

## ANALYSIS

### Item 20: Department of State Police Equitable Sharing Program

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**Analyst:** John Terpening

**Request:** Increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$650,000 and increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$116,305 for the Department of State Police to spend funds available from the Equitable Sharing Program.

**Analysis:** The Oregon State Police (OSP) is requesting an increase in Federal Fund expenditure limitation in the amount of \$650,000 and an increase in Other Funds expenditure limitation of \$116,305 to spend a total of \$766,305 in funding that has become available through the U.S. Department of Justice's federal Equitable Sharing Program and the State's Equitable Sharing Program.

This program, formerly known as the Asset Forfeiture Program, provides valuable additional resources to participating federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies. Funding provided through the Equitable Sharing Program are one-time in nature and must be spent on the following: law enforcement equipment, training, lease and utility payments for facilities, and drug, gang or other prevention or awareness programs. Any monies spent are subject to federal audits and have a 12-month reporting period, while unspent funds can remain in the Equity Share account until they can be utilized by the program.

OSP intends to spend the funds on upgraded ballistic helmets and protective respirator masks for the Special Operations Units and to provide voluntary cardiac health assessment screenings for all troopers. The cardiac health screenings would include several screenings that are not typically covered by state-provided insurance unless the employee had already experienced cardiac health issues. Utilizing the Equitable Sharing Program funds will relieve the cost of screenings for troopers who are generally at greater risk of cardiac issues than the general population due to the nature of the profession.

The screenings are anticipated to include a lipid panel testing, blood test for artery inflammation, imaging to determine coronary calcium score, metabolic analysis to assess nutritional status, and a cardiopulmonary stress test. Additionally, individuals will be able to meet with a licensed medical professional to review the screening results, which are completely confidential to the individual trooper. By providing the voluntary screenings in advance of cardiac health issues, the goal is to provide information and education to troopers on overall health wellness and potentially any treatment or preventative measures that could improve overall cardiac health before any serious issues arise.

**Recommendation:** The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Emergency Board increase the Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$650,000, and increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$116,305, for the Department of State Police for the Equitable Sharing Program.

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Oregon State Police  
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**Request:** Increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$650,000 and Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$116,305 to expend Equitable Sharing Funds to purchase services and equipment for Troopers and Special Operations Units.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Discussion:** Equitable Sharing is a federal program enabling state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to share part of federal asset forfeiture proceeds. These funds may be used to supplement the resources of the receiving law enforcement entity but cannot be used to supplant appropriated funds. These funds also must be used in accordance with Federal guidance on permissible uses of the funds. The Oregon State Police is requesting expenditure limitation to use these funds to provide cardiac health assessments for troopers and helmets and masks for Special Operations Units, both of which are permissible uses under the Equitable Sharing program.

**Legal Reference:** Increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 470, section 3(1) Oregon Laws 2021 for the Oregon State Police, Patrol Services, Criminal Investigations, Gaming Enforcement and Office of the State Fire Marshal by \$650,000 for the 2021-23 biennium.

Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation established in chapter 470, section 2(1) Oregon Laws 2021 for the Oregon State Police, Patrol Services, Criminal Investigations, Gaming Enforcement and Office of the State Fire Marshal by \$116,305 for the 2021-23 biennium.



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Kate Brown, Governor

## Oregon State Police

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October 24, 2022

Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair  
Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair  
Joint Emergency Board  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

### **Nature of the Request:**

The Oregon State Police (OSP) is respectfully requesting the Emergency Board approve an increase in Federal Expenditure Limitation of \$650,000 and Other Fund Expenditure Limitation of \$116,305 related to Federal and State Equitable Sharing funds totaling \$766,305. The purpose of this increase is to expend existing Equitable Sharing funds to purchase needed cardiac health assessment services for Troopers and special use equipment for the Special Operations Units. The use of these particular funds are limited to the requirements of the Equitable Sharing program, we attest that the proposed uses of the funds meet those requirements and the expenditures requests are a priority to the department at this time.

