

# **BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT, FINANCE, PERSONNEL, AND PUBLIC RETIREMENT**

## **Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2024 Interim**

**August 21, 2024**

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

The third meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on General Government, Finance, Personnel, and Public Retirement was held on August 21, 2024, at 9:00 AM in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Chris Freeland, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

### **Present were:**

Members: Representative Chris Freeland, Co-Chair; Senators Robby Mills and Michael Nemes; Representatives Ken Fleming, Randy Bridges, Adam Bowling, George Brown Jr., Mary Beth Imes, DJ Johnson, and Nancy Tate.

Guests: Richard Ferretti, Commissioner, Department of Criminal Investigations; Will Schroder, Senior Counsel, Office of the Kentucky Attorney General.

LRC Staff: Joseph Holt and Jennifer Luttrell.

### **Approval of Minutes (June 5, 2024 & July 17, 2024)**

Due to an unmet quorum, the approval was passed to the next meeting.

### **Office of the Attorney General**

Richard Ferretti, Commissioner of the Department of Criminal Investigations, gave a brief overview of the Body Armor Grant Program.

Responding to a question from Representative Bridges, Mr. Ferretti stated that the minimum safety equipment budget per officer is \$2,000.

Responding to a question from Representative Johnson, Mr. Ferretti said the definition of a rifle plate is a soft body armor plate that enables an officer to survive an assault.

In response to Senator Mills' question, Mr. Ferretti said this program's priority is to cover the 20 percent budget gap, and other equipment, such as tasers and body cameras, are last to be covered due to the expense. Body armor is functional after the expiration date and is also helpful in auto accidents.

Responding to a question from Representative Bowling, Mr. Ferretti stated that body armor stays with the assigned officer. Each officer can be tracked by his/her Police Officer Professional Standards (POPS)-certification number as required by the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council (KLEC). The Attorney General's Office is collaborating with the Kentucky Chief's Association and the Kentucky Sheriff's Association to encourage all agencies to have a mandatory-wear policy. However, it is ultimately up to each agency to decide.

Mr. Ferretti responded that there are approximately 8,000 POPS certified officers in Kentucky to answer Representative Fleming's questions. Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) does not have a mandatory-wear policy.

In response to questions from Senator Nemes, Mr. Ferretti said written exceptions could be added to the agencies' policies, such as undercover officers. The Attorney General's Office only controls the funds it provides.

Responding to Chair Freeland's questions, Mr. Ferretti stated that the 20 percent funding gap is covered before additional equipment requests are met.

In response to Senator Mills' question, Mr. Ferretti said that body armor is replaced if an officer is shot, and the officer gets to meet the person who signed off on the manufacturing of the vest.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 AM.