

Loganville Police Department
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M.D. Lowry

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MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Danny Roberts
From: Chief M.D. Lowry 
Ref: Budget Amendment – Additional SRO
Date: July 7, 2022

As we discussed, the Walton County Board of Education has approved additional funding to provide School Resource Officers (SROs) in all Walton County Elementary Schools beginning with the 2022-2023 school year. The BOE has worked on this additional funding for some time, as both the Board and their partner law enforcement agencies find this to unfortunately be a critical issue in current times.

Currently, the Loganville Police Department receives funding to provide One (1) School Resource Officer at Loganville High School. We have also covered Bay Creek Elementary School this school year without funding from the BOE, by utilizing the SRO Supervisor, which has always been a City funded position. I believe our commitment to the safety of our schools is clear, in that we have undertaken efforts to ensure both public schools in our jurisdiction receive adequate coverage from our Agency. Quite simply, the safety of these schools is undeniably our responsibility.

This update in SRO funding came about after the submission and approval of the upcoming 2022-2023 LPD budget, and thus was not included in the budget proposal and recommendations. The current agreement with the BOE provides \$55,000.00 per school, per school year. The change in funding will provide **\$110,000.00** in total funding from the BOE. In light of this change, we request Council to approve the necessary changes in the Police budget to reflect the addition of One (1) School Resource Officer as detailed on the addendum to this request.

We currently have on staff a trained and experienced officer who has previously worked in an SRO position in the Walton County School System. If approved by the Council, this officer would move to this new assignment at the start of the school year. We request Council approval to hire a patrol officer to replace this SRO to maintain our current patrol staffing strategy at a total cost not to exceed **\$139,000.00** (Salary + Benefits + Equipment).

We will maintain the SRO Supervisor position with budgeted funds, as we have since the inception of the program in 2006. The addition of an additional SRO will allow the SRO Supervisor to “float” between schools, provide additional security and investigative assistance as needed, as well as ensure coverage during times when the assigned SRO must attend training, court or is ill and away from the school. This will also provide additional time for the SRO Supervisor to complete other tasks that fall under the Community Policing Division, to include Neighborhood Watch, Community Engagement and the implementation of a new and innovative student educational program that will replace the DARE program currently in place.