HOUSE FISCAL AGENCY

Budget Briefing: State Police

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Briefing Topics

- Funding Sources
- Appropriation Areas
- Major Budget Topics

Department of State Police

The Department of State Police (MSP) provides statewide law enforcement and public safety services. In addition to primary law enforcement, criminal investigation, and traffic safety duties, MSP administers and implements state programs, technologies, and services that enhance capabilities and coordination of federal, state, and local law enforcement and criminal justice agencies.

Major departmental functions include:

- Patrol of major state highways
- Records and information management and sharing
- Criminal investigation and forensic science services
- Special services (aviation section, canine units, bomb squads, Emergency Support Team, marine services)
- Disaster relief and homeland security coordination
- Commercial vehicle regulation and enforcement and school bus inspections
- Law enforcement standards administration and distribution of grants

Key Budget Terms

Fiscal Year: The state's fiscal year (FY) runs from October to September. FY 2026-27 is October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027.

Appropriation: Authority to expend funds. An appropriation is not a mandate to spend. Constitutionally, state funds cannot be expended without an appropriation by the legislature.

Line Item: Specific appropriation amount that establishes spending authorization for a particular program or function in a budget bill.

Boilerplate: Specific language sections in a budget bill that direct, limit, or restrict line item expenditures, express legislative intent, and/or require reports.

Lapses: Appropriated amounts that are unspent or unobligated at the end of a fiscal year. Appropriations are automatically terminated at the end of a fiscal year unless designated as a multi-year work project under a statutory process. Lapsed funds are available for expenditure in the subsequent fiscal year.

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, historical budget figures in this presentation have not been adjusted for inflation.

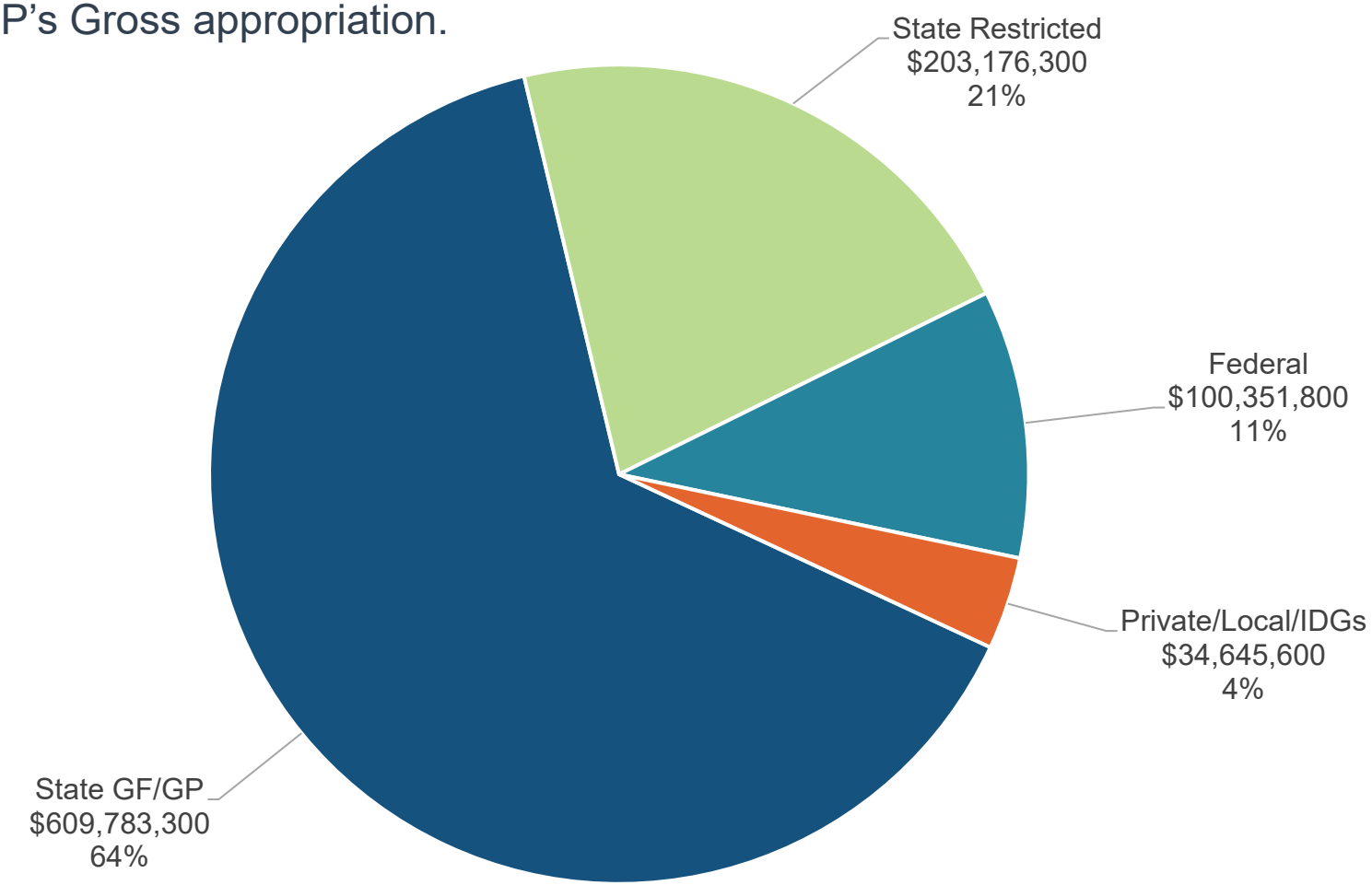
Funding Sources

FY 2026-27 MSP Budget

Fund Source	Funding	Description
Gross Appropriations	$947,957,000	Total spending authority from all revenue sources
Interdepartmental Grants (IDG) Revenue	29,521,800	Funds received by one state department from another state department, usually for services provided
Adjusted Gross Appropriations	$918,435,200	Gross appropriations excluding IDGs; avoids double counting when adding appropriation amounts across budget areas
Federal Revenue	100,351,800	Federal grant or matching revenue; generally dedicated to specific programs or purposes
Local Revenue	5,088,800	Revenue received from local units of government for state services
Private Revenue	35,000	Revenue from individuals and private entities, including payments for services, grants, and other contributions
State Restricted Revenue	203,176,300	State revenue restricted by the State Constitution, state statute, or outside restriction that is available only for specified purposes; includes most fee revenue
State General Fund/General Purpose (GF/GP) Revenue	$609,783,300	Unrestricted revenue from taxes and other sources available to fund basic state programs and other purposes determined by the legislature

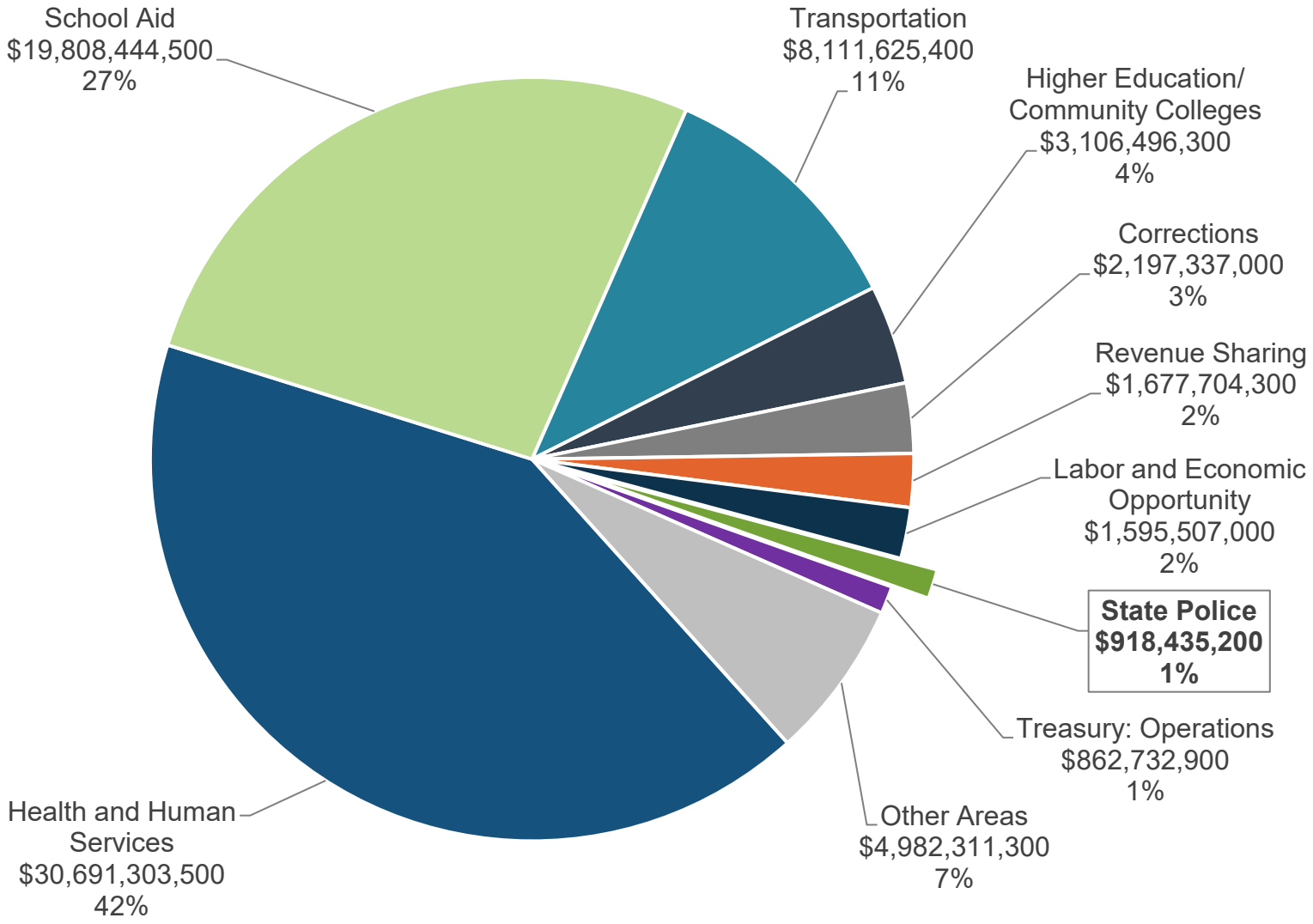
FY 2026-27 Fund Sources

Approximately **64%** of the **$948.0 million** MSP budget consists of discretionary GF/GP funds. Federal funds and reimbursements received from the Department of Transportation, Department of Justice, and Department of Homeland Security make up **11%** of MSP's Gross appropriation.



