



Written Public Comment

Provided for the LASD Budget Prioritization for Fiscal Year 2024-2025
(collected between 1/30/2024 through 2/15/2024 by the Los Angeles
County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission)

For any questions, please email cocnotify@coc.lacounty.gov or
call (213) 253-5678.

Please provide your public comment on LASD's Public Safety Budget
Priorities and Unmet Needs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025
(<https://bit.ly/47UQpQZ>).

What is your name?

Are you affiliated with an
organization?

Our budget affects our lives and reveals our values. We need to stop funding punitive punishment and policing and start investing in community care, including education, mental health, job and career training and placement. Reducing spending on ineffective measures for safety, including policing is the best place to start to create revenue for a fully-resourced community.

Kimberly

No

LASD Civilian Oversight Commission
LASD Budget Prioritization Comments (FY 2024-2025)

*Submitted on behalf of the Transformative Justice Staff of the
Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations*

1. Please provide your public comment on LASD’s Public Safety Budget Priorities & Unmet Needs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

The Transformative Justice Team of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR) reviewed the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department’s (LASD) Recommended Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Staff analyzed the budget priorities and unmet needs therein through the lens of the LACCHR’s report, [Redefining Policing With Our Community](#), a three-year effort to glean best practices in police-community relations through hearings and interviews with community members and law enforcement experts from every corner of Los Angeles County.

To align budget priorities with community needs, staff recommends that LASD should consider the report’s recommendations which were aimed at advancing equity in policing practices, policies, and procedures. Staff recommends inclusion of budget priorities and unmet needs that are in alignment with report recommendations, and exclusion of budget priorities and unmet needs that are not in alignment with report recommendations. Certain budget priorities and unmet needs were labeled as “neutral” to identify that Staff does not have sufficient information to assess the viability of the budget item, and/or a different budget item may already be requested that would impact the need for these additional resources. This especially applies to requests for increases in overtime budgets which should be addressed via recruitment and hiring of deputies assigned to these duties, as opposed to backfilling overtime.

Moreover, staff lifted the need to understand the root causes of professional staff vacancies which number over 1,000. Considering efforts to recruit and hire additional personnel, staff also acknowledged the need for meaningful outreach to specific demographics and affinity groups to provide greater balance with respect to diversity to ensure the department adheres to 21st century policing principles. With respect to custody operations spending, staff recommended allocating funding to intentionally connect incarcerated persons reentering community to resources, such as training and continuing education, to build on programs they may have participated in while in custody. Staff also recommend investment in equipping communities with NARCAN and providing training on its use and application. Furthermore, staff recommend investing funding and resources to develop a modern data dashboard for community to easily access information to department spending, bookings and arrests, custody operations, and other RIPA-related data.

BUDGET PRIORITIES

I, A) Mobile Radio Replacement – Alignment

Staff agrees with this budget priority because an overhaul of mobile radio systems will ensure that LASD has the tools necessary to effectively coordinate law enforcement responses across the County. Considering the increase in natural disasters and mass shooting scenarios which require reliable communication between agents of public safety, it is imperative that LASD has access to functional radio systems to efficiently deploy and coordinate resources in the field.

I, B) Custody CCTV System (Phase 2 of 3-Year Plan) – Alignment

Staff agrees with the prioritization of this unmet need which would provide greater transparency of custody operations. Current CCTV systems in County jail facilities are considered obsolete as they provide low quality images and video recordings. By replacing these systems, LASD can more readily identify the distribution of contraband and law enforcement misconduct, and in turn close public trust deficits in custody operations.

I, C) Custody Network Infrastructure Upgrade (Phase 2 of 5-Year Plan) - Neutral

I, D) Network Infrastructure – Routers & Switches (Phase 2 of 5-Year Plan) - Neutral

I, E) Custody Body-Worn Cameras (Phase 2 of 4-Year Plan) – Alignment

This budget priority is in alignment with Recommendation 31 – Adopt and implement protocols to ensure timely release of footage to the public domain from body worn cameras and other surveillance technologies potentially used in prosecution. By securing body worn cameras for all department personnel involved in patrol, custody, and special operations, LASD will ensure greater transparency of all law enforcement interactions.

I, F) FSB MCJ Boiler Replacement Project (Phase 2 of 2-Year Plan) - Alignment

Staff are in alignment with this budget priority as it prioritizes the health and wellbeing of people in custody that contend with some of the most deplorable conditions of any jail in the nation. Questions to be asked include: What is the timeline for replacing the boiler system? What technologies will support the project?

