

1 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
2 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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4 PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE/HOMELAND SECURITY  
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6 House Appropriations Committee

7 Main Capitol Building  
8 Majority Caucus, Room 140  
9 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

10 Wednesday, March 7, 2018

11 --oOo--

12 MAJORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

13 Honorable Stanley Saylor, Majority Chairman  
14 Honorable Sheryl Delozier  
15 Honorable George Dunbar  
16 Honorable Keith Greiner  
17 Honorable Seth Grove  
18 Honorable Marcia Hahn  
19 Honorable Doyle Heffley  
20 Honorable Susan Helm  
21 Honorable Lee James  
22 Honorable Fred Keller  
23 Honorable Jason Ortitay  
24 Honorable Marguerite Quinn  
25 Honorable Brad Roae  
Honorable Jamie Santora  
Honorable Curtis Sonney

1300 Garrison Drive, York, PA 17404  
717.764.7801

**Key Reporters**

[keyreporters@comcast.net](mailto:keyreporters@comcast.net)

## 1 MINORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

2 Honorable Joseph Markosek, Minority Chairman  
3 Honorable Kevin Boyle  
4 Honorable Maria Donatucci  
5 Honorable Patty Kim

## 6 NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

7 Honorable Steve Barrar, Majority Chairman  
8 Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness  
9 Committee  
10 Honorable Adam Harris  
11 Honorable Francis Ryan  
12 Honorable Tedd Nesbit  
13 Honorable Chris Sainato, Minority Chairman  
14 Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness  
15 Committee  
16 Honorable Dom Costa  
17 Honorable Paul Costa  
18 Honorable Ed Neilson  
19 Honorable Pat Harkins  
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1 STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

2 David Donley  
3 Majority Executive Director

4 Ritchie LaFaver  
5 Majority Deputy Executive Director

6 Miriam Fox  
7 Minority Executive Director

8 Tara Trees, Esquire  
9 Minority Chief Counsel

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PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE/HOMELAND SECURITY

Colonel Tyree C. Blocker  
Commissioner

Lt. Colonel Stephen Bucar  
Deputy Commissioner of Staff

Major Scott Price  
Deputy Commissioner of Administration and  
Professional Responsibility

Lt. Colonel Evanchick  
Deputy Commissioner of Operations

Major Diane Stackhouse  
Director of the Bureau of Communications and  
Information Services

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1 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: We'll get  
2 this hearing started. I know the Commissioner has  
3 to get back to the command center with the snow  
4 coming in the southeast. Commissioner, if you and  
5 all who are going to provide testimony would raise  
6 your right hand.

7 (All testifiers were sworn en masse by  
8 Chairman Saylor.)

9 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: So as I was  
10 sitting up here, you all look very impressive, by  
11 the way. State police uniforms are amazing.  
12 They're great.

13 We have -- I do want to announce we have  
14 the Chairman Paul Costa here and Chairman Sainato  
15 is here as well. We have Chairman Adam Harris is  
16 here, and we have Representative Ryan here. I  
17 think that's everybody for now. Oh, Representative  
18 Neilson. How can I forget Representative Neilson?  
19 I am so sorry, Representative. Representative  
20 Nesbit is here as well. I see him over there as  
21 well, who are not members of the Appropriations  
22 Committee.

23 With that, Representative Markosek, do  
24 you have any opening comments?

25 MINORITY CHAIRMAN MARKOSEK: Just

1 welcome to all of you, and I appreciate you coming.  
2 We will have some members that will be trickling in  
3 due to the weather and whatnot, coming mostly from  
4 the eastern part of the state. As time goes on,  
5 you will see some of our members coming. Right now  
6 they're not here, but we'll do the best we can in  
7 the meantime.

8 Thank you.

9 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: With that,  
10 again, I want to welcome all of you, gentlemen. I  
11 know you have a busy day ahead of you, and already  
12 this morning I know you've been busy.

13 We will start off with questioning with  
14 Representative Ortitay.

15 REPRESENTATIVE ORTITAY: Thank you,  
16 Mr. Chairman.

17 Thank you, guys, for being here. A lot  
18 of my questions will be directed to Major Price. I  
19 want to talk about the PICS system a little bit.  
20 Last year it was zeroed out in the budget, and this  
21 year there's a request for \$932,000; almost a  
22 million dollars.

23 Can you explain the reason for the  
24 request in the increased funding?

25 MAJOR PRICE: Yes, sir. Well,

1 essentially, PICS is funded from three sources.  
2 There's the actual PICS fees, and the PICS fees are  
3 normally \$2, with three-dollar additional for  
4 taxable transactions. So, if it's a person-to-  
5 person transfer, that would be nontaxable. That  
6 would be \$2. But if it's a sale from dealer  
7 inventory, that would essentially be two plus  
8 three, or \$5.00.

9 We support PICS through that particular  
10 conduit, but then also from the gun check  
11 appropriation and also the GGO, our General  
12 Governmental Operations funds. In the past, I  
13 believe, there was a surplus in some of those  
14 funds. However, that surplus was drawn down to  
15 fulfill certain budgetary needs from the GGO.

16 REPRESENTATIVE ORTITAY: So last year's  
17 budget, that was taken. That surplus is gone now.

18 MAJOR PRICE: That's my understanding,  
19 yes. And so, that then leaves us with a necessity  
20 to fund PICS.

21 Every five years, the Legislative Budget  
22 and Finance Committee has tasked, via law, to do a  
23 survey, and it's entitled The Adequacy of PICS  
24 Fees, to determine what it would require to ensure  
25 -- or if we were to desire or the legislature were

1 to desire that PICS become self-supporting  
2 predicated upon the fees charged to the end user.

3 The most recent LBFC reports -- We've  
4 done some analyses. Theirs wasn't quite as  
5 granular as ours. But, generally, and incumbent  
6 upon sales volumes, nine to \$11 is where PICS would  
7 need to be to be self-supporting.

8 REPRESENTATIVE ORTITAY: So is this new,  
9 almost million dollars, the new baseline moving  
10 forward, or do you guys think you'll be -- or do  
11 you think you'll be requesting additional funds in  
12 next year's budget as well?

13 MAJOR PRICE: It's very difficult to  
14 predict because, the one particular pot of money,  
15 if you will, comes from the gun sales.

16 Now, we've seen, generally, a lineal  
17 increase, although after Sandy Hook we saw a spike.  
18 As we do very often there's an atrocious event like  
19 that, there's talk about gun legislation, gun sales  
20 spike. We thought that spike was potentially  
21 anomalous.

22 What we saw, however, was, it was  
23 essentially a plateau where we hit about a million  
24 PICS transactions a year. We continue to see about  
25 a million PICS transaction a year. Last year it

1 was about a million and fifty-five thousand. Of  
2 those, about 700,000 -- I believe it was 730,000  
3 were actually gun purchases, and the others were  
4 licensed to carry and evidence return checks. So,  
5 of that 1,055,000 or thereabouts, about 730,000 of  
6 those were revenue generating. If gun sales go  
7 down, then that conduit that we receive from the  
8 PICS checks from our end users, from the folks  
9 buying firearms varies.

10 REPRESENTATIVE ORTITAY: Okay.

11 Shifting gears a little bit to more of  
12 the technology behind it, do you track how many  
13 times PICS has been down since the beginning of the  
14 year, since January 1st?

15 MAJOR PRICE: Yes, sir, I do.

16 REPRESENTATIVE ORTITAY: Okay. From  
17 people back at home, I get alerted every time it  
18 goes down and NICS is still up. And to date, I  
19 have it, it's been down seven times this year. I  
20 can give you the dates.

21 January 9th it was down twice, 26  
22 minutes and 12 minutes. The 14th it was down  
23 46 minutes. The 16th it was down 6 minutes. The  
24 24th, down 28 minutes; February 13th, down a half  
25 hour; the 14th, down 44 minutes; and March 1st,

1 down 16 minutes.

2 Do you have those on record, or is this  
3 a localized issue in the southwestern part of the  
4 state?

5 MAJOR PRICE: No, sir. Two -- Several  
6 points. We do have those. But, to be clear -- And  
7 I'll talk about the calendar year 2017, because I  
8 have a broad sample population to talk about with  
9 2017, but this is generally the trend we see.

10 What you have to understand about PICS  
11 is, PICS actually hits NICS. So, among the  
12 databases that PICS accesses, we hit NICS. There's  
13 information available in NICS; for instance, KFC,  
14 known or suspected terrorist database that we  
15 access through NICS. So, if there's a NICS outage,  
16 there's a concomitant PICS outage.

17 REPRESENTATIVE ORTITAY: Right. With  
18 these particular cases, NICS was up and running  
19 from what I was told.

20 MAJOR PRICE: And that may be true.

21 So last year, as a rule, of the  
22 100 percent outages that people saw through PICS,  
23 there were about 3133 minutes. Of those,  
24 62 percent were the results of NICS outages, but  
25 38 percent were PICS outages. If I can define PICS

1 outage, realize that most of the time when PICS is  
2 down, it's not PICS per se. It's not our flex  
3 check application.

4           Because PICS hits numerous databases and  
5 we use the Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance  
6 Network to access those databases, the majority of  
7 these outages are due to CLEAN. And when CLEAN  
8 goes down, no law enforcement officer in the  
9 Commonwealth has access to run license plates or  
10 wanted persons. So, it's a PICS outage only in the  
11 sense that one of our other systems is down.

12           REPRESENTATIVE ORTITAY: Well, who  
13 controls the CLEAN system?

14           MAJOR PRICE: We control the CLEAN  
15 system. And as you can imagine, that's a critical  
16 operational application. There's no time wasted in  
17 solving those.

18           Now, one of those outages this year  
19 happened to be a power outage at department  
20 headquarters. We do have fail-safes in place. We  
21 fail over to battery until we can hit generator  
22 power, but it takes some time and, normally, that  
23 shuts down our system when there's that momentary  
24 power surge and we have to reset.

25           REPRESENTATIVE ORTITAY: I know that my

1 time has expired here, but if the Chairman would  
2 permit just one more follow-up question to that.

3 Do you have a backup location where your  
4 data is stored in the event -- I know -- when your  
5 power -- You said your power goes out. Do you have  
6 a secondary location where all of this data is  
7 housed? MAJOR PRICE: Yeah. We have a  
8 continuity of operations plan. It's not housed  
9 specifically within PICS. Generally, our  
10 continuity of operations plan, some of the data --  
11 Because the only PICS database is the mental health  
12 database and the others are accessed, we have the  
13 electronic -- the Commonwealth EDC, and then also,  
14 in Virginia we have a backup location provided by  
15 Unisys for some of those systems.

16 REPRESENTATIVE ORTITAY: Okay. Thank  
17 you, Major Price.

18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR:  
20 Representative Boyle is next. Representative  
21 Boyle.

22 REPRESENTATIVE BOYLE: Thank you,  
23 Commissioner, for being here.

24 I'm from the City of Philadelphia. And  
25 just last week, Mayor Jim Kenney announced his

1 budget proposal. And included in that budget  
2 proposal was roughly \$900 million for public  
3 safety, police, prisons and whatnot. It's a huge,  
4 huge portion of the City of Philadelphia budget.

5 I also represent one borough of 2700  
6 people in Montgomery County, Rockledge. They spend  
7 about half a million dollars on public safety for  
8 just a population of a little over 2500 people.

9 So, as a Philadelphian and someone who  
10 represents a portion of Montgomery County, I'm  
11 always surprised by just what -- how large -- how  
12 large a part of this state relies entirely on the  
13 state police. What percentage of Pennsylvania  
14 would you say relies solely on the state police and  
15 not local police?

16 COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: Thank you for  
17 that question, Representative.

18 There are approximately 2500  
19 municipalities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.  
20 The Pennsylvania State Police either provides full-  
21 time or part-time service for approximately  
22 fifteen, 1600 of those municipalities.

23 Obviously, the City of Philadelphia has  
24 a full-time police department. We do, as you know,  
25 have a facility in the City of Philadelphia, and I

1 have a very good working relationship with  
2 Commissioner Ross as the troop commander down in  
3 Troop K Philadelphia does as well, and we provide  
4 assistance to the City of Philadelphia when  
5 requested.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BOYLE: I've certainly  
7 noticed over the last few years the state police  
8 patrolling I-95 and the Schuylkill Expressway, and  
9 I certainly appreciate those efforts.

10 COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: Thank you.

11 And being someone that is very familiar  
12 with the City of Philadelphia, having been born and  
13 raised there myself, we've always -- state police  
14 has always had a very good working relationship  
15 with the city, as well as the police department.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BOYLE: Thank you.

17 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Next is  
18 Representative Jamie Santora.

19 REPRESENTATIVE SANTORA: Thank you for  
20 being here today, and thank you for all of your  
21 service to our Commonwealth.

