

SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

FY 2021-22 Budget
Hearing





AGENCY ATTENDEES

- Mark A. Keel, Chief
- Richard Gregory, Assistant Chief
- Todd Hughey, Ph.D., Laboratory Director
- Greg Meetze, Information Technology Director
- Don Royal, Director of Internal Operations
- Bruce Smalley, Information Security Officer
- Heather Tucker, Budget Director
- Adam Whitsett, General Counsel



AGENCY INFORMATION

Update on New Forensic Lab

The construction contract for the new SLED Forensic Services Laboratory was awarded/signed in February 2020 and groundbreaking commenced in March 2020. SLED continues to work with the State Engineers Office and the Department of Administration to monitor the progress of the project. Considerable progress has been made during the first 6 months of construction, to include completion of the structural steel erection, completion of concrete floor pours, partial completion of internal wall framing, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing installations. Construction is projected to take up to 22 months with SLED taking occupancy in January or February 2022.

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Top Budget Priority

- The top budget priority for SLED this year is the Law Enforcement Rank Change. The ability for the agency to promote career development is extremely vital in order to retain qualified, experienced, and specialized law enforcement officers. This request is to maintain the agency's internal rank structure by funding step increases for all eligible Class I and Class III Agents that are due for a rank change during FY 2021 and FY 2022. Also included is a one-time salary adjustment for Lieutenants and Captains. This adjustment is necessary to ensure salaries are equitable within each rank and in turn will reduce compression.
- Additional agency personnel are also a top priority. These additional personnel are vital due to the critical shortages in local law enforcement manpower across the State, which has led to a dramatic increase in the demand for SLED assistance. The South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy reports that 54% of recent graduates will be out of law enforcement within five years. These statewide shortages highlight the vital need for additional SLED personnel.



FY 2022 BUDGET REQUEST SUMMARY

RECURRING

65 New Personnel Requested
\$4,358,698 – Personal Services
\$1,741,769 – Employer Contributions
\$6,411,353 – Other Operating
\$12,511,820 – TOTAL RECURRING

NON-RECURRING

\$2,597,750– New Personnel Equipment
\$3,100,000– Technology Equipment
\$952,000 – Forensic Equipment
\$713,916 – Sumter Reimbursement
\$7,363,666– TOTAL NON-RECURRING



RECURRING BUDGET REQUESTS

1. **\$5,484,097 – 64 New Agency Personnel**

- 2 - Criminal Justice Information Systems (NCIC Auditor, Program Assistant)
- 5 – Counter Terrorism (Arson, Aviation, Bomb, Protective Services and Tracking Agents)
- 23 – Forensics (Computer Crimes Agent, Crime Scene Agent, 2 Criminologists, 11 DNA Casework Analysts, 2 DNA Database Analysts, 1 DNA Database Technical Leader, Firearms Technician, Forensic Technician, 2 Serology Technicians, Toxicology Technician)
- 5 – Fusion (2 Statistical and Research Analyst's, Fusion Liaison Agent, Gang Agent, SSI Agent)
- 6 – Information Technology (Business Analyst, IT Service Specialist II, IT Supervisor II, Sr. Network and Systems Administrator, Systems Programmer/Developer I, Systems Programmer/Developer II)
- 9 – Investigative Services (Administrative Coordinator, 4 Investigative Agents, 3 Vehicle Crimes Agents, Financial Crimes Agent)
- 5 – Regulatory (4 Community Relations Agents, Regulatory Agent)
- 9 – VICE (2 Human Trafficking Agents, 2 Alcohol Agents, 5 Narcotics Agents)



