

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS FY 2022



AUGUST 6

San Marcos Police Department
Chief Stan Standridge



BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

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This document may help frame budget conversations related to the upcoming budget process. It is being sent at the request of the City Manager for City Council consideration. The Police Department has significant needs which warrant immediate attention.

Increasing Workload:

- Violent crime has increased 90.1% in only ten years (2010 to 2020). The City of San Marcos violent crime rate has been above the national average for its class for the past two years. The City's 2019 Part 1 UCR crimes were higher than Seguin, Kyle, College Station, Georgetown, Hays County and even New Braunfels. In 2018, for example, the violent crime index per 1,000 citizens in San Marcos was HIGHER than the City of Austin (3.97 vs 3.82). Prior to this upward trend, San Marcos' violent crime fared better than nearly all of these cities.
- The Department responds to more than 3,000 traffic crashes annually. The Traffic Division has not been staffed for years so there are no Traffic Officers assigned to respond or even prevent crashes.
- Mental health calls continue to spiral upward. In 2020, the Department responded to 1,739 mental health related calls, while completing 466 emergency committals. This compares to 784 calls in 2015, which is a 122% increase!
- Gun discharges and/or deadly conduct rose by 16% from 277 in 2015 to 322 in 2020.

Immediate Staffing Concerns:

- According to the US Census Bureau, the population of San Marcos grew 43.5% from April 2010 to July 2019. The Department has not grown commensurately.
- City Council has not authorized any increases in sworn staffing since 2018. No sworn supervisors have been added since 2016, when (1) sergeant was added. The department actually lost (1) Commander position and has operated with only (4) commanders since 2002. Currently one commander supervises all Eves and Midnights, seven days a week which is unsustainable given the increase in crime CoSM is experiencing.
- The Patrol Division has a daily staffing of only (6) officers on the streets for the entire City of San Marcos. They are staffed with (8) officers, but (1) is allowed to

take vacation, and (1) is allowed to attend training. Dayshift minimum staffing on the streets is (6), as are Evenings and Midnights. The only overlap is between the hours of 8p and 3a.

- Until 2021, the Criminal Investigations Division has not added a detective in 10 years. Due to the types of offenses the City is experiencing (which are above the national average), the inherent complications that come with violent crimes and the ever-present need to collect more and more evidence including technological evidence, the demand on CID is unmanageable for the number of detectives currently employed. Cases are inactivated daily because staffing does not allow for their investigation.
- No full-time 9-1-1 operator has been added since 2013, yet calls and expectations continue to increase. Our 9-1-1 Communications Division is the only division in the county to use Emergency Medical Dispatch, Emergency Fire Dispatch, and Emergency Police Dispatch. Additionally, the Division handles all Fire and EMS calls for the University, while also handling a portion of EMS calls for Guadalupe County. The division is currently short (11) employees, or 41% of their entire workforce. They are not the highest paid telecommunicators in the Government Building, and they have no certificate pay or shift differential pay. With certificate pay and base pay combined, the City of Kyle and Hays County pay more for these positions.

“Great vision without great people is irrelevant.”

– Jim Collins, Good to Great