II, A) Department Vehicle and Components – Neutral

II, B) Additional Academy Classes – Alignment

Staff agrees with this budget priority to the extent that it fills personnel gaps leading to the need for increases in overtime budgeting. While staff remain committed to advocating for a reduction in the jail population and eventual closure of certain jail facilities, staff recognize the need for appropriate staffing in custody settings to meet the needs of people in custody and ensure compliance with regulatory and legislative mandates. Additionally, the recruitment and hiring of new deputies would reduce the need for increases in overtime budgets which cost the County far more and comprise a significant amount of LASD's budget request. Moreover, staff believe that new recruits should be assigned to patrol duty and more seasoned deputies should be reassigned to custody duty to ensure that incoming personnel are not negatively conditioned by custody settings as described in Recommendation 17 – LASD must end the practice of assigning new deputies only to custody duty in jails. Lastly, academy classes should receive extensive coursework on procedural justice and California's approved principled policing curriculum, mental health awareness, substance use, and ethics courses to address gaps in community engagement and improve police-community relations.

II, C) Development of Employee Wellness Center – Alignment

This budget priority is in alignment with Recommendation 25 – Provide ongoing psychological evaluation throughout an officer's career arc to ensure that work-related traumas are understood and addressed. Staff recommends ensuring that hired psychologists are trained on trauma-informed approaches, resilience building, and harm reduction. This budget priority could also serve as an arena to build community-based intergenerational healing disciplines that aim to improve police-community relations.

II, D) Unavoidable Cost Increases (Year 1 of 2-Year Plan) – Partial Alignment

Staff are in alignment with this budget priority as it prioritizes the health and wellbeing of people in custody that contend with some of the most deplorable conditions of any jail in the nation. Staff is concerned about the exorbitant amount of funding spent on County Counsel which is far beyond the proposed investments to improve custody operations.

II, E) Department Computer Replacement – Neutral

II, F) Additional Plumber for Facilities Services – Alignment

Staff are in alignment with this budget priority as it prioritizes the health and wellbeing of people in custody that contend with some of the most deplorable conditions of any jail in the nation.

III, A) Additional Overtime related to COLA for Positions Related to ROSAS and DOJ Settlement – Partial Alignment

Staff believe that information and progress on the Rosas and DOJ agreements should be made publicly available to better inform the public regarding this budget priority. While this budget priority advances recommendations to improve custody conditions, it remains unclear if the application of overtime is meant to serve as stopgaps or long-term solutions. Furthermore, staff recommends a cost-benefit analysis of reassigning and/or hiring deputies to fill these vacancies as opposed to backfilling these positions using overtime.

III, B) Overtime Behind Unfunded Positions Related to ROSAS and DOJ Settlement – Partial Alignment

Staff believe that information and progress on the Rosas and DOJ agreements should be made publicly available to better inform the public regarding this budget priority. While this budget priority advances recommendations to improve custody conditions, it remains unclear if the application of overtime is meant to serve as stopgaps or long-term solutions. Furthermore, staff recommends a cost-benefit analysis of reassigning and/or hiring deputies to fill these vacancies as opposed to backfilling these positions using overtime.

III, C) Concealed Carry Weapons Staffing Overtime – Neutral

IV, A) Taser Program – Patrol – Alignment

This budget priority is in alignment with Recommendation 4 – Change State law to require law enforcement agencies to implement policies to exhaust all other acceptable measures, including self-identification, de-escalation techniques, and non-lethal tactics, before resorting to use-of-force. It is imperative that deputies are provided appropriate equipment to employ less-than-lethal and non-lethal options during incidents involving the use of force. A faulty outdated taser can lead to severe injuries which beyond causing personal harm, degrades public trust and increases the County’s liability. To this end, the Staff recommends an assessment of the tasers procured to replace current technologies to ensure that they are in fact less-lethal force options to avoid repeating incidents like the death of Keenan Anderson. Moreover, this budget priority is also in alignment with Recommendation 31 – Adopt and implement protocols to ensure timely release of footage to the public domain from body worn cameras and other surveillance technologies potentially used in prosecution. By securing body worn cameras for all department personnel involved in patrol, custody, and special operations, LASD will ensure greater transparency of all law enforcement interactions. The synchronization of tasers and body worn cameras will also ensure appropriate use and documentation of incidents involving the use of force and reduce overall expenditures related to

managing these technologies. Staff also recommend that the collection and use of Asset Forfeiture Funds should be more scrutinized because they both incentivize asset forfeiture and provide the Sheriff's Department with a discretionary budget that can be used in unequitable ways.

