

**State of Alaska  
FY2009 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Public Safety  
Alaska Wildlife Troopers Aircraft Section  
Component Budget Summary**

**Component: Alaska Wildlife Troopers Aircraft Section**

**Contribution to Department's Mission**

Preserve public peace; protect life, property, and resources.

**Core Services**

The aircraft section supports the Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Office of the Governor, and the Department of Corrections. The section's aircraft mechanics maintain the department's aircraft by performing routine scheduled maintenance and inspections as well as emergency repairs. They also perform complete aircraft engine and airframe overhauls and rebuilds necessary to keep vintage aircraft in operation.

Distances in Alaska are vast and, in many areas, the only practical means of accomplishing law enforcement missions requires use of aircraft. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) must enforce fish and game regulations throughout the 586,000 square miles of Alaska as well as its 36,000 miles of coastline and must respond to emergencies throughout the state. In most of Alaska, there are no roads. The aircraft section also supports the department's obligations to perform search and rescue missions using modern helicopters equipped with specialized equipment. The aircraft section provides the department with aircraft that are safe and dependable to complete their patrols and other law enforcement assignments. Skilled and timely aircraft maintenance is critical to ensure airworthy aircraft.

The aircraft section provides annual training to all department pilots through flight instruction and safety seminars. Other law enforcement and state agency pilots also participate in the DPS aircraft safety seminar. Proficiency check rides are provided to all department pilots as required by federal regulations and DPS policy.

FY2009 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results		
<b>FY2009 Component Budget: \$5,242,800</b>	<b>Personnel:</b>	
	Full time	15
	Part time	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

**Key Component Challenges**

**PATROL AIRCRAFT FUEL PRICE INCREASES** – Aviation gasoline (avgas) prices continue to increase. Since FY2005, the cost of aviation fuel has gone up nearly 45 percent.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) BUDGET** – To maintain the department's aircraft fleet, an annual CIP appropriation is needed to fund the major expenses connected with replacing equipment beyond economical repair, avionics, replacement propeller blades, airframe overhauls, engine overhauls, etc. It is cost-effective to maintain existing aircraft compared to the cost of new aircraft suited for this division's enforcement requirements. When navigational equipment or radios are upgraded, new technology greatly improves safety, navigational capability, and communications. The department is attempting to standardize equipment and avionics to reduce required stocking levels and simplify inventory through a four-year project to eliminate older, non-standard components (for example radios and GPS navigation systems).

The aircraft section is presently housed in a 50+ year old hangar that has structural problems and is too small to house all of the department's aircraft, resulting in increased lease and operational costs. The Department of Public Safety is currently looking for a long-term solution to modernize the antiquated facilities at the aircraft section.

AS-350 (HELO-1) MAINTENANCE – The primary search and rescue helicopter for the Division of Alaska State Troopers (AST) is maintained by DPS mechanics. This helicopter is extremely complex. The local helicopter maintenance vendor previously used for support closed its facility. The department has one trained maintenance technician to perform routine maintenance on the helicopter and now uses the original equipment manufacturer, American Eurocopter, to support any major maintenance requirements. This requires flying a technician up from the lower 48 states when major problems are encountered.

AIRCRAFT MECHANICS – The section's six aircraft mechanics maintain the 42 department-owned aircraft used by the Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) and AST. When aircraft work must be contracted out to vendors because section mechanics are working to capacity, field enforcement efforts are reduced. The state cannot dictate a contract vendor's work order priorities and time delays occur. Additional delays are caused by unfamiliarity with the aircraft, maintenance manuals not readily available for particular aircraft, and the proximity of where the aircraft is parked to where the work is to be performed, etc. It is critical that a high standard of quality be maintained for each 100 hour or annual inspection and all repairs. Contracting for maintenance at a remote location costs more and increases aircraft non-available time, which is critical during peak enforcement seasons.

AVIONICS SUPPORT – The DPS contract for avionics (electronics) support has received marginal vendor response for the last three fiscal years. The DPS is currently contracting with Evergreen Aviation for avionics repairs, but still face the same problems experienced with contracting maintenance out. The contractor has control over prioritizing the work coming into their shop, not the DPS aircraft section.