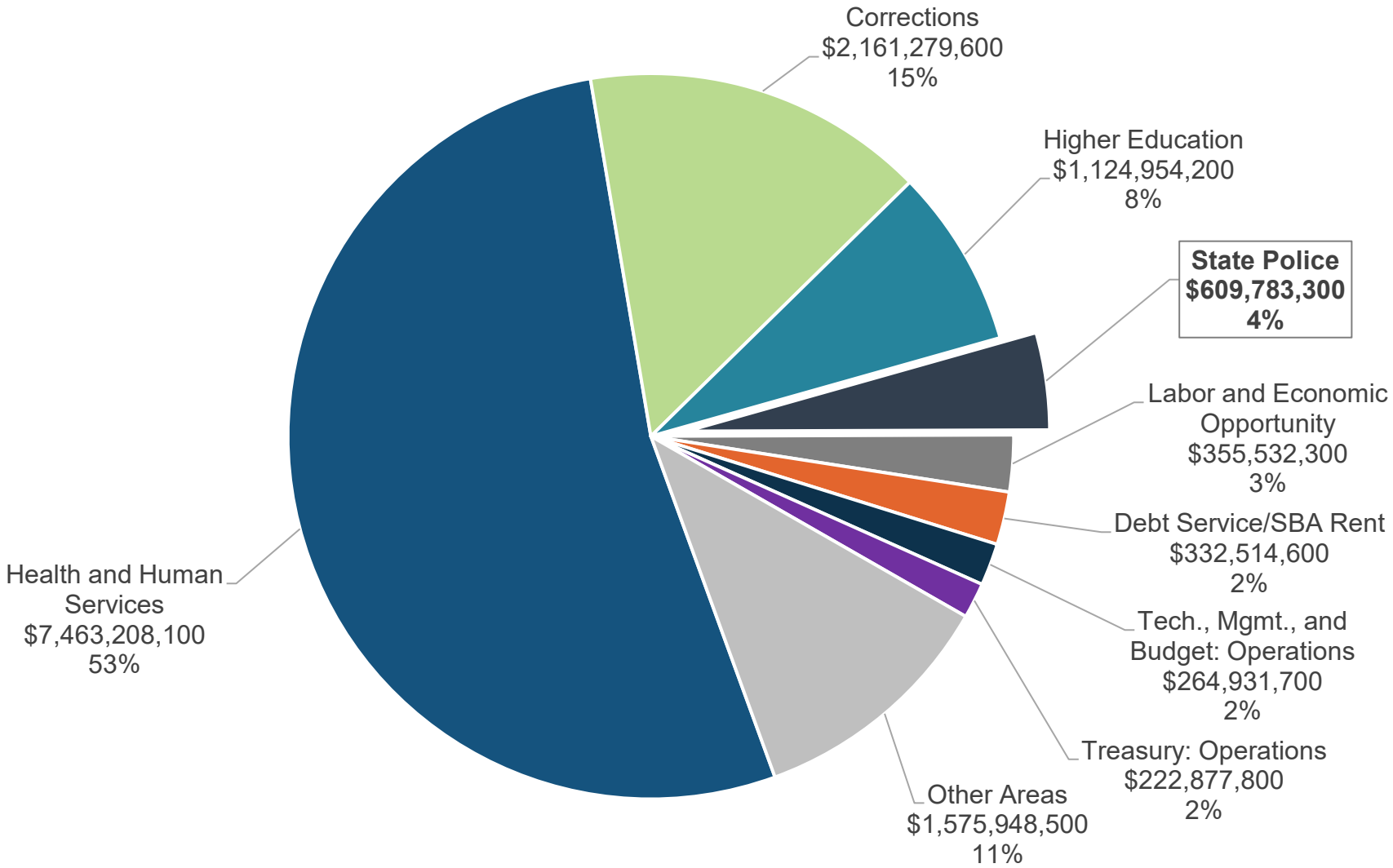
MSP Share of Total State Budget

The MSP budget represents approximately **1%** of the **$74.0 billion** state budget (adjusted gross) for FY 2026-27.



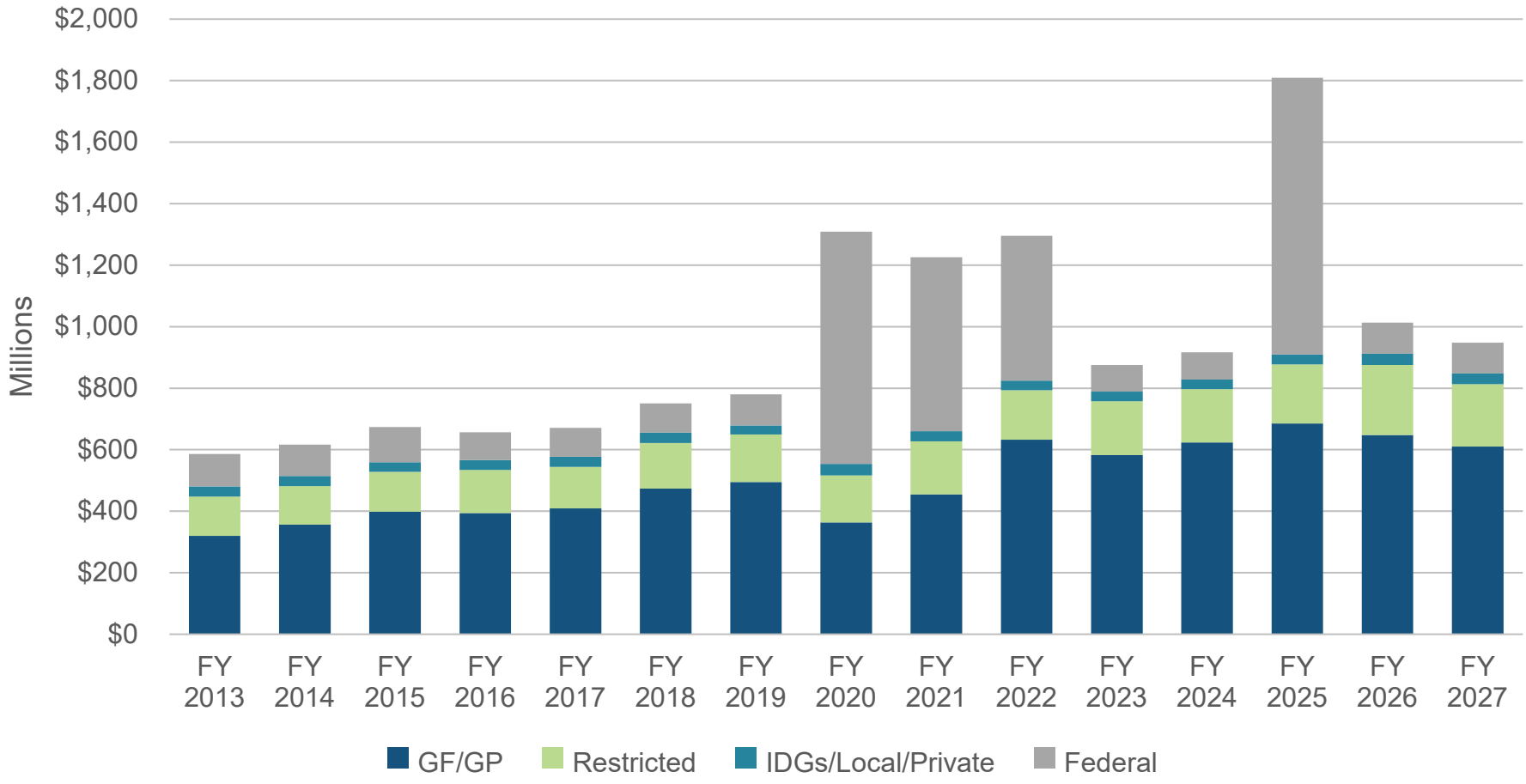
MSP Share of Total GF/GP Budget

The MSP budget represents approximately **4%** of the **$14.1 billion** state GF/GP budget for FY 2026-27.



MSP Funding History

Gross appropriations for MSP have increased by approximately **62%** since FY 2012-13, largely due to trooper recruit school funding, one-time spending for specific law enforcement initiatives, and the creation of new training programs. Significant funding deviations occurred from FY 2019-20 through FY 2021-22 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and again in FY 2024-25 due to residual pandemic-related funds received from the federal government.



Appropriation Areas

MSP Appropriation Areas

Departmental Administration and Support: Various administrative functions that provide support throughout the department (executive staff, fleet costs, lease obligations and property costs, management and accounting staff, etc.).

Law Enforcement Services: Biometric and forensic science services, Criminal Justice Information Center, grants and training provided to local law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, Office of School Safety, State 911 Administration, and Training Division.

Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES): Training curricula and law enforcement standards development, law enforcement licensure, Public Safety Officers Benefit Program, and partial reimbursements for training employed officer candidates.

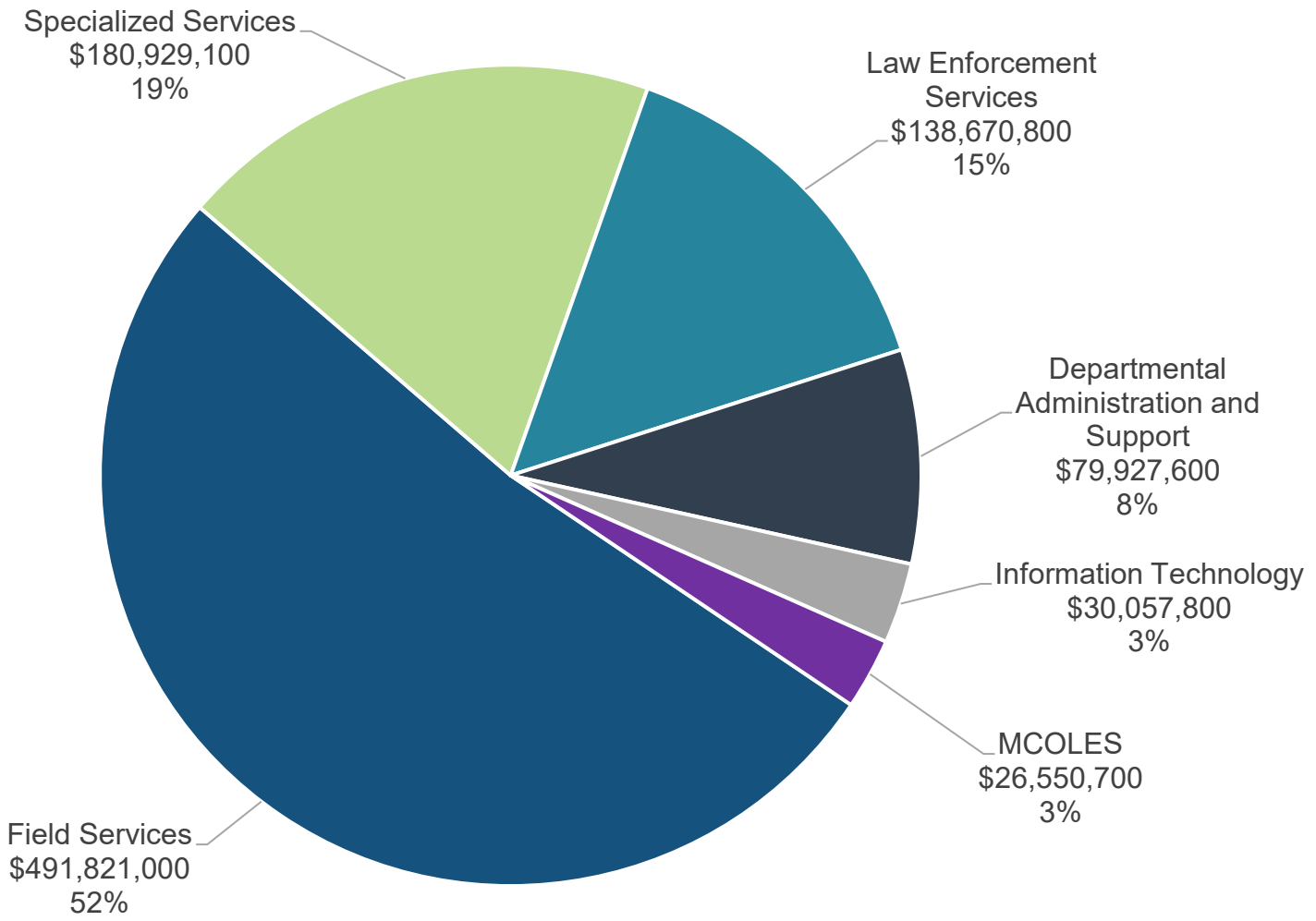
Field Services: Officers and enlisted personnel, general law enforcement operations and investigative services in seven MSP districts, and casino gaming oversight and tobacco tax fraud enforcement.

Specialized Services: Commercial vehicle regulation and enforcement, Secondary Road Patrol Program, emergency management and homeland security, Michigan Intelligence Operations Center, highway safety planning, and Special Operations Division.

One-Time Appropriations: Cold case investigations, law enforcement training and recruitment initiatives, and critical incident mapping grants.

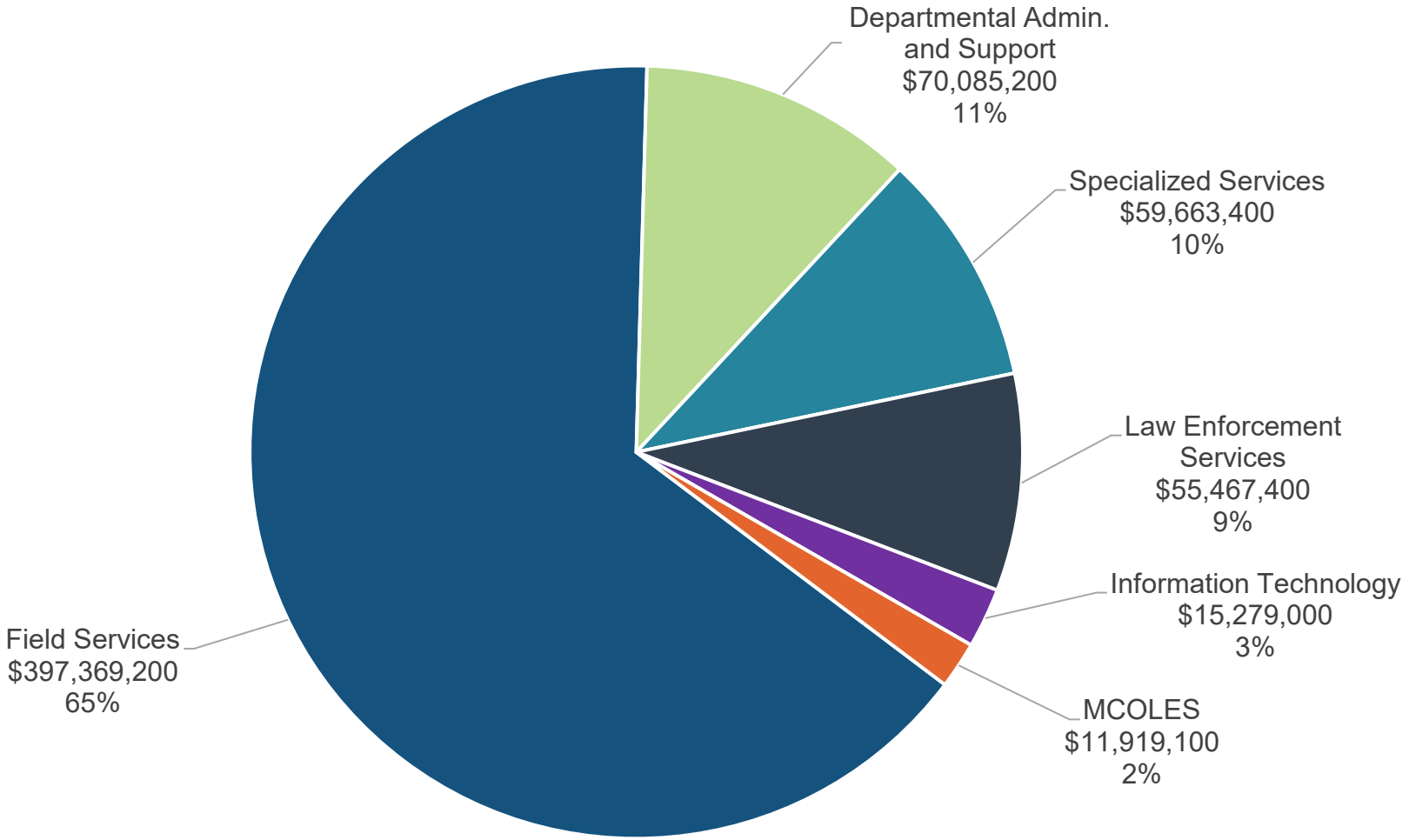
FY 2026-27 Gross Appropriations

Approximately half of the **$948.0 million** MSP budget consists of the Field Services appropriation unit, which includes the department's general law enforcement and criminal investigation operations.



