



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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2017

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #630

State Patrol Equipment Funding (Transportation -- State Patrol)

Base Agency

[LFB 2017-19 Budget Summary: Page 452, #1 and #2]

CURRENT LAW

The Division of State Patrol's primary duty is the enforcement of traffic laws and commercial motor vehicle laws by conducting highway patrols and truck inspections. The State Patrol has 307 officer positions classified as troopers and 92 positions that are classified as motor carrier inspectors. There are also 87 supervisory positions (including the ranks of sergeant, lieutenant, captain, major, and colonel), and the State Patrol superintendent.

Upon the request of a State Patrol officer, the Department of Transportation (DOT), is statutorily required, as soon as is practicable, to equip that officer with a bulletproof garment. This type of garment is commonly referred to as a "bulletproof vest" or "body armor." The Department currently provides all officers with body armor that protects against common handgun rounds.

GOVERNOR

A. In-squad Video Camera Replacement. Provide \$1,388,600 annually for the replacement of 500 in-vehicle video cameras and to fund costs associated with the wireless, remote storage of data produced by these cameras.

B. Tactical Vests and Helmets. Provide \$800,000 in 2017-18 for the purchase of 500 bulletproof, tactical vests and helmets that would provide an increased level of body armor projection relative to the current, standard-issue equipment used by State Patrol officers.

DISCUSSION POINTS

A. In-squad Video Camera Replacement

1. The Governor's budget recommendations would provide \$1,388,600 annually for the purpose of replacing the current in-squad video cameras used for evidentiary, debriefing, and training purposes by the State Patrol. This recommendation was also included in DOT's 2017-19 budget request.

2. The proposed replacement video cameras use a wireless data connection to store captured images and sound remotely. The replacement cameras would also provide improved video and audio quality (particularly for low-light conditions), as well as an additional, rear-facing view (the current cameras only provide front-facing and in-cabin views).

3. The Department's budget request noted that State Patrol's existing in-squad video cameras, which were purchased between 2006 and 2008, are technologically outdated and in need of frequent repair. When the existing video cameras malfunction or otherwise stop working, the repair costs have typically ranged between \$300 and \$550. In some cases, DOT indicates that the cameras are not repairable due to age and lack of available components. In addition, the existing video cameras use flash memory cards that must be removed by officers and downloaded for evidentiary purposes. The agency's request indicated that this process increases the likelihood of an officer damaging or losing the card (and thereby losing evidentiary data).

4. On an annual basis, the recommended \$1,388,600 would be used as follows: (a) \$998,600 to acquire the video cameras; and (b) \$390,000 for the ongoing costs associated with the transmission and remote storage of the data produced by the cameras. The cost to purchase the 500 video cameras outright would be an estimated \$2,750,000 (or \$5,500 per unit). However, as requested by DOT, and as recommended by the Governor, the replacement video cameras would be acquired through a three-year master lease. This financing agreement would spread out the cost of acquiring the cameras, but DOT would incur \$245,800 in total interest costs over the lease period. [Alternative A1]

5. While acquiring this equipment through the lease agreement would result in interest costs, it would also require \$752,800 less (\$2,750,000 - \$1,997,200) in funding in the biennium than it would to purchase the cameras "up front." Due to expected technological changes and relatively heavy use, DOT's budget request indicates that in-squad video cameras have a useful life of about three years. The funding level recommended (which would be ongoing base year funding) would allow State Patrol to establish a regular replacement schedule for this equipment.

6. However, if concern exists related to providing State Patrol with ongoing, base funding for this purpose, or related to the interest costs associated with the master lease agreement, the Committee could modify the Governor's recommendation and provide the full amount of funding in 2017-18 needed to purchase the 500 replacement in-squad video cameras (\$2,750,000), instead of purchasing them through the three-year lease agreement. This alternative would require \$3,140,000 in 2017-18 (an increase of \$1,751,400 compared to the bill) to provide \$2,750,000 to purchase video cameras and \$390,000 for ongoing costs and \$390,000 in 2018-19 (a decrease of \$998,600

compared to the bill) to fund ongoing costs in that year [Alternative A2]. The \$390,000 annually would be associated with the cameras' wireless data transmission and storage functions. Under this alternative, no base funding for establishing an in-squad video camera equipment replacement cycle would be provided, but \$390,000 in ongoing base funding for the related costs would be available.

7. The Department indicates that it will not proceed with the purchase of this equipment without the funds provided under the bill. [Alternative A3] This would result in continued repair costs associated with the older equipment.

