



**Testimony of Commissioner Michelle Gilman
Commissioner of Administrative Services**

**Appropriations Committee
February 16, 2024**

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Berthel, Representative Nuccio and distinguished members of the Committee. My name is Michelle Gilman and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services (“DAS”). I would like to start by giving you a brief overview of DAS and some of the major elements of the proposed adjustments and I welcome any questions you may have.

DAS is organized into nine functional areas that report to the Commissioner: Human Resources, Equal Employment Opportunity, Communications, Real Estate and Construction, Bureau of Information Technology Solutions, Internal Audit, Procurement Services, Business Office, and Legal & Legislative. Within these functional areas, DAS houses a number of distinct programs that comprise the business functions of state government, including information technology, human resources, procurement, facilities and real estate, construction services, fleet, workers compensation, school construction service, HVAC grants and more. Our divisions are united in a common mission:

- **Support Connecticut's Growth** - To serve our citizens, businesses, state agencies and other branches of government by providing the highest quality services at the lowest possible cost.
- **Drive Continuous Innovation** - To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of state government using best practices from the public and private sectors.
- **Provide Rewarding Careers** - To attract and retain a workforce of talented, dedicated public servants committed to leading our great state forward.

When the biennial budget was enacted in 2023, DAS’s authorized “all funds” appropriation was \$222,024,669 for 2024 and \$226,440,720 for 2025. The Governor’s proposed budget adjustment increases the 2025 authorization by approximately \$79.2 million to \$305,610,529. This increase is primarily driven by the reallocation of funds to complete the IT optimization initiative.

The biennial budget authorized DAS to have 941 General Fund positions in 2024. The Governor’s proposed budget adjustment increases DAS’s position count in the General Fund by 186 positions to 1,127 positions. 185 of these 186 positions reflect the movement of IT employees into DAS from other agencies (specifically, the Departments of Children

and Families, Developmental Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Labor, Social Services, and the Office of Health Strategy). The last General Fund position is being added for a Paralegal Specialist in the Office of the Claims Commissioner.

The biennial budget also authorized DAS to have 31 Special Transportation Fund (STF) positions in 2024. The Governor's proposed budget adjustment increases DAS's STF position count by 86 positions resulting in a total of 117 positions in 2025. These positions will transfer to DAS from the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Transportation.

Overall, the number of total IT positions transferred to DAS (in both the General and Special Transportation Funds) is 271 positions.

DAS has continued IT Optimization efforts by bringing together executive branch technology personnel and expenditures into DAS. By doing so we have improved enterprise-wide IT services by sharing reusable solutions and common processes, accelerated digital government, applied shared best practices, and driven greater automation. Through IT Optimization, DAS enhanced over 20 agency websites and portals, developed 6 common service portals and enhanced the public user experience with the State's public facing websites. DAS has enhanced security capabilities for all agencies such as vulnerability scanning, 24x7 monitoring of incidents, network and ransomware protection, and multi-factor authentication. These enhanced security measures are consistent with the Governor's efforts to secure our critical government infrastructure from attack. Failure to fully complete the remaining IT Optimization plan will leave the State with agencies that have fewer resources and would create duplication of effort and services.

Under the budgets passed in 2022 and 2023, DAS was proud to stand up the HVAC Indoor Air Quality Grants for Public Schools program, providing vital funds to communities to help keep teachers, staff and students healthy. DAS awarded 51 grants in the first round of approvals, totaling \$56 million, while preparing for future rounds of awards. The second round of grants was opened on September 7, 2023 and closed on December 31, 2023 and received 135 applicants with an estimated total cost to the state of \$137 million. DAS anticipates opening a third round of grants at the start of the next fiscal year.

In addition to improving *indoor* air quality in schools, DAS has been spearheading several efforts to improve *outdoor* air quality through sustainability initiatives that will, among other things, lead to a reduction in greenhouse gases. DAS has revised the Power Purchase Agreement, which allows Executive Branch agencies to participate in no-cost solar projects in collaboration with the Connecticut Green Bank. Our Real Estate and Construction Services team has provided technical support for green construction projects such as Bullard Havens Technical High School, Southern Connecticut State University new Business School, DEEP's new Western District Headquarters, and



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Quinebaug Fish Hatchery, which will reduce carbon emissions and water consumption. DAS is continuing efforts to electrify our state fleet and is developing a roadmap for EV charging infrastructure at our state properties. Finally, DAS is collaborating with DEEP in developing and updating the Connecticut High Performance Building Standards regulations, and has implemented policies to reduce the climate impact of State projects including compliance with the International Green Construction Code for DAS administered capital projects and major renovations.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.