

**LAW ENFORCEMENT & DISPATCH SERVICES:
A PROPOSAL FOR THE CITY OF SUTTER CREEK**



PREPARED BY THE AMADOR COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



LAW ENFORCEMENT AND DISPATCH SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF SUTTER CREEK

Introduction & Background:

The Amador County Sheriff's Office was approached by the City of Sutter Creek and asked to produce a preliminary cost proposal for the Sheriff's Office to assume responsibility for both law enforcement and dispatch services within city limits.

Dispatch services are currently provided by the Sheriff's Office with a quarterly bill to Sutter Creek. The current bill is determined by evaluating the percentage of the county's total population (excluding incarcerated individuals) residing within city limits and multiplying this percentage by the total amount spent on dispatch services for the quarter. For fiscal year 24/25 the total amount billed for dispatch services equals \$162,232.93. Based upon a population percentage of 7.18063%, the projected dispatch cost for Sutter Creek in fiscal year 25/26 is \$175,072.30.

Law enforcement services within the City of Sutter Creek are currently provided by the Sutter Creek Police Department. Based upon publicly available budget information, the proposed budget for police services within the City of Sutter Creek for fiscal year 25/26 is \$1,107,369.

About the Amador County Sheriff's Office:

The Amador County Sheriff's Office provides full-time law enforcement services to the residents and businesses located in the unincorporated areas of the County, as well as within the cities of Amador City and Plymouth. The Sheriff's Office is currently funded for 49 full-time Deputy Sheriffs and 10 extra-help Deputy Sheriffs, spanning ranks from Deputy Sheriff and Undersheriff. Deputies classified under California Penal Code section 830.1(a) serve within the Patrol, Investigations, Coroner, and Court Security Bureaus.

Across these bureaus, deputies fulfill specialized assignments including bailiff duties, property crimes investigations, general and narcotics investigations, marine enforcement, and East Bay Municipal Utility District enforcement.

The sworn staff referenced above also receive specialized training and serve in many collateral duty roles. Some of the specialized units and teams within the Sheriff's Office include the Special Weapons & Tactics Team (SWAT), Canine Team, Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT), Sniper Team, Homeless of Amador React Team (HART), Search & Rescue Team (SAR), Dive Team, Swift Water Rescue Team, and Peer

Support Team. The Sheriff's Office also operates a Law Enforcement Chaplain Program to help care for staff and members of the public during trying times.

The Sheriff's Office operates with a supervisor holding the rank of Sergeant or higher on-duty at all times. Continuous supervisory coverage significantly reduces liability exposure and ensures experienced leadership is available to guide complex or high-risk incidents. The Sheriff's Office strongly believes that unsupervised deployment of minimally experienced personnel presents unnecessary risk and does not reflect modern best practices in law enforcement.

In addition to the benefit of having 24/7 supervision, the size of Sheriff's Office allows for a robust administrative and executive management team. Salaried Lieutenants, Captains, and the Undersheriff are always available to provide strategic oversight, policy guidance, and risk mitigation. This depth of leadership ensures consistency, accountability, and professional service delivery.

The Sheriff's Administrative Bureau is staffed with a full-time Sergeant and an extra-help retired Sheriff's Sergeant with 30 years of experience. The Administrative Bureau ensures the Sheriff's Office remains in compliance with all training and legal reporting requirements, serves as a liaison to outside agencies utilizing technology owned and managed by the Sheriff's Office, arranges mandated and specialized training, coordinates hiring and recruitment, and oversees the many agency audits required of a modern law enforcement agency.

Within the Investigations Bureau, in addition to our highly trained detectives, the Sheriff's Office employs two certified Crime Scene Investigators. The Crime Scene Investigators serve as our Property/Evidence Room Technicians on a full-time basis, while remaining available for callout to serve in the field when needed to process major or complex crime scenes.

