

ANALYSIS

Item 24: Department of Public Safety Standards and Training Basic Police Course Training

Analyst: John Terpening

Request: Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training by \$1,280,000 for two additional Basic Police courses.

Analysis: The 2021-23 legislatively approved budget for the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) includes funding for 16 Basic Police courses along with other courses DPSST offers. The Basic Police courses are designed for a cohort of 40 students and last 640 hours over 16 weeks. All newly hired city, county, tribal, university, and state law enforcement officers are required to attend within 90 days of hiring and once complete, those officers return to their hiring agency for field training before becoming certified within 18 months. DPSST schedules a new 16-week class to begin in eight months out of the calendar year, typically with no classes beginning in January, April, July, or October. This schedule is a result of facility capacity and the availability of certified instructors to teach the various topics throughout the 16-week course.

While DPSST is typically funded for 16 Basic Police courses based on historical trends, the Department has no control over demand for classes from local and state law enforcement agencies. The Department received approval to add two additional Basic Police courses at the September 2022 meeting of the Emergency Board and is requesting two additional classes be added for a total of 20 classes in the biennium. With the increase in local law enforcement hiring this year and to reduce the wait time for new hires to attend the Basic Police course, DPSST will start new classes in January and April for the 2023 calendar year. All available slots for the Basic Police course are currently filled for classes starting in the final three months of 2022.

The cost of a Basic Police course is around \$640,000 per class for meals, lodging, ammunition, and instruction for the 40 students. Funding for the Basic Police course comes from the Criminal Fines Account and DPSST reports that there is sufficient cash balance available and that a new allocation will not be necessary for the addition of two more courses.

Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Emergency Board increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training by \$1,280,000 for two additional Basic Police courses.

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Department of Public Safety Standards and Training
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Request: The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) is requesting an increase in Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$1,280,000 for two additional Basic Police Courses for the 2021-23 biennium.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: Oregon law requires all newly hired police officers attend a DPSST Basic Police Course within 90 days of hire. Because enrollment in these courses is limited to 40 students per course, there is a significant backlog that cannot be resolved without increasing the number of courses offered. Currently, the average waiting period for new hires to attend the basic police class is 180 days. DPSST's workload is driven by local hiring decisions and local law enforcement agencies have been successfully recruiting more candidates after a period of low interest. If this request is approved, DPSST would schedule two additional courses at the end of the current biennium. DPSST currently has sufficient fund balances to cover this expenditure.

Legal Reference: Increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 381, section 2(1), Oregon Laws 2021 for the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, Operations, by \$1,280,000 for the 2021-23 biennium.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

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October 13, 2022

The Honorable Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

NATURE OF REQUEST

The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) is requesting an increase in Other Funds expenditure limitation for two additional Basic Police Courses for the 2021-23 biennium.

AGENCY ACTION

DPSST continues to see the constant and ongoing hiring of police officers by city, county, tribal, university, and state law enforcement agencies around Oregon. State law requires all newly hired police officers attend a DPSST Basic Police Course within 90 days of hire and become DPSST certified within 18 months. However, the current average waiting period for new hires to attend the basic police class is 180 days and as of August 2022. Our request would significantly lessen the wait-time that city, county, state, university, and tribal law enforcement agencies experience between their employee's date of hire and getting new officers trained and certified as required by law.

Historically DPSST hasn't scheduled basic police classes that are beginning in January and April in odd years. Due to the extended waiting period for new hires, DPSST has scheduled courses in January and April 2023. If this request is approved, additional 2 classes would be scheduled at the end of the current biennium.

DPSST continues to monitor constituent hiring and enrollment trends on an on-going basis to ensure we are meeting their training and certification needs. Based upon current class capacity, and the assumption of ongoing statewide needs to hire qualified police officers, DPSST is requesting the increase of Other Fund expenditure limitation for two additional 16-week Basic Police Courses.

FISCAL IMACT

DPSST estimates the cost of two additional 16-week Basic Police Courses at \$1,280,000.

The estimate below shows the direct costs of offering each additional class. This request is based on current class capacity and projections of ongoing statewide hiring trends for qualified police.

Basic Police (Law Enforcement) Training

Course Length = 16 weeks

Lodging, \$258/week x 16 weeks	=	4,128
Meals, \$111/week x 16 weeks	=	1,776
Instruction Costs	=	7,681
Training-related Administrative Costs	=	183
Ammunition (~3000 rounds per student)	=	930
Other Expenses	=	945

Total estimated DPSST cost per student **\$15,643**

(\$15,643 per student rounded to **\$16,000** x 40 students equals **\$640,000** per class for meals, lodging and direct instruction)

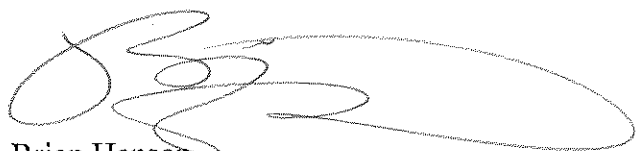
ACTION REQUESTED

DPSST requests that the Emergency Board increases DPSST's Other Fund expenditure limitation by \$1,280,000 to provide two additional Basic Police Courses for the 2021-23 biennium.

LEGISLATION AFFECTED

Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation established under section 2, chapter 381, Oregon Laws 2021 for the 2021-23 biennium.

Sincerely,



Brian Henson
Interim Director