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# Sutter Creek Police Department: A Year In Review 2025



Chief Jim O'Connell  
November 3, 2025

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# Organizational Authorized Staffing

- 5 Full-Time Police Officers
  - 1 Part-Time Police Chief
  - 0 Administrative Assistants
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A photograph of three men standing outdoors. The man on the left is wearing a police uniform with a star badge and is smiling broadly. The man in the middle is wearing a dark suit and tie, also smiling. The man on the right is wearing a police uniform with a star badge and is smiling. They are standing in front of a white car and a blue tent. The background shows a parking lot and some trees.

**Total Staffing  
Including**

**Reserves and  
Volunteers**

- 1 Chief of Police
  - 1 Sergeant
  - 4 Police Officers
  - 3 Reserve Officers
  - 6 Civilian Volunteers
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# Sutter Creek Police Services

- 24/7 Public Safety Services

- Patrol

- Investigations

- Traffic Enforcement

- Mutual Aid

- Business Liaison

- Concealed Weapons Permits

- School Presence

- Parade Management

- Evidence Management

- Court Liaison

- Records Management

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# The Hours Your Officers Work

When fully staffed Officers work 80  
hour pay periods

Officers work 12-hour shifts and work  
3 days in one week and 4 days in the  
next

Rotating Weekends Off

Shifts are selected one year in advance

Must work at least one day shift and  
evening shift throughout the year

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# Recruitment and Retention

Staff retention continues to be a challenging endeavor here and in other Amador agencies.

This last year we lost a local, qualified officer to a larger metropolitan agency.

Since 2016 we have lost 6 officers to other agencies.

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# Recruitment and Retention

This year Reserve Officer Wassner joined the SCPD team and now regularly assists in covering shift shortages.

SCPD is currently doing a pre-employment background investigation on a police officer candidate, which would bring us to authorized staffing levels.

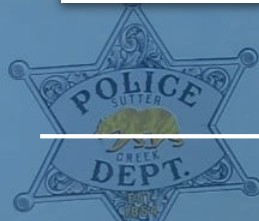
Officers cite organizational culture and stability, as well as the take home car program as reasons they stay with SCPD.

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# 2025 Training

- Perishable Skills (Driving, Use of Force, Range, Laws)
- Peer Support
- Officer Wellness International Conference
- Field Training Officer Update
- Four Week Management Course
- Crisis Intervention



**POLICE**  
SUTTER CREEK

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# Important Partnerships

- Amador Sheriff's Department
  - CHP
  - Jackson PD
  - Lone PD
  - Amador Chaplains
  - Amador Probation
  - Sutter Creek Fire District
  - Schools
  - Department of Justice
  - Operation CARE
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# Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) AB953

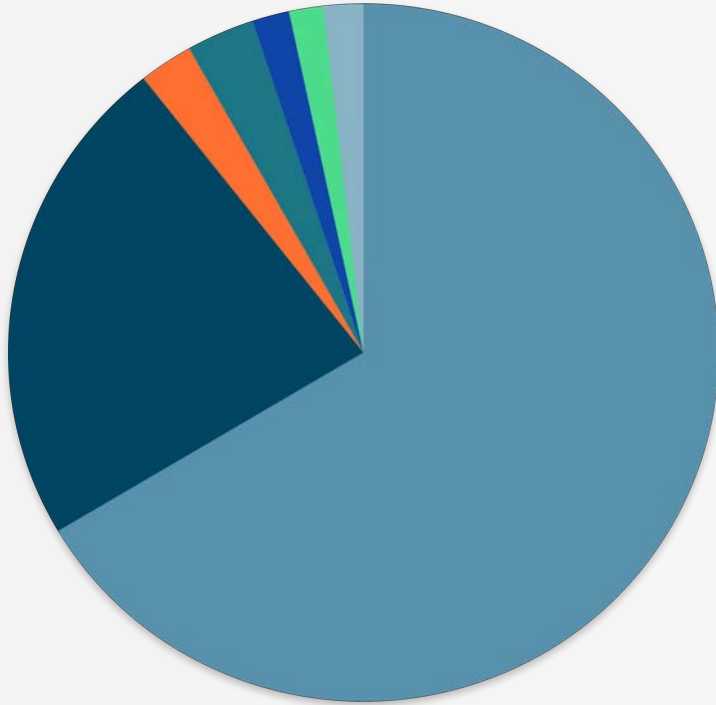
Requires all law enforcement agencies in the state to collect perceived demographic and other detailed data regarding pedestrian and traffic stops.

