

2025-27 Budget Review

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

	2021-23 Actual	2023-25 Legislatively Approved *	2025-27 Current Service Level	2025-27 Governor's Budget
General Fund	9,107,624	9,907,300	8,789,990	9,624,053
Other Funds	56,765,070	72,427,141	80,550,492	90,056,787
Federal Funds	6,685,398	7,652,537	7,967,812	7,967,812
Total Funds	72,558,092	89,986,978	97,308,294	107,648,652
Positions	160	186	184	202
FTE	158.24	184.75	182.75	199.87

* Includes legislative and administrative actions through December 2024.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) provides basic and ongoing training, certifies public safety officers, and monitors compliance with professional standards established by the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training (Board). Public safety disciplines include city, county, state and tribal law enforcement officers, city and county corrections officers, parole and probation officers, fire service personnel, telecommunicators, emergency medical dispatchers, private security providers and private investigators. DPSST also certifies qualified instructors, administers the Public Safety Memorial Fund, and serves as the fiduciary agent for the Oregon-Idaho High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program.

DPSST is primarily funded through the Criminal Fines Account (CFA), but includes \$8.8 million General Fund for debt service payments on the Public Safety Center campus. Firefighter training is supported with Fire Insurance Premium Tax revenues, and training for private-sector security personnel is provided on a fee-for-service basis. CFA dollars pay for basic police and local corrections training classes, the Public Safety Memorial Fund, and agency operations. At present a declining revenue source, the Criminal Fine Account is fungible with General Fund, so General fund reduction targets are typically applied to CFA programs. Reductions taken to meet budget constraints necessarily reduce the agency's capacity to provide basic police and local corrections training, demand for which has grown steadily for the past three biennia.

BUDGET ENVIRONMENT

While not the sole source of continuing public safety training, DPSST is the sole provider of the statutorily mandated basic criminal justice training and is a primary provider of essential and perishable

skills training for public safety professionals throughout Oregon. State law requires that newly hired police officers attend the Basic Police Course within 90 days of hiring and become certified within 18 months. These are 16-week courses with current service level funding for 640 students, typically operating in classes of 40. By the end of 2022, a backlog of Basic Police Course candidates developed, reaching approximately 7 months.

Further complicating the issue is the training model that the Department has utilized relies heavily on agency part-time instructors and/or agency position loans to be available to provide training and maintain proper student-instructor ratios. For many biennia, the Department would receive funding for additional courses, but not receive additional positions. This increased the burden to find part-time instructors or agency position loans from local law enforcement, and with increasing vacancies, local agencies increasingly declined to provide staff so that they could maintain sufficient staffing in their local jurisdictions. This in turn increased overtime costs of the Department as they attempted to maintain the necessary ratios to implement the course schedule and meet the demand for candidates.

To address the backlog and training model issues, the Legislature provided the Department with \$9.1 million and 26 positions (26.00 FTE), which added four additional 40-student courses and three 60-student courses. This funding was provided on an ongoing basis, providing the Department with the necessary flexibility to meet demand as needed, where it can transition between 40-student courses and 60-student courses, if necessary, while also relying less on loaned positions going forward.

CURRENT SERVICE LEVEL

The current service level budget totals \$97.3 million all funds and is an 8% increase from the 2023-25 legislatively approved budget, with \$66.1 million assumed to be funded through Criminal Fines Account revenue. The current service level supports 26 Basic Police, 10 Basic Corrections Local, three Basic Parole and Probation Officer, 10 Basic Telecommunications and Emergency Medical Dispatch, two Basic Regulatory Specialist (OLCC), 12 Supervision, and seven Management training classes.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET SUMMARY

The Governor's budget for the Department totals \$107.6 million (\$9.6 million General Fund, \$90.1 million Other Funds, and \$8 million Federal Funds) and 202 positions (199.87 FTE). This represents a 10.6% all funds increase over current service level. In addition to minor adjustments for Attorney General and DAS service charges, the budget includes \$500,000 Other Funds limitation to conduct a facilities assessment. This funding was added in lieu of the \$130.2 million in bonding requested from the Department in their agency request budget to expand their dormitory, construct an additional training facility, and build a new facilities shop.

The Governor's budget includes two policy packages:

- \$5.5 million Other Funds and 16 positions (16.00 FTE) for positions in training, operations, and administration. The positions are to address the certification and professional standards case backlogs, incorporate an Equity Officer for curriculum and training design, address pre-employment background investigations, a plumber to expedite urgent repairs, augment wildfire

training, address firearms training needs, and provide regional field training officer coordination and other regional training needs.

- \$4.7 million total funds (\$834,063 General Fund, \$3.9 million Other Funds) and two positions (1.12 FTE) for new learning management system to improve the enrollment process, providing distance learning and pre-academy training, and bolstering maintenance training for students in the field. The General Fund was added in the Governor's budget to account for debt service.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Oregon Public Safety Academy campus, built in 2006 and completed in 2018, is heavily used and all 21 of the 23 buildings were built around the same time. Of those, 11 have replacement values over a million dollars. Current estimates of preventative maintenance in the next ten years for major building system repair and replacement totals \$33.7 million.

In September 2024, the Emergency Board allocated \$1.1 million General Fund to the Department to make structural repairs to the training scenario village building. This one-time funding was provided to repair damage caused by lateral wind pressures where severe cracks developed throughout the building potentially leading to building failure.

With the high demand for training, the Department's capacity is limited by building space and availability of instructors, and the 2023-25 biennium's training demands pushed the campus to its limits. The Department's agency request budget proposed construction of a third wing to the existing dormitory building, an additional training facility, and a facilities shop, all financed through the sale of bond proceeds.

Finally, fee increases in the private security professionals' program that had not been raised in about 10 years were ratified during the 2023 session. Additionally, fees for private security entities to be licensed, per HB 2527 (2021), were ratified in 2024. However, the private security professionals' program does not have sufficient revenue to maintain operations and an additional fee increase is expected, which will require ratification in 2025.

KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

A copy of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training's Annual Performance Progress Report can be found on the LFO website:

https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lfo/APPR/APPR_DPSST_2024-10-01.pdf

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