



COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
3026 South California Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60608

November 12, 2020

Honorable John P. Daley, Chairman
Cook County Board of Commissioners, Finance Committee
118 N. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Chairman Daley:

Thank you for sending us Commissioner Miller's questions from the Sheriff's recent FY21 budget presentation. Please find our responses below.

- 1. Page O-21 Office of Prof Review, Prof Integrity Special Investigations: Currently there are 350 pending cases. What is the cause of the backlog of cases and can we get a breakdown of type of case and how long these cases have been open? OPR will also continue to utilize automation to improve efficiency and expedite processes, how will this work?**

The Sheriff's Office encourages the submission of honest complaints and concerns to its Office of Professional Review (OPR). Certain departments are required to forward incident or complaint information to OPR for review. Complaints may be made directly to OPR or through other indirect channels such as detainee grievances, filed lawsuits or anonymous tips. Every possible complaint is accepted and reviewed for further action.

As the metrics on Page O-21 indicate, the number of pending cases has been decreasing every year. Currently, this number is less than half of what it was approximately four years ago. It is also important to note that there are over 1,000 cases opened and closed each year. Additionally, two-thirds of the pending cases are less than six months old. Therefore, the number of pending cases cannot be considered a backlog.

OPR has utilized automation (i.e., e-signatures, electronic documents) to move cases through command channel review so that upon investigation completion, discipline and final determination decisions can be finalized more swiftly. The unit will continue working with the Sheriff's IT Department to realize efficiencies through technology while maintaining the integrity of the investigation process.

2. Page O-28 Information Technology: 501210 Planned Overtime: Currently this line item is \$323,555.58 over budget. Is this funded appropriately for FY21?

Yes. The overtime deficit is due to the COVID-19 pandemic and setting up the infrastructure necessary for remote court hearings and visitation. We expect that these expenditures will be reimbursed by FEMA.

3. Page O-34 Court Services Division: 501210 Planned Overtime: Currently this line item is 10% over FY20 budget. With less in person court calls due to the pandemic, why is OT over budget?

This deficit is because Court Services is reimbursed for some of their overtime by other agencies. There is a delay of approximately two months from the time the overtime is incurred to when the reimbursements are received.

4. Page O-40 Police Department: 501210 Planned Overtime: Currently this line item is 50% over budget. What's causing this and how will this be controlled for FY21 as the appropriation is unchanged?

This deficit is partly being caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We expect that these expenditures will be reimbursed by FEMA. The Police Department also incurred a large increase in overtime due to civil unrest in June, which is not controllable by the Sheriff's Office.

5. Page O-40 Police Department: 11975 Community Programs: Is this a new department because it looks like some FTE's were moved from 13355-Law Enforcement Operational Support Command and what programs will they be tasked with?

This is not a new program but is new to the budget document. We transferred the appropriate personnel here in order to be more transparent. These employees provide support to the communities through innovative and impactful community-based programs such as the Junior Sheriff's Program, Senior Academies, Pop-Up Resource Fairs, youth programming, RENEW, Wandering Response Program, Sheriff's Rebuild Program and many more.

6. Page O-46 Community Corrections: 501210 Planned Overtime: This line item is already 340% over FY20 budget. Why is that and is it funded correctly for FY21?

Yes, the overtime deficit is due to the COVID-19 pandemic and we expect the expenditures will be reimbursed by FEMA. As the Sheriff indicated in his budget address, the number of participants in EM has increased by almost 1,000 since the pandemic began while our staffing has not increased.

7. Page O-46 Community Corrections: 540129-Maintenance and Subscription Services: \$2.5 million or 67% increase for FY21. What is this big increase for?

This is due to the increase in EM participants and the .38 cents per unit, per day increase in moving from RF to GPS.

8. Page O-50 Department of Corrections: Inmate Programs Departments 15081, 15082, 15083, 15084: During the hearing it was mentioned that the Sheriff's office would

summarize where programs overlap...and if/where these programs may be duplicative. Are these functions performed by clinicians? What's the difference between the mental health services provided by the Inmate Mental Health Transition Center as opposed to Cermak staff?

Behavioral health programs in the Department of Corrections are focused on setting up detainees for post-release success and interrupting the cycles of violence, mental health issues, substance abuse disorders and incarceration. We offer these vital programs to supplement and support the services offered by Cermak, which utilizes a medical model of mental health services, different and separate from the behavioral health services offered through Sheriff's Office programming.

Cermak provides services to those they have identified as being on their mental health case load (approximately 40% of the average daily jail population). They provide intake assessments/screenings, psychiatry, and individual and group counseling to a limited number of detainees with intermediate and acute mental health needs. They also provide medical discharge services by ordering medications and coordinating aftercare services in hospital settings for our acute and chronically ill patients.

Sheriff's Office in-custody programs and services are offered to some individuals on the mental health case load, but primarily to those who are considered General Population and are not receiving any type of mental health or re-entry services from Cermak. Our mental health services focus on behavioral health interventions, such as group and individual counseling as well as case management, referrals to specialty courts and resources for individuals at bond court, and discharge services.