RECURRING BUDGET REQUESTS

2. **\$1,483,670 - Law Enforcement Rank Change:** this request is to maintain the agency's internal rank structure by funding increases for all eligible Agents due an increase during FY21 and FY22.
3. **\$3,698,900 - Technology Equipment/Software:** miscellaneous items as follows;
 - \$2.3M - Maintenance & Renewal Contracts Anticipated Increase (Includes 3 and 4 year cycles)
 - \$510,000 - Agency 25% Computer Replacement Schedule
 - \$250,000 - Disaster Recovery System
 - \$297,000 - Additional Servers and Storage Needs
 - \$207,200 - Computer Crimes Computer Replacement \$297,000 - Agency Server Storage - additional server and storage space for computer crimes and entire agency
 - \$121,000 - Annual Cisco Network Switches Maintenance Cost
 - \$24,000 - Security Scanner Upgrades
4. **\$500,000 - Vehicles:** the balance of recurring funds necessary to fully implement a 5 year fleet rotation.
5. **\$500,000 - New Forensic Lab Operating Costs:** the agency anticipates this additional operating cost for the new lab slated to be completed mid FY21-22. The new lab is double the size of the current lab at 118,000 square feet.
6. **\$484,953 - General Tort Liability:** In FY19 the agency paid \$238,469 in general tort liability. The amount due for FY20 was \$716,311, or a 200% increase in cost that we are not able to absorb without having a significant negative impact on our operating budget.
7. **\$250,000 - PTSD Funding:** Recurring funding to allow SLED to distribute funds to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Assistance Program to reimburse law enforcement officers who incur mental injury as a result of a critical incident during the scope of employment for actual out of pocket expenses not covered through workers' compensation claims and/or other insurance.
8. **\$110,200 - Statewide Interoperability Coordinator Transfer to SLED -** This position is currently at SLED and this transfer will make this temporary transfer permanent.



NON-RECURRING BUDGET REQUESTS

1. **\$2,386,925 - New Personnel Equipment**
2. **\$3,100,000 - Technology Equipment/Software**
 - \$1,200,000 - One-time costs related to maintenance and service contracts
 - \$1,000,000 - Replace end of life switches and servers
 - \$900,000 - Provide additional storage needs for computer crimes and agency
3. **\$952,000 - Forensic Equipment**
 - \$375,000 - LC-MSMS for Toxicology analysis to keep instruments current
 - \$150,000 - New computer server (replace the current undercover server at end of life)
 - \$105,000 - GC/MS to replace older system
 - \$70,000 - Comparison Microscope - to replace aging equipment
 - \$47,500 - Replace 5 Thermo Cyclers in DNA Database
 - \$204,700 - Replace/upgrade additional equipment
4. **\$713,916 - Sumter Reimbursement**
 - \$72,052 - SLED
 - \$144,777 - DOT
 - \$102,087 - Forestry
 - \$365,000 - State Fire
 - \$30,000 - DHEC



COST SAVINGS PLANS

SLED will make every effort to avoid a reduction to personal services, as it has yet to reach its target staffing levels. However, this potential reduction would impact services provided to the public in the following ways:

- Training/Travel – The agency currently has a budget allocated to each department area to complete necessary training to maintain certifications, accreditation, etc. A reduction to this budget may hinder the agency from the ability to stay abreast of training opportunities and keeping the workforce educated on new procedures.
- Overtime – The agency currently has a budget allocated to each department for overtime due to the unpredictable nature of the job. Given a reduction we would have to cut overtime which could impact services and response times.
- Across the Board Operating – The balance of the potential reduction (after the above items) would be applied across the board among all departmental units' operating budgets. This will impact the following major areas, including but not limited to, facility maintenance, IT security and equipment maintenance, Forensics equipment maintenance, and the Automated Fingerprint Identification System maintenance as well as have an impact on replacement schedules for protective equipment such as vests necessary for the safety of our Agents.



COVID-19 EXPENDITURES

- Federal funds received related to COVID-19:
 - Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program - \$26,128 received
 - Used to offset over \$300k in PPE and other supplies related to COVID-19

- CARES Act Funds
 - Phase I - \$243,618 received
 - Phase II - \$20,158 received

- **Total Federal Reimbursement - \$289,912**