



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



January 14, 2025

Ms. Fesia Davenport
Chief Executive Officer
County of Los Angeles
713 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Ms. Davenport:

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S
FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 RECOMMENDED BUDGET REQUEST**

Submitted for your review is the Los Angeles County (County) Sheriff's Department's (Department) Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Recommended Budget Request (see attached). Consistent with the strategic approach taken during my tenure as Sheriff, the Department's budget submission for FY 2025-26 intentionally reflects our most critical unmet needs, otherwise known as our Budget Priorities, totaling \$386.3 million in net County cost (NCC) and an increase of 396.0 budgeted positions.

Similar to the Department's FY 2024-25 Recommended Budget Request, this year's budget submission includes a number of requests that are multi-year in nature and which, for the most part, represent year three of a multi-year initiative that commenced in FY 2023-24. Additionally, very similar to the last several years now, 244 of the budgeted positions being requested are deputy sheriff trainee positions that represent the proposed continuation of four additional academy classes in FY 2025-26. The proposed eight total academy classes in FY 2025-26 (which have been approved in the Department's budget since FY 2022-23) are expected to continue to play a crucial role in reducing the number of sworn vacancies throughout the Department, which as of the beginning of December 2024 totaled 1,393. Unfortunately, the 1,393 sworn

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vacancies represent an approximate 15.5 percent increase in sworn vacancies compared to this same time last year when the number of sworn vacancies totaled 1,207. Complementing the extensive number of sworn vacancies, the Department is also currently experiencing 1,504 professional staff vacancies. I would note that law enforcement agencies across California (and many parts of the nation) are experiencing comparable recruitment and retention challenges. In order to maximize our own recruitment efforts, our Department is actively exploring and implementing cost-effective recruitment measures, such as, strategically located commercial billboards along high traffic corridors, wrapping inmate transportation buses with recruitment advertisements, increased use of social media, and a greater emphasis on partnerships with local colleges and universities.

In light of the recent failure of the Department's Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, replacement of the CAD system continues to be one of our highest *Technology Needs*-related Budget Priorities for FY 2025-26. This major project will require funding of Phase 1 to replace the CAD system within the historically decentralized model, as well as Phase 2, which would centralize CAD operations in line with modern standards and best practices nationwide. I would like to once again acknowledge and thank you and your staff for all the support offered to our Department dating back to when the issue with our CAD system was first encountered and reported. It is this type of unparalleled support that is crucial to ensuring public safety in the County is protected and preserved. I look forward to working with you and your team to continue developing a comprehensive plan for the new centralized CAD system.

Since being sworn in as Sheriff in December 2022, I have done my best to take a very intentional and thoughtful approach to the Department's budget submissions. That said, when it comes to the extent of the County's total available resources I am as mindful as ever, given the multiple challenges facing the County, including slower growth in locally generated revenues, the expiration of COVID-19-related federal funding, and the looming potential outsized liabilities resulting from various unanticipated legal challenges facing the County. Please be assured that the Budget Priorities before you represent only the most critical NCC requests needed to sustain and support existing operations and seek to protect the Department and the County from potential future liabilities. More specifically, the Budget Priorities before you seek to:

- Ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the County's compliance with various settlement agreement mandates within our custody jail facilities.

- Ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that our incarcerated population has sufficient, safe, and reliable means of transportation needed to make their scheduled court hearings and appearances.
- Maintain the amount of staff and operational resources needed to reduce deputy sheriff vacancies throughout the Department, improve the health and wellness of staff, and reduce the amount of overtime requirements currently being experienced.
- Provide the Department with essential operational and technological resources that will not only assist Department employees and improve public protection and transparency, but also mitigate future potential liability and adverse costs arising out of avoidable lawsuits, judgments and damages; and
- Secure the resources and operational capacity necessary to successfully adhere to State-mandated Peace Officer Standards and Training requirements, including safe and adequate venues for perishable skills weapons training that will ensure the County's compliance with state and federal statutory and regulatory requirements.

In conclusion, I would like to once again express my sincere appreciation to you and your staff for your committed partnership and support of the men and women of the Department. As always, please know that I, along with my team, look forward to collaborating with you and your staff to ensure that the Department's FY 2025-26 Recommended Budget Request appropriately reflects the County's public safety needs.

Should you have any questions, please contact me, or you and your staff may also contact Assistant Sheriff, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Gerardo J. Pinedo, at (213) 229-3066.

Sincerely,



ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF

RGL:CM:RFM:aop/mdr

(Administrative Services Division/Budget Services Unit)

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