

Public Safety

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY STANDARDS AND TRAINING

	1999-2001 Actuals	2001-03 Legislatively Adopted at Close of Session	2001-03 Legislatively Approved through Fifth Special Session	2003-05 Governor's Balanced
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Lottery Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	17,018,755	25,399,456	28,978,560	\$20,862,843
Federal Funds	536,741	210,000	210,000	217,350
Other Funds (Nonlimited)	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds (Nonlimited)	0	0	0	0
Total Funds	\$17,555,496	\$25,609,456	\$29,188,560	\$21,080,193
Positions	108	111	111	94
Full-time Equivalent	102.22	108.37	108.17	93.25

Overview

The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) is responsible for standards, certification and accreditation, and training of public safety personnel in law enforcement, corrections, parole and probation, telecommunications, firefighting, and private security. The Department determines whether candidates for election as sheriff meet statutory qualifications, licenses polygraph examiners, and provides specialized training to police officers regarding hate crimes and child abuse cases. DPSST is located on the campus of Western Oregon University and the bulk of its training programs are offered at the Public Safety Academy in Monmouth.

Balanced Budget

The Governor's balanced budget is \$21,080,193 total funds, a 27.8 percent reduction from the 2001-03 Legislatively Approved Budget through the Fifth Special Session. The reductions are due to shortfalls in the agency's two primary revenue sources, delay in construction of a new training academy, and elimination of one-time capital construction expenditure authority.

DPSST's criminal justice standards and training program is primarily funded with an allocation from the Criminal Fines and Assessment Account (CFAA) Public Safety Fund. In the 2001-03 biennium, Public Safety Fund revenues also support the Department of State Police (OSP) training program, victims assistance and child support programs in the Department of Justice (DOJ), domestic violence and sexual assault victims programs in the Department of Human Services (DHS), and rural health programs in DHS and the Oregon Health Sciences University.

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The balanced budget maintains the 2001-03 split of CFAA revenues between the General Fund and the Public Safety Fund, transferring 70 percent to the General Fund and 30 percent to the Public Safety Fund. A shortfall in CFAA revenues and depletion of substantial beginning balances in several programs funded from the Public Safety Fund resulted in significant reductions in the balanced budget. Allocations to the DPSST Public Safety Memorial Fund and the rural health programs are eliminated. Funding for the DOJ and DHS programs are reduced by 17 percent to 32 percent from current service levels. The allocation to OSP is reduced by 41 percent.

For DPSST, the CFAA shortfall resulted in elimination of 15 of 96 positions in academy and regional training, curriculum and accreditation, distance learning, and business services. In addition, funding is reduced or eliminated for distance learning, child abuse training, regional training, the DARE program, and leadership training.

The balanced budget does not include funds for debt service on Certificates of Participation (COP) scheduled for sale in March 2003 and May 2004 to construct a new public safety training academy, canceling the COP sales and delaying the project for two years. In 1997, the Legislature approved an increase in the basic police training course from 8 weeks to 16 weeks. Due to facilities limitations, the length of the course has not been expanded beyond 10 weeks. At its October 2002 meeting, the Emergency Board approved funding to construct a new academy located on Department of Corrections Farm Annex property in Salem. The new facility was scheduled to be completed in late 2005, at which time the 16-week course would be implemented.

Delay in construction of the academy is consistent with recommendations in the balanced budget to delay all new prison construction. Funding to continue the project as scheduled may be recommended after the impact of budget reductions on the entire public safety and criminal justice system is reviewed.

The Fire Insurance Premium Tax, the primary funding source for the Fire Standards and Training program, is forecast to drop by nearly 60 percent in the 2003-05 biennium compared to 2001-03 revenues. There are significant risks to the forecast due to the lingering affects of the economic recession and the September 11th attacks on the insurance industry. It is possible that revenues could be completely eliminated for several biennia. The reduction is due to provisions of the Oregon tax code relating to protection of policyholders from bankruptcies in the insurance industry.

The balanced budget partially restores the reductions in the three programs funded with this revenue source: DPSST's Fire Standards and Training program, the State Fire Marshal, and the OSP Arson Investigation program. The restoration anticipates a legislative proposal to modify the tax code's impact on the Fire Insurance Premium Tax. In addition, the DPSST plans to administratively establish fees for fire training to partially offset the reduction in Fire Insurance Premium Tax revenues. The fees would take effect in July 2003 and require ratification in the 2005 Legislative Session. Even with additional Other Fund revenues, the budget eliminates one of eight positions in the Fire Standards and Training program, reducing regional support for training activities.

The Department is planning to increase fees administratively to maintain the Private Security program at current levels. Seven different fees would be increased by an average of 28 percent. The increases would take effect in July 2003 and require legislative ratification in the 2005 Legislative Session.

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The Public Safety Memorial Fund, established by the 1999 Legislature to assist family members of public safety officers killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty, is reduced by over 70 percent, due to elimination of a CFAA allocation for the 2003-05 biennium and reduction in carry-over funds. The Memorial Fund is not the only source of benefits for these families. Currently, a one-time federal benefit of \$259,000 is available through the U.S. Department of Justice.

Revenue

The balanced budget is composed primarily of Other Funds. CFAA revenues constitute the largest source of Other Funds receipts.

Revenues from the Fire Insurance Premium Tax, the 911 telecommunications tax, and fees charged to private security officers and providers are dedicated to specific programs. The Department also receives polygraph licensing fees and charges for services for certain non-mandated training. The balanced budget includes revenue from a legislative concept to modify the impact of Oregon tax law regarding insurance company bankruptcies on the Fire Insurance Premium Tax.

The balanced budget includes funds expected to be received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to fund training programs.