

Good Evening,

It may be helpful to reiterate what the House version of the budget included for our Department:

1. Provided \$650,000 to the base budget for the State's Attorney's budget to help us eliminate the Vacancy Savings we had to incorporate for our FY26 budget to meet the "Gov's recommend" for our budget. This additional funding helps restore us to level funding as we start the upcoming fiscal year.
2. Provided \$650,000 to the base budget for the Sheriffs budget to help us eliminate the Vacancy Savings we had to incorporate for our FY26 budget to meet the "Gov's recommend" for our budget. This additional funding helps restore us to almost level funding for the Sheriffs as we start the upcoming fiscal year.
3. The extension of our 9 limited-service positions (awarded to us in FY25 / last session) for one additional year, which will extend these positions until June 2026. These positions and funding are already in our budget, so this is a No Cost request. Making these positions Permanent for this July 1st will greatly enhance our recruitment and retention of these positions. (Please note that the BAA converted 8 positions for the Defender General from Limited Service to Permanent).

In our discussion this morning, you outlined your thoughts on what might receive support from the SAC, and asked me to cost that for you. Here is that information:

1. The \$650,000 to the base budget for the State's Attorney's budget to help SAS eliminate the Vacancy Savings we had to incorporate for our FY26 budget to meet the "Gov's recommend" for our budget. This additional funding helps restore us to level funding as we start the upcoming fiscal year. If funding is not received, we will have to hold open six positions during the fiscal year.
2. The \$650,000 to the base budget for the Sheriffs budget to help us eliminate the Vacancy Savings we had to incorporate for our FY26 budget to meet the "Gov's recommend" for our budget. This additional funding helps restore us to almost level funding for the Sheriffs as we start the upcoming fiscal year. If funding is not received, we will have to hold open six State Transport Deputy positions during the fiscal year.
3. The conversion of our 9 Limited-Service positions (awarded to us in FY25 / last session) to Permanent positions. The positions and funding are already in our budget, so this is a No Cost request. Almost all of these positions are filled, and are all in the S.A. field offices. Being able to maintain these positions will allow us to further assist the field offices with staffing to help address the 23,500 criminal cases the SA Offices are handling. Cost: \$0 (please note that the BAA converted 8 Limited-Service positions to Permanent for the Defender General's Office).

4. One (1) new position for SAS HQ for a “combined” Fiscal / IT Support person to perform the work necessary to support our 175 employees in our 28 field offices, and central office. Cost: \$95,000.

5. Three (3) new State Transport Deputies. This request was supported by Vermont DOC and Vermont Judiciary. Cost: \$425,000.

Total costs: \$1,820,000

As noted in earlier discussions, and in the March 28, 2025 memo to SAC from our Executive Director Tim Lueders-Dumont, the State’s Attorneys’ and Sheriffs’ Executive Committees are asking for additional staffing in order to handle the overwhelming caseloads faced by our State’s Attorneys’ staff, and the increased demands for transports to court hearings that must be accommodated by our State transport deputies.

Support the base budget increases to level-funding to fill vacancy savings, as noted above (\$650K for SA; \$650K for Sheriffs)

1 Fiscal/ IT support staff: \$95,000;

6 admin-paralegal support staff: \$650,000

4 Victim Advocates: \$320,000

6 State Transport Deputies: \$850,000

The positions listed here would be in addition to the those we hope will be converted from limited to permanent (at no cost), as outlined in #3 above.

Please reach out to me with any questions or if you would like me to meet with you to further discuss this information.

Thank you!
Annie Noonan