

MCSO CBAC

TO: Chair Deborah Kafoury and County Board of Commissioners (3) pages
FROM: MSCO CBAC
DATE: April 12, 2017
SUBJECT: Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) Report & Recommendations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Sheriff's Office is constitutionally required to provide 24 hour/7 day a week service to our population who are in crisis within Multnomah County. The Sheriff's Office is usually the first point of contact for individuals who are distressed and in need of social services or mental health assistance. With a 2% constraint cutback throughout the county departments, this can lead to placing a person in need of assistance within the jail system which is not the proper place for the individual.

We believe that proper partnerships between county departments will not only reduce jail populations, but keep our jail system from being the largest mental health facility in the state.

We welcomed the revised structure that Sheriff Reese has made to the Department and his striving to have his employees reach out to those in need. We are pleased to see Sheriff Reese's collaboration with other County Departments, the cities within our County, other local law enforcement agencies, and our community partners to jointly address issues which may, in the long run, result in greater efficiencies and lower costs.

MCSO CBAC PROCESS:

The Citizens Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) to the Sheriff's Office is a program of Multnomah County. The seven member body of citizens is a valuable tool to both the Sheriff's Department and the Board of County Commissioners for independent input for the programs.

We usually meet once per month for 10 months over the year. This year had a slow start because of the input from the Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC). Therefore, we have met five times during this budget preparation cycle.

We have met with Sheriff Reese, Chief Deputy Jason Gates – Enforcement, Chief Deputy Michael Shults – Corrections, and Chief Art Balizan – Business Services. At each meeting, we have also received the assistance of Stephanie Prybyl – Chief of Staff, and Wanda Yantis – Fiscal Manager. The Sheriff's Office has also arranged for this committee various tours of the facilities and “ride a longs” with deputies.

Members: Dana Fuller (Wood Village), Dwight Holton (SE Portland), Jim Lasher (Fairview), Shannon Olive (N. Portland), Phyllis Thiemann (Corbett), Kezia Wanner (SE Portland, Naoki Yoneyama (SW Portland) **Staff:** Stephanie Prybyl

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EMERGING ISSUES & CHANGES:

This CBAC, along with the Sheriff's Department and the Multnomah County Commissioners, view two important issues as priorities. One is the homeless and identifying ways to address the issues associated with this ever increasing population, and the other is the mental health/substance abuse of those in our county's jurisdiction. The Sheriff has stated his concern over these issues. We believe that the new program offers address these issues.

The 2% cuts being applied to the budget again look healthy on paper, but to a County Department charged to provide for safety, to assist with homelessness and mental health, and must be staffed 24/7, this is not realistic without detriment to the core services that MSCO provides. Unforeseen safety issues, such as acting as the backup police agency during unplanned protests in our neighboring areas and the increasing need for coordination around homeless, mental illness, and addiction, drives all costs higher. The County Commissioners have a difficult job in balancing the County's budget in a time where the demands on the County are increasing and the resources are inadequate to fund core services at current service levels and the new initiatives.

When asked for a 2% reduction to the fiscal year 2018 budget, this led the Sheriff's Department to identify reductions that amount to about \$2.43 million dollars from their current budget, which included four existing programs. In looking at new requests, this CBAC felt that two of the four existing programs should be restored and three new programs should be funded in order to meet the needs of the county's current priorities. These additions amount to about \$1.92 million dollars, which means that the Sheriff Department reduction is about 20% of total budget reductions requested of all departments by the County Chair.

Members of this CBAC have had the opportunity to review the various reports on the Jail System, which includes the Multnomah County Grand Jury report. The Sheriff's Department prepared two program offers to assist in satisfying the report recommendations, but they were not submitted as they would only increase requested funds and take away from funds needed to meet the current county concerns.

Our specific recommendations are as follows, in priority order:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. 60043B - Close Street Restoration \$482,730

This program is slated to be eliminated due to the 2% reduction; however, we along with the Sheriff's Department, feel that it should be retained. This program keeps offenders in pretrial out of the jail, thus keeping our jail beds, which are always scarce, available for other offenders.

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This is a highly successful program, which should continue to be funded. This is an out of target offer which is supported by performance measures.

2) 60049A - Mental Health – MCDC Behavior Health Team \$592,764

This is a new offer which we feel will meet some of the counties priorities. This will help channel those who are arrested and do have a mental health or substance abuse problem into proper services of care. This takes the collaborative efforts of other county departments and will help in addressing an important crisis facing our county. This is an out of target offer which is supported by performance measures.

3) 60083A – Safety Net - Homeless Outreach (HOPE) Team \$305,602

This is a new program proposed to offer interaction with the homeless population in our area of responsibility. This is meant to be of assistance and not of “you are under arrest”. This will allow the deputies to assist the homeless in getting the proper services and feeling safe. This is an out of target offer which is supported by performance measures.

4) 60083B – Safety Net - Gun Violence Reduction Team \$305,602

This is a new program offer to collaboratively work with other law enforcement agencies and stakeholders to reduce gun violence through tracking and identifying gun usage. We believe that the county will see a reduction of the number of firearms reaching gangs, hopefully reducing suicide attempts, and ending with the agencies educating our public on gun safety. This is an out of target offer which will be supported by performance measures.

5) 60034D - Self Turn in Program \$235,553

This is also scheduled to be eliminated due to the 2% reduction. Again, we believe this is a valuable program which allows for convicted individuals to serve their time on weekends, thus allowing them to continue their employment and providing for their families. They can remain valuable community members, and at the same time serve their punishment. We recommend that this program be continued. This is an out of target offer which is supported by performance measures.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

This committee would like to thank Stephanie Prybyl, Chief of Staff; Art Balizan, Chief of Business Services; Wanda Yantis, Fiscal Manager, and Corinne Eshbaugh for their support during this budget process. They went above and beyond to provide answers and documentation to our questions. We also want to thank Chief Deputy Jason Gates, and Chief Deputy Michael Shults for hosting our meetings at their facilities. A special thank you to Sheriff Michael Reese for taking time out of his valuable schedule to talk with us.