



Vermont Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs
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Memorandum

To: Senate Appropriations Committee members
From: Timothy Lueders-Dumont, SAS Executive Director
Date: 1/29/2026

Re: Costs relating to SAS State Transport Program

During our January 15th Senate Appropriations testimony relating to our BAA request, the Department discussed the significant expenses we are incurring due to overtime, mileage and per-diem increases that were not anticipated in the FY26 budget. Last year, (FY25), the SAS Sheriffs' budget ended the fiscal year with \$1,219 dollars. Increased expenses are, again, straining this year's budget. Even with potential for help through BAA, that additional money will only allow us to, hopefully, end this fiscal year without a deficit—and to achieve that goal, we do not believe we can fill the vacancies (outlined below).

In the BAA request, the Department has estimated the costs for these expenses through the end of this fiscal year. We shared with the Committee that while the BAA will hopefully allow SAS to end the fiscal year without a deficit in the Sheriffs' budget line, this goal can only be achieved through the current vacancies that we are holding open now.

There are currently four vacancies in the State Transport Deputy program:

Washington County: There is a current vacancy that is now being filled, following the retirement of a long-tenured employee. The contractual annual leave payout on this individual was substantial, yet we authorized Sheriff Poulin to fill that position because he would otherwise have only one transport deputy. There is a second vacancy in Washington County that has not been authorized to be filled because of a budget shortfall driven by statewide costs in overtime (primarily), mileage and per diem costs.

Windham: One vacancy that has not been authorized to be filled because of a budget shortfall driven by statewide costs in overtime (primarily), mileage and per diem costs.

Bennington: One current vacancy that was filled for a few months, but the Department separated the employee during the original probationary period. This position has not been authorized to be filled because of a budget shortfall driven by statewide costs in overtime (primarily), mileage and per diem costs.

Lamoille: One new unfunded position which has been held vacant due to budgetary reasons and the fact that it was unfunded. The Governor's recommended BAA will provide half-year salary.

The Department will continue to monitor the FY26 budget to determine if and when the positions may be able to be filled.

Since the FY26 budget has three of the four positions in the current budget, in order to fill the current vacancies for the remainder of FY26 only, SAS would need \$160,500 (or \$107,000 if we receive the BAA funding for the unfunded position). This cost estimate is based upon less than 5 months' expenditures remaining.

In order to fill the vacancies for FY27, the costs are estimated at the full year of salary, benefits and operational expenses. The vacant positions were required to be entered into Vantage at a lower rate than our average costs; and adding up the additional overtime, retirement, mileage, and other operating costs, we believe we would need an additional \$205,000 in our FY27 Sheriffs' budget allocation.

Thank you for your inquiry and consideration. Please reach out if you have any questions.