



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

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Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Community Supervision - Q00C
Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget
Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Public Safety, Transportation and Environment Subcommittee
Senator Shelly Hettleman, Chair
February 12, 2026

Appropriations Committee
Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee
Delegate Gabriel Acevero, Chair
February 18, 2026

Underutilization of MPTSC Fund Continues

Issue: DPSCS should provide the anticipated MPTSC Fund expenditures for each project in fiscal 2026 and 2027. The department should also discuss projects that have been prioritized for fiscal 2027 and 2028.

Response:

FY 2026 CURRENT AND PLANNED EXPENDITURES

Fiscal year 2026 year to date expenses from the MPTSC is approximately \$500,000. Since July 2025 the fund has been used for:

- General Commission activities which includes expenses for Police Accountability Board (PAB), Administrative Charging Committee (ACC) and Trial Board training.
- Training activities that include our Speaker Series, providing impactful speakers who discuss best practices to establish effective leadership teams. Last month our focus was for both police and corrections regarding First Amendment Auditors.
- Professional development for instructional staff and leaders to acquire new skills, enhance their knowledge and improve job performance.
- Specialized equipment, such as radios for the Police Entry Level Academy and MILO Range Simulators for correctional officers.

- And finally, physical agility and conditioning equipment for both police and correctional academy trainees.

The Department anticipates an additional \$700,000 of expenses from the fund for the remainder of FY2026. Some of those expenses include:

- Continued expenses for Commission activities, the Leadership Speaker Series, and professional development.
- LMS Annual Software License and Maintenance Costs
- IT infrastructure upgrades for the main administration building and all classrooms.
- Classroom upgrades and the Library transformation into a Police and Correctional Commission Meeting Room with audio, video, and recording capabilities.

FISCAL 2027 PROPOSED PROJECTS AND EXPENDITURES

First, it should be noted that the \$5 million starting fund balance for fiscal year 2027 outlined in the DLS analysis does not take into consideration multi-year contractual obligations and a significant long-term capital construction project, estimated to cost between \$5 - \$7 million.

These contractual obligations, and long term capital projects represent a large portion of our anticipated expenses, but are not reflected in the analysis as expenses.

For example, the multi-year Learning Management Project is \$2.7 million and the construction portion of a capital project for the scenario-based Simulation Training Environment is estimated to cost between \$5-7 million.

The Department encumbers funds for these projects to meet financial obligations for multi-year contracts and the Department of General Services requires total funding availability for the capital project to move forward. Thus, we are required to “reserve” the funds for future financial commitments.

Prioritized Fiscal 2027 projects and expenditures totals \$3.5 million and includes the following:

- General Commission Activities that include PAB and ACC training.
- LMS Annual Software License and Maintenance Costs
- Training Center Upgrades that includes:
 - Completion of the Police and Correctional Commissions Meeting Room
 - \$3M into reserves for the construction phase of the Scenario Based Simulation Training Environment.
 - Equipment for the Innovation & Design Studio to create podcasts and exceptional video training programs
 - Continued classroom upgrades

- Training that includes a continuation of our Speaker Series, a Wellness Symposium for public safety professionals, hosting the 10-week Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command, and professional development training for staff.

The encumbrance of \$3 million for the Simulation Training Environment is a top priority moving forward through FY27 and FY28. The Department has already spent \$1.2 million on the architectural and engineering design which is scheduled for completion by the end of the calendar year.

Completion of the Commission Room, classroom and IT upgrades are also priorities for the up-coming fiscal year.

FISCAL 2028 PROPOSED PROJECTS AND EXPENDITURES

Fiscal priorities moving forward into FY2028 includes:

- Continued funding for the construction phase of the Simulation Training Environment
- Commission activities related to on-going PAB and ACC and trial board training
- Funding for service and contractual obligations (Learning Management System / RAVE Alert System)

Anticipated expenditures for the above projects \$2.5 million.

Recommended Actions

DLS recommends adding a provision to the BRFA of 2026 to authorize the transfer of \$2.0 million of the MPTSC Fund balance to the General Fund in fiscal 2026.

Response: The Department respectfully disagrees with the transfer of \$2M from the MD Police Training and Standards Commission Fund to the General Fund.

As previously stated, a \$5M starting fund balance in FY27 does not take into consideration multi-year contractual obligations and a significant long-term capital construction project, estimated to cost between \$5-\$7M. Any proposed reduction or transfer from the MPTSC fund will significantly delay this project, as the announcement construction bids is anticipated in early FY27.

A funding reduction would have a devastating impact on the construction of the scenario-based Simulation Training Environment that will benefit law enforcement officers, corrections officers, and mandated staff of the Department of Parole and Probation. This project has faced many delays over the 20+ year period since its initial concept and this funding has allowed this project to become a reality, strongly supported by our client agencies.

We strongly believe a scenario-based training environment is needed to address the challenges our public safety professionals face every day. This project provides a high-fidelity environment where law enforcement and other public safety professionals can bridge the gap between classroom instruction and real-world application. This immersive approach offers several key benefits for officer readiness and community safety:

- **Improved Decision-Making** – research has shown that such training can significantly reduce critical errors in use of force situations.
- **Enhanced De-Escalation and Communication** - simulations emphasize verbal commands and conflict resolution techniques, helping officers resolve incidents that involve those experiencing a mental health crisis without force.
- **Increase Safety & Reduce Liability** – trainees can learn from mistakes in a safe – realistic environment where errors do not have life or death consequences.
- **Building Community Trust** – by improving situational awareness and reducing unnecessary arrests or force, simulation training fosters better public perception and trust.

The training environment will provide an invaluable highly immersive experience, allowing for authentic, high-quality interaction, training, and testing that closely mirrors true physical or operational scenarios.

The projects anticipated to be completed in the current fiscal year and the projected projects for fiscal years 2027 and 2028 represent the current and future needs of law enforcement and correctional training.