### **Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2009**

Funding was first appropriated in FY2006 to expand the Department of Public Safety's aircraft operator training program to aid in recruitment and retention efforts. The original concept was to fill the department's critical need for trooper pilots to provide the most efficient and effective response to criminal activity and search and rescue in Alaska's rural areas. The primary focus continues to be on selecting seasoned troopers who have no flight experience for attendance at ground school and flight training and to ultimately qualify as state pilots. This program also targets troopers that may have some flight skills and experience, but need additional training and flight time to become proficient in flying state aircraft. This program continues to be an unqualified success.

The aircraft section has completed an evaluation on a potential replacement for the vintage PA-18 Super Cub fleet that has served the state so well for many years. The Aviat A-1B Husky was selected as the possible improved "bush plane", but the project is on temporary hold pending further consideration.

### **Major Component Accomplishments in 2007**

This critical support component shares everyday in the overall accomplishments of the divisions of Alaska State Troopers and Alaska Wildlife Troopers. Without the flexibility and mobility afforded by well-equipped aircraft and professionally trained pilots, much of Alaska would be unprotected and patrolled less frequently. The department flew 7,170 hours in support of department missions including ferrying of aircraft between locations and training pilots.

The department's Robinson R44 helicopters have continued to prove their worth in all areas of patrol and investigation. The three R44 helicopters are often able to perform search and rescues, fish and wildlife enforcement, and other law enforcement missions where fixed wing aircraft are unable to safely land, preventing damage to department fixed wing assets and personnel.

An example of just one helicopter's activity: between July 1 and September 20, 2007 Helo-1 flew 97 search missions with 16 rescues, 61 patrol missions, 27 investigations, and had 251 reported contacts. These are only a portion of the missions performed by DPS helicopters. The helicopters in the DPS fleet are essential for the successful completion of DPS AST/AWT operations.

During the spring of FY2006, the department's primary rescue helicopter, the ASTAR-Eurocopter, Helo-1, was damaged during a night search and rescue of a missing person. The aircraft was shipped out of state for several months for repairs. This loss was an added burden, but because of the R-44 helicopter fleet, the department was able to continue to provide the quality service for search and rescue missions the public has come to expect.

The aircraft section's mechanics performed a high volume of necessary maintenance and repairs including:

- Contracting out 46 annual and 100 hour inspections and one 10,000 cycle inspection,
- Interior refurbishment and avionics upgrade for the King Air.
- Performed 13 in-house annual/100 hour inspections.
- Performed six 100-hour phase inspections on the Caravans.
- Performed 36 major alterations and repairs requiring FAA form 337.
- Completed rebuilds of four Super Cubs.
- Completed one R-44 helicopter engine build-up and install.
- Completed one C-185 and one C-172 engine build-up and install.
- Prepped for sale two department Super Cubs.
- Completed inspections on two seized aircraft.
- Completed two Super Cub wreck retrievals.
- Prepped for the sale of the Westwind jet.
- Weighed and completed paperwork for weight and balance of five aircraft.
- Inspected five outside vendors to insure quality work on DPS aircraft.
- Implemented new safety procedures as required by OSHA.

