

Report of the Joint Committee on Kansas Security to the 2025 Kansas Legislature

CHAIRPERSON: Senator Mike Petersen

VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Representative Eric Smith

OTHER MEMBERS: Senators Rick Kloos, Virgil Peck, Jeff Pittman, Mary Ware; and Representatives David Buehler, Michael Dodson, Jarrod Ousley, Pat Proctor, Virgil Weigel, and Rui Xu

CHARGE

Review Various Security Matters

KSA 46-3301 directs the Joint Committee to study, monitor, review, and make recommendations on matters related to the security of state officers or employees, state and other public buildings, and other property and infrastructure in the state and to consider measures for the improvement of security for the State.

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Joint Committee on Kansas Security

ANNUAL REPORT

Conclusions and Recommendations

Budget-related Recommendations

- The Committee supports the FY 2025 Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) budget supplement and enhancement request for body-worn cameras, for which the estimate is up to \$2.6 million;
- The Committee recommends the KHP receive \$1.1 million in funding in FY 2025 for urgent safety repairs on the KHP Training Academy campus in Salina, as outlined in its budget supplemental and enhancement request; and
- The Committee notes its concern regarding FY 2024 federal budget cuts to the Emergency Management Grant Program. It recommends the appropriations committees review this issue and consider adding state moneys to maintain funding for emergency preparedness for the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and Kansas local governments.

Recommendations for Legislative Briefings and Review

- The Committee recommends the utility committees of the Legislature receive briefings on the integrated resources available for electricity;
- The Committee recommends the Legislature and the appropriate committees of its House and Senate, such as the House Committee on Transportation and Public Safety Budget and utility committees, receive briefings on integrating floor plans of buildings of concern into the information available to first responders and the costs for doing so;
- The Committee recommends the appropriate committees of the Kansas House and Senate receive presentations from the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center regarding threats from foreign adversaries, in closed sessions;
- The Committee expresses concern with the recent rapid jump in violent crime and requests the appropriate committees of the Legislature, such as judiciary committees or committees with responsibility for corrections, receive presentations from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation on violent crime, on the causes of these increases, and the demographics of the crime locations and the perpetrators of these crimes; and
- The Committee notes with concern the dangerous drugs readily available in Kansas and their risks and recommends the relevant committees of the Legislature investigate ways to increase education in Kansas K-12 schools regarding those drugs.

Additional Considerations

- The Committee expresses its concern about security for large solar energy installations

and concern about which entity or entities will bear the costs of that security; and

- The Committee recommends a state agency, perhaps the Kansas Department of Transportation or the KHP, review with local officers and officials the compatibility of communications equipment among first responders and other emergency response personnel.

Proposed Legislation: None

BACKGROUND

The 2004 Legislature created the Joint Committee on Kansas Security (Committee) (KSA 2024 Supp. 46-3301) to study, monitor, review, and make recommendations for the following:

- Matters relating to the security of state officers and employees;
- Security of buildings and property under the ownership or control of the State;
- Matters relating to the security of a public body or agency, public building, or facility;
- Matters relating to the security of the infrastructure of Kansas, including any information system; and
- Measures for the improvement of security for the State.

The statute also directs the Committee to review and monitor federal moneys received by the State for the purposes of homeland security and other related security matters.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Granted two meeting days by the Legislative Coordinating Council, the Committee met at the Statehouse on October 8 and October 9, 2024.

Some of the presentations to the Committee were conducted in closed session under provisions of KSA 75-4319(b)(12)(C), an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act regarding meetings to

discuss security of public bodies, facilities, and information systems. Legislative staff were not present in the closed sessions, and no further information is provided about them in this report.

October 8, 2024, Meeting

At the October 8, 2024, meeting, the Committee heard information on capital projects at the Adjutant General's Department concerning National Guard facilities and emergency management services, election security information from the Secretary of State's Office and the Kansas County Clerks and Elections Officials Association, operational and general updates from the Kansas Highway Patrol and Kansas Bureau of Investigation, security updates from the Department of Administration and the Kansas Information Security Office, and audit findings from the Division of Legislative Post Audit.

