

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

August 14, 2008

Georgia Public Safety Training Center, Forsyth, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice-Chairman James E. Donald
Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III
Mr. Bud Black
Sheriff Steve Cronic
Chief Lou Dekmar
Sheriff Bruce Harris
Chief Dwayne Orrick
Sheriff Cullen Talton
Mr. Ellis Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Dub Harper
Mr. Pat Head
Chief Jack McElfish
Mr. Jerry Willis

OTHERS:

Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Ms. Page Borman, Assistant Attorney General
Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Colonel Fred Snellings, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Captain Keith Canup, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Major Stewart Hicks, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Dan Brown, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Lee O'Brien, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Major Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Paul Heppner, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Lieutenant Stephen Willis, MCCD, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Captain Joel Kuhn, MCCD, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Major Billy Boulware, MCCD, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Dan Kirk, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Lisa Urich, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Butch Beach, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Rax Saxon, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Wally Marchant, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Lloyd Strickland, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Terry Proffitt, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Eddie Lovin, Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Ms. Patrice Kerner, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Cindy Franklin, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Vonnice Stewart, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Chief J. D. and Michelle Rice
Representative Jim Cole
Mr. Terry Norris, Georgia Sheriffs Association
Ms. Kendra Mitchell, House Budget Office

Vice-Chairman James Donald called the meeting to order. Vice-Chairman Donald asked Mr. Ellis Wood to open the session with a word of prayer, which was followed with Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III asked that everyone remember Mr. Jerry Willis and his family; his father is receiving a pacemaker this morning.

With recognizing guests and visitors, Vice-Chairman Donald noted Representative Jim Cole, one of Governor's Floor Leaders, and, Mr. Terry Norris attending today. Vice-Chairman Donald stated that he and Mr. Norris had a conversation yesterday about these hard times and everyone needing all participation and counsel when making tough decisions. Joining the meeting today is Ms. Page Borman sitting in for Mr. Joe Drolet, who is at Eleventh Circuit today. Special recognition will be made for Chief J. D. Rice and his wife, Michelle, attending today.

Vice-Chairman Donald stated the first thing on the Agenda is the presentation of the Resolution to Chief J. D. Rice. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III read the Resolution, and, the Board members honored Chief Rice with their compliments and appreciation for his service. Chief Rice thanked everyone; stating he is blessed and God has smiled on him in many ways, and, that he has enjoyed the fellowship and camaraderie and being a part of the Governor's Board of Public Safety. Chief Rice stated it has meant a lot to him and his family to be in Georgia; he and Michelle never want to leave Valdosta.

Vice-Chairman Donald called for approval of the July Board Minutes. Sheriff Steve Cronic made the motion, seconded by Sheriff Bruce Harris, and voted approval by the Board members.

DIRECT REPORTS

Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, began with complimenting Chief Rice. He stated his interaction with Chief J. D. Rice was positive; everyone in the Valdosta and Waycross areas speak very highly of Chief Rice.

Graduation of the 85th Trooper School will be held Friday, August 22, 2008 at the Training Center. There are 49 troopers graduating, and, the ceremony will be held in the Bay. Governor Perdue will be the keynote speaker and all Board members are invited.

Following last month's Board meeting, Colonel Hitchens was asked to bring a presentation on what transpired out of the visit with Florida Highway Patrol and utilization of their garage facility. Florida has a very efficient process and they are able to do four times as rapidly with what Georgia State Patrol does, and they do a great many more vehicles than what State Patrol does on a daily basis. Colonel Hitchens called on Major Stewart Hicks for the presentation.

Major Stewart Hicks began with thanking Vice-Chairman Donald for the help with the Communications Center at State Patrol; the inmate crew did a great job. All the Board members will see the Communications Center at the October Board meeting.

Major Hicks reported that they went to the site of the garage facility for Florida Highway Patrol. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III went with the group. The group learned a lot of good ideas; some cost prohibitive in light of the budget situation but some that are free that State Patrol can start to do. Major Hicks stated Captain Keith Canup prepared a powerpoint presentation for the Board members. Major Hicks explained Captain has been in this for a month or two doing a great job, and, he has great ideas and strong work ethics and there will be positive gains in that area.

Captain Keith Canup began the presentation with stating it is always helpful to gain the insight of others. Captain extended a special thanks to Mr. Bowen for his interest in State Patrol's Garage and maintenance and for traveling to Florida. With the powerpoint presentation, Captain Canup stated a picture is worth a thousand words. One thing gleaned from the trip is Florida has a process where they wire all the cars on a board; a pre-fabricated piece of plywood. Florida stacks all the brains and electronics of the operation for use as needed. In other words, they do not wire each car individually; the brains are already wired up. The first slide showed a picture of the board already installed in cars; one a Dodge and the other a Ford. Captain Canup stated Florida has a very professionally run shop, and, State Patrol gained some good ideas. The next slide showed the trays that are placed in the trunk of the car is also what is in place by State Patrol. But Florida Highway Patrol went one step further and put a guard behind the tray, so that no one can throw anything up against the slide and damage the circuitry. That is something that State Patrol can implement. Captain Canup stated Florida's shop is very clean and of high quality; is insulated; is climate controlled; that would be on step that would cost a lot of money. It was a process that took Florida Highway Patrol several years to do, but climate control and cleanliness is a good thing to have especially around this type of sensitive equipment. Captain Canup stated State Patrol has started cleaning up the Garage; that is something that does not cost anything. With the next slide, Captain Canup stated State Patrol puts plastic centers over their wheels; a picture showed what their wheels look like under the plastic centers. Captain Canup continued his presentation with Lessons Learned; that is, the Electronic Circuit Board which is a good idea and has been discussed with Radio Shop. Captain stated Florida uses highly skilled labor for installations; Georgia relies primarily on inmate labor, which does a good job once they are trained. Another Lesson Learned is the Productivity Related to Creature Comfort due to the air conditioning and the environment. The Creation of Prefab Materials is a relatively inexpensive system of bending and making brackets, and, State Patrol is going to look at that

