

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA # B-6

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE February 26, 2008

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval of the Sheriff's Area Command, Law Enforcement Decentralization Plan and Initiate Facility Planning with the Cities of Patterson, Waterford and Riverbank

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve the Sheriff's Area Command Model, which will decentralize Sheriff's law enforcement operations to the areas of Patterson, Waterford and Riverbank.
2. Authorize staff to develop specific shared facility agreements and plans with the Cities of Waterford and Patterson instead of pursuing an expansion of the centralized Sheriff's Operation Center.
3. Direct staff to return to the Board for final approval of specific City and County facility plans for law enforcement services.

FISCAL IMPACT:

On June 26, 2007, the Board of Supervisors accepted the updated Public Safety Center Jail Needs Assessment and Public Safety Services Master Plan, and authorized staff to develop an overall implementation strategy which included the development of phasing options, funding options, and professional programming services. This Needs Assessment projected facility needs well into the future and evaluated and recommended other non-detention, law enforcement services for possible relocation and consolidation. The Report included an evaluation of the Sheriff's facility needs for Administration, Armory, Investigations, Information Technology, Patrol, Property and Evidence and the Records functions

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2008-127

On motion of Supervisor Grover, Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien, and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Grover, Monteith, DeMartini, and Chairman Mayfield

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:



ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

FISCAL IMPACT: (Continued)

that are housed as part of the Sheriffs Operations Center. The study evaluated the future facility needs looking at it both from the current structure where all of the main Sheriff operations are conducted out of the Hackett Road site, to evaluating the cost of creating/building three additional Sheriff Facilities located throughout the County.

The full build out of the Sheriff's Operations Center at the Public Safety Center to meet future needs is estimated at a preliminary, pre-design cost of \$16.2 million. The preliminary, pre-design cost to build three new area commands would be approximately \$8.3 million and would possibly eliminate the need for expansion of the Sheriff's Operations Center.

By implementing a decentralized plan, the area command centers would alleviate the need for expansion of the Sheriff's Operation Center. The area commands would each cost approximately \$2.8 million for lease or construction over a 15-year period. Leasing space for area command centers in local communities would be considerably less expensive than constructing the necessary space as an expansion of the Sheriff's Operations Center.

The facility is already available in Riverbank for this implementation plan, making it the first area where decentralization would occur as part of this plan.

The Sheriff's Department is in the midst of law enforcement contract negotiations with the Cities of Waterford and Patterson which expire June 30, 2008. Contract language has been changed to give both the City and County the ability to opt out of the contracts. Both cities will begin paying portions of the Chief's salary and at the 5th year of the contract, both will be paying 50% of the Chief's salary and benefit costs. Both contracts should be ready to go to the Board within the next month.

DISCUSSION:

The Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department is responsible for providing law enforcement services to an area covering 1,521 square miles. Much of this area is rural with pockets of population in small communities such as Hickman, La Grange, Knights Ferry, Grayson, Wesley, Crows Landing, Denair, Keyes, Valley Home, Diablo Grande and Empire. The Sheriff's Department currently manages a centralized operation with nearly all of the patrol officers operating out of the Sheriff's Operations Center (SOC) at the Public Safety Center (PSC) site.

The Sheriff's Department also provides contract law enforcement services for the Cities of Patterson, Riverbank, Waterford, and Hughson. Services to these cities are provided out of facilities located in each city.

It is the Sheriff's Department's desire to provide a high level of efficient and effective service to their customers. The Sheriff's Department believes they can best accomplish this by decentralizing functions into four area commands. When applied, the

decentralization plan will allow three of the contract cities to provide a base for providing these services to both the cities and the area command in the County.

The original program for development of the Sheriff's Operations Center in June 1994 included an analysis of law enforcement field operations centralization versus decentralization. At that time, the study concluded that the initial development of the Sheriff's Operations Center should be centrally located at the Public Safety Center site, but that further development of law enforcement facilities could be logically expanded in the East, West and North areas of the County as growth occurs. The Sheriff's current decentralization proposal supports the original planning for the Sheriff's Operations Center.

In the decentralization plan, Riverbank will become the north area command, with a geographic boundary that would include the area north of the Tuolumne River between Dale and Geer Roads. This area command will include the communities of Empire and Del Rio. Waterford will become the east area command, with a geographic boundary that will include the area east of Geer and Albers Road. This area command will include the communities of Knights Ferry, Valley Home, La Grange, Hickman, and Denair. The Central Area command will operate out of the Sheriff's Operations Center and with a geographic boundary that would include the Hwy 99 corridor north of Keyes Road and west to the San Joaquin River. This area command will include the community of Salida. Patterson will become the west area command, with a geographic boundary that will include the area west of Hwy 99 and south of Keyes Road. This area command will include the communities of Diablo Grande, Grayson, Westley, and Crows Landing.

Each area command will have a full compliment of staff to include a Chief of each contract, a Lieutenant, four Sergeants, line staff, and support staff. Officers, including Detectives, will be assigned to an area command and will report there for equipment and briefings. Each area command will be responsible to provide law enforcement services to both the city and County area. Relief personnel will be assigned to each area command to provide coverage in the event of planned or unplanned absences.

County staff has researched several potential solutions to provide space for a Sheriff's facility in Waterford since 2000. In 2002, the City of Waterford began planning the development of a new government center, and invited the County to consider co-location of the Sheriff's office and a new branch Library with the City's offices. The City's proposed project would include space dedicated for Waterford Police services in addition to the Sheriff's regional law enforcement needs. The City and County staff are currently working to develop a detailed development plan and proposal for the City to finance and construct a new City-County government center and for the City to lease space back to the County for the Sheriff's office at a competitive fair market rental rate. Once the project planning is complete, staff will bring the proposed facility lease to the Board of Supervisors for review and approval.

