MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Eighty-First Session February 3, 2021

The Committee on Government Affairs was called to order by Chair Edgar Flores at 9:05 a.m. on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, Online. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda (Exhibit A), the Attendance Roster (Exhibit B), and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Edgar Flores, Chair
Assemblywoman Selena Torres, Vice Chair
Assemblywoman Natha C. Anderson
Assemblywoman Annie Black
Assemblywoman Venicia Considine
Assemblywoman Jill Dickman
Assemblywoman Bea Duran
Assemblyman John Ellison
Assemblyman Susie Martinez
Assemblyman Andy Matthews
Assemblyman Richard McArthur
Assemblywoman Clara Thomas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jered McDonald, Committee Policy Analyst Erin Sturdivant, Committee Counsel Judith Bishop, Committee Manager Kyla Beecher, Committee Secretary Zachary Kahn, Committee Secretary Lori McCleary, Committee Secretary Cheryl Williams, Committee Assistant



OTHERS PRESENT:

- Peter Long, Administrator, Division of Human Resource Management, Department of Administration
- Kevin Doty, Administrator, Purchasing Division, Department of Administration
- Ward D. Patrick, P.E., Administrator, State Public Works Division, Department of Administration
- Kent LeFevre, R.A., Deputy Administrator, Professional Services, State Public Works Division, Department of Administration
- Brian Wacker, Project Manager III, State Public Works Division, Department of Administration
- Rick Kabele, Deputy Administrator, Building Official, Compliance and Code Enforcement, State Public Works Division, Department of Administration
- Ron Cothran, Deputy Administrator, Buildings and Grounds Section, State Public Works Division, Department of Administration

Chair Flores:

[Roll was called. Committee rules and protocol were explained.]

We are going to follow the agenda in the order in which items appear. For those who have not had an opportunity to see the agenda, we have three presentations for today. We will not be hearing any bills.

The first presentation is from the Division of Human Resource Management, Department of Administration. The second will be from the Purchasing Division and the last will be from the State Public Works Division. After the presentations, we will go into public comment and then we will adjourn.

Peter Long, Administrator, Division of Human Resource Management, Department of Administration:

I appreciate the opportunity to speak in front of your Committee and give an overview of our agency. I have provided a PowerPoint presentation with this information for you to look at, at your leisure [Exhibit C].

Page 2 [Exhibit C] features our organizational chart. It notes the various sections with the Division of Human Resource Management of the Department of Administration. We have approximately 77 allocated positions. Not all positions are filled at this time, but that is what we are budgeting.

Page 3 features the sections within the Division of Human Resource Management. These sections include the Equal Employment Opportunity Office; Employee and Management Services; Central Payroll and Employee Records; Compensation, Classification, and Recruitment; Agency Human Resource Services; Labor Relations Unit; and the Office of Employee Development.

The Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Office [page 4] has several roles and missions. They provide advice and guidance to state agencies about EEO matters, recommend and assist with the implementation of policies to create and maintain a harassment- and discrimination-free work environment, and conduct community outreach to market the State of Nevada as the employer of choice in support of the state's affirmative action initiative. This office also reports, develops, and delivers online training during today's pandemic protocol. This training includes antidiscrimination and sexual harassment prevention for employees, supervisors, and managers. The office also manages discrimination and harassment complaints through the sexual harassment discrimination unit and develops and administers the state mediation program.

Page 6 covers the sexual harassment and discrimination investigation unit (SHDIU). The SHDIU was established on July 1, 2003, by Governor Kenny Guinn. It was established to provide an impartial, consistent, and independent investigative process to evaluate allegations that are contained in a complaint of harassment or discrimination. The SHDIU's mission is to conduct prompt, independent investigations of complaints of sexual harassment and discrimination as defined by state and federal law. This is done to ensure the protection of the interests of the state, protect employees from unlawful discrimination and harassment, and reduce costs associated with settlements and court decisions against the state. The SHDIU is managed by the EEO Office. It has one supervisory compliance investigator and three compliance investigators. These positions are located in Carson City and Las Vegas to assist all state employees.

The next page [page 8] is a breakdown of the types of complaints that we receive and their percentages. You can see that the majority of the complaints are sexual harassment and racial discrimination, with smaller breakdowns among the rest. In fiscal year 2019, the number of complaints received was 155, of which 48 rose to the level of requiring an investigation, and 23 had findings that some type of infraction had occurred. In fiscal year 2020, 159 complaints were received, 25 were investigated, and 17 had findings. You might wonder why we do not investigate every complaint that is received. We do a review to make sure that the complaint fits within the areas for which we are responsible. Sometimes, it is just an employee who does not like their supervisor or a hostile work environment. These are not at the level of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 complaints. This is the explanation of complaints versus investigations.

We have a mediation program within the Division [page 9]. This is to mediate between employees and their supervisors or managers before it rises to a grievance level. We see this as a win-win for the employee and management. Employees just want the opportunity to be heard and they do not feel that they have had that. We offer an informal mediation process and that allows employees to discuss the issues raised and clear up misunderstandings. It has been successful.

Here [page 10], you can see a list of what Employee and Management Services is responsible for. This includes alcohol and drug testing; appeals, which are employees that have been dismissed, demoted, or suspended; employee evaluations; Family and Medical Leave

Act (FMLA); leave and attendance issues; organizational climate studies; safety; and whistleblowers. The four top issues that we have dealt with are alcohol and drugs, FMLA, the Employee Assistance Program, and grievances.

The Personnel Commission [page 11] is our governing body and consists of five members and five alternates appointed by the Governor. The Division of Human Resource Management provides support to the Personnel Commission, and they are responsible for hearing classification appeals, appeals of not meeting minimum qualifications, and the approval of regulations to then be approved by the Legislative Commission.

The Employee-Management Committee [page 12] hears grievances of state employees. There are three representatives from management and three employee representatives, as well as their alternates. After the Employee-Management Committee issues their decision, a party may request judicial review. We provide administrative support to this committee.

The Committee on Catastrophic Leave [page 13] hears employees who have been denied the use of catastrophic leave. This committee would hear and make the determination.

The Workplace Climate Study Program [page 14] surveys employees. We meet with employees, get their concerns, and develop a report for management to address the concerns that have been raised in an agency. This has been a successful program and there is a waitlist for agencies to use it.