Sheriff Redman, by virtue of a Board Resolution, serves as the Director of Emergency Services for the County of Amador and is designated as the Emergency Service Coordinator for the entire county. A Sheriff's Sergeant currently serves within the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES) overseeing the day-to-day operations of the OES. The sergeant handles planning, coordination, response, support and communications with all agencies affected by large scale emergencies or disasters.

The Sheriff's Office operates the only Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) in Amador County. The Sheriff's Communication Center (Dispatch) is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to receive emergency calls and texts, as well as non-emergency business calls. The Communications Center serves as the dispatch hub for the Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, District Attorney's Office, Code Enforcement, and when needed Public Works and Animal Control. The Communications Center currently provides contract dispatch services to all five incorporated cities in Amador County. The Sheriff's Office currently funds 12 full time positions within the Communications Center.

The Sheriff's Office owns and maintains the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system utilized by all our contract cities, the incorporated cities within the county, and county peace officers. This system houses all crime and incident reports and serves as a comprehensive repository for information related to persons, vehicles, property, and law enforcement records. The Sutter Creek Police Department currently accesses this system under the existing dispatch services agreement.

The Sheriff's Office also operates the Amador County Jail, which houses both sentenced and unsentenced individuals. The existing Jail has a rated capacity of 76 persons, with an expansion nearing completion that will house an additional 40 individuals. The conditions of confinement are maintained in accordance with all state and federal laws. The Jail provides numerous enrichment and education services to our incarcerated population as well as physical and behavioral health care services. The Corrections Division is currently funded for 37 positions and effective January 1, 2026, all Correctional Officers over 21 years old will be legally recognized as Correctional Deputies under California Penal Code section 830.1(c). This classification will afford our staff greater protection under the law, while enabling the Sheriff's Office to use the Correctional Deputies in the field during declared emergencies/disasters.

A recent advancement within the Sheriff's Office is the creation of the Grant Acquisition and Management Team. In only a few years, this team has secured millions of dollars in grant funding, benefiting both the Sheriff's Office and the county as a whole. The team consists of two full-time Program Managers and one Program Technician, supported by Sheriff's Office administration and fiscal staff. By providing law enforcement and dispatch services to the City of Sutter Creek, the Sheriff's Office anticipates increased eligibility for grant opportunities that could help offset costs while enhancing public safety.

Cost Proposals:

For the purpose of generating this proposal, the Sheriff's Office utilized our current total cost for a "C-step" Deputy Sheriff, holding an Intermediate POST certificate, working a swing shift, hired after the Public Employee Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) went into effect. This total cost is currently \$90.40 per hour.

The Sheriff's Office also utilized the current projected cost for dispatch services and current total cost for deputies for fiscal year 25/26. All employee labor associations will be negotiating their contractual terms with the County of Amador in the middle of 2026. The projected costs will require adjustment, likely higher, once compensation terms are settled.

Proposal 1 – Service to the City of Sutter Creek Following Our Unincorporated Model

Under this proposal the Sheriff's Office would respond to all calls for service within the City of Sutter Creek, with patrol coverage incorporated into the existing county beat structure. The Sheriff's Office estimates that the equivalent of three and one-half (3.5) Deputy Sheriff positions would provide adequate staffing to respond to calls, conduct proactive enforcement, manage traffic issues, and conduct detailed criminal investigations into complex cases. The one-half of a deputy is allocated due to the anticipated increase in significant cases which would require the time of a detective and the support of the entire Investigations Bureau.

$$\$90.40 \text{ per hour} \times 2080 \text{ hours} \times 3.5 = \$658,112$$

Under this model the Sheriff's Office requires 2 additional vehicles. Vehicles are "leased" through the County via monthly charge with built in replacement cost.

