



Tulsa Police Department

News Release

Budget Reductions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 27, 2009

The lower than projected tax revenues received by the City of Tulsa has prompted additional budget cuts from the Police Department. Continued low tax receipts from the Oklahoma Tax Commission have forced an additional 2.5% reduction in the remainder of this year's budget.

Police Department leaders were able to manage expenditures in certain areas to attempt to minimize the effects on public safety. However, workforce reductions are unavoidable at this point of the budget crisis. In addition to workforce reduction, some units of the Police Department will be shut down, including the Helicopter and Mounted Patrol units. Additionally, other key steps are being taken to further reduce the Department's operating budget. The following is a list of projected cost savings for each budget reduction item:

- 1) \$760,000 - Reduce the police workforce by 21 sworn officer positions. 18 of these positions could potentially be hired back under the COPS grant.
- 2) \$460,000 – Cancel the Academy scheduled for March 2010.
- 3) \$195,223 - Ground both police helicopter units. The helicopters will be maintained for future use. Helicopter unit personnel will be re-deployed to other areas.
- 4) \$51,218 - Eliminate the Mounted Patrol unit. The horses will be sold at auction and sworn personnel will be re-deployed. One civilian position will be eliminated.
- 5) \$32,321 – Eliminate the civilian Volunteer in Police Services Coordinator position.
- 6) \$166,000– Defer hiring of two civilian positions within the Forensics Lab. These positions will remain vacant until further notice.
- 7) \$11,000 – Cancel certain cell phone and pager services. 169 pagers and 10 cell phones will be eliminated.
- 8) \$115,000 –The Department is purchasing body armor as required and is currently ahead of schedule. Future replacements can be deferred without risking safety to officers.
- 9) \$15,000 – Eliminate the Crime Commission Grant.
- 10) \$210,000 - Further operational changes include implementing a bureau wide manning level for Uniform Operations.

The total projected cost savings will be \$2,015,762 for the listed items. The Police Department will make every effort to minimize any service impact to the community. Crime prevention and crime reduction will remain the highest priority as we go through these financial difficult times.

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