

Division: Law Enforcement Division

Program Characteristics:

Program Description

The Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) River Patrol Unit collaborates with the Oregon State Marine Board, the Port of Portland, and the United States Coast Guard to provide safe commercial and recreational access and passage to the County’s 110-miles of waterways along the Columbia River, Willamette River, Sandy River, and the Multnomah Channel. The River Patrol Unit provides law enforcement and search and rescue services to all river, lake, shoreline and island locations in Multnomah County, including numerous county moorages, marinas and houseboat communities.

River Patrol Deputies respond to all life-threatening marine calls for service, such as boat collisions, drownings, missing persons, suicidal individuals, and environmental hazards. The River Patrol Unit is also challenged with addressing abandoned and derelict vessels in and near the waterways of Multnomah County. Deputies collaborate with various marinas and associations that work, live, or recreate on the rivers to address the concerning livability issues along the rivers. Deputies provide boater safety education, including youth water safety and working with Metro to facilitate a life-jacket station at the Columbia River boat ramp.

It is crucial for the local economy that cargo vessels carrying consumer products, transport these goods in a timely and efficient manner. Safe and thriving waterways contribute to a flourishing economy and access to work, cultural, and recreational activity for all.

The River Patrol Program:

- Provides proactive patrol services for Multnomah County-area waterways
- Promotes boating and water safety
- Issues warnings and citations to ensure safe operation of port and waterways

Equity Statement

MCSO River Patrol promotes equitable access to safe waterways by serving all communities, including houseboat residents and unhoused individuals. The Unit uses a collaborative approach that emphasizes inclusion, cultural responsiveness and reduces barriers, so every community member feels protected.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	2026 General Fund	2026 Other Funds	2027 General Fund	2027 Other Funds
Personnel	\$2,442,214	\$871,365	\$2,858,966	\$678,529
Contractual Services	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$142,000	\$45,000	\$170,000	\$190,131
Internal Services	\$488,665	\$3,491	\$624,417	\$3,001
Total GF/non-GF	\$3,078,879	\$919,856	\$3,659,383	\$871,661
Total Expenses:	\$3,998,735		\$4,531,044	
Program FTE	8.50	4.00	9.50	3.00
Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$849,856	\$0	\$801,661
Other / Miscellaneous	\$0	\$45,000	\$0	\$45,000
Service Charges	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
Total Revenue	\$0	\$919,856	\$0	\$871,661

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY25 Actual	FY26 Estimate	FY27 Target
Hours of community water safety education	101	102	110
Number of community members issued boater examination reports, warning, and citations	1,167	2,259	2,300