

Good Afternoon, I am Secretary Nathaniel McQueen.

Director Cade, OMB Staff, and members of the public, it is an honor to appear before you today to present the Department of Safety and Homeland Security FY23 Operating and Capital Budget Request. I would like to begin by recognizing my Executive Staff and Division Directors in attendance today:

Deputy Secretary Kimberly Chandler
Homeland Security Advisor, Terry Pepper
Chief of Administration, Joseph Swiski
Deputy Principal Assistant, Robert Hudson
Nancy Biddle, Controller for DSHS
Colonel Melissa Zebley, Superintendent of the Delaware State Police
Chief Michael Hertzfeld, Capitol Police
Director John Evans, Division of Forensic Science
Director Eric Wagner, Division of Communications
Director A.J. Schall, Delaware Emergency Management Agency
Director Kimberly Chesser, of the Office of Highway Safety
Director Kristin Harvey, Developmental Disability Council
Commissioner Jacqueline Mette, Office of Alcoholic Beverage Control
Commissioner

On behalf of our Department I want to thank you for the support and guidance we receive from you and the OMB Staff, which is critically important to our success. Fulfilling our mission “to promote and protect the safety of people and property in Delaware” is only possible because of the commitment, dedication and resiliency of the men and women who make up the Department of Safety and Homeland Security and the partnerships we have built.

The Department of Safety and Homeland Security remains successful in responding to the fiscal and operational challenges created by the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are grateful for the support of Governor Carney, the General Assembly, and the assistance of OMB in that effort.

Our FY23 Operating Budget Request is \$164,741,800. Of this amount, \$148,823,500 is committed to personnel costs which constitute 90.3% of our total operating budget. In FY22, our Operating Budget is \$157,668,700 with personnel costs being \$139,895,900, which is 88.7% of the Operating Budget. Accordingly, the FY 23 Operating Budget Request is approximately 4.4% more than the FY22 Operating Budget. This increase is directly affected by the portion of the Operating Budget committed to personnel cost which has increased 6.38%.

Our staff position history shows an increase from 1,072 General Funded Positions in FY21 to 1,077 General Funded positions in FY22. We are requesting 7 new positions in FY 23 for a total of 1,084.4 General Funded positions.

Our FY 23 Operating Budget request has two door opener items.

Our first door opener is funding for the in-car-camera program for the Delaware State Police (DSP). DSP is looking to migrate our existing in-car camera system from Coban to Axon. There are several benefits to moving away from Coban and over to the Axon camera system.

To maximize the Governor's initiative of implementing a body worn camera program, as well as meeting recent legislation requiring interview room recording systems, we need to upgrade from the current Taser X26 platform to Taser 7. DSP strives to establish a standardized platform by creating a total digital evidence solution that directly connects the in-car camera, Taser 7 and body worn camera.

Axon provides end point devices for all the above devices, including in-car cameras and provide a single backend platform to manage all the digital evidence data that will be generated by these devices. If DSP were to stay with Coban for in-car cameras, it would require supporting multiple different vendor environments, each with their own licensing and support costs. A

standardized, single vendor platform will help reduce support requirements and provide a unified system to maintain all digital evidence.

Coban is an on-premises solution with hardware that is going end of life in the fall of 2021. Staying with Coban will incur additional costs to refresh the hardware (servers and storage). Axon is a cloud-based solution and therefore eliminates the need for DSP IT staff to maintain, support, patch and upgrade backend servers and storage. Licensing for Axon is based on user access to the system regardless of how many devices they have. Therefore, an officer with an in-car camera, body worn camera, and Taser, would only require a single license for all three (3) devices. A unified Axon system also integrates all devices into the same backend system, so an officer's in-car camera, body worn camera and Taser data are all able to be stored under a single case file in a unified digital evidence storage system. If DSP was forced to keep Coban while using Axon for other digital evidence systems, we would have to maintain digital evidence for the same case in two separate systems. The cost for FY 23 is \$390.0 with out year costs of \$780.0.

The second door opener is funding for the Delaware State Police (DSP) for an upgraded interview room system. The current method for recording interviews is an antiquated system that relies on the burning of DVDs to retain the recorded interview. The current system is end of life with outdated hardware that does not adequately capture sight and sound. This presents challenges for storing, archiving, cataloging and chain of custody. DSP would like to purchase the Axon Interview product which integrates with their Evidence.com platform. This would also allow DSP to link interviews with case files from in-car and body cam videos through the Evidence.com product. Videos would then be stored in a controlled system, with set retention policies. Additionally, the videos can be shared with other agencies such as the AG's office. Also logs, documenting who accessed the videos, with date and time will be kept ensuring proper chain of custody. DSP has identified twenty (20) interview rooms that need to be addressed to comply with the recent legislative mandate. The FY 23 cost for this upgrade is \$63.6 without year funding of \$63.6 annually.