later on. Florida outsources all repairs; however, State Patrol still does minor repairs, such as alternators, water pumps, and smaller things. Before the hiring freeze was implemented, Captain Canup was able to recruit and hire an Atlanta mechanic who the city had laid off. This mechanic is a skilled, trained mechanic and he is supervising inmates. Another lesson is Use of Dual Tone Siren, which Florida demonstrated. This is in the infant stages of how people can hear with low tone sirens as opposed to high pitch sirens. Captain Canup stated that one thing State Patrol can implement in the Garage is put the decal on after finishing a car. When looking out at the lot and seeing a car with a decal on it, that means the car is ready; as opposed to the way it used to be done when first putting a decal on a car then State Patrol did not really know which car was ready. Another Lesson Learned is Ergonomic Testing and Equipment Placement Engineering, where State Patrol learned about how to place the equipment in cars to utilize the limited space. With Standardization, when Florida Highway Patrol pulls a car in, it is exactly the same. When it comes to repairs, a person could probably be talked through it over the telephone because the circuitry is all the same. This is something that State Patrol is moving toward as well. Captain Canup talked about Things To Explore. State Patrol will look at Competitive Bids on Regular Maintenance. As it is now, State Patrol go anywhere for repairs; prices vary and it will help to look at competitive bids for routine maintenance and oil changes. Captain stated they asked for additional inmate labor from the transitional center for Body and Fender Work, now that there is a full-time mechanic on board. With the next item, Captain stated the Use of Two-Tone Wrap versus Two-Tone Paint has been explored. The Dodge cars are not two-tone and State Patrol has to send the cars out to get the gray painted on them. It would be a much more quality job and be more cost effective with doing the wrap. When it is time for State Patrol to get rid of the cars, the wrap can be removed and that color scheme will not be used by the public. Captain Canup talked about Accounting/Work History/Work Order System, wherein when troopers turn in their cars and get new cars, they will be asked to fill out a questionnaire about what the shape the car is in, any major repairs that the car has had. Captain Canup continued with his presentation with describing Options In Motion. State Patrol has Standardized Pricing For Radio Installs/Repairs Statewide, which saves a lot of money there. State Patrol has Opened An Additional Bay, which had been used for storage; two extra inmates are manning that bay and the full-time technician will train them. Captain stated another option is State Patrol has Reorganized Gas Distribution at Headquarters. When gas prices rose, State Patrol surplused 90 cars and the gas was taken out of those surplus cars and put in the other cars being used. In Reissue of Good Equipment, tires are taken off surplus cars and re-used for other cars. Captain Canup stated State Patrol is Currently Reviewing Positions For Job Realignment, with reassigning and streamlining the process making it more efficient by assigning full-time people with different duties. Captain Canup continued that with the Customer Service Satisfaction Survey, when people use the Garage, that they will be able to fill out a Satisfaction Survey on web. This will help with guiding and tweak areas where lacking. Captain Canup completed his report, and, thanked the Board members for what they do for State Patrol. He stated that State Patrol is constantly coming up with innovative ideas to make process better in more cost efficient means.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III added that this helps not only State Patrol, but the GBI or anybody who runs this type of equipment in their vehicle; something that can be standardized where

everybody is on the same page. Everything about that car is mounted on that electronic circuit board, and, everything on the circuit board has junctions or relays or fuses and everything is in the same place and is all numbered. So if that trooper or GBI agent has a problem, that person calls back to the facility and there is a person who knows that circuit board and can help repair it over the phone. That will be cost effective down the road; the costs involve a piece of plywood and circuit strip; probably less than \$10 to \$15 as far as materials. This is a great innovation and it could help standardize things around the state. Vice-Chairman Donald stated he applauds State Patrol for willingness to look at other states; this Board learned from the education committee that other states have best practices that Georgia might want to adopt. Sheriff Steve Cronin stated they did an excellent job with the standardization identified; particularly with the savings in the gas and tires. This is something that, through public relations, would resonate well with the public when it comes to budget times to understand the extreme measures that State Patrol is taking to save money. Chief Dekmar read an article about the Dallas Police Department, because of their systemic ignoring of vehicle issues, has 25% - 30% of their fleet that cannot get in service. That police department has three to four officers riding in a car. Chief Dekmar expressed State Patrol did a great job in following up on this. Captain Canup stated that as miles go up, maintenance costs go up; they will make do with what State Patrol has and try to manage it so that it works out best for the Department and the State.

Colonel Hitchens stated they have done a great job with all this, but he is looking at a body shop. He stated that there are no people incarcerated with that kind of experience. Because of high cost of labor, it would be good to get a body shop and save money. Vice-Chairman Donald responded that the Department of Corrections would like to work with State Patrol on this. In other situations, Corrections has been able to have a private partner, such as having inmates work with the dining facility at the Sloppy Floyd buildings. Colonel Hitchens stated that he has also talked to Commissioner Ron Jackson about using the technical schools because those people are skilled.