22 Back to the PICS. What information does  
23 PICS load up to NICS, especially when it comes to  
24 protection from abuse orders, mental health issues,  
25 that type of information?

1 MAJOR PRICE: Yes, sir. So, several  
2 years ago we began submitting to NICS our mental  
3 health records. And currently, Pennsylvania,  
4 depending upon what numbers you look at, is either  
5 the largest or the second largest submitter of  
6 mental health records. Over 800,000 of our mental  
7 health records are --

8 REPRESENTATIVE SANTORA: I'm sorry. On  
9 that, is that because we submit more or we have  
10 more issues?

11 MAJOR PRICE: Well, it's because -- I  
12 think it's both, actually. We have a lot of mental  
13 health commitments in Pennsylvania. We have a very  
14 robust collection system and auditing system to  
15 ensure we get records from the counties. And then  
16 we also actually do submit them to NICS and not all  
17 states do. So, we began, I believe 2011,  
18 submitting our mental health records to NICS.

19 Since then we've engaged in several  
20 pretty robust technology enhancements to give NICS  
21 broader access to our information. There's always  
22 been a problem, if you will, that the federal  
23 government doesn't have access to some of the  
24 information we have.

25 So, we completed a project last year

1 called our NICS Index Submission Project. It was  
2 funded through NCHIP, National Criminal History  
3 Improvement Project grants, so there were no  
4 Commonwealth monies required for us to do that.

5 What we now do is, we submit to NICS  
6 state-only prohibiting offenses, which NICS would  
7 not have had access to. So the Pennsylvania  
8 resident who is prohibited heretofore went out of  
9 Pennsylvania to buy a long gun in a NICS-only  
10 state, and I use this only as an example, but West  
11 Virginia, that individual might be state prohibited  
12 and NICS would not have had access to that  
13 information. NICS now has access to that  
14 information.

15 As a result of that NICS Index or state  
16 index submission project, last year we had 122  
17 out-of-state denials of residents who, for some  
18 reason, were prohibited in Pennsylvania, would  
19 previously have cleared a NICS check in another  
20 state but did not. So, that number of 122 was  
21 actually more than we had anticipated.

22 REPRESENTATIVE SANTORA: So, would you  
23 say we're in full transparency with NICS at this  
24 point of our records?

25 MAJOR PRICE: No, they would not. And

1 there are several areas that we don't have a  
2 solution for yet, although we continue to look at  
3 the issue.

4 As part of that project, there are  
5 protection from abuse orders in the Pennsylvania  
6 CLEAN system. The protection from abuse orders are  
7 entered -- NICS accesses them, actually, through  
8 NCIC, the National Criminal Information Center. At  
9 any given time there's about 1300 to 1500 PFAs, and  
10 over five or six years that number has been  
11 relatively stable that are not in NCIC because they  
12 don't include a numeric identifier.

13 So, it may have been a fleeting  
14 relationship where the plaintiff doesn't have a  
15 date of birth or a Social Security number on the  
16 defendant. We enter that in the Pennsylvania CLEAN  
17 system. PICS has access to that. Now we get kits  
18 on just the name, and then it requires some more  
19 research for us to determine if, in fact, it's the  
20 same individual. NICS, however, NCIC will not  
21 accept those records without a numeric.

22 It was our hope that we could  
23 essentially do a data dump of those records  
24 directly into the NICS Index. But like NCIC, NICS  
25 does not allow those to be entered without --

1           REPRESENTATIVE SANTORA: So NICS is the  
2 issue, in the sense that they won't accept the data  
3 without the -- but it's our issue that we haven't  
4 been able to come up with a way to assign it a  
5 number or date of birth or --

6           MAJOR PRICE: Exactly right. Yes, sir.

7           REPRESENTATIVE SANTORA: Okay.

8           The reason I ask these questions is, I  
9 also -- I have a background check bill to expand  
10 background checks to the gun shows and to the  
11 private sellers for long guns. My concern is, if  
12 we get it, are we ready -- are we able to handle  
13 more background checks than we already do?

14          MAJOR PRICE: So, we handle a million  
15 fifty-five thousand last year. When I try to  
16 extrapolate and look at combinations and  
17 permutations of how many individual rifle sales  
18 person to person might occur, we know that there  
19 are taxable and nontaxable transactions, and we can  
20 assume that many of those nontaxable transactions  
21 are person-to-person sales. On the handgun side it  
22 requires that those go through a dealer.

23          When I look at those numbers and then I  
24 look at our long-gun sales, a very, very high level  
25 estimate for me would be, potentially, if the long

1 gun person-to-person transfers mimic the handguns,  
2 and I know that about 20 percent of our handgun  
3 transactions are nontaxable, and I see that about  
4 16 percent of our long-gun transactions are  
5 nontaxable. When I -- when I do the calculations,  
6 I come up with about 21,000 potential person-to-  
7 person transfers of long guns. That's a really  
8 rough estimate. I don't know what I don't know.

9 But, if we added 21,000 transactions to  
10 our system, it wouldn't materially limit our  
11 ability to process.

12 REPRESENTATIVE SANTORA: Thank you very  
13 much.

14 MAJOR PRICE: Yes, sir.

15 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: We have  
16 Representative Donatucci. We've been joined also  
17 by Representative Dom Costa.

18 REPRESENTATIVE DONATUCCI: Thank you,  
19 Mr. Chairman.

20 Thank you for being here today,  
21 Commissioner, and your fine team.

22 Last Thursday we heard from the  
23 Department of Health and the Attorney General and  
24 their response to opioid epidemic. The crisis is  
25 growing. They continue to take lives. People are

1 dying every day. Last year more than 5400  
2 Pennsylvanians died of drug overdoses. That's a  
3 43 percent increase over the previous year. We  
4 know we can't arrest our way out of this problem,  
5 but the public safety is at risk.

6 I commend the state police use of  
7 Naloxone over the past two and a half years, but  
8 people are still dying. What new or creative  
9 approaches are you using to address the opioid  
10 epidemic? And can you elaborate on the Overdose  
11 Information Network?

12 COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: With respect to  
13 the opioid challenges that the Commonwealth faces,  
14 along with the nation, we, in the state police,  
15 take our responsibilities to work with all 67  
16 counties in trying to bring attention to this  
17 growing problem in the Commonwealth.

18 As far as the state police go and the  
19 things that we do with the support of Governor Wolf  
20 is, we have highlighted with all of our troopers  
21 through our academy, as well as in-service  
22 training, the importance of recognizing signs  
23 associated with drug use. However, carrying the --  
24 carrying Naloxone, which all of our troopers who  
25 are in uniform and supervisors are carrying, that

1 has saved approximately 137 lives in 2017. So,  
2 that's one aspect of what we're doing.

3 And also, our community service officers  
4 are going out to schools and other locations in the  
5 Commonwealth to heighten the awareness and the  
6 perils of substance abuse, and being able to also  
7 channel those individuals into care facilities  
8 around the Commonwealth. It is a challenge that we  
9 take very, very seriously.

10 Some of my colleagues here may want to  
11 talk about our initiative with our own initiative,  
12 Overdose Information Network, which will highlight  
13 and centralize all of the information statewide  
14 regarding substance abuse.

15 LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: Our intelligence  
16 fusion center came up with a program and a  
17 technical program called the Overdose Information  
18 Network. And what that does, that involves  
19 allowing 67 counties out there to provide input  
20 into their system, which tracks overdose deaths,  
21 overdose fatalities, injuries and the disbursement  
22 of Naloxone treatment to these individuals.

23 It will pinpoint where these locations  
24 are. It will give data back out to the communities  
25 to try and see if there's a cluster; if there's a

1 particular incident of certain type of drug going  
2 on. It will give at some point real-time  
3 information back to law enforcement to be able to  
4 put the resources into those areas where they need  
5 to put them.

6           There was a pilot program started, I  
7 believe it was February 20th, in York and Lebanon  
8 counties that has proceeded very well. There's  
9 going to be a statewide rollout of the program  
10 commencing March 12th of this year as well. We  
11 think this is going to be an available tool for not  
12 only law enforcement, but for providers of services  
13 where we need to direct them for treatment and  
14 other types of programs out there.

15           I'd also like to speak a little bit  
16 about our enforcement efforts, which is part of the  
17 whole overall scheme of things. You know, I  
18 believe that treatment is a big picture problem --  
19 or issue that we need to deal with and get more  
20 work into as far as education, but enforcement is  
21 also a big part of the picture as well.

22           In 2017, the Pennsylvania State Police  
23 seized over 69 kilograms of heroin. We also seized  
24 over 65 kilograms of Fentanyl. So our enforcement  
25 efforts are part of the plan as well, and we

1 continue to push our enforcement efforts as well.

2 One other thing that we just recently  
3 did, we're coming up with a program for training  
4 education for our criminal investigators out in the  
5 field to look at delivery of drugs resulting in  
6 death. We're going to put a program together to  
7 train our investigators specifically more for those  
8 types of investigations to try and find out the  
9 sources of these drugs, and, you know, go after the  
10 persons that are dealing these drugs which,  
11 ultimately, result in a death of a person.

12 So, there's some of the things that  
13 we're doing as well.

14 REPRESENTATIVE DONATUCCI: Thank you.

15 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR:

16 Representative James.

17 REPRESENTATIVE JAMES: Good morning,  
18 gentlemen and ladies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 Getting updated on your commentary  
20 here, I do have a question, and it's a  
21 budget-related question. But I wonder about your  
22 calculation where you arrived at the cost per annum  
23 for full-time police protection, the \$240. How did  
24 you get to that number? I heard it was about 150.

25 Well, while you're looking that up, let

1 me ask you my actual question.

2 Long ago I learned the hard way. They  
3 say lessons learned the hard way stick with you;  
4 that if you may be guilty of going a little faster  
5 than the speed limit, that the Pennsylvania State  
6 Police has jurisdiction over 100 percent of  
7 Pennsylvania. So, I couldn't talk my way out of  
8 that being in downtown Oil City.

9 But, since I now know that your troopers  
10 cover--was it 1600 of our municipalities?--it did  
11 not have full or even regional police coverage,  
12 that you believe a proposed fee of \$25 per head in  
13 the areas such as townships and boroughs that don't  
14 have full-time police would be very helpful towards  
15 educating new troopers.

16 How did you get to that number? Since  
17 it only is going to cover roughly 10 percent of the  
18 cost to make that happen, what's behind that  
19 number, please?

20 COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: The 25-dollar per  
21 capita number?

22 REPRESENTATIVE JAMES: Yes, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: That number in  
24 itself was proposed by the Governor in an effort to  
25 provide additional revenue for the state police

1 primarily to assist with our academy cadet classes;  
2 to defer some of the -- some of the cost for that.

3 In terms of the particular dollar  
4 amount, my sense is that it just had to do with a  
5 -- with a percentage based on our workup in terms  
6 of what it cost the state police to provide  
7 services per capita in those municipalities that do  
8 not have a full- or part-time police department.  
9 That's right around \$240 per individual. So, it  
10 was more or less of a 10 percent of that cost.

11 REPRESENTATIVE JAMES: What kind of  
12 calls do your troopers respond to in areas?

13 COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: Our troopers  
14 respond to virtually any calls or requests for  
15 assistance. In our primary jurisdiction, in those  
16 municipalities that we are full time, as well as  
17 those municipalities that we are part time in.

18 The other thing that I think is  
19 important is that, the Pennsylvania State Police  
20 respond to requests for assistance from any  
21 municipality, any local law enforcement that may  
22 need our services or expertise. We always stand  
23 ready to provide the necessary assistance to  
24 municipal police agencies who request the same.

25 REPRESENTATIVE JAMES: Commissioner

1 Blocker, I'm aware that your troopers work well  
2 with the police forces back in Venango County from  
3 which I come. Any good manager will have a plan --  
4 excuse me -- will have a plan B ready in case  
5 plan A doesn't work, and you know our budget is  
6 very tight.

7           If we are unable to comply with your  
8 request for the 25-dollar-a-head fee, what's plan  
9 B, because a lot of my townships and boroughs are  
10 calling me saying, we already give them a billion  
11 dollars a year. Why should we give them \$25 more  
12 per head?

13           COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: Well, I think  
14 that this committee understands the state police  
15 budget better than anyone or any entity, and I  
16 won't bore you with our budget line coming from the  
17 Motor License Fund and how that impacts other state  
18 agencies.

19           But, I have all the confidence in the  
20 state legislature, as well as the Governor, to  
21 provide the necessary resources so that the  
22 Pennsylvania State Police can continue to provide  
23 quality, professional, 21st Century police services  
24 to all citizens and visitors to our great  
25 Commonwealth.

