

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

	2015-17 Actual	2017-19 Legislatively Adopted	2017-19 Legislatively Approved *	2019-21 Current Service Level	2019-21 Governor's Budget
General Fund	10,052,511	9,795,963	9,795,963	9,665,010	9,665,010
Other Funds	39,321,468	43,523,261	49,438,284	50,395,589	48,933,641
Federal Funds	6,394,657	8,007,963	8,338,314	7,364,566	7,364,566
Total Funds	55,768,636	61,327,187	67,572,561	67,425,165	65,963,217
Positions	154	152	166	157	156
FTE	146.58	150.05	157.97	155.21	154.04

* Includes Emergency Board and administrative actions through December 2018.

Program Description

The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) develops and maintains standards for employment and provides public safety and firefighter training to over 41,000 constituents in Oregon. The agency has regional offices in five locations – Central Point, Eugene, Bend, Baker City, and Pendleton. DPSST provides training and certification for state troopers, police, sheriff deputies, local correctional officers, parole and probation officers, 9-1-1 telecommunicators, volunteer and professional firefighters, and emergency medical dispatchers; and serves as the fiduciary agent for the Oregon-Idaho High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program.

CSL Summary and Issues

No current service level issues. CSL (all funds) is 9.9% greater than the 2017-19 legislatively adopted budget, and 0.1% greater than the legislatively approved budget.

Policy Issues

DPSST is primarily funded through the Criminal Fines Account (CFA), with \$9.6 million of General Fund for debt service on the Public Safety Center campus. Firefighter training is supported with Fire Insurance Premium Tax revenues, and training for private-sector security personnel is provided on a fee-for-service basis. CFA dollars pay for basic police and corrections training classes, the Public Safety Memorial Fund, and agency operations. CFA funds are considered to be fungible with General Fund, so CFA-funded programs face reductions to meet budget constraints in the same way that General Fund programs do. Such reductions necessarily reduce the agency's capacity to provide basic police and corrections training, demand for which has grown steadily for the past three biennia. Current service level funds 20 Basic Police, 9 Basic Corrections, 5 Basic Parole & Probation Officer, and 10 Basic Telecommunications and Emergency Medical Dispatch training classes.

Other Significant Issues and Background

The agency requested eleven policy option packages totaling \$7.6 million Other Funds and 21 positions/19.13 FTE. These packages are a combination of agency “housekeeping” items, agency and program enhancements, and continuing implementation of the Statistical Transparency of Policing (STOP) program, created in HB 2355 (2017). DPSST’s deferred maintenance package totals \$2.1 million; and a \$1.1 million package requests architecture and engineering planning for a proposed third dormitory wing at the Public Safety Center Campus.

DPSST is in ongoing discussions with the Department of Corrections about providing training for the DOC’s corrections officers, who are currently trained in-house at the DOC and certified by DPSST. Neither agency included a policy option package for this program transfer, which would require legislation to change prior to the January 2, 2026 sunset currently in statute (ORS 181A.520). Providing training for the DOC’s corrections officers in a central location (at the Public Safety Academy) is the primary driver behind the agency’s request for a third dormitory wing, as the DOC estimates needing to train up to 480 recruits per year, or one 40-member class per month, in order to keep up with its normal turnover.

Very modest program changes are proposed in the Governor’s budget, including across-the-board reductions and the elimination of two Basic Police classes totaling \$2.5 million Other Funds; two positions for the Statistical Transparency of Policing (STOP) program created by HB 2355 in 2017; and \$437,000 of funding for deferred maintenance projects. One unfunded policy option package (#111, for emergency power generation) might logically have been funded in the Governor’s “resiliency” package, as the DPSST campus is designated as the alternate emergency communications center site for both the Office of Emergency Management and the Oregon State Police but has no campus-wide backup power source in the event of a power outage.