

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VIRGINIA SENATE
FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE



November 13, 2025

Superintendent Matt Hanley
Virginia State Police
7700 Midlothian Turnpike
North Chesterfield, VA 23235

Dear Superintendent Hanley:

As Chairman of the Public Safety Subcommittee of the Virginia Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee, I write to you regarding matters of significant concern related to the allocation, expenditure, and oversight of public funds appropriated to the Virginia State Police by the General Assembly.

I have reviewed recent reporting by the Richmond Times-Dispatch, including an article published November 4, 2025, by Luca Powell (https://richmond.com/news/state-regional/government-politics/article_e2e0d8ac-52f6-41b9-988a-3ba6056f36d7.html), which details your recent communications with Senator Surovell regarding VSP's budget projections and a temporary hold on discretionary spending. According to this reporting, you characterized internal projections for the upcoming fiscal year as "concerning" and predicted it will be a "lean year" for the agency, citing soaring overtime costs and rising vehicle expenses, including Ford Explorer Police Vehicles now costing \$106,000 each.

While I appreciate your response to Senator Surovell's inquiry and understand the challenges posed by vehicle cost increases, the article raises broader questions about VSP's budget management and the sustainability of current operations. The General Assembly has demonstrated substantial and consistent support for Virginia State Police, increasing your general fund budget from \$374 million in 2020 to approximately \$557 million this year—a nearly 49% increase over five years.

This significant investment was made with specific legislative intent and included appropriations for numerous specialized programs, units, and operational needs. However, your prediction of a "lean year" and the need to freeze discretionary spending—despite this substantial budget growth—suggests potential systemic issues in budget execution, program management, or resource allocation that require immediate legislative scrutiny.

In light of these concerns and in fulfillment of my oversight responsibilities, I am requesting detailed written responses to the following questions regarding VSP operations and budget execution:

Additionally, please provide:

- The total amount paid in lawsuits over the past four years (e.g., pilot wives, Charlottesville riots, Trooper "Catfish," etc.).
- Whether these payouts came from the VSP budget or another state fund.
- The outcome of the FMCSA/DOT-OIG investigation and any reimbursements made to the federal government.

1. Fixed Weigh Stations

The Virginia State Police was allocated approximately \$10 million over two years in the previous biennial budget to staff fixed weigh stations. During that period, patrol troopers were pulled from weigh station duty, and the facilities remained unstaffed.

- How was this \$10 million spent?
- In the most recent budget, approximately \$4.8 million per year was again allocated to staff weigh stations statewide. Why have troopers not been reassigned to these posts?
- Who is enforcing commercial vehicle laws when trucks unlawfully bypass weigh stations?
- How many Overweight Citations have been issued by road patrol troopers assigned to these fixed weigh station facilities?

2. Insurance Fraud Investigation Funding

The General Assembly provides specific funding for Insurance Fraud Special Agents whose sole duty is to investigate and arrest individuals involved in insurance fraud.

- How many agents are funded by this program?
- How many cases are investigated yearly by BCI?
- How many physical arrests or criminal charges result from these investigations?
- Are these agents performing duties unrelated to insurance fraud?
- If so, where else is this funding being spent?

3. Vehicle Purchases and Overtime Funding

You recently indicated that overtime funding shortfalls are the result of increased vehicle costs. The General Assembly previously appropriated \$7.1 million for this purpose.

- How was this funding spent?
- How many vehicles exceed their required mileage limits but remain in service?
- Why are overused vehicles being kept in service despite increased maintenance costs?

- Has VSP explored joint purchase orders with other state and local agencies to negotiate lower vehicle prices?

4. Gaming and Gambling Enforcement

VSP was allocated \$1.5 million to enforce gaming laws and investigate gambling offenses.

- How many investigations have been conducted?
- How many arrests or criminal charges have been made by sworn personnel assigned to this unit?

5. Blackstone Training Facility

The Blackstone Training Facility is designated for shared use by state and local law enforcement.

- How many agencies currently utilize this facility?
- How many training requests from outside agencies have been denied by VSP?

6. Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Program

The General Assembly allocated \$800,000 per year plus \$2 million for training officers as Drug Recognition Experts (DREs).

- How many DREs have been trained and how many remain active within VSP?
- How many ARIDE courses and DRE in-services have been held?
- Have all six funded positions been filled?
- How many DUI/DUID arrests are being made annually by those assigned to DRE support roles?
- Who is the state coordinator of the DRE Program, and how is training accuracy being tracked?
- How many sobriety checkpoints does VSP participate in yearly, and how many DREs are assigned to these?

