

Multnomah County Sheriff's Office CBAC

TO: Chair Deborah Kafoury and Board of County Commissioners 5 pages

FROM: Sheriff's Office Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC)

DATE: April 30, 2020

SUBJECT: Sheriff's Office Budget Advisory Committee Report & Recommendations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Beginning November 1, 2019, we have participated in five meetings operating as an advisory committee to MCSO. The focus of the meetings has been to evaluate MCSO operations, challenges, and opportunities, with the ultimate goal to inform MCSO's FY 2021 Budget. MCSO has engaged with the CBAC in a spirit of transparency and collaboration. We have heard from Sheriff Reese about his vision and priorities for MCSO, received presentations from members of the MCSO Executive Team about their respective areas of responsibility and have had the chance to obtain additional information, including ride-alongs and site visits, to inform our understanding of MCSO's organization and operations. Ultimately, the Sheriff's Office looked to the CBAC for input to establish budget priorities and navigate the current and future budget challenges.

EMERGING ISSUES & CHANGES

Some of the services of particular interest to us include alternatives to incarceration options, including the highly effective Close Street Supervision program; ensuring equity and diversity is reflected in the MCSO organization and the services provided; and continuation of services provided to the adults in MCSO custody.

Additionally, we would like to articulate our specific support for the following collective priorities:

- Adjusting MCSO staffing to meet the current operational demands. Currently MCSO is operating at staffing levels that have been static for more than a decade although the mandated workload, and associated costs, have grown significantly during that time.
- Allocating the US Marshal reimbursement funding directly in the MCSO Operating Budget, which comports with sound financial practice.
- Funding to support smart capital budgeting and build replacement funds for asset replacement, specifically related to vehicles, equipment and technologies. Additionally, purchase and maintenance of safety equipment must be a priority including the current and pressing need for replacement corrections radios, tasers and ballistic vests.

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- Restoration of the critical positions of two River Patrol Deputies, two Facility Security Officers, and one dedicated Gun Dispossession Sergeant that have been cut in prior years to meet budget constraint targets.
- Appropriately fund MCSO to perform suicide watch, medical transport and hospital watch, and new state training requirements. The funding will support a workload that is significantly underfunded.
- Funding for the mandates resulting from legislative decisions, which include requirements regarding Public Safety Wellness Programs/Policies, State Corrections Funding and new DPSST training for Corrections personnel.

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

Does MCSO CBAC have any input for the Board of Commissioners on any of the following core values that Chair Kafoury outlined in her communication?

Some concerns we have are related to the Multnomah County Business Tax, in that implementation would create additional challenges to the business community, specifically to small businesses that are struggling with the COVID-19 impacts. A suggestion is to raise cut-off exemptions for small businesses or create a sliding scale.

Financial Stability: Increase contingency and fully fund reserves so we're able to weather possible unexpected revenue changes in FY21.

Additionally, we have general concerns about the projected impacts of the financial crisis on the County and the impacts on the Sheriff's Office, specifically. We recommend that the County prepare now for constrained resources, which includes active participation at the state legislature to seek state solutions to some of the regional and local financial challenges created by COVID-19. One of our specific recommendations is that any current year underspending go into contingency reserves for next year to mitigate FY21 mid-year cuts.

Applying an Equity Lens: Using an equity lens to prioritize what programs and investments are maintained, restored and expanded (where feasible). Communities and individuals most impacted by this COVID-19 pandemic as well as historical and institutional inequities must remain at the center of our efforts.

In the next year, the County should prioritize spending that will benefit the low income and less fortunate citizens that reside in Multnomah County. The increased Business Income Tax resources should go to programs and projects that directly affect the citizens.

A specific equity consideration for the Sheriff's Office is to ensure that funding and staffing are made available to maintain East County Courthouse (ECC) functions. It is an equity issue because the ECC serves the needs of the people that live in East County who will be impacted the most by the current and future financial crisis. We recommend that the Board ensure that

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continuation of critical services is provided to those living in East County, as this area has disproportionately high percentages of poverty, immigrant populations, and people of color.

Social Services Safety Net: Where there are opportunities, shift funding to create more opportunities to strengthen the health and human services safety net that will be so critical to how we support our community during COVID-19 and in the recovery.

Recognizing and assisting people who live on the social margins is a key priority for the MCSO CBAC. We also want to highlight the MCSO services that serve vulnerable individuals. For MCSO this includes the out of custody services and rehabilitative programming provided by the Corrections system, as well as the Law Enforcement investigative functions such as gun dispossession, child abuse investigations, and domestic violence investigations. The Board should prioritize the continued support for these MCSO services that directly serve vulnerable populations.

