

# **State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget**

Department of Public Safety  
Laboratory Services  
BRU/Component

## **Component: Laboratory Services**

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### **Component Mission**

The mission of the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory is to provide forensic science services to law enforcement agencies.

### **Component Services Provided**

- 1) The Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory is the only forensic facility available to service all law enforcement in Alaska.
- 2) Forensic services include the scientific examination and detailed analysis of evidence in criminal cases and assistance with crime scene investigations. Laboratory staff provide expert testimony in court regarding the results of the testing of evidence. Staff also provide training to law enforcement officers regarding proper evidence collection and preservation according to the latest forensic techniques.
- 3) The Crime Laboratory administers the Statewide Breath Alcohol Program consisting of repair and certification of breath alcohol test instruments used by all Alaska law enforcement in DWI cases and training and certification of all breath test supervisors and operators.
- 4) The Crime Laboratory maintains Alaska's DNA Identification System. Blood or oral samples from convicted offenders, along with unknown biological evidence collected from crime scenes, are submitted to the Laboratory for DNA typing and entry into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). These DNA profiles are also added to the FBI's National DNA Index System (NDIS).
- 5) Crime Laboratory personnel have been invited to participate as active members in several organizations that have the responsibility for setting the standards for training and certification of analysts nationally in the various forensic disciplines as well as accreditation standards for crime laboratories as follows:
  - Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDM) since 1994
  - Scientific Working Group on Friction Ridge Analysis Study and Technology (SWGFAST) since 1996
  - Scientific Working Group on Firearms and Toolmarks (SWGUN) since 1999
  - American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) since 1996
- 6) The complete 17,000 square foot facility as well as the adjacent 1,000 square foot generator building supplying emergency power to the entire DPS complex are the responsibility of the Laboratory Services budget component.

### **Component Goals and Strategies**

The goal of the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory is to provide professional forensic science services in a timely and cost effective manner. In order to provide these services, the Laboratory must maintain a trained staff of experts.

### **Key Component Issues for FY2001 – 2002**

Latent Fingerprint Examiner workload: In FY1999, 665 cases were received, 3,927 items were processed, 692 reports were issued, and the backlog of latent print cases at the end of FY1999 was 49. The number of crime scenes investigated was 23. In FY2000, 742 cases were received, 10,026 items were processed, 678 reports were issued, and the backlog of latent print cases at the end of FY2000 was 216. The number of crime scenes investigated was 29. Not only is the number of cases received at the Crime Lab for latent print examination increasing but so is the number of items per case. The backlog creates serious timing issues for court deadlines.

Without funding to fill an existing Latent Fingerprint Examiner, the Crime Lab may be forced to set limits on the number of items processed in a case and prioritize casework by the seriousness of the crime and court trials. Police investigations of burglary cases, will not receive lab crime scene and other support. The Crime Lab will not respond to crime scene investigations if there are no Latent Examiners available to go to the scene. Except for the Anchorage Police Department, the Crime Lab is the only source of fingerprint analysis for Municipal and State agencies.

**Analyst/Programmer Workload:** A higher paid Criminalist has been performing computer-related duties because personal services funds have not been available to hire an authorized Analyst/Programmer. Without a fully functioning computer network, the Crime Lab is not able to issue laboratory reports, track status of cases submitted for examination, maintain a Statewide Breath Alcohol Program to track instruments and operators in place around the state for DWI investigations, and generate statistical information. With nobody else to perform computer network duties, a higher paid Criminalist will continue to be pulled away from forensic casework, causing backlogs to continue to grow.

The Criminalistics Section case backlog is steadily increasing, even with streamlining case priorities and evidence screening procedures. The section backlog of cases on 6/30/00 was 98 (compared to 10 one year earlier). At present, there is only one Criminalist III working part time on trace evidence (fiber, paint) cases. Without additional funding to fill an existing position, trace evidence reports for investigations and court will not always be prepared in the time required.

#### CRIME LAB IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FEDERAL GRANT (Capital Budget Item)

The US Department of Justice will be awarding a \$1,250,000 federal grant for the Crime Laboratory Improvement Program (CLIP) to the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory in FY2001. The CLIP grant, along with a General Fund match (\$416,700) will fund the purchase of lab equipment, training, DNA supplies, and remodel of the autopsy area. The existing DNA areas of the Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory are not adequate for the workload that is currently being faced as DNA technology is increasingly utilized as a major tool to assist with sexual assaults, homicides, and other felony investigations. The Crime Laboratory plans to remodel the autopsy space for DNA analysis once the State medical Examiner's Office moves to its new building in January 2001.