In closed session, the Committee heard updates from the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center, the Kansas Information Security Office, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, and the Legislative Division of Post Audit.

Adjutant General's Department Updates

Kansas National Guard

The Chief of Government and Legislative Affairs, Adjutant General's Department, provided updates on capital projects at the Adjutant General's Department:

- Construction of the Joint Force Headquarters at Forbes Field is set to be complete and the facility open in 2025;
- The Adjutant General's Department closed on the land purchase for the Hays Armory;

- Construction of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) State Emergency Operations Center is planned to begin in mid-to-late October;
- Two Kansas City armories are being renovated and modernized, one of which is being converted to brigade headquarters; and
- Energy cost reduction projects are underway at several sites.
- The Committee also received updates regarding Kansas Army and Air National Guard activities, including global deployments, fire suppression, cybersecurity and analytic response, and outreach to students regarding science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Chief of Government and Legislative Affairs also reviewed legislation from the 2024 Legislative Session.

Kansas Division of Emergency Management

The Deputy Director of KDEM provided updates on recovery operations, funding initiatives, and the state’s continuity of operations plan (COOP). She noted KDEM is the lead agency for COOP planning for all state entities.

The Deputy Director reviewed KDEM activities regarding four federally declared disasters that occurred within the past year and the agency’s continued facilitation of recovery operations through the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Public Assistance Program, which provides supplemental grants to state, tribal, territorial, and local governments and certain types of private nonprofit organizations to more quickly respond to major disasters or emergencies.

The Deputy Director briefly discussed counties eligible for Small Business Administration low-interest disaster loans to help businesses, renters, and homeowners recover from declared disasters. Currently, four Kansas counties qualify for these loans:

- Allen County;
- Bourbon County;
- Linn County; and

- Pottawatomie County.

The Deputy Director expressed concern relating to the Emergency Management Performance Grant, which was reduced by 10.1 percent this year in association with a reduction in the budget of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The grant requires a 50 percent match. Kansas planned to receive \$4.1 million to fund personnel, operation costs, training, exercises, planning activities, and awards to county emergency management programs that meet standards set by KDEM.

Election Security

The Director of Elections, Office of the Secretary of State (Office), noted Kansas has a decentralized election administration system in which counties are responsible for conducting elections, and the role of the Office is to provide guidance and perform certain tasks. He noted elections systems have been designated as part of the nation’s critical infrastructure and therefore there is greater access to DHS information and security resources. The Director reviewed the various security systems utilized for voting purposes, noting he could not provide specifics, and provided information regarding the physical security grant program facilitated by the Office, which uses federal security funds provided under provisions of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) to upgrade and improve areas of physical security for election equipment, ballots, election offices, and staff to each of the 105 county election offices. Requests from 84 counties have been approved for improvements in providing security for digital voting equipment and for the storage of ballots.

Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association

The President of the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association (KCCEOA) discussed the importance of security of election equipment and election sites, stating the security processes and duties fall under the list of tasks for county clerks and election officials.

The KCCEOA official explained the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency’s Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center regularly shares

election security-related information, guidance, webinars, and notifications of active or potential threats to election security. While this is a helpful tool to members of the KCCEOA, the KCCEOA official stated that limited time, resources, staff, and budget constraints factor into the prioritization and implementation of security.

The KCCEOA official briefly discussed information technology (IT) departments and services utilized in different counties, highlighting that most counties do not have the funding or staff to focus entirely on physical security or cybersecurity.

He noted the HAVA moneys available to enhance the physical security of election equipment and storage facilities in election offices throughout the state. Each county is required to fund 10.0 percent of total costs of its project.

The KCCEOA official expressed that the biggest concern to members of KCCEOA is personal protection and security of election officers and their staff, including poll workers.

Kansas Highway Patrol Update

Operations

The Executive Officer of the Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) discussed recent agency operations. He stated that 199 pounds of fentanyl have been seized at this point in 2024, more than three times the fentanyl seized by KHP in 2023. Additionally in 2024, 12 illegal firearms were seized and 600 arrests were made for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Trends based on six months of data for 2024 indicated decreases in firearm seizures, felony arrests, and issuance of speeding citations.

