

Fleet & Facilities Division History

It would be impossible to function as a highway patrol without a fleet of vehicles. In 1931, the first Missouri State Highway Patrol fleet consisted of 36 new Ford Model A roadsters, a Plymouth sedan, an Oldsmobile, a Ford sedan, a Buick, and three Chevrolets. Also included in the fleet were 12 Harley Davidson, three Indian, and two Henderson motorcycles. The new Model A roadsters were purchased from Steelville Garage, Steelville, MO, for \$413.18 each. The vehicles were equipped with twin Klaxon horns, a spotlight, a fire extinguisher, a first aid kit, and an electric "PATROL" sign behind the right side of the windshield. All Patrol vehicles had license plates with the words "STATE PATROL" in bold letters, but there were no decals on the sides. None of the vehicles had sirens. Also, there were no heaters in the cars.

Colonel Lewis Ellis wanted the public to be aware that these drivers were officers of the new Missouri State Highway Patrol, so officers driving the roadsters were instructed to drive with the top down except in inclement weather. In 1932, improvements were made to Patrol vehicles. A small decal bearing the state seal and "Missouri State Highway Patrol" were placed on the doors and a new light for stopping motorists at night was mounted on the right front fenders. This lamp displayed "STOP" when turned on. Patrol cars were not yet equipped with sirens or communications equipment. Public broadcast receivers were first installed in Patrol cars in 1933.

1940 brought some excitement to the Patrol fleet. In April 1940, the Highway Patrol Safety Squadron was organized. To support the squadron, 13 white motorcycles, one white Ford coupe and house trailer, four white panel trucks, and two white coaches were utilized. Also in 1940, a combination siren and red light was mounted on the left, front fender of each patrol car.

In 1942, patrol cars had the words "STATE PATROL" painted in bold letters on both front doors. Also, for the first time, these vehicles also had car numbers painted on the roof. By 1942, two-way communications equipment had been installed in all Patrol cars. At the close of 1942, the Patrol had 128 motor vehicles in operation. The fleet consisted of 77 Fords, 23 Chevrolets, three Plymouths, eight Pontiacs, one Buick, one International truck, 15 motorcycles, and one house trailer.

At the height of World War II, it was virtually impossible for the Patrol to purchase new cars. In 1943, arrangements were made with the Highway Department garage in Jefferson City to completely overhaul Patrol cars. A September 22, 1943, memorandum to troop commanders noted that due to the "shortage and difficulty in obtaining repair parts, it is necessary that cars be handled in such a manner as to prolong to the utmost their condition of good repair". The memorandum went on to state, "It is imperative that cars which have been overhauled be broken in as follows: Not over 25 mph for the first 100 miles. Add

five mph for each additional 100 miles until the car has been driven 700 miles. For the next 500 miles, the car must be driven under 60 mph”.

A new look came to Patrol cars in 1948 when large door decals designed by Trooper Tom Pasley were placed on the cars. A smaller and similar version of this decal is still in use today. The words “STATE PATROL”, in white letters, were placed on the rear of the vehicles. Red lights and sirens were placed on the top of patrol cars for the first time in 1949. Red lights were placed in the rear window, marking the first-time warning lights faced the rear. Also, rearview mirrors were added to 1949 model cars. In 1951, the emergency red lights flashed on and off for the first time. Prior to this, the lights were constantly lit.

Except for the Safety Squadron in 1940, all Patrol cars were black until 1954. In 1954, the Patrol purchased 30 new light blue vehicles. Twenty-six of the new blue vehicles were Ford Interceptors, especially designed for police work. The Interceptors had 161 horsepower engines, larger tires, and heavy-duty suspension and seats.

In January 1955, a Patrol Garage for the installation of patrol equipment and minor car maintenance was opened. This garage was located at Troop F in Jefferson City. In June 1955, the Motor Equipment Division was created. This division would be responsible for the purchase and maintenance of motor equipment. Sergeant H.H. Schaperkoetter was placed in charge. Seat belts were installed in all patrol cars before the end of the year. Also, that same year, the Patrol started a new program of soliciting bids for patrol vehicles. Bids were taken on 400 new cars to be delivered the next year. Cars were scheduled for replacement at 25,000 miles. Prior to this, cars were driven 65,000 miles or more. The successful bidder was a Dodge dealer in Columbia.