Colonel Hitchens invited the Board members to hold a Board meeting at State Patrol Headquarters. After the Communications Center is completed and fully operation, a demonstration can be held for the Board members.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, started with talking about Chief J. D. Rice; the first substantive conversation he had with Chief Rice was about the problems with getting background checks on firefighters. There were delays in getting firefighters' background processed because of the delays in the fingerprint process in GBI. What was evident to Director Keenan was that Chief Rice was going to take his responsibility seriously and look after the interests of Georgia firefighters. Director Keenan stated that six months ago the GBI completed the project at GCIC where now the fingerprints for background checks are handled electronically. The GBI has now reduced the backlog time for processing from the average twenty-two days down to less than eight hours. Director Keenan stated he was able to use Chief Rice's comments as ammunition to push forward to get this electronic processing complete.

Director Keenan reported on the Budget. He stated that last week he sent to the Board Members an e-mail, which outlined a basic summary of the budget cuts for FY09 and referencing 2010. The GBI had completed its budget analysis; met with the Chief Operating Officer; met with Office of Planning and Budget; and finalized the GBI's course of action. Word got out about what the budget cuts are going to be; therefore, from that point on he was in catch-up mode of dealing with internal issues and external customers. Director Keenan explained that on September 1 all state agencies will submit six budgets; that is, a 6% budget cut, an 8% budget cut, and 10% budget cut of FY09; while at the same time submit a budget for FY10 of a 6%, an 8%, and a 10% budget cut. In dealing with the FY09 6% budget cut, Director Keenan stated that money has already been removed from the state agencies. In the GBI's case, that is \$4.1 million that is no longer in the budget. Director Keenan stated that they have to move forward with dealing with the elimination of that money. All state agencies have been ordered to not do any vehicle purchases, not make any equipment purchases, do a hiring freeze, do a moratorium on all travel except that which is critical. Those cuts still do not make up the \$4.1 million that is now removed from the GBI budget. The GBI then must move forward with those other budget eliminations. This has to be done rapidly because the money is not there, and, some of the steps that Director Keenan has to take have to be immediately implemented. What the course of action is, is to make up the \$4.1 million. He stated the GBI is moving to eliminate the security contract at GBI headquarters and that is a little over \$500,000. GBI agents will provide the armed security at Headquarters. It is extremely distasteful to have GBI personnel do any security work at Headquarters, but there is no alternative. The second thing is to consolidate Macon Drug Office with Regional Drug Office in Milledgeville, which will save the operation costs of utilities and equipment of a facility. The GBI is moving now to consolidate those offices. Director Keenan stated that shutting down an office does not save substantial amount of money; this is a cost of about \$45,000 to operate an office. These steps are preserving critical jobs within the agency. Director Keenan stated they have advised the forensic anthropologist that his employment will be terminated on February 1, 2009. That is a cost savings of nearly the cost of having a forensic pathologist on staff. Director Keenan stated the GBI has cancelled the contract with temporary service for GCIC, which provides data entry personnel in updating Criminal History Records system. There will be an impact; there will be backlogs in data entry and in updating criminal history records. Director Keenan stated GBI has eliminated all hourly employees, except critical positions. The most immediate impact is going to be the elimination of the Medical Examiner Operation in northwest Georgia at the Summerville Lab. Director Keenan stated there is a main Medical Examiner Operation in Atlanta; the regional Medical Examiner Operations are in Macon, Augusta, Savannah, Moultrie, and Summerville. Director Keenan stated the GBI has been unable to find a forensic pathologist for the past eighteen months for Moultrie. That operation has essentially been shut down and personnel had been disbursed. The doctor at the Summerville Lab had resigned and gone to another state. The GBI had found a forensic pathologist who was willing to travel from Marietta to Summerville to do autopsies. What GBI has looked at far as a need to cut the budget is that they will eliminate doing autopsies at the Summerville Lab but provide the service at Headquarters. This will require local agencies to transport bodies to Headquarters, which is being done right now

because there is not a doctor in Summerville. The GBI has told the staff they will have to come to Headquarters. In response to a question on regional operations, Director Keenan responded that the regional crime laboratories consist of two parts; the general lab and the Medical Examiner operation. The Medical Examiner will be eliminated at those two areas, i.e., Moultrie and Summerville.

Director Keenan then explained FY10. For 2010, the \$4.1 million is annualized in the GBI budget, so that 6% cut is taken again. The GBI's proposed course of action is on page two, and, this shows major cuts and the impact on customer service. Director Keenan stated the GBI is able to get through FY09 by not buying vehicles and not buying equipment but that cannot be sustained for long. At some point the agency has to have vehicles and has to have essential equipment. In 2010, the GBI is cutting programs. The programs to be cut are under the Regional Crime Laboratories, the labs in Moultrie and Columbus. That has a direct impact in two ways; that is, the local agencies that that region services and the backlog it will create due to losing scientists. The local agencies will be impacted severely and the backlog will climb dramatically. Director Keenan stated that essential cases will still be worked but done at Headquarters.