FY 2026-27 GF/GP Appropriations

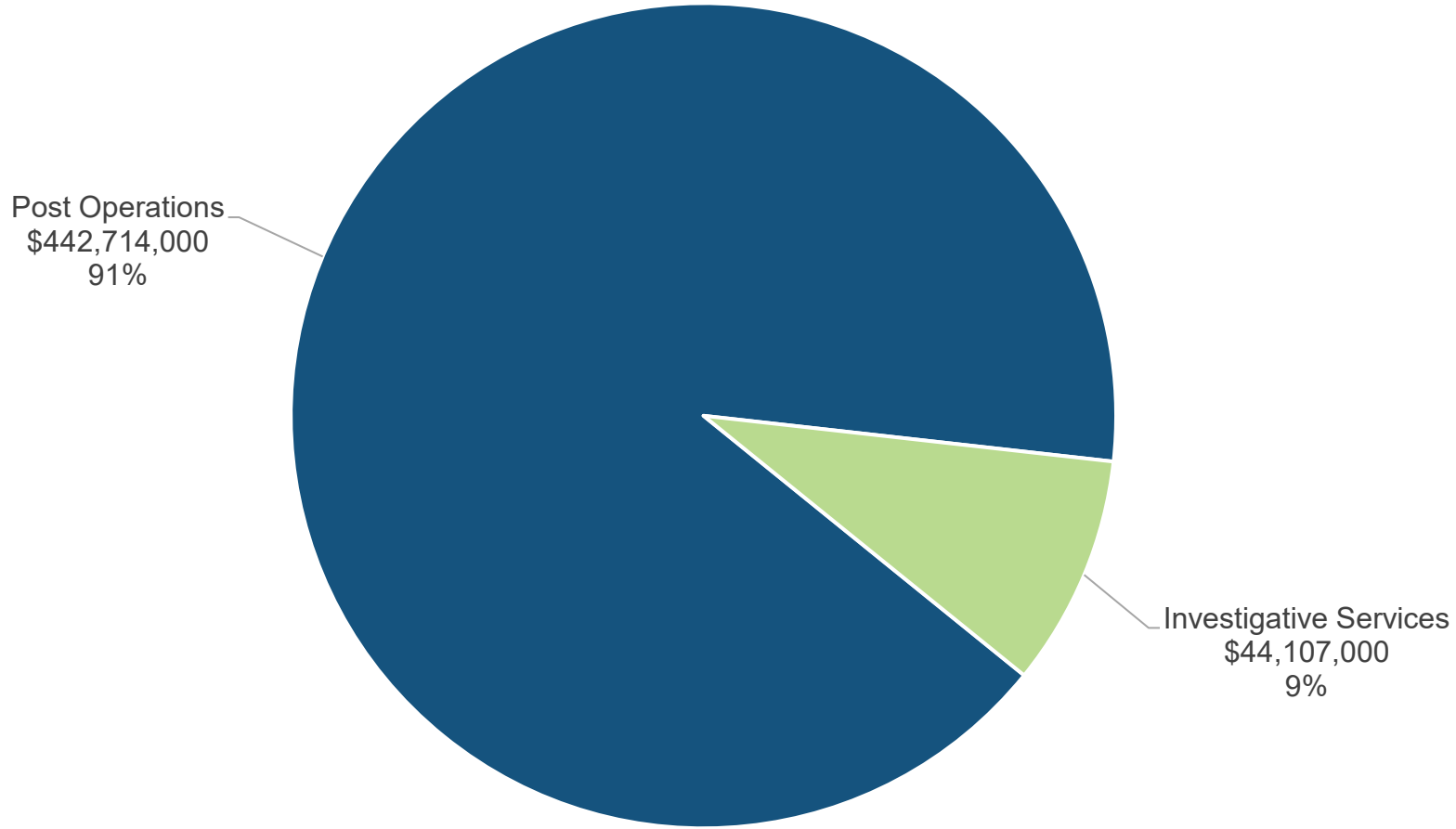
GF/GP funds (totaling **$609.8 million**) are heavily concentrated in Field Services, which accounts for **65%** of total GF/GP appropriations to MSP. One-time GF/GP appropriation of **$5.0 million** is included in the Field Services unit for contracts and services.



Major Budget Topics

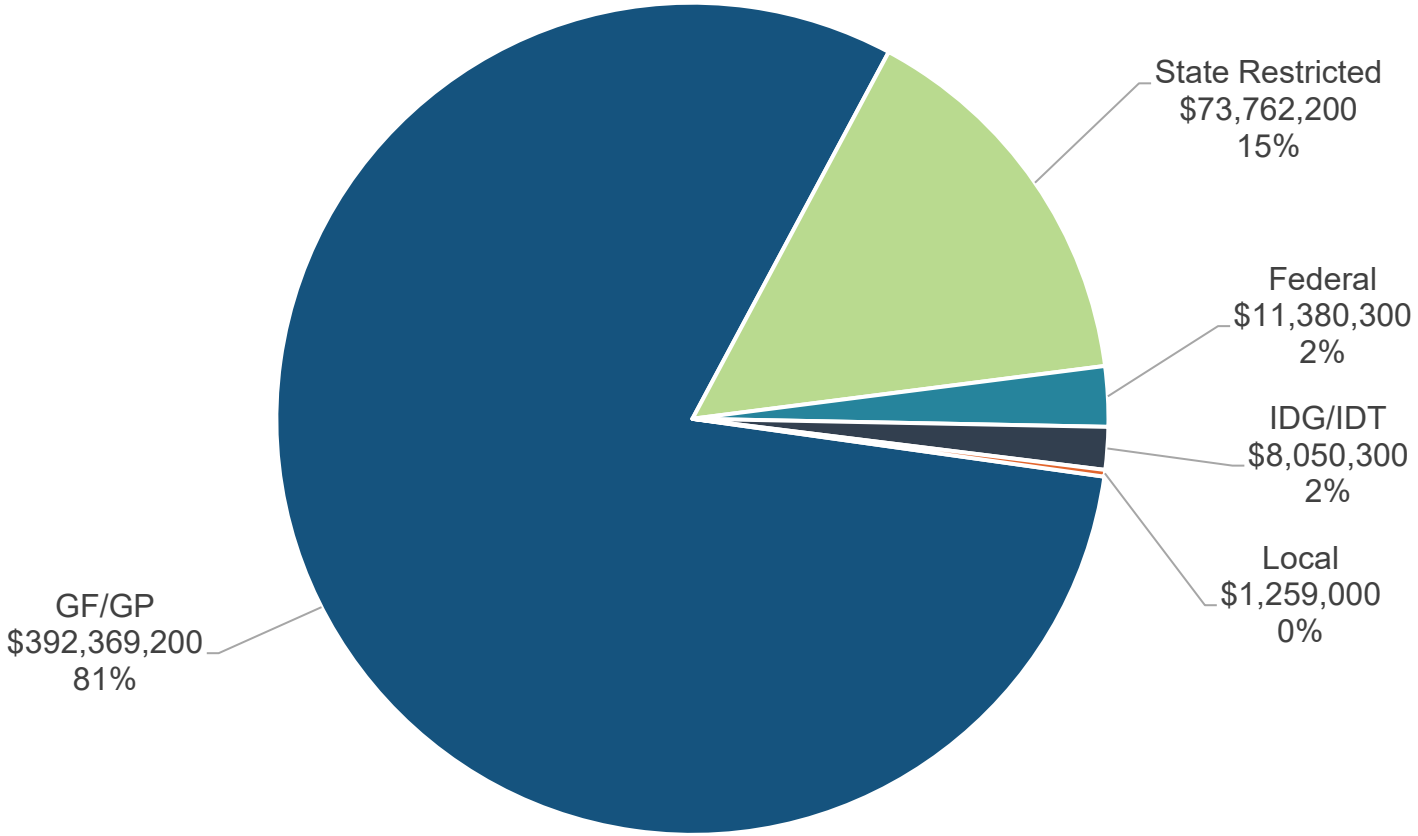
FY 2026-27 Field Services Appropriations

The Field Services appropriation unit supports operations at 30 posts and 20 outposts (or detachments) throughout the state and criminal investigative services (including narcotics, fraud, and automobile theft). The Gross appropriation for Field Services is **$486.8 million**, which represents **51%** of MSP's total FY 2026-27 budget.



