

Memorandum

To: Senator Norris

From: Annie Noonan, SAS LR & Ops. Mgr.

Date: 4/3/2025

Re: Sheriffs underwriting of State Transport Program

Thank you for asking an important question relating to the State Transport Program, established under 24 V.S.A. 290, and housed under our Department (State's Attorneys and Sheriffs).

There are currently 24 State Transport Deputy positions allocated for the transport work – across the 14 counties - for which the SAS budget, (under the Sheriffs section), pays their salaries and benefits. In addition, the SAS budget pays mileage for the travel on transports (at the State mileage rate), and will pay an hourly rate of \$50 if the Sheriff has to use one of their non-State deputies to help on a transport (such as when the State deputy is out on leave, or already tied up on another transport which is happening way more often in recent months).

The costs of the State transport program that the State of Vermont does NOT pay – but which the Sheriffs pays (i.e., underwrites the costs) are as follows:

1. The Transport vehicle – the Sheriffs use their own office vehicles for the State Transport Program. The State does not provide any cars to the Sheriffs. These transport vehicles have to be properly outfitted to transport defendants and others in State custody. A properly set up car costs the Sheriff between \$70,000 to \$80,000 each. The Sheriffs pay the auto insurance for these cars. SAS pays 0.70 per mile, but with the average gas price in Vermont at \$3.15/gal (per AAA), and wear and tear on the vehicle, and expense of parts and labor, the Sheriffs are really owning the bulk of the costs of providing the State cars for this transport program.
2. The Sheriffs also pay the costs of “outfitting” a State Transport Deputy – estimated at \$5,000 per deputy, and those costs include uniforms, bullet proof vests, firearm, handcuffs, etc.
3. The Sheriffs also pay (or share in the costs with SAS) of the training of the State Transport Deputies who are required to be either Level II or Level III law enforcement certified by the Vermont Criminal Justice Council. The Sheriffs absorb all the costs of their non-State deputies who help out with transports, including training. The Sheriffs carry their own General Liability insurance, Worker's Comp, and have their own legal counsel to protect them from lawsuits if their own non-State deputy assists with a State Transport and it somehow encounters a problem that results in litigation.

These are some of the costs that the Sheriffs underwrite for the State of Vermont Transport Program. I have probably missed some of the other costs, but I have copied Sheriff Roger Marcoux on this email in the event that he can add more information.