Sheriff Steve Cronic asked at what point with these cuts and proposed future cuts will the GBI no longer be viable as an organization. Further increases to existing Backlogs are such that we could run the risk of cases not being prosecuted. Defense attorneys recognizing the problem could file a wave of motions for speedy trials thus creating a situation where bad guys will be released left and right. At what point will we not be able to provide minimal services in a timely way. At what point do we become so back locked and so limited in what we can provide do we simply become unviable as an organization. Director Keenan replied at around the 10% mark.

Sheriff Cronic stated that he knows this is a statewide issue and everybody is dealing with it as best they can. Sheriff stated that the frustrating thing for him is that the demand for services of the law enforcement always increase during economic hard times. Sheriff Cronic questioned why on a state level we can't prioritize the things we have to do versus the things we want to do. Sheriff stated he tells his commissioners and folks that parks and libraries and recreational facilities are wonderful things unless they become a place where you go to get murdered, raped, or robbed. Everybody has to be safe first and foremost. Sheriff Cronic stated that at a time seeing the demographics in the state, the increase in the Mexican cartel presence, the increase in violence, that the state needs to make every effort to take care of their victims and keeps the streets safe even if it means fewer recreational facilities, promotional programs or social programs. The state needs to do things that people cannot do for themselves, services like law enforcement; the pursuit of cases and prosecution of cases. Sheriff Cronic stated he recently went in a courtroom and he looks over at the Public Defender's table and there is a team of four attorneys defending one simple drug case. Giving the appearance of limitless tax payer funds for the defendant. At the same time there's one prosecutor. Sheriff Cronic gave an example that the state will most likely spend in excess of \$4 million in tax dollars on the Nichols case, and, the

appearance seems to be that at a time when we're drastically increasing funding for the "bad guys" we're cutting funds for the good guys." Sheriff Cronic stated that given the CSI effect on juries and the explosion of resources for the accused, combined with a fairly liberal judiciary that if all these trends continue, we will end up where convictions on major cases are going to be a rare exception in this state. Sheriff stated that what he sees is a much more difficult time actually pursuing justice and the result will be that a lot of victims will go un-served.

Vice-Chairman Donald stated there was an effort to prioritize things; there was a good priority until looking at the June and July revenue results. The reality is that the state cannot spend what it does not have. Vice-Chairman Donald stated that he is going to report that he is closing a prison. The ways of doing business will be different. When facing a \$70 million cut in the case of Corrections and a big portion in GBI that the money is going to be taken out, that is because there is no money. Vice-Chairman Donald stated there is no solution to this; the reality is the state is going to have to do more with less.

Sheriff Cronic stated the state needs to take a look at what things we are doing that we do not have to do versus the things that we owe to our public. Again we have to learn to set appropriate priorities and make the tough decisions during economic tough times. We have to avoid the efforts to please everyone and yield to special interest groups and simply do what's right. Having managed in a fortune 7 company, the process that government entities use for the purpose of budgeting is a frustrating process that from a business perspective sometimes lacks common sense.

Chief Lou Dekmar questioned from Director Keenan that in 1996, 1997, 1998, a Crime Lab Commission was constituted by the GBI and Chief Dekmar served on that Commission. A presentation was given to the Board stating that it needed \$19 million because the Crime Lab is not where it needs to be. The Commission stated that they would make the assessment and make the decision. Chief Dekmar stated that, in fact, the Commission recommended to the Legislature for funding of \$52 million, and, that was recommended ten years ago. The Legislature funded \$47 million, and, at that time the Crime Lab was at six months to a year behind in DNA and other forensic cases. Chief Dekmar stated that a year ago the GBI had 4,700 cases that were thirty days or older. He saw that in June of this year, the GBI was approaching 6,000 cases, and, that is without the budget cuts. Chief Dekmar stated that in his opinion the Crime Lab and GCIC are not working cases consistent with prosecution, then they are not serving their mission. If laying off a scientist, it is a year later that the Legislature and Governor funds that position, and, it is a year or better before it is up and running. Meanwhile, the backlog is at a time where there are two or three million more people than twenty years ago and there are less services. Chief Dekmar stated the other concern he has are the Crime Lab and GCIC. They quickly clear innocent people, if those lab tests are processed appropriately, and they help identify the guilty. Chief stated we are talking about not entering data and having a backlog of data of criminal history. This impacts the way people are sentenced, impacts bonds and bails. Chief Dekmar stated that in his opinion this Board should consider asking Governor's office to exempt in those two areas these kinds of cuts; because, these cuts are less than a million dollars

and then the GBI reduces the capacity. Chief Dekmar stated he wanted to piggyback on Sheriff Cronic's comments that this Board ill serves the Governor if the Board members do not say he may want to consider this.

Sheriff Cronic stated he wanted to add that he deals with a lot of GBI employees, and, there are a large number of employees hanging on waiting to see positive things, such as financial things, happen. These employees have had opportunity to go other places and do other things, and, Sheriff Cronic believes that when these cuts hit, there will be a large exodus of good people.