Central Payroll and Employee Records [page 15] has a big responsibility. In 2020, they issued almost 500,000 paychecks. If anything is going to get our Division in trouble, it is if an employee misses their paycheck. This small unit does a huge job.

Compensation, Classification, and Recruitment [page 16] oversees compensation. They maintain the salary schedules for the state, conduct wage and benefit surveys, develop policies in compliance with state and federal requirements, and participate in the Merit Award Board's "Good Government, Great Employees" program. That classification unit is responsible for classifying existing and new positions within the current classification plan, maintaining that plan, and conducting individual studies if there has been a change in duties.

Recruitment [page 17] is responsible for developing and managing recruitment strategies and processes. They conduct job fairs, provide agencies with system training, oversee the layoff process, provide training to state employees, and gather statistics regarding layoffs. In fiscal year 2020, the total number of recruitments conducted was almost 2,500, with a little over 66,000 applications received. That number is a little below the average of the past five years, which has been about 85,000 applications.

We have a veterans program [page 18] that was brought on board three sessions ago. It is specific to veteran career counseling, job and application assistance, continued mentoring, and connecting veterans with various programs throughout the state. We have a peer mentoring program where employees within the agencies serve as mentors to other veterans

in that agency. We have an Employee Veteran of the Month program. We have a mandatory interviewing program for veterans where agencies have to interview at least 22 percent of the veterans who are on the list.

The Agency Human Resource Services section [page 19] provides day-to-day full human resource support to 45 state agencies. This includes onboarding, grievance, disciplinary actions, FMLA, Americans with Disabilities Act interpretation, and any personnel issues for the agencies that we serve. On page 20, you can see a list of agencies that Agency Human Resource serves. They serve as those agencies' human resource shop. There are no human resource personnel within these agencies.

As a result of Senate Bill 135 of the 80th Session, the Labor Relations Unit [page 21] was enacted last session. The Labor Relations Unit (LRU) was formed to operate as a single point of contact for complex interactions within unions in a new collective bargaining environment. Prior to last session, the state did not have collective bargaining. The LRU is responsible for providing expert consultation to employees, employee representatives, agency representatives, and agency management in the areas of collective bargaining, contract application, and negotiation delivery. We formed the unit [page 22], developed a strategic plan, and began the process of hiring and developing a team of qualified labor relations employees. We developed collective bargaining agreement documents to support negotiations, including documents to support the state in future labor agreements. implemented negotiations on behalf of seven bargaining units, four with labor unions. We designed and launched the LRU website, department survey, and contact cache. We developed curriculum for a five-part series titled "Leadership in a Collective Bargaining Environment" to support change management. We have trained and provided consultation to 746 leaders in 10 departments and 5 units on unfair labor practices and leading in a collective bargaining environment.

Our training section is the Office of Employee Development [page 23]. This section provides competency-based training programs that help the State of Nevada develop and retain a highly qualified workforce. We have teams in Las Vegas and Carson City. The programs that we offer are the Nevada Certified Public Manager Program, Management Academy, Supervisory Skills, General Development Classes, and special consultative services to agencies for learning and development projects.

Here is a little more detail on the management supervisory programs that we offer [page 24]. The Certified Public Manager Program is a nationally accredited leadership program. This program rolled out in 2004. Since then, we have had 560 graduates from 41 agencies. To graduate from the Certified Public Manager Program, participants are required to put together a capstone project. This project basically tells how we can do things better. Since 2004, these projects have resulted in \$42 million in savings to the State. The Management Academy is a five-month competency-based management development program. Since 2014, we have had ten classes with 260 graduates. Supervisory Skills is a 42-hour practical application for 4,000 supervisors. We recognize that we need to do something with the Supervisory Skills classes. People were being promoted from good general-level workers to

supervisors, but we were not providing the training they needed to be good supervisors. That is what we are trying to do now.

The next few slides [pages 25-28] are the agency budget. I have included this slide for your overview. I know this is not your primary emphasis. I did want to go over a few things that we are asking for this session. We are asking for a 5 percent increase for our payroll manager. For years, they have been one grade above their closest subordinate; however, in state service, we usually have a two-grade differential. In the collective bargaining assessment [page 29], this is a net-zero cost. We are reducing the overall assessment to all agencies so that the Labor Relations Unit can be funded appropriately. We are taking from one bucket and putting it into another, but the bucket still holds the same amount. We eliminated a position in Las Vegas [page 30] and we have reduced office space in Las Vegas, and that helps with the budget situation.

Finally, we have <u>Senate Bill 51</u> [page 30]. I am sure I will be presenting this in front of this Committee. The sexual harassment discrimination investigation unit has been in place since 2004. Governor Guinn implemented that, but it has never been in statute. I think we have done a great job, but every time there is a budget shortfall, we have to look at things that are mandated, and things that are not, we have to look at potentially reducing. <u>Senate Bill 51</u> was a result of not wanting to eliminate those positions or that responsibility. On his first day in office, Governor Sisolak put together the Governor's Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Law and Policy. The task force included representatives from the Department of Administration, the Office of the Attorney General, the Nevada Equal Rights Commission, and the William S. Boyd School of Law. This bill is a result of the recommendations that came out of that task force.

That is my presentation. I appreciate the opportunity, and I would be more than happy to try to answer any questions you may have.

Chair Flores:

Thank you for that presentation, Mr. Long. I am impressed that you went through 33 slides that quickly. I think that is probably a record. Before we move into questions, I want to remind everybody that we are going to have an opportunity to read <u>Senate Bill 51</u> during a future presentation. That will give us the opportunity to really dive into any detailed questions you may have. I ask that we focus on the broader conversation and that we allow for questions specific to <u>S.B. 51</u> to be reserved for whenever we have that presentation. I do have some folks who have indicated that they wish to speak and ask some questions. I am going to take them in the order that I have received them. Members, if you have a question, please send them to me or the Vice Chair via the chat. If we could start with Assemblywoman Anderson, please.

Assemblywoman Anderson:

I have a question about one of the earlier slides. It has to do with the number of positions that are unfilled. How many positions are not filled? Is this due to the budget, COVID-19 concerns, or qualifications of applicants?

