



MILES CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
Doug Colombik, Chief of Police

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To: Mayor Grenz and Mary Rowe

From: Chief Colombik

Ref: Preliminary budget 2026/2027

Dear Mayor Grenz, Mary and Finance Committee:

The following is a preliminary budget for fiscal year 2026/2027 which will include police and animal control. It is too early to determine if we will be funded for having our SRO in the school system, as these meetings with the school district and county will be ongoing.

Police 1000-005-420140

100 Series line items: These numbers will need to be determined through the budget process.

111 Salaries and wages: The total wage amount is unknown at this point in time. I want to budget for **18 full time sworn officers**. In addition, union negotiations need to be completed to get figures out to the Finance Committee. The request for 18 officers was explained during the presentation Captain Sloan and I did for the Public Safety Committee on February 12, 2026.

121 Overtime: This amount would be the same at \$60,000.00. This number would be suitable if we are full staffed at 18 officers.

131 and 132 Vacation and Sick: These numbers come out of #111 Wages.

133 Other Leave Pay: This line item will be over budget as we have had 2 officers resign and one was terminated so the payout for their comp time, vacation leave and one quarter of their sick time added up. In addition, the officer's cash out their comp time every quarter, so \$50,000.00 is probably not enough going into this next fiscal year. I would budget this line item at \$55,000.00.

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134 Holiday Pay: Currently the holiday pay line item is not correct, as of 4/9/26 the report shows we have used \$1,697.00 for 9 holidays which is not possible. With one holiday left for the fiscal year, we should be close to the \$50,000.00 which was budgeted. This number will need to be determined sometime over the summer when actual figures come out.

141 Unemployment Insurance: This will be determined out of the payroll office.

142 Workers Comp: This will be determined out of the payroll office.

143 Health Insurance: Same as above

144 FICA: Same as above

145 PERS: Same as above

146 Police Pension: Same as above

196: Clothing Allotment: This is part of the union contract as officers receive a clothing allotment twice a year (\$700 total). Keep the same.

210 Office Supplies: Keep the same at \$4,000.00. Various office supply purchases including printer ink.

214 Small Items of Equipment: Increase to \$26,000.00 from \$20,482.00. Computers, weapons, protective gear, etc. We need to replace 10 computers as informed by DIS due to the fact we need to run Windows 11 on all systems. The DIS tech highly suggested we replace all computers from 2022 and older. We currently have 13 computers in the office, they are constantly used for reports, search warrant work and documentation along with evidence work. There is little “down time” with the computers in the police department.

220 Operating Expenses: Increase to \$35,000.00 from \$25,000.00. This line item needs to be increased for multiple monthly purchases along with our Taser contract (two more years on the five-year contract). The upcoming payment due in September is \$16,246.00. Other expenses are towing fees, Verizon, alarm monitoring, body armor, locksmith work, furnace, heating and cooling issues with the building, equipment needed for patrol cars such as stop sticks, first aid supplies, PD cleaning supplies, etc. Other expenses are unexpected costs out of our control (such as the building repair issues and autopsy requests from the County Attorney).

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226 Clothing and Uniforms: Keep the same at \$500.00.

227 Firearm Supplies: Keep the same at \$9,000.00.

231 Gas, Oil, Diesel: Keep the same at \$35,000.00. Fuel prices in the next several months are unknown, but currently very high.

311 Postage: Keep the same at \$1200.00.

334 Memberships: Keep the same at \$1,000.00. Fitness memberships are the biggest expense. This is part of the 283B contract.

341 Electric Utility: Keep the same (determined by clerk)

342 Water Utility: Keep the same (determined by clerk).

343 Sewer Utility: Keep the same

344 Gas Utility: Keep the same

345 Telephone: \$3,000.00, decreased from \$3,600.00. Range provides this service.

347 Internet: Keep the same

350 Professional Services: Keep the same at \$35,000.00. Motorola user fees and license for car and body cams are \$3500 a year, are trying to transition to a different company due to the expense. Other costs include PD cleaning, officer candidate testing, Secure warrant user fees, unexpected deductible fees for law suits and computer I.T. multiple issues. We will probably be close to \$35,000.00 at the end of this current fiscal year.

360 Control R&M: Keep the same at \$432.00 for police department floor mats.

370 Travel: Keep the same at \$8,000.00. We are expecting more travel costs for advanced training with a large number of younger officers along with more police academy costs.

380 Training: Keep the same at \$15,000.00. With the recent turnover of officers, we have to send more to the 12-week police academy in Helena along with appropriate advanced training for our young group of officers to limit liability to the city. Costs to send three officers to the academy without meal allowance will be close to \$5,000.00.

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511 Insurance on Buildings: Keep the same

512 Insurance on Vehicles: Keep the same

700 Grants: Keep the same at \$4500 for the Drug Task Force contribution.

940 Machinery and Equipment: Increase from \$68,120 to \$100,000. This will be to replace the existing Motorola equipment for the cars and body cameras to a different company (10-8 Video). We have already started with two car video systems and two body cameras. The cost to finish outfitting the current fleet will be \$45,000.00. The balance of \$55,000.00 will be to purchase another new street patrol vehicle as our fleet continues to age out. The plan is to apply for Coal Board funds to equipment this new vehicle. The coal board will not fund for police vehicles anymore but is more open to equipment needs.

Capital Improvement Fund: \$10,000.00.

SRO Funding: The remaining balance of this COPS award funding was used to rehire Officer Qualley during the budget crisis of 2024/2025. The award period is for 5 years but the award amount was the same as the original 2020 award at \$125,000.00. This was the 2023 award. We are now out of award funds. There will be ongoing meetings with the county commissioners and Miles City Unified School Board to discuss what options are available to keep an SRO in the school system for 9 months. Currently, we can no longer pull an officer from the street patrol as we are short-handed and our investigation office is suffering from a lack of investigative support (we need two full time investigators due to the case load). There are several issues to work through if this program is going to continue.

BVP Grant

The grant funds are currently not available with this program but when it re-opens, I will draw down the remaining funds to offset the cost of new vests for four new officers. We currently have \$1200.00 left over in this grant.

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Animal Control 1000-021-440600

All current 2025/2026 will be the same estimates.

The first change to this budget is **#940, Machinery and Equipment**. We are currently budgeted for \$20,000.00 to upgrade to a new vehicle for our animal control/code enforcement officer. I have applied for funding on two grants, The Department of Commerce and The Montana Community Foundation Grant. Unfortunately, we received no funding. Animal control and code enforcement does not have the high priority on some of these grant opportunities, which makes it very challenging to be awarded funds. I want to budget another \$20,000.00 to match the funds we have already and replace the 2009 Ford Ranger Officer Winkley is currently using. There is an incredible demand for his services in Miles City.

The second change/request will be to add another code enforcement officer to the police department. We have gotten to the point where one officer cannot keep up with the workload that is coming in on a daily basis for both animal control and code enforcement. One option might be a part-time code enforcement officer during spring, summer and early fall, but many of these cases do not end up in court for several months. There needs to be some discussion on this.

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