censusreporting.org reports Sutter Creek is 81% White, 9% Two Races, 8% Hispanic.  
Amador County is 74% White, 5% two races, and 16% Hispanic

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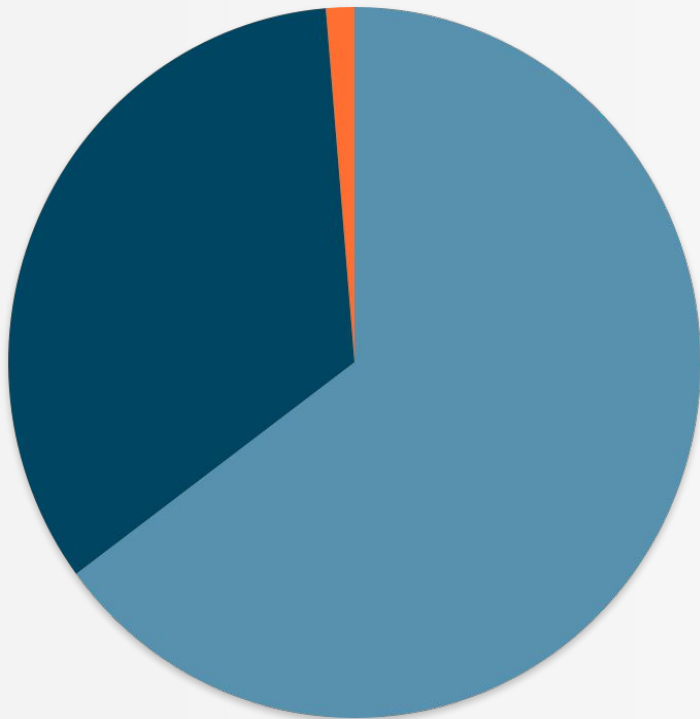
# Perceived Race



- White (66.5%)
  - Hispanic (22.9%)
  - Black / African American (2.5%)
  - Asian (3.1%)
  - Middle Eastern or South Asian (1.7%)
  - Native American (1.6%)
  - Pacific Islander (1.8%)
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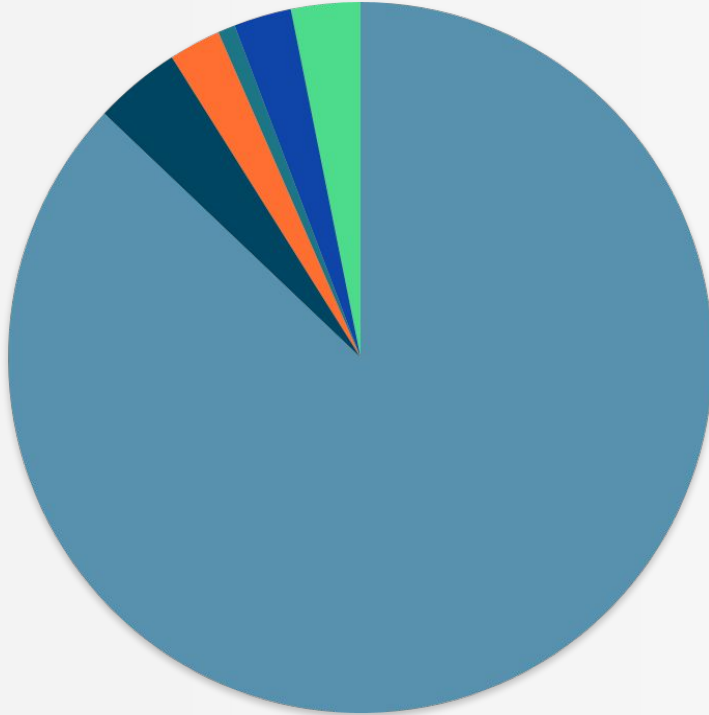
# Perceived Gender



- Cisgender Man/Boy (64.9%)
  - Cisgender Woman/Girl (33.8%)
  - Transgender (1.3%)
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# How Do Stops End