IV, B) Taser Program – Court Services – Alignment

This budget priority is in alignment with Recommendation 4 – Change State law to require law enforcement agencies to implement policies to exhaust all other acceptable measures, including self-identification, de-escalation techniques, and non-lethal tactics, before resorting to use-of-force. It is imperative that deputies are provided appropriate equipment to employ less-than-lethal and non-lethal options during incidents involving the use of force. A faulty outdated taser can lead to severe injuries which beyond causing personal harm, degrades public trust and increases the County's liability. To this end, the Staff recommends an assessment of the tasers procured to replace current technologies to ensure that they are in fact less-lethal force options to avoid repeating incidents like the death of Keenan Anderson. Moreover, this budget priority is also in alignment with Recommendation 31 – Adopt and implement protocols to ensure timely release of footage to the public domain from body worn cameras and other surveillance technologies potentially used in prosecution. By securing body worn cameras for all department personnel involved in patrol, custody, and special operations, LASD will ensure greater transparency of all law enforcement interactions. The synchronization of tasers and body worn cameras will also ensure appropriate use and documentation of incidents involving the use of force and reduce overall expenditures related to managing these technologies.

IV, C) Taser Program – Specialized Division – Alignment

This budget priority is in alignment with Recommendation 4 – Change State law to require law enforcement agencies to implement policies to exhaust all other acceptable measures, including self-identification, de-escalation techniques, and non-lethal tactics, before resorting to use-of-force. It is imperative that deputies are provided appropriate equipment to employ less-than-lethal and non-lethal options during incidents involving the use of force. A faulty outdated taser can lead to severe injuries which beyond causing personal harm, degrades public trust and increases the County's liability. To this end, the Staff recommends an assessment of the tasers procured to replace current technologies to ensure that they are in fact less-lethal force options to avoid repeating incidents like the death of Keenan Anderson. Moreover, this budget priority is also in alignment with Recommendation 31 – Adopt and implement protocols to ensure timely release of footage to the public domain from body worn cameras and other surveillance technologies potentially used in prosecution. By securing body worn cameras for all department personnel involved in patrol, custody, and special operations, LASD will ensure greater transparency of all law enforcement interactions. The synchronization of tasers and body worn cameras will also ensure appropriate use and documentation of incidents involving the use of force and reduce overall expenditures related to managing these technologies.

IV, D) Additional Police Training Ammunition & Weapons Budget – Partial Alignment

Staff agrees with this budget priority to the extent that it aligns with Recommendation 4 – Change State law to require law enforcement agencies to implement policies to exhaust all other acceptable measures, including self-identification, de-escalation techniques, and non-lethal tactics, before resorting to use-of-force. Staff believe that the department should prioritize purchasing and training on less-than-lethal and non-lethal weapons, like tasers, beanbags and bolawraps, to reduce the number of officer-involved shootings, injuries, and deaths.

IV, E) Portable Radio Battery Replacement – Alignment

Staff agrees with this budget priority because an overhaul of portable radio systems will ensure that LASD has the tools necessary to effectively coordinate law enforcement responses across the County. Considering the increase in natural disasters and mass shooting scenarios which require reliable communication between agents of public safety, it is imperative that LASD has access to functional radio systems to efficiently deploy and coordinate resources in the field.

V, A) Custody Professional Staff – Alignment

Staff are in alignment with this budget priority as it prioritizes the health and wellbeing of people in custody that contend with some of the most deplorable conditions of any jail in the nation. Staff agrees with this budget priority to the extent that it fills personnel gaps leading to the need for increases in overtime and contracting budgeting. While staff remain committed to advocating for a reduction in the jail population and eventual closure of certain jail facilities, the Staff recognizes the need for appropriate staffing in custody settings to meet the needs of people in custody and ensure compliance with regulatory and legislative mandates.

V, B) Fire Equipment SCBA Packs Replacement – Alignment

Staff are in alignment with this budget priority as it prioritizes the health and wellbeing of people in custody that contend with some of the most deplorable conditions of any jail in the nation.

V, C) DOJ – PDC Temporary Trailer – Alignment

Staff are in alignment with this budget priority as it prioritizes the health and wellbeing of people in custody that contend with some of the most deplorable conditions of any jail in the nation.

V, D) Division Compliance Support Team – Neutral

V, E) CSS Wristband Scanners, Privacy Curtains, Licenses, UPS Batteries, and Security Check – Alignment

Staff are in alignment with this budget priority as it prioritizes the health and wellbeing of people in custody that contend with some of the most deplorable conditions of any jail in the nation.