Late in 1957, a contract was established for 455 1958 Chevrolet sedans. A new, oscillating, red light was mounted on the roof, and the siren was placed on the right fender. In 1959, the Patrol purchased Dodge patrol cars. These vehicles were unique in that for the first time, some of the cars were two-door hardtops. One of the 1959 Dodge patrol cars, a four-door sedan, remains in operation today. Our public information and education officers drive this vehicle in parades and take it to other community events throughout the state.

Portable commercial scale units were first utilized in 1960. Four pickup trucks equipped with service bodies carried the portable scale equipment.

In 1961, license plates bearing the officer's badge number were assigned to every member to display on their assigned vehicles. By 1961, there were 477 vehicles in operation within the Patrol's fleet. Vehicles were replaced at 50,000 miles. In 1962, vehicle maintenance shops were constructed at Troops A and C. Gasoline tanks and pumps were installed at most troop headquarters in 1962. A diverse mix of patrol cars was purchased throughout the 1960s. Patrol cars purchased in 1963 included Ford Galaxie sedans equipped with 390 cubic inch

engines, Chrysler Enforcer four-door sedans equipped with 413 cubic inch engines, Buick LeSabre four-door sedans equipped with 401 cubic inch engines, Dodge 440 four-door sedans equipped with 383 cubic inch engines, Dodge 880 four-door sedans equipped with 413 cubic inch engines, Oldsmobile Dynamic 88 four-door sedans with 394 cubic inch engines, and Chevrolet BelAir four-door sedans with 409 cubic inch engines.

Gasoline tanks and pumps were purchased by the Patrol and installed at Highway Department properties throughout the State in 1964. Gasoline was purchased on a contract bid basis. These tanks were installed and maintained by Motor Equipment Division personnel. The fleet had grown to 532 vehicles in 1964.

Prior to 1966, Patrol cars did not have air conditioning. Concerns over durability, added cost, and public acceptance had prevented the Patrol from including air conditioning in vehicle purchases. In 1965, the Patrol received permission from Governor Hearnes to begin purchasing patrol vehicles with factory-installed air conditioning. Most 1966 model patrol cars were ordered with air conditioning. An April 13, 1966, memorandum to troop commanders instructed officers to turn their air conditioning off any time the speed of the patrol car exceeded 70 mph or whenever the car was rapidly accelerated. The reason for the directive was to prevent compressor clutch or drive belt damage.

Six Harley Davidson motorcycles were purchased in 1971. They were used on special details such as fairs, parades, and for traffic control in congested areas. Patrol cars in 1971 included AMC Ambassador sedans equipped with either a 360 or 401 cubic inch engine. Ambassadors were purchased again in 1972 and 1973. In March 1972, Mr. Warren McGee was selected as director of the Motor Equipment Division. Mr. McGee was the first civilian to hold that position. By 1974, the Patrol fleet had grown to approximately 800 vehicles.

Patrol personnel began installing Federal Twinsonic light bars on patrol cars in May 1975. In 1977, twelve Plymouth vans were purchased for use by motor vehicle inspectors. Cargo and passenger vans have been utilized for many years and for a variety of purposes including commercial vehicle enforcement, communications, driver examination, motor vehicle inspection, and student transport. Twelve Kawasaki motorcycles were purchased in 1979, increasing the number of motorcycles within the fleet to 18. Two motorcycles were assigned to each troop. Cruise control was a new feature added to patrol cars in 1979. Patrol cars throughout the 70s included Chryslers and Mercurys along with some Buicks, Pontiacs, Chevrolets, and Plymouths.

In March 1981, the General Headquarters garage moved to a new building—and current location—on U.S. Highway 50 east of Jefferson City and behind Troop F Headquarters. By this time, the garage had become a full-service repair facility. The garage shares this facility with the Radio Shop.

