

Connecticut General Assembly



OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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To: Legislative Members of the Finance Advisory Committee

From: Geary Maher
Kerry A. Kelley
Christopher Wetzel
Rachel Welch
Michael Murphy
Felix Planas

Subject: Items for the FAC Meeting for March 6, 2008

Items 2008-7 through 2008-10 have been reviewed by this office and additional information has been provided where it was considered to be helpful in more fully understanding the items.

2008-7 Military Department

The Military Department requests a transfer of \$205,000 from Personal Services to Other Expenses (\$153,000) and Honor Guards (\$52,000). Funding is available in Personal Services due to lower-than-projected costs in Militia Training, vacancies within the agency, and an agency-wide cap on overtime. In some cases, positions were also filled at lower levels. This transfer assumes the release of the \$25,092 holdback in the Personal Services account.

A \$52,000 transfer is requested for Honor Guards. The agency experienced a \$55,547 shortfall in Honor Guards for FY 07 and a \$52,000 shortfall is projected for FY 08. In addition, a \$153,000 transfer is requested for Other Expenses to cover higher-than-projected contract prices for Animal Care/Veterinary Services and Affirmative Action through the Department of Administrative Services. The transfer also includes \$35,000 for a new fire panel at the Manchester Armory and \$100,000 for facilities management for armories throughout the state, as well as for increased utilities costs.

2008-8 Connecticut Insurance Department

The Department of Insurance (DOI) is requesting to transfer \$141,160 from their Fringe Benefit account to their Indirect Overhead account. These funds are available in the DOI's Fringe Benefit account as expenses are trending lower than forecasted. Indirect Overhead expenses, conversely, are higher than forecasted by the Comptroller's Department.

2008-9 Commission on Child Protection

The agency requests the transfer of funds, in the total amount of \$76,500, to its Personal Services, Other Expenses, and Attorney-Related Expense line items.¹ Additional funds are necessary in these accounts due to position reclassifications, the hiring of a temporary clerical staff person to assist in the processing of bills, and increasing demand for outside resources to assist in the representation of clients (e.g., psychological evaluations, translation services, and service of process). Funds are available in the Contracted Attorneys line item because fewer attorneys have billed on an hourly basis than anticipated.

These transfers will help enable the agency to meet its FY 08 holdback requirements, in the total amount of \$8,649, in its Other Expenses and Personal Services line items.

2008-10 Department of Transportation

This item transfers \$8 million from Personal Services to Other Expense. The additional funds will offset a shortfall in the snow and ice removal account. The shortfall is a result of: (1) higher than anticipated prices for materials such as salt, fuel, utilities and repair parts for trucks; and (2) replenishment of DOT's reserves of these materials, which were depleted by the severity of recent winter storms.

This transfer will result in a shortfall of \$8 million to Personal Services. Therefore, it is anticipated that transfers from other lapsing accounts within the Transportation Fund or through deficiency appropriations will be required to meet Personal Service obligations for DOT.

¹ Distributed as follows: \$40,000 to Personal Services; \$31,000 to Attorney – Related Expenses; and \$5,500 to Other Expenses.