V, F) Additional Technology Staff to Support Custody Infrastructure Upgrades – Alignment

Staff are in alignment with this budget priority as it prioritizes the health and wellbeing of people in custody that contend with some of the most deplorable conditions of any jail in the nation.

VI, A) Department Civilian Training Coordinator – Neutral

VI, B) AV DOJ Community Survey – Partial Alignment

This budget priority resonates with Recommendation 32 – Convene groups of relevant stakeholders to create innovative models that define public safety as a cooperative community endeavor rather than merely an assignment to enforce laws and Recommendation. Staff are however concerned about the efficacy of the AV DOJ Survey being that it is proposed to be conducted by department personnel. This initiative would be better implemented by a third-party contractor that can objectively report on results and would not create a confirmation bias. Additionally, the survey should involve a qualitative, narrative-collection process that can uplift the lived experience of justice-impacted people.

VI, C) Technology Assessment – Alignment

Staff agrees with this budget priority as this assessment is critical to ensure that future improvements to LASD's technology infrastructure are appropriate, effective, and capable of integration with current systems. Unregulated policing technologies and algorithmic artificial intelligence, especially when utilized for predictive surveillance, promote totalitarian methods for controlling populations which disrupt the fundamental relationship of trust between law enforcement and the people they serve. Staff recommend that the extracted data be shared with oversight agencies and reform partners to offer perspectives on improvements to policies, practices and procedures.

VI, D) Use of Force Investigator – Alignment

This budget priority inches the department closer to actualizing Recommendation 6 – Make information on use-of-force incidents and assault on officer incidents, including all relevant geographic and demographic data, publicly available and accessible; this information should also be reported at public forums such as oversight meetings, town halls, etc. Through comprehensive analyses of use-of-force incidents, the Sheriff's department and its respective oversight agencies can propose improvements to policy, practice and procedure to address existing inequities and inefficiencies.

VII, A) Organizational Assessment – Neutral

VII, B) Major Crimes Bureau – Sheriff's Intelligence Unit Expansion – Neutral

VIII, A) Custody Radio Maintenance – Alignment

Staff agrees with this budget priority because an overhaul of mobile radio systems will ensure that LASD has the tools necessary to effectively coordinate law enforcement responses across the County. Considering the increase in natural disasters and mass shooting scenarios which require reliable communication between agents of public safety, it is imperative that LASD has access to functional radio systems to efficiently deploy and coordinate resources in the field.

VIII, B) VMWARE Hardware Replacement – Neutral

VII, C) Veritas Netbackup Hardware Upgrade – Neutral

VII, D) Zetron Routers and Switches – Neutral

VII, E) Information Technology Staff to Maintain Operations – Neutral

IX, A) Additional Captain based on COC Recommendation – Alignment

This budget priority is in alignment with Recommendation 23 – Create and implement policies, protocols, and performance evaluation metrics that incentivize the transformation of law enforcement from a “guardian of public order” mentality to an “officer of peace” orientation. The proposed position strengthens departmental oversight mechanisms and provides avenues for institutional oversight bodies like the Civilian Oversight Commission and the Office of Inspector General to undertake their responsibilities more effectively. This budget priority will help catalyze LASD's transformation from “guardians of public order” to “officers of peace” because it underlies a commitment to transparency and accountability, which includes the eradication of deputy gangs and deputy cliques.

IX, B) 17 Body Scanner Replacement – Alignment

Staff are in alignment with this budget priority as it prioritizes the health and wellbeing of people in custody that contend with some of the most deplorable conditions of any jail in the nation.

IX, C) Overtime Related to Additional Body Scanner Operators – Alignment

Staff are in alignment with this budget priority as it prioritizes the health and wellbeing of people in custody that contend with some of the most deplorable conditions of any jail in the nation.

IX, D) Body Scanner Replacement at PDC South Facility – Visitor Area – Alignment

Staff are in alignment with this budget priority as it prioritizes the health and wellbeing of people in custody that contend with some of the most deplorable conditions of any jail in the nation.

IX, E) Thermal Undergarment – Alignment

Staff are in alignment with this budget priority as it prioritizes the health and wellbeing of people in custody that contend with some of the most deplorable conditions of any jail in the nation.

IX, F) 5 Scent Detection Canines – Neutral

IX, G) IWF – Facilities Services

Staff are in alignment with this budget priority as it prioritizes the health and wellbeing of people in custody that contend with some of the most deplorable conditions of any jail in the nation.

