



DPS Chaparral

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Pay raises top DPS legislative priorities

Pay raises for employees are listed as the highest funding priority outlined in the DPS Legislative Appropriations Request for this session.

The first “exceptional item” request is a salary increase for commissioned personnel and a 5 percent across the board salary increase for non-commissioned employees for each of the next two years.

Other funding requests include:

- Additional Special Crimes investigators and staff for counter terrorism and homeland security.
- Continued funding for the DL Re-engineering project, the Driver Responsibility Program and the Fraud Unit.
- Construction of a new Region VIII headquarters office building in Hidalgo County.
- Image Verification Technology (facial recognition) to enhance the driver license system to combat identity theft and DL fraud.
- Additional funding for the Private Security Bureau, including restoring funds lost when Private Security was integrated into the Department last session.
- A state-of-the-art driver training facility located near the firing range on the Florence property in Williamson County.
- Additional Crime Lab personnel and expenditures to keep up with the ever-increasing demand for case work.
- Additional money to address current operating expense shortfalls.
- In-car computers for the Texas Highway Patrol Division to provide direct roadside messaging and communication to troopers on patrol using wireless technology.
- Funding for new buildings in Bryan, Pearsall, Waxahachie and a new crime lab facility in Garland, as well as expansions in Weatherford and at the San Antonio Babcock DL facility.
- Additional personnel for the Narcotics Service to assist in the oversight of various multi-jurisdictional task forces.
- A computer equipment replacement schedule (fully funded).

Dear Fellow Employee,

When the Texas Legislature convenes for 180 days on January 11, its members doubtlessly will consider a number of law enforcement-related issues.

In the article to the left, you'll notice that the highest funding priority we have this legislative session is salary increases for commissioned and non-commissioned employees. We know that our request will be carefully considered, along with many other state agencies who also have great needs. Our legislators will have many difficult choices to make.

As the session moves along, we will continue to receive calls from legislators and their staffers for information on many subjects. Please be sure to answer their questions promptly.

If you need additional assistance in fulfilling a legislative request, please contact **Michael Kelley**, our legislative liaison, or his assistant, **Janie Smith**, at 512-424-7272.

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Happy new year. Please be safe as you travel around the state.

Thomas A. Davis Jr.

Short Shots

Governor Protective Detail

The THP Division is now accepting applications for sergeant positions on the Governor Protective Detail. All commissioned Department personnel not currently on disciplinary probation and with at least 48 calendar months service as a commissioned Texas peace officer are eligible to apply. Applicants must contact Capt. **Dale L. Avant** at 512-475-4820 for instructions on the application process.

SWAT Team tryouts

Tryouts for the DPS SWAT Team will be held Jan. 31-Feb. 2. All interested troopers assigned or residing within the two contiguous counties of Travis and Williamson are eligible to apply. Applicants must contact Lt. **R.M. "Mike" Tacquard** at 512-997-4103 by Jan. 14 for instructions on the application process.

Mile Markers

Promotions

Texas Highway Patrol

Lt. **David L. Palmer**, Motor Carrier Austin to Capt., Motor Carrier Austin; Lt. **Kenneth Lee Plunk**, CVE Waco to Capt., CVE Austin HQ; **Sgt. Todd Whitt Ross**, HP Canyon to Lt., HP Abilene; Sgt. **Rodman Glenn Stafford**, Motor Carrier Georgetown to Lt., Motor Carrier Austin;

Sgt. **Andrew Jerauld Sitgreaves**, CVE Austin to Lt., CVE Del Rio; Sgt. **Michelle M. McDaniel**, HP Greenville to Lt. Austin-Capitol.