Peter Long:

We have seven or eight positions that are unfilled. This was due to budget concerns and budget uncertainties. We were trying to hold those until the Governor's budget had come out and we knew where we stood. Our intent is to fill those now. I have not had any significant issues with people meeting the minimum qualifications.

Assemblywoman Torres:

Thank you for your presentation. I appreciate your taking the time this morning to join us. I was looking at page 8 [Exhibit C] where we look at the EEO complaints by investigation type. It seems that there is a large amount of racial and disability discrimination. You address that the investigation committee right now is meant to address gender discrimination and sexual harassment. I was wondering, have there been any measures to address other forms of prevalent discrimination?

Peter Long:

We do our best to address all of the complaints. Hopefully, the lower number means that we are doing a decent job of addressing those complaints. All of those types of offenses are in our training and may occur under Title VII or state law. We can take another look, but the training does include all of these various areas.

Assemblywoman Torres:

Could you please walk through what the training currently looks like for state employees?

Peter Long:

I would be happy to give that to the Committee. I do not want to say something that I may be wrong about. We will provide a full breakdown of what the training includes if that is okay.

Chair Flores:

Perfect, please send that.

Assemblywoman Black:

How many positions are currently working from home?

Peter Long:

In my Division, a majority of the positions are rotating. Senior management is here on a daily basis. We have been fortunate enough to allow people to telecommute. We have a minimal staff in the office. We typically have five to ten people a day in the office. Most people are able to do most, if not all, of their work from their computers at home. To ensure safety of all staff, we have been implementing telecommuting as much as possible.

Assemblywoman Duran:

With the mediation process, you stated that you want a win-win solution for trying to resolve conflicts at the lowest levels. How many resolutions have you had that were resolved at the lowest possible level? What happens if it does not get resolved? Does it go to the grievance process?

Peter Long:

I will provide that information to the Committee. I do not have that information off the top of my head. I will provide that information for the last couple of fiscal years, as well as the results of those mediations. If a mediation is not successful, the employee has the right to continue with the grievance process. Mediation can start at any level. The current grievance process starts with the grievance being filed with the supervisor. From there, it would go up to the manager, then the department director, and ultimately the Employee-Management Committee. Mediation depends at which level it is requested and implemented. It could start before a grievance is actually filed. Hopefully, that is the case so that a grievance is not filed. If mediation is unsuccessful, then the employee has the right to go all the way up to the Employee-Management Committee for a resolution.

Assemblywoman Duran:

If the complaint is with their immediate supervisor, do you do anything to try to diffuse the situation? Do you move the employee to a different area? I know with the collective bargaining agreement in full force, a person cannot just bump into another position without it being open.

Peter Long:

Those agreements have not yet been ratified; we are still working on them. Without going into any detail, there may be a separate grievance process through collective bargaining. We will still have state employees who are not represented or at least not yet represented who would follow our current process. Those would all be things that we discuss. If it were possible, then we would move an employee to a different section or a different supervisor. Everything is on the table and then it is up to the employee and management to reach an agreement. We try to pursue all the possible options.

Assemblywoman Anderson:

What form of bargaining are you using at this time? Are there rules set for the different groups? Is it consistent across all different units? Is that a decision that is being made group by group?

Peter Long:

It is interest-based. We set ground rules at the beginning. There is a fair amount of consistency across the various bargaining units. There are going to be differences between each bargaining unit. We started out with what is currently in effect for personnel administration.

Assemblywoman Thomas:

My question is about the statistics. You said there were 23 complaints in fiscal year 2019 that had findings that some type of infraction had occurred, and 17 complaints in 2020 that had findings of some type of infraction. With those findings, what were the resolutions?

Peter Long:

The Division of Human Resource Management does not always know the resolution. We provide the report to the agency and it is their responsibility to follow up on any disciplinary actions. Chair Flores asked that we do not get into great detail on <u>S.B. 51</u>, but that lack of knowledge will be addressed in the bill.

Assemblywoman Thomas:

Thank you; I appreciate that.

Chair Flores:

Thank you for your question. It appears that you are hitting on something they are trying to correct. I think we are all on the same wavelength.

Assemblywoman Torres:

I am looking at page 17, which focuses on the recruitment strategies. Which strategies have been used to recruit diverse applicants? What does the diversity of the applicants look like? Out of the 66,000 applications received, what does the diversity look like? You might not have that information available, but I would like to take a look at it later.

Peter Long:

I would be happy to provide that to you.

Chair Flores:

Members, do we have any additional questions? [There were none.] As we move forward, anytime we have a follow-up question, please make sure that all the members of the Committee receive the information. We ask that you forward the information to either Ms. Bishop, who is our committee manager, or Jered McDonald. They will be sure to distribute that information to all the members.

Thank you, Mr. Long, for your presentation. I appreciate you, members, for being attentive and asking questions. We are going to close the presentation on the Division of Human Resource Management. Thank you again, Mr. Long, and stay safe.

We will go to the presentation from the Purchasing Division of the Department of Administration.

Kevin Doty, Administrator, Purchasing Division, Department of Administration:

Just like Human Resource Management, we are a division of the Department of Administration. The Purchasing Division is governed by *Nevada Revised Statutes* Chapter 333, which is where all the purchasing power for the Executive Branch of Nevada resides [page 2, Exhibit D]. If it is a road project, the Department of Transportation handles it. If it is a construction project, then State Public Works Division of the Department of Administration handles it. Any project not included as a road project or a construction project is handled by the Purchasing Division. When a state employee buys a box of pens, they are buying that box of pens from a contract that we put in place with Staples or

a different company. If the Department of Health and Human Services needs a managed care organization for Medicaid, we put that contract in place. This contract could be worth more than \$1 billion. It is both goods and services.

We have 25 approved full-time positions [page 3]. Twenty-two of those positions are currently filled. As Peter Long, Administrator of the Division of Human Resource Management, just said, we have almost 20,000 State of Nevada employees.

Currently, the longest-serving State of Nevada employee is purchasing officer Marty Marsh. Marty is in her forty-third year of service with the State of Nevada. This is very impressive, and we are very grateful for the work that Marty does for us.

