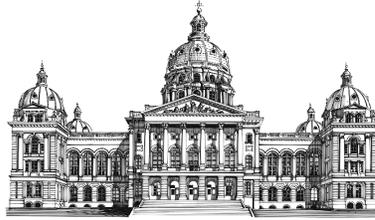

Iowa Legislative Services Agency

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State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319
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Iowa State Patrol Airplane and Vehicle Fleet

ISSUE

This *Issue Review* provides information about the Iowa State Patrol's General Fund budget, specifically vehicle depreciation and fuel expenses.

AFFECTED AGENCIES

Department of Public Safety

CODE AUTHORITY

Chapter 80, Code of Iowa

BACKGROUND

The Iowa State Patrol currently has 399 sworn Peace Officers. Of these, 300 are "Road" Troopers, 10 are Trooper Pilots, with the remainder being supervisory positions. The Patrol has 410 authorized positions. Employment peaked in 2000 when the Iowa State Patrol had 452 Peace Officers.

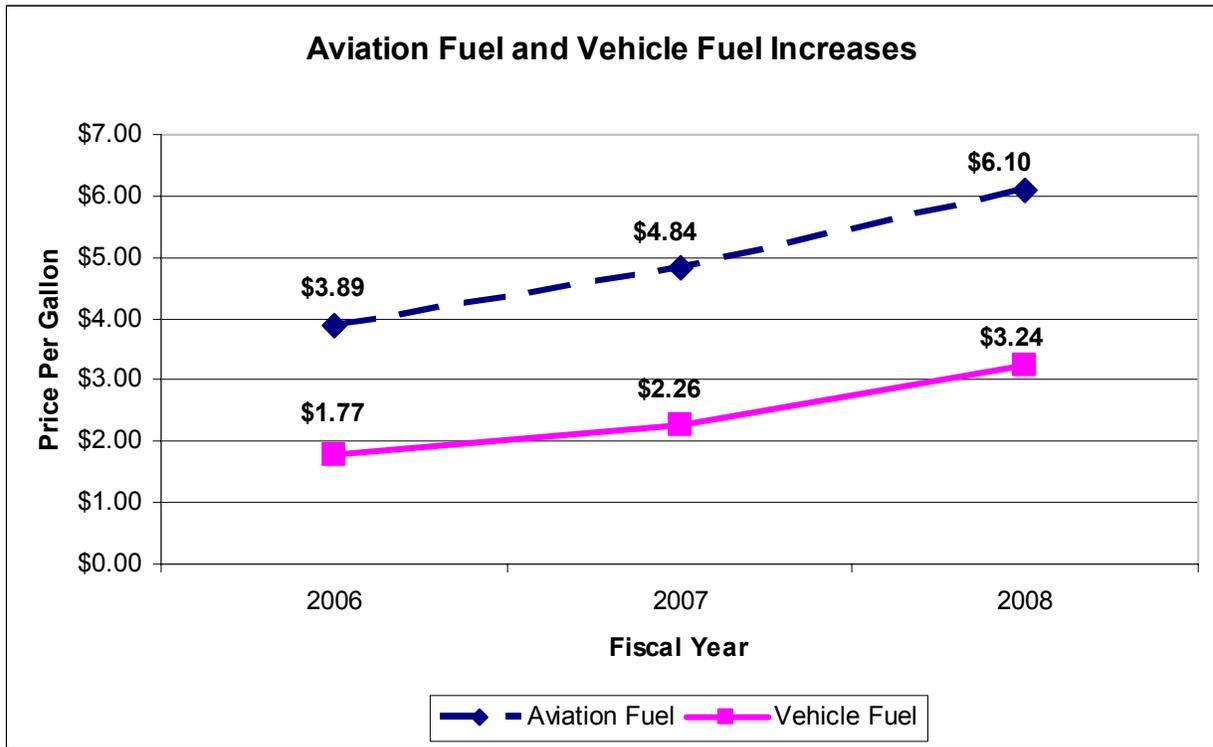
The Department of Public Safety (DPS) replaces approximately one-third (140) of the State Patrol vehicle fleet each year. The current State Patrol fleet is 420 vehicles (as of June 10, 2008). The average number of miles driven by the Patrol in a calendar year is 10.6 million and the average gallons of fuel used is 691,000. The average miles per gallon for the Patrol is 15.3. The average number of citations written in a calendar year is 213,000. Approximately 102,000 (48.0%) of the total citations are for speeding violations.

The Patrol also owns seven Cessna airplanes located across the State as follows: three in Polk County, one in Cass County, one in Linn County, one in Black Hawk County, and one in Cerro Gordo County.