B. Bulletproof, Tactical Vests and Helmets

8. The Governor's budget recommendations would provide \$800,000 in 2017-18 for the purchase of 500 bulletproof, tactical vests and helmets that would provide an increased level of body armor protection relative to the current, standard-issue body armor used by State Patrol officers. DOT included a similar request under its 2017-19 agency budget request, which would have provided \$446,600 (\$223,200 annually) to acquire the same gear under a lease agreement.

9. As required by statute, Department currently provides officers with "level II" body armor, which protects against common handgun rounds, such as 9mm and .357 rounds. State Patrol officers may purchase their own body armor, if a higher level of protection is desired. Officers wear this armor while on duty. The vests have a useful life of five years and are replaced as needed.

10. DOT has expressed concern that officers may encounter an increasing number of incidents in which rifles, rather than handguns, are being used by shooters, and that the current body armor offered by the Department may not provide adequate protection in these situations. The "level IV" tactical vests and helmets that DOT would purchase under the Governor's budget recommendation are used to protect against certain high-caliber, high-velocity bullets (those used in common sporting rifles, such as the 30-06), as well as some armor-piercing rounds. DOT estimates the per-unit purchase price for the upgraded body armor at \$400 per helmet and \$1,200 per vest. The level of funding provided by the Governor would enable DOT to complete the "up front" purchase of the 500 vests and helmets." [Alternative B1]

11. Similar to its financing plan for the in-squad video cameras, DOT's budget request indicated that it planned to acquire this tactical equipment through a master lease agreement over a four-year period. Acquiring the equipment through a master lease agreement, as DOT requested, would require \$353,600 less (\$800,000 - \$446,000) in the biennium than would be required under the Governor's budget recommendation. However, acquiring the equipment under a lease agreement would cost \$92,800 more over the lease period due to interest costs). [Alternative B2] As indicated in the Department's budget request, "Purchasing with a four-year master lease ensures a replacement cycle for the [State Patrol] and allows time for the items to be procured and deployed prior to warranty expiration." It would also align the replacement cycle within the useful life of the vests.

12. The Department indicates that it will not proceed with the purchase of this equipment without the funds provided under the bill. [Alternative B3] Under such a scenario, State Patrol officers would continue to be responsible for purchasing their own equipment if a higher level of body armor protection is desired. Irrespective of whether or not this funding recommendation is

approved, DOT would continue to supply body armor that protects against common handgun rounds, as is required by state law.

ALTERNATIVES

A. In-squad Video Camera Replacement

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation and provide \$1,388,600 annually for the replacement of approximately 500 in-vehicle video cameras and to fund costs associated with the wireless, remote storage of data produced by these cameras.

ALT A1	Change to Base	Bill
SEG	\$2,777,200	\$0

2. Modify the Governor's recommendation and provide \$752,800 in additional funding as follows: \$3,140,000 (an increase of \$1,751,400 compared to the bill) in 2017-18 and \$390,000 (a decrease of \$998,600 compared to the bill) in 2018-19. This would provide the full amount of funding in 2017-18 needed for the outright purchase of 500 replacement in-squad video cameras (\$2,750,000) instead of acquiring them through a three-year lease agreement. This alternative would provide \$390,000 annually associated with the cameras' wireless data transmission and storage functions, and provide ongoing base funding for this purpose. No base funding for establishing an in-squad video camera equipment replacement cycle would be provided.

ALT A2	Change to Base	Bill
SEG	\$3,530,000	\$752,800

3. Delete provision.

ALT A3	Change to Base	Bill
SEG	\$0	-\$2,777,200

B. Bulletproof, Tactical Vests and Helmets

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation and provide \$800,000 in 2017-18 for the purchase of 500 level IV, bulletproof, tactical vests and helmets (no ongoing base level funding would be provided).

ALT B1	Change to	
	Base	Bill
SEG	\$800,000	\$0

2. Modify the Governor's recommendation and instead provide \$223,200 annually (\$353,600 less in the biennium compared to the bill), which would fund the purchase of the 500 level IV, bulletproof, tactical vests and helmets through a four-year master lease agreement, as requested by DOT. Ongoing base funding of \$223,200 would be provided to establish a replacement cycle for this equipment.

ALT B2	Change to	
	Base	Bill
SEG	\$446,400	- \$353,600

3. Delete provision.

ALT B3	Change to	
	Base	Bill
SEG	\$0	- \$800,000

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