For 1982, mid-size Patrol cars were added to the fleet. Fifty-two Ford Fairmont sedans were added to the fleet that year. The vehicles were not well received due to the small size and poor handling and performance when compared to full size patrol cars. The Patrol soon returned to conventional full-size patrol cars.

Legislation created in 1983 was the basis for today's Missouri State Highway Patrol car program. Prior to 1983, retired Missouri State Highway Patrol cars were disposed of by trading the old cars to the dealers providing our new vehicles. Senate Bill No. 345 passed in 1983 authorized the Patrol to sell surplus patrol vehicles to other governmental entities. Initially, sales were limited to Missouri entities. The statute was later modified, allowing sales outside of Missouri and conditional sales to the public. The legislation created a revolving fund that directs all funds received by the Patrol from the sale of patrol vehicles be credited to this fund. Fund balances can be used only for purchase of replacement patrol vehicles.

A military surplus M-20 armored personnel carrier was obtained in 1984. This six-wheel vehicle weighs 15,650 pounds and can carry six people inside. It could be used to provide safe transfer and deployment of Patrol personnel in hostile or emergency situations.

To address the increasing amount of equipment installed in patrol cars, bucket seats were examined in 1985. Twenty Dodges with a 40/40 bucket seat arrangement were purchased in 1985 for evaluation. However, it was not until 1995 that bucket seats became standard in Missouri State Highway Patrol cars. By this time, air bag supplemental restraint systems had become standard equipment on patrol cars, and the bucket seat configuration was necessary to keep installed equipment out of air bag deployment zones.

In 1986, a Ford truck equipped with special explosives disposal equipment was purchased. This vehicle was replaced in 1993 with a full-size van and explosives disposal trailer combination. In 2004, a new Freightliner truck was purchased for the explosives unit along with a new explosives disposal trailer.

New light bars were installed on marked patrol cars beginning in 1986. These Code 3 Force XL light systems included two high-power halogen take-down white lights designed to shine in the rear window of a vehicle being stopped. The take-down lights could also alternately flash when the revolving red lights were in operation.

The Motor Equipment and Aircraft Divisions merged in 1987, under the direction of Captain W.J. Turner. The two divisions later separated with Capt. Turner remaining as director of Motor Equipment.

Ford Mustangs appeared on the scene in 1988. The Patrol acquired 17 high-performance Mustangs that were assigned throughout the state. These Mustang LX Special Service Package two-door sedans were equipped with 5.0-liter high

output fuel injected V8 engines and a four-speed overdrive automatic transmission. Mustangs were purchased again in 1989, 1990, and 1993. The later Mustangs were equipped with five-speed manual transmissions. Also in 1988, the first Patrol formed a K-9 unit. For transporting the canines, Motor Equipment Division personnel fabricated and installed special K-9 containers in the rear seat area of 1988 Chevrolet Caprice patrol cars.

By the end of the 1980s, the offering of full-size police car models was drastically reduced. Chrysler Corporation completely dropped out of the police market. General Motors was offering only the Chevrolet Caprice; for Ford, it was the Crown Victoria.

During the 1990s, Patrol personnel began obtaining motor fuel from MoDOT. Most Patrol-owned tanks were removed or transferred to MoDOT. Also, underground fuel storage tanks at troop headquarters were removed.

Motor Equipment Division personnel constructed a rollover simulator in 1990. This simulator demonstrated the value of using seat belts. The simulator was used by public information and education officers around the state. The rollover simulator was so successful that nine simulators were eventually constructed with one assigned to each troop. In 1991, auto technicians from the Motor Equipment Division began outfitting cars with special safety equipment for use at the Patrol's newly constructed defensive driving track. A small number of cars were outfitted with roll bars, fire suppression systems, and racing style fuel cells, and five-point seat harnesses.

Following a study and evaluations conducted in 1993, the Patrol began adding blue emergency warning lights to patrol cars in combination with the existing red lights.

