

State of Alaska FY2004 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety Prisoner Transportation Component Budget Summary

Component: Prisoner Transportation

Contact: Ted Bachman, Deputy Commissioner

Tel: (907) 269-4519 **Fax:** (907) 269-4543 **E-mail:** ted_bachman@dps.state.ak.us

Component Mission

The mission of the Division of Alaska State Troopers is to preserve the public peace and to protect life and property.

Component Services Provided

The Prisoner Transportation component makes available a central funding source for moving state-charged prisoners. Those prisoners include pre-arraignment and post-arraignment escort, as well as transfer of convicted prisoners between in-state facilities and out-of-state prisons. The Court System (ACS), the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Department of Law (DOL) require the transports. Public Safety provides these services through the coordination of the travel of state and municipal police officers, Court Services Officers, and through an RSA with DOC. DOC conducts moves only when it is cost-effective to use its own personnel and only for transfers between institutions.

Component Goals and Strategies

The goal of the Prisoner Transportation component is to move prisoners safely and securely so that they arrive at court when needed. This is accomplished by working with the Department of Corrections so that travel costs are reduced whenever possible and so that movements are coordinated to effectively use available staff by making the fewest trips possible to achieve overall transport requirements.

Key Component Issues for FY2003 – 2004

A new courthouse opened in Fairbanks in July, 2001. As expected, the number of prisoners transported in the Fairbanks area increased 17.5 percent from 5,886 in FY2001 to 6,918 in FY2002. In April, 2002, a new jail opened in Anchorage that added 300 beds above what was available at the Sixth Avenue Correctional Center. The new jail increased the prisoner transports in Anchorage and around the state as these beds are used to ease overcrowding at other locations. The number of prisoners transported by the Anchorage Judicial Services' Unit increased 13.5 percent from 18,552 in FY2001 to 21,070 in FY2002. Additionally, the Court System now requires a court services officer to be in the courtroom at the new jail for security. This was an unexpected requirement that means two officers, not one, are otherwise not available to the Anchorage Judicial Services' prisoner transport unit. Prisoner transportation costs continue to increase with the rise in air and ground transportation costs. New airport security measures are increasing the time spent transporting prisoners outside the local area and thus increasing the expenses relating to those transports. The increases in those transportation costs are compounded by the increase in the number of prisoners. The department has put in practice all possible cost saving procedure, but most of these costs are out of the department's control.

The decision to transport prisoners is made by the Court System and the Department of Corrections. Public Safety can attempt to manage, but cannot control costs. DOC is under court-ordered mandate to limit the number of inmates at all institutions, which sometimes requires Public Safety to help balance the inmate population among different institutions. Overtime spent transporting prisoners since FY2000 has increased 25% in Anchorage alone.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2002

The Alaska State Troopers moved 49,683 prisoners with 0 escapes; 95% percent of the moves made were within the time frame needed. The number of prisoners moved has increased 13.1% over FY2001, 25.9% over FY2000, and 25.9% over FY1999.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

- Judicial Services Duties (AS 22.20.100)

- Prisoner Transportation (AS 33.30.071 and AS 33.30.081)

Prisoner Transportation
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2002 Actuals	FY2003 Authorized	FY2004 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	1,499.0	1,220.8	1,445.8
73000 Contractual	194.9	245.9	245.9
74000 Supplies	11.4	10.0	10.0
75000 Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	1,705.3	1,476.7	1,701.7
Funding Sources:			
1003 General Fund Match	35.0	0.0	0.0
1004 General Fund Receipts	1,625.3	1,476.7	1,656.7
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	45.0	0.0	45.0
Funding Totals	1,705.3	1,476.7	1,701.7

Prisoner Transportation

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004

The Division of Alaska State Troopers is transporting additional prisoners between Kotzebue and Nome due to the limited number of beds in the Kotzebue Contract Jail. This has increased the costs of transporting prisoners within western Alaska. In addition to the Kotzebue Contract Jail issue, the number of prisoner transports continues to increase from 32,739 (FY96) to 49,683 (FY02). As of December 2002, AST has transported 25,477 prisoners.

Summary of Component Budget Changes

From FY2003 Authorized to FY2004 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2003 Authorized	1,476.7	0.0	0.0	1,476.7
Proposed budget increases:				
-Increased Prisoner Transports	180.0	0.0	45.0	225.0
FY2004 Governor	1,656.7	0.0	45.0	1,701.7