

GSP office opening in Gwinnett

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Gwinnett.

LAWRENCEVILLE -- The Georgia State Patrol will soon have a new home in

County officials approved a lease Tuesday on a 2,530-square-foot facility along Interstate 85.

According to the terms, the county will pay about \$30,000 a year, with the price increasing slightly each year, on the Duluth facility at 1645 Pleasant Hill Road, which formerly housed the Edwin Watts Golf Pro Shop. The officers are expected to begin the patrols in April.

The expense is worth it, Chairwoman Charlotte Nash said, compared to the cost in personnel for more than 30 officers, which the state is paying.

"Any additional public safety presence we have in the county is a boon to all of us," Nash said, adding that the arrangement is typical in other counties.

The state patrol previously announced an increased presence along the 33 miles of Interstate 85, part of a Department of Transportation effort to more quickly clear accidents scenes and improve traffic.

"It's good for us to be part of that experiment," Nash said, thanking the agencies for working with the county, as well as the local sheriff. "That means our police officers are free to do something else."