

Division: Law Enforcement Division

Program Characteristics:

Program Description

The citizens of Oregon have designated certain activities be regulated in support of a safe and livable community. One of these activities is MCSO’s Alarm Program which administers and manages the reporting of legitimate and false alarms. False alarms are subject to penalties in an effort of reduce the number and unnecessary responses by law enforcement. The Program presently manages approximately 8,000 alarm customers, issuing burglary and robbery alarm permits for both residential and business customers located in unincorporated Multnomah County as well as in five cities located in East Multnomah County.

Effective alarm use management increases the probability that the alarm calls that law enforcement responds to will be valid alarm calls. Additionally, reducing false alarm calls conserves scarce public safety resources by reducing the time that law enforcement officers respond to false alarms. The program includes penalties for the reporting of false alarms, which motivates alarm customers to properly maintain their equipment and exercise sound alarm-use practices. False alarm response is an inefficient use of law enforcement time and resources and presents potential safety concerns for innocent citizens and law enforcement, as a result of an armed response.

This unit continues to provide alarm education outreach to the general public to focus particularly on those who install their own alarms to ensure they know the laws, are compliant, and have information on maintaining alarms for optimum safety. Making this information accessible to everyone is a priority for the Sheriff’s office.

The Alarm Program:

- Issues new and renews existing alarm permits for both residential and business customers
- Responds to false alarms and administers applicable penalties

Equity Statement

The Alarm Program equitably serves residents and businesses across diverse communities by ensuring fair access to permits and education on alarm use.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	2026 General Fund	2026 Other Funds	2027 General Fund	2027 Other Funds
Personnel	\$0	\$190,164	\$0	\$198,984
Contractual Services	\$0	\$55,000	\$0	\$54,038
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$29,006	\$0	\$25,000
Internal Services	\$0	\$36,709	\$0	\$32,857
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$310,879	\$0	\$310,879
Total Expenses:	\$310,879		\$310,879	
Program FTE	0.00	1.50	0.00	1.50
Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$0	\$170,879	\$0	\$170,879
Other / Miscellaneous	\$0	\$140,000	\$0	\$140,000
Total Revenue	\$0	\$310,879	\$0	\$310,879

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY25 Actual	FY26 Estimate	FY27 Target
Number of alarm events	3,078	3,300	3,400
Number of alarm permits (new & renewed)	6,410	7,000	8,000