In 1994, the Motor Equipment Division merged with the Construction and Maintenance Division. Captain Paul P. Loutzenhiser was appointed director of the combined division. Patrol cars in 1994 were Chevrolet Caprice 9C1 sedans equipped with the high-performance LT1 engine. The fleet size in 1994 had grown to approximately 1,000 vehicles. In 1996, following the untimely death of Capt. Loutzenhiser, the Motor Equipment and Construction and Maintenance Divisions were separated, and Mr. Larry Rains was appointed director of the Motor Equipment Division.

This same year, General Motors stopped building the Chevrolet Caprice 9C1 police car. Chrysler Corporation had dropped out of the police market several years prior. This left Ford Motor Company as the only American manufacturer of a full-size police patrol vehicle. Starting with the 1996 model and continuing through 2006, the Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor was the primary vehicle in the patrol fleet.

The last two motorcycles in the fleet were retired in 1996. One of the last two motorcycles, a Kawasaki, now resides in the Patrol's Safety Education Center.

The Patrol obtained several surplus military pickup trucks in 1994 through 1996. These Dodge and Chevrolet trucks were refurbished by Motor Equipment Division personnel and placed in service in our Marijuana Eradication program. In 1997, the Patrol obtained two military surplus Peace Keepers. These armored vehicles were refurbished by Motor Equipment Division personnel and assigned to the Special Emergency Response teams (SERT) in Troops C and D. A V-100 armored vehicle was also obtained in 1995 and assigned to Troop A SERT.

In 1998, Motor Equipment Division employees began installing new Code 3 MX7000 light bars on fully marked patrol cars. Code 3 was the successful bidder for this new lighting system, which included more light output than previous light bars. This new lighting system included an amber light traffic advisory system, and the siren speaker was relocated from the light bar to the vehicle grill.

The Patrol also purchased 10 Chevrolet Lumina patrol cars in 1998. This was the Patrol's first experience with mid-size front-wheel drive patrol cars. Then in 2001, the Patrol purchased 27 Chevrolet Impala front-wheel drive patrol cars. Impala patrol cars continue to be utilized in several capacities within the fleet including administrative, investigative, and gaming officer assignments.

In 2003, the "STATE PATROL" decal on patrol vehicles became "STATE TROOPER".

A much-needed collision repair facility was added at the General Headquarters garage in 2005. Performing collision repairs in-house improved quality while saving thousands of dollars in annual repair costs.

By 2006, the fleet size had grown to 1,200 vehicles and included a diverse mix of patrol cars; light, medium and heavy-duty trucks; cargo and passenger vans; sport utility vehicles; and several specialty vehicles for DWI enforcement, SWAT, commercial vehicle enforcement, narcotics, explosives disposal, and Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (Thirty-nine Impalas were purchased in 2006). In 2006, the Patrol purchased four Lenco BearCat armored vehicles. These armored vehicles, based on the Ford F550 chassis, were equipped with heavy armor plating, run-flat tires, bullet-proof glass, and radiation monitoring equipment. One BearCat was assigned to each of the four Patrol SWAT teams. The BearCats replaced older military surplus Peace Keepers and a V-100 armored vehicle.

Nineteen individuals were employed within the Motor Equipment Division in 2006, including 15 garage personnel and four office staff. A new contract was awarded for light emitting diode (LED) emergency warning lights and the process of replacing older halogen and strobe lighting systems began. Low profile

Whelen Engineering Liberty series light bars began to replace Code 3 MX7000 halogen light bars.

In 2007, the Patrol began purchasing the optional Ford Fire Suppression system with each new Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor (CVPI). This factory installed system was designed to deploy in the event of a high speed, rear-end crash, reducing the potential for a fuel-fed vehicle fire.

Twenty Chevrolet Tahoe PPV patrol vehicles were purchased, equipped, and assigned to commercial vehicle enforcement troopers in 2007. Installation of Code 3 SuperVisor and WingMan LED emergency warning lights in semi-marked patrol units began. These lights replaced older Code 3 strobe units.

The Construction and Maintenance Division was dissolved effective July 1, 2007, and the Motor Equipment Division assumed responsibility for building and grounds maintenance duties at the General Headquarters' Waggoner building as well as the state-wide Patrol building and grounds maintenance budget. The number of full-time employees in the Motor Equipment Division grew to 24.