7. Minority Recruitment and Promotion

Approximately \$200,000 is allocated annually for recruiting minority troopers.

- How are these funds being spent?
- Why has minority hiring in sworn positions not increased?
- What actions have been taken to promote minorities into leadership positions?

8. Department Vacancies

- How many sworn vacancies currently exist within VSP?
- How is the vacancy funding being utilized?

9. HEAT (Auto Theft) Program

The HEAT unit receives approximately \$4.4 million annually.

- How many agents are assigned to HEAT?
- How many auto theft cases, arrests, and criminal charges have been made?
- How many task forces does VSP operate or participate in?
- Does VSP utilize bait cars, and if so, how many?
- How many organized theft rings or chop shops have been dismantled?

10. Interstate 81 Overtime Funding

VSP received \$220,000 over two years for overtime traffic enforcement on I-81.

- How many employees have been ordered to "adjust schedules" to avoid overtime?
- Where is the allocated funding being spent if overtime is not paid?
- How many have been asked to adjust schedules since the start of the budget shortfall?

11. Counterterrorism Funding

Approximately \$7.9 million is allocated annually for counterterrorism.

- How is this funding being spent?
- How many agents and troopers are assigned to counterterrorism?
- How many investigations, arrests, and charges have resulted from this program?

12. Executive Protection Assignments

VSP provides executive protection and patrols at private residences of government officials and judges.

- How many sworn personnel are assigned to these details?
- How are these activities funded?
- What is the total cost of these details?

13. Tactical Team Boat

- What funding source paid for the purchase and outfitting of the tactical team's boat?
- What were the initial, repair, and annual maintenance costs?
- Which budget covers these expenses?
- What was the specific purpose of this expenditure?

14. Vehicle Safety Inspection Program

The program receives \$30 million annually with approximately 60 troopers assigned.

- How many criminal cases, arrests, and charges have resulted from inspection station corruption or fraudulent sticker cases?

15. Highway Work Zone Speed Cameras

- How many speed cameras are operational or purchased by VSP?
- How many citations have been issued?
- If cameras are not yet deployed, why not, and when will implementation occur?

16. On-Call and Standby Compensation

Troopers are being placed on uncompensated on-call or standby status, despite DHRM authorizing pay.

- What steps are being taken to end or fund this practice?
- How many employees are currently assigned to these statuses?
- Why has VSP not requested funding to address this known issue?

17. VSP Cafeteria

Approximately \$796,000 funds the cafeteria used by trainees.

- How many employees who are not in training or associated with the academy pay for meals?
- What total reimbursement is being collected?

18. Organized Retail Theft

VSP was allotted \$777,000 annually and five positions to address organized retail theft.

- How many cases, task forces, and arrests have resulted from this funding?

19. Tactical Team Operations

- How many requests for tactical assistance have been declined?
- How many are fulfilled annually?
- How many tactical positions are funded by the General Assembly?

20. Highway Shootings

- How many highway shootings have occurred statewide and in Division 5?
- How many resulted in homicides?
- What is the case closure rate?
- What task forces or operations are in place to combat this trend?
- How many arrests and charges have been made by assigned agents?

21. Headquarters Vehicle Use

- Provide a list of vehicle types assigned to HQ personnel.
- How many are pursuit-rated or have luxury features?
- What measures are taken to ensure fuel efficiency?
- How many traffic stops and citations have HQ personnel conducted?

22. Human Trafficking Unit

- How many cases, rescued victims, and arrests have resulted from this unit?
- How many task forces are VSP leading or participating in?
- How many prostitution houses and labor trafficking cases have been dismantled?

23. Motor Carrier Safety Division

- How many federally funded vehicles exceed mileage limits?
- How many troopers have not been issued their assigned SUV?

24. Northern Virginia Street Racing

- What joint task forces exist to address street racing groups?
- How many vehicles have been seized?
- What intelligence and enforcement actions have been undertaken with VDOT?

25. Civil Fine Program

- Why has VSP not implemented a civil fine program for commercial carriers as authorized under federal regulation?
- When does VSP plan to establish this program?

26. Sex Offender Registration Program

- Is there a vendor contract for registration letters?
- Why are letters sent late, creating unnecessary investigations?
- How much is the contract worth, and what corrective actions have been taken?

