



J. Steve Sheldon, Sheriff

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Dear Commissioners:

The Richland County Sheriff's Office respectfully submits the following budget for fiscal year 2025. Our request may not be sufficient to accommodate unanticipated expenses such as major critical incidents, large scale acts of God or unforeseen circumstances.

We have compiled a budget essential for the effective day-to-day operations of the Sheriff's Office while maintaining an acceptable level of safety, not only for our Deputies, Correction Officers, Civilians and 9-1-1 Dispatchers, but also for the citizens and visitors of Richland County.

As we identify ways to be more efficient, I commend our employees who continue to perform at a high level. We submit our budget requesting additional funding to add a part-time Evidence Technician, to the Law Enforcement budget, an investigator to be assigned to the Jail for both internal and inmate investigations and additional funding to provide a contracted part-time medical clerk, to the Jail budget, while maintaining expected levels of continuity of services throughout the remainder of the Office. For this to occur, it is important the salary line items be calculated with all authorized positions funded. Specifically, the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) and School Resource Officers (SRO) positions. The SROs are funded through the school year by the respective schools with the summer wages to be funded by the Board of Commissioners. The current SRO contracts are in place through June of 2025 and we anticipate the renewal of all SRO contracts. The CSEA Deputies continue to be funded at up to sixty-six percent (66%) of the hours worked completing contracted work along with the associated equipment costs for the hours worked. The remainder of their salary and equipment would continue to be funded by the Board of Commissioners. We continue to include the funding of the Environmental Deputy through our contract with Solid Waste Management.

As a change to all three budget salary line items, we would like to begin the process of prorating the Fiscal Officer, Payroll Officer and Administrative Officer's personnel costs based on the work they perform for each budget area of our Office. This will allow for a more accurate accounting of the budgeted costs for the respective budget areas.

With the approval of the Tyler Public Safety Project the legacy maintenance costs for public safety systems (CAD/RMS/JMS/Mobile) will be transitioned from the Auditor's budget to our Contract Services line items. We anticipate the yearly cost to be approximately \$175,000 Office wide. Additionally, our Contract Services line item has been increased to cover the yearly maintenance cost of the Body Camera/Digital Evidence contract with Axon. The Office wide



cost for 2025 will be approximately \$49,000.00. Each of our budgets (Law Enforcement, Corrections and 911) have been adjusted accordingly.

We have requested the purchase of six (6) new cruisers to maintain an effective rotation of our Law Enforcement fleet. This would include (5) five marked cruisers and (1) one unmarked cruiser. The new cruisers would be replacing cruisers ready to be rotated out of our fleet. The estimated cost per equipped marked cruiser is \$73,000 per vehicle while the unmarked cruiser is estimated to cost \$55,000.00.

The projected retirements in the LE Division, for calendar year 2025, are an estimated liability of \$158,000.00. There are no projected retirements from the Jail or 911.

The budget request for the Jail is an operating budget to maintain the Bureau of Adult Detention "Compliant Jail" status and additional requests for a detective to be assigned to the Jail for investigations. Our requests pertain mostly to retention and hiring as staffing is a critical need in the jail. Please see the itemized lists we have attached explaining our requests for the Jail.

The budget request for 9-1-1 is attached. Our request is to maintain the currently authorized staffing of three (3) Dispatch Supervisors and thirteen (13) Dispatchers. Equipment and services line items remain relatively unchanged, other than the aforementioned services increase to accommodate the Tyler Public Safety Project.

In light of Union Negotiations for all bargaining units in the Fall it is likely that this will affect our Salary Request line items.

My staff and I are open to meeting with the Board of Commissioner's at any time, if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve".

J. Steve Sheldon