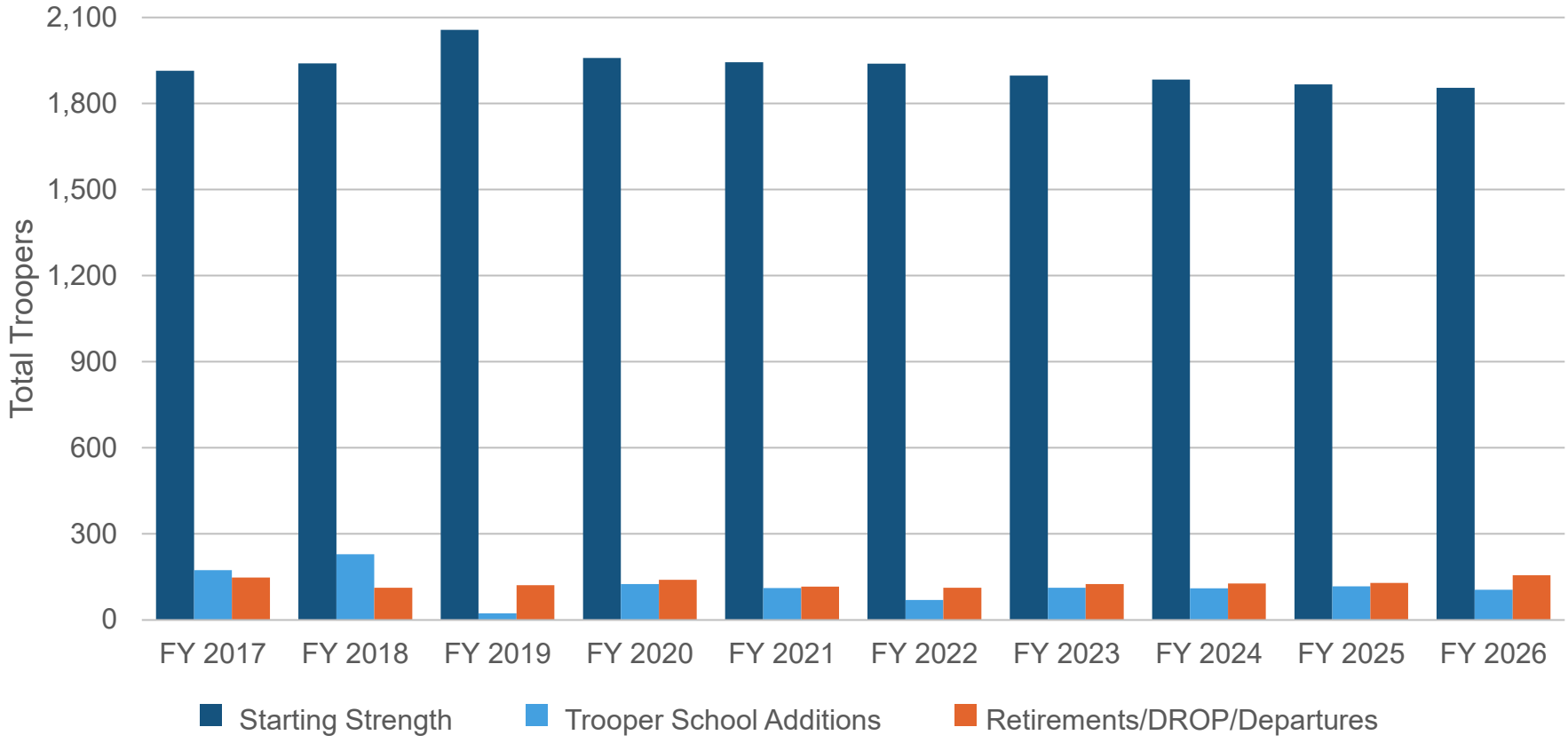
FY 2026-27 Field Services Fund Sources

GF/GP revenues make up **81%** of Field Services funding, while **15%** is drawn from a variety of state restricted sources including the Traffic Law Enforcement and Safety Fund (**$35.9 million**), the Highway Safety Fund (**$10.4 million**), and revenue from the state tobacco tax (**$5.7 million**). Federal funds come from the Department of Justice, Department of Transportation, service reimbursements, and forfeiture revenue. Local funds are reimbursements to MSP for services provided to local law enforcement agencies.



MSP Total Enlisted Strength

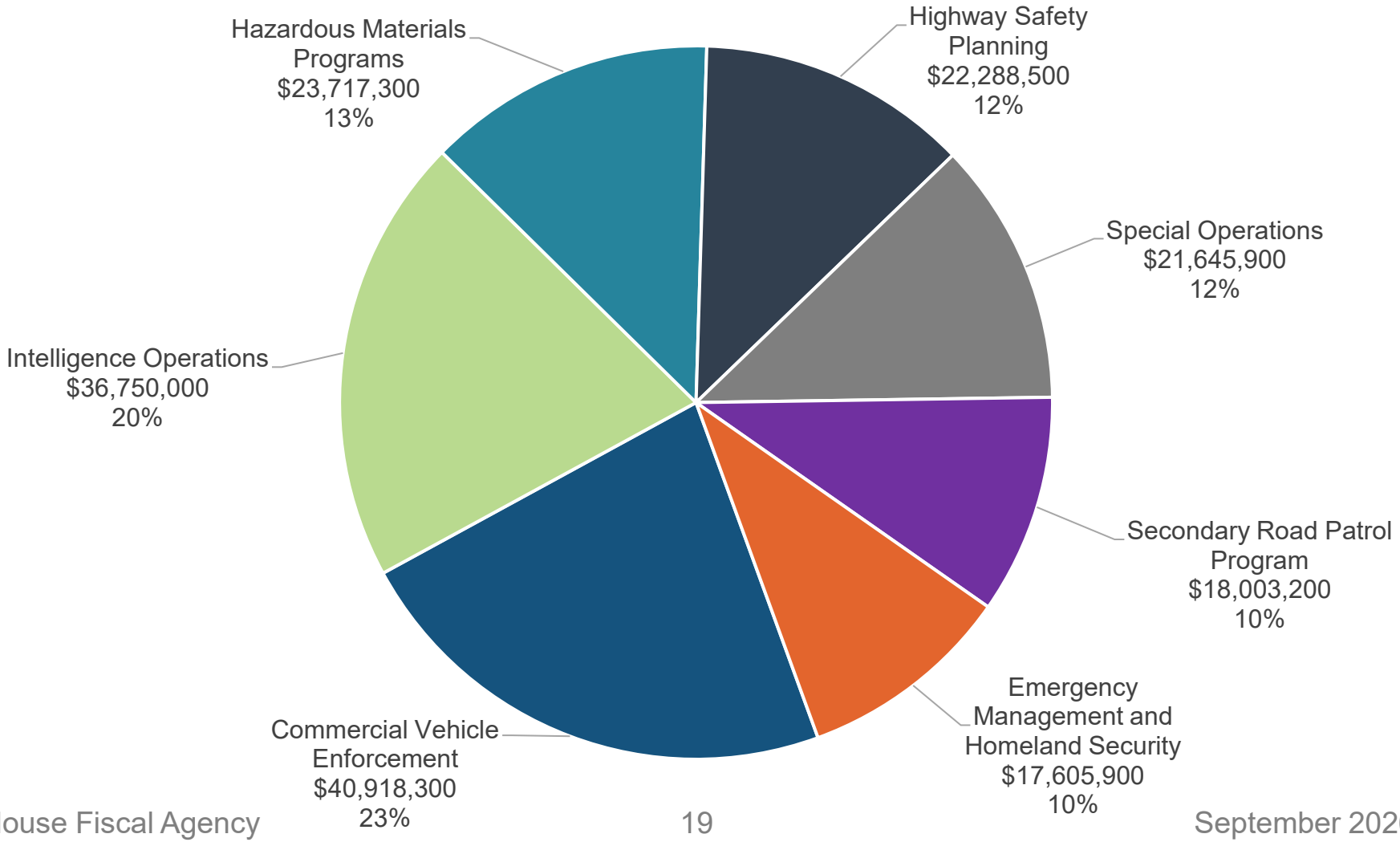
MSP enlisted strength decreased by approximately **3%** from FY 2016-17 to FY 2025-26 and has declined steadily since FY 2019-20. This decline has been offset in part by a consistent output of recruits from trooper schools, which have received increased funding in recent fiscal years. In FY 2025-26, **$1.0 million** one-time GF/GP was appropriated to support trooper school startup costs. Boilerplate in the FY 2026-27 budget authorizes up to **$20.0 million** in trooper school-related expenditures from the Traffic Law Enforcement and Safety Fund.



Note: FY 2025-26 addition and departure estimates are as of 12/19/25.

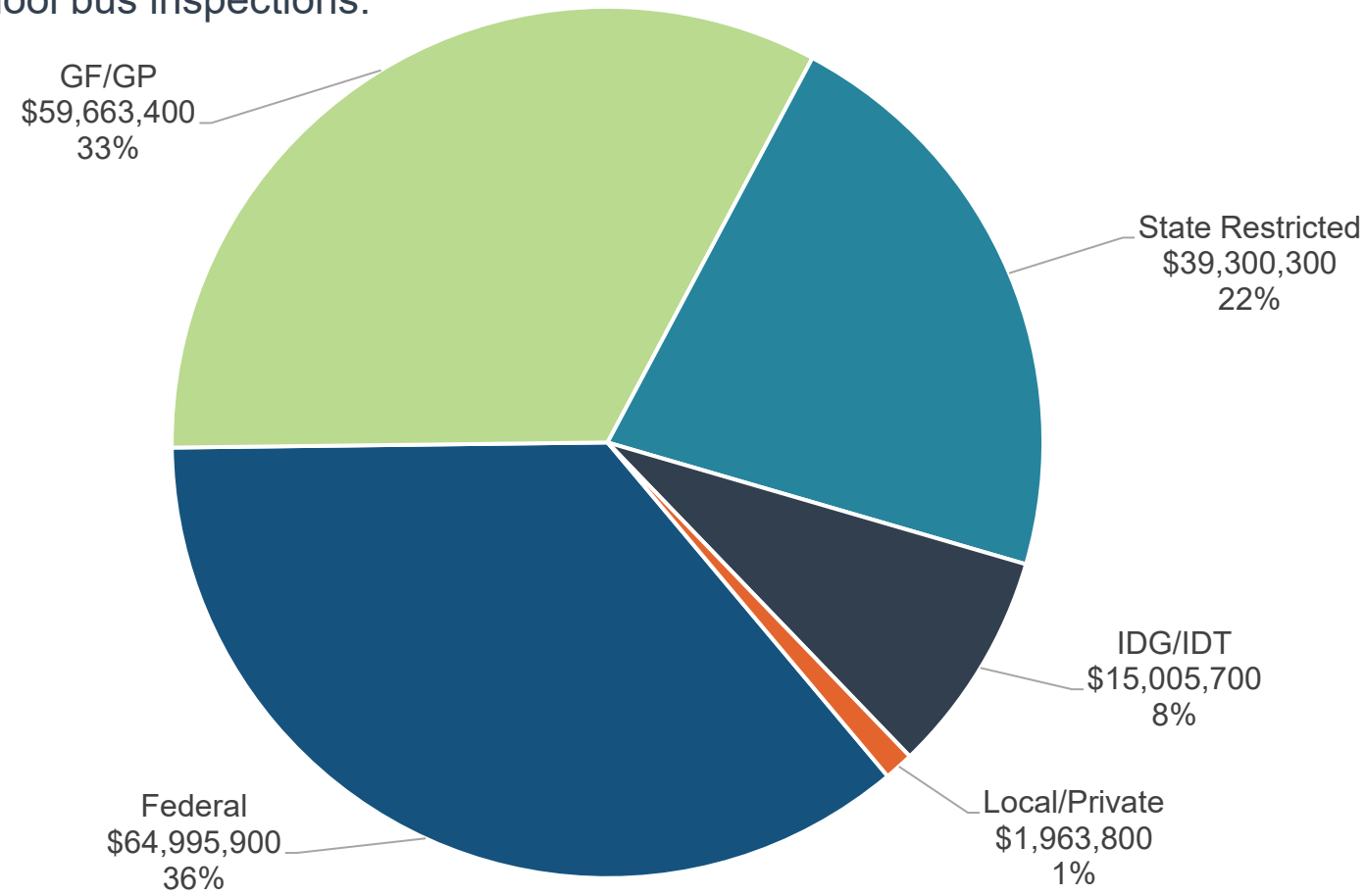
FY 2026-27 Specialized Services Appropriations

The Gross appropriation for Specialized Services is **$180.9 million**, representing **19%** of MSP's total appropriation. Funds support functions such as commercial vehicle enforcement, emergency management and homeland security, intelligence operations, and assistance to local law enforcement agencies through the Secondary Road Patrol Program.



