

Good Afternoon, Director Cade, Office of Management Budget Staff, and members of the public, it is an honor to appear before you today to present an overview of the Department of Safety and Homeland Security's FY 26 Operating and Capital Budget Requests.

On behalf of our Department, thank you for the support and guidance we receive from you and your Staff, which is critically important to our success.

As in the past, we have worked closely with the Office of Management and Budget in creating a budget proposal that addresses our most important needs and does not exceed the anticipated funding for FY 26.

**Our Door Openers for FY 26** include salary annualizations for positions that were partially funded in FY 25, nine-month funding for legislatively created positions in FY 26, and funding for various legislated initiatives.

**Our other needs for FY 26, should additional resources become available,** are addressing projected budget shortfalls which are the result of expanded drug testing at the Division of Forensic Science, a decrease in Federal Funding awarded to DEMA, and increases in the costs of consumables for the State Police Firing Range.

**Our Capital Budget requests for FY 2026** are rather extensive. In the interest of time, I will comment on the initiatives that are new for FY 26.

We are requesting funding to pave the parking lot at the new DATE facility in Harrington and to begin building renovation projects at DEMA and the DivComm Radio Shop Building.

In order to address advances in technology, we are requesting funding to upgrade the diagnostic testing equipment at DivComm and to purchase a Leeds Comparison Microscope for the State Police Forensic Firearms Unit.

Our remaining requests are to replace one of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Vehicles for the State Police and funding to purchase accountability software to be used by POST/DPAC in hiring, training, and certifying Delaware police officers.

This concludes the highlights of our FY 26 Operating and Capital Budget requests. My staff and I stand by ready to answer any questions you may have.