

**Full Text Remarks of John V. Scippa, Director
New Hampshire Police Standards & Training
FY26, FY27 Budget Work Session
Finance Division II
February 24, 2025**

Good morning. For the record, my name is John Scippa. I am the Director of New Hampshire Police Standards and Training. The mission of NH Police Standards and Training is to shape, sustain and strengthen the competency and professionalism of NH Law Enforcement, in service to our State.

We are an independent executive branch agency, governed by a 17 member Police Standards and Training Council. We are not affiliated with any law enforcement or prosecutorial agency, thereby avoiding potential conflict of interest with our regulatory function and decertification duties.

We set the hiring, educational and accountability standards for all police, state corrections, and probation-parole officers in New Hampshire. We operate the NH Police Academy which every full-time municipal, county and state law enforcement professional must successfully complete to become certified as a full-time police officer in this state. We also operate the part-time police academy which all part-time police officers must successfully complete to obtain part time police officer certification. We operate the NH Corrections Academy which all state corrections officers must successfully complete to obtain corrections officer certification. We also provide Court Security Officer Training opportunities for all state employed security officers working for the Administrative Office of the Courts, the State Legislative Court and other state agencies that employ armed security officers.

Additionally, we provide specialized, advanced and in-service refresher training at our facility in Concord and regionally around the state, to assist officers in completing the annual training requirements to maintain their certification.

As part of our responsibility for regulating over 4000 certified officers in our state, we convene and rule on disciplinary hearings that may suspend or revoke the certification of officers that have committed acts of defined misconduct, violated Council rules or committed a crime or an act of moral turpitude.

We are an independent executive branch agency, governed by a 17 member Police Standards and Training Council. We are not affiliated with any law enforcement or prosecutorial agency, thereby avoiding potential conflicts of interest with our regulatory function and decertification duties.

We provide services with 28 full-time and 11 part-time positions, which includes sworn staff, administrative and maintenance employees. Our staff is assisted by adjunct instructors,

most of whom are unpaid volunteers and a small number of contracted instructors. We operate a 77,000 square foot training facility located on 20.87 acres of grounds across from NHTI – Concord’s Community College.

Form E – Necessary Statutes or Rule Changes

We are requesting necessary changes to several statutes in Chapter 106. First, we are requesting a clarification in the definition of police misconduct. Second, we are requesting a change that would authorize the appointment of a temporary member to the conduct review committee. Third, we are requesting a change to clarify the requirements for reporting an allegation of police misconduct. Lastly, we are requesting statutory language be added that establishes the law enforcement accreditation commission in statute, as it was created pursuant to Executive Order 2022-06.

Efficiency Budget Request

The Department of Administrative Services provided PSTC with target allocations from the Governor’s Office of \$6,368,138 in FY26 and the same target allocation in FY27. Our submitted efficiency budget request meets those requirements.

Our adjusted authorized budget for FY25 is currently \$6,805,527.

Our FY26 Governor recommended request of \$6,364,508 represents a 0.94% decrease below the FY25 adjusted authorized budget, which is a (\$441,019) reduction in our operating budget.

Our FY27 efficiency request of \$6,363,988 represents a 0% increase from FY26 as requested.

New Programs

It’s important to note that Police Standards and Training has taken on a number of new responsibilities in the last budget cycle. These new responsibilities are the result of 2022 legislation, through administrative rule changes based on recommendations made by the Governor’s Law Enforcement Accountability, Community and Transparency (LEACT) Commission, and through realignment of responsibilities between state agencies.

SB 376-FN, 2022 session, assigned PSTC with providing Crisis Intervention Training to NH law enforcement officers with the target of having at least one officer from every law enforcement agency in the state trained.

Executive Order 2022-06 assigned PSTC with the responsibility of overseeing the statewide accreditation program for law enforcement agencies. This program is funded by DOJ grants and a small general fund operating budget.

HB 1682-FN-A, 2022 session, established the Law Enforcement Conduct Review Committee under Police Standards and Training. This committee is responsible for overseeing and reviewing all investigations regarding allegations of police misconduct as defined in statute.

Through Executive Order #2020-19, Administrative Rule POL 403.01 has been amended to increase the number of annual in-service training hours for all certified Law Enforcement officers, as a condition of continued certification, from 8 hours annually increasing incrementality to 24 hours of annual training by 2025.

Additional Prioritized Needs Request

Our prioritized needs request in FY26 included (1) full-time position of Law Enforcement Training Specialist I, to assist with the court security officer and general court security officer training programs. The prioritized needs request was removed during the Governor's review of the budget. We plan to rearrange and utilize current staffing to meet the needs of this additional responsibility given to us by the legislature.

HB 2 Item #22

This item has been added as a bill working its way through the legislative process. The Governor's office has directed us to respectfully request that it remain for consideration under HB 2.

Requested Change to Governor's Recommended Budget

PSTC has been working with DOIT to fill an urgent need for an IT Manager II position within PSTC. We currently share an IT Manager with many other agencies and Fiscal and G&C have approved the transfer of funding to support this position through the end of the current biennium. PSTC currently has a vacant full-time administrative position that we would request to defund for the next biennium and use the salary and benefits from that position as well as other funds in our efficiency budget request to continue to fund the IT Manager II position. There would be no increase to our Governor's recommended budget request, simply an adjustment of the current funding lines. PSTC requests the following changes to our Governor's recommended budget request:

- Defund position #18241 and move funds to support DOIT position #14294, IT Manager II. The total cost for this position in FY26 is \$105,058.25 and in FY27 \$110,234.48, which will go into our direct DOIT budget. Funds are requested to be moved as indicated below.
 - FY26 (53,920.75) from 89800000-010 to 89800000-027
 - FY26 (23,423.78) from 89800000-060 to 89800000-027
 - FY26 (27,713.72) from 66390000-067 to 89800000-027
 - FY27 (54,299.50) from 89800000-010 to 89800000-027
 - FY27 (24,403.71) from 89800000-060 to 89800000-027
 - FY27 (31,531.27) from 66390000-067 to 89800000-027

Conclusion

Our proposed FY26-27 budget reflects compliance with target allocations set forth by the Governor's Office while attempting to appropriately resource our current obligations of providing contemporary recruit training to newly hired officers, creating and delivering in-

service training, regulating and monitoring compliance with professional standards as well as preparing to meet the number of new obligations as outlined above.

Thank you for listening to our presentation. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.