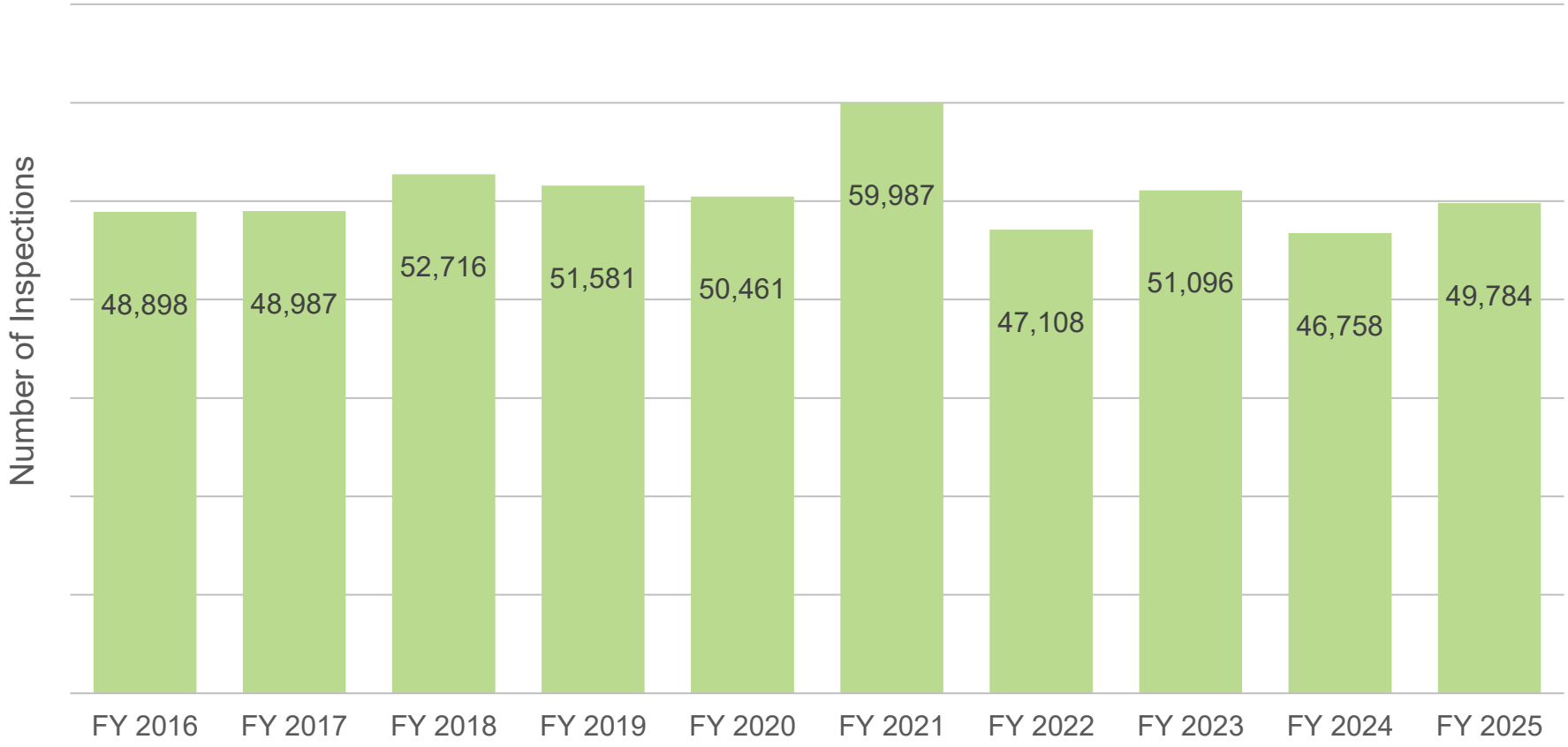
FY 2026-27 Specialized Services Fund Sources

Federal revenue from the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Transportation is the largest fund source for Specialized Services at **36%**. Approximately **82%** (**$28.2 million**) of state restricted funding is drawn from sources related to secondary road patrols and commercial vehicle fees, while **85%** of IDG/IDT revenue is from the State Trunkline Fund (**$12.8 million**). Local revenue comes entirely from fees related to MSP-conducted school bus inspections.



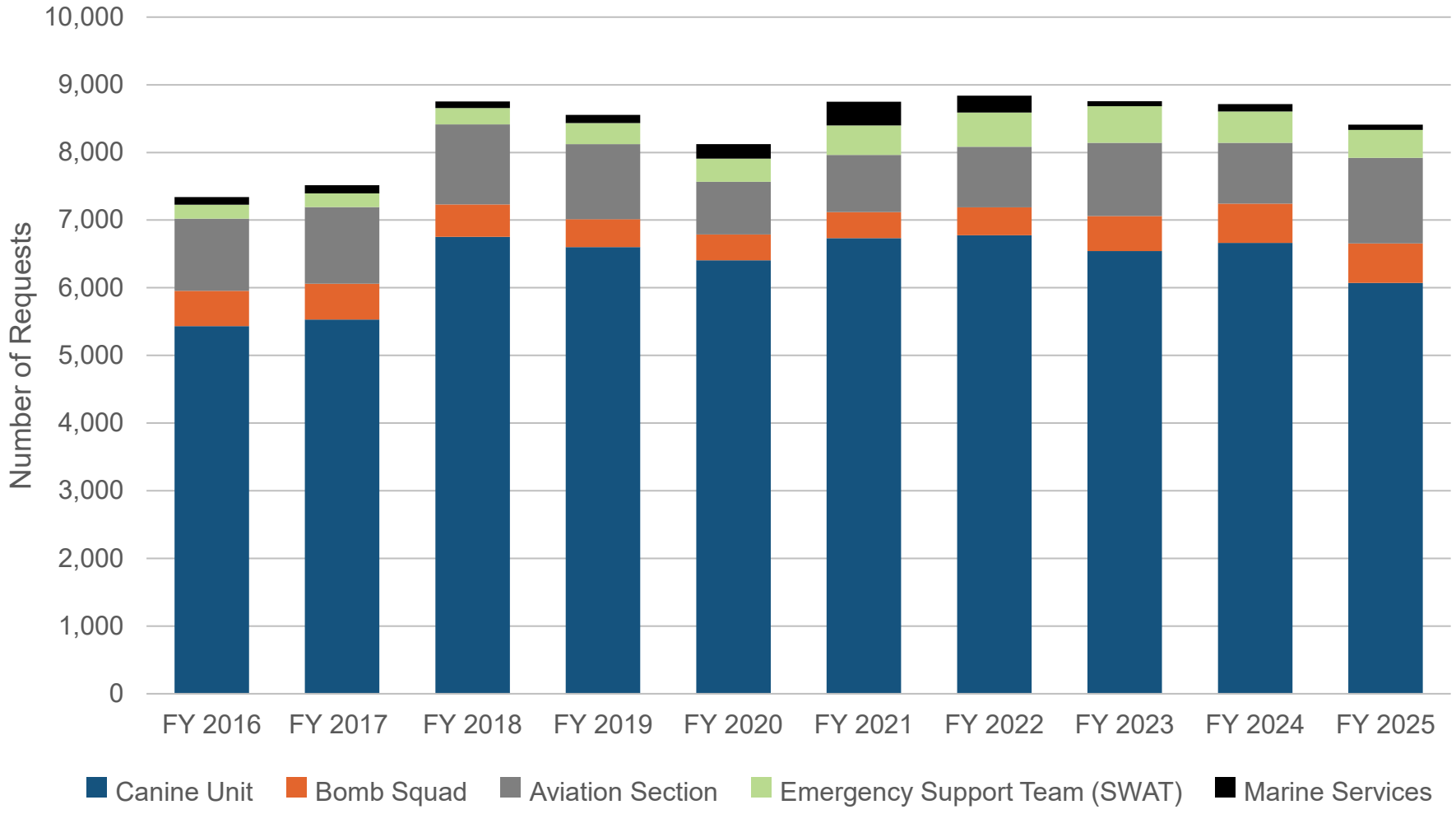
Commercial Vehicle Enforcement

The Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division (CVED) is responsible for inspecting commercial vehicles and protecting infrastructure through regulatory enforcement. Total inspections of commercial vehicles operating on Michigan roads decreased by approximately **21%** from FY 2020-21 to FY 2021-22, largely due to motor carrier officer attrition. In FY 2026-27, CVED received a Gross appropriation of **$40.9 million**, making up **23%** of the Specialized Services appropriation unit.