We have an online procurement system, NevadaEPro.com [page 3]. In 2017, this Committee and the Nevada Legislature approved <u>Assembly Bill 480 of the 79th Session</u>, which allowed Purchasing to apply a 1 percent administrative fee to some of our contracts. That administrative fee funded the e-procurement system. Because of the e-procurement system, we have been able to continue to do our work through this pandemic. We have been able to run our requests for proposals and put in place contracts for important services. We have been able to purchase goods, including personal protective equipment. We have run our solicitations online with vendors who are registered. This has made it possible for our employees to work remotely. They only come into the office when needed.

I want to thank this Committee and the Nevada Legislature for passing <u>A.B. 480 of the 79th Session</u>. This is what has let us continue to work throughout these difficult times. In NevadaEPro, we currently have more than 11,000 vendors and potential vendors registered. More than 2,700 of those vendors are Nevada-based. We put a special effort into trying to find Nevada companies that could potentially do business with the state. We try to get them signed into our system. This allows them to bid on our contracts. When applicable, we apply the 5 percent Nevada preference. This preference was also approved in 2017 by the Nevada Legislature [Assembly Bill 280 of the 79th Session].

Our core responsibilities [page 4] are procurement support, buying goods and services, and managing all aspects of statewide contracts. The contracts that we put in place are not just used by one agency. These contracts are used by numerous state agencies. We also certify contract managers. We teach courses and have been able to do that online. We train people in how to properly and ethically do state procurement.

The Excess Property Program is another one of our responsibilities. When goods are no longer needed by state agencies, it is our responsibility to take care of those. If we cannot put them to use for another agency, then we can hopefully get as much money for them as we can. The State Procurement Card Program, P-cards, are credit cards used by state employees to purchase things on behalf of the state. We oversee the management of that program.

The first dollar value that I want to show you in my presentation is the one that I am happiest about, our preferred purchase program. We have a program that allows us to use a vendor

that does work with people with disabilities, Opportunity Village. For fiscal year 2020, we spent \$2.3 million on janitorial, shredding, and other services with Opportunity Village. This is probably some of the smartest money that the state spends. We are getting important work done at a very good price. The vendor who does that for us is also doing important work.

Let us dive a little more into our numbers [page 5]. Whenever we need to put a contract for services into place, that is usually done through a request for proposals. We put those together with an agency and then vendors submit their proposals. We have an evaluation committee review the proposals, evaluate them, and score them. The contract is awarded to the highest-scoring vendor.

When an agency has a contract that is more than \$100,000, it is mandatory that they go through the Purchasing Division. If it is less than \$100,000, they can do the request for proposals on their own. The same is true for an invitation to bid for a commodities purchase. If it is more than \$50,000, the Purchasing Division has to do it. If it is less than \$50,000, the agency does it with oversight from the Purchasing Division.

Our numbers can vary through fiscal years, depending on which contracts come our way. We are currently working on something for Medicaid that will be a \$1 billion contract. That will distort our yearly numbers. In fiscal year 2021, under the invitation to bid for commodities, we have already purchased \$133 million worth of commodities, much of which is pandemic-related. We bought personal protective equipment, masks, and gowns for people. We have purchased commodities needed for vaccine distribution. We bought needles, gloves, and freezers to hold the vaccine. The commodities purchases are ahead of schedule for this point in the year because we have had a lot of spending to do for the pandemic.

These are the numbers for the people we have trained through our Certified Contract Managers course [page 6]. We have 245 this year. That has all been done online. The good-of-the-state contracts are put in place for use by all agencies. They can also be called statewide or master service agreements. We have quite a bit of spending on those contracts. We like to see a lot of spending on those. It is important that we notice which agencies are buying the same things. We put that together on one contract and use the combined purchasing power to try to get the best price for the state.

For fiscal year 2020, there was \$22 million in spending on the P-Card program and travel cards. We get a rebate on those cards; it was \$310,000 in fiscal year 2020. The travel card portion has dropped to basically zero with the pandemic.

Earlier, I mentioned the Excess Property Program. We have continued to take in property that is unused by state agencies and distribute it to other agencies. We have continued with holding auctions through our vendors. In fiscal year 2020, through the auctions of excess state property, we returned \$760,000 to state agencies.

Our legislative initiative for the upcoming session is <u>Assembly Bill 28</u>, which restores the inverse preference [page 7]. This is something that was in Nevada law from 2003 to 2009. It is a way of trying to help Nevada vendors win more contract awards. I can discuss that more when the bill comes before this Committee.

There is a bill draft request in the works that will do various things to our purchasing code. It will modernize it and create a debarred vendor list. This was recommended by the Executive Branch Audit Committee as a way to better manage our vendors.

That is the presentation I have. I am happy to answer questions.

Assemblywoman Anderson:

I have many questions, but I will stick with one. On page 3, you talk about the different businesses, and the number of Nevada businesses seems a little low or off. I am wondering about your bidding process, especially when it comes to our smaller businesses. How are the priorities for the Nevada businesses utilized in the bidding process?

Kevin Doty:

Thank you for the question. We handle the bigger solicitations and do not do anything that the smaller businesses would qualify for. We try to get as many Nevada vendors as possible. Unfortunately, we cannot legally award to Nevada-based vendors as opposed to a vendor based in another state. We do apply the 5 percent Nevada preference. That does move some awards to Nevada vendors.

We have a vendor outreach person. When that position became open a year ago, we hired Ray Sanchez. He is bilingual and used to serve in the Peace Corps. He has experience teaching computer skills to people in the Dominican Republic. He is a great person to have as a resource for Nevada vendors.

If you know of any Nevada-based vendors who are interested in doing business with the state, please send them our way. We are always happy to get them signed up into our system and provide them with whatever assistance we can.

Assemblywoman Anderson:

How long has that outreach for our smaller businesses been in effect? Is it just the one person who is doing the outreach for smaller businesses and minority-owned businesses?

Kevin Doty:

In the Purchasing Division, we have one person who is helping people get signed up. The real outreach comes from the Office of Economic Development of the Office of the Governor (GOED). The Office of Economic Development has people who do that for a living. A few months ago, GOED hired two people whose job it is to help Nevada vendors obtain government contracts. It is their full-time job to help Nevada vendors' contracts. We are in a position where we have to remain neutral in how we award contracts. We are still happy to sign up as many Nevada vendors as we can in hopes that we can award to them.