The City of Waterford has selected and acquired one-half of a city block on E Street between Welsh Street and Yosemite Boulevard (State Route 132) for this project. The present plan includes reservation of a portion of the site for a future branch Library

project. In addition to the Sheriff's East Area Command space, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors approved the appropriation of \$300,000 of Tobacco Tax Settlement Funds on June 12, 2001, to include multi-purpose community meeting space in the proposed project. This space could be used for public community meetings and part-time County services.

The City of Patterson constructed and opened a new City Hall facility within the past year. The City of Patterson is now working to develop a plan to provide additional space for law enforcement services for City police services, provided by Sheriff contract, and has asked County staff to consider leasing additional space at a fair market rate for regional Sheriff's law enforcement operations. The City is currently exploring several options to develop a new facility or to lease and renovate an existing space for law enforcement purposes. The project's specific plan is currently being developed by City staff. Once the plan is developed and a lease arrangement can be drafted, County staff will return to the Board of Supervisors for consideration of specific lease terms.

The City of Riverbank has an existing Riverbank Police facility and has offered to allow the Sheriff's office the additional space needed to accommodate a North Area Command office.

FULL BUILD OUT OPTION

The Stanislaus County Sheriff currently manages a centralized operation with all patrol officers operating out of the Sheriff's Operations Center at the Public Safety Center site. There are several key factors that make it difficult for the Sheriff to continue to operate using a centralized plan and they include the following:

Key Factors Affecting Growth Related to the Sheriff Operations Center:

- ❑ Growth in population and the related increases in law enforcement coverage will continue.
- ❑ Increases in the crime rate requiring the increased need for law enforcement presence.
- ❑ Changes commensurate with these increases will be required in order to continue operational procedures and workload.
- ❑ Changes in legislation affecting Federal, State or local funding resources, including grants, related to patrol staffing positions and equipment.
- ❑ Continued developments in the use of technology in order to continue law enforcement and resource partnerships and communications.

DECENTRALIZED OPTION

The Sheriff's Department has determined that the decentralization of specific and essential services into strategic contract cities or Area Commands would establish convenient and cost effective law enforcement services for Stanislaus County. Law enforcement services would include, at the least, patrol units, support services for staff, investigation services, identification and property handling capabilities, and expanded hours of accessibility daily.

The Sheriff's Department is confident that under the area command model the Department will reduce response time, reduce fuel cost, reduce liability, increase patrol time, increase accessibility to public, have a greater presence in the community, reduce the crime rate and meet our facility needs for the next several decades.

Square Footage and Space Needs – Decentralization Model(s):

- ❑ Decentralization into one Area Command, on average would require 11,200 square feet – cost estimated at \$2.8 million.
- ❑ Decentralization into three Area Commands, on average would require 11,200 square feet – cost estimated at \$8.3 million.
- ❑ Adoption of Decentralization Plan requires no additional square footage and would accommodate growth at the Sheriff's Operation Center for many years. There will be a cost to the County to lease the space needed for the portion of each of these law enforcement centers that is for the area command resource.

STAFFING IMPACT:

Currently the city of Riverbank has one Lieutenant (Chief), two Sergeants, 15 Patrol Deputies, two Detectives, one Community Officer, and several support staff. The City of Patterson currently has one Lieutenant (Chief), two Sergeants, 14 Patrol Deputies, three Detectives, and several support staff. The City of Waterford currently has one Lieutenant (Chief), one Sergeant, 7 Patrol Deputies, one Code Enforcement Officer, and support staff. The City of Hughson currently has one Lieutenant (Chief), 5 Patrol Deputies, and support staff.

In the decentralization model the City of Riverbank will become the north area command. This area command will be responsible for the unincorporated areas located north of the Tuolumne River between Dale and Geer. This will include the communities of Empire and Del Rio. In addition to existing personnel there will be two more Sergeants and approximately 13 Patrol Deputies assigned to the north area command. Waterford will become the east area command and provide services to the unincorporated areas east of Geer and Albers to the County line. This will include the communities of Knights Ferry, Valley Home, La Grange, Hickman, and Denair. In addition to existing personnel three Sergeants, approximately 24 Patrol Deputies, and two Detectives will be assigned to the east area command. The central area command will be run out the main office and will cover the 99 corridor north of Keyes road and west to the San Joaquin River. There will be five sergeants, approximately 30 Patrol Deputies and 33 Detectives assigned to the central area command. This does not include those officers assigned to the Salida Substation. Patterson will become the west area command, which will cover everything west of Hwy 99 south of Keyes road. This will include the communities of Diablo Grande, Grayson, Westley, and Crows Landing. In addition to existing personnel two Sergeants, approximately 20 Patrol Deputies, and one Detective will be assigned to the west area command.

Each area command will be responsible to provide law enforcement services to both the City and County area. Relief personnel will be assigned to each area command to

provide coverage for sickness, training, and vacations. It is anticipated that Community Service Officers, Probation Officers, and a K-9 Officer will also work out of each area command.

POLICY ISSUE:

Approval of this plan promotes the Board's Priority of a safe community and effective partnerships. Approval of this action will facilitate efficient delivery of public services while working cooperatively with the Contract Cities and making the most efficient use of County resources to protect the community.