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Walker-Mallott Administration Budget Prioritizes Public Safety & Jobs
\$4.7 billion operating, capital budget; Economic recovery; Budget reform

DECEMBER 15, 2017 ANCHORAGE—The Walker-Mallott Administration today released a [three-part budget plan](#) that strengthens public safety, creates jobs for Alaskans, and restores accountability in the budget process.

Safer Alaska: Budget focused on public safety

“We have cut spending to increase funding for public safety.” -Governor Bill Walker

The Walker-Mallott Administration’s Public Safety Action Plan calls for more resources to address the rise in crime and the opioid epidemic. The administration has proposed a \$34 million increase in public safety spending to invest in the Public Safety Action Plan, including:

- Statewide drug prosecutor
- Prosecutor in Bethel
- Trooper investigator in Bethel
- Prosecutor in Kotzebue
- Statewide trooper investigator
- Two prosecutors in Anchorage
- Expansion of substance abuse treatment programs

Stronger Alaska: “Alaska Economic Recovery Plan”

“Let’s take control of our future and put Alaskans back to work by fixing and maintaining our existing infrastructure.” – Governor Walker

- **Jobs:** \$1.4 billion of economic investment over three years to put more than 1,000 Alaskans back to work, funded by a limited, 1.5-percent payroll deduction tax that sunsets in 2021.
- **Jumpstarting the Economy by Fixing Infrastructure:** \$800 million (from payroll deduction tax) towards the state’s \$1.8 billion deferred maintenance backlog.
- **Responsible Resource Development:** Proposals to pay off outstanding oil and gas exploration tax credits in fiscal year 2019, and grant the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation authority to accept funds from sources other than the State.

Smarter Alaska: Budget Reform and Transparency

“We should pink-slip ourselves before we hand out pink slips to teachers and troopers.” – Governor Walker

- **Accountability** – If the Governor does not publish the budget by December 15th, he will forfeit per diem and have pay withheld for each overdue day. Similarly, if the legislature does not pass the budget within the 90-day deadline, legislators will forfeit per-diem and have pay withheld for each overdue day until budget passage.
- **Biennial Budget** – Increase efficiency and reduce uncertainty by moving to a two-year budget system, a practice currently followed in 19 other states.
- **Transparency** – The Office of Management & Budget will work with Legislative Budget and Audit to change the way the budget is presented, and create greater transparency.