In FY2001, the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory received \$207,100 of the needed General Fund Match for CIP project "Crime Lab Equipment Replacement" (Chapter 135, SLA 2000, page 18, line 19). The Department intends to use this appropriation as part of the match requirement for the \$1,250,000 CLIP federal grant. A language change to this appropriation will be requested. The remaining \$209,600 needed for the rest of the 25% matching funds is being requested in the FY2002 capital budget.

### **Major Component Accomplishments for FY2000**

Accreditation of the State of Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory was achieved in September 1996 and remains in effect through September 2001. This accreditation was provided by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD/LAB) and is a major achievement. Half of the crime laboratories nationally in states and cities with populations larger than Alaska have not been able to reach this goal. The Crime Lab will submit an application to the ASCLD/LAB for re-accreditation in December 2000. The inspection for re-accreditation will occur in June 2001.

Services provided by the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory during FY2000 include the following:

- 1) Criminalistics:
  - Number of case submittals - 91
  - Number of reports issued - 75
  - a) Firearms/Toolmarks:
    - Number of case submittals - 122
    - Number of reports issued - 87
  - b) Trace Evidence:
    - Number of case submittals - 311
    - Number of reports issued - 243

- c) Serology/DNA:
  - Number of case submittals - 403
  - Number of reports issued - 270
- d) DNA Identification System:
  - Number of convicted offender samples received - 716
  - Number of convicted offender samples analyzed - 272
  - Number of CODIS entries performed - 340
- 2) Controlled Substances:
  - Number of case submittals - 880
  - Number of reports issued - 856
- 3) Toxicology (blood alcohol analysis only):
  - Number of case submittals - 158
  - Number of reports issued - 186
- 4) Latent Prints:
  - Number of case submittals - 742
  - Number of reports issued - 678
- 5) Crime Scene Investigations:
  - Number of major scenes investigated - 29
  - Number of reports issued - 23
- 6) Breath Alcohol Testing Program:
  - Number of instruments in service - 74
  - Number of DWI test - 4,600
  - Number of trained instructors - 70
  - Number of trained operators - 1,084
- 7) Court:
  - Number of times testified - 108
  - Number of hours away from Lab - 1,062
- 8) Instruction provided to Law Enforcement:
  - Number of classes - 20 (397 attendees)
  - Number of hours away from Lab - 725

### Statutory and Regulatory Authority

- 1) DPS - DNA ID System (AS 44.41.035)
- 2) DPS - Fingerprint System (AS 44.41.025)
- 3) DPS - Powers and duties of department (AS 44.41.020)
- 4) State Troopers - Department to assist Other Agencies (AS 18.65.090)
- 5) State Troopers - Fingerprint Information (AS 18.65.050)
- 6) DPS - Forensic Alcohol Testing Regulations (13 AAC 63)

### Key Performance Measures for FY2002

**Measure: Average time from receipt of a case to issuance of a report.**  
*(Developed jointly with Legislature in FY2001.)*

**Current Status:**

FY00 average time is 57 days.

During the current year, backlogs are building and it is not likely that the Crime Lab will be able to maintain the 57 day average turnaround time from receipt of a request to issuance of a laboratory report to law enforcement.

**Benchmark:**

Calculate the average time to report laboratory analyses to law enforcement officers.

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AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS

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Type of Analyses	TO ISSUE A REPORT
Controlled Substances	22
Latent Fingerprints	59
Toxicology	11
Criminalistics	99
Firearms/Toolmarks	61
Trace Evidence	37
Serology	49
DNA	153
Crime Scene	21

Overall, the average number of days to issue a report to officer: 57

**Background and Strategies:**

The average time from receipt of a case to issuance of a report is determined by utilizing an Access program to calculate the number of days between the date a case is received at the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory and the date a report is written by an analyst. As there are different types of analyses performed at the Crime Lab, this average will be calculated for Controlled Substances, Fingerprints, Toxicology (blood alcohol only), Criminalistics (arson, footwear and tire track impressions, physical matching), Trace Evidence (hairs and fibers), Firearms/Toolmarks, Serology, DNA, and Crime Scenes. Once the average reporting time is calculated for each exam type, the overall average time from receipt of a case to issuance of a report will be determined.

This Access report is programmed so that for a specific beginning and ending date period, the Crime Lab's database will be searched for all reports issued and then count back to the date the case was received in the Crime Lab. This will be done for each of the exam types noted above.

**Measure: Average cost per case.**  
(Developed jointly with Legislature in FY2001.)

**Current Status:**

FY00 average cost per case is \$1,249.

**Benchmark:**

The State Crime Lab is using FY2000 as the benchmark for this performance measure. The average is calculated by dividing the FY00 authorized budget of \$2,103,000 by the number of cases analyzed (FY00) 1,684 equals average cost per case \$1,249.

