



AGENDA ITEM: 11B

Date: March 13, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM TITLE:

LASD Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission (Commission), through its Budget Ad Hoc Committee, has been monitoring the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (LASD or Department) Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 departmental budget priorities and unmet needs. Consistent with the Commission's oversight responsibilities and the Commission's 2025 Strategic Plan, staff reviewed LASD's submitted budget priorities, Sheriff Luna's presentation to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors ¹(Board), and public comments received following the Sheriff's presentation.

Accordingly, Commission staff recommends that LASD continue publishing its fifth month written budget status report on its website and that the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and the Board approve select LASD FY 2026-27 Budget Priorities and Unmet Needs, including the requests for funding to support: Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) System Modernization (Priority #1); Body-Worn Camera Expansion in Custody Operations (Priority #28), the Century Regional Detention Facility Boiler Project (Priority #35), and the LASD Wellness Center (Priority #4).

BACKGROUND:

The Los Angeles County budget is developed through a year-round process that includes departmental budget requests, a presentation of the recommended budget by the CEO, public hearings, and final budget deliberations by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, with multiple opportunities for public participation throughout the process. ² Departmental budget instructions for FY 2026-27 were issued to all County department heads on December 15, 2025.³ The LASD was required to submit its budget request to the CEO by January 7, 2026.⁴ These submissions inform the development of the County's Recommended Budget, which is presented by the CEO to the Board in April. Public hearings occur in May, followed by budget deliberations

¹ Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, *Board Meeting Transcript*, February 17, 2026. Presentation by Sheriff Robert Luna regarding LASD budget priorities. Retrieved from https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/sop/transcripts/1202392_021726.pdf

² Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, *Learn About the LA County Budget*, YouTube video. Retrieved from <https://youtu.be/lhRz3lWcA1I>

³ Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office. (2026). *Departmental Budget Instructions*. Retrieved from https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/ceo/dbi/1081338_DBI Cover Memo.pdf

⁴ Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office. (2026). *2026-27 Recommended Budget Submission Due Dates*. Retrieved from: https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/ceo/dbi/1018572_BudgetSubmissionDueDates.pdf

and changes in June, supplemental budget adjustments during the summer months, and adoption of the final County budget in October.⁵ During the FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27 budget cycles, the County's budget development process occurred within a broader fiscal context marked by ongoing budgetary pressures. On July 29, 2025, the Board directed the CEO to provide regular public updates on the County's budget, including potential impacts to County staff, contracted providers, and service delivery.⁶

Since 2020, the Commission's Budget Ad Hoc Committee has monitored and reviewed the LASD's annual budget prioritization process. In carrying out this role, the committee reviews LASD's budget proposals, gathers information, conducts analysis, and considers stakeholder feedback and public comment to inform recommendations to the Commission and other County decision-makers.⁷ In the past two fiscal years, the Commission's Budget Ad Hoc Committee has convened to receive presentations from LASD subject matter experts regarding departmental budget priorities and unmet needs. The Committee has also hosted educational conferences to inform community members about LASD's budget priorities and unmet needs and to provide opportunities for the public to submit feedback.⁸

PRIOR BUDGET AD HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

During the FY 2025-26 budget cycle, the Commission's Budget Ad Hoc Committee reviewed LASD's proposed budget priorities and unmet needs and developed recommendations for the Commission's consideration. The Committee recommended that LASD maintain public access to its budget status reporting. Specifically, the Committee recommended:

"LASD continue providing and publicly posting its Fifth Month Budget Status Report by no later than the 2nd week of January of each year and submit copies to the CEO, the Board, and the Commission along with maintaining an on-going listing of the documents on the website."⁹

The Committee also recommended that the CEO and Board consider funding several departmental priorities identified by the LASD, including replacement of inmate transportation

⁵ Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, *Understanding the LA County Budget*, section titled "Building a Blueprint for Change." Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office Website. Retrieved from <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/budget/>

⁶ Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. (2025) *Revised Motion Budgetary Pressure & Impacts*. Retrieved from https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/205696.pdf?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

⁷ Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, *Budget*, Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission Website. Retrieved from <https://coc.lacounty.gov/budget>

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, *LASD Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026*, Staff Report, 2025. Retrieved from [StaffReport-LASDBudgetFY2025-2026FINAL.pdf](#).

