

**Department of Public Safety
FY25 Midyear Status Report**

Item No.	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	LFD Questions
1	Alaska State Troopers / Various	Retention Initiative to Fund Trooper Relocation Costs in Compliance with Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017	\$437.5 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	Were these trooper reimbursement payments able to go out as needed?
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The department has processed 50% of the taxable moving benefit reimbursements (gross-up) for FY25. These reimbursements cover moving expenses incurred between July 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024. The remaining gross-up payments will be processed as part of the second half of the fiscal year, ensuring full compliance with reimbursement timelines.</p>				
2	Alaska State Troopers / Alaska State Trooper Detachments	Add Full-Time Program Manager and Funding for Trooper Applicant Travel to Support Recruitment Strategies and Initiatives	\$249.6 Gen Fund (UGF) 1 PFT Position Inc	Has this position been filled, and if so, when?
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The Program Manager position was initially filled early in FY25; however, the candidate departed shortly thereafter. The department successfully refilled the position in October 2024. This position, located in Anchorage, plays a vital role in supporting recruitment strategies and initiatives, including managing trooper applicant travel to enhance the recruitment process.</p>				
3	Alaska State Troopers / Alaska State Trooper Detachments	Vehicles to Enhance Judicial Services	\$147.0 Gen Fund (UGF) IncOTI	Have these vehicles been procured? If so, what was the final cost of the vehicles?
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>Three passenger vans have been ordered to support judicial services. One van has been delivered, and the remaining two are currently in transit to Alaska, with arrival expected soon. The vans will be assigned to Anchorage JS, Palmer JS, and Bethel JS. Aftermarket upfits are required before deployment, and the final costs will be determined upon completion of the upfits. The estimated total cost is approximately \$75,000 per vehicle, or \$225,000 overall. However, initial funding estimates may fall short by approximately \$78,000 due to unanticipated cost increases.</p>				

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4	Alaska State Troopers / Alaska State Trooper Detachments	Cost Increases for Law Enforcement Supplies and Equipment	\$500.0 Gen Fund (UGF) IncOTI Numbers	How much of this one-time funding has been spent to date, and what types of equipment were supported with this funding? How did this level of funding inform any additional requests made in the Governor's FY26 budget?
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The AST Division is in the process of procuring less-lethal equipment for distribution to patrol units and SWAT teams statewide, which will encumber approximately \$210,000. Additionally, both divisions are finalizing the cost and design of ballistic vest soft panels and rifle plate carriers. These procurements are expected to be completed during the first quarter of 2025. Information on how this funding level informed additional requests in the Governor's FY26 budget is not included but can be provided upon request.</p>				

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5	Alaska State Troopers / Alaska Bureau of Investigation	Add Three Non-Permanent State Troopers (12-#175, 12-#176, and 12-#177) for Child Crimes Investigations	\$698.5 Gen Fund (UGF) 3 TMP Positions Inc	Were these positions filled, and if so, when? Please describe trends in individual caseloads, and how this will improve when these positions are filled.
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>All three non-permanent positions have been filled: the first in early October, the second in early November, and the third in early December. Since their placement, the unit has worked on 15 child abuse investigations in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, including a double homicide in Hooper Bay. These additional positions are expected to reduce individual caseloads and enhance the unit's capacity to address child crimes effectively.</p>				
6	Alaska State Troopers / Alaska Bureau of Investigation	Fully Fund Non-Permanent State Troopers for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Investigations	\$450.1 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	Were these non-permanent positions filled, and if so, when? How many open or active cases currently fall under the definition of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Investigations? How does this compare generally to overall cases for missing or murdered individuals?
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The MMIP unit is actively working on or has completed investigations for ten murders and six missing person cases. These cases represent a small fraction of the overall MMIP caseload, which includes dozens of cases that could potentially be investigated. Due to the time-intensive and detailed nature of these investigations, each investigator can effectively manage only one or two cases at a time to ensure thorough follow-up on all leads and tasks. Information on whether the non-permanent positions have been filled is not included but can be provided upon request.</p>				
7	Alaska State Troopers / Aircraft Section	Cost Increases for Aircraft Hangar and Tie Down Leases in Rural Alaska	\$158.2 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	Does the agency have adequate hangar and tie down space? Are there places where additional resources are needed for aircraft storage?
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The agency does not currently have adequate hangar and tie-down space in rural Alaska. Over the past three budget years, we have requested funding for a five-year statewide hangar and lease project to lease or construct 14 hangars. This initiative aims to protect aircraft from Alaska's harsh weather conditions, which significantly impact their operational readiness and longevity. Additional resources are needed to address these critical storage and maintenance challenges effectively.</p>				