Director Keenan continued with reporting that all pay raises in state government have been eliminated. This is the general pay raises for all employees, as well as the special pay raises for GBI agents and scientists. Director stated the Investigative Division will have to take a budget cut of 6% in FY 10, and, that is the State Drug Task Force. That amount is \$1.1 million. The State Drug Task Force operationally is done with federal funds, but personnel costs are handled by state. This Force is ten undercover narcotic agents, whose positions are being eliminated and funding used to go to budget cut. With the 6% going forward, that would occur on July 1 as would all the FY 10 cuts. Director Keenan stated Secure ID, which is a new initiative that Governor Perdue had proposed and General Assembly funded two years ago, would be eliminated. That cut is nearly \$280,000. Director Keenan stated there are two areas in GCIC. He stated he is deciding what is sole source and what the state can still function with. One is Protective Order Registry. The GBI maintains Protective Order Registry for the State of Georgia. The way the system works in Georgia is that the court issues that order through their court system and those orders are sent to the GBI and are put into a state database and then upload those orders to a national database. As far as the budget cut, the GBI would eliminate it being the manager of the Protective Order Registry. With the change in law, the protective orders issued by the court would be turned over to the sheriffs, the sheriffs would then enter those orders in the national system. The end result is budget savings but the system can still operate, i.e., at the national level with the local sheriffs taking on the responsibility. The second area is Uniform Crime Reporting. The GBI has that budget of \$120,000, and, each law enforcement agency collects their crime statistical data and submits it to the GBI; the GBI compiles that information at the state level and it is uploaded to the FBI system. Under this proposed budget cut with the required law change, law enforcement would still be required to submit that data directly to FBI. The GBI acts as a facilitator of all this because the agency was able to use quality control and insure compliance. Accuracy of UCR data is important to the state because that is how grants are awarded on a formula basis. Here again, the function would be at the national level and not at the state level.

Director Keenan stated that is an outline of the 2010 budget cuts at 6%. If the state goes above 6% in FY 09, and the agency takes an 8% or 10% this year, then many of the areas will be accelerated. At this point, Director Keenan completed his report with stating he has not discussed anything with 8% or 10% for 2010.

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, stated that he will let the Board report speak for itself.

Director Mann reported that a subcommittee met two weeks ago about the budget for Training Center. He stated he does not have a lot of good news, because revenue is down and the Training Center has already lost 6% of his budget. Director Mann stated things have to be done immediately. With a powerpoint presentation, Director Mann pointed to one slide, a Budget History graph. The budget history is pretty flat, and, has been flat for over ten years or so. Some of the peaks in the chart, such as 1991, reflect when Police Academy, Fire Academy, and Training Center were combined. In 1997, what is seen is when the regional police academies started being transferred into Training Center budget. The next slide, Budget History by Department, reflects the funding for Fire Academy and Police Academy and Training Center. Director Mann pointed to the trend; the histogram is that the budget is flat. Director Mann stated the Training Center has lost money in the last ten to twelve years. The next slide, Unbudgeted Expenditures, reflects unexpected expenses. In 2008, there was a blown transformer and had to send students home and that cost over \$80,000. The cost of food, ammunition, and everything else is up; just like it is for other agencies. Director Mann stated the next slide is a chart just to show the 6% is \$744,000 for this year. As Director Keenan had mentioned, it is a cut to the base. This will be a little more next year. Director Mann stated that the 6% Budget Cuts are as follows. Holding all vacancies open and not hiring anybody. They are reducing the number of classes offered by resident agencies, and, actually going to the resident agencies and asking for help. As an example, Vice-Chairman Donald is giving up five BCOT classes; Department of Natural Resources will not hold a Basic Ranger class next year; State Patrol is reconsidering the second trooper school; the GBI is not holding a GBI class next year. By reducing these classes, this eliminates some meals. Director Mann stated they are going to reduce Fulton, Clayton, and North Central contracts by 6%; these are the three contract police academies. Training Center is reducing Basic Training Division budget by 6% overall; that is all academies; this is almost \$200,000. These figures do not sound like much when compared to the big numbers of other agencies, but proportionately for Training Center, it is a lot of money. The Training Center is eliminating the contracts for Atlanta Police Department, DeKalb Police Department, and Gwinnett Police Department. This is about \$55,000 in one; about \$37,000 apiece in the other two. The reason there were contracts is because P.O.S.T. had contracted with those local agencies. What P.O.S.T. was doing, and Training Center continues to do for eleven years, was paying those local law enforcement agencies per head basis. If there was a student going to Atlanta Police Academy for six months, the Training Center would pay them what it would have cost for that student to go somewhere else; about \$3,000 per head. Director Mann stated they can no longer afford to do that. Director Mann stated they are Reducing Per Diem in the Fire Academy by 6%. That is not a huge amount of money, but it is an impact. A lot of fire classes that are done require Training Center to hire people just for safety reasons and for instruction reasons. Director Mann stated they are Reducing Contracts Of Georgia Fire Chiefs by 6%. That is not a huge contract; about \$85,000 and reducing it by 6%. The Training Center is Switching From Mailers to Postcards for Student Course Notifications. Director Mann stated they are trying to encourage folks to sign up over the internet. The Training Center is Eliminating Gym

Staffing for Evening Hours. The center used to keep the Gym open until 8:00 at night; it will now be closed by 5:00. Director Mann stated they are closing the Library of the Learning Resource Center at 5:00. Those positions were contract people. Director Mann stated the Training Center is Deferring Purchase of Linens; this is less than \$2,000 but it is still money. The Training Center is Reducing the Purchase of Library Books, Dues, Subscriptions, Supplies, Travel in the Instructional Services Division. Director Mann stated those items are for the 6% that is already out of the budget. Director Mann stated that if it goes to 8% or 10%, it will be worse. He stated that for FY10, the Training Center will look at the core mission, which is to develop and deliver training. The core mission is not to furnish free meals. Director Mann stated the FY10 cut is the free meals. He stated that \$1.383 million worth of free meals were given away by the Training Center in FY08; of which 62% went to state agencies, such as State Patrol, GBI, Corrections. The local police officers got 13% of the free meals; local sheriff officers got 10.3%, and local fire agencies got 12.39%. Director Mann has requested permission from Mr. Terry Norris to tell the Sheriffs Association that starting July 1, 2009 to send money for their folks to eat meals. Director Mann has already told Fire Chiefs and Police Chiefs Association. He stated that in hard budget times, it is better to do those things that hurt the least.