1                   REPRESENTATIVE JAMES:    Would it mean  
2 smaller cadet classes?

3                   And thank you for the extra time, sir.  
4                   Would it mean smaller cadet classes?

5                   COMMISSIONER BLOCKER:    I mean,  
6 obviously, that would be something that we would  
7 look at, along with other areas.

8                   But, with our attrition rate which,  
9 oftentimes, is unknown, we have to always be  
10 cognizant of how important it is for the state  
11 police to have an effective recruiting initiative  
12 and to keep those cadet classes on a regular cycle  
13 so that we can continue to meet all the challenging  
14 needs of Pennsylvanians going forward.

15                  MAJOR PRICE:    Sir, if I could expand on  
16 that just relative to manpower, our separations for  
17 March were a little higher than I have anticipated.  
18 I saw the data yesterday. We have 39 separations  
19 from March. That will put us at 567 vacancies.  
20 That's significant.

21                  MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR:  
22 Representative Kim.

23                  REPRESENTATIVE KIM:    Good morning,  
24 gentlemen, woman. Thank you for being here.

25                  My topic is the rape kits. I have a

1 series of questions I'd like to have answered.

2 What is the current backlog for rape  
3 kits that need to be tested? How does this compare  
4 to what it was at this time last year? What is the  
5 average time when state police receive the rape kit  
6 to test until it is tested? And how does this  
7 compare to the target? And finally, how can we  
8 better support this program?

9 LT. COLONEL BUCAR: I'll try to get all  
10 those in order. I may forget one of them.

11 The laboratory has a current backlog of  
12 DNA testing. Now this is all inclusive. All of  
13 the DNA-type evidence that comes in, which includes  
14 the rape kits. The current backlog is divided  
15 between serology and DNA. So when a kit comes in  
16 or a piece of evidence comes into the lab, it first  
17 is examined by our serology department to determine  
18 if there's any additional unknown DNA or forensic  
19 evidence on that item.

20 If it goes to DNA first, it can destroy  
21 any -- DNA testing can destroy any evidence that  
22 may be unknown on that item. So the process is, it  
23 goes to serology first, then it goes into DNA.

24 So serology -- The serology process has  
25 a backlog, as well as the DNA process, and they

1 work together. So serology backlog total for 2017  
2 was 1544 items. The DNA backlog for 2017 was 812  
3 items. From 2016, serology backlog was 1666, and  
4 the DNA backlog was 972.

5 So, although those numbers seem high,  
6 there was progress made. Between 2016 and 2017,  
7 had a 7 percent reduction in the serology backlog,  
8 and 16 percent reduction in the DNA backlog.

9 The average turnaround time for serology  
10 examinations is 165 days, and for DNA examinations  
11 it is 85 days, so a combined time frame is roughly  
12 250 days turnaround. Now, that's all average  
13 DNA-type analysis.

14 So talking about the rape kits in  
15 particular, and the backlog for rape kits only,  
16 2017 is 661, and those are among the 1544 and the  
17 812 that I mentioned earlier. For 2016, they were  
18 691. So the progress that's being made is part of  
19 the overall progress made on the total laboratory  
20 testing.

21 For a rape kit turnaround time, the  
22 average is 209 days, and we are striving to meet a  
23 target, at least for the rape kits, of 180 days.

24 REPRESENTATIVE KIM: What does your  
25 department need in order to see better improvements

1 in terms of turnaround time and the backlog?

2 LT. COLONEL BUCAR: Obviously, the easy  
3 answer is, we need more resources, but those  
4 resources are not so simple to say we just need  
5 personnel because, if you gave us additional  
6 personnel, we don't have the facilities to put them  
7 in. It's not effective.

8 So, since 2015, since Act 27 took  
9 effect, we've -- we have on the table a plan to  
10 construct a new DNA lab which will provide at least  
11 a hundred seats for DNA and serology scientists.  
12 We've hired an additional staff during 2017 in our  
13 serology department and in our DNA department,  
14 which totals 17 additional positions.

15 We are at capacity right now for the  
16 space that we have. Even if we were to hire  
17 additional people, we wouldn't have anyplace to put  
18 them until the new DNA laboratory is built. So, if  
19 I had all of the staff that I anticipate having  
20 when the DNA laboratory is completed, and we are  
21 occupying that facility, our estimate is that we  
22 could achieve a 30-day turnaround time on these  
23 types of test.

24 But our DNA laboratory, even if it's on  
25 schedule, we won't be occupying until December of

1 2020 or January of 2021.

2 REPRESENTATIVE KIM: How about  
3 contracting out so that we can bring down this  
4 backlog to zero? Is there -- We can do a temporary  
5 contracting services. There's 1500 people waiting  
6 for the serology test. Is that a possibility?

7 LT. COLONEL BUCAR: We looked at that a  
8 few years ago, and part of the investigative  
9 process that DNA testing enables is the ability to  
10 link cases which have been perpetrated by the same  
11 offender. So the FBI's CODIS DNA database enables  
12 law enforcements from across the country to link  
13 DNA samples and to identify cases which the same  
14 offender may have been involved in.

15 The FBI is very strict about the quality  
16 of the DNA analyses that are entered into that  
17 database, so the state police in Pennsylvania is  
18 the only authorized agency or laboratory in  
19 Pennsylvania to enter into that database. Because  
20 of the requirements placed upon us for entry of  
21 those analyses, we had looked at outsourcing a few  
22 years ago. And, unfortunately, the error rate of  
23 the outsourcing was so high that we would have had  
24 to apply additional staff from our own testing to  
25 monitor the outsourcing testing to ensure that it

1 met CODIS requirements. It was not cost-effective,  
2 and it actually aggravated the backlog.

3 REPRESENTATIVE KIM: I appreciate that  
4 question (sic), and the Chairman gave me the nod to  
5 ask -- able to ask more questions.

6 So when will the DNA lab be operational,  
7 up and running? Did you give me an estimate? I'm  
8 sorry if I didn't remember.

9 LT. COLONEL BUCAR: We anticipate  
10 breaking ground sometime in August of this year.  
11 It will take about 18 months plus or minus to  
12 complete. With that calculation, we anticipate  
13 sometime December or fall of 2020.

14 Having it completed, and then once the  
15 normal checklists are done and the building is  
16 cleared for occupation sometime December 2020 or  
17 January 2021.

18 REPRESENTATIVE KIM: Okay. Thank you  
19 very much. No further questions.

20 Thank you, Chairman.

21 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: I just want  
22 to follow up. You're talking about building that  
23 in August. Why can't we start -- Spring is almost  
24 here. Is it permits that are being waited for? Do  
25 you know why we're --

1           I mean, this is such an urgency of the  
2 Auditor General, and everybody else across all the  
3 state has been complaining about this. It's not  
4 necessarily -- Nobody is blaming the state police.  
5 We're just concerned, how do we fix this and how  
6 can we fix it rather rapidly?

7           Is there -- Like, do we need DEP  
8 Secretary to get involved to make sure we can speed  
9 up the permits for the process? Is the designs not  
10 quite done or ready? Where we at exactly on that?

11           LT. COLONEL BUCAR: Currently, we are on  
12 sche -- the schedule that was worked out with the  
13 Department of General Services. The design study  
14 and the plans are due to be completed in April.  
15 Once those are completed, the timeline should start  
16 moving rather quickly.

17           The planning study and design took --  
18 took a considerable amount of time because, this  
19 laboratory is going to be occupied probably for the  
20 next 20 or 30 years, and we had to rely on people  
21 who are experts in the field of laboratory analysis  
22 to identify what are the specifications that such a  
23 building should be built to so that it will still  
24 be viable 20 years into the future rather than  
25 becoming obsolete. A lot of those design aspects

1 couldn't be done quickly, and we're more or less a  
2 victim of trying to do it right, so to speak.

3 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Very good,  
4 Colonel. I appreciate your answer.

5 With that, we'll move to Representative  
6 Helm.

7 REPRESENTATIVE HELM: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Chairman.

9 I'd like to talk about consolidation. I  
10 honestly believe there's a lot of areas in  
11 Pennsylvania where we can consolidate and save  
12 money.

13 But, one of the cost-savings initiatives  
14 identified last year in the McKinsey report was the  
15 consolidation and closing of Pennsylvania State  
16 Police barracks. Is this something you have  
17 considered as a cost-saving initiative? And if so,  
18 have you evaluated and determined what barracks  
19 could be consolidated?

20 And, do you agree it's possible to  
21 reduce the current number of barracks from 81 to  
22 approximately 70, or one per county on average, as  
23 listed in the McKinsey report? And are there any  
24 barracks currently minimally staffed and possible  
25 to consolidate?

1           COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: Thank you for  
2 that question, Representative. I'll just start  
3 off, and then we'll turn it over to some of the  
4 deputies here.

5           Within the state police, we're always  
6 looking at our facility infrastructure. It is  
7 believed that going forward, we're talking about  
8 21st Century policing and enhanced technology that  
9 troopers will have access to, such as mobile office  
10 which will allow them to do the vast majority of  
11 their work from their vehicle and to be mobile.

12           It is my belief going forward, that we,  
13 the Pennsylvania State Police, could technically  
14 operate out of 67 facilities, one per county, in  
15 the Commonwealth. However, this will take some  
16 time to -- to implement; again, using technology to  
17 facilitate that, but we are constantly looking at  
18 our facility infrastructure to determine how  
19 expansive or -- that it needs to be or how we need  
20 to trim our physical locations in the Commonwealth  
21 of Pennsylvania.

22           So, it is a very important issue. One  
23 that myself and the staff are committed to looking  
24 at with a certain degree of regularity. But,  
25 keeping in mind that, we must continue to work with

1 the various counties.

2 I think when leases and things come up,  
3 we have some challenging opportunities to go  
4 forward and start to work in those areas where we  
5 can consolidate our physical footprint.

6 Anybody have anything?

7 MAJOR PRICE: Ma'am, I would just add,  
8 you mentioned minimally-manned stations; if you  
9 look at the geographics, the demographics and the  
10 population of Pennsylvania, right now most of our  
11 minimally-manned stations are northern-tier  
12 stations. You may have Elk County, Sullivan  
13 County, McKean County which is more toward the  
14 west, and in many of those instances, PSP may be  
15 the only police department in the county, or there  
16 may be a small borough police department, so the  
17 population densities are extremely low.

18 Cameron County, I think, has 5500  
19 people. If we have a rep here from Cameron County,  
20 maybe they'll be able to confirm that. Very low  
21 population densities, but our response times are,  
22 you know, important to us. To consolidate some of  
23 those stations, it would result in an increased  
24 response times, and we also have technology issues.  
25 Some of these areas we start to run into

1 communications issues that we struggle with.

2 So the minimally-manned stations, it's  
3 not like we have a lot of those out there and we  
4 can simply combine them. That then creates a  
5 geographic problem.

6 REPRESENTATIVE HELM: Also in the  
7 McKinsey report you talk about an assigned vehicle  
8 program. Do you want to talk about that at all?

9 COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: Yes.

10 Obviously, a state trooper, to carry out  
11 his or her very important duties, needs to have  
12 access to a reliable vehicle in terms of mode of  
13 transportation. We're constantly looking at our  
14 fleet and want to ensure that it is up to speed to  
15 be able to ensure that all troopers have vehicles  
16 that are reliable so they can respond to the myriad  
17 of calls for service that encompasses 24 hours a  
18 day, seven days a week.

19 So, our access, trooper's access to  
20 vehicles are absolutely essential to our day-to-day  
21 operation and efficiency.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HELM: Thank you.

23 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: I recognize  
24 Representative Markosek.

25 MINORITY CHAIRMAN MARKOSEK: Thank you,

1 Chairman.

2 I just want to revisit for the millionth  
3 time what Representative Boyle and some others have  
4 touched on here relative to the state police  
5 coverage of areas -- that do not have local police.

6 The statistics are very, very  
7 compelling, I think, the fact that about 20 percent  
8 of the population of the Commonwealth is covered by  
9 state police; not covered by local police. And  
10 about, I think it's almost 80 percent of the land  
11 mass of the Commonwealth, and we have a big  
12 Commonwealth, is covered by state police because of  
13 no local police.

14 I think last year, if my memory serves  
15 me correctly, the question came up about, what is  
16 your cost per person to cover these areas that do  
17 not have local police coverage. I think it was  
18 around \$235, something like that, per person for  
19 each one of those areas that are not covered.

20 My question today is: Is that number  
21 pretty close to what it is this year? Did that go  
22 up? Do you have that number? Do you have that  
23 number?

24 MAJOR PRICE: Yes, sir. Based on a  
25 similar calculation, it's about \$240. Just one

1 point about that, though, that doesn't cover  
2 support services. That's just a very raw  
3 calculation of the number of people we provide  
4 services for and the cost to maintain our stations  
5 and our troops. It doesn't include things like  
6 aviation support or emergency and special operation  
7 support. So that's -- that's a very raw, probably  
8 low estimate.