buses used by the Court Services Transportation Bureau, modernization of the Department's Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, and the establishment of a Law Enforcement Wellness Center to support the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of LASD personnel.¹⁰ Following the Commission's recommendations, the Board approved funding for several LASD priorities identified during the funding process. The County's FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget ultimately approved LASD's overall appropriations, which incorporated funding adjustments related to departmental operations and technology modernization.¹¹ During the February 17, 2026, Board meeting, Sheriff Luna noted that the County previously approved funding for the first phase of LASD's new CAD system, including procurement of the software.¹²

LASD BUDGET PRIORITIES AND UNMET NEEDS FY 2026-27:

The Commission formed the FY 2026-27 Budget Ad Hoc Committee at its January 22, 2026 meeting.¹³ On February 12, 2026, the Committee received the LASD's FY 2026-27 *Budget Priorities and Unmet Needs, Official Budget Request*, including the Department's request letter to the CEO, for review.¹⁴ Accordingly, this report is based solely on an analysis of the LASD's FY 2026-27 *Budget Priorities and Unmet Needs Official Budget Request*, Sheriff Luna's presentation at the February 17, 2026, meeting of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and community feedback provided during that meeting. The report also evaluates how those priorities align with the Commission's *2025 Strategic Plan of Goals and Priorities* to inform the Budget Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations.

In its FY 2026-27 Recommended Budget Request submitted to the CEO, the LASD identified budget priorities totaling \$562.6 million in Net County Cost (NCC) and requested an increase of 357 budgeted positions, which the Department characterized as its most critical unmet needs.¹⁵ According to the Department, these requests represent its most critical funding needs necessary to support ongoing public safety operations and address staffing shortages, aging infrastructure, equipment replacement needs, and modernization of critical operational systems.¹⁶

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, *Recommended Adjustments to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Adopted County Budget*, memorandum to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, September 30, 2025. Retrieved from <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/207904.pdf>.

¹² Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, *Board Meeting Transcript*, February 17, 2026. Presentation by Sheriff Robert Luna regarding LASD budget priorities. Retrieved from https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/sop/transcripts/1202392_021726.pdf

¹³ Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, *Approved Meeting Minutes*, January 22, 2026. Retrieved from [January222026Minutes.pdf](https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/sop/transcripts/1202392_021726.pdf).

¹⁴ Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, *LASD FY 2026-27 Budget Request Letter to CEO and Official Budget Request*, January 29, 2026. Retrieved from [FY 26-27 Recommended Budget Request - Sheriff's Dep-FULL BUDGET.pdf](https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/sop/transcripts/1202392_021726.pdf).

¹⁵ Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, *FY 2026-27 Budget Request Letter to CEO*, January 29, 2026. Retrieved from [FY 26-27 Recommended Budget Request - Sheriff's Dep-FULL BUDGET.pdf](https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/sop/transcripts/1202392_021726.pdf)

¹⁶ Ibid.

The Department's FY 2026-27 submission includes requests related to recruitment and training, emergency response equipment, technology modernization, fleet replacement, and capital improvement projects within detention facilities. Among the priorities identified in LASD's submission are investments related to modernizations of critical operational technology systems, including the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, expansion of body-worn cameras within custody settings and patrol, and infrastructure improvements within County detention facilities. Additional priorities include requests related to employee wellness initiatives, replacement of aging patrol vehicles, inmate transportation buses, and patrol and rescue helicopters. According to the LASD, many of these assets have exceeded their intended service life and require replacement to maintain operational readiness and reduce long-term maintenance costs. The Department also reported ongoing workforce shortages resulting from retirements and other staffing gaps. As a result, the FY 2026-27 submission includes requests to support recruitment and training efforts, including funding for additional academy classes and deputy sheriff trainees.¹⁷

LASD FY 2026-2027 DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION

On February 17, 2026, Sheriff Robert Luna presented the Department's FY 2026-27 budget priorities to the Board. During the presentation, Sheriff Luna stated that the Department sought to limit its requests to essential operational needs while recognizing the fiscal challenges facing Los Angeles County, including reductions in federal funding.¹⁸ The Sheriff indicated that, where possible, LASD proposed a phased, multi-year approach to funding certain initiatives to reduce immediate fiscal impacts on the County.¹⁹ The Sheriff noted that LASD is currently experiencing workforce challenges due to retirements and staffing shortages, with an unavailability rate of approximately 23 percent among sworn personnel. To address the issue, LASD requested funding to support additional academy classes and deputy sheriff trainees to help fill the existing vacancies and strengthen staffing levels.²⁰ Finally, the Sheriff discussed several capital improvement projects related to detention facilities, including infrastructure repairs and planning for future facility development. Sheriff Luna indicated that these projects

