



*Judge Sawako T. Gardner
Chairperson*

State of New Hampshire

POLICE STANDARDS & TRAINING COUNCIL

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*John V. Scippa
Director*

**Full Text Remarks of John V. Scippa, Director
New Hampshire Police Standards & Training
FY26, FY27 Budget Presentation
Senate Finance
April 21, 2025**

Good afternoon. For the record, my name is John Scippa. I am the Director of New Hampshire Police Standards and Training. Our mission is to shape, strengthen and sustain the competency and professionalism of New Hampshire Law Enforcement in service to our state. The Police Standards and Training Council regulates the hiring, educational and certification standards for all police, state corrections, and probation-parole officers in New Hampshire. We operate the NH Police Academy which all municipal police, county sheriff deputies, state troopers, conservation officers, liquor investigators and other full-time law enforcement officers must attend to become certified as a full-time police officer in this state. We also operate the part-time officer basic training classes that all part-time police officers must complete to obtain part-time police officer certification, as well as the NH Corrections Academy that all state corrections officers attend in order to obtain corrections officer certification.

We also 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 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 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.

Governor and House Approved 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 met those requirements.

Our FY24 actual spend was \$5,294,370.

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

Our FY26 Governor r, and House approved 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 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 programs resulted in the increase from FY24 spend and FY25 adjusted authorized budget. 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.

Requested Change Passed by the NH House of Representatives

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 and House approved budget request, simply an adjustment of the current funding lines. PSTC requested and the House approved the following changes to our Governor's recommended budget request:

- Unfund 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.

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.