9 MINORITY CHAIRMAN MARKOSEK: So, if we  
10 added those things in, it would come -- it would be  
11 higher than \$240, I guess. Is that fair to say?

12 The Governor has proposed a fee of \$25.  
13 That's opposed to 240 plus. It would seem to me --  
14 And this isn't a question. This is just a  
15 statement for the members here and any other  
16 members that may be listening and the rest of the  
17 General Assembly. We keep hearing here about  
18 cutting costs and doing all those things, which  
19 that's our job here in the Appropriations Committee  
20 to look at those kinds of things.

21 But also, what I hear from a lot of our  
22 members here, both sides of the aisle, is willing  
23 to pay for good service. I don't think anybody in  
24 the General Assembly would say that they don't get  
25 good service from the state police. I think --

1 Maybe not unanimous, but I'd go out on a limb and  
2 say pretty darn close that every member of the  
3 General Serve -- General Assembly would say they  
4 get good service from the Pennsylvania State  
5 Police.

6           If I were a businessman and I had some  
7 services that I really needed that I can't do  
8 without, and it cost me 240 -- and the cost of that  
9 service was \$240 plus, and somebody came along and  
10 say, I'll give it to you for \$25, that would be the  
11 fastest check I would ever write. That is the best  
12 deal that anybody could ever get.

13           I think that these communities need to  
14 just jump on that \$25. It's the best deal they're  
15 ever going to get. It's certainly well worth it,  
16 and it would help pay for a service that we all  
17 agree is top-notch here in Pennsylvania, and we  
18 should just do that. That to me just seems like  
19 one of the best deals that any local community  
20 would ever have.

21           I don't have any other questions, but I  
22 wanted to get that off my chest. I know the  
23 Chairman and I have talked about this. We have  
24 some varying ideas of maybe how that should be  
25 done. But I think we both agree --

1           And I would hope most of the members of  
2 this committee and the General Assembly agree that  
3 something ought to be done with that because, keep  
4 in mind too, the Motor License Fund, which is  
5 designed to fund roads and bridges in Pennsylvania,  
6 about two-thirds of your budget is paid for out of  
7 the Motor License Fund. That's not your fault.  
8 That's our fault. We need to find alternatives to  
9 the Motor License Fund to help you pay your budget  
10 and provide funding for your budget.

11           So, I think this 25-dollar fee, I would  
12 be for a higher fee, but I think it's a good deal  
13 and the General Assembly should jump on it.

14           Thank you.

15           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: To -- I don't  
16 necessarily agree or disagree with the  
17 Representative Markosek. Him and I have agreement  
18 that we need to find a way to pay for state police  
19 classes and the --

20           Since 9/11 -- Again, you guys have done  
21 an amazing job, ladies and gentlemen, and I'm very  
22 proud of our state police. I think all of us in  
23 the General Assembly are. It's finding a way to  
24 get a piece of legislation through here to bring in  
25 more money so that we can pave our roads and

1 maintain our roads; and at the same time, make sure  
2 you have everything that you need to protect the  
3 citizens of Pennsylvania.

4           So, I'll be honest. I think, as I did  
5 tell the Governor that his fee is dead on arrival,  
6 not because it's not somewhat a good idea. It's  
7 just very difficult to ask a borough or a township  
8 that has a thousand people in it to pay \$25 a  
9 person and to really make it viable in today's  
10 world. Here in the General Assembly, at least.

11           But, Commissioner, I -- I have suggested  
12 to the Governor that he get on board with my bill,  
13 which says that anybody who has 10,000 people in it  
14 has to pay for state police coverage if they don't  
15 have a regional or local police department.

16           I think we have to start somewhere. I  
17 think that kind of legislation can pass the General  
18 Assembly. Definitely you need more resources.  
19 It's very clear from the lab that's needed to deal  
20 with rape cases; to also the greater demand on you  
21 to deal with so many different things in today's  
22 world.

23           And I know -- The public doesn't already  
24 know this, and I know a lot of people watch on PCN  
25 these hearings is that, you are the finest, best-

1 trained police force in the world. So we, as  
2 Pennsylvania citizens, need to be very proud of you  
3 and the troopers who protect us every day.

4 But, we do need to come up with a way to  
5 help you financially and, hopefully, this General  
6 Assembly will find a way to compromise to some kind  
7 piece of legislation that will get us there.

8 With that, I'm going to go to  
9 Representative Greiner.

10 REPRESENTATIVE GREINER: Thank you,  
11 Mr. Chairman.

12 And good morning, ladies and gentlemen.  
13 It's funny. We talked about PICS and NICS, and we  
14 talked about the coverage for maybe townships. In  
15 my mind, there's probably three big issues in the  
16 past couple years. I'm going to switch over to the  
17 radio system, which we always talk about. And I do  
18 have several questions for you.

19 I want to start off, I believe this is  
20 probably going to Major Stackhouse. You've been  
21 quiet today, so I'm going to get you involved now.

22 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: That's okay. I'm  
23 ready.

24 REPRESENTATIVE GREINER: There you go.

25 Just to start, the first question came

1 up in discussions here about the radio tower-  
2 grounding issue as part of the Office of the Budget  
3 Audit and what's going on -- What's going on there?  
4 This audit had taken place over the last several  
5 years. I just wanted to get a feel for why that's  
6 not there, and what's going on moving forward.

7 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: Well, I initiated an  
8 audit in June of 2015. I initially had the  
9 regrounding issue as an audit objective. I  
10 subsequently pulled that grounding issue from the  
11 auditors, which is probably a decision that I  
12 regret. But I'd like to frame this with more  
13 details.

14 In December of 2015, Harris Corporation  
15 and the Pennsylvania State Police had an agreement  
16 that Harris would reground 57 radio sites under  
17 warranty; that there was defective workmanship that  
18 was done in 2011 and 2012.

19 In 2016, they were doing the work under  
20 warranty for these 57 sites. They completed 12  
21 regrounding of the sites, and they did a very good  
22 job. But then, the P25 contract was not awarded to  
23 Harris Corporation, and I was notified that they  
24 would no longer reground any more sites under  
25 warranty, despite a letter, e-mails, calls from my

1 staff. I heard nothing from Harris Corporation for  
2 nine months in 2017. That left 45 radio sites  
3 vulnerable to lightning strikes. So, we are one  
4 lightning strike away from having very valuable  
5 radio equipment being destroyed or damaged as a  
6 result of improper grounding.

7           And just, I'd like to illustrate. I  
8 kind of brought a prop to, you know, give you an  
9 idea what we're experiencing and we're seeing at  
10 our radio sites.

11           This is a grounding wire that is  
12 obviously corroded. It no longer performs the job  
13 that it's supposed to. This was allegedly replaced  
14 in 2011 and 2012, right, during our contract. This  
15 is what we found at a radio site (produced a wire).  
16 This is what it's supposed to look like (produced a  
17 different wire).

18           Again, the workmanship was inferior, and  
19 we're seeing deficiencies.

20           REPRESENTATIVE GREINER: That's going to  
21 end up costing us some money, then, if they're not  
22 -- I mean, I guess there's a legal -- I don't know,  
23 do we do it or you do it? Obviously, there has to  
24 be something. They have to fulfill the contract, I  
25 would hope.

1 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: Yes, one would think.  
2 I mean, there's civil remedies that we are going to  
3 pursue. But, make no mistake, trooper safety is  
4 paramount to me. And when you're talking about  
5 injuries or possible death or damage to the  
6 equipment, a trooper -- if one of these systems  
7 goes down because of improper grounding, we could  
8 not receive calls. Troopers cannot communicate in  
9 that area, and it's a concern. We need to get this  
10 work done.

11 Harris has been in contact with me and  
12 said, well, we might do it, but it's gonna now cost  
13 the Commonwealth. They've reneged on their promise  
14 for warranty work, which concerns me.

15 REPRESENTATIVE GREINER: Well, like I  
16 said, I knew firsthand -- On background, I was a  
17 volunteer firefighter for many years. I know radio  
18 systems are our -- it's our livelihood. Anybody  
19 who's a first responder, it's critical. And, you  
20 know, people just have to realize that.

21 I mean, if there's something we can do  
22 or I can do, just let me know. I just wanted to  
23 share that.

24 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: I just think Harris  
25 needs to do the right thing.

1                   REPRESENTATIVE GREINER:  And I would  
2  agree with you on that.

3                   As a follow-up, there are -- there's a  
4  couple decreases in two of your General Fund  
5  restricted accounts related to the radio program.  
6  The radio systems development project, which went  
7  from 4.2 million down to 2 million, and the tower  
8  management which decreased from 1.7 down to 800 --  
9  1.7 million down to 800,000.

10                  Could you just give me an idea or a  
11  reason why -- why those reductions occurred in  
12  those two -- in those two funds for this upcoming  
13  budget?

14                  MAJOR STACKHOUSE:  Absolutely.

15                  The Crown Castle Restricted Fund is to  
16  -- funds that when we do lease our towers, space on  
17  our towers, those funds get reinvested into our  
18  radio system.

19                  For example, I spent money on wave  
20  guides for our microwave, a shelter in Erie County,  
21  side marker and beacon lights, breakers, tower  
22  anchor bolt inspections.  I had to spend some of  
23  this restricted fund as a result of the poor  
24  preventive maintenance from Harris Corporation.

25                  So now -- You've done your homework.

1 We're sitting about a million dollars in that  
2 restricted fund, but I still use that money to  
3 reinvest into the network.

4 REPRESENTATIVE GREINER: Okay.

5 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: The other restricted  
6 fund that you mentioned is the radio systems  
7 development project, or I knew it as Sprint Nextel.  
8 The only one -- The only way that I could use that  
9 money was for portable radios. And rather than  
10 invest money into OpenSky, I used the 2.3 million  
11 on P25 compliant portable radios. So that is at  
12 zero.

13 REPRESENTATIVE GREINER: Okay. I  
14 appreciate that. I see my time's been up. Thank  
15 you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your testimony.

16 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: Yes, sir.

17 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR:  
18 Representative Heffley.

19 REPRESENTATIVE HEFFLEY: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Chairman.

21 Just to follow up a little bit on the  
22 radios; just a clarity. I know you showed the --  
23 the grounding wire. Is there a backup plan, or are  
24 the troopers -- God forbid a lightning strike  
25 happens, is there a backup plan for those folks

1 right now that would be without radio coverage?

2 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: I mean, we have a  
3 network operations center that, in the event  
4 communications go down, we -- we're notified  
5 immediately. Then we dispatch technicians to  
6 address, say, equipment that is damaged or  
7 destroyed, and we try to replace that as soon as  
8 possible. That is our normal operating procedure.

9 REPRESENTATIVE HEFFLEY: All right.  
10 Just my ultimate concern is, obviously, safety. I  
11 just want to commend the state police on the great  
12 job you do. Last week I was stuck on Route 380  
13 trying to go see some bears--I didn't get there--  
14 for two hours.

15 It's amazing, in a white-out condition  
16 like that to see the emergency responders, and the  
17 first on scene were the state police. Thank you  
18 for all that you do. I know you'll be busy  
19 probably again today in parts of the state.

20 Just talk a little bit more on the  
21 radios. Has the radio system ever worked properly  
22 since it's been instituted or since it's been run  
23 up?

24 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: I assume you're  
25 talking about OpenSky?

1 REPRESENTATIVE HEFFLEY: Yes.

2 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: No. To this day,  
3 it's considered an unreliable and unpredictable  
4 system. It also continues to suffer from software  
5 issues. And considering that the OpenSky system  
6 relies on 1100 radio sites, that means increased  
7 maintenance and utility and lease costs for us.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HEFFLEY: Speaking of  
9 cost, do you know what the -- what the capital cost  
10 was and what the operating costs are in the system  
11 now?

12 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: Well, each year we  
13 ask to be funded for about 24 million for operating  
14 costs. That includes personnel, salary, benefits,  
15 maintenance, leases, utilities.

16 So, I do anticipate, once we  
17 decommission OpenSky in June of 2021, the  
18 Commonwealth will realize a 6-million-dollar  
19 savings from going from 1100 radio sites down to  
20 approximately 116. So --

21 I'd like to finish your question by --

22 REPRESENTATIVE HEFFLEY: Go ahead.

23 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: -- what didn't I  
24 answer? Is there anything I did not answer?

25 REPRESENTATIVE HEFFLEY: We talked about

1 the capital cost and the operating cost and just to  
2 kind of follow up, because I'm new to the committee  
3 and I know there's been a lot of talk about the  
4 radio system. And, I guess, my concern is making  
5 sure that this radio system works.

6 I come from a rural area. I know when  
7 the troopers are out, they're out an hour away from  
8 anybody else, and I want to make sure they're in  
9 communication.