In September 2008, a new Mobile Command and Communications Vehicle (MCCV) was added to the Patrol fleet. Based on the Freightliner M112 chassis, this high-tech command and communications vehicle was made possible through a Homeland Security grant. The vehicle body was constructed by Frontline Communications of Clearwater, FL. Frontline was also responsible for the installation and integration of communications equipment.

2008 marked the return of motorcycles to the Patrol fleet. Nine Harley Davidson FLHTP motorcycles were purchased, outfitted, and assigned to officers in Troops A, C, D and F.

By the end of 2009, the Patrol fleet had grown to nearly 1,300 vehicles. The Ford Crown Victoria police interceptor continued as the dominant patrol vehicle with 800 assigned units. Over 200 Chevrolet Impala 9C1 sedans were in service in 2009. The 9C1 Impalas were assigned to criminal investigators, gaming officers, and command staff.

The merger of the Missouri State Water Patrol into the Missouri State Highway Patrol resulted in the Motor Equipment Division acquiring additional duties. The division now directs the procurement, assignment, maintenance, repair, and eventual sale of Missouri State Highway Patrol vehicles and vessels. There were approximately 1,400 motor vehicles and 140 vessels in operation within the Patrol fleet in 2011.

Ford stopped production on the Crown Victoria in 2011. Thus, the Patrol was required to look at other vehicles for the troopers on the road. Previous experience with the Chevrolet Tahoe and Chevrolet Impala left the Dodge Charger and Chevrolet Caprice as vehicles that were unknown to the department.

The Patrol ordered 27 Chargers and one Caprice to evaluate. The delivery schedule vs. fiscal period allowed only the one Caprice. The number of Tahoes expanded in 2012, while the number of Impalas declined. Ford began producing two new offerings in 2012, with first deliveries of these 2013 models occurring around April 1, 2012. The new Ford offerings included a sedan based on the Taurus platform and a utility vehicle based on the Explorer platform. The Patrol ordered and took delivery of 28 Ford Utility Interceptors and 10 Ford Interceptor sedans. The sedans and 20 of the utility vehicles were evaluated by road officers. The remaining eight utility vehicles were evaluated by marine operations officers.

In 2013, the Dodge Charger became the Patrol's primary patrol sedan. Chevrolet Tahoe pursuit utility vehicles continued to be utilized by the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Trooper unit, K-9, SWAT, and other specialties. Ford Police Interceptor utility vehicles were introduced into the fleet for use in marine operations, SWAT, and other specialist assignments. The fleet size grew to over 1,400 vehicles in 2013.

During 2013, a new marine maintenance facility was constructed behind the current General Headquarters garage. The Motor Equipment Division became the Fleet & Facilities Division to better reflect its responsibilities on July 1, 2013.

In 2014, division members completed a new marine maintenance and collision repair facility behind Troop F Headquarters. A Troop D addition was completed. Renovation of the training tank and building addition for defensive tactics and weight training began at General Headquarters. Construction on a Hannibal Driver Examiner/Commercial Driver's License facility began.

In the early hours of April 8, 2014, a fire destroyed the main garage building (behind Troop F Headquarters). Although most of the hand tools were salvaged, 10 work bays, the car wash, the warehouse and vehicle detail area, and eight vehicles were a complete loss. The Radio Shop sustained smoke damage but was operational within a few days. Service and repair operations were moved temporarily to garage space behind MoDOT's central office in Jefferson City. Vehicle trades and some emergency warning equipment repairs continued to be performed at the new marine maintenance facility. A new garage was completed on December 18, 2015. The new facility has fewer garage doors and one main entrance, and a mezzanine. The facility was dedicated on February 4, 2016. "The finished project was one that any automotive technician would be proud to be part of," said Garage Superintendent Brad Adams (Q/FFD). He also said the new garage has an abundance of storage, excellent lighting, and a "vastly improved work environment".

