



STATE OF WISCONSIN

Legislative Audit Bureau

Joe Chrisman
State Auditor

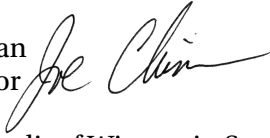
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DATE: August 15, 2023

TO: Senator Eric Wimberger and
Representative Robert Wittke, Co-chairpersons
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

FROM: Joe Chrisman
State Auditor 

SUBJECT: Proposed Audit of Wisconsin State Capitol Police—Background Information

At your request, we have gathered some background information that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee may find helpful in considering an audit of the security services provided by the Wisconsin State Capitol Police (Capitol Police), which is part of the Department of Administration (DOA).

Capitol Police is responsible for providing police and security services to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, legislators, Supreme Court, visiting dignitaries, state facilities, state employees, and citizens of the State of Wisconsin. Capitol Police has statewide jurisdiction and investigates criminal, domestic, and traffic-related incidents.

Capitol Police is funded from s. 20.505 (5) (ka), Wis. Stats., which is the facility operations and maintenance-police and protection functions appropriation at DOA. The appropriation authorizes expenditures for police and protection functions provided by DOA under ss. 16.84 (2) and 16.84 (3), Wis. Stats. In fiscal year (FY) 2022-23, Capitol Police had base funding of \$6.8 million and authorization for 52.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, including 25.0 FTE officers, 3.0 FTE detectives, 7.0 FTE sergeants, and 2.0 FTE police lieutenants.

Capitol Police is organized into a Patrol Operations Section and a Specialized Services Section. The Patrol Operations Section is responsible for the detection and preliminary investigation of crimes, traffic accidents, traffic violations, and the protection of lives and facilities on properties managed by DOA. Officers assigned to the Patrol Operations Section wear traditional police uniforms and are assigned to specific patrols or post assignments. Officers in this section are also assigned to monitor large crowds at state facilities.

The Specialized Services Section is made of up five units, including:

- a Communications Unit, which operates the communication center located inside the Capitol and monitors video cameras, alarm inputs, and access control systems for state facilities;
- a Criminal Investigations Unit, which conducts criminal investigations, prepares and executes search warrants and subpoenas, preserves and collects evidence, provides victim services, and manages court services;

- an Executive Residence Detail, which is responsible for the security at the Wisconsin Executive Residence, including for the Governor, family, staff, visitors to the residence, and the property itself;
- an Infrastructure Security Unit, which is responsible for access control, video surveillance, fire alarms, duress alarms, and intrusion systems used for the protection of facilities owned, operated, or leased by the State; and
- an Unmanned Aircraft Unit, which assists state, local, and tribal agencies with aerial photography of post-disaster damage assessments, searches for missing persons, documentation of crime scenes, traffic incident management, and other events.

Questions have been raised about the security services provided by Capitol Police. Therefore, an audit of Capitol Police could:

- review the policies and measures Capitol Police has established for timeliness of response to incidents within the Capitol;
- evaluate the training Capitol Police provides to its staff and officers on these policies and measures;
- analyze the timeliness and consistency of the response from Capitol Police to incidents within the Capitol and review actions taken by Capitol Police if policies were not followed; and
- evaluate the DOA's oversight of Capitol Police.

I hope you find this information helpful. Please contact me with any questions.

JC/ak

cc:	Senator Jesse James Senator Howard Marklein Senator Dianne Hesselbein Senator Tim Carpenter	Representative John Macco Representative Mark Born Representative Francesca Hong Representative Ryan Clancy
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Kathy Blumenfeld, Secretary
 Department of Administration

David M. Erwin, Chief
 Wisconsin Capitol Police