10 And with that, with the system that's  
11 coming on, will we then be compliant with all the  
12 federal regulations as well?

13 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: We absolutely will.  
14 With a P25 compliant system, this is a national and  
15 international standard, so we now will be  
16 interoperable with counties, other states, and the  
17 federal law enforcement agencies.

18 The P25, I couldn't be more proud of  
19 that we deployed in Warren County, and then our  
20 Pilot 2 deployed in Erie, Venango and Crawford  
21 counties. It's going very well, and we are going  
22 to commence statewide rollout on March 19th.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HEFFLEY: All right. And  
24 I would just -- just to follow up on my colleague's  
25 comments earlier about the Harris Corporation. Are

1 we actively going -- pursuing them to fix the  
2 problems? Is it something that -- Would that be  
3 something that the AG's Office or like a consumer  
4 -- like a consumer protection claim that the AG  
5 Office could help to enforce?

6 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: We have notified the  
7 appropriate entities, and the Administration fully  
8 supports us pursuing any possible redress that we  
9 can.

10 REPRESENTATIVE HEFFLEY: Okay. Well, I  
11 would -- I would hope that we continue to pursue  
12 that. I mean, these are all taxpayer dollars. If  
13 we're not getting the value out of the dollars that  
14 we spent, that's wrong for the taxpayers and wrong  
15 for the state police.

16 So, thank you very much.

17 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: Yes, sir.

18 COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: If I may real  
19 quickly, I cannot emphasize how important, how  
20 significant the P25 radio system is to the  
21 Pennsylvania State Police. Having the ability to  
22 communicate the need associated with providing  
23 quality, professional, public safety services is  
24 absolutely essential.

25 Needless to say, the safety feature in

1 troopers being able to efficiently and effectively  
2 communicate with one another is absolutely  
3 essential to 21st Century policing, which is why  
4 our radio initiative is an absolute priority.

5 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Thank you,  
6 Commissioner.

7 I'm going to follow up on this radio  
8 system. I have, and I'm looking at an audit that  
9 says: Finding number 1: Harris failed to comply  
10 with its contractual tower, structural preventative  
11 maintenance inspection requirements, leading to  
12 disrepair to many Commonwealth towers.

13 Finding number 2: Harris failed to  
14 comply with the contractual monthly reporting  
15 requirement.

16 Finding number 3: Inadequate air-  
17 conditioning services provided by Harris and its  
18 subcontractors. Harris subcontractors provided  
19 documentation that they didn't do the inspections.

20 Harris failed to report known tower  
21 foundation issues.

22 Harris failed to maintain adequate  
23 documentation relating to the qualifications of  
24 technicians who performed work on the project.

25 Harris exclusively billed the

1 Commonwealth for 44 side-marker light repairs  
2 conducted by Jacobs.

3 Harris allowed a questionable markup of  
4 materials and did not maintain adequate support for  
5 its med -- maintenance charges.

6 Harris failed to adequately document  
7 hundreds of preventive maintenance inspections, on  
8 and on.

9 Are we turning over to be prosecuted,  
10 and as well, maybe, civilly pursued, the Harris  
11 Corporation for its criminal activities? In my  
12 opinion, when you fail to meet the contract, I  
13 understand they're civil. But it sounds to me in  
14 this report they also did criminal activities by  
15 not -- by lying in some cases, and also marking up  
16 products that they should not have been doing,  
17 which to me is a criminal case.

18 Are we pursuing that with the Attorney  
19 General or the DAs at all?

20 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: Sir, I cannot confirm  
21 or deny any type of criminal investigation. But,  
22 we are pursuing all civil remedies available to us.  
23 And I testified at the Senate hearing that that  
24 includes suspension and possible debarment of  
25 Harris Corporation doing further work.

1 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Thank you. I  
2 understand those comments --

3 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: Yes.

4 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: -- due to  
5 that.

6 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: I think, sir, that --  
7 And I love to do show and tell. And your first --  
8 your first finding that you read about the tower --  
9 the towers, here is a tower anchor bolt nut. The  
10 tower anchor bolts and the significance of that  
11 first finding all right, in that report, this keeps  
12 the tower upright; pretty big piece of hardware,  
13 right?

14 Poor preventive maintenance over years,  
15 this is one of these nuts, the corrosion, so it  
16 doesn't over night go from this to that. Fair  
17 enough? That's how significant that audit finding  
18 is. And we are pursuing and investigating the  
19 remainder of our tower sites to see if how badly  
20 corroded our anchor bolts and nuts are.

21 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Well, I think  
22 the report should be a warning to anybody who does  
23 business with that corporation that they need to  
24 reconsider what they're doing because, this is a  
25 company that is very bad to think that they can get

1 away from this. Hopefully, either the Attorney  
2 General or the DA, the civil suits will find its  
3 way to correcting those measures.

4 With that, we'll move to Representative  
5 Delozier.

6 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Good morning,  
7 everyone. Thank you for being here.

8 And first, to start off, I just want to  
9 say thank you and hope that the trooper that was  
10 shot at in Harrisburg before Christmas is doing all  
11 right. I'm sure she didn't expect that when she  
12 came in to do that nightly duty with the City of  
13 Harrisburg. We thank you all for serving in that  
14 way and hope that she's doing well.

15 My question, we had talked about the  
16 amount of troopers that you have. And I did ask  
17 these questions last go and -- So I just want to  
18 see if any of the numbers have changed about the  
19 troopers that are working within the gaming and  
20 protecting our gaming establishments.

21 So, at this point in time, do we still  
22 have troopers at every gaming site?

23 COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: Yes, we do.

24 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Okay. And are  
25 they all -- Okay. So all of them are covered by

1 troopers. And how many troopers in total is that?

2 LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: We have 140  
3 enlisted members.

4 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: 140 troopers?

5 LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: That's correct.

6 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Okay. Are  
7 they all ranked a trooper, or are they senior  
8 ranks?

9 LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: That's our total  
10 positions. We have one major, three lieutenants,  
11 one sergeant, one corporal and two troopers at the  
12 headquarters, and the rest are all at the casinos,  
13 which consist of a sergeant, corporals and  
14 troopers, for a total of 11 at each casino.

15 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Eleven at  
16 each. And does that include any support staff,  
17 noncommissioned or anything?

18 LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: There are some  
19 support staff, civilian entities at their  
20 headquarters.

21 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: At the  
22 headquarters, okay.

23 And the ability to -- Do we have a  
24 number on how much overtime is paid to these  
25 troopers that they are required to do at these

1 locations?

2 LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: I don't have  
3 that exact number here. I can obtain that if you  
4 need it.

5 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Okay. I'd  
6 appreciate --

7 LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: However, we are  
8 facilitating overtime for some of those members  
9 because we don't have, basically, sufficient staff  
10 to cover the casino on a full-time basis there?

11 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: And on any  
12 given shift, how many troopers are on duty?

13 LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: There might be  
14 two per shift at this point in time, yes.

15 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: And it's  
16 24 hours, I'm assuming, correct?

17 LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: Yes. However,  
18 we don't cover all the shifts because of the lack  
19 of manpower there.

20 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Okay. So, do  
21 you have a line -- And I was looking in the line  
22 items. Do you have -- Are all the costs that's  
23 associated with, A, what's the cost; and B, is that  
24 entirely covered by the gaming revenue?

25 LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: I don't have the

1 cost available, but it is covered by the gaming  
2 revenue.

3 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: So no other  
4 entity needs to pay into it, including you guys?

5 LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: That's correct.

6 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Okay. Yes, I  
7 would appreciate knowing what that total is, the  
8 cost of it.

9 And this goes just to point the fact of,  
10 we need troopers on the road. Like I said, I had  
11 mentioned this last time, and not to repeat myself,  
12 but I think it's very important that, you know --

13 I understand safety at our gaming sites,  
14 but most of those gaming sites have their own  
15 security from what I understand, as well as their  
16 municipal police from where they're located. Is  
17 that true or not true?

18 LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: That's true, but  
19 the state police is required to conduct any  
20 investigative work on the gaming floor itself.

21 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: And I  
22 understand that, and that was in the part of the  
23 legislation.

24 But the ability for us, I guess, to  
25 duplicate when we need troopers, highly-trained

1       troopers as we put through our academy, and they  
2       are trained to handle some of the most difficult  
3       issues that we have in the State of Pennsylvania, I  
4       don't see our gaming floors as ranking up there. I  
5       would love to be able to use those talents where  
6       they're much more needed, possibly, in our many  
7       areas within the state.

8                   But, to move quickly onto another  
9       question, it was mentioned about the elimination of  
10      the polygraph in applications for those that are in  
11      our police academies. Can you talk a little bit  
12      about that and why? Because, to me, we're going  
13      into law enforcement. We want people to be honest  
14      on their application, obviously.

15                   But, my understanding in many of those  
16      in law enforcement, that the threat to use the  
17      ability that they have to pass a polygraph keeps  
18      them a little honest. I'd like to know why that  
19      was decided to be eliminated.

20                   COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: I appreciate that  
21      question. The issue with the polygraph is just one  
22      aspect of a very -- a probing inquiry into each  
23      cadet applicant.

24                   REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Absolutely.

25                   COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: It is our

1 background investigation that is the most important  
2 area when it comes to cadet applicant. We, in the  
3 state police, have only been conducting polygraph  
4 since, I believe it's the late '80s.

5 I came on in the mid-'70s, so anyone in  
6 that before the late '80s and early '90s did not  
7 have a polygraph. And it's the background  
8 investigation that is absolutely essential to  
9 ensuring that a person meets the high standards and  
10 qualifications to be a member of the Pennsylvania  
11 State Police.

12 The other issue with why we decided to  
13 do away with the background and really rely  
14 wholeheartedly on the background investigation was  
15 cost of that -- of that process.

16 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: What would  
17 that cost have been? That's actually where I was  
18 going to go. What is the cost of using the  
19 polygraph?

20 COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: I don't have  
21 those numbers --

22 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: -- right here in  
24 front of me. But my sense is that, we have not  
25 diminished the requirements; the high requirements

1 and standards for the Pennsylvania State Police by  
2 eliminating the polygraph.

3 There are a number of state law  
4 enforcement agencies around the country who do not  
5 use the polygraph as a determining factor. I think  
6 we all know that the polygraph is not an exact  
7 science.

8 So, we felt it was in our best interest,  
9 as an agency going forward, to continue to rely  
10 heavily on the background investigation by a  
11 trained investigator.

12 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Okay. And I  
13 see I'm red. So, thank you.

14 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR:  
15 Representative Hahn.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HAHN: Thank you,  
17 Chairman.

18 Good morning, testifiers. Thank you for  
19 being here, and thank you for your service.

20 I just want to ask another question  
21 about the gaming. Are there any issues present  
22 that cause additional challenges to the state  
23 police as far as, like, the small games of chance?  
24 Is there anything out there that's a problem for  
25 the state police?

1           LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK:  Particularly  
2 with small games of chance, I would say no at this  
3 point in time.  Our liquor control enforcement  
4 office deals with any issues there in the liquor  
5 establishments.

6           However, we're looking at some issues  
7 concerning what is called skill-based machines,  
8 which we see proliferating across the Commonwealth  
9 right now.  We've kind of estimated in liquor  
10 establishments that there may be up to 13,000 of  
11 those.  We call them illegal machines at this point  
12 in time, and we see that as a problem that's  
13 occurring.

14           They're not only in the liquor  
15 establishments.  We see them expanding out into  
16 convenience stores at this point in time, as well  
17 as some others, we'll call them make-shift casinos  
18 that are out there.

19           REPRESENTATIVE HAHN:  So, is the  
20 Commonwealth losing money on those, obviously, if  
21 they're illegal and we not getting the revenue,  
22 they're out there operating, correct?

23           LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK:  Correct.  We did  
24 a -- somewhat of a random survey investigation in  
25 2017.  We determined that, of those 13 some

1 thousand machines that might be out there, there  
2 could be a total of about \$350 million in illegal  
3 proceeds coming from those machines.

4 REPRESENTATIVE HAHN: Some of the clubs  
5 in my area are getting cards from a company saying  
6 these are legal machines. They're skilled  
7 machines; that they're legal. They're calling me  
8 saying, are these legal machines? I can't make  
9 that determination.

10 So, do you have any court cases? Is  
11 there -- I think there was one court case, correct,  
12 where they were --

13 LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: There was one  
14 court cause in two separate counties, and it only  
15 applies to those counties. And that was only one  
16 particular machine. That was called a passomatic  
17 machine. But now these machines are changing.

18 There's different machines being placed  
19 out there. They're constantly being changed, as a  
20 matter of fact. So, basically, we're looking for  
21 some type of either legislation or a court case  
22 that will settle that argument; whether this is a  
23 skill-based machine or is it a gambling device.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HAHN: Have you made any  
25 arrest in other counties since there's already a

1 court case? I'm assuming that court case you lost,  
2 is that correct, in those two counties that you  
3 mentioned?