We have also developed an "in-reaching" component of community programs that connects detainees with community services providers while in custody to help strengthen rapport and trust between the patient and provider to support post release connections to care in the community. We use our data to connect individuals from identified neighborhoods with the service providers in those areas so there are strong connections to assist with re-entry.

Below is an example of the difference between Cermak Mental Health Services and CCDOC Services:

- Patient #1 (Not engaged in CCDOC programming)
 - Enters DOC and receives intake medical and mental health assessment from Cermak Health Services
 - Identified as P2/M2
 - Meets with psychiatrist at least once every 90 days for medication assessment
 - Receives 1 "community group a month" with other P2 detainees in the division they are housed in. Community groups are typically 1 hour
 - Discharged with medications available to be picked up at Stroger
- Patient #2 (Engaged in CCDOC programming)
 - Enters DOC and receives intake medical and mental health assessment from Cermak Health Services
 - Identified as P2/M2
 - Interviewed and recruited to participate in MHTC programming

- Housed with a cohort of other MHTC participants
- Attends cognitive behavioral treatment programming 5 days a week at the MHTC (therapeutic environment with classrooms, counselors, and dedicated correctional staff)
- Participates in creative expression programming to develop self-confidence, expand interests in prosocial behaviors, learn additional coping skills to support recovery
- Meets with re-entry coordinator to develop individualized treatment plan that includes housing, food and clothing shelters, assistance with gaining state ID, and employment services)
- Meets with psychiatrist at least once every 90 days for medication assessment
- Connected with community agencies and members who participate in CCDOC jail in reaching services
- Discharged with medications available to be picked up at Stroger
- Receives calls from staff post release to check in with client
- Invited to attend alumni meetings
- Has access to transportation services for court, medical and MH appointments, job interviews, etc.

9. Page O-51 Department of Corrections: 501165-Planned Salary Adjustment: What will this funding be used for, there's a \$2.8 mil increase?

This funding is for the Roll Call bonus and differential pay per Board-approved Collective Bargaining Agreements. There is not an increase; the funding was just transferred from 501225-Planned Benefit Adjustment.

10. Page O-51 Department of Corrections: 501210-Planned Overtime: This line item is \$28 mil. or 307% over FY20 budget. What can be done to control this in FY21?

Most of this overtime is due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is therefore out of the control of the Sheriff's Office. We believe that overtime will come down once there is a safe, effective and readily available COVID-19 vaccine. At that point, we would be able to safely eliminate current social distancing and single celling practices and close recently re-opened areas of the Jail.

11. Page O-51 Department of Corrections: 501765-Professional Develop. Fees: What training programs are being put in place with this \$1.7 million. increase?

This funding is for the Uniform Allowances per Board-approved Collective Bargaining Agreements. The increase is because in FY20 this obligation was paid out of FY19 surplus funds.

12. Page O-60. Sheriff's Merit Board: 520825 Professional Services: FY21 Request is 79% more than FY20. Current FY20 expenditures are \$10K. What contracts or functions are covered under this line item?

We reached out to Rosemarie Nolan, Executive Director of the Merit Board, to respond to this question: The increase in FY 21 Budget Request is the result of the Board-approved contract with I/O Solutions for entry level testing and promotional testing. This increase in the request is primarily driven by the need for developing and administering a job analysis study for the entry

level testing process for the Correctional Officer position and the seven (7) promotional positions for the positions of Sheriff's Police Officer, Sheriff's Police Sergeant, Sheriff's Police Lieutenant, Court Services Sergeant, Court Services Lieutenant, Cook County Department of Correction's Sergeant and Correctional Lieutenant to ensure a correlation between test scores and job performance. A job analysis is conducted at a minimum of one (1) time during the three (3) year contract term and periodic validation may be necessary for anticipated changes to job duties or changes to examinations. Additionally, IO Solutions will provide a valid, reliable and defensible entry-level examination utilized to select Correctional Officers and promotional examinations for 3 major divisions of the Cook County Sheriff's Office for several sworn, merit rank positions within the Sheriff's Police Department, the Cook County Department of Corrections, and Court Services Department.

13. Page O-67 Women's Justice Services: 580031-Reimbursement Designated Fund: FY19 and YTD expenditures are \$0. What is this line item for?

This is a Special Purpose Fund. The funds come from fines collected per the Public Nuisance Act and are transferred to the Behavioral Health program at the CCDOC at the end of the year.

14. Page O-68 Pharmaceutical Disposal Fund: FY19 had \$0 expenditures and YTD is at \$720, has this program been put on hold?

The program has not been placed on hold. The expenditures are typically paid out of the operating fund and a one-time chargeback is entered at year-end.

Thank you for forwarding these responses to Commissioner Miller and the Board. We are grateful for your support during these challenging times and look forward to continuing to work together for all Cook County residents.

Sincerely,



Brad Curry
Chief of Staff