Vice-Chairman Donald stated this discussion was held at the sub-committee meeting. Vice-Chairman Donald informed Office of Planning and Budget that state agencies should pay for their meals; it is hard to be efficient if getting something free. The Department of Corrections will be asking for permission to put the meal requirements in the FY 10 budget. Director Mann agreed that he cannot manage it when giving it for free. Director Mann stated this will not make folks happy because it is one of those things where it was for free and now is no longer free.

Chief Lou Dekmar stated that everyone needs to be reminded that each person here, who has a law enforcement agency, sends money for training and add-ons that the local agencies never see. Chief Dekmar stated that when saying 'free', he does not feel like the local agencies are taking advantage of the system. When looking at who is generating the revenue in terms of enforcement, it is the local agencies. He requested it be made clear who is getting free meals. Because it is not local agencies, who have to pay for almost everything in addition to generating the funds for the state training agencies. Director Mann stated Chief Dekmar's point is well taken. When saying 'free,' it is free to the user agency as a non expense. Director Mann stated it is not free at all. Somebody is paying for it. He stated in this case Training Center is paying for it. The rub is going to be that local agencies say they have the fine and forfeiture money.

Mr. Terry Norris stood and spoke to the problem. He stated it has been a problem since early 80's when the bill was passed. This morning he had a conversation with Mr. Frank Rotondo of the Police Chiefs Association, and, they have been talking with Sheriffs and Chiefs about these cuts. Mr. Norris stated that for information purposes, everyone will see a concerted effort by both associations to try bring forth these messages. Mr. Norris stated his job is to mediate with his association and they are somewhat outraged. The state cannot help it because revenue collections are down; the Sheriffs know that all are following the orders of the higher power and

that is understood. But the Sheriffs are going to do a better job of joining forces with the Chiefs to get this information out. Mr. Norris stated 'we want to help y'all help us.'

Chief Dekmar stated the fact is there is about \$30 million a year that go in to 'the Training Fund.' The Training Center budget is about \$14 million, and, now the request is to cut from the \$14 million despite the fact that \$30 million is going in. Chief Dekmar stated there has been a long term frustration in that, and, he feels that it is coming to a head because of the cuts now seeing and the additional cost shifting that is going on in the local and county agencies. With no disrespect to the Department heads here, Chief Dekmar stated he sympathizes with them. This is frustration with the way that this has played out over the last twenty years. Chief Dekmar stated when cut decisions have to be made, it seems like instead of doing an analysis of what is important in funding those, it is being put back on the locals. Who are all held accountable to their community to provide public safety. Chief Dekmar stated he will have to find a way to respond. But that response is not going to be consistent with the expectations of all citizens. The local agencies know that and are looking down the road and need to do something about it.

Chief Dwayne Orrick reported that the Public Safety Training Center Sub-Committee was in concurrence with what Director Mann has recommended. It is not pleasant, but the state is already making the cuts now and passing those costs back to the state so the agencies can account for them. Director Mann added that at the committee meeting, Mr. Kenley Finlayson of OPB was on the phone. All this material given to the Board members has been given to staff at Governor's office. This is not something done in a vacuum; these are hard decisions. Director Mann stated the way they are going to look at this is that agencies will still get free tuition, free lodging for those over 60 miles; there is 94% left. Director Mann tells his staff to do good with the 94% that is left. He is sorry that this impacts folks the way it does; the taking away of the meals does not start until July 1st of next year. Mr. Rooney Bowen thanked Director Mann for going back to the core mission statement which is training; stating Director Mann has done an excellent job on finding other areas that have nothing to do with training.

FISCAL REPORTS

Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, began with explaining the Fiscal Report placed in the notebooks. The total fiscal year shows how the agency finished FY08, July 1st through June 30, and how it is broken down by programs. The first column is Actual Budget for FY 08, the next column is Adjusted Budget, and a Surplus or Deficit column, and then Remaining Percentage. He pointed out that the agency finished out pretty close to budget, they had no Deficit. The highest surplus was in Aviation at 2.4%, which was primarily due to the helicopter crash. The amount was not sufficient enough to purchase a replacement helicopter, so the agency ended up buying replacement parts and maintenance and so forth; that is the reason there is a surplus. The rest of these are a percent or less. The program budgets are pretty much on point where the agency budgeted.

Ms. Lisa Urich, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, stated her report is in the Board notebooks. The budget played out similar to the way that State Patrol does theirs. The last column is the percentage remaining that went back to the Treasury, and that was .2%. The only reason that much went back into the Governor's office was the agency spent what they knew they needed to spend; the \$143,000 was sent back to contribute to the surplus of the state.

Ms. Patrice Kerner, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, reported on the Training Center budget in each notebook. She pointed to the remaining funds of \$1.2 million, of which \$1.1 million are federal funds and which carry over into the next year. That will not go back to the Treasury. The \$138,000 in Other Funds was projected revenue which was actually not realized. There are no monies going back to the Treasury there. The Training Center is sending back \$46,000.