The FY 23 Operating Budget Guidelines have provided the opportunity for our Department to submit a list of items with costs not to exceed 1% of our FY22 Operating Budget. The 1% amount is \$1,576,700. We have prioritized the 1% Discretionary Growth items. These items include:

In-Car-Camera for the Capitol Police (\$34.9)

Recently, there has been much attention paid to body worn cameras in law enforcement communities, courts, media and public. This was the same discussion made many years ago regarding the installation of in-car video cameras in police vehicles. Capitol Police remains very much behind the norm with only a small fraction of its marked police vehicles equipped with cameras even though they have been available for decades.

Capitol Police currently has six in-car cameras that are non-functioning and eight additional marked police vehicles without in-car cameras. This request is for replacement of the unserviceable in-car cameras and equipping the remaining marked police vehicles with in-car cameras.

Taser Program for the Delaware State Police (\$216.0)

DSP is currently requesting \$216.0 to maintain its Taser program by keeping its inventory within the 5-year useful life that the manufacturer recommends. At the end of this year, DSP will have 218 X26P's tasers that will be outside of the 5-year useful life; at the end of April 2022, we will have 334 tasers past useful life and at the end of 2022 we will have 364 past useful life. The X26P and its cartridge are old static technology and will eventually be phased out. Axon is offering the new Taser 7 which is designed to have a higher effectiveness by addressing its predecessors' downfalls; proximity to the suspect and the presence of heavy clothing worn by the suspect. There would no longer be an a la carte purchase as licensing must be purchased for each operator for the use of the Axon evidence upload and storage system. The equipment can be purchased through a yearly fee that will result in the equipment being switched out for new equipment and replaced if it breaks or goes outside its useful life.

The Taser 7 will work in conjunction with Axon Body Cameras and Axon In-Car Cameras through signal integration. The integration between the technologies will allow all cameras to be activated by simply activating the Taser 7, ensuring critical video is captured. Integration between all systems will enhance video documentation in use of force incidents.

DUI Blood Draws for the Delaware State Police (\$150.0)

Delaware State Police is requesting \$150,000 to cover the cost of blood draw services statewide, on a 24 hour a day basis. The project will be utilized for on-call/call-out blood draw services, which will serve all DSP troops specifically for DUI cases. This will entail the need for a phlebotomist to respond to the police troops, or possibly other necessary locations within an hour of being called, weather permitting. Also, phlebotomists will be required to testify in court. These services allow the trooper to complete the DUI investigation within the court mandated four-hour time period and also reduces the strain on hospital emergency rooms.

Two Additional Fleet Vehicles for the Division of Forensic Science (\$20.0)

The Division of Forensic Science (DFS) is requesting funding to lease two additional Fleet pickup trucks. These trucks will be in addition to the eight fleet trucks the Division is currently leasing from Fleet. These vehicles will support the two (2) additional FTE Forensic Investigator positions included in the FY22 Budget Act, bringing the total complement of investigators to seventeen (17). With that, now comes the need for additional investigator trucks to help ensure that the DFS can provide statewide coverage 24/7/365. With the current number of assigned trucks, there is no room for a truck to be out of service without creating a significant impact on providing coverage and fulfilling the mission.

Increase for IT Support for the Delaware State Police (\$141.4)

Delaware State Police IT is requesting \$141,400.00 for two (2) contracted desktop support technicians for our Mobile Tech Team. This team supports approximately 550 end users. The industry standard is 125 users to 1 technician which would require four (4) full time employees just to maintain

day to day support operations. DSP currently has one (1) full time employee and one (1) casual/seasonal employee on this team. There are two (2) casual seasonal positions that are currently vacant and have remained vacant for many months due to a lack of qualified applicants. DSP IT has had challenges with finding and retaining qualified candidates for casual seasonal positions. Over the course of the last two (2) years there have been eight (8) casual seasonal employees who have been hired and then resigned these positions with DSP IT Mobile Tech Team, which supports all the IT equipment in DSP's Patrol Vehicles to maintain operations of DSP Patrol Troopers. After extensive searches and long periods of positional vacancy, we are seeking to bring in contracted hires who can be paid at a more competitive rate and work in full time capacities to properly staff the Mobile Tech Team for day-to-day operations.

