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Inside the U.S. Capitol Police Budget

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The U.S. Capitol Police budget for the current year is about a half-billion dollars, less than some of the biggest police departments in the country, but more than police departments in cities such as Dallas, San Antonio and San Jose, reports USA Today. Most of the money goes to pay the 2,300 officers and civilian employees. Much of the agency's activities, however, are excluded from the federal Freedom of Information Act. The budget shows allocations for general expenses, which includes equipment, but the details are unclear. Between 2000 and 2008, for example, \$64 million was set aside for "security enhancements." The budget has steadily increased almost every year, with the most recent increase from \$462 million to \$516 million — a hike of more than 11 percent. "It doesn't seem to be a lack of money that was the problem here," said Chris Edwards, the director of tax policy studies at the Cato Institute. "It was probably a management and training failure."

A bill awaiting legislative action in New York would bar police deception in the interrogation room and require courts to evaluate the reliability of confession evidence before allowing it to be used. It would end a dangerous practice, says John Jay College psychology professor Saul Kassin.