discussed further.

Mr. Syphus discussed DPS base budget analyst recommendations for the Driver License Nonlapsing Balance Restricted Account and Unrestricted Account, Liquor Law Enforcement, Trooper Overtime Savings, and the Federal Asset Forfeiture Grant as listed on the Recommendations handout.

Mr. Brown responded to the recommendation to move funds from the Driver License Nonlapsing Account. He expressed concern that those funds would be at risk for other agencies taking it for their purposes. Current use of some of those funds was discussed.

Col. Squires spoke about the current projects in the Driver License Division.

Ms. Nanette Rolf, Director, Driver License Division, provided further explanation of current projects and planned use of funding.

Mr. Brown responded to the analyst recommendation for Liquor Law Enforcement funding options. He stated he would prefer to leave funding as it currently stands.

Maj. Carr explained that the current funding method is a ratio of alcohol sales and raises as sales increase, providing flexibility in enforcement levels.

Mr. Syphus gave further explanation of the funding options for Liquor Law Enforcement. Funding levels would remain the same, but would come from different accounts.

Col. Fuhr responded to the analyst recommendation for Trooper Overtime Savings. The Department would prefer to roll the funds over to the following fiscal year.

Mr. Brown responded to the analyst recommendation for use of the Federal Asset Forfeiture Grant and expressed concern about compliance if started in FY 2014. It could be considered for FY 2015. He also discussed technology costs and stated they would be requesting additional funding to cover rising costs.

3. Unfinished Business

Co-Chair Hutchings reviewed plans for the upcoming meetings.

5. Adjourn

MOTION: Vice Chair Stratton moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Dabakis and Rep. Hughes absent for the vote.

Co-Chair Thatcher adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.