Specialty Vehicles and Equipment for the Delaware State Police (\$233.5)

Delaware State Police is requesting specialty vehicle funding to enable the Division to properly implement a replacement plan for vehicles needed that are not funded by our current vehicle allotment plan. The DSP current vehicle fund only supports the replacement of vehicles required for Patrol and Criminal Investigations. DSP has numerous specialty vehicles needed to support our mission, from gators, armored rescue vehicles, mobile command post, explosive disposal trucks and trailers, equipment trailers, forklifts, tractors, aviation tugs, SORT Command Vehicles, MPU truck and trailers, scuba truck, and trailer, CMT command truck, DUI Truck, and the EOD Immediate Response trucks.

Historically these vehicles were purchased and replaced with grant funding which is no longer sufficient to fund the need. Realizing that planning is critical, DSP is requesting dedicated funds to properly manage a much-needed replacement plan. A starting point of \$233,500 is adequate to advance DSP in a positive direction and provide proper asset management.

Special Operations Units for Delaware State Police (\$316.2)

Historically many of the DSP Special Units have been funded through grants provided by the federal government (U.S. Attorney General's USAG Equitable Sharing Program). The source of those funds is the result of forfeitures of cash that were seized as a result of joint federal and state law enforcement investigations. USAG and Special Law Enforcement Assistance Funds (SLEAF) funds have greatly diminished resulting in the potential of the much-needed special units to go unfunded and possibly disbanded. All units are deployed statewide and support local and federal entities. The units that will be directly affected are:

- The DSP Motorcycle Unit is responsible for providing Presidential/VIP escorts, traffic enforcement and community outreach. The DSP Motorcycle unit currently has 12 members and increasing to 14 to support the increase calls for service.
- The DSP Mounted Patrol Unit is responsible for search and rescue operations in difficult to reach areas, crowd control at major events, community outreach and Community Policing in residential neighborhoods.
- DSP Explosive Ordnance Unit is responsible for the safety of all citizens and property from explosive devices. Traditionally EOD responds to over 140 callouts a year, with President Biden's frequent visits that number continues to increase.
- DSP K-9 Unit has 32 active dogs assigned across the state that are trained to perform patrol function, search and rescue, bomb detection and narcotic detection. The K9 unit collectively responded to 6834 calls for service in 2020.

Two FTE Positions for the Division of Communications (\$81.6)

DIVCOM is responsible for maintaining a garage service to provide the installation of emergency equipment to First Responders and supporting agencies and their vehicles. The essential equipment installed on the first responder vehicle provides for the safety of the first responder and the civilians on our roadways. This equipment includes emergency lights, sirens, radios, rear partitions, K9 kennels and supporting equipment, gun lockers and other critical safety equipment. The service garage is currently utilizing two Casual/Seasonal positions and continue to have a high turnover rate resulting

in a backlog of work orders. We are requesting two full time positions to maintain our level of service.

Canon Copier for the Office of Alcohol and Beverage Control Commission (\$1.6)

OABCC is requesting a copier needed for printing floorplans, inspection photos and hearing exhibits. Also, for review of proposed legislation, current law and administrative rule changes from DOJ and the General Assembly; as well as required review of mandated political subdivision approvals. Reviews and updates are printed in grayscale which prohibits necessary review of political subdivision licensee approvals, suggested law changes or proposed legislation as described above.

Positions for Delaware Accreditation Commission (DPAC)/Council on Police Training (COPT) (\$277.0)

Approved on May 22, 2008, HB 347 established the Delaware Police Accreditation Commission (DPAC) in 11 Del. C 9701. The DPAC is responsible for providing policy level direction and drafting and implementing state level police accreditation standards for matters related to accreditation. To that end, it shall:

- (1) Develop a statewide police accreditation program.
- (2) Develop standards for the police accreditation program to ensure consistency of police operations statewide.
- (3) Promote cooperation among state, municipal, university, and Delaware River and Bay Authority police agencies in addressing statewide accreditation needs in Delaware.
- (4) Provide recommendations to the Governor and the Delaware General Assembly, when appropriate, concerning issues related to state level police accreditation standards in Delaware.

