



**OPENING STATEMENT**

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**Statement of Subcommittee Chairman Scott Perry (R-PA)  
OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCY Subcommittee  
House Homeland Security Committee**

*Driving Away with Taxpayer Dollars: DHS's Failure to Effectively Manage the FPS Vehicle Fleet*

Remarks as Prepared

The Federal Protective Service (FPS) has an important mission to protect Federal facilities including Federal employees, contractors, and visitors at those facilities. FPS secures approximately 9,500 facilities nationwide. Watchdogs have released numerous reports in recent years criticizing how FPS has managed its contract guard program and conducted facility security assessments. In October, the Inspector General released a scathing report titled "The FPS Vehicle Fleet Is Not Managed Effectively." The report reads like a laundry list of poor management decisions.

According to the Inspector General, FPS wasted over \$2.5 million dollars in fiscal year 2014 on its vehicle fleet due to numerous management failures. Specifically, FPS management did not justify the need for more vehicles than officers; use of larger sport utility vehicles; officers' authorization to drive from home to work in the Washington D.C. area; and discretionary equipment added to vehicles. FPS leased over 100 vehicles more than it had officers. And that's after every single FPS officer was assigned a vehicle. I'm sure sheriffs and chiefs of police back home in Pennsylvania would love to have such a budget.

In addition, FPS chose to lease more expensive sport utility vehicles even though 2013 component guidance stated that a sedan was preferred. FPS could have saved over \$1 million dollars had it used sedans as opposed to SUVs. FPS officials explained that the larger capacity was needed to store officer equipment. However, the IG found that most officers did not have a majority of the equipment stored in their vehicles. In fact, some of the equipment wasn't even issued.

Another management failure was the lack of justification in allowing officers in the National Capital Region (NCR) to drive from home to work. Officers in the NCR drove more miles in their government issued SUVs commuting than actually performing their assigned duties and failed to accurately report whether their mileage was justified. The IG found that, in certain instances, on-duty activities were reported as after-hours responses. The report also found that FPS overpaid an estimated \$35,000 in monthly charges for equipment packages that added extras, such as bike racks and wireless security systems, for the vehicles.

The IG stated that FPS made "ad hoc, undocumented decisions" regarding its vehicle fleet and was "not in compliance with Federal and departmental requirements." FPS failed to put rigorous controls in

place to prevent waste and the limited safeguards that were in place were not followed. Officers did not appropriately document their mileage and almost all of FPS's records did not match records in the General Services Administration's (GSA) system. In 25 cases, FPS reported vehicles having negative mileage. I'd like DHS and FPS to explain to the Members how a vehicle has negative miles. Director Patterson has signed a new policy to address some of the IG's findings and intends to put new systems in place to better oversee the use of FPS vehicles.

But the American taxpayer deserves much better. Washington bureaucrats may wonder why this Subcommittee is holding a hearing on an area that is such a small part of DHS's overall budget. The management failures outlined in the IG's report demonstrate a culture of waste by DHS regarding taxpayer money. That is reprehensible and unacceptable. Since the IG only reviewed one year of data, it's safe to say FPS wasted millions more in previous years; maybe even tens of millions. Putting a new policy in place doesn't cut it. DHS must hold employees that waste taxpayer dollars accountable. Every dollar wasted on mismanagement is one less that goes to actually protecting the public. The American people will not stand for such management malpractice.

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