

Sutter Creek Financial ad hoc Committee

Maximizing our Police Spending

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The purpose of the Financial ad hoc Committee (FAC) is to perform a thorough and in-depth study of the annual police budget to ascertain our fiscal performance compared to similar communities in California and to explore feasibility of alternative public safety alternatives. The committee includes Dan Riordan (City Council), Tom DuBois (City Manager), Jim O'Connell (Chief of Police), and Jim Swift (City Council). Sergeant Matt Brewer, Al Bierce, Robert Trudgen and others have also attended meetings.

Objectives and Outcomes

1. Analyze financial performance

Outcome: Staff gathered multiple data points for review, looking at Sutter Creek vs other similar sized cities. Overall the Sutter Creek Police Dept consistently performs very positively from a financial perspective when compared to similar small cities in California. Looking at percentage of general fund, costs per citizen, cost per call etc our city stacks up well. Some of this information was included in Chief O'Connell's annual update and some summaries of other departments are attached to this report.

2. Explore additional revenue opportunities

Outcome: Once it was determined that the Sutter Creek Police Department's financial performance was comparatively strong, we began to focus on additional revenue opportunities. When looking at other, similarly sized cities in California, many of them have dedicated revenue streams to fund their police department. Several cities used a cannabis tax when that option was available several years ago. However, that opportunity has closed and is not raising the anticipated funds. Other cities use dedicated property or sales tax for public safety. Some have a unique asset, like an airport or event center that helps generate revenue. This is a longer term option to consider.

3. Explore potential partnerships with other Cities.

Outcome: The ad-hoc has just started exploring possible cost sharing with other cities. We are completing multiple interviews with stakeholders of the Central Marin Police Authority. This is a unique JPA formed between Corte Madera, Larkspur, and San Anselmo police departments to provide a single police force across the three city areas. Will will update the Council once we have more information on options for local partnerships and cost sharing.