



MSP Budget Committee Summary

Trooper Strength

MSP currently has 1,898 enlisted members and 141 motor carrier officers. In FY01, that number was 2,236 and reached a recent low in FY12 at 1,602. Strength has been rebuilt to around the 2,000 mark with seasonal fluctuations throughout the year as retirements and hiring take place.

Attrition

There are 163 enlisted members eligible to retire in FY22 and FY23 and another 112 in FY24 for a total of 275 in three years. From FY18 until FY21, 444 enlisted members will have already retired or reached retirement eligibility.

Deferred Retirement Option Plan

The plan is administered by the Office of Retirement Services, and enlisted members hired before 2012 are eligible. The plan allows a member to retire but continue working for the department. The pension payments for those six years are re-invested in the pension fund. When the member separates, they collect the principal from the pension payments and a maximum interest payment of three percent per year. In addition to keeping experienced members employed, this allows for retirement and OPEB savings by the department, re-investment of capital by the pension fund, and a fiscal benefit to the employee if they complete the program.

Recruit Training

The recruits all attend our residential training academy where they receive nearly 1,200 hours of hands-on, lecture, and scenario-based instruction in firearms, patrol techniques, first aid, criminal law, crime scene processing, precision driving, water safety, defensive tactics, report writing, and ethics. The Legislature appropriated \$4.8 million to hire and train 50 troopers in FY21 and \$3.5 million to hire and train 170 troopers in FY20. These appropriations vary depending on the number of new hires compared to the number of backfill hires.