- Warning (87%)
  - Citation for Infraction (4%)
  - In-Field Cite and Release (2.4%)
  - Custodial Arrest Pursuant to Warrant (0.8%)
  - Custodial Arrest Without Warrant (2.6%)
  - No Action (3.2%)
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# Relevant Statistics

Total Incidents	5,585
Officer Initiated Incidents	4,338
Business Checks	2,349
Traffic Stops	1,395
Traffic Citations	135
Injury Traffic Collisions	10
Non-Injury Traffic Collisions	13
Total Arrests	173
Use of Force*	0
Citizen Complaints	0

\*Does not include Verbal Commands, Control Holds, and Restraints Without Injury



# Response Times

## To Calls For Service

- **Disturbance Calls** (Family Disturbances, Fights, etc.)  
186 calls  
After being dispatched, officers arrived on scene 5:24 later
  - ACSO 13:01 \*\*\*
- **Burglary Calls** (Homes or Businesses)  
14 calls  
After being dispatched, officers arrived on scene 4:16 later
  - ACSO 14:58 \*\*\*
- **Assist Outside Agencies Calls**  
After being dispatched, officers arrived on scene 6:14 later
  - ACSO 19:04 \*\*\*

\*\*\* Responsible for entire unincorporated County



# Part 1 Crime Statistics

Murder	0
Rape	1
Aggravated Assault	5
Robbery	0
Burglary	3
Larceny	18
Motor Vehicle Theft	5
Arson	1
Human Trafficking	0

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# Notable Accomplishments

- Amador County Officer of the Year Daniel Rego
- MADD award for Officer Rego
- Shop with a Cop
- Business Liaison
- Parade Management
- Wellness Grant/ City Gym



# Organizational Needs

- Additional Police Officer
  - Administrative Support Staff
  - City Camera System
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# The Future of SCPD

- Continue to grow strong relationships with community.
  - Enhance officer training.
  - Focus on officer health and wellness.
  - Implement more community events such as a citizen's academy.
  - Grow the Police Foundation to help augment the purchase of police equipment and community engagement.
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# PD Financial Ad-Hoc Committee

This year, an ad-hoc committee was formed by the City Council to examine funding of the Sutter Creek PD.

Members of the committee included Council members Swift and Riordan, as well as City Manager DuBois and Police Chief O'Connell.

Some goals of the committee included determining the percentage of the general fund allocated to SCPD and a comparison to other similar sized municipalities, costs per citizen, and alternative options for public safety.

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# Police Budget Analysis: An overview of police funding across California's smallest cities

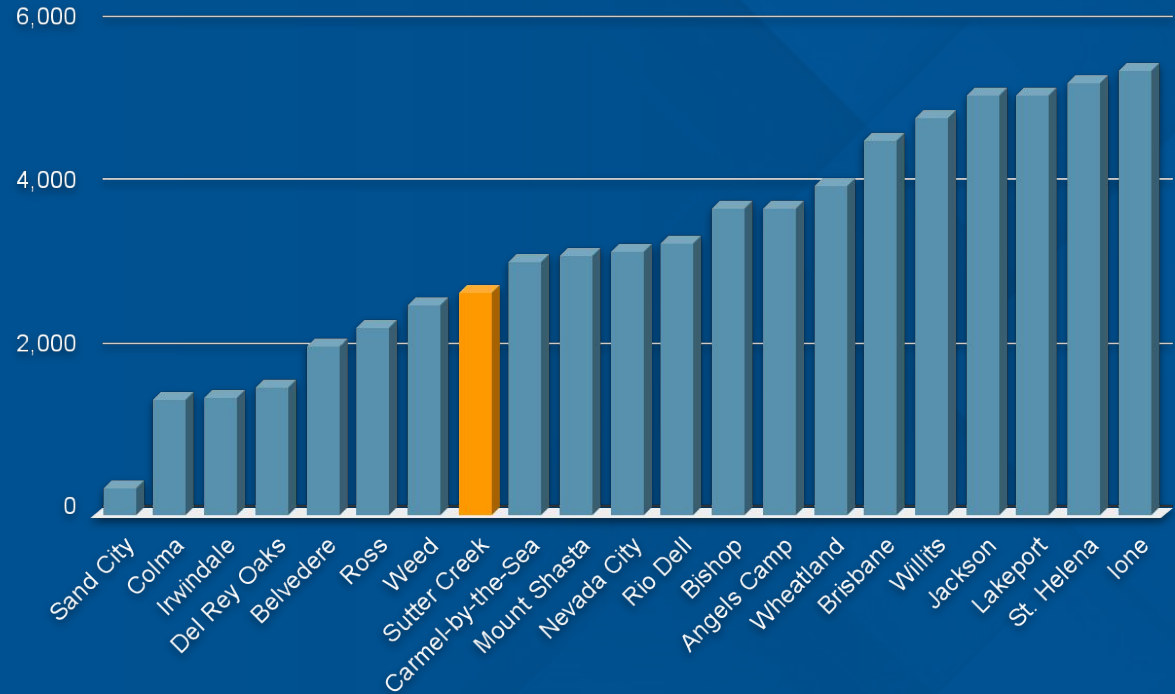
21 of California's smallest cities analyzed, all with populations of less than 5,500.