DONATIONS

Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, requested approval of the following donations:

Five Pro Laser III Units	\$15,000.00	Coweta County Board of Commissioners
Ten Kodak Digital Cameras	\$ 1,599.50	Morgan County Sheriff's Office
One American Aluminum Canine Kennel For 2008 Dodge Charger	\$ 1,800.00	Troup County Sheriff's Office
Two Stalker DSR 2X R.A.D.A.R. Units	\$ 6,390.00	Butts County Board of Commissioners
Three Stalker DSR 2X R.A.D.A.R. Units	\$ 9,585.00	Spalding County Sheriff's Office
Window Tint	\$ 150.00	Gordon County Sheriff's Office

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made the motion to approve these donations, which was seconded by Sheriff Steve Cronic and voted approval by the Board members.

Ms. Patrice Kerner, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, requested approval of the following donation:

Check \$ 1,000.00 Atlanta Gas Light Resources
For Arson Investigation Program

Mr. Bud Black made the motion to approve these donations, which was seconded by Chief Lou Dekmar, and voted approval by the Board members.

RESOLUTION

Mr. Lee O'Brien, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, requested approval of a resolution. Mr. O'Brien stated this Resolution is to authorize the Department to declare a piece of property as surplus. State Patrol had moved the post from Donalsonville, Georgia in Seminole County to Colquitt, Georgia in Miller County. He explained that Seminole County would like to have the building that had been used as a post for many years. Chief Lou Dekmar made a motion to approve this Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Rooney Bowen, III, and voted approval by the Board members.

OLD BUSINESS

Chief Dekmar stated that at the last meeting it was discussed perhaps modifying a meeting schedule because we look at the number of folks at Board meetings. The recent discussion was as to whether or not it was an issue that had to be addressed through By-Laws change or a legislative requirement. Chief Dekmar spoke to Board Attorney Joe Drolet and he stated that it would just require By-Laws change. Chief requested that the Board explore that for a couple of reasons; that is, it would reduce the number of personnel and requirements of department heads to appear before the Board; and, in the times of tough budgets this would be a great opportunity for this Board to lead by example. Chief requested this be considered and what would be involved in making that change. Mr. Rooney Bowen responded that it has to be proposed, then be placed on the table, and then voted on by 3/5^{ths} of the Board. The way to change a By-Law is to form a By-Laws Committee and let the Committee come up with the recommendation. The recommendation will be given to the Attorney General's office and make sure it was done correctly. Chief Dekmar made a motion that a By-Laws Committee review that issue and make a recommendation to the Board. Sheriff Steve Cronic seconded the motion, and the Board members voted approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III stated he has received a letter from Georgia Coroner's Association. By statute, this Board appoints members to the Georgia Coroner's Training Council. The Council has vacancies; two for re-appointment and one for new appointment. The names recommended by the Georgia Coroner's Association are: Honorable Ralph Wilson to take the

place vacated by Mr. Dale Frazier; Honorable Edgar Perry and Honorable Richard Stanley for re-appointment to their respective positions. Mr. Rooney Bowen made the motion to approve these appointments, which was seconded by Chief Dwayne Orrick. Vice-Chairman Donald requested Board vote and everyone approved the appointments.

Mr. Bud Black announced that tomorrow a lunch will be held at Post 6. The theme is "Out With The Old and In With The New," because Hall County finally got its patrol post after nine years of hard work. A barbecue will be held tomorrow and everyone is invited.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III bragged on State Patrol and GBI. He stated that for those who do not know, the City of Unadilla decided to disband their Police Department. There is no longer any local police protection. The Sheriff of Dooly County was going ragged in trying to keep up with the people in the unincorporated areas of the county, much less trying to also look after the citizens of Unadilla. The State Patrol and GBI graciously offered their services of assistance to the local sheriff down there. Mr. Bowen and Mr. Jerry Willis had the opportunity to participate in a weekend of road checks, serving warrants on businesses where alcoholic beverages served with no licenses, and things like that. It was a real good weekend, and, he wanted to brag on GBI and State Patrol on how well they work together. The GBI served the warrants with State Patrol as backup, and this was a well-executed, well thought out plan.

Vice-Chairman Donald stated that even though he does not report to this Board, that he wanted to share with what is going on in the Department of Corrections. Part of the agency's 6% of \$70 million was the \$4 million associated with the pay raise, so the agency is left with making up \$66 million. The strategy is to leverage what the General Assembly has provided with in the fast track beds. These are state-of-the-art fast track facilities that fortunately came open this year; over 1800 new beds. Vice-Chairman Donald handed out copies of a press release and a picture of what the building looks like. The facility has four dorms, raised console and uninterrupted visibility throughout the facility, which will reduce manpower requirements to manage those 256 state prisoners. By doing that, the agency will cut personnel cost in half. As a result of that, this will save \$6 million in the budget each year. The agency is opening seven fast-track facilities this year and next year. There will be an additional 800 beds that have been funded and will open the following year. This will allow the agency to move away from the small stand-alone facilities and save taxpayer dollars. As each person hears about the 50-bed and 100-bed facilities closing and a state prison closing, the agency will move the population into the more efficient facilities. The one state prison that will be announced tomorrow, the agency will guarantee employment for all correctional officers because the Department has a 25% turnover. The reason that Corrections is able to give back five classes of correctional officers is that the agency will have an excess of post-certified correction officers. Vice-Chairman Donald just wanted to pass that strategy on to everyone. This will be passed to Judges Association and to Mr. Norris and the Sheriffs Association. Vice-Chairman Donald stated there are 81 dogs and 31 dog handlers. As part of this budget reduction, Corrections will reduce the number of dogs, but there