4 LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: That's correct.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HAHN: Okay. Are you --

6 LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: We do have some  
7 other investigative things going on at this point  
8 in time, yes.

9 REPRESENTATIVE HAHN: Okay. I think --

10 The other thing is, sometime in -- I  
11 think you mentioned you go into convenience stores.  
12 I've already gone into restaurants where, in the  
13 lobby there's a machine, usually like a poker  
14 machine, that says, for amusement only. But, if  
15 you're there long enough, you see people coming in  
16 and out.

17 They don't have a liquor license. Who  
18 follows up on those?

19 LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: That would be  
20 some of our investigative entities; whether it be  
21 Troop Vice investigators or BCI, our Bureau of  
22 Criminal Investigation.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HAHN: Okay. But  
24 somebody does go out and check those, and they're  
25 illegal, correct?

1           LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: That's correct.  
2 We will be prosecuting those. Like I said, we're  
3 looking for either some legislative intervention or  
4 a court case to specifically determine that they're  
5 illegal device.

6           REPRESENTATIVE HAHN: Okay. And I want  
7 to go back to the municipalities. So I know in my  
8 area we have a municipality that was with regional  
9 -- a regional police force, and now because of the  
10 cost, they want to go with state police. I have a  
11 concern with that.

12           Nobody says you don't do a great job.  
13 You do. But when you're looking at the response  
14 times, you know, when you have -- We have five  
15 state highways coming through the municipality with  
16 accidents or drugs or whatever, I'm concerned that  
17 -- Do you feel you can handle that when you see  
18 more and more municipalities going with state  
19 police?

20           As Chairman Markosek says, it is a  
21 bargain for \$25 per person. I'm afraid you're not  
22 going to have the manpower. Do you feel you can  
23 handle that with the additional funding at the \$25?

24           COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: We believe the  
25 25-dollar fee will allow us to continue to bring

1     forth cadet classes; in other words, train  
2     individuals so we can properly staff the various  
3     stations in the respective counties.

4             It's always a challenge for our troop  
5     commanders and our station commanders to ensure  
6     that they are deploying state police personnel  
7     appropriately and ensuring that they have the  
8     resources to be effective.

9             REPRESENTATIVE HAHN: I guess my concern  
10    is, if you have an active shooter, obviously,  
11    you're dispatching. You're there right away.  
12    Somebody calls in and says there's suspicious  
13    activity; there's a homeless person; there's  
14    somebody, some kind of activity in the area may not  
15    get a response as quickly because of all the other  
16    areas that you're covering.

17            COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: Well, clearly, we  
18    pride ourselves in being able to prioritize those  
19    calls for service. However, every call for service  
20    is handled appropriately and as quickly as  
21    possible.

22            REPRESENTATIVE HAHN: I just don't want  
23    to see the state police overextended, and any of  
24    the citizens in danger in the local municipalities.  
25    But, thank you.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR:

3 Representative Grove is up for questioning. And I  
4 want to recognize we have been joined by the  
5 Honorable Senator Mario Scavello.

6 REPRESENTATIVE GROVE: Thank you,  
7 Chairman.

8 Good afternoon. I want to first thank  
9 the state police. You started a new outreach  
10 program, an active shooter; kind of an educational  
11 forum. One of my senior centers actually had it.  
12 I attended. It was phenomenal. So I just want to  
13 applaud the state police on their work on being  
14 proactive on that front.

15 I want to get into the Harris.  
16 Number 1, why did you go to the Budget Office for  
17 an audit? Was there a request to the Auditor  
18 General to do an audit on that contract at all?

19 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: Two separate issues.  
20 I became director over radio in March of 2015.  
21 When I'm stepping into a new position and I'm  
22 looking at millions of dollars in appropriations to  
23 keep the radio system running, I felt that it was  
24 necessary to ask the Office of Budget to look into  
25 that money and how it's being spent.

1 I did initially, from the get-go, saw  
2 some irregularities that I felt that needed greater  
3 attention from a neutral agency. So, that action  
4 was separate from the Auditor General, who, just  
5 within weeks of my taking over this command,  
6 expressed interest in doing a special report on the  
7 history of the radio system.

8 My audit that I requested was only from  
9 July 1st of 2012, through October 1st of 2015. It  
10 was very directed and during only the time that the  
11 state police had control -- operational control  
12 over the radio system. The Auditor General was  
13 supposed to span all through the history of  
14 OpenSky.

15 REPRESENTATIVE GROVE: And OA had  
16 control over that prior to you, correct, and it was  
17 transferred to PSP at some point, correct?

18 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: Yes, sir. In July --  
19 July 1st of 2012, we assumed control, operation,  
20 maintenance over STARNet.

21 REPRESENTATIVE GROVE: Okay. So the --  
22 The Office of the Budget did a narrow -- narrow  
23 scope audit. Audit finding number 7, and I'll read  
24 the title:

25 Harris excessively billed the

1 Commonwealth for 44 side-marker light repairs  
2 conducted by Jacobs. The other one, audit number  
3 10: DC and R repeater purchase orders did not  
4 reflect actual parts and services delivered. It  
5 sounds a little fraudulent within the finances.

6 Is there -- I guess you can't. Is there  
7 -- Are you asking for money being returned based on  
8 those audits by Harris for the overbilling and then  
9 kind of correcting the purchase orders?

10 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: I can answer this  
11 kind of in a two-part. I determined that at the  
12 conclusion of Harris Corporation's maintenance  
13 contract in October of 2015, that I would withhold  
14 one point -- approximately three months of their  
15 last three maintenance payments, which was  
16 approximately 1.6 million. That I was holding  
17 until the conclusion of the audit.

18 The audit determined that there's about  
19 damages or problems in the tune of about 1.3.

20 But to get to your question, the  
21 overbilling of just the side-marker lights is just  
22 a -- just a small sampling of billing issues. Once  
23 I received the audit, I have personally looked into  
24 the billing issue, and I can tell you that there  
25 are -- it's a systemic overbilling issue over the

1 years. And I'm taking a look at 2012, '13 and '14  
2 and part of '15.

3 REPRESENTATIVE GROVE: Wow.

4 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: So, this is just the  
5 tip of the iceberg.

6 REPRESENTATIVE GROVE: So we're -- we're  
7 -- So while you're withholding 1.3 (sic), it could  
8 be even higher.

9 Now, the total cost for Harris was about  
10 800 million? Is that a rough estimate? Is that  
11 pretty good?

12 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: Well, no. Harris did  
13 not receive \$800 million. That's a misnomer. That  
14 is the total cost of the operating radio system  
15 since the inception; the contract in 1999.

16 REPRESENTATIVE GROVE: Okay.

17 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: That includes  
18 personnel costs, maintenance, leases, everything.  
19 It includes microwave upgrades. It includes grant  
20 money, consultant fees. I mean, it's -- That 800  
21 million is everything; not --

22 And, I'd like to point out that, some of  
23 those monies were fantastic investments, okay, out  
24 of that 800 million. For example, the Commonwealth  
25 owns 173 high profile steel towers, and we have a

1 fantastic microwave system, so it's not money lost.  
2 And there was only a small portion that went to  
3 OpenSky out of that 800 million.

4 REPRESENTATIVE GROVE: So the original  
5 contract was one hundred twenty for Harris,  
6 correct? Was that the initial bid; do you know?

7 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: I'm not sure.

8 REPRESENTATIVE GROVE: I mean, OA  
9 probably did that. Okay.

10 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: Yeah.

11 REPRESENTATIVE GROVE: It might be  
12 helpful to try to figure -- maybe send the  
13 committee the initial bid and how much we've  
14 actually given to Harris.

15 And two, I just want to thank you for  
16 your due diligence on the finances of this. I, as  
17 a taxpayer, greatly appreciate eyes on this and  
18 weeding some of this stuff out because, this is the  
19 stuff that frustrates me every single day. Because  
20 an agency took its due diligence and looked at this  
21 with an open eye, we're uncovering, I would say,  
22 fraudulent levels of funding. And I hope if  
23 there's prosecution, these people are put in jail.

24 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: Well, sir, every  
25 dollar that you folks give me toward radio, I treat

1 it as if it's coming out of my own pocketbook,  
2 right?

3 The P25 deployment is going to get us  
4 out out from under the OpenSky system to a reliable  
5 radio system. And for everyone, I not only serve  
6 the troopers, but 21 other state agencies who are  
7 just as eager to have a new radio system.

8 REPRESENTATIVE GROVE: Thank you.

9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR:

11 Representative Quinn.

12 REPRESENTATIVE QUINN: Thank you. Right  
13 over here.

14 Not to beat a dead radio, but your words  
15 about, we're only one lightning strike away, it's  
16 shocking to me. So many -- During these hearings,  
17 I've been asking about cyber security, and this  
18 just sounds so basic with corrosion.

19 I'm curious. With corrosion being the  
20 problem, could the problem have been in the specs  
21 in the RFP? Did we have requirements for cathodic  
22 protection?

23 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: That's an excellent  
24 question. When the towers were built, there might  
25 have been defects. However, Harris was contracted

1 for full preventive maintenance activities on all  
2 of our radio sites, as well as fixing any broken  
3 equipment, right.

4 REPRESENTATIVE DELOZIER: Is Harris also  
5 the manufacturer, or there'd be sales slash  
6 implementator?

7 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: They were the Rohn --  
8 Rohn, the company Rohn that ended up going bankrupt  
9 was actually who built the towers. Harris, though,  
10 over many-year period, was responsible for  
11 notifying us if there were defects or problems with  
12 our towers. And their failure to do so, I would  
13 say you can take a look at the corroded tower  
14 anchor, nut and bolts. And I also have pictures  
15 for you to review, if you so choose.

16 REPRESENTATIVE QUINN: No. I take your  
17 word for it. Corrosion is scary.

18 Are you aware of any fatalities that are  
19 as a result of these radios being down at a time  
20 because of a lack of maintenance follow-up?

21 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: No fatalities, but we  
22 have experienced in the past damaged radio  
23 equipment that we had to replace at the taxpayers'  
24 dollar.

25 REPRESENTATIVE QUINN: Okay, thanks.

1 I'm going to move aside. I'm not sure who gets  
2 these questions.

3 Another thing that I've been following  
4 up on is -- are the claims of sexual harassment,  
5 and there are a couple of unflattering articles  
6 with regard to Pennsylvania State Police. And I'm  
7 not being critical of any of the actions of any of  
8 you here. My questions -- because that's just a  
9 given in terms of sexual harassment in the  
10 workplace. And I recognize that some of the  
11 articles date back to 2001 in terms of payouts  
12 being made. So it's not like it's recent. I'm not  
13 trying to incriminate now.

14 But, we've learned about, during the  
15 course of these hearings, the Pennsylvania Self-  
16 Insurance Liability Fund. Okay? And I've learned  
17 that that has a 250,000-dollar cap. However, in  
18 reading, I've seen that some of the payouts have  
19 been 5,000 up to \$435,000 from over the course of  
20 time.

21 I'm curious where, when there's a payout  
22 that goes over the two fifty threshold for that  
23 fund, where does that money come from? Is it from  
24 the GGO lines? Where's that little stash that  
25 covers things like this?

1           COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: Let me first  
2 share with you that any allegation of sexual  
3 harassment associated with the Pennsylvania State  
4 Police is taken extremely seriously and properly --  
5 and always properly investigated.

6           Obviously, there is a civil process that  
7 unfolds here associated with these types of  
8 investigations. Our Chief Counsel, along with the  
9 Governor's Office, confer systematically on these  
10 kinds of -- of these kinds of cases.

11           I can't speak as to the particular  
12 dollar amount associated with them.

13           REPRESENTATIVE QUINN: Can you speak to  
14 where dollars, in excess, of what would be covered  
15 by the Pennsylvania Employee Liability  
16 Self-Insurance Fund?

17           MAJOR PRICE: Ma'am, they now come from  
18 our - they come out of our GGO, our General  
19 Governmental Operations funds.

20           To expand upon what Colonel Blocker said  
21 also, you know, we have a robust internal  
22 investigation process. Our Bureau of Integrity and  
23 Professional Responsibility Internal Affairs  
24 Division investigates these sorts of things. They  
25 go to our department discipline office for

1 determining and meting out discipline.

2 And, in fact, we're in the process of  
3 looking at the potentiality for -- Our internal  
4 affairs office works with our EEO, our Equal  
5 Employment Opportunity liaisons. In some  
6 instances, the EEO will do investigations, and in  
7 some instances the Internal Affairs office does the  
8 investigation, depending upon the magnitude and the  
9 breath and the resources necessary.

