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## WASHINGTON APCO--NENA Public/Government Affairs Committee Legislative Report – January 2018

### Legislative Activity – Governor’s Proposed Supplemental Budget

The PGAC and the Chapter’s Lobbyist, Scott Sigmon, have been very active over the past two months in preparation to fulfill the Military Department’s Decision Package and restore funding for the State E911 Coordination Office budget.

Hopefully you are all aware that the SECO’s budget has a \$4.2M shortfall and the Military Department submitted a Decision Package to the Governor to address the shortfall. The Governor addressed the shortfall in his proposed supplemental budget but designated the source of the \$4.2M as “General Fund – Federal;” which the SECO determined was a federal grant for which the application process has not yet been opened. Obviously this source of funding, even if the SECO is successful, will be too late in arriving to help with the current shortfall.

The PGAC launched an effort to persuade legislators to change the source of the funding so that relief would be more immediate and would mitigate the shortfall without incurring further expense cuts impacting all county’s 911 programs. A single double-sided communications document was developed to convey the problem, the source of the problem, the harm that could occur if the problem is not addressed and a recommended solution to the problem. This one page document is available for all members to use when addressing stakeholders, legislators and decision-makers at a local level.

The committee decided to target specific legislators in key positions within both the House and the Senate to get our message out most effectively.

To that end local PSAP Directors, the Chapter Lobbyist, Chapter Leadership and the PGAC Chair have completed the following activities:

- Scott Sigmon and Keith Flewelling, meeting with Senate Ways & Means Committee Staff.
- Sent letters from the Chapter to the Chairs of both the House Appropriations and Senate Ways & Means Committees; Chairs Ormsby and Rolfes respectively.
- Karl Hatton and Keith Flewelling gave Public testimony on the Governor’s Proposed Supplemental Budget in front of the House Appropriations Committee. Also distribute the communications document to all committee members.

### **Mission Statement:**

Join together as public safety communications professionals to lead, learn, and leverage our influence, for the benefit of our profession, the public safety workforce, and ultimately the public we serve.



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- Richard Kirton, Karl Hatton and Keith Flewelling gave Public testimony on the Governor's Proposed Supplemental Budget in front of the Senate Ways & Means Committee. Also distribute the communications document to all committee members.
- Following testimony had side conversations with Senator Becker, Senator Hunt, and Senator Van De Wege.
- Helen Rasmussen, Skagit County 911, met with Representative Morris, Chair of the House Technology & Economic Development Committee in Skagit County and again in Olympia.
- Met with Nancy Bickford, Military Department, to discuss the Military Department's approach to the shortfall and Governor's Proposed Supplemental Budget – attached is the one page Military Department Legislative Fact Sheet.
- Scott Sigmon, Keith Flewelling, Deb Flewelling, King County 911 Program Office, met with Representative Roger Goodman, Chair Public Safety Committee.
- Scott Sigmon and Keith Flewelling met with Senator Hunt.
- Karl Hatton and Scott Sigmon met with all legislators from Jefferson and Clallam Counties.
- Richard Kirton and Scott Sigmon met with Senator Rolfes. Richard Kirton visited the offices of Legislative Districts 23, 26 and 35 and shared the one page APCO communications document.

#### Future Scheduled Activity:

- Meeting with Representative Wilcox, 1/23 (Flewelling/Sigmon)
- Meeting with Senator Becker, 1/24 (Flewelling/Sigmon)
- Meeting with Representative Ormsby, 1/24 (Mizell/Flewelling/Sigmon)
- Meeting with Representative Billig, 1/24 (Mizell/Flewelling/Sigmon)

#### Legislative Activity – Representative Goodman's Task Group on Mental Health and Public Safety Response

- Karl Hatton, Chapter President, attended a meeting hosted by Representative Goodman, Chair House Public Safety Committee, which opened a dialogue with public safety responders regarding mental health issues as it relates to public safety response.

There has been a lot of activity on a local county level that we may not be aware of and have not captured in this report. Feel free to keep us informed of any meetings you may have or have scheduled. We would like to know of the activity and are available to assist if needed.

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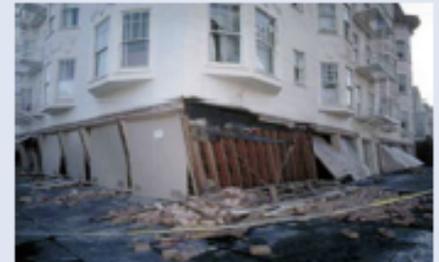


# Washington Military Department

## 2018 Supplemental Operating Budget Priorities

### Emergency Management Account Transfer

- The Washington Military Department requests \$1.2 million in FY19 and \$1.8 million annually thereafter to maintain staffing levels for its Emergency Management Division (EMD).
- This budget request is critical to offset significant reductions in federal emergency management and homeland security grants (more than 50 percent since FFY2008), significant reductions in state funding (more than 50 percent since 07-09 biennium), unfunded pay raises for federally-reimbursed state employee positions, and the projected loss of funding from the Oil Spill Prevention Account which supports assistance to local communities with hazardous materials planning.
- Without the requested fund shift from General Fund Federal to the Disaster Response account, EMD would have to reduce staff by 15.5 FTEs (17 percent of its current 86 FTEs) beginning in SFY18 and an additional 4 employees in SFY20.
- A reduction in staff creates an unacceptable public safety risk by preventing the full delivery of critical emergency management services required by state law, and as well as prevents EMD from meeting obligations required to receive federal resources.



***Agency Request - \$1.2M FY19 and \$1.782M annually FY20 and beyond***

### NG-911 – ESInet II

- The state of Washington is transitioning through the technically complex process of modernizing our statewide 911 enterprise, which includes transition to a new Emergency Services IP network (ESInet II) that meets national Next Generation 911 (NG911) standards. The project was designed to mitigate the potential for catastrophic failure by interconnecting the existing and new networks during a transition period to ensure public safety at all times. Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) will cutover in a phased approach to mitigate interruption to 911 service during the transition. The project was initially estimated to be completed by Jul 2018; however unanticipated technical and contractual issues delayed the start of the transition. The project is expected to be completed by October 2019. The new ESInet II meets industry (NENA i3) standards, and includes upgrades like:
  - ✓ Capability for integrated text-to-911 through the network with the same transferability as a call.
  - ✓ Media-agnostic public access to 911; voice, text, picture, video, data, etc.
  - ✓ Improved GIS and call routing functions that can more accurately route calls, potentially decreasing the number of call transfers and providing increased accuracy in locating wireless calls.
  - ✓ Enhanced call transfer functionality between PSAPs. All information will be seamlessly transferred between PSAPs without losing information.
  - ✓ System capacity no longer limited by connectivity, only the number of call takers.
- The department was on course to stay within appropriation levels in the 17-19 biennial budget until the delay. The delay requires the state to operate both the interim (current) ESInet and the NG911 ESInet II simultaneously until the full transition is complete.
- \$4.2M is needed to simultaneously operate both statewide networks until the end of the transition period.



***Agency Request Budget: \$4.2M***