

# **HOUSE BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, PUBLIC SAFETY, & JUDICIARY (H)**

## **Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2025 Regular Session**

**February 25, 2025**

### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The 3rd meeting of the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice, Public Safety, & Judiciary (H) was held on February 25, 2025, at 12:00 PM in Room 169 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Stephanie Dietz, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

### **Present were:**

Members: Representative Stephanie Dietz Chair; Representatives Jennifer Decker, Nima Kulkarni, and Scott Sharp.

Guests: Zach Ramsey, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts; Danny Rhoades, Executive Officer, Department of Court Facilities, Administrative Office of the Courts; Carole Henderson, Budget Director, Administrative Office of the Courts; Phillip Burnett, Commissioner, Kentucky State Police; Brandon Marshall, Statewide Interoperability Coordinator, Kentucky State Police.

LRC Staff: Zachary Ireland, Perry Papka, and Benjamin Thompson.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Representative Sharp made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2025, meeting of the subcommittee. Representative Decker seconded the motion and the minutes were approved without objection.

### **Update - Kentucky State Police - Trooper Classes and KEWS Leases**

Phillip Burnett, Commissioner, Kentucky State Police (KSP); and Brandon Marshall, Statewide Interoperability Coordinator, KSP, provided an update on the KSP.

In response to questions from Chair Dietz, Commissioner Burnett noted that many applicants fail the physical fitness test at the trooper academy. There are currently 944 troopers while the most that KSP has ever employed at one time was 1,006. In 2020 the KSP was down to 761 troopers.

In response to questions from Representative Sharp, Commissioner Burnett stated that the

trooper academy does provide some college credit. The biggest issue for those who left the trooper academy was homesickness.

In response to questions from Representative Kulkarni, Commissioner Burnett confirmed that KSP has had prospective troopers leave the academy, then go back through in a different class and be very successful.

In response to a question from Representative Decker, Commissioner Burnett said that he feels there is a higher percentage of trooper prospects that are failing the fitness test than in years past.

In response to a question from Chair Dietz, Mr. Marshall noted that there are 97 leases left to negotiate, but only 66 tower sites. The remaining leases are for adjacent land or access to tower sites.

### **Update - Kentucky Court of Justice - Budget Overview**

Zach Ramsey, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts; Danny Rhoades, Executive Officer, Department of Court Facilities, Administrative Office of the Courts; Carole Henderson, Budget Director, Administrative Office of the Courts provided an update on the Administrative Office of the Courts and its budgetary needs.

In response to a question from Representative Decker, Ms. Henderson stated that court fines and fees are mostly transmitted to the Finance and Administration Cabinet rather than retained by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

In response to a question from Representative Sharp, Mr. Rhoades stated that breaking ground on a new Greenup County courthouse is likely two and a half to three years away.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:08 PM.