



STATE OF VERMONT
Capitol Police Department
Chief of Police Matthew S. Romei

PHONE: (802) 828-5594 (Office)
(802) 828-2273 (Business Main)
(802) 828-2229 (Dispatch)
EMAIL: MRomei@leg.state.vt.us

Memorandum

To: House Appropriations Committee

From: Chief Matthew Romei
Capitol Police Department

Re: FY'22 Budget

Date: February 12th, 2021

Thank you in advance for spending a few minutes with us looking at the Capitol Police Department budget. The Capitol Police Department lives totally within the Sergeant at Arms Office. We were formed in 1999 with four full-time slots, however, the Department did not attain the full complement of officers until 2018. Two security studies, *from 1997 and 2004*, recommended two officers on duty at all times. In FY'21, we sought a fifth full time officer to attempt that staffing level, however it did not make it through the entire appropriations process. We are seeking to add at least that fifth position again this year.

The Capitol Police Department is charged under 2 V.S.A. § 70 with providing security within the State House and assisting the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services with providing security and law enforcement within the Capitol Complex. We cover, at a minimum, over 3,000 hours of time each year. We attempt to always have a minimum of two officers at work, to allow for breaks etc.

As the charts below show, we show about a 15% increase, year to year, in calls for service. However, the raw number or percentage increase does not tell the full tale, since a ten-minute response to check an alarm registers the same as a multi-hour *or multi-day* threat investigation, and the same as all eight officers committed to a large event on a Saturday.

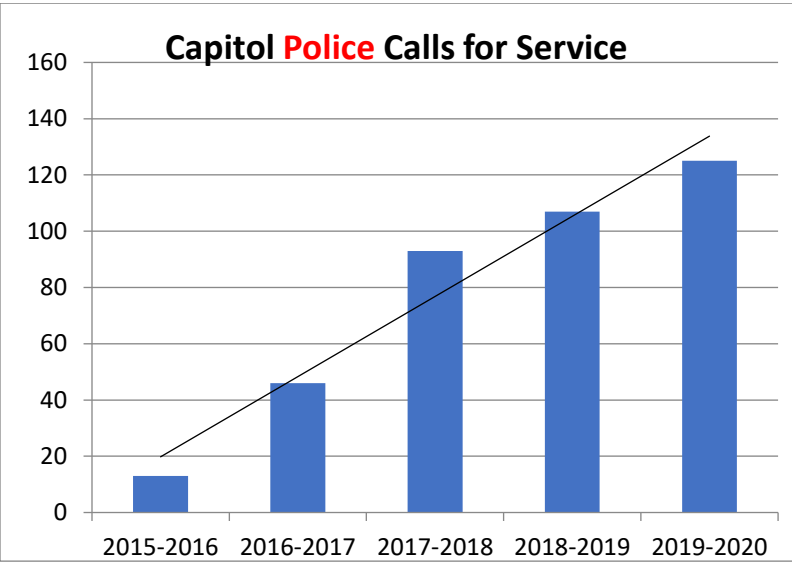
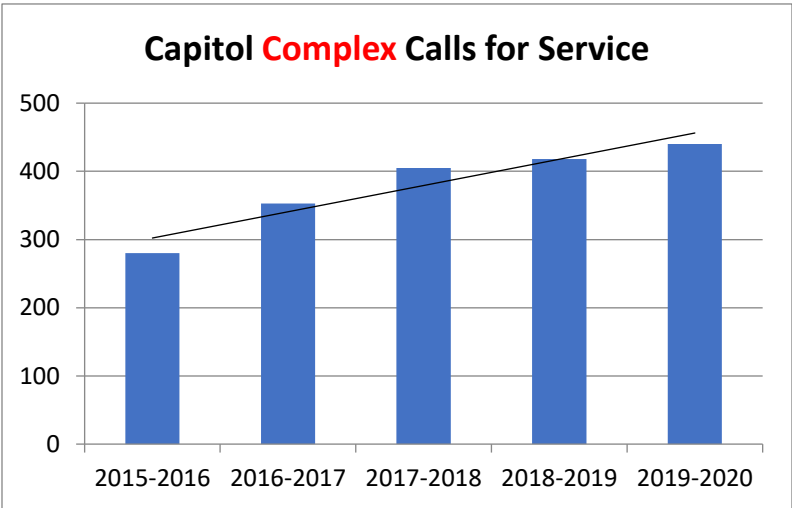
2021 Expected Pressures

- Training. State Mandated Training for 2021 is at least 30 hours, but more than likely approaches 50 hours. This is just to maintain bare minimum qualifications. Additionally, thanks to COVID travel restrictions, we are a year behind in our Federal Course rotations. Each officer can expect to spend 2 weeks away from work for training.
- Calls for service will continue to increase, both in numbers and complexity. 2018 and 2019 saw a 15% and 17% increase respectively in calls for service.

- Protest Activity continues to increase both in numbers and hostility.
- Weekend Activity likely to continue to increase, resulting in Part-Time officer hours and Overtime.
- Pressures may increase depending on direction Legislature takes in building security.
- We will continue to try to find a permanent home for the Command Post.

Long(er) Range Needs

- Succession planning will become dramatically more important. I expect to lose one officer to retirement in the next three years, and a second within a couple of years following. This job takes about three years to figure out, and we must hire experienced officers, as we cannot train our own recruits.
- The overall job of protecting the Legislature continues to become more complex. Additional advanced training will be necessary.
- As evening and Saturday events become more commonplace (as COVID restrictions relax) the need to extend coverage into additional hours and days will increase.
- Intelligence products from our partners indicate that the risk environment is elevated, and will likely get worse before it gets better.



Year to Year Growth				
2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Complex Calls				
280	353	405	418	440
	126%	115%	103%	105%
Capitol Police Calls				
13	46	93	107	125
	354%	202%	115%	117%

Calls for Service Distribution				
<i>Day of Week</i>	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Sunday	22	9	28	33
Monday	44	66	45	68
Tuesday	70	67	79	69
Wednesday	61	76	55	83
Thursday	68	74	75	61
Friday	49	66	85	86
Saturday	38	47	38	40