



*J. Steve Sheldon, Sheriff*

*Richland County Sheriff's Office & Civil Division  
597 Park Avenue East • 2nd Floor  
Mansfield, Ohio 44905  
Phone: 419-774-5881 Fax: 419-522-8153  
Civil Office: 419-774-3570*

October 09th, 2025



Dear Commissioners:

The Richland County Sheriff's Office respectfully submits the following budget for fiscal year 2026. Our request may not be sufficient to accommodate unanticipated expenses such as major critical incidents, large scale natural disasters 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 continue our dedication to efficiency, I commend our employees who continue to perform at an exceptional level. We submit our budget requesting to maintain current approved staffing levels as to continue levels of continuity of services throughout the Office. Additionally, we have increased our salary and associated benefits to reflect the increases based upon the negotiated increases.

### **Law Enforcement Budget**

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. It should be noted an additional SRO was approved and added to serve at the Clear Fork Local Schools. 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 2026 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 CSEA 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.

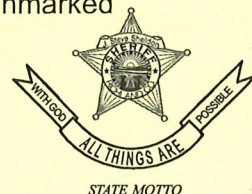
There are two projected retirements within the Law Enforcement Division. If both would retire, we estimate their payouts at approximately \$115,000. In total, we have (5) five Law Enforcement employees eligible for retirement next year with a total liability of approximately \$306,000.

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

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**Richland County Jail**

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Phone: 419-774-5678 Fax: 419-774-5646



cruiser. The new cruisers would be replacing cruisers ready to be rotated out of our fleet. The estimated cost per equipped marked cruiser is \$74,000 per vehicle while the unmarked cruiser is estimated to cost \$56,000.00.

We have decreased our Equipment line item and transitioned these funds to our Contract Services line item. This is due in large part to our transition to Axon and Tyler Public Safety service agreements accounting for ancillary items such as repairs and batteries of associated equipment. The remainder of our Law Enforcement line items have been slightly increased to account for increased cost of services.

### **Jail Budget**

The budget request for the Jail is an operating budget to maintain the Bureau of Adult Detention "Compliant Jail" status with a substantial increase in our Equipment and Maintenance line items. This would include an estimated \$550,000 for a Kitchen update project, to include projected increased cost for food services while the Kitchen would be closed, \$160,000 for a new body scanner to replace the current model which they are no longer producing replacement parts, \$25,000 for a key control system and \$40,000 to replace (4) four exterior security doors. We have also increased our Maintenance line item by approximately \$50,000 for additional routine maintenance updates that will be transitioned to our budget from County Maintenance. The Kitchen project would include; new flooring and drains, a new dishwasher, new commercial sinks and new cooking equipment.

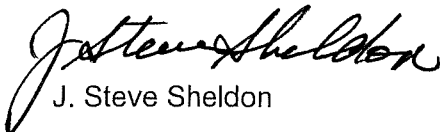
The remainder of our Jail line items have been slightly increased to account for increased cost of services.

### **9-1-1 Budget**

The budget request for 9-1-1 is attached. Our request is to maintain the currently authorized staffing of (16) sixteen Dispatchers. The remainder of our 9-1-1 line items have been slightly increased to account for increased cost of services.

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

Respectfully,



J. Steve Sheldon