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8	Alaska State Troopers / Aircraft Section	Add Full-time Aircraft Maintenance Inspector (12-#162) for Quality Assurance	\$148.3 Gen Fund (UGF) 1 PFT Position Inc	Was this position filled, and if so, when? Where will the position be stationed?
Agency Response Despite multiple advertisements, the agency has faced challenges in hiring individuals who meet the minimum qualifications (MQs) for these positions. To address this, we are pursuing a classification change to introduce an additional option for meeting the MQs. The positions have been re-advertised with an extended closing date of December 16, 2024, and are based in Fairbanks.				
9	Alaska State Troopers / Aircraft Section	Add Two Full-time Aircraft Pilot 1 (12-#167, 12-#168) Positions to Meet Demand	\$408.3 Gen Fund (UGF) 2 PFT Positions Inc	Were these positions filled, and if so, when? Has the agency continued to experience situations where no pilots are available for extenuating circumstances in FY25?
Agency Response PCN 122168 (formerly 12-#167) was filled on September 5, 2024 and is now operational. PCN 12-2169 (formerly 12-#168) is filled and operational. Duty locations are Anchorage.				
10	Alaska State Troopers / Aircraft Section	Add Criminal Justice Planner (12-#161) to Support Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Unit for Drone Operations	\$154.1 Gen Fund (UGF) 1 PFT Position Inc	Was this position filled, and if so, when? Where will the position be stationed?
Agency Response Position 122170 (formerly 12-#161) has been filled as of December 2024 and is now operational. The duty station for this position is located in Anchorage.				
11	Alaska State Troopers / Alaska Wildlife Troopers	Address Increasing Law Enforcement Supplies and Equipment Costs	\$300.0 Gen Fund (UGF) IncOTI Numbers	How much of this one-time funding has been spent to date, and what types of equipment were supported with this funding? How did this level of funding inform any additional requests made in the Governor's FY26 budget?

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<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The one-time funding was allocated to address inflationary costs for law enforcement supplies and equipment. To date, Alaska Wildlife Troopers have utilized this funding to purchase uniforms (\$120,000) and ballistic vests (\$7,000), as well as startup and replacement equipment essential to law enforcement operations. The Governor’s proposed FY26 budget includes this increase in the adjusted base, ensuring AWT can continue procuring critical equipment to support its mission effectively.</p>				
12	Village Public Safety Officer Program / Village Public Safety Officer Program	Add Funding for Ten New Village Public Safety Officers to Meet Program Demand and Fund a \$2.50/hr Pay Increase for VPSOs	\$3,499.8 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	Have these positions been filled, and if so, when and in which locations? Please discuss the current retention rates for VPSOs, and how many communities have requested but do not currently have an assigned VPSO.
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>Currently, 79 Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) positions are filled, with the goal of reaching 85 filled positions by the end of January 2025. While the ten newly funded positions are included in this hiring goal, specific locations for these positions are not tracked by DPS, as recruitment and placement are managed by Grantees who oversee staffing in various rural communities.</p> <p>The year-to-date retention rate for VPSOs in FY2025 is 45.87%, compared to a 10-year average retention rate of 37%. Retention challenges persist due to factors such as limited infrastructure, housing shortages, funding constraints, and a limited pool of qualified applicants in rural areas. The demanding nature of these roles and the unique challenges of rural Alaska contribute significantly to turnover.</p> <p>Of the 156 communities eligible for VPSOs, 62 currently have an assigned officer, including 14 with two VPSOs to provide adequate coverage and support new hires. This leaves 94 communities that have requested but do not currently have a VPSO. Some regional Grantees utilize roving VPSO programs to extend service coverage, enabling limited staffing to meet the needs of multiple communities.</p>				
13	Alaska Police Standards Council / Alaska Police Standards Council	Add Full-Time Administrative Investigator 1 to Meet Demand	\$160.0 GF/Prgm (DGF) 1 PFT Position Inc	Has this position been filled, and if so, when? Has the body worn camera initiative resulted in an increase in the caseload for the Alaska Police Standards Council?