Organizational Realignment

The Executive Officer described KHP reorganization in 2024 to better align units with similar functions. He said the:

- Field Operations Bureau consists of eight regional Field Troops organized under North and South Bureaus focusing on core traffic safety services;

- Protective Services Bureau includes the Capitol Police, Executive Protection Units, and Homeland Security/Emergency Operations;
- Special Operations Bureau includes the KHP Training Academy, Aircraft Unit, and the Special Response Team;
- Technical Operations Bureau consists of Public and Governmental Affairs, Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program, Communications, and Records;
- Investigative Operations Bureau is made up of investigators for felony cases, the Critical Highway Accident Response Team, the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)/Motor Vehicle Theft Unit, and Criminal Interdiction; and
- Administrative Services Bureau includes fiscal, human resources, fleet operations, facilities, and information technology.

Trooper Recruitment

The Executive Officer stated 475 sworn officer positions were filled as of the date of the meeting, which is 2 below the 10-year high in FY 2019. KHP expected to graduate 22 troopers from its training academy in 2024, not including the 6 who have already graduated this year.

Technology Improvements

The Executive Officer stated that KHP has integrated technology in 2024 to enhance its functions and better serve citizens through the following:

- KHP aircraft now utilize Earthscape, a cloud-based video management tool allowing pilots to store and distribute video recorded during flight;
- Citizens in high-volume locations may now schedule appointments online for VIN inspections; and

- KHP partnered with Secure Passage to provide the agency with data analytics that measure performance, ensure policy is being observed, and provide a statewide view of law enforcement activities.

Future Initiatives

The Executive Officer stated KHP initiatives include addressing excessive speeding, which has increased 120.0 percent since 2014, through requesting legislation; the transition for Capitol Police to begin mail scanning operations; the Department of Administration’s implementation of new building access cards; and the reassessments of various KHP properties.

Budget Requests

The Executive Officer provided the Committee with a list of enhancement requests for FY 2025 and FY 2026. The list includes the following enhancement requests:

- Body-worn cameras;
- Safety repairs on the KHP Training Academy Campus in Salina;
- Security, weather, and plumbing updates at the KHP Salina campus;
- Construction of a new KHP General Headquarters in Topeka;
- Construction of a KHP aircraft hangar in Wichita;
- Implementation of IT infrastructure improvements; and
- Replacement of a Cessna aircraft.

Department of Administration Update

The Deputy Secretary of Operations, Department of Administration, provided an overview of current efforts underway or in planning to address the security of the Capitol Complex, such as physical barriers for new buildings. He also provided information regarding the implementation of additional requirements for

state-leased property statewide, such as information for first responders, solid core doors, and security cameras.

Kansas Information Security Office Update

The Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO) of the Kansas Information Security Office (KISO) provided information regarding the relocation of the Office of Information Technology Services, current efforts in the implementation of 2024 House Sub. for SB 291 regarding IT consolidation, and the assessment of cybersecurity staffing and funding available to the agency, and he introduced the new Chief Information Security Officer (CISO).

The CITO reviewed planning underway to integrate all executive branch IT services in the Office of Information Technology Services and additional planning to be reported to legislative committees early in 2025. He noted the executive CISO is to review contracts related to IT to reduce security vulnerabilities.

The newly introduced CISO provided general cybersecurity updates relating to state and local programs, staffing, cybersecurity and operations technology training provided across the state, and funding. He noted training provided by the KISO, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to water supply operators and cybersecurity awareness training provided to state and local officials. Additionally, the CISO provided the Committee with policy suggestions being reviewed by the Information Technology Executive Council pursuant to House Sub. for SB 291 and information regarding the newly acquired space for a Security Operations Center.

