



Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>

RE: Q about airplane purchase

McClung Debra <mcclung@dps.state.ia.us>
To: Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

Mon, Jun 29, 2020 at 8:38 AM

Good Morning Laura,

The following are answers to your questions. Thank you for your patience as we compiled this background for you. Please generally attribute these answers to The Department of Public Safety:

1. How many airplanes does DPS currently operate, and what type/model/year are those planes? DPS operates 7 planes in the State of Iowa. All 7 aircraft are Cessna models and the year of each is listed below. With the acquisition of a new aircraft, DPS would be decommissioning the 3 oldest aircraft manufactured in 1997 and 1998, resulting in a net loss to the fleet.

- 1997-2
- 1998-1
- 2007-2
- 2010-1
- 2011-1

2. How many airplanes will DPS be buying with that appropriation? The bill says "an airplane," but my understanding is that \$1.7 million is considerably more than the cost of a smaller plane like what the State Patrol has used in the past. The \$1.7 million appropriation is designated for the purchase of one aircraft and the requested equipment and safety features.

3. Has DPS already reached a tentative agreement on buying one or more planes? If so, who is the seller? Are the planes to be purchased new or previously owned? There is no tentative purchasing agreement in place as this purchase will require a Request For Proposal (RFP) process should Governor Reynolds sign the bill.

4. For what purpose will the new airplane (or airplanes) be used? The multiple purposes of the aircraft will be for search and rescue missions, transport of medical or other emergency supplies, traffic enforcement, investigation, passenger transport and monitoring the existence of natural disasters, such as flooding. Additional background on the purpose, current use and assistance provided with DPS aircraft can be accessed from the Legislative Services Agency's website at this link: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/SD/1128221.pdf>

5. When was the last year the DPS received an appropriation to purchase one or more airplanes? The last year that DPS requested and received an appropriation for aircraft was in 2011. It is believed that all DPS aircraft have been purchased with funds appropriated by the Iowa Legislature.

Have a good week.

Debbie McClung, APR

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Our DPS Mission: To serve the people of Iowa by providing public safety services with leadership, integrity and professionalism.

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From: Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 12:43 PM

To: McClung Debra <mcclung@dps.state.ia.us>

Subject: [External Email Alert]Q about airplane purchase

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Dear Debbie McClung,

I am the publisher and primary author of the Iowa politics website Bleeding Heartland.

The Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund bill (SF 2417) designates \$1,713,170 to the Department of Public Safety "for the purchase of an airplane." See page 6:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf2417>

I'm seeking information on why the DPS is buying an airplane, whether a tentative agreement has already been reached to purchase the airplane, and if so, who the seller is.

Also I'm seeking background on whether the DPS has purchased airplanes in the past. If so, how many times has that happened, are any of those planes currently in use, and when was the last purchase?

Thank you in advance for any information you can provide.

Yours,

Laura Belin

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