

**Government Services Committee
Submitted by
Jim Prochniak, NDHP**

December 14, 2011

STUDY OF THE USE OF STATE-OWNED AIRPLANES

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the Government Services Committee. For the record, my name is Jim Prochniak, Superintendent of the North Dakota Highway Patrol. I stand before you this afternoon to provide information regarding the airplane owned by the NDHP; specifically costs, use, justification for the plane and how the plane is equipped.

Our aircraft operation includes one aircraft. The 2007 Cessna T206 is piloted primarily by cross trained troopers. When not flying, they work the road or other trooper duties as expected.

Aircraft Operating Expenditures					
Description	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012**	Total
Maintenance Costs*	\$20,834	\$19,644	\$20,596	\$5,715	\$66,789
Ice Protection Equipment			\$38,404		\$38,404
Collision Avoidance System	\$33,073				\$33,073
Navigation Equipment	\$11,342				\$11,342
Garmin Search & Rescue Equipment	\$1,557				\$1,557
Total Expenses	\$66,806	\$19,644	\$59,000	\$5,715	\$151,165
Total Flight Hours by Fiscal Year	236	143	156	150	685
Average Operating Costs Per Hour***	\$88.28	\$137.37	\$132.03	\$38.10	\$97.50

*All operating costs including hangar space lease

**FY2012 Expenses for 7/1/11 through 12/1/11 only

***Excludes salaries

In addition to the above expenses, the cost of FLIR equipment purchased for the aircraft in FY2008 was \$263,448.

The primary function of this aircraft is to provide initial, quick response, to state, county and local public safety. We provide assistance in criminal apprehension, search and rescue operations, traffic related details, Amber Alert details. When requested, the Patrol provides this assistance within less than an hour from notification.

Included in my brief testimony are some photos that offer a clearer explanation of our aircraft and its capabilities. Much of the equipment depicted in the photos is used in conjunction with troopers on the ground. Specialized training in search and rescue by members of our Emergency Response Team afford quick and initial standup of search operations.

Our FLIR (Forward Looking Infra –Red) technology equipped aircraft works in coordination with troopers trained in search and rescue operations. You can see by the attached photographs that this aircraft is not designed for passenger use.

This concludes my testimony. I'd be glad to answer any questions.



