

**Highway Patrol  
Budget No. 504  
House Bill No. 1011**

	<b>FTE Positions</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
2023-25 legislative appropriation	205.00	\$49,438,826 <sup>1</sup>	\$21,750,362	\$71,189,188 <sup>2</sup>
2021-23 legislative appropriation	<u>193.00</u>	<u>36,327,762</u>	<u>33,095,652</u>	<u>69,423,414</u>
2023-25 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2021-23 appropriation	12.00	\$13,111,064	(\$11,345,290)	\$1,765,774

<sup>1</sup>This amount includes \$2,832,584 of one-time funding. Excluding this amount, the agency's ongoing general fund appropriation is \$46,606,242.

<sup>2</sup>This amount does not include any transfers of appropriation authority from the Office of Management and Budget funding pools for targeted market equity adjustments, retirement contribution increases, or new and vacant FTE positions.

**Item Description**

**Full-time equivalent changes** - The Legislative Assembly approved 205 FTE positions for the Highway Patrol for the 2023-25 biennium, an increase of 12 FTE positions from the 2021-23 biennium. The Legislative Assembly added 8 FTE criminal interdiction troopers, 1 FTE capitol security trooper, 1 FTE drug recognition trooper, and 2 FTE motor carrier troopers.

**Targeted market equity** - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$82.5 million, of which \$45.1 million is from the general fund, to the Office of Management and Budget for a targeted market equity pool to be distributed to state agencies.

**New and vacant FTE funding pool** - The Legislative Assembly reduced \$5,319,935 of 2023-25 biennium appropriation authority, of which \$3,724,768 is from the general fund, for the Highway Patrol related to new (\$2,591,912) and vacant (\$2,728,023) FTE positions for the for the new and vacant FTE funding pool.

**One-time funding** - The following is a summary of one-time funding items for the Highway Patrol for the 2023-25 biennium:

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
New trooper startup costs	\$514,584	\$121,416	\$636,000
State Fleet mileage increases	1,706,000	336,000	2,042,000
Inflationary increases	448,000	72,000	520,000
Narcotics testers	52,000	8,000	60,000
Unmanned aerial vehicle program enhancements	89,000	15,000	104,000
Motor carrier program enhancements	23,000	404,000	427,000
Technology enhancements		283,200	283,200

**Status/Result**

The Highway Patrol is in the process of hiring the positions and plans to begin a new recruit training class in May 2024.

The Highway Patrol received \$1,337,740, of which \$1,078,495 is from the general fund, for targeted market equity increases. Equity increases were provided to 152 trooper, sergeant, and commander positions.

The Highway Patrol has not received any allocations from the new and vacant FTE funding pool. Through January 2024, the Highway Patrol had estimated vacant FTE position savings of \$1,207,633. The office used \$1,093,941 of the savings for other purposes, including accrued leave payouts, extra salary increases, bonuses, temporary salaries, and overtime. The number of vacancies in the office has ranged from 9 to 28 with an average monthly vacancy rate of 18 FTE positions.

The status of the one-time funding items is as follows:

- New trooper startup costs - The funding is anticipated to be spent when the new trooper positions are filled.
- State Fleet mileage increases - The 2023-25 budget guidelines anticipated a Highway Patrol mileage rate of 67 cents per mile. As of April 2024, the Highway Patrol mileage rate was 81 cents per mile.
- Inflationary increases - The Highway Patrol anticipates requesting the funding to be adjusted to ongoing funding due to increased equipment costs.
- Narcotics testers - The testers are currently being procured.
- Unmanned aerial vehicle program enhancements - The enhancements are in the planning phase.

Commercial motor vehicle information exchange window system		150,000	150,000
Shooting range upgrades		200,000	200,000
Total	\$2,832,584	\$1,589,616	\$4,422,200

**Motor carrier electronic permit transaction fund** - The motor carrier electronic permit transaction fund was authorized by the Legislative Assembly in 2011. A fee of up to \$15, which is deposited in the motor carrier electronic permit transaction fund, is charged by the Highway Patrol for the issuance of online permits for overweight and oversize loads. North Dakota Century Code Section 39-12-02 provides a continuing appropriation from the fund for the costs of maintaining the online permitting system. The Legislative Assembly also appropriated \$1,633,648 from the motor carrier electronic permit fund to the Highway Patrol for defraying certain expenses of the agency, including technology enhancements.

- Motor carrier program enhancements - The enhancements are being implemented and all funding is anticipated to be spent.
- Technology enhancements - The enhancements are being implemented and all funding is anticipated to be spent.
- Commercial motor vehicle information exchange window system - The system is being implemented and is anticipated to be completed in June 2024.
- Shooting range upgrades - The upgrades are in the procurement phase.

When established, a \$15 fee was charged for the issuance of an online permit. On August 1, 2017, the Highway Patrol adjusted the fee from \$15 to \$10. On August 1, 2023, the Highway Patrol adjusted the fee from \$10 to \$8. The agency estimates the balance of the motor carrier electronic permit fund will be \$4.7 million on June 30, 2025. The agency is also beginning to review options to replace the permitting system which will affect the amount of funding available in the fund.