$$\$33,000 \text{ per vehicle per year} \times 2 \text{ vehicles} = \$66,000$$

Three of the deputies would need required safety and enforcement equipment (i.e. ballistic vest, radio, firearms, Taser 10, uniforms, body camera, etc.) upfront:

$$\$13,500 \text{ per deputy} \times 3 \text{ deputies} = \$40,500$$

Dispatch Costs would continue to apply under the current model:

$$\text{Fiscal year 25/26 Dispatch Costs} = \$175,072.30$$

Subtotal \$939,684.30

At the beginning of the agreement the Sheriff's Office would need to hire for the positions created. Typically, this requires sponsoring an applicant through a full academy. The approximate cost to acquire a recruit, conduct a law enforcement background, pay for psychological and medical screening, sponsor them through the academy, and pay for their recruitment signing bonus is approximately \$55,000. The Sheriff's Office does not anticipate this cost applying on an annual basis.

$$\$55,000 \text{ per recruit} \times 3 \text{ recruits} = \$165,000$$

Total Year One = \$1,104,684.30

Without further discussion and knowledge of Sutter Creek Police Department's internal operations, it's unknown what other administrative or transition costs may exist, if any. Furthermore, a conversation would need to occur to discuss coverage costs for large-scale public events requiring additional law enforcement presence within the City of Sutter Creek.

In subsequent contract years the Sheriff's Office feels that an approximately five percent increase in costs should be expected given historical trends. The recruit costs referenced above would only apply to the first year of the contract, so those funds would not be required in year two or beyond. The anticipated projected cost for year two of the agreement would then be:

$(\$1,104,684 \text{ for year one} \times 5\% \text{ Increase}) - \$165,000 \text{ for recruits} =$

Projected Year Two Cost = \$994,918.20

Proposal 2 – 24 Hour Coverage by a dedicated Deputy within City Limits

Under this proposal model the Sheriff's Office would need to employ six deputies for around-the-clock coverage using our traditional staffing model:

$\$90.40 \text{ per hour} \times 2080 \text{ hours per year} \times 6 \text{ deputies} = \$1,128,192.$

Under this model the Sheriff's Office requires 3 additional vehicles. Vehicles are "leased" through the County via monthly charge with built in replacement cost.

$\$33,000 \text{ per year per vehicle} \times 3 \text{ vehicles} = \$99,000$

The six deputies would need required safety and enforcement equipment (i.e. ballistic vest, radio, firearms, Taser 10, uniforms, body camera, etc.) upfront:

$\$13,500 \text{ per deputy} \times 6 \text{ deputies} = \$81,000$

Dispatch Costs would continue to apply under the current model:

Fiscal year 25/26 Dispatch Costs = \$175,072.30

Recruit Costs:

$\$55,000 \text{ per recruit} \times 6 \text{ recruits} = \$330,000$

Without further discussion, it's unknown what other administrative or transition costs may exist. Furthermore, a discussion would need to occur to discuss coverage for large-scale public events requiring law enforcement presence within the City of Sutter Creek. The current total, omitting the unknown factors requiring discussion, the total for this model is:

Year One Total = \$1,468,354.23

Conclusion:

The Amador County Sheriff's Office respectfully submits this cost proposal to the City of Sutter Creek for consideration. The Sheriff's Office has a long-standing history of partnership with the City of Sutter Creek and the Sutter Creek Police Department. However, the Sheriff's Office firmly believes that its size, depth of experience, leadership structure, advanced training, and broad range of services uniquely position it to deliver superior, consistent, and sustainable law enforcement services to the community.

Historically, the Sutter Creek Police Department has relied on the Sheriff's Office for assistance and specialized support, which has been provided without hesitation and without charge. In today's fiscal environment, all jurisdictions face rising costs and constrained revenues, making efficient, high-quality service delivery more critical than ever.

The Sheriff's Office welcomes the opportunity to engage in further discussion regarding this proposal and to answer any questions that may arise. We are confident that our experience, personnel, and resources would enhance public safety for the residents, businesses, and visitors of Sutter Creek. We also look forward to exploring additional grant opportunities that may further benefit the city through a collaborative partnership.

Guided by our motto, "**Proud to Serve, Ready to Protect,**" the Amador County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing professional, responsive, and accountable service. We welcome the opportunity to demonstrate this commitment to the City of Sutter Creek.