27. Gun Show Enforcement

- Has funding increased for gun show enforcement?
- How many undercover agents are deployed at these events?
- Does VSP share intelligence with D.C. agencies on cross-border purchases?
- What training and prevention programs exist for firearms dealers?

28. Transurban Toll Lanes

- How often do Transurban-funded positions go unstaffed?
- How much money has been repaid due to understaffing?
- When facing manpower shortages, how does VSP prioritize coverage between Transurban and VDOT lanes?

29. Command Vehicles

- How many command vehicles exist statewide?
- How often are they utilized and for what purposes?

30. Division 7 BCI Operations

- How many agents, cases, and arrests are associated with Division 7 (NOVA)?
- Provide a breakdown between task force and non-task force workloads.

31. Executive Staff Luncheons

- What are the total costs and funding sources for executive staff luncheons?

32. Command Summits

- What is the total cost and budget source for these multi-day meetings?
- Which hotels were utilized?

33. Tactical Uniform Costs

- What is the cost per uniform set (pants and shirt) for tactical team members?

34. Motor Carrier Grant Fund Savings

- Given that Safety Division lieutenants' salaries are now paid by federal grants, how have these cost savings been reallocated?

35. Dulles Greenway Positions

- How many positions are funded by the Dulles Greenway?
- Are these troopers assigned exclusively to that roadway?

36. FOIA Reimbursements

- Where does FOIA reimbursement revenue go?
- If salaries are already funded by the General Assembly, how are these savings utilized?

37. I-66 HOT Lanes

- How much funding does VDOT reimburse for enforcement on HOT lanes?
- Are troopers covering both HOT and mainline lanes?

38. Dispatcher Funding

- How much funding does VSP receive from DMV and ABC for dispatch services?

39. Narcotics Seizure Account

- What is the current balance of this account?
- How were seized funds used over the past four years?
- What purchases were made from these funds?

40. Office Closures

- As offices close (e.g., Waverly), how are cost savings being reallocated?
- What becomes of the vacated buildings?

41. New Academy Design and Construction Costs

The Department reportedly spent approximately \$7 million on the design phase of a new training academy.

- Why did the design alone cost \$7 million?
- What is the total projected cost of construction for the new academy?
- Has a timeline and funding plan been developed for this project?
- What measures are being taken to ensure cost efficiency and oversight for the academy's construction?

42. Financial Oversight

- When did VSP leadership first identify these budgetary issues?
- To whom were they reported, and what corrective measures have been implemented?

43. Executive Direction to Withhold or Delay Spending

- Have the Governor or any Cabinet secretaries (including the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security or the Secretary of Finance) instructed VSP to delay, restrict, or not expend funds that were appropriated by the General Assembly?
- If yes, on what dates were those instructions issued, by whom, and what specific reasons were provided?
- Were these directions memorialized in writing (e.g., emails, budget guidance memos), and can VSP provide copies?
- What programs or line items were affected, and what was the impact on operations and service delivery?

Given the scope and importance of these matters, I respectfully request that you provide comprehensive written responses to all questions within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter. Should any question require additional time due to the complexity of gathering responsive information, please notify me promptly with an explanation and a projected completion date.

Additionally, to facilitate our review, please provide any supporting documentation, data analyses, or internal reports that would assist in understanding VSP's budget execution and operational decision-making processes during the relevant period. This should include, but not be limited to: detailed overtime expenditure data by division and function for the past three fiscal years; vehicle procurement records and lifecycle management reports; and analysis of how vacancy savings have been reallocated within the department.

I appreciate the critical work performed daily by the men and women of the Virginia State Police in service to the Commonwealth. The purpose of this inquiry is to ensure that they have the resources and support they need, that those resources are being used effectively and as intended, and that the General Assembly has accurate information to make informed decisions regarding future appropriations.

Should you have any questions regarding this request or wish to discuss these matters, please do not hesitate to contact my office. I look forward to your timely and thorough response.

Respectfully,



Adam P. Ebbin
Chairman, Public Safety Subcommittee
Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee
Virginia Senate

cc: Senator L. Louise Lucas, Chair, Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee
Senator Scott A. Surovell, Senate Majority Leader
Delegate Luke E. Torian, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Joseph William Woloszyn, President, Virginia Chapter, Southern States Police Benevolent Association