X, A) Aero Maintenance Needs – Neutral

X, B) Six Patrol Helicopter Replacement – Neutral

X, C) One Search and Rescue Aircraft Replacement – Neutral

UNMET NEEDS

1) Settlement Agreement Expansion – Neutral

2) Use of Force Investigative Team – Neutral

3) Gender Responsive Services – Additional Staffing, Vehicle & Rehabilitative Program Funding – Alignment

4) ICHS – FIP Stepdown Program – Alignment

5) ICHS – Primary Care Provider Expansion – Alignment

6) ICHS – Psychiatric Urgent Care – Alignment

7) ICHS – Mental Health Group Services – Alignment

8) Ten Additional Diesel Powered Buses – No Alignment

The Staff does not agree with the prioritization of this unmet need. Considering County departments are advised to work towards implementation of the Countywide Sustainability Plan’s goal for zero emissions by 2045, the Staff recommends that LASD procure zero emission buses instead of diesel-

powered buses. LASD currently has 43 diesel powered buses in operable condition and can supplement these with a fleet of zero emission buses to begin working towards sustainability goals. While an investment in zero emission buses may lead to the procurement of less buses due to their cost, the County has committed to reducing the jail population thus reducing the need for the transportation of incarcerated people.

9) Additional County Counsel – Neutral

10) Facilities Planning Positions – Neutral

11) TSD Positions (AFIS, Crime Lab, Dispatchers) – Neutral

12) Grants Unit – Accounting Officer III – Neutral

13) Additional Custody Capital Assets – Neutral

14) Judgement and Damages Shortfall – Neutral

15) Computer Aided Dispatch – Alignment

Staff agrees with this unmet need because replacement of Computer Aided Dispatch systems will ensure that LASD has the tools necessary to effectively coordinate law enforcement responses across the County. Considering the increase in natural disasters and mass shooting scenarios which require reliable communication between dispatchers and agents of public safety, it is imperative that LASD has access to functional computer systems to efficiently deploy and coordinate resources in the field.

16) Additional Support Staff in Patrol Stations – Neutral

17) Mental Evaluation Team Support Staff – Alignment

This unmet need is in alignment with Recommendation 26 – Increase capacity and number of co-response teams for responding to calls involving persons experiencing homelessness, substance use disorders, and mental health challenges. The Staff applauds LASD’s commitment to prioritizing co-responder models in addressing social challenges such as mental health. While this budget priority aligns with the LACCHR’s report, the Staff recommends that the investments of funding to these co-response teams be increased significantly to support adequate personnel levels and resources for both law enforcement and non-law enforcement responders to ensure that the County’s public safety priorities with regards to alternatives to incarceration and diversion initiatives are met. Moreover, the Staff recommends that Mental Evaluation Teams should focus on achieving non-criminal justice-related outcomes such as linkages to supportive services and systems of care. To further curtail criminalization of people with mental health challenges the lead agencies should include the Department of Public Health, Department of Health Services, and Department of Mental Health, with LASD serving in a supportive capacity.

18) Homeless Outreach Services Team Support Staff – Alignment

This unmet need is in alignment with Recommendation 26 – Increase capacity and number of co-response teams for responding to calls involving persons experiencing homelessness, substance use disorders, and mental health challenges. The Staff applauds LASD’s commitment to prioritizing co-responder models in addressing social challenges such as homelessness. While this budget priority aligns with the LACCHR’s report, the Staff recommends that the investments of funding to these co-

response teams be increased significantly to support adequate personnel levels and resources for both law enforcement and non-law enforcement responders to ensure that the County's public safety priorities with regards to alternatives to incarceration and diversion initiatives are met. Moreover, the Staff recommends that the Homeless Outreach Services Team should focus on achieving non-criminal justice-related outcomes such as linkages to housing and systems of care. To further curtail criminalization of the homeless community the lead agencies should include the Department of Public Health, Department of Health Services, and Department of Mental Health, with LASD serving in a supportive capacity. While the absence of encampments in high-visibility areas is often touted as an accomplishment, this does not correlate to people receiving the services they need to be housed and/or maintain their housing to truly address the challenge of homelessness in LA County.

19) CPB – Explorer Program Support Staff – Neutral

20) Counterfeit and Piracy Enforcement (CAPE) Support Staff – Neutral

OPTIONAL

1. What is your name?

Pierre Arreola

2. What is your email address?

parreola@hrc.lacounty.gov

3. Would you like to receive emails with meeting agendas, news releases & other Commission information?

Yes.

4. What is your phone number?

(213) 304-5480

5. What is your home zip code?

90020

6. Are you affiliated with an organization?

Yes.

7. Please list your organization.

Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

8. What is your title or role with the organization?

Manager of the Transformative Justice Team (HSA I)