Requests for Specialized Services

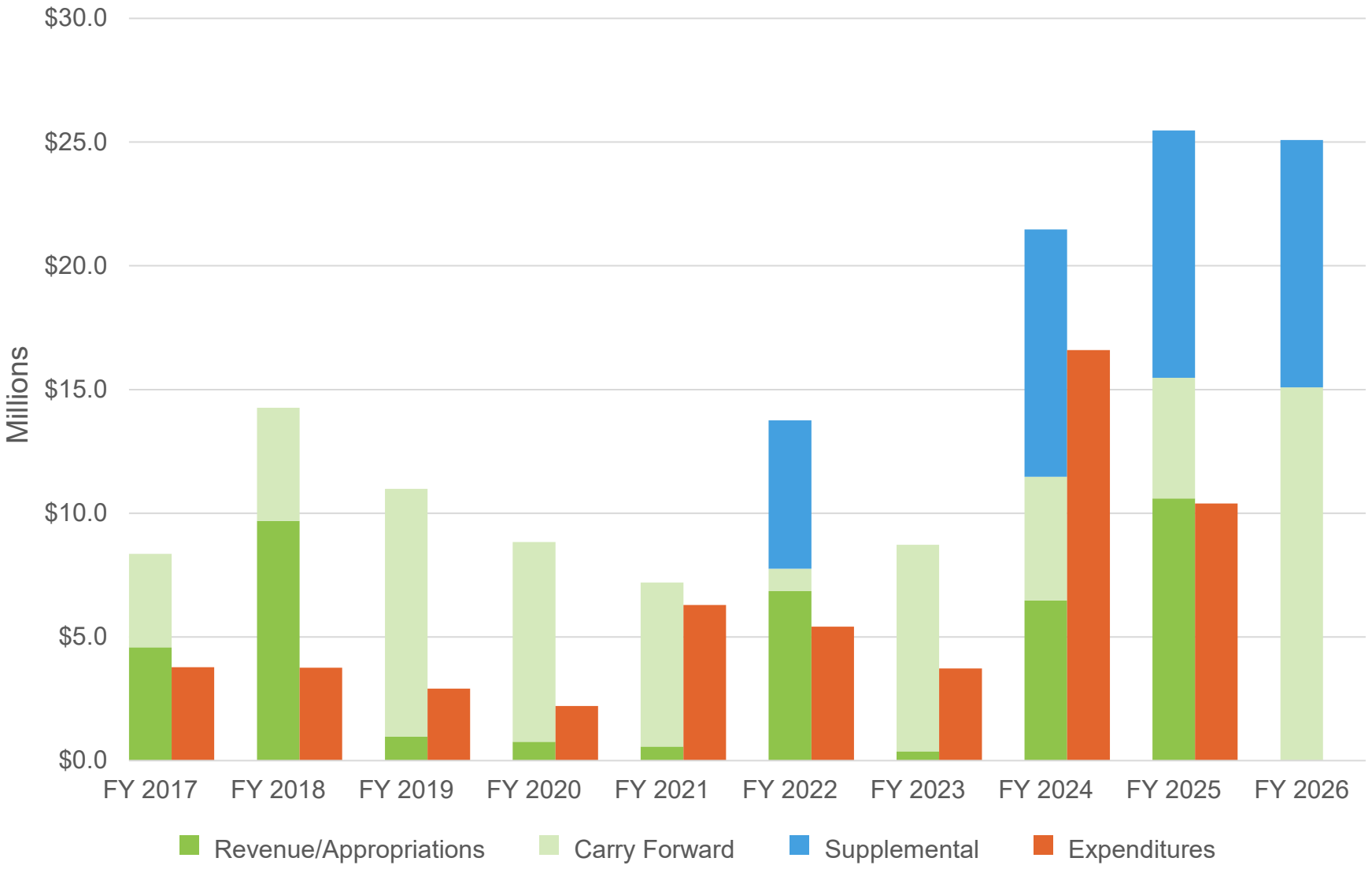
Total requests for MSP specialized services teams increased by **13%** between FY 2015-16 and FY 2024-25. Requests for canine units make up the vast majority of requests, with **6,073** requests for canine services in FY 2024-25.



Disaster and Emergency Contingency Fund (DECF)

- DECF is a reserve fund utilized during a declared state disaster or emergency to help counties and municipalities respond to and mitigate the effects of a disaster or emergency
- Since depletion of the fund and subsequent raising of its statutory cap in response to the Flint water emergency (FY 2015-16), the Emergency Management Act requires the legislature to maintain the DECF balance between **$2.5 million** and **$10.0 million**
- Recent major DECF actions include:
  - **$7.5 million** one-time GF/GP appropriated in FY 2018-19 to offset expenses related to flooding in the Upper Peninsula
  - **$2.2 million** expended in FY 2019-20 to cover costs associated with flooding in the Upper Peninsula and Midland County
  - **$6.3 million** expended in FY 2020-21 for costs associated with flooding in the Upper Peninsula, Midland County, and Southeast Michigan
  - **$10.0 million** one-time GF/GP appropriated in FY 2023-24 to offset the state's share of costs related to severe weather and flooding across the Lower Peninsula
  - **$10.0 million** one-time GF/GP appropriated in FY 2025-26 to offset the state's share of costs related to the March 2025 ice storm that impacted the northern Lower Peninsula

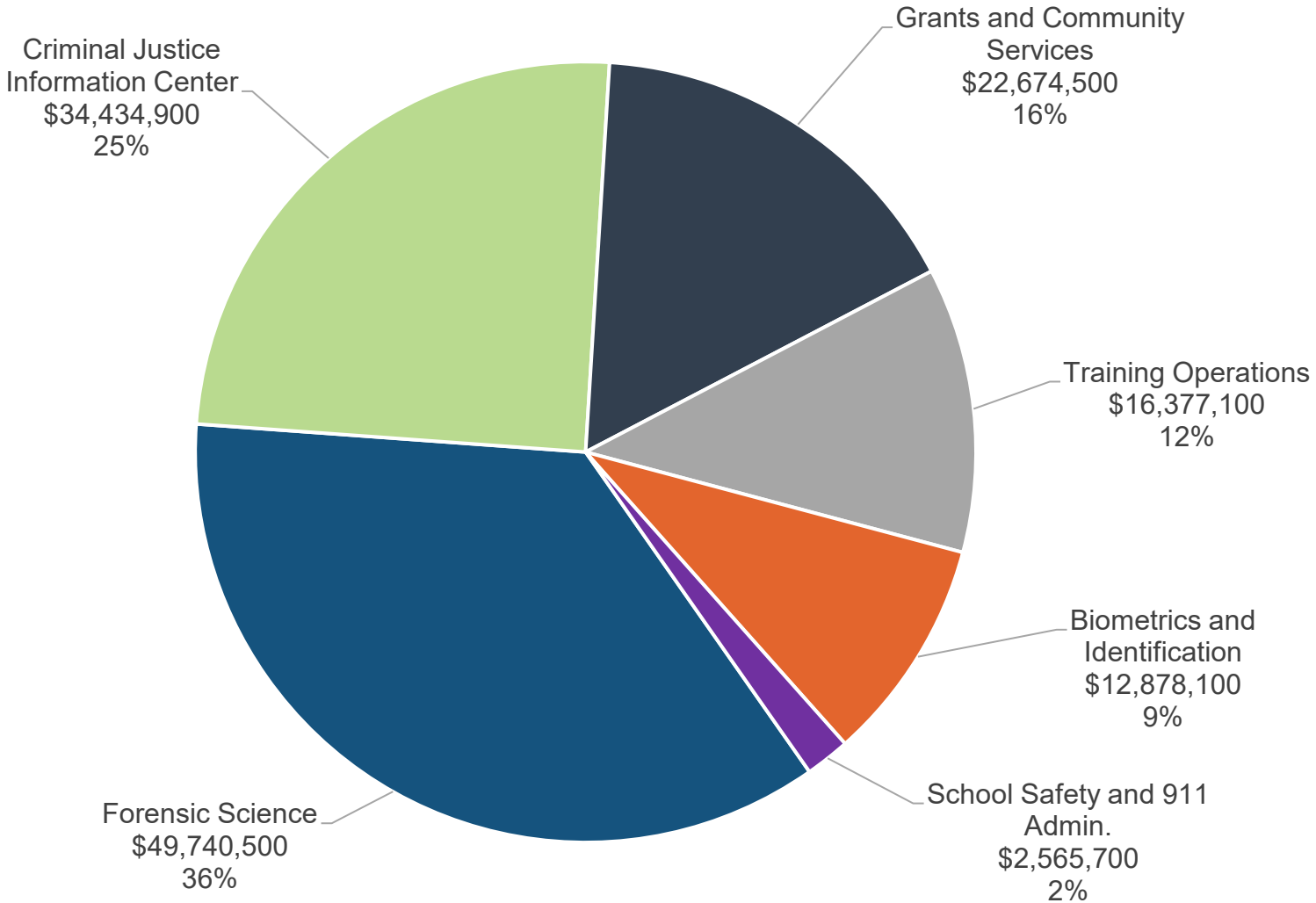
DECF Funding History



Note: Data current to 9/30/26.