Public Safety: Working with public safety partners across the region to ensure the continued support and transformation of our justice system.

We recommend that the Corrections system, including Corrections Health, is provided with the appropriate funding to function throughout the COVID-19 crisis, and make any adjustments that may be needed after the crisis has subsided. We expect that the justice system may look different, and some aspects may contract and some may expand, in response to the crisis.

We particularly support the continued funding for domestic violence, child abuse, and sex trafficking investigation and prevention, as these services are critical during periods of hardship. We also would like to stress the importance of investigative and enforcement services directed toward the business community and maintaining a safe community, as during this time of the COVID crisis, underutilized and vacant businesses and community facilities are becoming targets for crime.

Economic Recovery: Actively partner with jurisdictional and other partners on ways to provide relief and spur economic growth for individuals and families impacted by COVID-19.

The economic recovery will almost certainly mean decreased financial resources for the County and MCSO, but there will still be the expectation that the County and MCSO continue to provide the same levels of service. It is particularly important at this time that the Board capitalize on, and further develop, system and governmental partnerships, including legislative strategies, to prepare for future financial challenges ahead.

Would you add any core values and/or are any values of highest priority to our CBAC?
Please reference the core CBAC priorities at the start of this letter.

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Which communities and/or constituencies does the MCSO CBAC expect to experience the most significant impacts due to COVID-19?

The populations most impacted by the COVID-19 crisis will be victims of domestic violence, child abuse, and human trafficking; those from marginalized communities; as well as businesses large and small. We are concerned about the vulnerable individuals who are unable to leave an abuser/exploiter. We recommend that the Board provide both MCSO and the DA the resources to support these critical justice system services.

What programs and services would your CBAC recommend that the Board of Commissioners hold harmless from any potential cuts required due to the impacts of COVID-19?

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For MCSO, what programs and services does your CBAC see as most critical in COVID-19 recovery?

Some of the priority programs include the Close Street program, Human Trafficking, and the Corrections rehabilitative programs. We understand that many treatment providers cannot operate right now and are not able to provide treatment/support services. MCSO should ensure that the programming for adults in custody remains available at the current levels, if not expanded.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The CBAC evaluated the MCSO Program Offers using multiple criteria, including fiscal responsibility, equity, liability, innovation, and service delivery. Some of the specific priorities that emerged from the CBAC's evaluation were the programs that most supported wrap-around services for adults in the judicial system, which specifically for the Sheriff's Office include the Close Street Supervision Program and the Navigator Program. Additionally, the CBAC placed high value on Program Offers that supported safety for the MCSO members in performing their work, which include the Taser, Corrections Radios and Ballistic Vest out-of-target Program Offers.

1. 60445 Close Street Supervision Program \$1,258,949

We believe that the Close Street Supervision Program is one of MCSO's highest value programs, as it provides a viable alternative to jail pre-adjudication. The Close Street Supervision Program has been shown to lessen reliance upon jail beds, and provides accountable supervision to those who are in the program. The Close Street Supervision Program has proven success and we support the program expansion.

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2. 60251A Tasers \$379,000

We support funding for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$379,000 to replace obsolete Tasers to avoid equipment failure. The model in use in the jail facilities is no longer manufactured or supported by the vendor. Tasers are essential safety equipment for both Corrections Deputies and Deputy Sheriffs.

3. 60251B Ballistic Vests \$100,523

We support annual funding of \$100,523 for ballistic vests for MCSO sworn members. The vests are critical safety gear for MCSO sworn members, and have a life-cycle replacement of five years. MCSO historically has received grant funding to purchase replacement vests, but in recent years, the grant funding has not been available.

4. 60302 Jail Radios \$698,625

We support funding replacement radios for jail personnel. The handheld radios used at the jail facilities are at the end of life and no longer supported by the vendor. The radios are critical safety and communications equipment used by MCSO personnel working in the facilities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We, the members of the MCSO CBAC, take our responsibility to inform the MCSO and Multnomah County budgets very seriously and are glad to have an opportunity to provide input during the budget process. We appreciate the difficult work of the Board of County Commissioners to make critical decisions that impact the lives of every person who resides, works, and visits Multnomah County.

Dwight Holton, Chair

Diane McKeel

Christy Owen

Patrick Pangburn

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