Assemblyman Matthews:

I have a question regarding the Excess Property Program. In fiscal year 2020, \$760,000 was returned to state agencies. Could this Committee get a breakdown of that information on an agency basis?

Kevin Doty:

I do not have the breakdown. I can ask the Office of Finance of the Governor's Office, which has the difficult task of trying to assign that money back to the agency that made the initial purchase. I can get that information and provide it to the Committee.

Assemblyman Ellison:

I have a question. You may have already answered it. We have a lot of businesses that are struggling in Nevada. Is there a preference that is given to the people in Nevada, as in the 1 to 5 percent bidding, but with purchasing? We are trying to keep the people in Nevada working. Is there any way to take them ahead of the people in other states? Could you answer that?

Kevin Doty:

Legally, we are allowed to grant a 5 percent preference to Nevada-based companies. The federal government does not allow us to do that on contracts that are funded with federal funds. Governor Sisolak has said numerous times that it is a priority for him to get more business to Nevada businesses. That is why we try to sign up as many Nevada vendors as possible. We try to help them through the process. Legally, that 5 percent Nevada preference is all we can do.

The legislation that I mentioned, <u>A.B. 28</u>, the inverse preference, gets a little complicated. I will explain how it works; there is a lot of math involved. In addition to a Nevada vendor getting the 5 percent preference, it would penalize out-of-state vendors if they are receiving preferences in their home states. If a Nevada vendor is going up against a California vendor and the California vendor is given a 10 percent preference, we would penalize the California-based vendor that same 10 percent. If <u>A.B. 28</u> is enacted, it should help result in a few more contracts being awarded to Nevada-based businesses.

Assemblyman Ellison:

Do you have any idea how many vendors in the state of Nevada get this preferential? I know that if you are using federal funds, then that is an issue, but what about the Purchasing Division? Do we have any idea how many people in the state qualify for this? We want to get these people back to work, and we want them to be able to hire. There are a lot of companies in Nevada that are good, but they are struggling.

Kevin Doty:

Currently, we have 2,700 Nevada-based vendors in our system. The 5 percent preference is based upon a company's headquarters. It is based on where a company's principal place of business is. As interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court, the principal place of business asserts

personal jurisdiction over a corporation. We have 2,700 potential Nevada-based vendors in our system.

I see many solicitations for highly specialized software that have health care or education applications and there are no Nevada-based vendors in that space. A lot of what we buy, goods and services-wise, is not from Nevada-based vendors, and I wish it were. When there are Nevada-based vendors, we do what we can to get them into our system and help them through the process.

Assemblyman Ellison:

I thought your presentation was good and it had a lot of good information that we can use in the future. Thank you very much.

Assemblywoman Considine:

I have a question about the minimum requirements for the vendors. Are there minimum requirements for wages or working conditions for approved vendors?

Kevin Doty:

We are bound to follow Nevada law. Minimum wage is required for all our contracts. It is standard in all our contracts that the vendor agrees to comply with all state and federal laws. It is grounds for breach of contract and canceling the contract if there is noncompliance with state and federal laws. If a vendor proposal is debarred, once the committee finalizes it, that would also be grounds for debarring a vendor in the future. These would include failure to comply with state and federal law about wage requirements, discrimination, and those sorts of things.

Assemblywoman Considine:

Are there any additional benefits if there are specific working conditions for any of the vendors? If they are environmentally friendly, do you give those vendors a little bit extra?

Kevin Doty:

We do not have anything currently in our law that gives a preference to a vendor based upon being environmentally friendly. We do have provisions in our law regarding how we give out the bid for contracts. We can favor environmentally friendly products. We can put in certain requirements that they have to be energy efficient. Currently, we have the option of buying electric vehicles and alternative fuel vehicles for the State of Nevada and have had those in our contract for years. I imagine we will be doing more of that. None of that is based upon a vendor and what they claim to be their environmentally friendly practice. It is based upon the products that we purchase from them.

Assemblywoman Torres:

Once again, thank you for the presentation. I do appreciate it. A number of my colleagues touched base on their commitment to getting hardworking Nevadans back to work. Which tools and resources are we providing to our vendors, individuals, or businesses so that they can learn the steps to the bidding process in becoming a vendor?

Kevin Doty:

That is where the emphasis should be. Legally, we are restrained in how we award the contracts. We can provide the 5 percent Nevada preference. The state can do more when it comes to getting people into the system, getting them registered, and helping them draft proposals and bids. I was happy to see GOED hired two people last fall to do exactly that.

I know some of what GOED is doing in respect to that. We work with GOED by attending vendor fairs in the state. That aspect has been a little restricted due to the pandemic. We have attended virtual vendor fairs. Every time GOED finds someone who is not in our system, we register them and help them through the process. At first, the process of trying to get awarded a government contract can be a little intimidating.

Since it is the government, we understand that there is going to be some more red tape than you would experience in the private sector. We try to put extra effort in trying to help Nevada vendors navigate that bidding process.

Assemblywoman Torres:

Has any outreach been done with Black and Brown businesses? Or businesses where English is not their primary language?

Kevin Doty:

One of our considerations in hiring Ray Sanchez is that he is bilingual. He can help us reach vendors that we have not reached in the past. We try to work through GOED because that is what they do for a living. They try to reach communities that we have not reached. It is difficult for smaller businesses to apply and qualify for a higher value contract. It is harder for new businesses to break into the request for proposals. That is one of the things that we have been working on with GOED. We are trying to teach new businesses from various communities how to negotiate and navigate our system.

Assemblywoman Martinez:

How long is the process to put a bid in? How long does it usually take?

Kevin Doty:

It varies. If we go out to bid for a simple commodity, it can be awarded a week later. That is very quick. It takes longer to do a bid for a complicated service, like something in the health care space. It could take a year to put the request for proposals together before we even release it. Once we release it, we give vendors a significant amount of time to respond. Sometimes we give them a couple of months to respond. A lot goes into the proposal and a lot goes into the evaluators' scoring the proposals. The process of the request for proposals being put out, the proposals being evaluated, and the proposals eventually being awarded can take six to nine months. This could also depend on how long it takes to negotiate and finalize contract terms with the vendor. That is always the last thing that is done and it can take some time.

