

# Gresham Police Department

April 2026

I want to provide an updated overview of the Gresham Police Department's current budget proposal and the staffing context that continues to shape our operational capacity.

First, the initial FY proposal does **not** include reductions to any sworn or professional staff FTEs. In fact, we are fortunate to be adding two police officer positions and one Community Safety Specialist. These additions are funded through the Local Option Levy that voters approved a little over two years ago.

It's important to acknowledge how significant this progress is. Between 2018 and 2020, Gresham Police experienced substantial budget cuts that reduced our staffing and limited our ability to maintain specialized and proactive functions. Thanks to the levy, we have been able to rebuild and return to our pre-COVID sworn FTE levels—something that would not have been possible without that dedicated funding.

Even with these gains, staffing remains our most persistent challenge. We currently have eight vacancies, and since 2020 we have consistently hovered around a vacancy rate of more than ten percent. This level of turnover and unfilled positions continues to strain our ability to provide the full range of services our community expects.

As many of you know, we suspended our specialty teams in 2021 due to staffing shortages. While we have restored some functions, we have not been able to bring these teams back in full. This continues to limit our capacity for proactive and specialized work.

In addition, the City adopted a zero-based budgeting approach this year and directed all departments to reduce spending in areas such as supplies, materials, technology, and fleet. These reductions will have noticeable impacts. For our department, this means we will need to streamline our technology use, prioritize essential purchases, and demonstrate strong stewardship in how we manage supply needs and staff professional development.

We will continue to monitor staffing trends closely and keep partners informed as the budget process moves forward. Please reach out if you have questions or would like additional detail.

Respectfully,

Travis,

*Chief of Police*

*Gresham Police Department*