10 We're actually looking at moving more of  
11 those investigations into Internal Affairs, because  
12 we have more investigators and more resources there  
13 to do them. So we're constantly looking at this.

14 As Colonel Blocker said, every single  
15 allegation is investigated.

16 REPRESENTATIVE QUINN: I understand  
17 that. I'm happy to hear that. I know better than  
18 to believe everything that I read, but it doesn't  
19 seem, from what I've read, that that was always the  
20 case.

21 So, I'm not going to hold you  
22 accountable for anything in the past. I'm glad to  
23 see it going forward. And I do have some concerns  
24 that any escalation coming out of the GGO, when  
25 we're crying here saying, how do we get more money

1 into that GGO to begin with --

2 I'm doing some personal research on what  
3 type of reinsurance funds we could have so that the  
4 taxpayers, or the safety of the taxpayers, is not  
5 going to be at risk should there be claims from  
6 years back where there might not have been the same  
7 oversight on these issues.

8 Thank you.

9 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR:  
10 Representative Dunbar.

11 REPRESENTATIVE DUNBAR: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Chairman.

13 Not to use a radio pun, but my reception  
14 and understanding of this is very staticky and  
15 fuzzy to tell you the truth. But --

16 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: You're probably  
17 operating under OpenSky then.

18 REPRESENTATIVE DUNBAR: I'm sure.

19 And to bring this all full circle, we  
20 really need to look at the Governor's budget, and  
21 that's what we are here to do. In this budget  
22 proposal is a line under keeping Pennsylvania safe,  
23 provides \$53 million for communication and  
24 infrastructure purchases to modernize our statewide  
25 radio system and comply with federal requirements.

1           And I appreciate -- I love the fact that  
2           you said, Major Stackhouse, that any monies going  
3           in -- you're treating like it's in your pocket, so  
4           there's \$53 million in your pocket. I need to  
5           understand, first off, are we out of compliance  
6           with federal requirements?

7           MAJOR STACKHOUSE: We're right now with  
8           OpenSky, we're operating a proprietary network. It  
9           doesn't conform to any national or international  
10          standards. So yes, the P25 is actually going to  
11          allow a cost savings to the Commonwealth, as well  
12          as inner operability opportunities to counties.

13          REPRESENTATIVE DUNBAR: Okay. Let me  
14          understand.

15          MAJOR STACKHOUSE: Go ahead.

16          REPRESENTATIVE DUNBAR: So OpenSky is  
17          the failed system. I guess failed, is that a fair  
18          word?

19          MAJOR STACKHOUSE: Yes.

20          REPRESENTATIVE DUNBAR: You're replacing  
21          it with P25, which you've started to test in  
22          Venango and a couple northwest counties.

23          MAJOR STACKHOUSE: Yes, sir.

24          REPRESENTATIVE DUNBAR: Okay. You also  
25          mentioned STARNet. What is STARNet?

1 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: That's the statewide  
2 radio network, and that's what I oversee.

3 REPRESENTATIVE DUNBAR: Okay. And  
4 STARNet. What's P25 then?

5 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: P25 is just a -- is  
6 just a term of a set of standards that -- like I  
7 said, is -- I'll give you the -- the APCO actually  
8 coined the term P25, and it is a bunch of  
9 standards.

10 APCO, in our situation with P25, our  
11 system relies on VHF spectrum and, for capacity in  
12 the cities, 800 megahertz. So, our P25 system is  
13 VHF and 800, and a nice addition is the  
14 capabilities that we added, for no cost to the  
15 taxpayer the ability to use UHF frequencies on our  
16 system. So that means we can help more counties,  
17 if we need to, and we -- Like I said, it's a lot  
18 less cost and a lot more opportunities.

19 REPRESENTATIVE DUNBAR: So, the  
20 \$53 million is going towards, fill in the blank?

21 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: 24 million is going  
22 to continue to operate our statewide radio network,  
23 including OpenSky. The remainder of that money is  
24 going for infrastructure, statewide rollout of P25,  
25 the new radio system, as well as the budget has

1 outlined the money for mobile radios for state  
2 police cars, portable radios, repeaters in those  
3 cars, and installation costs. So, the 53 million,  
4 24 for normal operating; the rest for P25 and for  
5 Pennsylvania State Police.

6 REPRESENTATIVE DUNBAR: So then, is it  
7 fair to say that going forward into future years,  
8 that number will be reduced?

9 MAJOR STACKHOUSE: Absolutely. In five  
10 years, once we fully deploy P25, that extra --  
11 Like, in this fiscal year coming up, we're asking  
12 for \$29 million. That will go away.

13 And I will tell you, in fiscal year  
14 '21-22, you're going to see approximately a  
15 6-million-dollar decrease in our operating budget  
16 because we will have less towers, less leases, and  
17 better savings on maintenance and utilities.

18 REPRESENTATIVE DUNBAR: Okay. I hope  
19 someone wrote that all down, because it's somewhat  
20 getting a little bit clear.

21 I'll end my question there, and we'll go  
22 on to the next questions, which will be  
23 Representative Keller.

24 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Thank you,  
25 Mr. Chair.

1           Thank you, Commissioner and Deputy  
2           Commissioners.

3           I'd like to come back around to the  
4           25-dollar fee that's being proposed for  
5           municipalities that don't have a full time or  
6           what's deemed enough police coverage. The question  
7           I have, and I think I asked this last year and want  
8           to make sure I understand it, the state police does  
9           provide services and/or support for a  
10          hundred percent of our municipalities in the  
11          Commonwealth?

12                    COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: That is correct.

13                    REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: So, no matter  
14           whether you have a police force or not, you may be  
15           receiving some kind of either backup or lab  
16           services or investigatory services from the state  
17           police; is that correct?

18                    COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: Yes.

19                    REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Okay. So in a  
20           place -- And I'll use my district, Snyder County,  
21           Adams Township, which doesn't have a major highway  
22           through it and very few people. Even though they  
23           don't have a high crime rate, they're gonna pay \$25  
24           a person simply because they don't have a police  
25           force. But a city that has a police force that may

1 use more state police resources won't have to pay  
2 anything. I just --

3 Are we going to get anymore service in  
4 these rural areas as a result of paying \$25? Are  
5 there going to be more patrols? What do we get if  
6 we -- if we have a local municipality paying \$25 a  
7 person?

8 COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: Well, in those  
9 situations where municipalities do not have a  
10 police agency, the Pennsylvania State Police are  
11 primary agencies for those municipalities, and the  
12 municipality gets the myriad of services provided  
13 by the Pennsylvania State Police; whether that's a  
14 uniform trooper in a marked car or one of our  
15 undercover narcotics investigators or the use of  
16 our aviation assets when and where --

17 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: They might --  
18 Excuse me. They might also be used in a place that  
19 has a full-time police force, also, those assets?

20 COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: If we get a  
21 request for those assets, yes.

22 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: They might be  
23 used in either case. But your cars aren't going to  
24 be patrolling these neighborhoods on a routine  
25 basis like a police force or a city does, are they?

1 You're not gonna put a car out and patrol through  
2 these municipalities?

3 What more is a municipality going to get  
4 than they currently are getting now for the  
5 additional cost?

6 MAJOR PRICE: Just for a little bit of  
7 clarity, you're referring to an area that relies on  
8 the state police for coverage now; the small  
9 municipalities where we provide coverage. We don't  
10 respond from stations, so our cars don't sit at  
11 stations. We're not the fire company and wait for  
12 a call.

13 So really, what you're getting now, you  
14 are a getting a trooper in a zone patrolling that  
15 municipality. The 25-dollar fee may not increase  
16 that or decrease that particular level of service  
17 because you're already -- you're already getting  
18 that.

19 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: So, we're really  
20 not gonna see any more presence per se than we see  
21 now. Because I see state police cars going through  
22 municipalities, too, that have their own police  
23 force more so than I do in some of our  
24 municipalities that don't have any police force.  
25 And I guess I just --

1           Let me throw out a scenario for you.  
2           Would it be better to take a look at -- Because we  
3           know where our cars are, don't we? We have GPS and  
4           so forth. We know how much time our officers, our  
5           troopers spend on a call and where their time is  
6           being spent, don't we?

7           COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: Yes.

8           REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: So, if we were  
9           to come up with an average per call per  
10          municipality--And you can throw out the high and  
11          the low, you know, a couple calls--you could  
12          actually bill on a per usage basis rather than just  
13          doing a peanut butter spread of \$25 per -- per  
14          person. That way, if you are using resources more  
15          in a city that has their own police force than a  
16          municipality that does not, you wouldn't be  
17          covering the costs -- The people that don't have  
18          the higher crime rates wouldn't be subsidizing the  
19          law enforcement in the other places.

20          COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: Well,  
21          Representative, my sense here is that, the  
22          Pennsylvania State Police are a 24/7 operation. We  
23          are always in a position to respond to any kind of  
24          call for public safety services. And in many  
25          cases, our troopers are in communities. And,

1 perhaps, community representatives aren't aware of  
2 our policing activities in a particular -- in a  
3 particular community.

4 With respect to, you know, kind of  
5 pay-as-you-go model, my sense is, that would be,  
6 from my perspective, somewhat problematic. We  
7 don't want to get into a billing system based on  
8 calls for service. If it's a loud building, that's  
9 going to be X amount versus a minor traffic  
10 accident.

11 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: I'm not  
12 suggesting that. What I'm simply suggesting is,  
13 you get an average. Over a three or five-year  
14 period, you know the calls you respond to. You  
15 know how much time you spend on them.

16 So, you would throw out the high and the  
17 low like in the Eric Frein case. You wouldn't  
18 factor that one in, and you'd give like a three- or  
19 five-year cost and say, hey, in your municipality  
20 over the last five years this is the average cost.  
21 So for the next five years you're going to pay, you  
22 know, whatever.

23 I guess my point is, however we do it,  
24 it's certainly not gonna be fair but a little bit  
25 more equitable. And again, because we don't have

1 crime in certain areas of the state, and we're not  
2 seeing the patrols there that you see when you have  
3 municipal police forces, I just think that  
4 arbitrarily saying it's going to be \$25, because --  
5 Again, I don't think --

6 We know the calls. We have a call log.  
7 We know how many calls we make to each  
8 municipality, correct?

9 (No answer).

10 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: And so, do we  
11 make more calls, you know, so -- I guess --

12 Could we get that information? I guess  
13 that would help us analyze a little better how we  
14 divvy up the cost so that we can fund -- fund the  
15 state police accur -- or appropriately. Could I  
16 get a list of calls per municipality?

17 COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: Just so I  
18 understand you, you're talking about a particular  
19 municipality, a particular county?

20 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: I would say  
21 calls responded to in all of our municipalities.  
22 There should be a spreadsheet or something,  
23 shouldn't there?

24 COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: Yeah, we can --

25 MAJOR PRICE: We can delineate by

1 township and county. But just to be clear and one  
2 point of clarification. I know we're out of time  
3 on this.

4 But, the municipalities that have a  
5 full-time department, we don't respond to calls for  
6 service there. I mean, some states they do where  
7 there's overlapping jurisdictions and various  
8 entities. Delaware, for example, you may have DSP  
9 or you may have a county police entity have  
10 concurrent and overlapping jurisdiction. If  
11 there's a call, it may be who arrives first.  
12 That's not our case.

13 So, in an entity or an area with a full-  
14 time police department, if they're dispatched to a  
15 burglary or something of that nature, we're not  
16 responding to that unless the locals request a  
17 backup. Or, if there's an in-progress call,  
18 clearly, if we're close by, you know, robbery in  
19 progress, again, active shooter, certainly those  
20 were. We're not responding to calls -- actual  
21 calls for service there. So, it's - Just be clear  
22 on what --

23 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: I understand  
24 that. But you may be making more calls to a place  
25 that has its municipal police force than you are a

1 place that doesn't. And the place that doesn't  
2 have a municipal police force, even though they're  
3 not using the amount of services that another one  
4 has that has the police force, they're still going  
5 to end up paying more money.

6 I guess I just sort of look at that and  
7 think, if there's low crime in an area, why should  
8 they have to foot the bill for calls being made in  
9 other parts of the Commonwealth.

10 MAJOR PRICE: Understood.

11 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Very good.

12 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Thanks.

13 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Moving on to,  
14 for one question, Representative Donatucci.

15 REPRESENTATIVE DONATUCCI: Thank you.  
16 We know we're gonna try to squeeze one question,  
17 right?

18 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: One question,  
19 one minute.

20 REPRESENTATIVE DONATUCCI: Anyway, how  
21 officers engage with residents in the community  
22 they protect is a key part of keeping Pennsylvania  
23 safe. Increased trooper diversity and use of body  
24 cameras should be considered as vital elements.

