

State of Alaska FY2011 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety Village Public Safety Officer Program Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

Village Public Safety Officer Program Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

Preserve public peace and protect life and property in rural villages.

Core Services

- Contract with non-profit organizations to provide Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) services throughout rural Alaska.

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VPSO training academy. • VPSO regional update training. • Driving Under the Influence (DUI) patrols. • Domestic violence and DUI training. • Report writing and investigation in-service. • Coordination with outside domestic violence-related agencies and support groups. • Domestic violence supervisory case review with district attorney coordination. • Provide search and rescue management training. • Water safety education. • Increased inspections. • Crime Stoppers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC) training. • Coordination of ABC investigations. • Provide boater safety public education. • Provide boater safety training to VPSOs and AST. • D.A.R.E. programs. • Alcohol Rewards Program. • Patrol high crime areas. • Investigator training. • Enhanced communications between jurisdictions. • Community Oriented Policing (COP) training. • Participation in village council meetings. |
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Key RDU Challenges

Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO) are the first responders to incidents, and may be the only individuals immediately available to provide a broad range of public safety services in their village. These functions range from basic law enforcement, to probationer and parolee supervision, to provision of first aid to the injured, to assisting with search and rescue missions, to fire prevention activities, and to public safety education.

VPSO retention continues to be a challenge. Many factors are responsible for high VPSO turnover. In fact, many of the same factors that affect Alaska State Trooper recruitment also influence VPSO recruitment, including the public's general lack of interest in law enforcement jobs. For VPSOs, one unique factor has been a historically low rate of pay. Funding in the form of supervision of parolees and probationers has continued to account for a considerable portion of the monthly VPSO salary. Furthermore, toward this end, an Alaska State Senate VPSO Task Force solicited input by holding a number of public meetings throughout the state in early 2008 and, in part, determined that additional funding was necessary for the program. As a result, effective July 1, 2008, the base rate of pay for VPSOs increased from \$17.00 to \$21.00 per hour.

The VPSO program has suffered from high turnover since inception. The expectations of a VPSO have changed over time and have become more demanding. Consequently, fewer village residents are willing to serve as a VPSO, which then requires hiring entities to seek applicants from elsewhere. It has proven difficult at best to recruit qualified applicants from urban areas to serve in villages.

Grant management and oversight responsibility are requiring significant and increasing staff time. Upper level AST managers further are expending an increased amount of diplomatic effort in order to ensure that the program remains successful.

With the increase in pay, AST anticipated more successful recruiting, and this is beginning to bear fruit. There will be a strong presence of Village Public Safety Officers at DPS recruitment booths during both the Alaska State Fair in Palmer and the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) conference held in Anchorage. The VPSO website continues to be regularly

updated with information regarding VPSO employment opportunities and qualifications so that interested individuals may have easy access in applying for the VPSO program.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2011

The legislature appropriated \$2,470,300 in FY2010 for fifteen additional VPSO officers as well as merit increases and COLA for existing officers. This appropriation is part of the Senate Task Force recommendation to increase the number of VPSO by 60 over five years. This appropriation brings the total funded positions to 71 Village Public Safety Officers in FY2010.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2009

VPSO probation and parole services continue throughout the VPSO communities. Probation and parole training is being provided to new VPSOs attending the ten week session of basic VPSO training at the DPS Academy in Sitka. VPSOs are developing and maintaining good working relationships with probation and parole oversight personnel, as well as continuing to monitor offenders within their communities on a regular basis.

DPS sponsored 930 hours training per available VPSO in FY2009. This training included Basic Village Police Officer Academy #18, Advanced Village Police Officer Academy #4, VPSO Academy #09-01, regional training for all participating Native non-profit organizations, and Amber Alert.

All participating Native non-profit organizations have coordinated, initiated, and/or completed construction / renovation of public safety projects within their respective regions.

- AST conducted 3,852 VPSO village visits, an increase of 39.3 percent over the FY2008
- Troopers conducted 5,647 oversight hours, an increase of 1.2 percent over FY2008
- Ten of seventeen new VPSOs graduated from the VPSO Academy #09-01 in Sitka
- VPSOs investigated 3,527 cases including 44 driving under the influence (DUI), 155 domestic violence assaults, and 201 other assaults. Total cases represent a 2.2 percent decrease over FY2008, DUIs represent a 22.8 percent decrease over FY2008, domestic violence assaults represent a 7.8 percent increase over FY2008, and other assaults represent a 52.7 percent increase over FY2008.

Contact Information
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**Village Public Safety Officer Program
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2009 Actuals				FY2010 Management Plan				FY2011 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Formula Expenditures None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures												
VPSO Contracts	5,377.9	0.0	0.0	5,377.9	9,136.6	0.0	0.0	9,136.6	10,621.9	0.0	0.0	10,621.9
VPSO Support	188.2	0.0	147.4	335.6	269.1	0.0	165.3	434.4	269.1	0.0	171.5	440.6
Totals	5,566.1	0.0	147.4	5,713.5	9,405.7	0.0	165.3	9,571.0	10,891.0	0.0	171.5	11,062.5

**Village Public Safety Officer Program
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2010 Management Plan to FY2011 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2010 Management Plan	9,405.7	0.0	165.3	9,571.0
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-VPSO Support	0.0	0.0	6.2	6.2
Proposed budget increases:				
-VPSO Contracts	1,485.3	0.0	0.0	1,485.3
FY2011 Governor	10,891.0	0.0	171.5	11,062.5