¹⁷ Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, *LASD FY 2026-27 Official Budget Request*, January 29, 2026. Retrieved from [FY 26-27 Recommended Budget Request - Sheriff's Dep-FULL BUDGET.pdf](#)

¹⁸ Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, *Board Meeting Transcript*, February 17, 2026. Presentation by Sheriff Robert Luna regarding LASD budget priorities. Retrieved from https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/sop/transcripts/1202392_021726.pdf

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ Ibid

are intended to address aging infrastructure, and the need to support appropriate housing and services for incarcerated individuals with medical or mental health needs.²¹

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK:

On February 17, 2026, following Sheriff Luna's presentation to the Board, members of public provided public comment regarding LASD's budget priorities and broader public safety funding allocations within Los Angeles County. Several speakers expressed opposition to additional funding for law enforcement agencies, including LASD, the District Attorney's Office, and the Probation Department. Commenters urged the Board to prioritize investments in community-based programs, housing, mental health services, and reentry support rather than traditional law enforcement operations.²² Several speakers also expressed opposition to the proposed development of a "correctional care center", stating that they view the facility as a continuation of a jail expansion instead of an alternative approach to addressing mental health and substance use needs among incarcerated individuals; they urged the Board to prioritize community-based treatment, diversion programs, and supportive services. Multiple speakers shared their concerns regarding conditions of confinement, including reports of in-custody deaths, access to medical and mental health care, and treatment of incarcerated individuals. Some commenters emphasized the need for greater transparency, accountability, and oversight of custody operations and questioned whether additional investments in detention facilities would improve conditions with the jail system.²³

ANALYSIS:

Consistent with the Commission's oversight role and its 2025 strategic goals and objectives, staff reviewed LASD's submitted budget priorities to identify areas that may support transparency, accountability, and operational effectiveness within the Department while also acknowledging concerns raised through public comment. The Commission's strategic plan includes objectives related to increasing budget transparency, promoting accountable and transparent technology use, improving professionalism of LASD, and addressing issues related to conditions of confinement and oversight of custody operations.²⁴ Given the range of priorities included in LASD's budget submission, staff focused on identifying items that most directly relate

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, *2025 Strategic Plan of Goals and Priorities*, approved January 16, 2025. Retrieved from <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/2025StrategicPlanofGoalsPriorities9-11-25.pdf>.

to the Commission's oversight responsibilities and areas where investments may improve transparency, accountability, and operational reliability.

Ensuring a reliable and modern emergency communications system, expanding oversight within custody environments, and investing in custody facility maintenance are LASD budget priorities that align with the Commission's oversight responsibilities and strategic goals. As noted during the Sheriff's presentation, the Department's existing CAD system is nearly forty years old and has experienced multiple system outages. LASD identified modernization of its CAD system as Budget Priority #1, requesting \$21,976,000 in NCC to support implementation of the system and an additional 99 positions. Ensuring a reliable and modern emergency communication system is critical to public safety operations.²⁵ Furthermore, oversight of custody conditions is directly connected to several of the Commission's strategic goals and objectives, including, monitoring conditions of confinement, improving professionalism of the Department, and advocating for policy updates related to transparent and accountable technology use by LASD.²⁶ Concerns regarding conditions of confinement and the safety of incarcerated individuals were raised both during public comment following the Sheriff's presentations, and in recent public reporting²⁷. According to a March 3, 2026, Los Angeles Times article, ten people have died in the first two months of this calendar year.²⁸ These incidents highlight the need for systems in place to review and document critical incidents occurring within custody facilities. LASD Budget priority #28, Body Worn Camera expansion in custody operations, requests \$16,168,000 in NCC and 14 additional positions to continue deployment of BWCs within custody facilities. The investment represents a potential tool for improving documentation of incidents, supporting oversight bodies in reviewing use-of-force incidents and other critical events occurring within custody facilities, and enhancing transparency in interactions between LASD staff and incarcerated individuals.

In addition to technology and accountability investments, LASD's FY 2026-27 budget submission includes infrastructure projects intended to maintain functional detention facilities. One such request is Priority #35, the Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) Boiler Project, which seeks funding in the amount of \$306,000 in NCC to complete the final phase of a three-year project to replace aging boiler equipment used to support heating and hot water systems

²⁵ Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, *Board Meeting Transcript*, February 17, 2026. Presentation by Sheriff Robert Luna regarding LASD budget priorities. Retrieved from https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/sop/transcripts/1202392_021726.pdf.