Populations range from 328 (Sand City) to 5,413 (Ione) residents, representing some of California's smallest municipalities.

All cities in the dataset maintain their own police departments, despite small populations.

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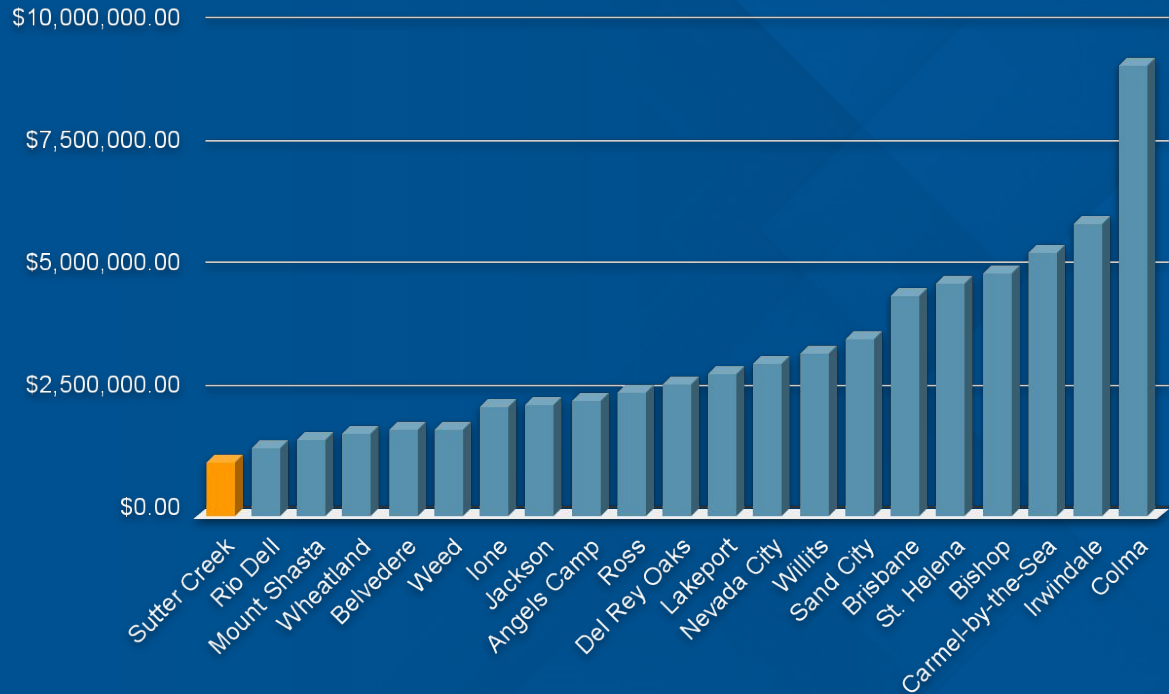
# Population



## Key Findings

- Colma has the highest budget at nearly \$9.2 million.
- Sutter Creek has the lowest budget at less than \$1.1 million.
- The average across all cities is just over \$3.4 million.

