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DPS prepares legislative budget requests

As the 80th session of the Texas Legislature opens in January, DPS will have a number of requests for legislators to consider. Most crucial of the exceptional items DPS has requested is \$33 million to cover a continuing—and worsening—operating shortfall. In the past, the agency has covered the shortfalls with lapsed salary funds from jobs that were not filled. However, we are reaching a point where all positions will be occupied.

Other requests:

- Building a new regional office in Hidalgo County; building a new multi-purpose office in San Antonio (northwest); expanding the Weatherford Area office; building a new El Paso Gateway Driver License office; expanding and renovating the San Antonio Babcock Driver License office; building new area offices in Williamson County, Rio Grande City and Pearsall; and expanding the State Operations Center at Headquarters.
- In-car computers using wireless technology for the Highway Patrol.
- An emergency vehicle operations course located near the firing range on the Florence property in Williamson County.
- Additional Crime Laboratory salary and operational funding, including added personnel and equipment and the building, replacement or expansion of facilities.
- Additional personnel in Criminal Intelligence, Narcotics, the Texas Rangers, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, the Border Auto Theft Information Center, Aircraft and Staff Support.
- Enhancements in Crime Records Field Support to address needs in: delivering criminal history records to non-criminal justice agencies for licensing and employment purposes; sex offender registration; requirements regarding database connections to the FBI's national system; and AFIS.
- Document imaging for the Private Security Bureau to move paper files on all registrants and licensees to an electronic format.

And in other funding needs, DPS has notified legislators that if they choose to comply with the federally mandated Real ID Act, it will come at a high price—\$268,761,712 for this biennium. The act will affect all 20 million existing driver license and identification card holders—starting with a re-enrollment process in which all card-holders will be required to renew or duplicate their license or ID card in-person at a DL office. The Department has told legislators that we will need 149 new commissioned and 588 new noncommissioned full-time employees, as well as funding for additional equipment and facilities to implement the changes.

Dear fellow employee,

Happy new year to you and your family!

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The 80th session of the Texas Legislature is only days away from beginning, and it's shaping up to be a busy one. Our agency is sure to be affected by at least some of the hundreds of bills that legislators will introduce.

Our legislators will have many difficult decisions to make when they are writing the state's budget. We have asked for additional funding for several significant projects, including additional staffing in several areas and numerous building programs out in the field.

As the session progresses, we will continue to receive calls from legislative staffers—and possibly from the legislators themselves—requesting information on many subjects. Please be sure to answer their questions promptly.

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

Thomas A. Davis Jr.

Being a responsible computer network user

Please remember that the DPS computer network is a limited resource that is to be used primarily for state use only. The agency's Internet policy can be found in the General Manual, Chapter 5.102.07.

You should be aware that all computer usage is logged and is reviewed for excessive or prohibited activity.

Do not access streaming media (radio, music and video) except for state business as directed by your supervisor. Streaming media connections considerably slows network response for all users.

Instant Messaging (IM) is prohibited, unless authorized by your supervisor. IM consumes needed network time and can expose the entire DPS computer network to additional outside hazards such as computer viruses, keystroke loggers and other malicious programs.

Please remember to close all Internet sessions when you are finished with your work. An open session will be linked to your user ID (ACID) even if you have walked away from your screen for hours and could result in your activity being reported incorrectly.

Short Shots

Dive team looking for you

The DPS Dive Recovery Team is seeking applicants for tryouts. Any commissioned THP trooper wishing to apply for consideration should submit a memo through their chain of command, forwarding the original directly to Lt. **Ronnie Tacquard** in the THP Chief's office. You must also notify Lt. Tacquard of your intent to apply—either in person or by calling 512-424-2339.

Promotional Exams announced

The competitive examination for **Captain, Criminal Intelligence Service**, and **Captain, Motor Vehicle Theft Service**, will be Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2007, at 8 a.m. at the DPS Academy. For more information on how to apply, please contact Capt. **Terry Preston** in the Human Resources Bureau in Austin.

Mark it down

The Quarter Century Club Banquet and Ladies Luncheon will be in Waco at Knox Hall on April 20. Information will be sent out at the first of the year. For more information, call **Jennifer Hall**, 512-424-7297.

Did you retire in 2001?

If so, do you want your original personnel file? Please call the following numbers: 512-424-2000, ext. 3327 or 3351. The deadline to hold files is February 1, 2007.

Mile Markers

Retirements

Judy Locker Altom, Lt., HP Midland, 29 yrs., 5 mos., 22 days; **Terry Don Braly**, Sen. Tr., HP Dickens, 24 yrs., 5 mos., 21 days; **Mary Emily Geil**, Mgr. III, DL Austin, 23 yrs., 11 mos., 21 days; **Jeraldine Lea Ford**, Tech., Crime Lab Tyler, 23 yrs., 29 days;

Karen Severn Sinclair, Admin. Asst. II, DL Mt. Pleasant, 16 yrs., 9 mos. 20 days; **Vera Jackson**, Custodian II, Building Pgms. Austin, 13 yrs, 3 mos. 14 days; **John Gordon Leake**, Tr., CVE Marble Falls, 26 yrs., 6 mos., 4 days; **Steven Douglas Page, Sr.**, Tr., HP Groveton, 7 yrs., 11 mos., 17 days; **Weldon Jerrells**, Custodian II, Training Bureau Austin, 27 yrs., 2 mos., 6 days; **Sharon Kay Krause**, Tech. I, DL Austin, 25 yrs., 8 mos., 5 days; **Elda Loveta Whitten**, Operator III, Comm. Svc. Pecos, 10 yrs., 28 days.

Deaths

Clyde Daniel Bennett, retired Patrolman II, MVI San Antonio (Dec. 1947 – Aug. 1978) died Dec. 10, 2006.



On the mend...

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

Tr. **Steve Stone**, HP Tyler, shot by suspects;

Tr. **John Kopacz**, HP Bay City, injured while attempting to arrest a suspect;

Tr. **Ralphell Watkins**, HP Plano, injured in a vehicle crash;

Sgt. **Shannon Henderson**, Narcotics Alpine, injured in a vehicle crash;

Tr. **Brian Kemp**, HP Beaumont, injured arresting suspect;

Sgt. **Gilbert Arredondo**, Narcotics Lubbock, injured while executing a search warrant; and,

Tr. **Juan Sandoval**, CVE Laredo, injured during a traffic stop.