Approved on July 11, 1969, the 125th General Assembly established the “Delaware Police Training Commission and Program” in 11 Del. C 84. The COPT is responsible for providing policy level direction and drafting and implementing state level police training standards as well as issuing police certifications. To that end, it shall:

- (1) Establish minimum qualifications for applicants as police officers.
- (2) Establish minimum educational and training qualifications requisite to permanent appointment as a police officer.
- (3) Issue certification of completion of police officer training.
- (4) Suspend or revoke police officer certifications.
- (5) Prescribe standards for in-service or continued training of police officers.
- (6) Establish minimum educational and training qualifications for seasonal employment as a police officer.
- (7) Prescribe equipment and facility standards for schools at which police training courses shall be conducted.
- (8) Prescribe minimum qualifications for instructors at such schools and certify, as qualified, or decertify such instructors to their courses of study.
- (9) Approve and issue certificates of approval to such police training schools, to inspect such schools from time to time and to revoke for cause any approval or certificate issued to such schools.
- (10) Consult and cooperate with all agencies of government, state and local, concerning the development and administration of the training and standard program and to contract with such agencies as it deems necessary to the performance of its powers and duties.

Currently the Director of the Delaware State Police Training Division is the responsible for administering the COPT and has the authority to obtain professional assistance from other police and professional organizations to accomplish the objectives of the program. This budget request is designed to untether the Director of the COPT from within DSP, combine the role with DPAC and have the position and unit report directly to the Secretary of the Department of Safety and Homeland Security. We believe that combining training and accreditation will create efficiencies within both units and allow for much greater accountability and transparency.

We are requesting \$293,113.95 to cover the costs of hiring a COPT/DPAC Director (1FTE), (2) COPT/Accreditation Project Coordinators (Planner II) (2 FTE's), and (1) Administrative Specialist I (FTE) who will be responsible for

conducting the daily business running the statewide police accreditation program and the COPT calculated for 9 months.

Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement Fleet/Travel Increase Request (\$14.8)

DATE is requesting \$10.0 for contractual needs to support Fleet costs and \$5.0 to support Travel costs.

For FY21, DATE spent \$167.7 on Fleet and is projecting to spend approx. \$167.9 in FY22 based on average monthly cost of \$13.9. An increase in contractual funds will help support DATE's Fleet obligations. DATE's current travel budget is \$3.3. DATE is requesting \$5.0 for travel funds to support costs associated with training for law enforcement officers and staff.

DATE split codes costs between General Funds, ASF and NSF funds. A small percentage (approx. 15%-25%) of contractual costs are deducted from other ASF and NSF funds such as Server Training (ASF-60902) and Over Service (NSF - 20682). However, in FY20 & FY21 DATE had a revenue shortage in our Overservice fund due to a variance from the Office of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commissioner that delayed the deadline for some license renewals and payment of related fees (a result of the Governor's State of Emergency declaration and modifications stemming from COVID). DATE relies on revenue from Overservice to pay 1.5 FTE's, contractual and supply costs. Because of the revenue shortage, contractual and supply costs will not be deducted from Overservice until enough revenue is received to support these costs. Additionally, funds that DATE received from state or federal seizures cannot be relied on as sustainable funding. Contractual costs, such as Fleet, make up one of the largest contractual expenses for DATE and this cost is critical for DATE to operate as a statewide law enforcement agency.

DATE's Tobacco fund has drastically reduced over the years, to include eliminating a budget for Travel. Additionally, DATE no longer receives funding through large grants or contracts such as OJJDP, FDA or DHSS. DATE's current Travel budget is \$3.3 (GF and ASF) and with this funding

level, it causes barriers as to what training opportunities police officers can attend.

Data Collection and Analysis for State Council for Persons with Disabilities (\$2.4)

SCPD is in the process of hiring 1 FTE to perform data research and analysis on the number of Delawareans with disabilities, how Delaware's laws, policies, rules, and regulations directly affect them, where they receive services, and how we can modify existing laws, policies, rules, and regulations to better serve Delaware's disabled population. SCPD is requesting \$2.4 to enter into contractual agreements with the Delaware Health Information Network database to obtain and analyze data specific to Delawareans with disabilities.

Increase in the Supply Line for the Office of Highway Safety (\$1.8)

Office of Highway Safety is requesting funding to support contractual and supply needs that are currently not allowable costs with federal dollars, such as office furniture, promotional items that promote a highway safety message, shirts that identify our employees who work directly with the public, such as our fitting station coordinators who work with parents and care givers to install car seats.

Management Analyst II for the Office of Highway Safety (\$52.0)

The Office of Highway Safety is responsible for approximately \$15 Million in federal funds annually. Development of our Annual Highway Safety Plan, grant applications, and allocation of these awarded funds are based on extensive problem identification. By using crash data and traffic citation data we develop the most effective and efficient plan for the use of federal highway safety funds.

