

MCSO CBAC



Multnomah County Sheriff's Office CBAC

TO: Chair Deborah Kafoury and County Board of Commissioners (5 pages)

FROM: MCSO CBAC

DATE: April 18, 2019

SUBJECT: Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) Report and Recommendations

Executive Summary

As the Sheriff's Office CBAC, we are pleased to see Sheriff Michael Reese's collaboration with other County Departments, the cities within our County, criminal justice system partners, and our community to jointly address issues, which in the long run will result in greater efficiencies and service excellence. For quick context, the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) employs 800 members and the Agency is organized into the following three (3) Divisions; it is their privilege to serve the people of Multnomah County:

- *Corrections (Facilities and Services):* The primary goal is to provide compassionate service, which encompasses safety and security. Members manage the day-to-day operations of two facilities – referred to as MDCD and MCIJ - while building a collaborative work environment alongside the support, program, and medical staff. Members work directly inside correctional housing units and actively engage with those in custody allowing for effective management of facility populations and responsiveness to emergent needs.
- *Law Enforcement:* The primary goal is to provide around-the-clock professional law enforcement services that ensure the fundamental needs for safety and livability are provided for everyone within our diverse communities. Members patrol both urban and rural areas, responding to nearly 6,000 calls for service, across more than 280 square miles of land and 110 miles of waterways. Law enforcement members also serve the nearly three (3) million visitors who annually travel to Multnomah County to take in its natural beauty.
- *Business Services:* The primary goal is to provide internal professional support to the Sheriff's Office, ensuring that Corrections and Law Enforcement have necessary and appropriate tools to perform their jobs. The Division encompasses the Fiscal Services, Planning and Research, Training and Information Technology and Enforcement Support Units.

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Process

MCSO recognizes the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) as a community engagement effort to independently review and make recommendations about the efficient and fair distribution of Multnomah County Sheriff's Office operational and budgetary resources, so as to reinforce public confidence in County-government.

MCSO was pleased to welcome back CBAC members and warmly welcomed Ted Tosterud, to fill a vacancy created by term limit. Last year MCSO facilitated meetings, tours of MCSO facilities and arranged for CBAC members to participate on ride-alongs in anticipation of making budget recommendations. Similar educational opportunities were extended to CBAC members this year.

From October through April, the CBAC membership and MCSO management convened four (4) meetings to discuss MCSO finances, operations and to draft a Report with FY 2018-2019 budget recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.

Emerging Issues & Changes

MCSO's CBAC began its budgetary review by going back to basics, asking the question "what is the role of public safety in the County?" We upheld that at its core, our public safety mission is to establish safe communities, because without fundamental levels of community safety, all of the County's initiatives to help residents succeed and thrive are threatened to fail. The important work done by our partner County agencies, including the health care programs, homelessness initiatives, equity efforts simply cannot work in neighborhoods where individuals and families are under constant threat of being victimized. With the challenges faced by the Chair's direction to produce reduction to the FY 2019 MCSO Budget, the MCSO CBAC struggled on how to do so without significantly impacting service levels.

We spent much of our time together considering the role of public safety and promoting and fostering equity. Public safety is an equity issue – the vast majority of victims of crime in Multnomah County are people from vulnerable populations: people of color, families in poverty, and new immigrants. Moreover, the burdens of crime are felt disproportionately by these vulnerable populations. An example of this can be illustrated by a stolen car. The theft of a vehicle may be an inconvenience for those fortunate enough to have financial resources. For many of our neighbors, a stolen car means no way to get to a job, to your home-bound mother, or to education. The resulting job loss, lost schooling, or inability to appropriately care for family members have consequences that can have a greater impact on people from on vulnerable populations.

Multnomah County has an admirable track record of building initiatives designed to lift up our neighbors and help our most vulnerable citizens succeed. But current budgetary constraints have already threatened to undermine our ability to provide the basic level of public safety necessary to foster success of other vital County and community initiatives. In its ideal form, public safety programs can provide people the *second chance* for opportunity to succeed. Increasingly across the nation, in times of budget constraints, incarceration is viewed essentially as a program of catch, release and catch again but MCSO

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is dedicated to the principle of *success* for people who become justice-involved and to break the cycle of recidivism.

While alternatives were discussed, the CBAC remains very concerned that existing budgetary restraints are undermining our efforts. For example, matrix releases have frustrated our efforts to provide people with the second chance they deserve to succeed, nearly half of those released by matrix have been re-arrested after release and many are in addiction treatment readiness program, which means that instead of going for warm handoff to treatment, they are matrixed out, undercutting efforts to connect people with the services they need for recovery and success. The CBAC believes that further budgetary reductions significantly decrease MCSO’s ability to maintain the basic level of public safety that our neighbors expect and that supports the success of key County initiatives.

