



**CITY OF BUCHANAN
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 29, 2025

To: City Manager Tony McGhee

From: Chief Harvey Burnett

Subject: School Resource Officer Memorandum of Agreement

Action Requested

Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Buchanan Community Schools (SRO) and the City of Buchanan through the Buchanan Police Department (BPD) to provide a School Resource Officer (SRO) for 2025-2026. The total cost for the SRO position is \$70,620.64 (which includes salary and benefits based on the school calendar year), of which, \$52,965.48 will be paid for by the School District and \$17,655.16 will be paid by the City.

Background and Justification

In 2024, the police department responded to 110 incidents to BCS and 73 incidents thus far in 2025. Approximately 60% of these reports required a substantial amount of a patrol officer's time to investigate them (i.e., such as, a threat of violence, a Child Protective Services investigation, bullying, suspicious activity, truancy, and so on). Also, with the rise of violence being perpetrated at educational institutions across America warrants the need for an SRO as a first line deterrent to acts of violence, as well as building more positive relationships with student, parents and school staff. This, in turn, helps to increase a safe school environment where students and educators can focus on the business of learning.

Furthermore, BCS and BPD entered an MOA in 2023-2024 to fund an SRO position. In fact, BCS obtained a three-year state grant that covered 50% of the SRO's position, while BCS and BPD covered the remaining cost by contributing 25% from each organization. Unfortunately, the SRO at that time resigned from BPD to pursue another career. As a result, the grant was deferred until the position could be filled.

Recommendation

Given that the remainder of the grant (approximately 1 ½ years) can now be reinstituted, and BCS formal request to refill the SRO position, and BPD has the personnel capacity to refill this position,

it is recommended that the City Commission authorizes the Chief of Police execute the MOA. The 25% funding to meet the conditions of the state grant obtained by BCS is available in the Police Departments' FY 2025-2026 budget.

Say "Yes" to Police-Community Partnerships!