Chair Flores:

Members, do we have any additional questions? [There were none.] Mr. Doty, thank you for your presentation. I appreciate the spirit of your questions. I appreciate the desire to make sure we are getting more locally owned businesses to come into the intimidating and complex bidding process for a government contract.

I think we are all in the same place of wanting to make sure we are helping, educating, and encouraging local businesses to apply. Whichever questions you were not able to answer, could you send that information to our committee manager or committee policy analyst? They will be sure to send it out to all the members.

We will close out the presentation from the Purchasing Division. We will move into the presentation from the State Public Works Division.

Ward D. Patrick, P.E., Administrator, State Public Works Division, Department of Administration:

Good morning, Chair Flores and members of the Committee. Presenting with me are Rick Kabele, Ron Cothran, and Brian Wacker.

The State Public Works Division, which is within the Department of Administration, consists of the Administrator, Buildings and Grounds, Compliance and Code Enforcement, Professional Services, and the seven members of the State Public Works Board [page 2, Exhibit E]. The director of the Department of Administration is Laura E. Freed. State Public Works is governed by *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) Chapter 341. Administration and control of state buildings, grounds, and properties are governed by NRS Chapter 331.

I would like to discuss the Division's purpose. It is summarized here [page 3] and in more detail in NRS 341.1405. The Legislature has determined what we do. We do planning, maintenance, and construction of public buildings. This is a specialized field that requires a high degree of skill and experience. It involves the expenditure of large amounts of public money. It involves public trust. The application of these services by state agencies with conflicting standards of performance would result in wasteful delays and increased costs. Planning, maintenance, and construction of buildings for the state should be performed by the State Public Works Division.

An introduction and overview of our presentation is as follows [page 4]. We will go over our vision, mission, and philosophy. We will talk about our organizational chart. We have 124 team members here at the State Public Works Division. Professional Services has many attributes. They develop the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which is planning. We implement the CIP through project management.

We will go over funding sources and will elaborate on extra efforts to acquire grant funding. The facility condition analysis program has been documenting the condition of state-owned

buildings since 1997. Later on in the presentation, the state building official duties will be provided.

An equally important part of the presentation is the section on Buildings and Grounds. We will discuss the essential facility management, the state's leasing program, and the historic Marlette Lake Water System. This system has been the only source of water for Virginia City since 1875.

Kent LeFevre, our state's architect, will continue the presentation.

Kent LeFevre, R.A., Deputy Administrator, Professional Services, State Public Works Division, Department of Administration:

Our mission and philosophy are that our state agencies will occupy exemplary facilities [page 5]. I will be showing a few examples of that throughout my presentation. Our mission is to provide well-planned, efficient, and safe facilities to state agencies so that they can effectively administer their programs. Our philosophy is that we work as a team to build consensus, take pride in our work, and serve with humility.

This is our organizational chart [page 6]. Our organization is led by our Administrator, Ward Patrick, and our seven-member board. The Building Official section is led by Rick Kabele. I lead the Professional Services section. The Buildings and Grounds section is led by Ron Cothran. Our support staff is led by Mikki Reed. In total, we have 124 full-time staff members in the State Public Works Division.

This page [page 7] features an image of the newly opened University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) William N. Pennington Engineering Building. This project was completed in August 2020. The building opened for the students in the fall semester. The project is fast becoming a flagship of the engineering program at UNR. The characteristic red brick and steel capture the architectural vernacular of the campus. The State Public Works Division is proud to add this structure to a long list of projects that meet the programmatic needs of the Department and are consistent with our vision of state agencies occupying exemplary facilities.

I would like to discuss the method used by the State Public Works Division to develop the CIP [page 8]. First, we receive agency requests by April 1 of even-numbered years. Last spring, the Division received over 900 initial requests. Second, the Division staff members are assigned to a host of projects. Our Division employees are seasoned industry professionals, architects, engineers, and other credentialed staff who oversee the day-to-day operations and implementation of the projects. Once the staff members have prepared a project estimate, they present their findings to a jury of peers to ensure project accuracy. Projects are reviewed by management and the agencies as they prepare presentations for our board. The State Public Works Division makes recommendations to the Governor by October 1 of each even-numbered year. Our staff supports the Governor's recommendation through the legislative session.

This page [page 9] features the newly completed Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in south Reno. This facility replaces the old DMV with more room to serve customers from the greater Washoe County area. The building's architecture was patterned after the East Sahara Avenue facility in Las Vegas. The facility complements its surroundings with native materials. It has granite boulders that offer visual interest for customers.

Our project managers follow our vigorous, 143-step checklist [page 10] from project inception to completion. This document ensures that steps are not missed and that statutes and industry best practices are followed. Projects are constantly tested to ensure that scope, budget, and schedule are maintained.

This page [page 11] is an image of the Speedway Readiness Center in North Las Vegas. This is another example of how buildings are designed, inside and out, to express the needs of the agency while respecting the surroundings of its neighbors. This facility was completed in October 2020 and now serves the Nevada National Guard.

Our Division coordinates with other state agencies and regulatory bodies through the course of a project's implementation [page 12]. This is a highly coordinated effort to ensure that buildings are safe and ready to serve their intended purpose. We coordinate with the State Fire Marshal Division within the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Business and Industry, and the Department of Health and Human Services, for example, culinary permits and health care facilities. The Division of Environmental Protection, which is within the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, does wastewater permits. We also work with the Division of State Lands and the Office of Historical Preservation in the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Here is another image [page 13]. It is an artist's rendering of the proposed University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) engineering and academic research building. It was in the Governor's recommendation for this CIP session. The building will be situated on the UNLV campus between the Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall and the Thomas T. Beam Engineering Complex. The project will include wet and dry labs, a makerspace, and smart classrooms. This project is slated to begin shortly after the session concludes.

The law allows for three different methods of delivering projects [page 14]. The first and the most traditional method is design-bid-build. This method is based on a low bidding environment. This method is appropriate for well-defined scopes of work. The second method is design-build. This method is a delivery process that places the contractor in control of the design and construction teams. The Richard H. Bryan Building in Carson City is an example of this. The third method is construction management at risk. This method brings the contractor and the architect together. They get together in the beginning of the project, the early stages of design. This project delivery method is best suited for complicated projects. The Division selects the best method to deliver a project based on that project's needs.