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<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The position is in the final stages of recruitment, with an offer expected to be extended to an applicant for a projected start date in January 2025. It is currently unknown if the body-worn camera initiative has directly resulted in an increase in the Alaska Police Standards Council's caseload, as no specific cases of misconduct have been definitively linked to the use of body-worn cameras.</p>				
14	Various	Create New Victim Services Appropriation for CDVSA, VCCB, and New Victim Services Administration and Support Allocation	Struct	Has this restructure been successfully implemented? What has been the effect on service-level delivery?
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The department has successfully developed the new structure for victim services, and most positions have been filled. However, the Director position remains vacant. A qualified candidate was identified but declined the offer in early December. Recruitment efforts are actively underway to fill the Director position. Despite this vacancy, service-level delivery has been maintained, and the current staffing levels are ensuring continued support for victim services. The appointment of a Director is expected to further enhance strategic oversight and program effectiveness.</p>				
15	Victim Services / Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	Maintain Grant Support for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	\$3,700.0 Gen Fund (UGF) IncM	Has this level of funding been sufficient to maintain support for CDVSA grant recipients?
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The \$3.7 million increase to the base budget was sufficient to maintain flat-funded support for existing subgrantees in FY25. However, high inflation rates have significantly increased service provision costs, forcing several programs to reduce services to keep their shelters operational. Flat-funding remains a challenge under these conditions. Looking ahead to FY26, CDVSA faces a projected \$5.7 million deficit due to the loss of federal COVID relief funding, which previously mitigated shortfalls, and ongoing reductions in Victims of Crime Act funding. These financial pressures are expected to further impact the ability to sustain current service levels.</p>				

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16	Victim Services / Violent Crimes Compensation Board	Reduce Restorative Justice Account Authority	(\$2,299.3) Crime VCF (Other) Dec	Please discuss how the existing level of funding compares to historical levels. How does this compare to the level of requested assistance both currently and historically?
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The department’s funding for the Violent Crimes Compensation Board is determined by a formula established in statute. While the current funding level reflects a reduction compared to historical levels, the department remains committed to utilizing the resources it receives as effectively as possible to support victims of violent crimes. The level of requested assistance continues to exceed available funding, both currently and historically, highlighting the critical need for these resources. Despite these challenges, the department will continue to prioritize services and maximize the impact of the funding provided to ensure meaningful support for those in need.</p>				
17	Victim Services / Victim Services Administration and Support	Add Two Full-time Paralegal 2 (12-#140, 12-#141) Positions to Expand Victim Navigator Program	\$239.3 Gen Fund (UGF) 2 PFT Positions Inc	Have these positions been filled, and if so, when and in what locations?
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The two full-time Paralegal 2 positions (12-#140 and 12-#141) have not yet been filled. Recruitment efforts are ongoing, and these positions are critical to expanding the Victim Navigator Program and enhancing support for victims. The department is committed to filling these roles as soon as possible to ensure the program's objectives are met.</p>				
18	Victim Services / Victim Services Administration and Support	Add Full-Time Division Director for Victim Services Division	\$254.0 Gen Fund (UGF) 1 PFT Position Inc	Has this position been filled, and if so, when? Where will the position be located and how will it enhance service delivery?
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The Division Director position for the Victim Services Division is currently vacant. A qualified candidate was identified but declined the position in early December 2024. The department is actively recruiting to fill this critical role. Once filled, the Director will provide strategic leadership to enhance service delivery across the division. This position is essential to coordinating and improving victim services, ensuring resources are effectively allocated to meet the needs of victims statewide.</p>				

