

to take it out in the dark and the wind and the rain and pick someone up off of the top of a roof as has been done by the troopers with this equipment. So, it is just a matter of, I'll drive my 1967 Chevy to Lincoln, but I wouldn't want to start to the west coast with it and I think that is about the same thing that we have here.

SENATOR KOCH: Have you personally reviewed the helicopter under the State Patrol's jurisdiction?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, I have, Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: And, you find it to the point that we can't modify this at a cost that is more reasonable than bringing in a new piece of equipment.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I have reviewed the equipment, Senator Koch. I have asked for the exact figures from the manufacturer that would cost to update the equipment. For example, there is a major component over haul that is due within the next five months that will cost at least \$3,500. There is an engine component over haul that is due within about two and a half months that will cost about \$3,000. The engine itself will have to be replaced within the next four to five years and very likely before that, at a minimum cost of \$30,000. As I said earlier it will cost at least \$10,000 to update the avionics on the aircraft and without that update the aircraft does not perform as satisfactorily as it should. In addition as is the case with all older equipment, there will inevitably be breakdowns that will occur which will cause the equipment to not be available for emergency service as it has been in the past. I believe that based upon the fact and Col. Karthaus agreed with me, that the equipment is not used for routine work whatsoever. Not as much perhaps as I would like to see it used. It is used almost entirely for emergency services. If we do not update the aircraft, I would suggest that we have updated it several times in the past to extend its life to ten years, that we are not in keeping up with the intent of the legislation that established the aircraft. I think that, you know, we do not have any automobiles ten years old with the patrol and it is unreasonable to expect the troopers to handle this equipment at the best possible performance ratio unless we do something, and I suggest that we trade the equipment.

SENATOR KOCH: One final question, Senator Schmit. Would you suggest that the state, if you think that ten years is the life of a helicopter, in terms of top performance and safety, that every ten years should seriously think about trading in the existing equipment and obtaining the newest equipment?