

# City Council Item

March 21, 2022



<b>Item</b>	2021/2022 Law Enforcement Contract Overview & Highlights	
<b>File No.</b>		<b>Item No:</b> F.3
<b>Agenda Section</b>	<b><u>FIRE DEPARTMENT/LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE</u></b>	
<b>Prepared By</b>	Laurie Hokkanen, City Manager	
<b>Reviewed By</b>		

<b><u>SUGGESTED ACTION</u></b>  Informational Item only.	
<b>Motion Type</b>	N/A
<b>Strategic Priority</b>	Operational Excellence

## **SUMMARY**

An overview of issues that the City Council would like to be aware of related to the Contract for Policing Services.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Chanhassen contracts with the Carver County Sheriff's Office for Police Services. The city typically approves the annual contract in December. In 2022, the total value of the contract is \$1,907,380.

## **DISCUSSION**

### Staffing

In 2021, the Carver County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) experienced an overall turnover rate of 40%. This necessitated changes in the scheduling of Deputies assigned to Chanhassen and some long-term

vacancies. The city received a refund/credit for \$195,121.55. The most significant gaps were in the lack of FT School Resource Officer, which has been covered by the Investigator assigned to Chanhassen since the fall of 2021 and is projected to continue through the end of the 2021-22 school year. The staffing shortage is also reflected in the annual calls for service. Fewer personnel and hours worked resulted in less time available for Deputy initiated activity. The CCSO projects a more stable staffing situation in the latter half of 2022.

#### Projected Future Contract Costs

The contract rates did not increase from 2021 to 2022. The City has been notified that contract rates are expected to increase by 7-10% in 2023 and 10-12% in 2024 due to increased wage rates. Carver County expects the more competitive wage offerings to help address retention and recruitment efforts and stabilize staffing.

#### Dispatch Study

The City of Chanhassen partnered with the City of Chaska and Carver County to contract with Fitch & Associates to conduct an Emergency Communications Center Study (often referred to as the Dispatch Study). Key findings that the City will be involved with going forward include acquiring MDC units for fire vehicles and the designation of the City Manager to serve on a newly created Policy Advisory Board.

#### Call Prioritization

In 2022, there will be a shift in call response and division of labor between police and fire. During the day, additional full-time fire staffing allows a guaranteed response for calls for service, replicating the paid on-call duty crew model after 6 pm. Covering more hours with dedicated response personnel has allowed us to absorb the CCSO's desire to limit response to some medical calls when the fire department is staffed. This cooperative approach is an efficient way to allocate resources and is an innovative approach to add a public safety response more focused on the community's needs. This will be particularly beneficial when CCSO is short staffed, and in the long term should increase the unencumbered law enforcement time for proactive public safety efforts.

#### New Technology

The CCSO explored partnering with City residents who have personal home security cameras at the City's request. The CCSO has selected SAFECAM as the preferred system and will pilot the program in Chanhassen in mid-2022.

#### Minnetonka Middle School West (MMSW)

Traffic congestion at MMSW continues to be a concern for parents and the traveling public. The District contracted for a Student Resource Officer (SRO) in the previous school year, which helped to address the traffic need but was not efficient for the District or the CCSO. This year, Chanhassen contract deputies have assisted as they are able in the afternoons. The planned roundabout project will help, but not completely solve, the issue. More information and effort will be coming on this issue in 2022.

#### Encryption

Sheriff Kamerud notified the City of his intention to encrypt most police communications in 2022. The project is on hold as the Minnesota BCA and FBI clarify their Security Policy Standards Directive. The City is interested in the impacts of encryption on the Fire Department and has engaged with the CCSO about the desire also to encrypt fire communications at some point. The estimated cost to do so is \$80,000. As more information becomes available, the City Council will be engaged to discuss policy and budget decisions.

## **BUDGET**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

## **ATTACHMENTS**

[9 PM Routine](#)

[2021 Overtime Report](#)

[2021 Contract Credit](#)

[2021 Emergency Communications Center Study, Fitch & Associates](#)

[2021 Emergency Communications Center Presentation, Fitch & Associates](#)