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STATE OF MARYLAND
MILITARY DEPARTMENT
FIFTH REGIMENT ARMORY
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2288

JANEEN L. BIRCKHEAD
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

**Maryland Military Department
Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Budget
Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis**

**Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
Capital Sub-Committee
Senator Craig J. Zucker, Chair
February 25, 2025**

**House Appropriations Committee
Capital Sub-Committee
Delegate Mark S. Chang, Chair
February 24, 2025**

Honorable Chair and members of the subcommittee, my name is Major General Janeen L. Birckhead and I am honored to come before you to present the Capital Budget testimony for the Maryland Military Department. We thank our DLS analyst Ms. Rai and our DBM analyst Mr. Wardrup for their help and support in this process.

Overview:

- The Maryland Military Department has revised several project timetables and deferred \$8.6 million in State funding planned in the FY 2025-2029 CIP from FY 2026 to assist the state in its current budget crisis.
- Our department's Facilities Master Plan was completed in January 2025.
- Two properties have been divested or are in the process of divestiture including Cascade (Washington) and Catonsville (Baltimore County).

Response to concerns:

The Department was asked to respond to the following concerns.

Havre de Grace CSMS Surface Equipment and Automotive Maintenance Facility (Frederick)

- **The Military Department should brief the committees on the status of the federal fiscal 2025 CSA-UPL funding and the possibility of receiving federal reimbursement for the State's share of the project's design cost.**

The Maryland Army National Guard and the State of Maryland will not be receiving reimbursement for design costs for the Havre de Grace CSMS Automotive Facility. In discussions with the National Guard Bureau (NGB) over the last couple of months, it is evident that the federal fiscal constraints are very restricted. Every military construction dollar at NGB is earmarked or reserved for existing construction contracts and pending construction contracts.

The rise of Inflation since the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted construction cost estimates. We are standing by for official notification from NGB to cancel our reimbursement request. The Department wants to thank the General Assembly and the Moore-Miller Administration for stepping up to replace the federal funding shortfall for this project. This maintenance facility will serve the citizens of Maryland and will ensure the readiness of our equipment to support state emergencies at home and protect our national interest overseas.

White Oak Readiness Center Renovation and Expansion

- **The Military Department should brief the committees on the department's contingency plan if the department fails to secure federal funds for the project in fiscal 2027.**

The Maryland Army National Guard will seek federal funding starting in fiscal year 2027 by two methods. First is the previously mentioned 2027 Chief of Staff of the Army unfunded priority list (CSA-UPL). Secondly, we will seek support from the Maryland Congressional Delegation (MD-CODEL) for a Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) earmark in the fiscal year 2027 budget. Simultaneously, the Maryland Army National Guard will be submitting our Maryland's TAG Narrative that reinforces this project as the top priority for military construction funding.

The White Oak Readiness Center project will be competing for the fiscal year 2031 Infrastructure Requirements Program (IRP). The IRP is similar to the state's Capital Improvement Program. Regardless of the outcome of the IRP, it is our goal to secure federal construction funding without delay. If we are unable to securing federal funding in fiscal year 2027 by way of CSA-UPL or CDS, we will continue to submit this project annually as our priority military construction project until this project is selected for funding through CSA-UPL, CDS or IRP.

This funding strategy will require the active support of the Department of Legislative Services and Department of Budget and Management to ensure Federal Funds and GO Bonds are available in the Capital Budget should this project be picked up on the CSA-UPL or CDS.

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In conclusion, we concur with our DLS analyst PAYGO Recommended Actions and the GO Bond Recommended Actions.

Thank you.