
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2022

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2021



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Iowa State Patrol

Purpose and History

The Iowa State Patrol was created by the 46th General Assembly in 1935 with 53 safety patrol officers. In the late 1990s, the State Patrol had as many as 455 sworn peace officers with approximately 357 being considered “road troopers.”

The primary mission of the Iowa State Patrol is to save lives through traffic enforcement. Troopers patrol and conduct traffic enforcement on Iowa’s highways and interstate systems, provide police services for special events, provide support services to other law enforcement agencies and government entities, and assist local agencies during large-scale events or natural disasters.

The State Patrol has several specialty units including the Air Wing, Canine Unit, Public Resource Officer Unit, Crisis Negotiators, Chaplain Program, Honor Guard, Technical Collision Investigation Unit, and Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program. There are 15 State Patrol district offices across Iowa in addition to a fleet and supply office and an office located on the Capitol Complex.

Funding

Between FY 1982 and FY 1995, the State Patrol was funded directly from the Road Use Tax Fund. From FY 1996 to FY 1999, the State Patrol was funded from motor vehicle use tax receipts and in part from General Fund appropriations. Since FY 2000, the State Patrol has been funded from the State General Fund.

The State Patrol General Fund appropriation comprises approximately 64.0% of the total Department of Public Safety (DPS) General Fund appropriations. In addition, the State Patrol may, at the discretion of the Commissioner, receive funding from either State or federal asset forfeiture funds based on the availability of moneys in either account. These funds have traditionally been used for the purchase of equipment. The State Patrol also receives federal money through programs such as the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s traffic safety programs. The DPS does not pay State or federal taxes for gasoline.

Cost of an Additional State Trooper

In FY 2021, the estimated cost of an additional State trooper, including equipment, weapons, and car, was \$184,000. The ongoing cost of the trooper for salary and benefits, travel, fuel, depreciation, and a cell phone was \$106,000.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [80](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [661](#)

More Information

Department of Public Safety – Iowa State Patrol: dps.iowa.gov/divisions/iowa-state-patrol
LSA Staff Contact: Evan Johnson (515.281.6301) evan.johnson@legis.iowa.gov

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