²⁶ Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, *2025 Strategic Plan of Goals and Priorities*, approved January 16, 2025. Retrieved from <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/2025StrategicPlanofGoalsPriorities9-11-25.pdf>.

²⁷ Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. *Board Meeting Transcript*, March 3, 2026, public comments. Retrieved from [1203313_030326.pdf](https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/sop/transcripts/1203313_030326.pdf)

²⁸ Rebecca Ellis, "L.A. County supervisors push new jail safety measures amid rising inmate death," *Los Angeles Times*, March 3, 2026. Retrieved from: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-03-03/la-county-mens-central-jail-closure-plan>.

within the facility.²⁹ CRDF is one of the County's largest jail facilities, and portions of the facility's infrastructure have aged beyond their intended service life. Therefore, they require replacement to maintain reliable operations. Maintaining safe and functional detention facilities aligns with the Commission's 2025 Strategic Plan Goal 1, Objective 7, which calls for advocating for policies and practices that promote the safety of all impacted parties. Infrastructure investments that ensure reliable facility operations support the Department's ability to maintain humane and safe conditions of confinement. LASD's FY 2026-27 budget submission also includes Priority #4, the proposed Department Wellness Center, which requests \$5,149,000 in NCC, including \$4,302,000 in one-time funding and \$847,000 in ongoing funding. According to the Department, the Wellness Center would provide mental health services, crisis intervention, counseling, and wellness training for Department personnel and their families.³⁰

Finally, the Commission has previously emphasized the significance of maintaining public access to information regarding LASD's budget and spending. Consistent with prior Commission recommendations, staff recommends that LASD continue to publicly report its budget information to ensure public transparency and accountability. Regular publication of budget status reports promotes transparency regarding departmental spending and allows policymakers, oversight bodies, and members of the public to better understand how budgeted resources are being allocated throughout the fiscal year. Public reporting of this information also supports the Commission's ability to monitor departmental spending and identify trends that may warrant additional review. Maintaining consistent public reporting of LASD's budget information aligns with the Commission's 2025 Strategic Plan Goal 1, Objective 11 which focuses on reviewing the LASD budget, increasing budget transparency, and keeping the public informed.³¹ Access to timely and reliable financial information supports data-informed oversight and helps ensure that the Commission, the Board, and the public remain informed.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSION:

The following recommendations reflect issues raised during Sheriff Luna's presentation to the Board, concerns expressed by members of the public, and the Commission's ongoing

²⁹ Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, *LASD FY 2026-27 Official Budget Request*, January 29, 2026. Retrieved from [FY 26-27 Recommended Budget Request - Sheriff's Dep-FULL BUDGET.pdf](#).

³⁰ Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, *LASD FY 2026-27 Official Budget Request*, January 29, 2026. Retrieved from [FY 26-27 Recommended Budget Request - Sheriff's Dep-FULL BUDGET.pdf](#).

³¹ Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, *2025 Strategic Plan of Goals and Priorities*, approved January 16, 2025. Retrieved from <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/2025StrategicPlanofGoalsPriorities9-11-25.pdf>.

priorities related to transparency, accountability, and operational effectiveness within the Department. Accordingly, staff recommends that the Commission support the following:

- 1. Budget Transparency and Reporting** – LASD should continue providing and publicly posting on its website the LASD Fifth Month Written Budget Status Report no later than the second week of January each year and submit copies to the Chief Executive Office, the Board of Supervisors, and the Commission.
- 2. LASD Budget Priority #1: Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Staffing** – The LASD should receive funding at the requested level of \$21,976,000 in NCC to support and additional 99 positions and modernization of the Department’s primary command and control communications system.
- 3. LASD Budget Priority #28: Body-Worn Camera Expansion in Custody Operations (Year 4 of 4)** – The LASD should receive funding at the requested level of \$16,168,000 in NCC to support an additional 14 positions and continued implementation of body-worn cameras for personnel assigned to custody facilities.
- 4. LASD Budget Priority #35: Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) Boiler Project** - The LASD should receive funding at the requested level of \$306,000 in NCC to complete the final phase of a multi-year project to replace the aging boiler system at CRDF.
- 5. LASD Budget Priority #4: Wellness Center**- The LASD should receive funding at the requested level of \$5,149,000 in NCC to support the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of Department personnel.

Commission staff will continue monitoring LASD’s FY 2026-27 budget submissions and public comment in accordance with the County’s budget process deadlines. The Commission will then submit a position letter for specific budget items to the CEO and the Board regarding LASD’s FY 2026- 27 Official Budget Request.

GUEST SPEAKERS (on-call):

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