This brings me to CIP funding [page 15]. Projects are funded through general obligation bonds, highway funds, federal funds, and agency funds. This page [page 16] highlights several recent projects that benefited from federal funding sources.

I will turn the microphone over to Administrator Patrick to discuss how the Division actively pursues federal funding.

Ward Patrick:

I would like to discuss the special measures that the State Public Works Division has taken to acquire grant funding [page 17]. I would like to thank this Government Affairs Committee for combining Public Works and Buildings and Grounds. Without the collaboration of the various sections, a nationally competitive grant would not have been received. The City of Reno has met with us to learn which special measures the Division has implemented to acquire this grant and others like it. Clark County has requested our grant application as an example of what the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is looking for.

Project 19-C08, the Marlette Lake Dam resilience infrastructure project, had a nationally competitive grant that FEMA selected for Nevadans. The Federal Emergency Management Agency granted \$10 million. The Hobart Reservoir Dam is a planning project, an advance assistance project that FEMA granted funds for. The Division has applied for another \$10 million on this grant for Hobart Dam. We hope to learn the results of that application in spring 2021. Being awarded that planning grant will award us application selection points for the next grant. We are hopeful of receiving that second FEMA grant.

We proactively work with state agencies to identify opportunities [page 17]. We do this throughout the CIP planning process. Page 8 details that process. We assemble the grant procurement team and we determine each member's skills and duties for the application. This ensures that we get the absolute best application in front of the federal reviewers. We conduct weekly meetings to discuss the plan for the application of federal grants. The Division of Emergency Management of the Department of Public Safety trains potential applicants. We actively collaborate with using and regulatory agencies. We solicit early feedback and collaboration from reviewers. On both the Marlette and Hobart applications, FEMA visited the earthen dams and provided guidance. Developing these relationships is key to getting selected for these various competitive grants.

Federal grant requests in the current CIP [page 18] include the Department of Administration's Hobart Dam rehabilitation project for \$10 million. The Office of the Military has 22 projects in the CIP for \$40.7 million. The Department of Veterans Services has three projects in the CIP for \$6.4 million. The Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has three projects for \$1.8 million of federal funding. You can see that we have some fruits as some of the outcome of beating the bushes to get the projects for the State Public Works Division.

Brian Wacker, Project Manager III, State Public Works Division, Department of Administration:

I am going to present a brief overview of the facility condition analysis (FCA) program [page 19]. The FCA program fulfills statutory requirements to inspect and assess state buildings. The program was initiated in 1997. Since then, we have surveyed all buildings, except new ones, three times. When a building is built, we wait five to six years before surveying. Typically, a building does not require repairs when it is new. During an FCA survey, the necessary repairs are documented and then entered into a database in the office. The findings include the Americans with Disabilities Act recommendations, safety issues, and general repairs. The projects are prioritized for decision makers to use. The database contains a building inventory, replacement costs of those buildings, and the recommended repairs. The information about the buildings is used for facility planning. Facility planning often includes guidance on whether to repair or replace any particular building.

The FCA staff surveys over 2,300 buildings [page 20]. This is approximately 10.3 million square feet in building area. These buildings do not include the Nevada System of Higher Education buildings, the Department of Transportation buildings, or the legislative buildings. If you include these buildings, the total would be 4,000 buildings and 30 million square feet of building area.

The FCA program estimates the replacement costs and repairs needed for each building. The replacement cost of the 10.3 million square feet is approximately \$3 billion. Replacement costs are used by risk management for insurance purposes on these facilities. The repairs recommended in the FCA reports total approximately \$514 million. It is important to keep in mind that the estimated repair costs are for planning purposes only. The actual projects' costs will vary for those generated by the FCA program.

I will turn it over to Rick Kabele to discuss Building Official duties. Thank you.

Rick Kabele, Deputy Administrator, Building Official, Compliance and Code Enforcement, State Public Works Division, Department of Administration:

Our authority for the enforcement of the building codes adopted by the Legislature comes from NRS 341.145, subsection 2. Our section currently includes 18 members who work together to keep the ball rolling for construction programs up and down and across the state.

Our collective works include these principal elements. We receive and process the building permit applications, plans for construction, supporting submittal documents, and application fees. All these are processed through our electronic data management systems. The next vital step in our work is to review all of the construction plan submissions for code compliance. Ultimately, this will result in the approval of those documents and the issuance of the building permit to the applicant. As a project progresses into the construction phase, we respond to inspection requests that are submitted through a client portal to our permit management system. We then conduct those inspections as they are requested by the client. While they are at the site, inspectors review and assess other works that are in progress. If an inspector finds noncompliance, a notice of correction may be issued to the contractor. Upon

completion of the project, the building official issues a certificate of occupancy. There is a notice of final inspection for works within the previously approved building.

For the past three fiscal years, our section has been working to move away from a paper-based operating unit to an electronic processing system. With the onset of COVID-19, we were able to fully implement that process. This electronic processing has saved the State Public Works Division, design professionals, and our client agencies time and money. As a team, we provide twenty-first-century services to our client agencies, contractors, and internal partners.

Thank you for your time this morning. I will turn our presentation over to Mr. Ron Cothran, Deputy Administrator for Buildings and Grounds. He will present the diverse aspects of facility management for our state physical assets.

Ron Cothran, Deputy Administrator, Buildings and Grounds Section, State Public Works Division, Department of Administration:

The Buildings and Grounds Section, known as B&G, manages 1.8 million square feet of state-owned space [page 23]. The B&G team is knowledgeable in energy conservation, code compliance, and safety. The B&G team oversees and performs heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, electrical, plumbing, carpentry, heating, grounds maintenance, and custodial services. The B&G team manages state assets in the Capitol Complex in Carson City. They manage some buildings in Las Vegas and Reno. We manage the Capitol, the Governor's Mansion, the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, and DMVs.

Maximo is B&G's work order system [page 24]. It holds the equipment data and automatically generates work orders. Maximo lets the team know when to conduct preventive maintenance, maintenance, and equipment replacement. By performing preventive maintenance on equipment, the B&G team can save energy and prevent premature failure.

Leasing Services oversees 329 leases [page 25] that include all state agencies with the exception of the Nevada System of Higher Education, the Supreme Court, and the Legislature. They manage 1.8 million square feet of state-owned space and 2.1 million square feet of non-state-owned space.

