

**Full Text Remarks of Chief John Scippa, Director
New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council
Governor's Budget Hearing
November 19, 2020**

Good Afternoon. 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 for the Good of our State.

The Police Standards and Training Council sets the hiring and educational standards for all police, state corrections, and probation-parole officers in New Hampshire. We operate the NH Police Academy that all local police, county sheriff deputies, state troopers, conservation officers, liquor investigators and other full-time law enforcement personnel must attend to become certified as a full time police officer in this state. We also operate the part-time police academy 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 provide a catalog of 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.

The Council holds disciplinary hearings and may suspend or revoke the certification of officers that have violated Council rules or committed a crime or an act of moral turpitude.

We provide services to law enforcement agencies including a monthly newsletter that informs the police community about new laws, court decisions and tactics. We offer assistance and advice in the areas of police administration and management.

We are an independent executive branch agency, governed by a 14 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 provide services with 20 full-time and 5 part-time positions, which include sworn staff, clerical staff, and building 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 in Concord.

Budget Request

For your consideration, I have provided the following three documents as supplemental materials in support of this budget request:

- Governor Sununu's Executive Order 2020-19
- Final Report from the Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement Accountability, Accountability and Transparency
- NH Office of Legislative Budget Assistance 2019 Audit of PSTC

These documents set forth a clear roadmap for our organization. They clearly define important benchmarks that were identified, vetted and agreed upon by a number of stakeholders from different backgrounds who felt these benchmarks were in the best of interest of NH Law Enforcement and for ultimate benefit of our state. After review of the Commission's report, Governor Sununu agreed with their importance and issued his Executive Order in support of the recommendations.

I have used these documents to prepare this budget in a way where PSTC can accomplish these important mandates. I consulted with the Governor's Budget office who expressed support of this budget.

Our FY22 request of \$3,705,868 represents a \$46,487 increase from the FY21 adjusted authorized budget and \$379,206 above the FY22 Efficiency target.

Our FY 23 request of \$3,871,347 represents an increase of \$165,479 over the FY22 request and \$494,786 below the FY23 Efficiency target.

Conclusion

We are requesting this budget so that we can increase the current level of services to the citizens and law enforcement agencies of the state by allowing us to meet our obligations set forth in Governor Sununu's Executive Order, 2020-19, the final report from the Governor's LEACT Commission and the 2019 NH LBS Audit recommendations, while also continuing to provide up to date basic training to newly hired law enforcement officers, specialized and refresher training for in-service officers and seeking compliance with hiring, educational and ethical standards.

Thank you for listening to our presentation. I stand ready to answer any questions that you may have.