Kansas Bureau of Investigation Update

Crime Trends

The Executive Officer of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) provided an overview of Kansas property and violent crime trends, noting the more than 80,000 reported index crimes in 2023 represented a 1.5 percent increase from the number in 2022. The Executive Officer stated the statistics represent the crimes reported by law enforcement agencies covered 97.45 percent of the

population of Kansas. Of those crimes, violent crimes such as murder and rape were down 4.3 percent but property crimes were up by 2.6 percent.

Crimes against children. The Executive Officer reported crimes against children remain a priority area for the agency. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reports the number of tips that come in regarding child sexual abuse material or exploitation of children online has increased 300.0 percent since 2021.

The Executive Director explained the KBI Child Victim Unit takes on an average of 35 investigations per year. The Committee also received information regarding KBI's Child Victim Task Force, which is split into three regions (Northeast, Southeast, and West, with two special agents in each). He noted the Northeast Child Victim Task Force had 200 tips awaiting assignment.

Drug trafficking. The Executive Officer explained the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program, which consists of multi-state federally operated HIDTA units, reports fentanyl is the top drug threat to Kansans, with more than 1,000 positive KBI laboratory submissions in FY 2024, a 10.0 percent increase from FY 2023. He noted methamphetamine is still the most commonly used drug within Kansas, stating more than 4,756 positive tests have come through the KBI laboratory submissions in FY 2024.

Juvenile crime. The Executive Officer noted an increase in juvenile crimes in 2023 to 1,387, and he provided information on suspect age and type of weapon used.

Domestic violence homicides. The Executive Officer noted the number of domestic violence homicides has increased over the past 10 years, with 32 in 2023. He stated these homicides make up 20.0 percent of all homicides in Kansas.

Sexual Assault Kit Initiative

The Executive Officer reported to the Committee the backlog on sexual assault kit submission and testing was brought up to date in 2021 and KBI's Laboratory Information

Management System is currently being upgraded to better track sexual assault kits. He noted KBI is striving to have a 30-to-45-day turnaround on the testing of every kit submitted.

Biometric Identification

The Executive Officer provided an update regarding the transition from KBI's automated fingerprint identification system to a biometric identification system, which is now operational.

Organizational Changes

The Executive Officer noted the following roles at KBI had been filled within the past two years:

- Director;
- Associate Director;
- Two Assistant Directors
- Executive Officer;
- Human Resources Director;
- Chief Information Officer;
- Information Services Director; and
- General Counsel.

KBI Enhancement Budget Requests

The Executive Officer provided information regarding budget requests for various projects in FY 2025 and FY 2026, including:

- New KBI Headquarters;
- A recruitment and retention package;
- A cybersecurity upgrade;
- Laboratory equipment; and
- Offender registration compliance through the Kansas Offender Registration Tool (KSORT), which needs an upgrade or replacement.

October 9, 2024, Meeting

On October 9, 2024, the Committee heard an operational update from the 911 Coordinating Council; a Grid Security and Resiliency presentation from the Kansas Corporation

Committee (KCC), the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), and Evergy; a briefing regarding Grid Resiliency grants and award updates; and a security and planning presentation from KC2026, the organization overseeing preparations for 2026 World Cup activities in the region.

911 Coordinating Council Operational Update

The Executive Director of the 911 Coordinating Council (Council) reviewed the Council's general practices and its transition to becoming a state agency (State 911 Board) by July 1, 2025, through the enactment of 2024 HB 2690. She explained the Council performs the following responsibilities:

- Regulating the collection and distribution of calls to public safety answering points (PSAPs);
- Regulating the use of 911 fees;
- Enabling economies of scale for NextGeneration 911 (NG911), which allows individuals to send and first responders to use texts, images, videos, and other digital information via 911 centers;
- Applying for federal grants on behalf of the State and administering awarded grants;
- Providing training to PSAPs on NG911;
- Monitoring 911 services from the telephone carriers to the PSAPs; and
- Providing subject matter expertise.

The Executive Director also provided information regarding 911 Supporting Security Radius and Lightning, companion applications that relay data about 911 calls. Radius would provide mapping and data delivery in the PSAP, and Lightning would provide first responders a view of the same maps, including interior maps of certain buildings, and data while also providing the responder's location to users of both applications. She described the Council's hosted solution for

NG911, used by all PSAPs outside of the Mid-America Regional Council area, the cost savings for local PSAPs from using that hosted solution, and upgrades to connections to the PSAPs needed for broadband.

