



PIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AGENDA MATERIAL

Chris Nanos, Sheriff

DATE 8/21/23

ITEM NO. RA12

1750 East Benson Highway, Tucson, Arizona 85714-1758

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August 17, 2023

Honorable Chair Adelita Grijalva and
Members of the Pima County Board of Supervisors
33 N. Stone Avenue, 11th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

RE: Pima County Sheriff's Department Budget

Dear Honorable Chair and Members Pima County Board of Supervisors:

This correspondence is to summarize the underfunding of our General Fund (GF) budget due to the actions by the Board and County Administration. The department is expected to face severe financial challenges in this fiscal year due to these recent decisions:

1. \$2,325,000 – Supplemental package to request additional funding for operating supplies and services for inflation was not approved.
2. \$2,140,948 – Vacancy savings adjustment was reduced from our recommended budget.
3. \$336,228 – Benefits for the state's retention and recruitment payments were not added to our adopted budget.

The above items totaled \$4,802,176 in underfunding and will likely result in a GF deficit for this fiscal year. These resources were set aside in the county's fund balance reserve (i.e., contingency) instead of increasing our department's adopted budget. This budgetary approach ensures that there is money available to pay for expenditures; however, it creates an inaccurate picture and misleading narrative of the Sheriff's financial management. In other words, the actual expenditures will be charged to the Sheriff's GF, BUT the budget for these costs is preserved or retained by County Administration. Therefore, the Sheriff will continue to face future scrutiny and criticism for "overspending" its adopted budget. This data is also disclosed in the county's annual financial statements.

The ongoing impact of inflation and the state's payment benefits were not unforeseen or unexpected circumstances; it is a present reality, and our budget should have been adjusted to reflect these current operating needs. In addition, the department's headcount has and should continue to rise this year due to its recruitment efforts, pay increases, and economic conditions. Therefore, the vacancy adjustment of \$2.1M, which was based on 180+ vacancies in March 2023, was significantly overstated and invalid due to anticipated new hirings and staffing levels.

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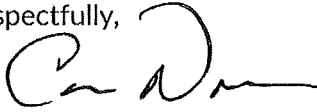
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Sheriff Nanos' Letter to the Pima County Board of Supervisors
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In summary, the strategy deployed by the county in setting the department's budget is inequitable, disregards existing factors, and misrepresents our financial results. The county should officially vote to revise our adopted budget by \$4.8M or allow the department to charge any excess GF costs (labor, supplies, services, etc.) that are above the adopted budget directly to the fund balance reserve or contingency. The Sheriff should not be held accountable for these overages when the budgeted resources are being held in reserve by County Administration.

I look forward to addressing the Board at its Monday, August 21, 2023 meeting. Thank you for your careful review.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Nanos', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Nanos
Sheriff of Pima County

CN:cgv

c: Jan Leshner, Pima County Administrator
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works and Economic Development
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer, for Health and Community Services
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator for County Operations Administration
Monica Perez, Chief of Staff