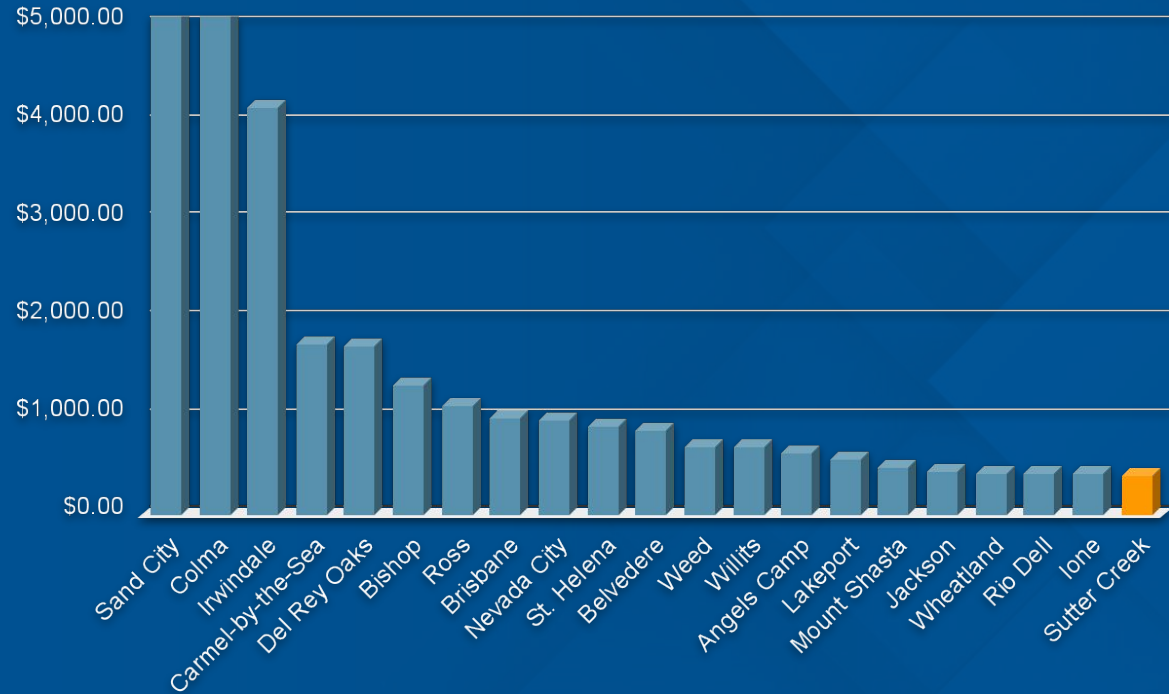
# Police Department Budget



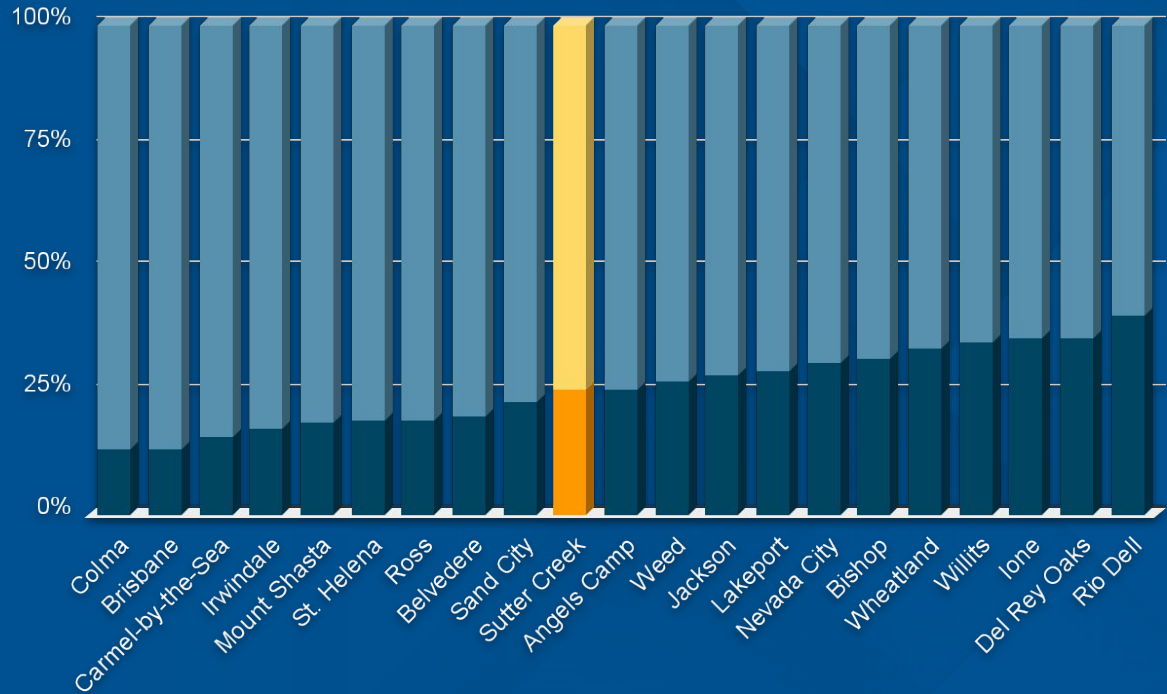
## Key Findings

- Sand City has the highest per resident spending at \$10,967.09
- Sutter Creek has the lowest per resident spending at \$391.48
- The average across all cities is \$2,375.87 per resident
- 5 cities spend more than \$1,000 per resident

## Spending Per Resident



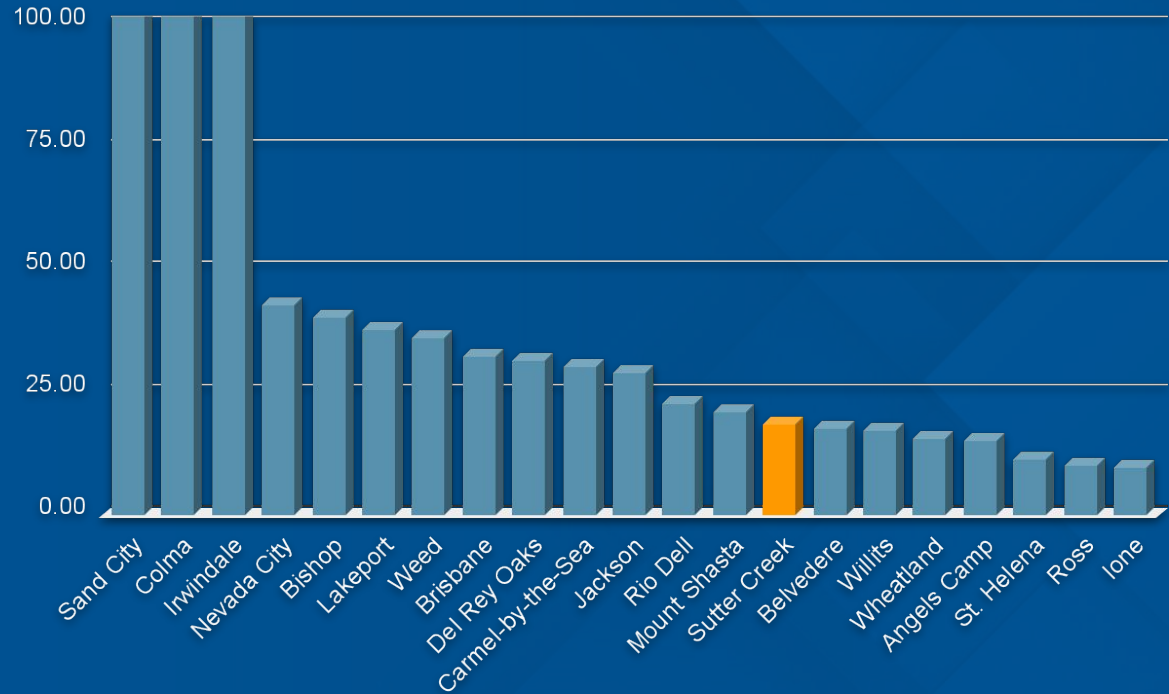
# Police Budget vs. General Fund



## Key Findings

- Despite having the smallest police budget and lowest paid officers, Sutter Creek ranks as one of the safest cities.

## Crime Rates (Adjusted for Population)





# Biggest Challenges Today

- Retain the staff we have
- Add desperately needed support staff
- Revenue generation
- Maintain level of service
- Increase Volunteer Staff
- Rebuild Cadet Program

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## What Works Well

- Our officers earnestly care about the community.
  - They never forget the honor and responsibility of public service.
  - SCPD staff all work extremely hard.
  - Each officer has taken on a number of ancillary assignments.
  - We feel blessed to have the support of our community.
  - Our relationships with our neighboring agencies is strong, supportive and reciprocal.
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**Thank you**

**Questions?**

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