OHS uses program area problem identification data, including fatality, serious injury, enforcement, judicial, and survey data to establish performance targets and countermeasure strategies. Based on these performance targets and proven countermeasure strategies, OHS identifies projects, and allocates funds accordingly.

Our requested position is critical for providing data analysis, establishing performance targets and recommendations to management staff to help drive the operations of our highway safety program and management of the federal grant funds. We currently fill this as a full-time contractual position under a contract with Whitman, Requardt and Associates, LLP (WRA). In the past four years we have had significant turn over in this position. In all three cases, the person in this role left to take a full-time merit position with the state. There is a significant amount of training (months) and security clearance needed to access the crash reports and conduct crash mapping as well as reviewing arrest data.

It hinders our Division greatly when we lose a person and need to go through the re-hiring and training process. Our grant applications including our Annual Highway Safety Plan are required to be based on sound problem identification and data analysis. In addition, we pay a significant annual overhead and fixed fee cost for this contractual position. We currently pay \$20 an hour for this full-time contractual position with a \$39,000 a year salary. We pay \$87,521 a year to Whitman, Requardt and Associates for the position. Converting this position to a merit position within the state should help with retention and provide a cost savings of more than \$24,000 annually to the Division at the same time.

Funding for DEMA to Support the Volunteer Groups Active in Disasters (VOAD) (\$10.5)

The Delaware Emergency Management Agency requests \$10.5 to expand the capabilities of the VOAD (Volunteer Groups Active in Disasters) Groups. In the Delaware Emergency Operations Plan (DEOP), the VOADs are a response arm that can fill in with services when Government has limited ability. These groups were instrumental over the last year with Covid-19, tornado cleanup and flooding remediation. Being able to support them will support us in several ways. In addition, an increase in GFs will provided additional funding opportunities with match potential.

Funding for Office of the Secretary for eSTAR Implementation (21.3)

With the implementation of eSTAR for our Department time keeping, we are requesting an increase in our contractual line to cover the implementation costs fees of \$13.6 as a one expense. We are also requesting \$7.7 in reoccurring annual costs for licensing.

I would now like to present our twelve (12) Capital Budget requests for FY2023

Our first funding request in the amount of \$584,180.00 is for the tenth and final payment of a ten-year lease agreement with the State's third-party finance vendor for the two State Police Bell 429 helicopters procured in FY13. The men and women of the Aviation Unit continue to benefit in the delivery of services from the improved performance and safety of the Bell 429 Helicopter.

Our second Capital Budget request is for the sixth year of the Technology Refresh of the 800 MHz infrastructure, which will upgrade the system to the Project 25 interoperability standard. In addition, the project includes replacing transmitters, microwave equipment and end-user portable and mobile radio equipment. The amount requested for FY 23 is \$6,354,100.

Our third funding request for Minor Capital Improvement Funding (or MCI) traditionally utilized to repair and maintain the State Police Troops and facilities consistent with the recommendations of Facilities Management and as set forth in a study that was conducted for the Department by an independent architect.

We are requesting \$1 million dollars for MCI Funds in our FY23 request as these funds are utilized for any project that is not funded by Facilities Management. Recently, in addition to facility needs at the State Police, these funds have been used for projects at the Division of Communications, Delaware Emergency Management Agency and the Division of Forensic Science. We continue to work very closely with the leadership team at Facilities Management to ensure that we utilize our MCI funds in the most efficient and effective manner. Despite this collaborative and prudent

approach, the costs of maintaining our facilities continue to increase, and we are anticipating significant expenditures in the future based on the age of many of the facilities.

Our fourth request is to fund the Troop 6 Replacement Project. Previous years funding provided for a feasibility study which funded A&E selection, design, permitting, and site hazmat evaluations. We are requesting 36.5 million dollars to enter into a contract with an A&E firm and to begin demolition of the former Webb Correctional Center and begin the initial site work for the new Troop.

Our fifth Capital funding request is for 12 million dollars to purchase one new Bell 429 helicopter to bring the State Police back up to four operating aircraft. Our immediate need to return the size of the fleet to four ships is to provide coverage for the additional Presidential support missions over the next three to seven years as well as to ensure 24-7 coverage to our citizens. Aircraft cannot be pulled away from Presidential security. The additional helicopter would also allow for continuing training of DSP pilots. Currently DSP is projected to lose 5 of the 12 pilots due to retirement/transfers. The new helicopter would be vital to providing operational readiness during aircraft maintenance, upgrades, repairs, mandatory inspections, and critical component replacement.