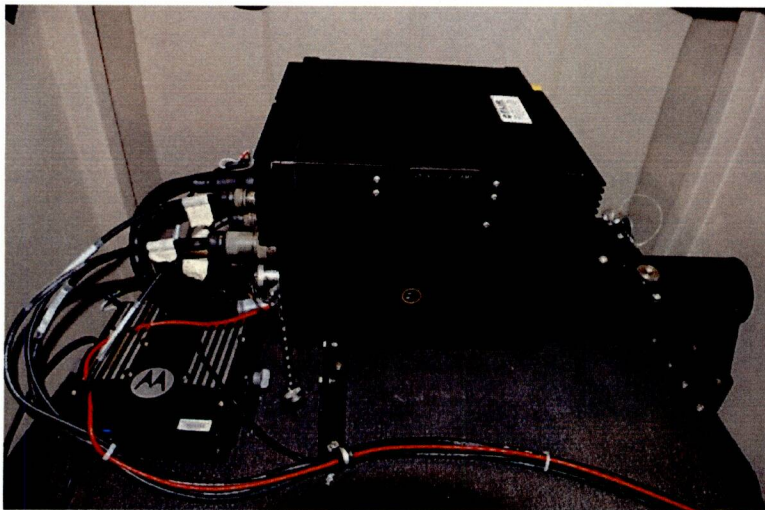
2007 Cessna T206



Cockpit Mobile Data Computer



Cockpit Air Traffic Collision Avoidance System



FLIR Brain and State Radio



FLIR Controls



FLIR Exterior



FLIR Recorder



Ice Protection System

Aircraft Operation Overview

2009

- 01/18/2009 Search for intoxicated woman who ran from hospital in Lisbon
- 02/11/2009 Search for stranded motorists after snow storm
- 02/27/2009 Search for runaway - last cell phone ping west of Mandan
- 03/05/2009 Responded to standoff in Hebron
- 03/27/2009 Fargo flood
- 04/09/2009 Search for murder victim east of Dickinson
- 04/13/2009 BCI request for pictures and video of route of travel and location where body was found
- 05/09/2009 Followed suspect vehicle until stopped - the driver was under the influence of alcohol
- 06/05/2009 Search for missing woman with mental issues near Woodworth
- 06/06/2009 Air support for Gladstone standoff
- 06/10/2009 BCI request for pictures and video of Gladstone standoff location
- 06/27/2009 Responded to call for lost hikers near Medora
- 07/23/2009 Search for 2 hikers near Medora
- 08/03/2009 Transported blood sample to Minneapolis for child who ingested poison
- 08/12/2009 Searched Southeast ND for red truck suspected of criminal activity in South Dakota
- 08/12/2009 Search for suspected intoxicated driver who left the scene of an accident east of Watford City
- 08/14/2009 Search for 2 individuals on the Missouri River - left Fort Lincoln in canoe never arrived at destination
- 08/20/2009 BCI request for photos of murder crime scene north of Killdeer
- 09/14/2009 Search for bank robber Northwest of Williston (Fortuna)
- 09/18/2009 Responded to report of possible intoxicated driver leaving McDowell Dam
- 09/25/2009 Blood transport to Devils Lake
- 10/27/2009 Assisted Bismarck PD - search for assault suspects near Fox Island
- 11/02/2011 Search for 3 drowning victims Northwest of Dickinson
- 11/03/2011 Search for 3 drowning victims Northwest of Dickinson
- 11/04/2011 Search for 3 drowning victims Northwest of Dickinson

2010

- 05/08/2010 Search James River north of Jamestown for drowning victim
- 05/09/2010 Search James River north of Jamestown for drowning victim
- 06/05/2010 Pictures of fatal crash on 1804 south
- 06/20/2010 Search near Ellendale for suspects who ran on foot after pursuit - pursuit began in Aberdeen, SD
- 09/17/2010 Search for missing child north of New Salem
- 09/29/2010 Search for bar robber between Anita and Grand Forks
- 09/30/2010 Search for suspect involved in domestic dispute south of Mandan
- 10/01/2010 Attempted to locate stolen vehicle north of Harvey
- 10/04/2010 Search for man involved in domestic dispute, threatening to commit suicide near Wilton

2011

- 01/04/2011 Pictures of standoff scene at trailer park for Bismarck Police Department
- 01/04/2011 Search for murder victim near Cooperstown
- 02/02/2011 Responded to BIA pursuit near Fort Rice
- 02/04/2011 Blood run to Devils Lake
- 02/16/2011 Belcourt flood
- 02/17/2011 Bismarck PD request - search for suicide/drowning victim in Missouri River
- 02/18/2011 Search for murder victim body near Dazey
- 02/18/2011 Search south of Lisbon to border for missing elderly man in a red vehicle
- 02/19/2011 Search south of Lisbon to border for missing elderly man in a red vehicle
- 03/12/2011 Search for stranded motorists after blizzard
- 03/12/2011 Signal 100 search for murder suspect in a white SUV - between Minot and Bismarck

- 05/16/2011 Search for 2 drowning victims in Apple Creek in Burleigh County
- 05/17/2011 Search for 2 drowning victims in Apple Creek in Burleigh County
- 05/18/2011 Morton County/Burleigh County request for pictures and video of flooding south of Bismarck
- 05/19/2011 Bismarck PD request - search for suicide /drowning victim in Missouri River
- 07/05/2011 Responded to pursuit near Belfield
- 07/09/2011 BCI request for pictures of Officer Kenner crime scene
- 08/31/2011 Search for murder suspect/blue vehicle near Belfield
- 09/01/2011 Search for murder suspect in Badlands north of Medora.
- 09/13/2011 Search for armed suspect south of Bowbells
- 09/28/2011 Search for armed suspect near Argusville - suspect fled on foot after pursuit - rolling domestic
- 10/04/2011 Search for escaped prisoner between Oriska and Tower City