### **Agency Action:**

OSP has recognized the need for focused efforts in the health and wellness of Troopers. A focused cardiac health assessment is a valuable tool in short- and long-term resiliency and wellness. Additionally, the Mobile Response Team (MRT) and Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) need updated helmets and masks to maximize their safety and effectiveness. The following describes the need and uses for these items:

- **Cardiac Health Assessments for Troopers** – Studies have shown that law enforcement officers are at a greater risk than the general population for experiencing a heart attack, stroke, and sudden cardiac death due to the nature of their work. High-pressure situations, irregular hours, and physical strain lead to chronic stress that elevates cortisol levels in the body. Left untreated, officers suffer from increased blood pressure, serious cardiovascular problems, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and a greater risk for mental health issues. Early screening and detection for these health problems will reduce the likelihood of developing these problems and lessen the mortality rate. A screening specific to these issues coupled with an individualized diet and exercise program will make healthier officers who live longer. A health screening with a proactive approach will help troopers make informed decisions about how to avoid developing serious health problems because of their job. Dispatchers within the agency have similar stressors to Troopers due to the nature and demand of their positions, they could benefit from this opportunity as well.
  - ❖ The screening would include the following:
    - Lipid panel testing.
    - Blood test for Phospholipase A2 or PLA2 score to detect the early stages of inflammation in the arteries of the heart.
    - Imaging through a CT scan or ultra-sound test to determine a coronary calcium score.

- Metabolic analysis to assess current nutritional status.
- Cardiopulmonary stress test using a treadmill, stationary bicycle, or other similar exercise equipment.
- Meet with a licensed medical professional to review the metabolic analysis, discuss an individual's nutritional status, what modifications can be made to diet and exercise to live a healthier lifestyle.
- ❖ Consultation with a physician or licensed medical professional to review blood-based labs and others tests to educate participants to understand their coronary calcium score, lipid panel results, stress test results, and PLA2 score.

A cardiac screening of the type described above is not normally covered by State provided health insurance unless the employee has already experience cardiac health issues. This approach does not allow early warning signs to be caught in order to begin treatment and other preventative measures. Without the fund limitation requested, the financial burden of this important screening would be placed on the Troopers, which can be significant. Use of equitable sharing funds will bridge this gap not covered by insurance providers. Troopers will have access to the screening and treatment needed to address any identified cardiac health issues, educate them on how to engage in future preventative measures and manage their overall health wellness.

- **Helmets and Masks for Special Operations** - OSP has identified critical crowd control and special operations equipment upgrades that are needed for our MRT and SWAT Special Operations Units. They include the following:
  - Helmets – MRT need upgraded ballistic helmets. Currently issued helmets have been in use since 2006 which has surpassed their lifespan. They are not uniform in helmet type which has required members to combine parts from other helmets to make them usable. The current helmets have an inferior ballistic capability compared to helmets now available for purchase. In 2020, MRT members had ten reported head injuries, three of which were significant and resulted in State Accident Insurance Fund (SAIF) claims. Helmets are a critical piece of safety equipment, replacing the current issue reduces the risk of unnecessary head trauma. The upgraded helmets are lightweight yet provide blunt and level IIIA ballistic protection. They provide added comfort for the Trooper when they are worn for an extended period. The helmet incorporates face shields specifically designed for the unit as well as mounts for optional accessories. They are compatible with protective hearing units to block out sounds that may damage the Trooper's hearing yet allow the Trooper to hear lower range sounds.
  - Masks - A vital piece of equipment used by the SWAT Team are protective respirator masks to protect from a variety of airborne elements. These protective respirator masks are also commonly referred to as gas masks. The masks enable SWAT members to work in environments when an event has escalated, and gas may be deployed. The masks currently in use by the SWAT Team members are more than twenty years old. They are becoming unserviceable because the manufacturer no longer makes parts for them. The features and functionality of the current masks are far inferior to what is now available on the market. The current masks lack the capability of amplified voice projection as well as the ability to connect to a portable radio system. The newly designed masks we are seeking to purchase incorporate

these features making clear communication possible and reduce the chance of miscommunication, ultimately results in greater safety for the Trooper and others. Additionally, masks now available have better lens clarity, field of view, and a laser lens that protects the Troopers eyes from damage when bright and powerful laser type lights are intentionally directed into their eyes.

The agency recognizes and prioritizes the health, wellness and safety of our Troopers. The cardiac health assessment service and described equipment upgrades are needed to accomplish our public safety mission and provide our Troopers the tools and education, they need to be healthy, safe and effective.

**Action Requested:**

The Oregon State Police requests the Emergency Board increase Federal Fund expenditure limitation of \$650,000 and Other Fund expenditure limitation of \$116,305. Totaling \$766,305 in increased expenditure limitation.

**Legislation Affected:**

HB5028, Chapter 470, Section 3(1): \$650,000

HB5028, Chapter 470, Section 2(1): \$116,305

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terri Davie".

Terri Davie  
Superintendent  
Oregon State Police

cc: Constantin Severe, Governor's Office  
Lisa Fox, DAS/CFO Policy & Budget Analyst  
John Terpening, Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
Jon Harrington, OSP Deputy Superintendent  
Jenny Cribbs, OSP Financial & Business Services Administrator