25 Having said that, I'm gonna first ask

1 about the \$6 million in the budget for body  
2 cameras. Tell us about the body camera, pilot  
3 program beginning in the spring; how the results of  
4 this pilot program will form the direction you go  
5 with the statewide rollout of the cameras, and how  
6 the \$6 million will be used.

7 LT. COLONEL BUCAR: The pilot will be  
8 commencing within the next month or two. That will  
9 be 30 cameras out, and the pilot -- The grant from  
10 the federal government for the pilot was  
11 specifically meant for development of policy. It's  
12 not meant to propagate equipment or to provide a  
13 platform to experiment with different vendors.  
14 It's primarily meant to develop policy that the  
15 U.S. Department of Justice can look at and endorse  
16 as far as being within the best practices.

17 It's policy that would be afforded to  
18 all the police departments in Pennsylvania as a  
19 model if they so choose. It will be to evaluate  
20 the costs and estimates of storage, processing  
21 video when there's requests for dissemination from  
22 the public and other entities; staffing required,  
23 perhaps, to process all of those requests. The  
24 costs associated with a department-wide rollout.

25 So, the pilot has a lot of objectives to

1 it beyond that just for policy.

2 The grant required that the state police  
3 fund the infrastructure, so the grant pays for  
4 cameras. There was only around fifty-two, \$53,000.  
5 Part of the grant requirements were that, state  
6 police funds the infrastructure. So, we are  
7 utilizing existing infrastructure that's already in  
8 place from our mobile vehicle recorders.

9 Being that the troopers who will be  
10 using the body cameras are already familiar with  
11 that technology, and it's the least amount of cost  
12 associated with this pilot.

13 The \$6 million that is in the budget is  
14 not enough to pay for a department-wide rollout.  
15 But, in anticipation of being at a point around the  
16 beginning of 2019, which will be the last part of  
17 this budget year, to determine what our  
18 requirements will be for a department-wide rollout,  
19 the first aspect of that requires a buildup of the  
20 infrastructure throughout the state to accommodate  
21 storage of the video that will be produced. We  
22 have no idea of the volume of video.

23 Currently, we produce, with mobile  
24 vehicle recorders in the cars, over 100,000 hours  
25 of video per month throughout the state. We

1 anticipate that will be a lot higher with body  
2 cameras since each trooper out on patrol would be  
3 carrying a body camera, as opposed to only having  
4 cameras in each car. The cost associated with that  
5 build-out we estimate to be over twenty-four,  
6 \$25 million, and that's just the infrastructure.

7 So, if the legislature is willing to  
8 fund a full rollout, we anticipate that \$6 million  
9 will pay for the first part, the last remaining six  
10 months of this fiscal year, the first part of that  
11 build-out.

12 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Colonel,  
13 thank you.

14 Again, one minute, one question. I'll  
15 ask whoever is answering the questions to be as  
16 quickly as possible because I do want to get the  
17 Colonel and Commissioner back to command  
18 headquarters because of the snow emergency in the  
19 southeast.

20 Representative James.

21 REPRESENTATIVE JAMES: Thank you.

22 Gentlemen and ladies, again. I'm not  
23 sure that every Pennsylvanian is aware of some of  
24 the special units that you have, such as hazardous  
25 device and explosive section, Clandestine Lab

1 Response Team; what is called Special Emergency  
2 Response Team, which I assume is a variation of a  
3 SWAT team.

4 A VOICE: Yeah.

5 REPRESENTATIVE JAMES: I think every  
6 American is currently -- has some level of anxiety  
7 about shootings, and especially school shootings.  
8 And I don't believe anyone has asked this question.

9 So, you are uniquely qualified, I  
10 believe, to kind of bring us up to speed on what  
11 your organization is doing to combat and prevent  
12 these.

13 MAJOR PRICE: I think there's several  
14 perspectives, sir. One is our Bureau of Training  
15 and Education, which I oversee; and then an  
16 operational aspect, which Colonel Evanchick  
17 oversees.

18 From the perspective of the Bureau of  
19 Training and Education, we offer numerous programs.  
20 One of the representatives mentioned that,  
21 formally, relative to active shooter response,  
22 that's available to the public, and it's also  
23 available to other police entities; a little bit  
24 different curricula.

25 We also offer things like risk and

1 vulnerability assessments where we look at physical  
2 plant structure and actually make suggestions for  
3 improvements of physical plant structure. Then  
4 we've done a number of things, and Colonel  
5 Evanchick can, perhaps, comment on the operational  
6 side of that.

7 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: If you would,  
8 Colonel, keep it quick.

9 LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: Okay.

10 Our community service officers provided  
11 over 364 presentations for thousands of attendees  
12 on the topic. We've done 147 risk and  
13 vulnerability assessments since January of 2016.  
14 Most of them have been from schools.

15 It's required that each one of our  
16 community service officers and the specific troops  
17 have a strategic plan for response to active school  
18 incidents and shootings. We also have memorandums  
19 of understanding with each school district of our  
20 jurisdiction.

21 We conduct yearly drills, tabletop  
22 exercises, as well as other planning and  
23 event-staging things for these schools. Each troop  
24 commander is required to conduct one major drill  
25 for a school in a particular area of command each

1 year.

2 COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: And just very  
3 quickly, and I appreciate your time. Every troop  
4 commander and area commander in the Pennsylvania  
5 State Police, these are the commanders that are out  
6 in the 67 counties. They know that a priority of  
7 the Pennsylvania State Police is to ensure that  
8 they have a working relationship with schools in  
9 their area on a personal basis, along with those  
10 police departments in the various counties where  
11 these schools are.

12 Our goal is to ensure that the health  
13 and welfare and safety of Pennsylvania's children  
14 are absolutely provided for.

15 REPRESENTATIVE JAMES: Thank you.

16 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Very good.

17 Commissioner, I didn't mean to cut you  
18 off. I just want to help you get back to where you  
19 need to be, so --

20 Representative Santora, one question,  
21 ask quickly, please.

22 REPRESENTATIVE SANTORA: It's a two-part  
23 question.

24 Is \$25 a head enough? Because, my  
25 police department, we have a little over a

1 24-million-dollar budget, 82,000 residents. It's  
2 right around \$300 a head. Is \$25 enough to do what  
3 you need to do in these municipalities that do not  
4 have police departments?

5 And, I know when we call and request for  
6 you to come down and do, for example, a radar  
7 detail, it cost somewhere in the thirteen to  
8 1500-dollar range, and then another thirteen to  
9 1500 to have the trooper appear in court.

10 I know there's costs associated with  
11 them being on a special detail or being called to a  
12 municipality. And if it's six hours worth of work  
13 and it's that kind of money, how's \$25 a head  
14 enough for the municipalities that you're going to  
15 be going into that need it?

16 I understand what the Chairman said with  
17 the 10,000 or more. I just feel you need  
18 something. I really hope you're not under-cutting  
19 it, because it's going to be tough to come back for  
20 more.

21 COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: Let me just say  
22 that, we, as an agency, support the Governor's  
23 thought process with respect to the 25-dollar fee.  
24 We had no direct input on that other than providing  
25 the Administration with the per capita cost of --

1 for the citizens and municipalities that we provide  
2 service for, and that's approximately \$240 per  
3 capita.

4 So, my sense is that, the Governor and  
5 his staff came up with that -- with that figure and  
6 that's the figure that we, as an agency, subscribe  
7 to.

8 REPRESENTATIVE SANTORA: Understood.  
9 So, you don't think it's enough, but you subscribe  
10 to it because that's what the Governor -- I get it  
11 and I understand, and I appreciate your -- you're  
12 willing to support your Governor. So, I got it.

13 Thank you.

14 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: Okay. We  
15 will move to Chairman Costa.

16 CHAIRMAN P. COSTA: Thank you,  
17 Mr. Chairman.

18 And, troopers, thank you all so much for  
19 being here and thank you for the service you  
20 provide to our Commonwealth. My questions are  
21 going to be concerned with liquor control  
22 enforcement, and I'll try to be brief and put it  
23 altogether in one question.

24 Since we've done Act 39, and we've  
25 increased the number of wine outlets and also beer.

1 And in addition to that, the resurrection of the  
2 zombie license and the stop-and-go legislation that  
3 we put in front of you last year, how are you guys  
4 handling this with the current complement of liquor  
5 enforcement officers?

6 LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: I think we're  
7 handling it very well at this point in time. We  
8 actually increased our liquor enforcement officers  
9 by, I believe, six. We took some clerical  
10 positions and increased our complement for those  
11 officers.

12 Concerning the stop-and-go issue, since  
13 January we've conducted checks with Pennsylvania  
14 Liquor Control Board at 61 stop-and-goes. Twelve  
15 of those were suspended by Pennsylvania Liquor  
16 Control Board. We also cited 18 different entities  
17 as well.

18 It seems like there has been a  
19 turnaround in what's going on in the stop-and-goes.  
20 Some of them have stopped, actually, selling the  
21 liquor at this point in time and they're only  
22 selling beer and wine.

23 The issue of the seating requirement  
24 seems to have come into compliance in some  
25 locations. They now have the seating areas open

1 like they were supposed to be. It seems like the  
2 enforcement end is working very well at this point.

3 CHAIRMAN P. COSTA: Thank you.

4 So the next class of liquor enforcement  
5 officers, is there one coming up?

6 LT. COLONEL EVANCHICK: There's  
7 currently one in training right now, and they'll be  
8 graduating next week, actually.

9 CHAIRMAN P. COSTA: Thank you.

10 And, Mr. Chairman, if I may, another  
11 minute. So this is my last --

12 This doesn't impact you, sorry,  
13 troopers. This has to do with Representative  
14 Markosek. This is the last Appropriations  
15 Committee that I will be involved with working with  
16 Representative Joe Markosek as our Chairman. I  
17 just want to thank him for the service that he has  
18 done over the years.

19 A lot of you may not know this, but Joe  
20 and I know this. He put the idea in my head  
21 several years ago about -- thinking about running  
22 for the state legislature, and honestly I did.  
23 He's been a mentor to me throughout the years, and  
24 I wish him well whatever he's going to do.

25 So good luck to you, Chairman Markosek.

1           MINORITY CHAIRMAN MARKOSEK: Wow, thank  
2 you. Thank you, Paul. It's been great serving  
3 with everybody here.

4           Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for  
5 being here. It was great testimony and we learned  
6 a lot. And I'll just end by saying, the 25 bucks  
7 is a heck of a bargain. Thank you.

8           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN SAYLOR: I want to  
9 thank all of you for being here.

10           Commissioner, I know you have some  
11 important duties to deal with yet today and the  
12 rest of your command. But again, I think I speak  
13 for all of the members -- at least the House  
14 members. We're very proud of the Pennsylvania  
15 State Police and couldn't ask for a better job that  
16 you guys do and the troopers do throughout our  
17 Commonwealth. It's just tremendous.

18           I promote it every chance I get to talk  
19 to our citizens about the honor and how you deal  
20 with matters across -- over my 26 years here and  
21 before I came here as a taxpayer and as a business  
22 man, just how you deal with matters. Every trooper  
23 I've ever run into, even those that might have  
24 given me a ticket, have been, you know, seriously.

25           I mean, I think sometimes -- You know,

1 let's be honest; not all police officers act as  
2 professional as I think your troopers do. They  
3 treat citizens with respect. They're not cocky.  
4 They deal with it in a very honorable way. And  
5 that's, to me --

6 I have never in my years in the General  
7 Assembly heard about a complaint about a trooper.  
8 That is a real rarity for a legislator not to hear  
9 a complaint about some agency in state government.  
10 So, I salute and my hats are off to your troopers  
11 and to your administration as well.

12 I do say that, in closing, is, Major, I  
13 appreciate your comments on the situation. It is  
14 my hope that somebody is going to end up in jail  
15 over this radio system. I think the audit has  
16 pointed out some criminal activity, as well as  
17 civil actions that need to be taken. But,  
18 definitely, somebody needs to end up in jail.

19 This has been a real boondoggle. It's  
20 exactly what our taxpayers are very concerned  
21 about--waste in government and not holding people  
22 accountable. We have to make sure somebody is held  
23 accountable for these mistakes. And I appreciate,  
24 Major, you and all the state troopers who've been  
25 involved in making sure this system plays out for

1 the best for the taxpayers of Pennsylvania. So I  
2 thank you for that.

3 This hearing will adjourn and reconvene  
4 at 1:15 to hear from the Office of the Inspector  
5 General.

6 Again, thank you very much.

7 COMMISSIONER BLOCKER: Thank you, sir.  
8 We appreciate the opportunity to be with you this  
9 morning.

10 (Whereupon, the hearing concluded.)

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I, Karen J. Meister, Reporter, Notary Public, duly commissioned and qualified in and for the County of York, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript, to the best of my ability, of a public hearing taken from a videotape recording and reduced to computer printout under my supervision.

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