### **Statutory and Regulatory Authority**

DPS - Powers and duties of department (AS 44.41.020)  
State Troopers (AS 18.65.010 - AS 18.65.110)  
Police Protection (AS 18.65.010 - AS 18.65.790)  
Law enforcement duties (AS 18.65.010 - AS 18.65.086)  
Controlled Substances (AS 11.71.010 - AS 11.71.900)  
Judicial Services (AS 22.20.100 - AS 22.20.140)  
Prisoner Transportation (AS 33.30.071 and AS 33.30.081)  
Search & Rescue (AS 18.60.120 - AS 18.60.175)  
Village Public Safety Officer Definition (AS 01.10.060(c)(7)(C))  
VPSO Program (AS 18.65.670)  
VPSO Regulations (13 AAC 96.010-900)  
Concealed Handgun Permits (AS 18.65.700)  
Security Guard Licensing (AS 18.65.400 - AS 18.65.410)  
Sex Offender Registration (AS 12.63.010 - AS 12.63.100)  
Central Registry of Sex Offenders (AS 18.65.087)  
Department to assist other agencies (AS 18.65.090)  
Document and disseminate information regarding homicides (AS 44.41.040)  
Document and investigate missing persons (AS 18.65.610)  
Investigate fires resulting from crimes (AS 18.70.030)  
Investigate sexual assault and child exploitation (AS 18.65.086)  
Aeronautics (AS 02)  
Criminal (AS 11)  
Environment (AS 46)  
Fish & Game (AS 16)  
Fish & Game (5 AAC)  
Guide/Outfitting (12 AAC)  
Guide/Outfitting (AS 08)  
Health & Safety (AS 18)  
Limited Entry (20 AAC)  
State Government (AS 44)

**Contact Information**

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**Alaska Wildlife Troopers Aircraft Section  
Component Financial Summary**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	1,340.5	1,495.0	1,569.4
72000 Travel	72.2	86.8	86.8
73000 Services	2,484.3	2,509.9	2,573.5
74000 Commodities	1,071.8	888.9	1,013.1
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>4,968.8</b>	<b>4,980.6</b>	<b>5,242.8</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1004 General Fund Receipts	4,296.4	4,153.0	4,415.2
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	672.4	827.6	827.6
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>4,968.8</b>	<b>4,980.6</b>	<b>5,242.8</b>

**Estimated Revenue Collections**

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
<b>Unrestricted Revenues</b>				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Unrestricted Total</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Restricted Revenues</b>				
Interagency Receipts	51015	672.4	827.6	827.6
<b>Restricted Total</b>		<b>672.4</b>	<b>827.6</b>	<b>827.6</b>
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>		<b>672.4</b>	<b>827.6</b>	<b>827.6</b>

**Summary of Component Budget Changes  
From FY2008 Management Plan to FY2009 Governor**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2008 Management Plan</b>	<b>4,153.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>827.6</b>	<b>4,980.6</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-ETS Chargeback Redistribution	1.4	0.0	0.0	1.4
-Delete one-time-authorization for First FY2008 Fuel/Utility Cost Increase Funding Distribution	-26.9	0.0	0.0	-26.9
-FY 09 Bargaining Unit Contract Terms: General Government Unit	46.6	0.0	0.0	46.6
-FY 09 Bargaining Unit Contract Terms: Labor Trades and Crafts Unit	9.8	0.0	0.0	9.8
<b>Proposed budget increases:</b>				
-Increased Lease Costs	80.2	0.0	0.0	80.2
-Increased Fuel / Utility Costs	151.1	0.0	0.0	151.1
<b>FY2009 Governor</b>	<b>4,415.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>827.6</b>	<b>5,242.8</b>

**Alaska Wildlife Troopers Aircraft Section  
Personal Services Information**

<b>Authorized Positions</b>		<b>Personal Services Costs</b>		
	<u>FY2008</u>	<u>FY2009</u>		
	<u>Management</u>	<u>Governor</u>		
	<u>Plan</u>			
Full-time	15	15	Annual Salaries	801,148
Part-time	0	0	COLA	54,588
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	159,345
			Annual Benefits	518,466
			<i>Less 4.00% Vacancy Factor</i>	<i>(61,342)</i>
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	97,200
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>1,569,405</b>

**Position Classification Summary**

<b>Job Class Title</b>	<b>Anchorage</b>	<b>Fairbanks</b>	<b>Juneau</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>Total</b>
Administrative Assistant	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Clerk II	1	0	0	0	1
Aircraft Pilot I	0	0	0	1	1
Aircraft Pilot II	3	0	0	0	3
Aircraft Supervisor	1	0	0	0	1
Mech Aircraft Adv Jrny	5	0	0	0	5
Mech Aircraft Foreman II	1	0	0	0	1
Public Safety Technician II	1	0	0	0	1
State Trooper	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>