



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Jason Simpson, City Manager

Prepared by: Shannon Buckley, Assistant City Manager

Date: September 24, 2024

Subject: Amendment No. 3 - Agreement with County of Riverside Sheriff's Department for Law Enforcement Services

Recommendation

Approve and authorize the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 3 with the County of Riverside Sheriff's Department to perform law enforcement services per the fee and terms noted in the agreement and in such final form as approved by the City Attorney.

Background

For many years, the County of Riverside Sheriff's Department has provided the City of Lake Elsinore with law enforcement services. The existing five-year contract is from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2025.

Since 2010, the City's overall daily patrol service hours for law enforcement have remained the same due to budget constraints and rising service costs. However, in recent years, the City has experienced an increase in quality of life concerns due to legislative changes that have limited law enforcement's ability to hold people in jail, resulting in a growing homeless population throughout California.

In October 2017, the City Council authorized an Amendment to the City's law enforcement agreement with the County of Riverside to expand our levels of services to include an additional Deputy Sheriff Community Patrol Officer to address a variety of issues related to improving safety and the overall quality of life in Lake Elsinore.

Lake Elsinore voters approved Measure Z in November 2020, effective April 1, 2021. Hiring additional law enforcement officers in the City is the direct result of Measure Z and our City's commitment to preserving the highest levels of public safety.

Amendment No. 3 Agreement for Law Enforcement Services

Amendment No. 1 shows the City currently employs 44 sworn police officers. Positions include 1 Motorcycle Sergeant, 2 Special Enforcement Team Officers, 4 Motorcycle Officers, 1 Lake Patrol Officer, 2 Traffic Accident Investigation Officers, 1 Special Enforcement Officer Parks, 2 Community Patrol Officers, 6 Community Service Officer IIs, and 25 Patrol Officers (at 132 hours per day).

Amendment No. 2 shows the City currently employs 45 sworn police officers. Positions include 1 Motorcycle Sergeant, 3 Special Enforcement Team Officers, 4 Motorcycle Officers, 1 Lake Patrol Officer, 2 Traffic Accident Investigation Officers, 1 Special Enforcement Officer Parks, 2 Community Patrol Officers, 6 Community Service Officer IIs, and 25 Patrol Officers (at 132 hours per day).

Discussion

Like many jurisdictions throughout the state, the City has had to find ways to address an increase in homeless activity that has subsequently led to increased citizen complaints and calls for code enforcement and law enforcement services. These calls for service include complaints regarding public feedings, panhandling/solicitation, thefts, assaults, trespassing, and debris located at homeless encampments.

Measure Z funds will allow the City to hire one additional officer for the Burglary, Robbery, and Suppression Team (BRST) to provide more community support.

The overall annual increase for FY2024-25 is \$955,650 from the prior year's \$17,744,030 and covers the cost of salaries, equipment, uniforms, and training. Addressing law enforcement needs is the first phase of appropriating Measure Z funding for this Fiscal Year. The County has provided the City with a schedule of contract staffing costs (Exhibit "A") to the Law Enforcement Agreement for City Council approval.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact is approximately \$18.7 million and will be reflected in the City's Annual Operating Budget during the agreement term. Any necessary changes for the fiscal year will be made as part of the mid-year review process.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Amendment No. 3
Agreement Exhibit A - Level of Service
Attachment 2 – Amendment No. 2
Agreement Exhibit A - Level of Service
Attachment 3 – Amendment No. 1
Attachment 4 – Original Agreement