

Memorandum
City of Lawrence
Police Department

To: David Corliss, City Manager
From: W. Ronald Olin, Chief of Police
cc: Diane Stoddard, Asst. City Manager; Cynthia Boecker, Asst. City Manager
Date: April 17, 2009
Re: Police Department 2010 Budget Submission

As requested, I am submitting the 2010 Police Department Budget proposal per the guidelines set forth by Ms. Cynthia Boecker and Ms. Casey Toomay.

I recognize that the economic times are very difficult, and the City has limited financial resources to meet the ever growing service demands of the citizenry. These limits also require the City to exercise expenditure restraint. I have a strong responsibility to request sufficient budget resources to provide a reasonable level of service to the public and to properly maintain the fragile infrastructure that supports the provision of police service. The task of restraining the non-salary budget line items to the desired 2009 budget level was very difficult and comes with great short and long term consequences.

The Police Department undertook an internal budget preparation process that produced an initial budget proposal that included moderate funds to properly operate the department at a reasonably high level of efficiency. Some of the amounts were considerably higher than the 2009 budget level. Most of the difference in the non-salary line items was in Capital Outlay requests, many of which have been deferred for a number of years. Aside from the Capital Outlay requests, the amount of excess over the 2009 non-salary budget level was approximately \$141,000. More than \$113,000 of this increase was accounted for by the increase in estimated Prisoner Care costs at the Douglas County Jail.

The desired 2009 budget level was achieved through the major reduction of the following non-salary line items:

Capital Outlay requests: (vehicle replacement & new equipment)

1 patrol car (\$23,028);
1 traffic car (\$23,028);
4 detective cars (\$88,855);
1 motorcycle (\$20,000);
1 special events vehicle (\$25,000);
replacement of 14 mobile data computer systems (\$84,000);
1 emergency generator (\$105,000);
HVAC improvements at ITC (\$105,000);
Architectural and design fees for
renovation of east side of ITC
(\$41,000);
Architectural & design fees for evidence processing &
storage facility (\$100,000);
Exterior maintenance projects at ITC (\$75,000);
contribution to replacement reserve for in-car video systems (\$35,000);
1 new fingerprint scanner (\$35,000); and ¹

Equipment required for NIMS certification of tactical operations (\$75,000)

The reduction of vehicle replacements further accelerates the inevitable period of time when the aging fleet of vehicles will be inoperable or so maintenance intense that the repair costs surpass the cost of the requested replacements.

Likewise, the replacement and maintenance of mobile data computers is essential for daily patrol operations.

In the event of a catastrophe at the LEC, the ITC is designated as the location where all emergency coordination will be assembled. The ITC is not equipped with an emergency generator and will not be able to support the assembled emergency staff should auxiliary power be needed. The emergency generator has been a requested Capital Outlay for the last few years as well as HVAC improvements and renovation of the ITC.

The reduction of requested NIMS compliant equipment for tactical use will prohibit the City from being FEMA reimbursed should tactical assistance be needed during a federally declared emergency. Certain required pieces of equipment and training are needed to become NIMS certified at an operational level.

Other line items:

Prisoner care – Reduction of \$75,663 to \$274,545 (assumption is that # of prisoner days will be the same as in 2007 rather than in 2008);

Equipment under \$5,000 – Reduction of \$18,812 to \$91,188 (the lowest level since the year 2000);

Conferences & Seminars – Reduction of \$7,900 to \$11,000 from \$18,900. Funding levels for training are typically one of the first casualties of budget reductions. To meet the 2009 budget levels, training funds had to be reduced significantly. In a recently published statement from Martin J. Mayer, General Council for the California Police Chief's Association, Mayer writes, "The United States Supreme Court has held, "inadequate police training may form the basis for a civil rights claim against the city where the failure to train amounts to deliberate indifference to the rights of persons that police are likely to encounter ... The focus must be on the adequacy of a training program in relation to the duties the officers are expected to perform ..." [City of Canton Ohio v. Harris, 489 U.S. 378 (1989)]. As the economy worsens, police officers will come in contact with more and more otherwise peaceful citizens who are experiencing higher levels of stress and showing a new propensity for violence. Now, more than ever, police officers need to be highly trained and not have the budgets that provide valuable training reduced;

Tuition Reimbursement – Reduction of \$4,500 from \$12,000 to \$7,500; (2007 actual was \$18,213);

Equipment Repairs – Reduction of \$12,000 from \$62,000 to \$50,000 (2008 actual was \$55,233); and

Various Others (16 Line Items) – Total reduction of \$55,300 from \$361,720 to \$306,420 (these reductions have varying consequences in terms of their impact on operations...some can be more easily accommodated than others).

The "Reduction" column amounts are simply 5% reductions from the "2010 Request" column levels in each non-salary line item. Such a budget level for 2010 would even more severely impact our ability to serve the public in a manner expected by the community.

I will be pleased to provide any further clarification beyond that set out in our budget submission. Thank you for the opportunity to present our 2010 budget requests.