In 2016, the Fleet & Facilities Division completed several major capital improvement projects. Each of the following locations' roofs were replaced: Troop A Headquarters, Troop A DE facility, Troop D Service Center, Troop F CDL facility, Troop G Headquarters, Troop G Crime Laboratory, and General

Headquarters. Troop A Headquarters received new hot water heating boilers. Troop G Crime Lab HVAC and the ground floor of General Headquarters underwent renovation.

In 2017, the Patrol's police-pursuit vehicle fleet was comprised of 50 percent Ford Police Interceptor utility vehicles, 45 percent Dodge Charger pursuit sedans, and 5 percent Chevrolet Tahoe pursuit utility vehicles.

The General Headquarters complex received a major exterior facelift in 2017. Building exteriors were repainted, brick exteriors were cleaned and tuckpointed, and new front entry stairs were built for the Waggoner Building.

In 2018, the Patrol's vehicle fleet remained nearly consistent with 2017 in terms of the percentage of Dodge Charger pursuit sedans, Ford Police Interceptor utility vehicles, and Chevrolet Tahoe pursuit vehicles.

A number of facility maintenance and repair projects were completed to include the replacement of the main water supply line at Troop A; roof replacement on the firing range; troop headquarters and transmitter buildings at Troop A; HVAC modifications at the Troop C Service Center; LED lighting upgrades at Troop G, I, and GHQ; roof replacements at the Training Academy's administration and dormitory buildings; and replacement of the GHQ Annex Building's computer room's air conditioners.

Director Larry Rains retired December 1, 2018, and Ms. Catherine F. Brown became director of FFD on January 16, 2019.

In 2019, the Patrol's police-pursuit vehicle fleet remained consistent with 2018 figures. The Dodge Charger pursuit sedans comprising approximately 50 percent of the total fleet, the Ford Police Interceptor Utilities 40 percent, and Chevrolet Tahoe and Ford F-150 Responder pursuit vehicles made up about 10 percent.

There were many facility maintenance and repair projects completed, some of which included the replacement of roofs at Troop B, Troop D, and Troop F's CDL site. In addition, FFD renovated Troop D's front entry desk area, replaced the flooring in the reception and restrooms at Troop G, repaired all surface cracks at the GHQ EVOC site, replaced the flooring at the GHQ Radio Shop, made HVAC modifications at the Troop C Service Center and replaced all exterior lighting at Troop C with LED technology.

A groundbreaking ceremony on November 8, 2019, helped make plans look more like a reality for the Patrol's Crime Lab Annex addition. The groundbreaking marked the start of construction to enlarge the Annex by almost 8,000 square feet. The new space became home to the Crime Laboratory Division's DNA Section. Upon completion of the project, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on December 2, 2020, with a total project cost of \$2.7M.

Another groundbreaking ceremony took place on January 8, 2020, to begin the project to build a new outdoor firing range north of Jefferson City. The project included a 150-yard rifle range, a 50-yard shotgun range, a 50-yard pistol range, a shoot house, a classroom building, and an explosives detonation area. Upon completion of the project, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on December 23, 2020.

Some of the additional projects completed in 2020 included:

- replacement of the radio tower at Troop A,
- roof replacement over evidence storage at Troop E,
- roof replacement on the crime lab building at Troop H,
- troop building signage replacement at Troops E and H,
- installation of a new evidence drop off area at Troop A,
- replacement of all carpeting in the Safety & Education Center at General Headquarters,
- painting the Safety & Education Center,
- replacement of all parking lots and a majority of driveways at GHQ,
- remediation of the Patrol hangar after the flooding in 2019,
- replacement of the roof on both evidence storage buildings at GHQ,
- replacement of the car wash garage doors,
- installation of new A/C in the installation bay at the GHQ Radio Shop, and
- replacement of all windows at Troop I.

The May 2020 DPS Employee of the Month was Curt Malzner, Building and Grounds Maintenance Supervisor.

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, division employees continued to work and provide vital support to the Patrol's mission. Following the guidelines of social distancing and wearing facemasks, there was little to no impact on day-to-day operations.