Leasing Services fulfills the requirements of NRS 331.110 [page 26]. They locate new space for state agencies and inspect leased facilities. They also negotiate and manage leasing rates, the terms of the lease, and the tenant improvements, and they prepare lease contracts.

This page [page 27] is a picture of Marlette Lake located at 7,850 feet elevation. The statutory authority for the Marlette Lake Water System is NRS 331.160 through NRS 331.180 [page 28]. The Marlette Lake Water System is a historical system constructed in the mid-1870s. In 1963, the state purchased the system from the Curtiss-Wright Corporation for \$1.6 million. This page also features two historical pictures. On the left is Marlette Lake and on the right is the flume that transports water.

The system is funded by raw water sales purchased from Storey County and Carson City. The system receives funding and project management through the CIP and federal grants. Page 29 is a picture of the SolarBee located in Hobart that improves water quality.

These are pictures of the Lakeview Tank Site located at 7,100 feet elevation [page 30].

This page [page 31] shows the Marlette Lake Water System's prior CIP projects, dated from 2008 to 2017. There has been an increase in the current and recommended CIP projects. In fiscal year 2019 [page 32], the approved CIP projects were Marlette Lake Dam rehabilitation, the Marlette generator and controls replacement, pump modifications, and the Hobart Dam advanced planning. In fiscal year 2021, the recommended CIP projects are the Hobart Dam rehabilitation and the diversion dam controls replacement.

The future needs for the water system [page 33] are master planning that will include capital, operating, supervisory control and data acquisition, and a rate study. We also want to upgrade the East Slope catchments, replace the main generator, and upgrade the transmission lines at Sawmill and East Slope.

I would like to thank you for your time this morning. We would be happy to take any questions.

Assemblyman Ellison:

I have seen a lot of information that was in this presentation before. I do have one question. We have a lot of public land and buildings just sitting out there. Why are some of these buildings not set up for disposal or sale to create businesses? We should be moving these buildings to help some of the smaller industries or private businesses get started. How much do we have out there that could actually be gone for disposal?

Ward Patrick:

The question as I understand it is, Do we have any vacant buildings that have been vacant long term? This does not include some of the reduced capacities for the COVID-19 pandemic. Buildings and Grounds supervises 1.8 million square feet. A large number of those unoccupied buildings are historic in nature, are being held in a state of arrested decay, or do not meet the needs of the state. Some of those buildings include the former Stewart Indian School. There are approximately 300,000 square feet of buildings that are suitable and are being occupied by the state. Of those 300,000 square feet, 200,000 square feet are being utilized. The structural conditions are inhibiting the use of some of the other buildings. The old Nevada State Children's Home is also unoccupied within the Division. This building is on Fifth Street across from the legislative warehouse building. These buildings were funded for demolition back in 2007. That was removed due to the budgetary issues for the CIP. Those buildings are under consideration for demolition.

Another building in southern Nevada is the Bradley Building on East Sahara Avenue. It was built in the 1950s and is approximately 30,000 square feet. This building would require

significant structural upgrades to be brought back into use. We have very few vacancies in the other buildings. Our mantra for our program is that we fill state-owned buildings first.

As previously mentioned, there are 329 active leases. These continue to come up. There are usually between three and ten leases on the State Board of Examiners' agenda. Before we enact a new lease, we look for those spaces in our state-owned space. We see the amount of lease space is decreasing as we are maintaining the use of state-owned space.

I hope that answers your questions.

Assemblyman Ellison:

I know that the State Public Works Division had a lot of public land. I know they used to have a lot of small lots all over the place in Clark County. I do not know if they still do or not. If you have buildings set for disposal, why do you not put that out to the public or allow the public to tear them down or remodel them? It is better to get the tax rollback on the state's money. I think it would be pro-business to get rid of some of these and let us get tax dollars back into the state. This also helps the counties where these buildings are.

I hope you consider that. If I had a bill available, I would put one in for that. I hope someone will do that in the future. You want businesses and the state to get rid of the stuff that is just sitting there. They have to be torn down. You would be surprised what private industries can do to remodel and make businesses profitable. I hope someone will look at that in the future.

Chair Flores:

Do we have any additional questions? [There were none.]

Members, thank you for your questions, and thank you for the presentations. I am sure some folks will reach out as questions arise during the session. I would like to close out the presentation from the State Public Works Division.

Members, I want to remind you to give yourselves the opportunity to familiarize yourselves with all of the folks who are going to be presenting in front of you. Make sure you reach out to them and use them as a resource because they have an abundance of information and institutional knowledge that they can share. They can explain why certain things have been a certain way for so long.

At this time, I would like to go to public comment. [There was none.]

Before we adjourn, does anybody have any final thoughts or questions? [There were none.] Congratulations to our newly elected members who had the opportunity to ask their very first questions. Thank you for all of your attentiveness. I will see you all back tomorrow at 9 a.m. We are adjourned [at 10:45 a.m.].

	RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:
	Kyla Beecher Committee Secretary
APPROVED BY:	
Assemblyman Edgar Flores, Chair	
DATE:	

EXHIBITS

Exhibit A is the Agenda.

Exhibit B is the Attendance Roster.

<u>Exhibit C</u> is a copy of a PowerPoint presentation titled "Division of Human Resource Management Agency Overview," presented by Peter Long, Administrator, Division of Human Resource Management, Department of Administration.

<u>Exhibit D</u> is a copy of a PowerPoint presentation titled "Agency Overview," dated February 2021, presented by Kevin Doty, Administrator, Purchasing Division, Department of Administration.

Exhibit E is a copy of a PowerPoint presentation titled "State Public Works Division Agency Overview Presentation to the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs," dated February 3, 2021, presented by Ward D. Patrick, P.E., Administrator, State Public Works Division, Department of Administration; Kent LeFevre, R.A., Deputy Administrator, Professional Services, State Public Works Division, Department of Administration; Brian Wacker, Project Manager III, State Public Works Division, Department of Administration; Rick Kabele, Deputy Administrator, Building Official, Compliance and Code Enforcement, State Public Works Division, Department of Administrator, Buildings and Grounds Section, State Public Works Division, Department of Administration