

MEMORANDUM



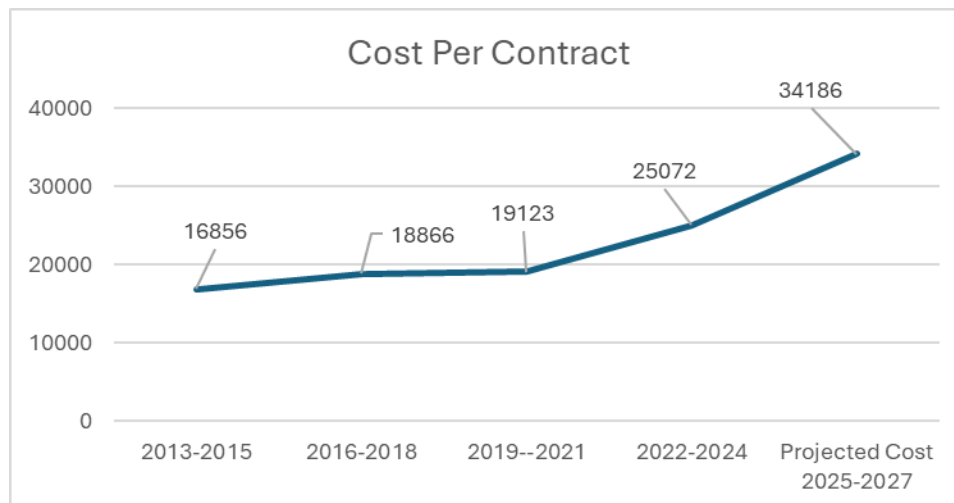
TO: VICTOR CARDENAS, CITY MANAGER
FROM: ERICK W. ZINSER,
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY/CHIEF OF POLICE
SUBJECT: OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF – MARINE PATROL
DATE: MAY 14, 2025

History

In 2010 the Oakland County Sheriff's Office changed the way marine patrols were conducted due to budget cuts. In place of the normal marine patrol activity, Municipalities were offered the opportunity to contract for dedicated marine patrol services for a fee.

Since 2013 the City of Novi has entered into agreements with the Oakland County Marine Patrol Division to patrol our portion of Walled Lake. The City of Novi did realize a slight increase in the cost over the first three contracts. There was, however, a sharp, 31% increase in cost in 2022-2024. The cost continues to rise as identified as Appendix A.

Annually, the Oakland County Marine Division logs 208 hours on Walled Lake. I received the proposed contract for 2025-2027. There is a notable sharp increase in costs. The projected cost over the three-year contract based on an average of all rates provided in Schedule A of the contract, at 208 hours of patrol per year, is \$34,186 (graph 1). That is a 36 % increase for the term of the contract.



Graph 1

These rate increases are not set by the City of Novi, nor do we have any input. The rates are arbitrarily set by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. I suspect the increases are related to significant wage increases and increase to overall marine expenses.

The majority of the 670 acre Walled Lake rests within the City of Novi's jurisdiction yet lacks a police presence. Since the cancellation of marine patrols through Oakland County, we have received citizen complaints regarding unlawful behavior on the lake. Of particular concern is a large sand bar on the east end of the lake near East Lake and 14 Mile. Citizens are reporting such violations as urinating in public, excessive alcohol consumption, loud music, and trespassing while the boaters congregate in the area for several hours at a time. Of particular concern is the unsafe operation of boats by intoxicated drivers as there is no fear of enforcement activity. Unfortunately, patrol officers are unable to resolve most of the issues or take enforcement action from the shoreline.

Other Communities, the Oakland County Sheriff's Office- Marine Division contracts with:

- Commerce Twp. (4 lakes)
- West Bloomfield Twp. (3 lakes)
- Orion Twp. (2 lakes)
- Highland Twp. (1 lake)
- Independence Twp. (1 lake)
- Addison Twp. (1 lake)
- City of Orchard Lake (1 lake)
- White Lake Twp. (1 lake)

Recommendation

I propose the City of Novi enter into a contract with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office- Marine Division for 208 hours of weekend and holiday patrols for the 2025-2027 boating seasons. I believe the added layer of enforcement will provide a safer boating environment for our citizens and curtail illegal behavior. The estimated cost of the contract is \$34,186.