



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Sheriff-Coroner

Subject: Proposed 2025-26 Budget for Sheriff-Coroner

Meeting Date: June 4, 2025

Formal Title: Consider approval of the Proposed 2025-26 Budget for Sheriff-Coroner, including any supplemental materials, and take related actions, as outlined in the referenced budget documents, and as recommended by the County Executive Officer

Recommended Action

Approve the 2025-26 Proposed Budget for Sheriff-Coroner, including any supplemental materials, as provided in the referenced budget documents:

- [Proposed Budget](#)
- [Fixed Assets](#)
- [Continuing Agreements List](#)
- [Unified Fee Schedule](#)
- Presentation

Executive Summary

The Proposed 2025-26 Budget for the Sheriff-Coroner supports three divisions: Operations Bureau, Corrections Bureau, and Court Security, with funded staffing of 358.00 funded full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.

Discussion

The mission of the Sheriff-Coroner is to ensure public safety in the County of Santa Cruz. We accomplish this through open communication and collaboration with our community as well as continuous professional development of staff to address crime and promote innovative corrections solutions. Department and division operational objectives are shown in the Proposed 2025-26 Budget document and 2025-27 Operational Plan. Both are available online at: www.SCCVision.us

The Sheriff-Coroner Proposed Budget includes a negotiated salary and benefit increase as well as a change in facility charges to properly reflect the cost of facility services and utilities. Also included are three capital projects that provide \$175,000 value included in the [2025-30 Capital Improvement Plan \(CIP\)](#).

Anticipated increases in state or federal funding include a \$131,449 increase from a California Department of Justice (DOJ) grant. However, anticipated changes in federal funding, particularly due to the DOJ's position on sanctuary jurisdictions, may negatively impact federal grant revenue.

The budget reflects a strong commitment to enhancing public safety through innovative service partnerships and improvements to correctional facilities, prioritizing the safety of both inmates and staff. The department is actively pursuing accreditation for both the DNA Laboratory and jail medical services.

Funded staffing has been amended to a total of 358.00 FTE positions including the addition of the following position: 1.0 FTE Sheriff's Property/Evidence Supervisor to meet DNA Laboratory accreditation requirements.

Budgeted funding will sustain ongoing staff efforts across our divisions—Operations, Corrections and Court Security—while also supporting investments in medical and behavioral/mental health services for incarcerated individuals, as well as the Sobering Center. Additionally, funding will assist in the continued development of the multi-year implementation of the CalAIM (California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal) State mandate, and the accreditation processes for both the DNA Lab and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) standards for correctional facilities. This budget also includes the completion of the Civil Software upgrade to ensure compliance with Assembly Bill 2791.

Over the next fiscal year, the department will continue to seek funding opportunities to redesign and expand the Main Jail Staff Locker Room. Originally designed in the 1970s for a smaller, predominantly male workforce, the current facility lacks adequate space and accommodations for female staff. A shortage of lockers for both genders has led to shared use and placement of lockers in shower stalls, restricting access to showers—critical for staff exposed to bodily fluids or hazardous substances.

Financial Impact

The Sheriff-Coroner Proposed Budget includes \$114,188,561 in expenditures offset by \$39,674,148 in revenues, \$71,391,413 in General Fund contribution, and a district sales tax contribution of \$3,123,000. This reflects a total expenditure increase of \$1,699,210 or 1.5% from the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Adopted Budget.

Strategic Initiatives

Equity Framework - Plans, Policies & Budgets

Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety

Submitted By:

Chris Clark, Sheriff-Coroner

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.