In 2020, the police pursuit vehicle fleet remained generally consistent with 2019 figures. The Ford Police Interceptor Utilities comprise about 40 percent of the fleet, the Dodge Charger pursuit sedans remain at about 45 percent, the Chevy Tahoe, Ford F-150 Responder pursuit vehicles and Ford F-250's make up the remaining 15 percent of the fleet.

The Patrol's various fleet of vessels numbers about 200 statewide at the end of 2020.

Even with the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic behind us, the division continued to find the auto industry incredibly challenging to navigate. Never in the history of the industry has there been such issues as the lack of supply, delayed manufacturing of products, micro-chip shortages, and associated price increases. Every manufacturer faced with crippling supply chain problems for vehicle components as well as continued difficulty in the hiring of employees at assembly

plants. Those challenges directly affected the Patrol's fleet program. The ability to forecast vehicular needs for the agency is very difficult, given the many factors that could impact the Patrol's ability to receive the vehicles. Fortunately, the agency continued to maintain its fleet and rotate new vehicles in for the used ones as necessary. However, the burden brought by the daily challenges of ensuring the fleet program remains as successful as it has been since its inception remains.

After many years of discussion and planning, a new Troop A Headquarters building was now in the design process, with GastingerWalker hired as the architectural firm to design the new building and firing range. The timeline to complete the project was February 1, 2024, and is dictated by a new interchange project at Missouri Highway 291 and Missouri Highway 50 in Lee's Summit, MO. The new troop facility will be co-located at the Missouri Department of Transportation's Kansas City District site on MO 291 and Colbern Road, which is approximately two miles north of the current troop site.

The legislature also approved a new State Crime Laboratory to be constructed near the existing State Health Laboratory. The Patrol's Crime Laboratory Division is one of the partners in the approximate \$100M project. The new crime laboratory will provide state-of-the-art forensic abilities, collaboration with public state colleges and universities, space for training laboratories and facilities for visiting scientists, students, and citizen academies. As leaders in the forensic sciences, the Patrol's Crime Laboratory Division would establish a regional research facility to be used in conjunction with state and regional forensic partners and universities to research, validate, and promote future forensic technologies.

The division also commenced a comprehensive statewide feasibility analysis project of all Patrol property. The purpose of this project was to identify, using a third-party architect, the lack of space and age of most all facilities. The final deliverable report would provide staff with the professional backup information needed when discussing future facility needs.

Many other construction projects at the troops and General Headquarters were completed in 2021, including paving, exterior repairs, interior repairs, HVAC improvements, and generator replacements.

On May 12, 2023, the contract was awarded to build the new State Crime Laboratory. The approximate \$100 million crime lab will provide state-of-the-art forensic abilities, consistent with 21st Century technologies and advancements. The project is slated to be completed no later than December 31, 2026.

The groundbreaking for the new Troop A Headquarters building took place November 29, 2023. Crossland Construction Company Inc. is the builder. The project was scheduled to be completed in April 2025.

Director Catherine F. Brown retired November 1, 2023, and Mr. Zachary J. Russell became director of the Fleet and Facilities Division on December 1, 2023.

In 2024, the Patrol's police-pursuit vehicle fleet shifted toward more SUV purchases due to the storage constraints of sedans and added equipment required by troopers.

On May 2, 2025, Troop A held the grand opening ceremony for the new headquarters. The grand opening was attended by the Assistant Director of the Department of Public Safety, Troy Murdock, members of the General Assembly, Colonel Michael A. Turner, Major Scott A. Shippers, Major Christopher S. Jolly, and Major Justin L. McCullough. As well as the Mayor of Lee's Summit Bill Baird and other members of his staff. Members of the community also joined for this monumental moment. The state-of-the-art building is equipped with modern technology, enhanced security infrastructure, and expanded space for both administrative and investigative units. Troop A Headquarters is conveniently positioned off Interstate 470, providing immediate access to one of Missouri's primary routes of transportation. The new facility was built on the same parcel of land that houses the existing Motor Vehicle Inspection Station, Driver Examination Testing Station, and the Commercial Vehicle Testing Station. This centralized layout enhanced interdepartmental coordination and allowed for better streamlined operations by placing key divisions in close proximity.