will still have a reasonable capability to support the sheriffs. Vice-Chairman Donald invited anybody in the law enforcement community who wants a dog to see him. Vice-Chairman Donald stated that Corrections is now triple-bunking inmates in the detention centers and in prisons. There are 1,400 this year and possibly another 1,000 next year. Vice-Chairman Donald stated they have been creative in saving taxpayers money. Another cut is the closing of diversion centers, such as the one in Haralson County and the Sheriff there will be recipient of this center for use of a jail. In terms of being efficient, Corrections is putting inmates in a fast track facility, thereby not having to buy food service, extra staff, extra maintenance and medical staff. Vice-Chairman Donald stated that Corrections is closing Terrell County Probation Detention Center. There are 59 correctional officers and staff in Terrell County and there are 106 vacant positions in the area around Albany. This will allow filling those vacancies there. Most of those 59 officers and staff are from Albany area, so they will be protected. These tough decisions are made, but Corrections continues to provide safety to the community.

Chief Dwayne Orrick stated he wanted to recognize Director Vernon Keenan for being nominated as the Chief of the Year. Director Keenan has done many things for Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and, the GBI will be given the Civil Rights Award for what he has done for the CIT program in Georgia, and brought national attention to IACP for his program. Also, Director Keenan was recognized as Outstanding Chief last year. Chief Orrick stated that one of the Chiefs Association committees tag teamed together with GMA and Sheriffs and State Patrol on a Highway Safety Committee. But, also Ms. Melissa Rogers wrote a report for that and is available on GAC website. She also was given a special award for what she did for presenting that. Chief Orrick stated much of what State Patrol is trying to do now with their communications system and their technology, and, also what the Chiefs are trying to do to track enforcement, working together between cities and counties and state in a more effective way proven is effective in Gainesville and LaGrange and other communities, we can tag team and take the highlights on how to do those things. Ms. Rogers did a great job on that paper. Everyone applauded Director Keenan for his achievements. Chief Lou Dekmar thanked the Training Center for their staff attending today and the great job they do for local law enforcement.

Representative Jim Cole was invited to speak. Representative Cole stated he heard everybody's pain. As one of Governor's Floor Leaders, he is privy to sit in those meetings, and, it is not an easy decision. He analyzes it from a business standpoint; how can this happen, how to prioritize, how to decide what is best, what is best here, what is best to cut, whether to keep this status quo. Representative Cole stated Governor Perdue has a tough job and it is almost like a biblical story when they brought the baby to him and asked him to split it; how does he do it correctly; who gets what. The sad part about it is that the state is so tied into economic conditions. Everything is tied to either income tax or sales tax or some type of fee. Usually, when times turn bad, cars are the first thing you don't buy; also meaning home improvements. He stated that they have backed themselves into a corner in the General Assembly; they have given tax exemptions every

time they could. What the legislators did is tied the revenue string to big ticket items. With economic conditions like now, this is bad. Representative Cole stated he was in that same room six months ago, when the economists advised the Governor that everything was looking good. He was also in the room two weeks ago when the predicted they did not know when it was going to end. Representative Cole stated they had to prep the budget in July; it is an eighteen month prediction into the future. He stated he wished they were better at it. Representative Cole apologized to every agency that these cuts are happening. There are tough decisions to make soon. He wished they could do a better job of that prediction; but when hoping for the best to prepare for the worst. Governor Perdue has remained open that these are cuts doing immediately, and, the economy could turn around. That is another part the legislators do not know. There will be a big debate in the General Assembly about homeowners and tax relief grant. That will have a lot to do with how severe those cuts are. There will be a lot of pressure from the public to keep the tax grant in place; that is about \$500 million. If the General Assembly comes back in for special session, that will be a big battle. If we do not eliminate that grant, then the General Assembly will look for deeper cuts. It will be a political battle. Representative Cole thanked everyone for their input; public safety is dear to him because he lives two miles down the road. He knows how important it is to this county and this city.

Chief Lou Dekmar thanked Representative Cole; stating there are no bad guys in this scenario. It is a bad situation. The frustration seen on the ground is when GBI Crime Lab takes six month to get a blood test back. Such as a widow with children who does not get the life insurance because the Death Certificate does not get signed. Those are the kind of issues that are in the heat of the passion, but that passion is for the citizens because Chief sees it first hand. Chief Dekmar thanked Representative for being willing to take of the concerns. Representative Cole stated it hit him, also because on the past Sunday night at the Dairy Queen a guy walked out with a Blizzard and was shot point blank. Representative had been there two hours earlier with his children getting a Blizzard; he knows how important it is to get those people apprehended. Representative Cole stated he knows most Board members, and, it is so important they be there and tell legislators. Representative Cole stated they had to turn fast; those bad numbers started coming in about May and it was something that had to be done quick. Before the money got out, some of it had to be brought back in just to balance the budget. Prioritization could happen if they had had more time but it was a quick thing. For the FY10 cycle, the Board members involvement will help prioritize some things.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III
Secretary