**Background and Strategies:**

There are many factors to consider in order to determine the average cost per case analyzed at the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory: analysts' salaries, utilities, laboratory supplies and equipment, repairs, etc. These factors are what comprise the Crime Lab's budget. At the end of the fiscal year, we know how many cases have been analyzed by the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory. By dividing the Lab's fiscal year budget by the number of cases analyzed in that same fiscal year, the amount derived is the average cost per case.

**Status of FY2001 Performance Measures**

	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>On track</i>	<i>Too soon to tell</i>	<i>Not likely to achieve</i>	<i>Needs modification</i>
• Average time from receipt of a case to issuance of a report.				X	
• Average cost per case.			X		

**Laboratory Services**  
**Component Financial Summary**

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	1,624.8	1,623.3	1,994.1
72000 Travel	51.3	46.0	46.0
73000 Contractual	222.3	596.3	318.0
74000 Supplies	142.4	147.2	147.2
75000 Equipment	40.7	2.0	2.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>2,081.5</b>	<b>2,414.8</b>	<b>2,507.3</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	238.5	80.7
1003 General Fund Match	12.9	13.0	12.9
1004 General Fund Receipts	1,895.7	2,104.1	2,362.1
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	172.9	46.9	51.6
1053 Investment Loss Trust Fund	0.0	12.3	0.0
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>2,081.5</b>	<b>2,414.8</b>	<b>2,507.3</b>

**Estimated Revenue Collections**

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2001 Cash Estimate	FY2002 Governor	FY2003 Forecast
<b>Unrestricted Revenues</b>						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Unrestricted Total</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Restricted Revenues</b>						
Federal Receipts	51010	0.0	238.5	80.7	80.7	80.7
Interagency Receipts	51015	172.9	46.9	54.3	51.6	51.6
Investment Loss Trust Fund	51393	0.0	12.3	12.3	0.0	0.0
<b>Restricted Total</b>		<b>172.9</b>	<b>297.7</b>	<b>147.3</b>	<b>132.3</b>	<b>132.3</b>
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>		<b>172.9</b>	<b>297.7</b>	<b>147.3</b>	<b>132.3</b>	<b>132.3</b>

## Laboratory Services

### Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002

Because of increased workload and a growing backlog, the Department of Public Safety's Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory (Crime Lab) needs increased funding so that police agencies and prosecutors statewide can pursue criminal investigations based upon timely forensic analysis; \$250.0 is needed to fill three existing positions and establish two new positions.

PCN 12-1233 Latent Fingerprint Examiner III  
 PCN 12-1671 Analyst/Programmer II  
 PCN 12-1300 Criminalist III (trace evidence)  
 PCN 12-#035 Laboratory Technician II (DNA, DWI)  
 PCN 12-#036 Criminalist III (DNA)

Forensic evidence is crucial to successful criminal prosecution and is often the only available evidence in serious crimes such as homicide and rape. Without timely and complete analysis by the Crime Lab, police departments cannot present their best possible cases to the District Attorney. Statewide, Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) prosecution depends upon breath testing instruments which are calibrated and maintained by Crime Lab staff who also train police officers in their operation.

### Summary of Component Budget Changes

#### From FY2001 Authorized to FY2002 Governor

*All dollars in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2001 Authorized</b>	<b>2,129.4</b>	<b>238.5</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>2,414.8</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Year 2 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2001	-5.3	0.0	-0.3	-5.6
<b>Proposed budget decreases:</b>				
-Delete Excess Federal Authorization	0.0	-157.8	0.0	-157.8
<b>Proposed budget increases:</b>				
-HWCF Rate Increases	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.9
-Increase I/A Authority for Latent Examination of Drug Evidence & Violent Crime RSA	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0
-Statewide Forensic Support Needed to Prosecute Criminals	250.0	0.0	0.0	250.0
<b>FY2002 Governor</b>	<b>2,375.0</b>	<b>80.7</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>2,507.3</b>

**Laboratory Services****Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor		
Full-time	27	30	Annual Salaries	1,445,917
Part-time	0	0	COLA	23,630
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	48,162
			Annual Benefits	555,256
			<i>Less 3.80% Vacancy Factor</i>	<i>(78,865)</i>
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>1,994,100</b>

**Position Classification Summary**

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Assistant	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Clerk II	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Clerk III	1	0	0	0	1
Analyst/Programmer II	1	0	0	0	1
Criminalist I	1	0	0	0	1
Criminalist II	2	0	0	0	2
Criminalist III	10	0	0	0	10
Criminalist IV	3	0	0	0	3
Forensic Lab Supervisor	1	0	0	0	1
Laboratory Tech I	2	0	0	0	2
Laboratory Tech II	1	0	0	0	1
Latent Fingerprint Ex III	4	0	0	0	4
Latent Fingerprint Ex IV	1	0	0	0	1
Maint Gen Journey	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>