



Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission
Report to the County Board

FY 2023 Proposed Budget

Budget Area:	Sheriff's Department
FAAC Reviewers:	Claire Noakes, Lauren Harris
Date of FAAC Action:	31 March 2022
Presented By:	Peter Robertson, FAAC Chairman

FAAC Opinion

FAAC Recommendation #1			
<p>The FAAC recommends that the budget for the Sheriff's Department on the personnel side more accurately reflect the number of FTEs that the Department expects not to fill for the entire fiscal year, due to recruitment challenges and training periods, and the projected overtime costs of meeting departmental needs.</p>			
Vote	Yes: 8	No: 0	Abstain: 1
Comments			

FAAC Recommendation #2			
<p>The FAAC recommends that the County Board request clearer performance measures in multiple areas in order better to understand trends. Without baseline quantitative data, it is difficult to understand the root cause of several significant changes to output measures, and whether those changes are due to the impact of covid or due to the department's performance. For example, the average number of inmates has dropped significantly from 2020 numbers. It is difficult to evaluate whether these decreases are due to successful diversion efforts, bail reform, or covid's impact, and whether these changes are going to continue. More information would be helpful to understand better the future staffing needs.</p>			
Vote	Yes: 10	No: 0	Abstain: 0
Comments			

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FAAC Recommendation #3			
FAAC recommends the County Board adopt the County Manager's overall proposed budget for the Sheriff's Department included in the FY 2023 Proposed Budget, with the additional concerns on line items noted above.			
Vote	Yes: 9	No: 1	Abstain: 0
Comments			

Future Considerations

- It is not clear whether the decrease in the average daily inmate population is a short term change or a longer term shift, and therefore whether service contracts with Aramark for food, or with Mediko for medical care, should be re-examined for potential cost savings to reflect the number of inmates eating or receiving medical screenings and care.
- We note that upon booking, there is triage of any obvious medical problems, but after that there is reliance predominantly on self-disclosure of medical needs and conditions until the first physical exam. However, the deadline for completing an actual physical exam is within the first 14 days. It is not clear whether medical exams earlier in the process (as compared to screening) could prevent in-custody deaths, and what the costs would be to shift the physical exam to sooner.