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19	Statewide Support / Commissioner's Office	Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Outreach and Education	\$250.0 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	What is the status of this contract, and has the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons public information campaign been successfully initiated? If so, when? Please discuss the elements of the outreach campaign.
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) public information campaign, titled "Don't Wait," has made significant strides in outreach and education despite the challenges of filling the Program Coordinator position and finalizing a formal contract. The department has prioritized advancing critical elements of the campaign while actively recruiting for this key role to ensure long-term success.</p> <p>The "Don't Wait" campaign focuses on equipping communities with practical tools, fostering collaboration, and raising awareness about MMIP issues. To date, the campaign has distributed Child ID Kits to assist families during emergencies and enhance search and rescue operations. Additionally, outreach efforts have emphasized safety practices, preventative measures, and situational awareness to empower communities and address the MMIP crisis proactively.</p> <p>Collaboration has been a cornerstone of the campaign. The department has partnered with tribal councils, community organizations, and federal agencies, such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), to expand awareness and develop Tribal Response Plans. Events like the AFN Lunch and Learn and regional town halls have provided essential platforms for education and community dialogue, strengthening the campaign's reach.</p> <p>High-visibility initiatives, including the MMIP 5K Run/Walk and participation in cultural events, have further raised awareness and built stronger community connections. Partnerships with organizations like the Washington State Patrol MMIP Task Force have even facilitated resolutions in missing persons cases, demonstrating the impact of collaborative efforts.</p>				
20	Statewide Support / Commissioner's Office	Fund Half of Department of Law RSA for Criminal Division Attorneys	\$209.1 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	Did the agency absorb the other half of this increment request or was that covered by Department of Law using their existing funding for the position(s)?
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>Yes, the department absorbed half of the cost for the Department of Public Safety's RSA with the Department of Law for Criminal Division Attorneys. This ensured the funding arrangement was balanced and supported the continued operation of these critical positions.</p>				
21	Statewide Support / Training Academy	Replace Decommissioned Vehicle for Training Academy	\$65.0 Gen Fund (UGF) IncOTI	Has a new vehicle been procured? If so, what was the final cost of the vehicle?

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<p>Agency Response</p> <p>A 15-passenger AWD Ford Transit van has been procured and has arrived in Anchorage. The department has paid \$63,430 to the Department of Transportation, and the remaining funds from this encumbrance will cover transport costs to the DPS Academy in Sitka.</p>				
22	Statewide Support / Criminal Justice Information Systems Program	Crime Data Portal for Public Interface on Public Safety Website	\$67.0 Gen Fund (UGF) IncOTI	<p>What is the status of this portal - is it now active? If not, when does the agency anticipate that the portal will go live?</p> <p>Has the portal successfully diverted a portion of the requests for crime data?</p>
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The CJISP unit is currently working with DPS Supply on a contract amendment with the existing vendor supporting the statewide crime reporting repository to incorporate the Crime Data Portal project. The amendment is awaiting approval from the State of Alaska Procurement Office. Currently, the portal is not yet active, and a projected go-live date will be determined once the contract is finalized. The department anticipates that the portal will help divert a portion of crime data requests upon its implementation.</p>				
23	Statewide Support / Laboratory Services	Implement Compensation Study Recommendations for Forensic Scientist Job Class and Letter of Agreement for Managers	\$931.5 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	<p>Please discuss if this has improved recruitment and retention of the affected job classifications. Has the agency seen reduced turnover resulting from this change?</p>
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The salary adjustments for the Forensic Scientist job classifications appear to have positively impacted recruitment and retention. Over the past 12 months, there have been three vacancies, none of which were attributed to salary issues (retirement and performance-related separations). The Letter of Agreement for Lab Managers is still pending approval from OMB. Additionally, a salary study with Classification is underway for the Lab Administrators and the DNA Tech Manager. Addressing the pay disparity between these positions and subordinate staff remains critical, as it poses a risk of turnover through demotions for higher pay or departures from state service.</p>				