



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

RICHARD J. DALEY CENTER
COOK COUNTY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

THOMAS J. DART
SHERIFF

October 28, 2019

The Honorable Bridget Degnen
Cook County Board of Commissioners
118 N. Clark Street, Room 567
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Commissioner Degnen:

Thank you for meeting with us last week to discuss the Fiscal Year 2020 budget. Below please find responses to questions you had during that meeting.

1. What accounts for the increase in the Sheriff's Office Fiscal Year 2020 budget?

Excluding the grant and special purpose funds, which are not funded by Cook County taxpayers, the Sheriff's Office Fiscal Year 2020 budget is \$598.3 million, an increase of approximately \$13 million from last year. This increase is due to Board-approved increases, including a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment for all employees costing roughly \$4 million, \$5.2 million in insurance benefits contracted by Cook County Risk Management and Cook County Risk Management's projected increase for worker's compensation of \$5.1 million. There has also been a decrease in our salary account of approximately \$1 million.

2. When were employee insurance benefits moved to the Sheriff's Office budget?

Insurance benefits were moved from the Cook County Fixed Charges account to the Sheriff's Office budget in Fiscal Year 2017.

3. What savings has the Sheriff's Office realized from the decrease in the jail population?

The average daily jail population has decreased from 7,442 detainees in September 2017 to 5,982 in September 2019. CCDOC FTEs have also reduced during this time, by 552.7 from Fiscal Year 2017 to the Fiscal Year 2019, resulting in savings of approximately \$29.8 million. Most of these FTEs were eliminated, and some were transferred to the Sheriff's Police and Court Services to increase staff where needed. The Sheriff's Office has also realized \$3.1 million in savings in the CCDOC operating budget during this timeframe, with the largest decrease coming from approximately \$2 million in savings in the food contract. Please note, the Community Corrections budget is included in these calculations as it was a part of DOC's budget during this time. In Fiscal Year 2020, the FTE count for CCDOC will be reduced by another 62 positions.



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4. What additional resources did the Sheriff's Office ask for related to EM in the Fiscal Year 2020 budget?

The Sheriff's Office requested \$1.5 million for the Fiscal Year 2020 to fund an additional 20 EM investigators; however, this request was denied.

5. How much of the Sheriff's Office budget would shift to the Office of the Chief Judge if they took over EM?

The current EM budget is approximately \$17.8 million, including the \$3.8 million EM contract. The Sheriff's Office would expect to shift roughly \$14 million to the Office of the Chief Judge if they assume primary responsibility for the EM program. Note, the EM Fugitive Unit, as well as certain EM staff connected to Sheriff's Programs, would remain in the Sheriff's Office.

6. What resources are needed to effectively monitor all EM participants through a GPS system?

As you are aware, the Sheriff's Office EM program was originally intended to alleviate overcrowding in the jail. Today, however, EM is being used to monitor high-risk pre-trial defendants posting relatively low bonds. In fact, since September 2017, there has been a 122% increase in EM participants charged with murder/attempt murder, a 112% increase in EM participants charged with UYW by a felon, and a 55% decrease in EM participants with lead drug possession charges. As we discussed last week, given the current jail population and the statutory mandate for the Judiciary to operate Pretrial Services, the Sheriff's Office agrees that the vast majority of electronic home monitoring should be consolidated under the Office of the Chief Judge and has asked the Chief Judge to begin discussions regarding this transition. In the event the programs are not consolidated under the Office of the Chief Judge, the Sheriff's Office would need approximately an additional \$11 million to effectively monitor this type of EM population with GPS, GPS is more labor intensive than RF monitoring, due to the large amounts of data generated that require skilled analysis and investigation.

Thank you again for your support during this year's budget process. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bradley Curry".

Bradley Curry
Chief of Staff