Criminal Law Enforcement

Tr. II **Craig Eugene Bee**, HP Houston to Sgt., Spec. Crimes Houston; Sgt. **Randy Eugene Barnes**,

HP Groesbeck to Sgt., Spec. Crimes Garland; Tr. II **Sergio Villarreal**, HP Columbus to Sgt., Spec. Crimes Austin; Tr. II **Jennifer Baskerville**, HP Killeen to Sgt. Spec. Crimes Garland; Tr. III **Karen Lea Russell**, DL Garland to Sgt., Spec. Crimes Garland; Cpl. II **Alfredo Barrera, Jr.**, HP Weslaco to Sgt., Spec. Crimes El Paso; Tr. II **Gabriel Lee Ortiz**, HP San Antonio to Sgt., Spec. Crimes El Paso; Tr. II **Michael Scott Meeks**, HP Gainesville to Sgt., Spec. Crimes El Paso.

Driver License

Sgt. **Fernando R. Aguilar**, DL El Paso to Lt., DL El Paso.

Texas Rangers

Sgt. **Robert Vernon Hunter**, Spec. Crimes San Antonio to Sgt., Texas Rangers Laredo; Sgt. **Robert L. Smith**, HP Austin to Sgt., Texas Rangers Del Rio.

Retirements

Dora Alaniz Garza, TLETS Tech., HQ, 17 yrs., 2 mos., 16 days; **Daniel Stephen Matteson**, Sgt., CVE, 28 yrs., 2 mos., 15 days; **Anna Lucille Mendez**, Sr. Op., Comms. Corpus Christi, 26 yrs., 9 mos., 10 days; **Michael Troy Caley**, Capt., Narcotics Hurst, 25 yrs., 5 mos., 17 days;

Joyce Hatten Pitts, DL examiner, DL Lake Worth, 24 yrs., 11 mos., 29 days; **Ramiro T. Verastique**, Sr. Tr., CVE Pearsall, 23 yrs., 5 mos., 20 days; **Johnny Joseph Hirst**, Lt., DL San Angelo, 23 yrs., 0 mos., 20 days; **Darlene Joy Lincoln**, VI supv., HP Houston, 17 yrs., 2 mos., 9 days;

Radona Gayle McKerlie, DL tech, DL Lake Worth, 7 yrs., 5 mos., 29 days; Eloy Vasquez, Sr. Cpl., HP Corpus Christi, 22 yrs., 7 mos., 21 days; **Juan Mancha**, Sr. Tr., DL

McAllen, 21 yrs., 6 mos., 25 days; **Lucila Rojas Torres**, Sr. Tr., HP El Paso, 25 yrs., 3 mos., 17 days.

Deaths

Gregory Atkins, Recovery Support Admin. Asst., DEM Houston (Nov. 2001-Nov. 2004) died Nov. 28; **Charles F. Hunter**, ret. Admin. Tech IV, Emergency Mgmt Waco (Dec. 1968-June 1981) died Nov. 9; **James M. Luckie**, ret. DL Sgt., Plainview (Oct. 1952-Dec. 1985), died Nov. 18; **Carl Rose**, ret. Patrolman IV, L&W Mount Pleasant (Aug. 1959 to Aug. 1992).



On the mend...

Best wishes for a speedy recovery from line-of-duty injuries go to:

Tr. **Wilton White**, HP Hempstead, struck by a drunk driver while directing traffic.

Tr. **Jake Burson**, HP Waco, struck by a drunk driver while making an arrest.

Tr. **Billy Horton**, HP Lubbock, injured while struggling with a suspect

Tr. **Kenneth Sanders**, HP Beaumont, injured while struggling with a suspect.

Congratulations to Tr. **Kenneth Jones**, HP Jasper, and Tr. **Adolph Villarreal**, HP Riviera, who have returned to work on light duty after being injured.

Congratulations also to these troopers who have returned to full duty after recovering from their on-duty injuries:

Tr. **Alfredo Barrera**, HP Weslaco; Tr. **Berwin Arceneaux**, HP Webster; Tr. **Jorge Vargas**, CVE El Paso; Tr. **Jason Busby**, HP Terrell; and Lt. **Darryl Gelasco**, Narcotics El Paso.