

CAPITAL BUDGET OVERVIEW COMMITTEE - SPECIAL AGENDA

Legislative Office Building, Room 201

Concord, NH

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Mark McConkey, Chair

Rep. Frank Byron

Rep. David Danielson

Rep. Dan Eaton

Speaker Gene Chandler

Sen. Lou D'Allesandro

Sen. Regina Birdsell

(The meeting convened at 1 o'clock p.m.)

(1) New Business:

MARK MCCONKEY, State Representative, Carroll County, District #03 and Chairman: I believe we can get started. Call the Capital Budget Overview Committee together, open the hearing, special meeting, to consider two items before us, item 18-021 and Item 18-022. And, with that, I have Adjutant General's Office. If someone could explain why we're here today, please?

COLONEL (Ret) WARREN M. PERRY, Deputy Adjutant General, Adjutant General's Office: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. For the record, Warren Perry, Deputy Adjutant General, Adjutant General's Department. I have with me...

MAJOR EMILY PAIGE KAMAL, Deputy Construction Facilities Management Officer, Adjutant General's Office: Major Paige Kamal, Emily Paige Kamal, Deputy Construction Facilities Management Officer.

DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL PERRY: We're here today because pursuant to RSA 110-B:28, IV, (a), we are required to get approval from the Capital Budget Overview Committee to do federal contracting on State land.

At the end of the Federal Fiscal Year, some windfall, some Federal fiscal windfall came to us, and we found out in late August that DPW does not have the capacity to do the contracting for us. In our procedures that requires us to request an in-kind assistance contracting support from the Federal Government. So that in-kind assistance requires your approval at the Capital Budget Oversight Committee.

We have two projects. One, like in the letter we talk to you about, in the amount of \$700,000 to do training enhancements, and that's generally at Center Strafford, our training facility. Things like ammunition issue points, C-17 load simulators so that we can practice loading our equipment on to contingency aircraft to deploy it wherever it is in the world, those kinds of things that help us do things.

The other project was projected at \$2 million, and it is to improve the facilities. So these are enabling things that make us do a couple of things. They make the facility safer for our folks to operate in, and they increase the efficiency by with the operating cost, the efficiency by which we operate them. So new HVAC systems, fire alarms, and other renovations, those are generally at our facilities in Strafford, Rochester, Nashua, and Concord.

We do apologize and we are very grateful that you are considering this request here. We understand the inconvenience that it causes to convene a special meeting. And, you know, without making excuses, we didn't really find out until the end of August that we needed to get this done, and there's some noticing requirements to the towns. So the fact that this got put together and the timing of it is going to allow us to encumber these Federal funds before they evaporate at the end of the Federal Fiscal Year in about four days. So we appreciate it. So pending any questions, we'll, you know, that's my initial statement.

CHAIRMAN MCCONKEY: Questions? Senator, please.

LOU D'ALLESANDRO, State Senator, Senate District #20:
Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quickie on the number of deployments that the National Guard has made in the last Calendar Year, New Hampshire National Guard has made, the number of deployments and the length of those deployments?

DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL PERRY: Sir, I don't have the exact number. I know we deployed -- we just deployed a four-man contracting team to Kuwait. They left -- they left here Thursday?

MAJOR KAMAL: About a week ago.

DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL PERRY: Last Thursday they left here, and we haven't had a lot of deployments in the last Calendar Year. Like I said, I don't have the exact number, but I don't think we're deploying from the Army side anybody very frequently now. In fact, it's getting less, and less, and less. So in the last Calendar Year I can almost say from the Army side, except for individual augmentees, almost zero. I will confirm that number to you in an e-mail later and to the Members of the Committee. I'll get it to the Chair.

On the Air side, we are in a constant state of deployment. I think you're familiar with that. For the rest of the Members of the Committee we have folks in about three different theaters of operations or operational areas. Sometimes the Far East, Guam, sometimes the European theater of operations, sometimes in Africa, and sometimes in the Middle East. All of those are contingent on what air mobility command needs in terms of strategic re-fueling capabilities.

I would tell you the future outlook for deployments continues to be low compared to the previous six years; low. Part of that is because the demand for army deployments is decreasing, based on what's happening in the theater of operations in the Middle East. And on the Air side the transition to the new tanker is going to lessen -- it's going to lessen our operational deployments until they field the new weapon system and everybody is up and trained. I know it's kind

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of a long round-about answer without a lot of details, but I'll get you the details on the other pieces.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Follow-up.

CHAIRMAN MCCONKEY: Follow-up, sir.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: So the facilities that you're building are going to aid in the training and preparedness of this force --

DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL PERRY: Yes.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: -- to do what has to be done if they're deployed?

DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL PERRY: Yes. Yes, sir.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Okay.

DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL PERRY: And not just deployed in terms of contingency operations. So, for example, for the hurricane in Puerto Rico we deployed our --

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Right.

DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL PERRY: -- mobilization beddown systems and beds, D-beds. This is kind of like a tent city, a mobile tent city they put on aircraft. For example, the C-17 trainer would enable us to maintain current to support domestic operations as well so not just contingency operations.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Just one further question, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN MCCONKEY: Yes, please.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: So if I can gather from your comments, the nation relying on the Guard has increased fairly dramatically over the past decade.

DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL PERRY: I would say even longer, sir. So since contingency operations started in 2003, 2004, I would say it's an exponential increase on reliance on the reserve components in whole, and for sure the National Guard of the United States. I would also say that the paradigm from a strategic reserve to an operational reserve has changed as well. I believe it will continue. I would tell you from a more local standpoint our Artillery Brigade is one of eight and deploys more frequently than strategically in the last deployment, you know, supported operations in more than just Iraq and Afghanistan, and they conducted combat operations against, you know, high value targets -- terror targets in places that we won't talk about here today.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MCCONKEY: Senator Birdsell, have you a question?

REGINA BIRDSELL, State Senator, Senate District #19: No.

CHAIRMAN MCCONKEY: Okay. Representative Byron.

FRANK BYRON, State Representative, Hillsborough County, District #20: Yes. In the information you gave us, you gave us a copy of Chapter 110-B, Section 28, which was the -- I guess covers what the requirements are for accepting these types of grants. There were two stipulations on here. Says such federally contracted and completed -- completely federally funded project shall be either, one, within 90 days prior to the end of the fiscal year be designed and ready for bidding.

DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL PERRY: Yes.

REP. BYRON: Or, two, where such project design is incomplete and not ready for bid, a contract may be entered into within 210 days prior to the end of the fiscal year. So the Fiscal Year ends September 30th --

DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL PERRY: Yes, sir.

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REP. BYRON: -- for the Federal Government. My question is, are you able to sign these contracts and get them done by that time?

DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL PERRY: Yes, sir. So we will be able to commit the money. And, actually, the initial conversation I had with the Chair was that if we had this approval by the 28th, we would be able to encumber the money. So we're two days ahead of schedule from our perspective. We've been -- you know, when we sent the requests to the Committee and I talked with the Chair about trying to set this meeting up, we didn't stop all the other work. We kept it going so that we would -- we would have -- we would have the contracts in the barrel of the gun ready to pull the trigger as soon as we got the approval.

REP. BYRON: Very good. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MCCONKEY: Representative Danielson.

DAVID DANIELSON, State Representative, Hillsborough County, District #07: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for your testimony. I'm not -- I'm going to support this, but I wanted to ask a question about the idea of the military operations for urban terrain. Is that a change in mission?

DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL PERRY: No, sir.

REP. DANIELSON: Is that adaptation of a mission?

DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL PERRY: No, sir.

REP. DANIELSON: How does that impact New Hampshire?

DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL PERRY: So New Hampshire has two specific kinds of units that operate in military terrain. You have a military police company that's headquartered in Concord and in Lebanon, and we have an infantry company that's based in Milford. Those are -- we have -- each Army unit has a mission essential task list and military operations in urbanized terrain are part of both of those particular units.

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I would also tell you that almost all of the operations now are not happening out in the wilds of the desert. Most of them are happening in cities. So this is city fighting and so having a facility that we can train to operate, defend, and win in cities is important. So it's an improvement to a facility, an upgrade to a facility that we have.

Center Strafford currently has a very small MOUT Site, Military Operations in Urban Terrain. It's generally containers, like train containers, shipping containers that have doors cut in them so people can do tasks like enter and clear a building. You know, work -- you know, work the streets, do recovery of casualties, those kind of things. And these -- these funds will help to enhance that existing facility.

CHAIRMAN MCCONKEY: Representative Chandler.

GENE CHANDLER, State Representative, Carroll County, District #01, and Speaker of the House of Representatives: Well, I thought I'd make a motion.

REP. MCCONKEY: Yes.

****** MR. SPEAKER: I would move we approve both items 18-021, 18-022.

SEN. BIRDSELL: Second.

REP. MCCONKEY: Motion's been made and seconded. Any further discussion? Seeing none. And if -- if it's the pleasure we will vote on two as the motion was. If you're in favor of the motion for Items 18-021 and 18-022, signify by saying aye? Those opposed? Motion carries unanimously.

Seeing no other business before us, I will -- we'll close Capital Budget Overview Committee Special Meeting. Thank you for your attendance.

(The meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

I, Cecelia A. Trask, a Licensed Court Reporter-Shorthand, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate transcript from my shorthand notes taken on said date to the best of my ability, skill, knowledge and judgment.

Cecelia A. Trask
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