The Executive Director also described, in general, security measures in place for 911, including mandatory annual security training for all end users and security standards for the NG911 hosted solution.

Resource Adequacy and Electric Reliability in Kansas

The Deputy Director of Utilities, Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC), and the Vice President of Engineering, Southwest Power Pool (SPP), provided an update on grid security and resiliency in terms of electric capacity.

Statutory Obligations and Reports

The Deputy Director noted KSA 66-101bh requires electric public utilities to provide efficient and sufficient service and grants the KCC the power to act to "establish and maintain just and reasonable rates" in order to maintain "reasonably sufficient and efficient service." He also noted KSA 66-1282 requires biennial reporting of electrical generation capacity and demand. This report is then presented to the Senate Committee on Utilities and the House Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications.

Integrated Resource Planning

The KCC Deputy Director explained the KCC requires Evergy to provide Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) reports every three years with annual updates regarding resource modeling to forecast infrastructure needs and planning. Evergy IRPs require load and supply forecasts for 10 to 20 years, resource modeling, input sensitivity analysis, contingent scenario analysis, and a range of alternative futures evaluation to ensure that the plan is robust and flexible. He noted standards applying to other electricity providers and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) reliability standards.

Generator Interconnection Update

The SPP Vice President of Engineering provided an update on generation interconnection

statuses, stating the current generator interconnection active queue consists of 419 projects, totaling 85.4 gigawatts. He estimated only 168 additional projects will come online over the next six years. He explained the SPP has been working closely with FERC to clear a backlog of interconnection projects, estimating a five-year phase-in process.

Resource Adequacy

The SPP Vice President of Engineering provided a list of resource adequacy challenges, which include influxes of intermittent renewable generation, resource under-performance and unavailability, increasing load and volatility, extreme weather events, and reduced margins.

He explained the SPP requires load-responsible entities to demonstrate sufficient accredited capacity to meet peak demand and reserve requirements. It was noted excess capacity in the SPP has been declining and the planning reserve margin requirement has been increased from 12.0 percent to 15.0 percent.

The SPP Vice President reported the 2023 summer peak load was 5.5 percent higher than the previous summer peak, and the 2022-2023 winter peak was 8.0 percent higher than the previous winter peak. He stated the Load Forecasting Task Force assesses how load forecasts are determined and provides guidance and policy recommendations to increase assurance that the best practices are implemented.

2024 Integrated Transmission Planning

The Vice President explained the 2024 integrated transmission planning (ITP) goals include improving intra-regional transfer capability, enhancing renewable energy access for more members and neighbors, and collaborative engagement of stakeholders. The 2024 ITP portfolio is composed of reliability, winter weather, economic, short circuit, and operational projects that will mitigate 1,512 system issues.

Consolidated Planning Process

The Vice President concluded by providing the Committee with information regarding SPP's consolidated planning process, which allows for simultaneous planning of transmission, as opposed

to the piecemeal process currently utilized. This new process will allow for jointly funded and mutually benefiting transmission solutions.

Planning for the Future of Power Generation in Kansas

The Senior Director of Strategy and Long-term Planning at Evergy provided the Committee an overview of Evergy's service territory, capacity, and energy profiles, and the core tenets of Evergy's generation strategy: affordability, reliability, and sustainability.

Evergy's 2024 Preferred Portfolio

The Senior Director reviewed various project retirements and additions, noting 11,128 megawatts (MW) of planned resource additions over the next 20 years and 4,817 MW of fossil fuel retirements.

The Senior Director provided the Committee a list of future IRP considerations, which include delays in adding renewable and thermal energy resources, whether coal-using facilities will remain as part of the mix, and review of the feasibility of nuclear, long-duration energy storage and hydrogen technologies.