Please consider a better option for future planning by purchasing two Bell 429 helicopters and trade in one of the older helicopters. The current trade in value of the oldest helicopter is \$3.0 million dollars. This scenario provides two new helicopters for \$21.0 million dollars. The purchase of two helicopters avoids the problematic task of replacing two helicopters within the next five years.

Our sixth funding request is for the fifth year of a five-year contract for the local law enforcement laptop replacement program. We are requesting \$251.0.

Our seventh Capital Budget request is to replace the existing 800MHz tower shelter in Seaford at a cost of \$587.0. A main component of the tower site is the shelter located at the bottom of the tower. These shelters house weather/temperature sensitive computer equipment. The Seaford shelter is in the worst condition of all the existing shelters. It is wooden construction which is experiencing rotting on the

roof and floor. It can no longer provide the weather tight and temperature regulated environment that is needed to allow the equipment to function properly.

Our eighth Capital Budget request is funding for the DEMA Emergency Management Resilience Fund. DEMA is requesting \$1 million dollars to continue to leverage the whole community to support primary residents who are uninsured or underinsured, homeowners and families, communities, community-base organizations, and incorporated towns in the State during their journey to recover from isolated incidents and work toward a more resilient Delaware; whether through mitigation, reconstruction, or programmatic efforts. The fund will be awarded to trusted partners throughout the state or to cover state initiatives.

Our ninth Capital Budget request is for \$1.0 million dollars for A&E selection/contract and design, permitting, land procurement, and construction of a new skid pad to be located in the southern part of our state.

The overall long-term vision is to create a facility for Law Enforcement training objectives as well as the training of all First Responders who drive emergency vehicles statewide. The New Castle Track (EVOC Center North) would not be able to accommodate the full volume of necessary training for statewide law enforcement. The overall vision is planned to be accomplished in phases. The purchase of a minimum of a thirty (30) acre parcel of land would be required. The track would be strategically located within the state to provide equally access statewide and offset the northern track project. The track would be designed to provide real-world training for Delaware Law Enforcement, First Responders, Fire Services, and Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) personnel. DelDOT is currently forced to send their personnel to other states to train them on safe operation of snowplows and other heavy equipment. The track would allow for a controlled environment to perform traffic stops, create crash situations, heavy equipment operation, and a variety of other vehicle scenarios. Law Enforcement crashes throughout the U.S. is the number one cause of line of duty deaths. The installation of this track would provide the ability to create high-speed driving, long distance training, and reenact stressful situations in a controlled environment. This would benefit not only the Officers/Troopers, but the safety of the general public as well. It would also allow

DelDOT staff to train on mock accidents and hazardous material spills. This track could also prove beneficial for Department of Education (DOE) to provide additional driver training for high school students.

Metal Pole Building Located at Troop 3 (\$2,500,000)

Our tenth request is funding for the State Police to construct a 9,804 square foot vehicle storage building, on the Troop 3 property; to house several specialized vehicles and equipment with a combined asset value of \$6.0 million dollars. The vehicles include the mobile command post, bomb trucks and armored vehicles. These assets are currently scattered across the state and many are stored at rental facilities. The metal pole building would be constructed on state-owned land and would be centrally located within our state. The building would also be used as a training site for active shooter exercises and critical response training.

Funding for a Consolidated Communications and IT Center (\$3.5 million dollars)

Our eleventh Capital request is for funding in FY 23 for A&E selection/contract, design, and permitting to construct a consolidated central dispatch/communications center. With advancements in technology and the need for a statewide fallback center. DSP wishes to consolidate its three current dispatch communication centers into a single centrally located facility which would serve all three counties.

The current IT facility for the State Police, located on the headquarters complex is beyond its capacity to provide an adequate workspace and is in need of demolition.

Funding to Construct a New Troop 4 (\$3.5 million)

Our final Capital request is for funding to begin the process of building a new Troop 4. Our FY 23 request is for A&E selection/contract, design, permitting, and potential land purchase. The current Troop 4 was built 33 years ago utilizing prefabricated construction and houses Patrol, Criminal Investigation, the Sussex County Drug Unit, the Sussex County Task Force, and the Evidence Detection Unit. The current contingent assigned to Troop 4 is exceeding its occupancy limits prompting the need to a lease portable building.

This concludes the highlights of our FY23 Operating and Capital Budget requests. Thank you for this opportunity and for your patience with what I realize is a lengthy request. My staff and I stand by ready to answer any questions you may have.