



Legislative Update

Week of May 9, 2022

Roy Cooper, Governor

Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

This past Wednesday, Governor Cooper released his \$29.3 billion state budget proposal for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. As part of the proposed spending plan, a recommended \$2.7 billion would be directed to DPS. More details are provided below.

It is important to note that the Governor's budget is the first step of many toward an expansion budget coming to fruition. Further, an enacted expansion budget will require agreement between the House and Senate. Should an agreement not materialize the FY 2022-23 state budget would remain unchanged as enacted in Session Law 2021-180.

Looking ahead, the General Assembly will commence the 2022 legislative short session following this coming Tuesday's primary elections. Although legislators will return to Raleigh for a couple of days beginning Wednesday, May 18th, no votes will be held until the week of May 23rd.

Highlights from the Governor's Budget Proposal

Department-wide

- Provides funding to double the FY 2022-23 compensation increase to 5%.
 - Where applicable, funds would also be provided for an additional 2.5% salary increase for sworn Law Enforcement Officers and healthcare professionals as well as to adjust the salaries of state agency teachers who are paid in accordance with the statewide teacher salary schedule.
- Provides a \$1,500 bonus to all state employees regardless of funding source and an additional \$500 bonus to employees in at least one of the following employee groups:
 - 1) Employees with an annual salary of less than \$75,000,
 - 2) Law enforcement officers, and
 - 3) Employees in the Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, with job duties requiring frequent in-person contact.
- Provides almost \$32.5 million recurring to address retention and other labor market needs.
- Funds a 1% recurring cost-of-living adjustment and a 1% one-time cost-of-living supplement for retirees.
 - This increase is in addition to the 3% one-time cost-of-living supplement for FY 2022-23 provided in SL 2021-180.
- Provides \$550,000 recurring to create five positions to enhance capital planning, ensure more timely maintenance and repairs, and improve energy efficiency in state buildings.

Administration

- Provides \$5 million for a competitive grant program, to be administered by the Governor's Crime Commission, which would expand violence intervention and education programs.
- Establishes a \$10 million competitive grant program through the Governor's Crime Commission to expand the use of body cameras in Tier I and Tier II counties.
- Funds \$1 million for firearm safety locks which would be distributed by sheriffs' offices, and \$200,000 for a statewide safe storage awareness campaign.
- Provides a one-time \$150,000 appropriation to upgrade the firearms training simulator at Samarcand Training Academy.

Alcohol Law Enforcement

- Provides approximately \$600,000 to close budget shortfalls caused by rising costs of leases, utilities, and other business functions.
- Funds more than \$625,000 to establish four new ALE agent positions.

State Bureau of Investigation

- Provides \$1.8 million to support the operational needs of the eight law enforcement officer positions focused on human trafficking that were created in the 2021 Appropriations Act. Funds would also address IT needs associated with network migration.

State Highway Patrol

- Provides \$2 million non-recurring to update taser equipment.
- Appropriates almost \$21.9 million in FY 2022-23 for VIPER radio replacement and continued tower maintenance. Funding would support an additional 21 FTEs.

North Carolina National Guard

- Appropriates just over \$1 million recurring dollars in operating funds to support four newly acquired facilities — Ballentine and Constable Buildings, Fountain Women's Correctional Facility, Wilmington New Hanover Readiness Center, and Morganton Regional Readiness Center.
- Provides an additional \$912,000 recurring to the NC Tuition Assistance Program (NC TAP) funds. NC TAP provides tuition funds for active-duty National Guard members seeking higher education.

Emergency Management

- Provides \$350,000 to relocate the Central and Western Branch facilities.

Disaster-related funding

- Budgets \$5 million in receipts from the State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Fund (SERDRF) to address overwhelming demand for private road and bridge repairs in response to Tropical Storm Fred.
- Budgets \$5 million in receipts from the SERDRF to support remaining debris removal in counties affected by Tropical Storm Fred.
- Budgets \$40 million in receipts from the State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Fund to address unmet housing needs for families and homeowners severely impacted by Hurricane Florence and who are not eligible for federal recovery assistance.

North Carolina's Office of Recovery and Resiliency

- Provides funding to create three new FTEs that will expand the Resilience Team's capacity to support communities in planning for and implementing resiliency projects aimed at mitigating the impact of natural disasters. Additionally, funding would be used to shift three Resilient Communities program staff from federal grant funding, which expires in early 2023, to General Fund appropriation.
- Provides \$6 million nonrecurring for the NC Regions Innovating for Strong Economies and Environment program (RISE). Reserve funds will be used to expand the program to additional communities, enabling regions and local governments to reduce flood risk and promote long-term resilience