Security Update

The Senior Director explained Evergy's cybersecurity Defense in Depth model, which he stated protects against denial-of-service attacks; ensures only authorized traffic enters the internal networks; protects against unauthorized software entering the network; and uses software to detect known viruses, malware, and trojans; Evergy's Security Operations and Network Infrastructure Center responds to security events.

The Senior Director noted Evergy's use of a multi-layered approach with intentional redundancies increases the security of a system as a whole and addresses various attack vectors.

Substation Security

The Senior Director explained Evergy has developed a tiered system for Evergy substations based on industry best practices, known risk, and impact. He stated high-priority substations are equipped with 12-foot-tall concrete ballistic walls

with expanded steel gates and enhanced physical security technology packages, which include, but are not limited to, updated cameras, access control, and an audio notification system. He stated Evergy is conducting proof-of-concept testing for advanced radar intrusion detection.

Grid Resiliency Grants Update

The Executive Director of the KCC provided an overview of Grid Resiliency Grant programs, funding, and grant application approvals in Kansas. The Kansas federal allocation for two years is \$13.3 million, with nearly \$2.0 million in state match required. Eligible investments to improve the resilience of the electric grid against disruptive events include hardening of various types of systems, monitoring, replacement and relocation of equipment, and weatherization. Eleven Kansas city and electric cooperative projects have been approved; additional requirements apply to subawardees. She noted the application deadline for the second round will be in January 2025.

World Cup 2026 Update

The Chief Executive Officer of KC2026, the nonprofit organization overseeing strategy and delivering host city duties for FIFA World Cup 26, provided background information regarding the World Cup, noting the event would begin 609 days from the meeting date and Kansas City plans to host 6 matches over a 26-day span. The Chief Executive Officer provided the Committee with history of viewership of the World Cup (noting it is the most-watched competition in the world), ticket sales, 2026 World Cup venues, and a World Cup match schedule.

World Cup Visitors and Attendees

The Chief Executive Officer explained KC2026 anticipates as many as 650,000 visitors, including FIFA officials, FIFA contractual guests, FIFA invited guests, and ticketed and non-ticketed fans in the region.

Economic Impact

The Chief Executive Officer stated \$179.1 million in direct personal income will be generated. She further explained Kansas has more than 18,000 hotel rooms within 2.5 hours of the event site available to World Cup attendees,

bringing an estimated \$155.0 million to \$167.0 million in economic impact to the state.

Key Sites

The Chief Executive Officer stated the competition venue will be Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri. She also provided information about various potential training and Fan Fest sites, with the primary one being at the National World War I Museum and Memorial, and planned locations for events in other communities. She noted host city supporters, donors, and sales partners who are contributing to FIFA World Cup 2026 and the planning for transportation.

Event Strategy

The Chief Executive Officer explained KC2026 plans to use events to fully engage and elevate the region; create experiential elements that surprise and delight, and are distinctly Kansas City; maximize revenue from official FIFA events to offset costs for hosting; drive additional revenue opportunities with KC2026 and donor events; and communicate clearly to all event stakeholders.

She noted KC2026 has a list of events currently under consideration to further implement KC2026 event strategies.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

After discussion of topics including Adjutant General's Department major projects, information relating to the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, a need for continued emergency management operations and programs, continuity of operations plans, election security procedures and operations, agency and operational updates and budget requests from KHP and KBI, cybersecurity in Kansas, resource adequacy and electric reliability, grid resiliency grants, and World Cup 2026 planning, the Committee agreed to the following:

Budget-related Recommendations

- The Committee supports the FY 2025 KHP budget supplement and enhancement request for body-worn cameras, for which the estimate is up to \$2.6 million;

- The Committee recommends the KHP receive \$1.1 million in funding in FY 2025 for urgent safety repairs on the KHP Training Academy campus in Salina, as outlined in its budget supplemental and enhancement request; and
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- The Committee recommends the utility committees of the Legislature receive briefings on the integrated resources available for electricity;
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- The Committee recommends a state agency, perhaps the Kansas Department of Transportation or the KHP, review with local officers and officials the compatibility of communications equipment among first responders and other emergency response personnel. It was suggested this topic be reviewed by legislative committees dealing with public safety.