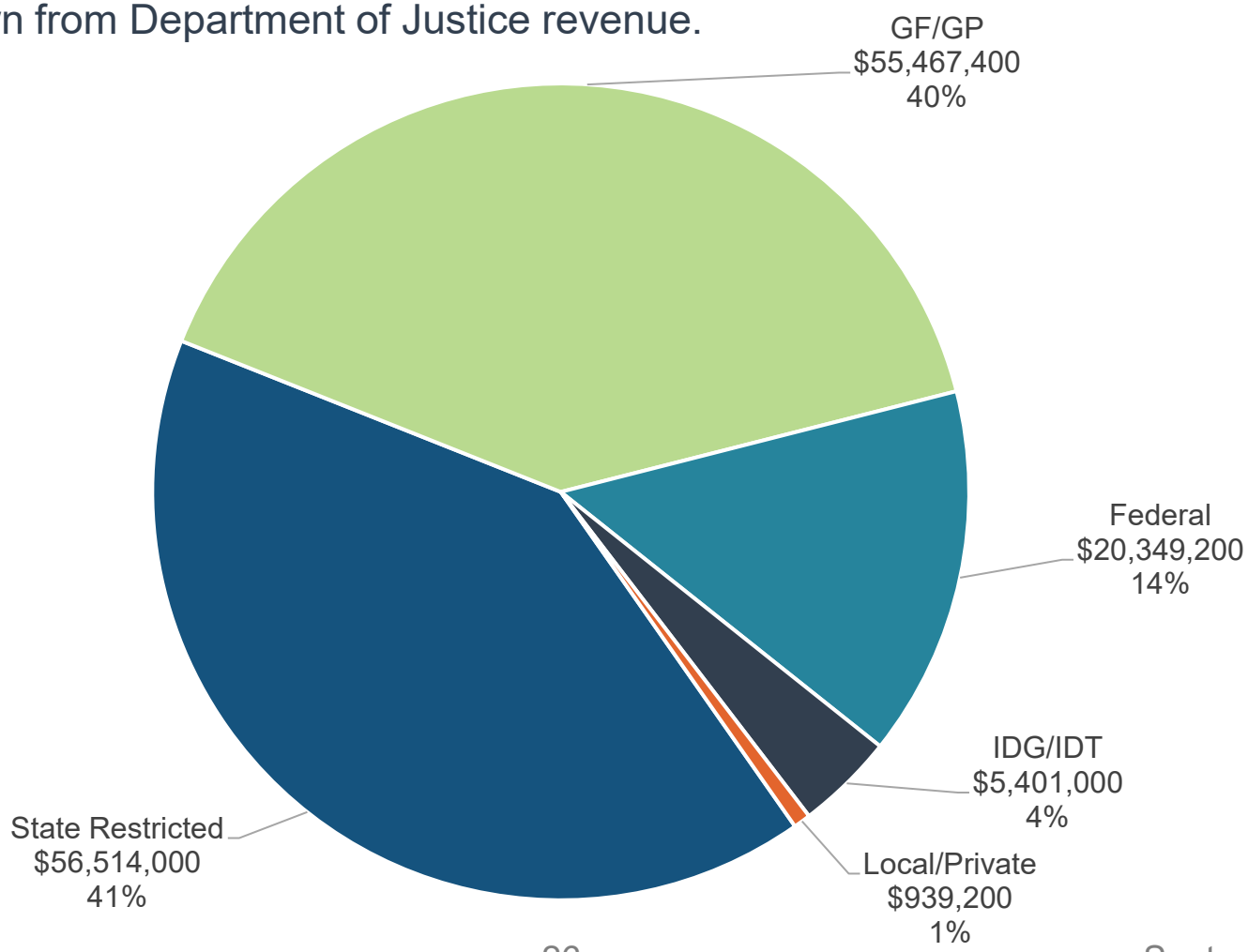
FY 2026-27 Law Enforcement Services Appropriations

The Law Enforcement Services appropriation unit is **15%** (**$138.7 million**) of the Gross MSP appropriation and includes funding for specific law enforcement functions, support and training services, grants and school safety programs, and state 911 administration.



FY 2026-27 Law Enforcement Services Fund Sources

GF/GP appropriations comprise **40%** of total funding for Law Enforcement Services. Approximately **89%** of state restricted funding comes from Criminal Justice Information Center fee revenue (**$30.3 million**), the State Services Fee Fund (**$11.0 million**), and the Automobile Theft Prevention Fund (**$9.0 million**), while **90%** (**$18.4 million**) of federal funding is drawn from Department of Justice revenue.

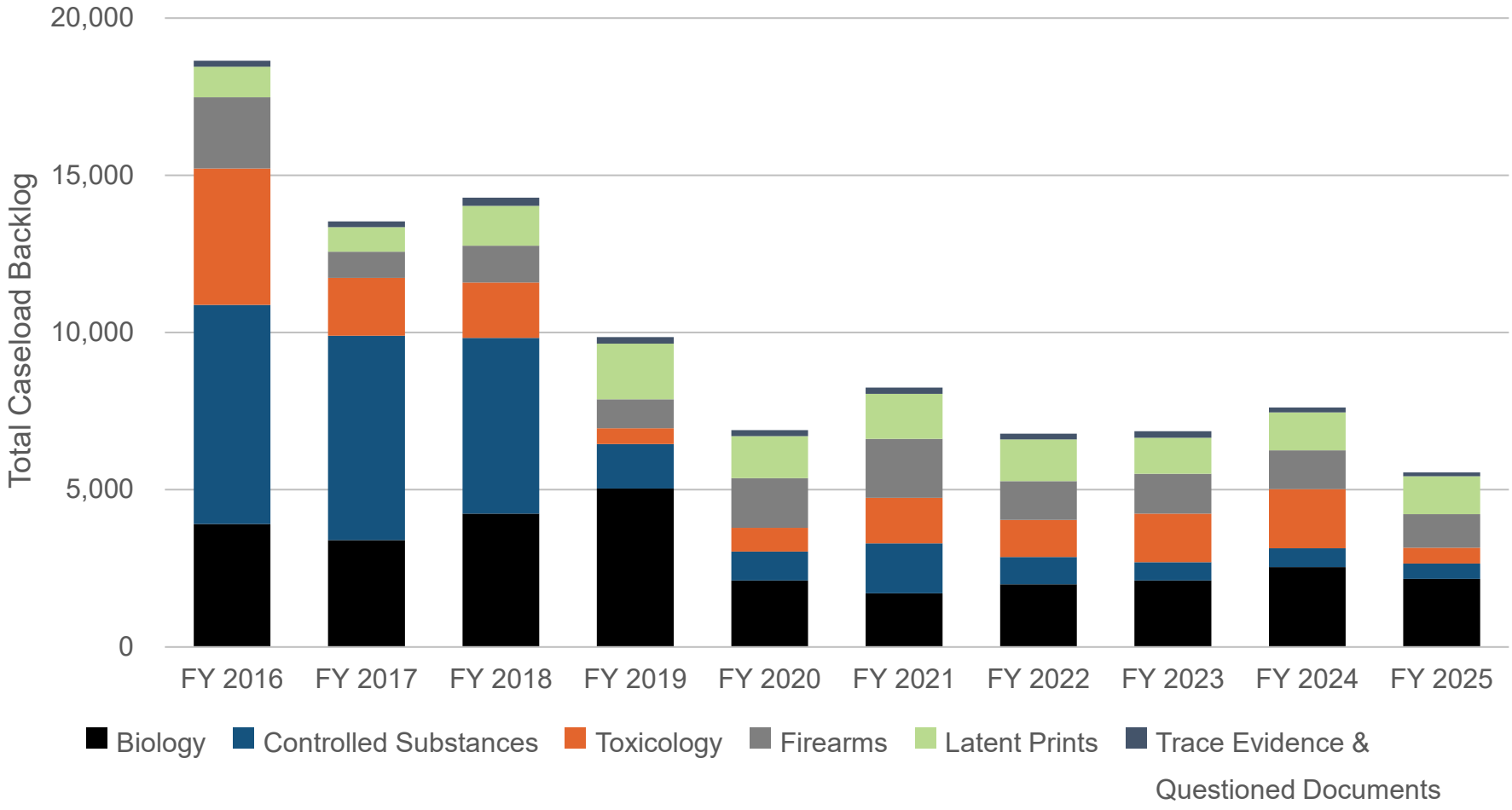


MSP Forensic Laboratories

- MSP's Forensic Science Division (FSD) is supported by a **$49.7 million** appropriation, which represents **36%** of the Law Enforcement Services unit
- FSD employs scientists with expertise in various forensic science specialties, including biology and DNA, controlled substances, firearms and toolmarks, latent prints, toxicology, and trace evidence
- FSD operates 7 accredited regional forensic laboratories:
  - Bridgeport (**32** staff)
  - Lansing (**72** staff between north and south)
  - Northville (**52** staff)
  - Grand Rapids (**51** staff)
  - Marquette (**10** staff)
  - Grayling (**14** staff)
  - Metro Detroit (**32** staff)
- The Northville and Grayling laboratories are scheduled to close in FY 2026-27, contingent upon completion a 10,000 square-foot expansion of the Metro Detroit laboratory

Forensic Caseload Backlog

Since reaching a 10-year high in FY 2015-16, total backlogs in forensic caseloads have decreased by **70%**. The substantial increase in case backlogs during FY 2015-16 was due to firearms, toxicology, and biology cases substantially exceeding expected caseload intake.



Criminal Justice Information Center

- All arrests, charges, and convictions of serious crimes committed in Michigan must be submitted by all law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and courts to the central repository housed at the Criminal Justice Information Center (CJIC)

- CJIC's appropriation of **$34.4 million** (**$3.9 million** GF/GP) supports a wide variety of law enforcement functions, including:
  - Maintaining and disseminating statewide criminal history data
  - Managing electronic reporting systems for traffic crashes, law enforcement investigations, warrants, stolen property, missing persons, sex offender registry status, and protection orders
  - Conducting concealed pistol license background checks
  - Providing state and local law enforcement agencies with a single point of access to Michigan Criminal Justice Information Network databases

- Of approximately **$45.0 million** in CJIC fee revenue, nearly **31%** is appropriated for Information Technology (**$11.5 million**) and Departmental Administration and Support (**$2.9 million**) in FY 2026-27

For more information about the State Police budget:

HFA Resources

http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa/StatePolice.asp

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