Adult Correction

- Provides \$10 million (\$2 recurring/\$8 non-recurring) in FY 2022-23 to facilitate an efficient and seamless transition for the new Department of Correction and Rehabilitation.
 - Funds may be used to create up to 20 new positions, in areas such as human resources, budget, purchasing, or similar operational positions.
 - Funds may also be used to close the current IT shortfall.
- Appropriates \$3 million non-recurring to increase safety within prisons. Funds would be used for critical life and safety system upgrades such as emergency release locking systems, man-down systems, and facility cell lighting.
- Provides \$185,000 non-recurring to maintain tasers for 135 Probation and Parole Officers (PPOs) on the Emergency Response Team, upgrade VIPER radios, and institute oral drug testing for individuals on probation and parole.
- Funds over \$2 million recurring to provide for an additional 21 FTEs in Community Corrections—10 reentry PPOs, 10 mental health PPOs, and one new Chief PPO. Additional

positions would help address the needs of offenders on supervision with serious and persistent mental health issues and expand access to specialized services that support successful reentry.

- Appropriates over \$1.1 million recurring to funds up to six new local reentry councils and supportive services such as housing, transportation, educational training, and other basic needs assistance to improve outcomes for offenders returning to their communities after incarceration.

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

- Provides an additional \$3.35 million to support implementation of "Raise the Age" by increasing bed capacity at Juvenile Detention Centers.
- Appropriates over \$4 million to support operating and start-up costs for the Rockingham Youth Development Center, which is scheduled to be completed in 2023. This funding would also support 86 new positions for the new facility.
- Enables a transition to electronic health records by providing over \$1 million non-recurring, and \$250,000 recurring.
- Provides almost \$3 million (\$2.75 million recurring, \$185,000 non-recurring) towards contractual services, intensive intervention programs, and increased funding for Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils to expand access to NC Results First-evaluated evidence-based re-entry programs, such as Value-Based Therapeutic Environment and Family First Therapy models for justice-involved youth.
- Appropriates \$2.5 million recurring for Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils to implement evidence-based violence and gang prevention and firearm safety programming to at-risk and juvenile justice-involved youth in local communities.

Capital Improvements

- **State Highway Patrol (SHP): Civil Defense Vehicle Storage Building** – Provides \$1.1 million to construct a building for storage of civil defense vehicles and equipment.
- **Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Cabarrus YDC Parking Lot** – Provides \$2 million for paving and installation of EV charging stations at Cabarrus Youth Development Center.
- **Department of Correction and Rehabilitation Facility Management Office** – Provides \$5.2 million to renovate an acquired building adjacent to Central Prison to serve the needs of Facility Management.
- **Capitol Area Security Project** – Provides \$10.6 million to replace and upgrade the surveillance system for grounds and buildings in the downtown government complex, including Halifax Mall, the Capitol building and the Bicentennial Mall.
- **Alcoholism and Chemical Dependency Programs (ACDP): Arledge Building** – Provides over \$6.3 million to renovate the Arledge Dormitory at Western Correctional

Center for Women, including the replacement of finishes and building systems, and the construction of a new metal building for facility maintenance shop/storage.

- **Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Modular Office at Cabarrus YDC** – Provides \$621,000 to construct modular offices, accessible toilets, and parking area modifications to accommodate staff relocating to the Cabarrus Youth Development Center (YDC) from Stonewall YDC.
- **Office of Staff Development and Training (OSDT): Training Facility Acquisition** – Provides \$9.9 million to acquire a facility in central North Carolina to house and conduct basic training for the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation
- **Department of Correction and Rehabilitation Gatehouses** – Provides approximately \$6 million to build six new gatehouses at various sites to increase security and efficiency at the prisons.
- **State Highway Patrol (SHP): Troop B – Elizabethtown** – Provides over \$2.3 million to renovate and complete maintenance of existing buildings.
- **Emergency Management (EM): Badin Warehouse Expansion** – Provides approximately \$3.7 to construct a raised warehouse addition with four loading docks at the North Carolina Emergency Management Disaster Warehouse.
- **Emergency Management (EM): Central Disaster Warehouse** – Provides \$19.6 million to acquire a property and build a warehouse to serve the eastern portion of the state during disasters.
- **State Highway Patrol (SHP): Troop 1 Aviation Office** – Provides \$1.4 million to construct an office for the NCSHP aviation group, replacing the former office, which was demolished in 2015.
- **Eastern Correctional Institution** – Provides over \$3.5 million to address drainage and paving issues at the Eastern Correctional Institution (CI) in Greene County.
- **Bertie Correctional Institution** – Provides \$6.7 million to address drainage and paving issues at the Bertie CI in Bertie County.
- **Neuse Correctional Institution** – Provides \$6.4 million to address drainage and paving issues at the Neuse CI in Wayne County.
- **Nash Correctional Institution** – Provides almost \$8 million for major renovations of the HVAC system at the Nash CI, including campus wide upfit and replacement of air handling units in three dormitories.