Aviation fuel costs have increased 56.8% from FY 2006 to FY 2008. Vehicle fuel costs have increased 83.1% over the same three-year period. The following chart compares those increases:

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CURRENT SITUATION

Depreciation and State Patrol Vehicles

The State Patrol has \$2.5 million budgeted annually in a depreciation account to purchase 140 cars per year (approximately \$20,000 per car). The Department maintains approximately six cars in the fleet for vehicle replacement related to accidents. In FY 2008, the Iowa State Patrol reported 105 accidents involving State Patrol vehicles. Of these, seven vehicles were completely totaled. There are currently no vehicles with over 100,000 miles. The mileage on the fleet as of June 30, 2008, is as follows:

<u>Odometer</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>
0-10,000	52
10,000-20,000	61
20,000-30,000	46
30,000-40,000	44
40,000-50,000	47
50,000-60,000	48
60,000-70,000	48
70,000-80,000	33
80,000-90,000	21
90,000-100,000	2
100,000+	0

The FY 2008 car order was placed in November 2007 with delivery received in the spring of 2008. The order was for 140 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptors. The State Patrol anticipates the fall

2008 order, for delivery in spring of 2009, to consist of 139 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptors and 20 Dodge Chargers.

Vehicle Fuel

The Department of Public Safety does not pay State or federal taxes at the pump. These total an additional \$0.37 (\$0.18 State and \$0.19 federal). The following chart shows the FY 2008 budgeted price per gallon, pump price per gallon, actual gallons consumed, and the Actual FY 2008 fuel budget. The average fuel price paid for FY 2008 was \$2.75, net of taxes. The July 2008 average cost per gallon was \$3.47, net of taxes.

Public Safety Divisions	FY 2008 Budgeted Cost Per Gallon (net of taxes)	FY 2008 Equivalent Budgeted Pump Price (including State and federal taxes)	Actual Gallons Consumed	FY 2008 Actual Fuel Budget
Administrative Services	\$1.00	\$1.37	1,237	\$ 1,237
Criminal Investigation	\$1.70	\$2.07	108,933	185,186
Narcotics Enforcement	\$1.70	\$2.07	53,343	90,683
State Fire Marshal	\$1.70	\$2.07	40,716	69,217
Iowa State Patrol	\$2.00	\$2.37	785,900	1,571,800
Total			990,129	\$ 1,918,123

Source: Department of Public Safety

Depreciation and Airplanes

There is currently no depreciation account established for the purchase of airplanes. The life span on a typical Iowa State Patrol airplane averages 10,000 hours, or approximately 15 years. This creates difficulty in utilizing an annual depreciation account. Replacement is staggered, based on the use of each aircraft.

During the 2007 Legislative Session, the Iowa State Patrol was appropriated \$1.4 million to restore personnel and vehicle equipment line-items that had been eliminated during the early 2000s. Of this amount, \$300,000 of General Fund money was designated for the purchase of an airplane. Additionally, the Patrol used \$282,300 of the FY 2007 supplemental appropriation of \$2.4 million from the Restricted Capital Fund to purchase an additional airplane. These two airplanes replaced planes located in Linn and Black Hawk Counties. The ages and hours of the remaining planes are as follows:

- Polk County
 - 1981 Cessna 210 – 2,809 hours
 - 1997 Cessna 172 – 5,649 hours
 - 1998 Cessna 182 – 4,392 hours
- Cass County
 - 1982 Cessna 182 – 6,143 hours
- Cerro Gordo County
 - 1997 Cessna 172 – 4,395 hours

The Iowa State Patrol currently leases seven hangars located at five airports. The following is a list of airports and monthly lease amounts:

- Ankeny Airport – three hangars at \$170 per plane or \$510 per month
- Atlantic Airport – one space in a community hangar at \$66 per month
- Cedar Rapids Airport – one hangar at \$88 per month
- Mason City Airport – one hangar at \$130 per month
- Waterloo Airport – one hangar at \$100 per month

Airplane Fuel

In FY 2008, the Iowa State Patrol budgeted \$140,000 for aviation fuel and maintenance and expended approximately \$216,000. The current average cost for aviation fuel is approximately \$6.00 per gallon. The FY 2009 budget remains unchanged at \$140,000.

Of the amount expended for fuel and maintenance in FY 2008, \$28,000 was expended to overhaul one of the Cessna 172 engines. Depending on the model of aircraft, the manufacturer prescribes when an engine needs to be overhauled. These milestones range from 1,600 hours of flight time to 2,000 hours of flight time and costs range from \$25,000 to \$35,000 each. Additionally, the Patrol requires each plane's engine to be inspected after every 200 hours of flight time at a cost of \$1,500 per inspection. The Federal Aviation Administration also requires an overall inspection each year or each 400 hours of flight time (whichever comes first) at an average cost of \$3,500 per inspection. Costs vary depending on deficiencies. The most costly inspection to date was \$13,500 and required the replacement of engine motor mounts.

