



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Grant Yates, City Manager

Prepared by: Nicole Dailey, Senior Management Analyst

Date: October 24, 2017

Subject: Amendment No. 1 – Agreement for Law Enforcement Services with County of Riverside

Recommendation

Authorize the City Manager to execute the amendment to expand the City's level of service to include an additional Deputy Sheriff Community Patrol Officer in such final form as approved by the City Attorney.

Background

The County of Riverside Sheriff's Department has been providing the City of Lake Elsinore with law enforcement services for many years. The current agreement covers the period of July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2020.

Since 2010, the City's overall level of service for law enforcement has essentially remained the same due to budget constraints and the rising costs for services. In recent years, the City has experienced an increase in quality of life concerns due to legislative changes that have limited law enforcement's ability to hold people in jail resulting in a growing homeless population throughout California.

The City, like many jurisdictions throughout the state, has had to find ways to address an increase in homeless activity that has subsequently led to an increase in citizen complaints and calls for service for code enforcement and law enforcement. These calls for service include complaints regarding public feedings, panhandling/solicitation, thefts, assaults, trespassing and debris located at homeless encampments.

Since early 2014, the City and the Lake Elsinore Police Department have taken a proactive approach in dealing with homeless activity and the effect it has on the overall quality of life for our residents and businesses. Key areas of success include addressing public feedings in City Park and partnering with property owners to quickly and effectively break up and clean up homeless encampments.

In May 2017, the City Council authorized the creation of a Homeless Task Force of staff and community stakeholders eager to join the City in its efforts to reduce homelessness.

Discussion

To tackle many of these quality of life issues taking place in the City and to assist staff in engaging the community, it was determined that additional staffing support was needed. Staff discussed these needs among the Police Department and we agreed it would be advantageous, overall, for the City to add an additional sworn officer to serve as a Community Patrol Officer that could also perform enforcement services when needed. Proposed duties for this position include, but are not limited to the following tasks:

- Engage and collaborate with the community and city related to quality of life issues including homelessness, neighborhood watch, and crime free programs.
- Plan, coordinate and attend meetings as a representative for the City and Police Department.
- Work closely with the business community to promote and reinforce the programs and resources available to empower the business community to address crime and quality of life concerns.
- Conduct presentations for community groups, as requested, regarding quality of life issues, programs and successes.
- Gather information and conduct research on potential initiatives and new programs for consideration by the city.
- Collect, analyze and share data related to quality of life issues.
- Organize and participate in special events as directed by the city and/or the Police Department such as National Night Out.
- Serve as a liaison between the City and Police Department regarding new programs, municipal codes and enforcement efforts.
- Manage the Lake Elsinore Sheriff Station's Facebook page to promote the Station's successes and encourage community engagement.
- Develop and maintain positive working relationships with the community, businesses, and city staff.
- Going out into the community with Code Enforcement for quality of life sweeps related to encampment clean-ups and/or municipal code enforcement sweeps.

This position will serve as a much-needed liaison between the City and the Police Department on a variety of issues related to improving the safety and overall quality of life in Lake Elsinore.

Staff believes this dedicated resource will be invaluable to the City for existing and future programs that require law enforcement input, support and authority. Examples include Homelessness, Crime Free Programs, Neighborhood Watch, and Code Enforcement Sweeps.

Amendment No. 1 (Exhibit A) expands our levels of service to include an additional Deputy Sheriff Community Patrol Officer through June 30, 2020, at the Unsupported Dedicated Compensated rate of approximately \$170,000 per year. This position can be used for other needs in future years, such as patrol, should the City's needs change.

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department has already begun taking the steps necessary to add this new position, if approved, to fill the position for the City as soon as possible.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact is approximately \$170,000 and will be reflected in the City's operating budget annually during the term of the agreement. Any necessary changes for Fiscal Year 2017/2018 will be made as the mid-year review, however, due to existing vacancy of a community service officer position and based upon historical actual costs, we believe the cost will be within the existing appropriation.

Exhibits

- A – Amendment No. 1
- B – Original Agreement