Recommendations

MCSO implemented an internal budget process to compile recommendations for this year’s budget. The Sheriff met with his Executive Team, Command, and union representation to identify ways in which to meet the 2.0% constraint. Feedback among these stakeholders was prioritized across the Executive, Business Services, Corrections and Law Enforcement Divisions, before seventy-eight (78) program offers were collectively submitted, complete with restraint and add-on requests, to the Multnomah County Chair and her Budget Office. The following table represents the outcomes of this effort, which were reviewed within MCSO’s CBAC:

Program No.	Program Name	Amount	FTE	Status
60445-19	Close Street	\$1,320,592	8.00	Restraint
60410D-19	Turn Self-In Program	\$ 255,015	2.00	Restraint
60100-19	Executive Office Undersheriff Position	\$ 176,831	1.00	Restraint
60521-19	In-Jail Human Trafficking	\$ 191,108	1.00	Restraint
60540-19	Homeless Outreach and Programs Engagement	\$ 317,643	2.00	On-Going
60251-19	Ballistic Vests (OTO)	\$ 213,125	0.00	One-Time-Only
60111-19	Background Investigators	\$ 193,472	2.00	One-Time-Only
60316-19	MCDC Suicide Prevention -Lighting/Window Covers	\$1,000,000	0.00	One-Time-Only

Specifically, CBAC recommendations are as follows and in priority order:

1) (OT) #60445-19 - Close Street Supervision **\$1,320,592**

This program is slated to be eliminated due to the 2.0% reduction; however, the CBAC, along with MCSO, advocates that it is retained. This program keeps offenders in pretrial out of the jail, thus keeping scarce jail beds available for other offenders. This is a highly successful program, which should continue to be funded.

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- 2) (OT) #60410D-19 - Turn Self-In Program **\$255,015****
MCSO's CBAC believes this is a valuable program which allows for convicted individuals to serve their time on weekends, which allows for them to continue employment and provide for their families. Impacted adults remain as contributing community members and are held accountable at the same time. We recommend that this program be continued.
- 3) (OT/Ongoing) #60540-19 - Homeless Outreach and Programs Engagement (HOPE) Team **\$317,643****
Last year this was a new effort by MCSO and this year's request to continue the Team is supported by performance measures. The program offers interaction with the homeless population throughout the County, and provides people living outside with assistance and not enforcement. Ensuring the homeless have positive encounters with law enforcement allows them to feel safe and get connected to proper services. This program is a lynchpin in the region's efforts to address homelessness and not continuing funding for it will leave a huge gap in other agencies' abilities to collaboratively address the issues of homelessness felt in our community. We recommend that this Team effort be continued and respectfully request that the County funding for homelessness be considered as a funding resource for this program.
- 4) (OT) #60521-19 - In-Jail Human Trafficking **\$191,108****
The CBAC believes any reduction in support for this cause will be detrimental. Human trafficking as an issue is complex and tragic for its' victims, resulting in long-term implications for the community. The CBAC does not support any reduction to this program.
- 5) (OTO) #60316-19 - MCDC Suicide Prevention – Cell Lighting & Window Covers **\$1,000,000****
Adults in custody have and will continue to make attempts at self-harm, thus this requested capital improvement aims to limit options for this behavior. The Program Offer reflects information vetted by the Department of County Assets (DCA), but is being requested by MCSO. The CBAC supports funding for this improvement.
- 6) (OTO) #60111-19 - Background Investigators **\$193,472****
MCSO currently has three (3) background investigators on staff and two (2) that are temporarily providing additional capacity. This request would ensure the two (2) positions continue their work in the coming year, as they are critical to meet hiring demands that address succession planning.
- 7) (OTO) #60251-19 - Ballistic Vests **\$213,125****
Funding for this critical equipment has been requested before, as this is an annual vest replacement expense. Because each year approximately one-fifth of the MCSO members' vests require replacement, the CBAC recommends that this annual purchase will be sustainably funded on-going and not with one-time resources.

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Acknowledgements

As Chair of the MCSO CBAC Committee, I, Dwight Holton (SE Portland), would like to extend special thanks to my fellow Committee members for volunteering their experience and expertise, including Jim Lasher (Fairview) as Past-Central CBAC Chair, Ted Tosteroud (Fairview) as our newest member, and Dana Fuller (Wood Village), Shannon Olive (N. Portland), and Kezia Wanner (SE Portland) for their continued service this year. Together, we wish to thank Sheriff Michael Reese, for providing us access to MCSO members, facilities and records.