BUDGET IMPACT

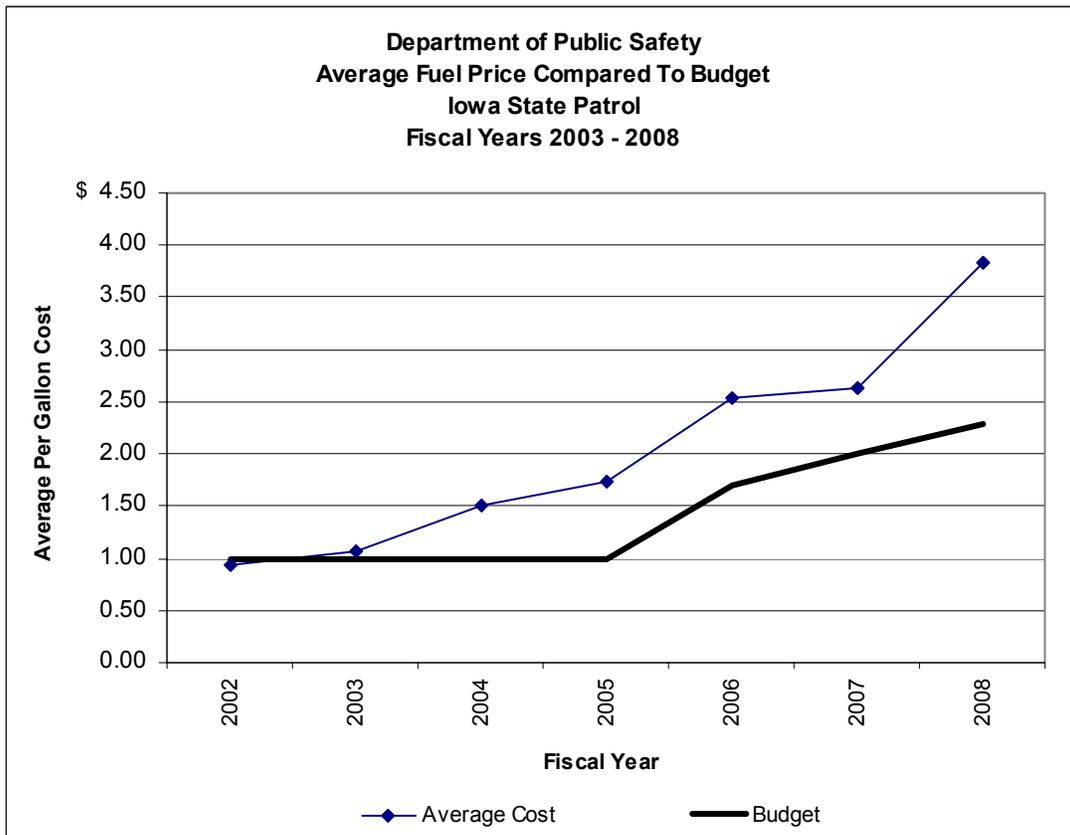
House File 2660 (FY 2009 Justice System Appropriations Act) includes legislative intent language requiring the Department of Public Safety to increase the vehicle fuel budget for the Iowa State Patrol by an additional \$227,000. The increased appropriation for fuel equates to \$2.29 per gallon (net of taxes) to reflect a pump price of \$2.66 per gallon. If the pump price remains at \$3.85 for the entire year, the Patrol will realize a fuel shortfall of \$1.19 per gallon (net of taxes) or an estimated \$935,000. For the entire Department of Public Safety, the estimated fuel shortfall based on a pump price of \$3.85 per gallon is approximately \$1.3 million. As of August 13, 2008, the pump price is \$3.43, which is lower than projected.

The following chart is a comparison of Iowa State Patrol mileage, fuel consumption, and costs for Calendar Year (CY) 2003 through estimated CY 2008. The data for CY 2008 was extrapolated using actual results for January through June and assumes mileage, consumption, and costs will simply double. This estimate reflects lower than actual costs for fuel because it averages the first six months. The data is difficult to compile as the Patrol reports miles driven on a calendar year basis while consumption records are maintained on a fiscal year basis.

Calendar Year	Total Miles Driven	Gallons of Fuel Used	Total Cost	Miles per Gallon	Fuel Cost per Mile
2003	11,104,092	742,715	\$ 818,001	14.95	\$ 0.07
2004	10,422,684	676,652	914,139	15.40	0.09
2005	10,543,921	645,685	1,200,256	16.33	0.11
2006	9,945,170	664,888	1,362,304	14.96	0.14
2007	10,518,239	707,368	1,641,239	14.87	0.16
2008	10,984,304	707,315	2,114,322	15.53	0.19
Average	10,586,402	690,771	\$ 1,341,710	15.34	\$ 0.13

Source: Department of Public Safety

The following chart depicts the average cost per gallon of fuel for the Iowa State Patrol compared to the budget per gallon of fuel for FY 2003 through FY 2008. The General Assembly provided increased appropriations for fuel; however, the appropriations have not kept pace with increased fuel costs. This is reflective of all of Public Safety, not just the Patrol. Without additional funding in all divisions, the Department will need to find alternatives to fund increased fuel costs.



ALTERNATIVES

The General Assembly may wish to consider a supplemental appropriation to offset the estimated fuel shortfall.

The Department of Public Safety may also wish to consider the following alternatives:

- Limit the road miles driven by the Patrol, similar to measures taken in the early 2000s to help stay within the current appropriation.
- Limit the amount of time airplanes are flown to conserve fuel.
- Underpay vehicle depreciation as a short-term solution to funding the increased fuel costs.

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