



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

February 18, 2021

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. I am James Rovella, Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, and I am joined today by our Chief Fiscal Officer Rosemarie Peshka and my Executive Assistant/Legislative Director, Scott DeVico. I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you today virtually.

I would like to begin by saying that we fully support Governor Lamont's recommended budget as outlined and are grateful for the resources provided to the department and the first responder community.

Included in the Governor's proposed budget, are funds for the outfitting of 3 State Police Trooper Trainee Class which has a goal of adding 255 new Troopers to our force over the biennium. As we continue to see the attrition of our State Police workforce, these classes are vital to replenishing our sworn personnel. We thank Governor Lamont for recognizing this need.

Governor Lamont's proposed budget also includes funds to increase the number of Troopers certified as Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) and trained in the Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement Program (ARIDE). These funds coincide with Governor Lamont's cannabis legislation and are important part of the overall proposal.

With regard to the proposed reductions, we will be able to absorb those reductions and provide essential public safety functions with the resources provided. Building upon the hard work of DESPP's 6 divisions, I am confident that we are positioned to make the very most of the assets provided in the Governor's budget proposal.

Thank you and I am prepared to answer any questions you may have.

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