



Nassau County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Bill Leeper

June 1, 2018

Nassau County Board of County Commissioners
96135 Nassau Place, Suite 1
Yulee, Florida 32097

Dear Board of County Commissioners:

In accordance with Section 30.49 Florida Statutes, attached please find the Nassau County Sheriff's Office Certified Budget request for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2018 and ending September 30, 2019. I consider these proposed expenditures reasonable and necessary for the proper and efficient operation of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office (NCSO).

Our proposed budget includes an adjustment in personnel services, which allows the sheriff's office to be competitive to surrounding law enforcement agencies in our area in order to prevent employees from leaving, and to attract the best candidates possible for employment. It also continues our development and retention plan that was budgeted two years ago.

Our operating expenses at the jail are increasing about five percent for the next fiscal year, which includes increases in utilities, fuel, liability insurance and medical expenses.

Within this upcoming 2018-2019 budget year we are asking for some new positions in order for NCSO to keep up with our county's growth, as well as our increased calls for service.

We are requesting four new corrections deputy positions (one per shift) as a result of our increased population within the Jail/Detention Center, which averages around 298 inmates, with a maximum capacity of 315. These positions will allow for the safety and security of inmates and our employees. A high percentage of inmates in the jail have mental health and medical issues that need to be addressed, which will eventually necessitate construction of an additional area to house these individuals.

As Nassau County grows (and we can see this growth from the new construction projects that have been planned, recently completed, or are underway), we must plan ahead and be ready for this influx of new residents and commercial property and not be caught up in a crisis situation. According to the United States Census Bureau our population increased over 3.4 percent in 2017 to 82,721, and is expected to continue to rise in the future. As the population increases, so does

Administrative Office • 77151 Citizens Circle, Yulee, FL 32097 • (904) 225-0331 or 225-0332

Callahan/Hilliard/Bryceville Toll Free: (855) 725-2630

Detention Center • 76212 Nicholas Cutinha Rd., Yulee, FL 32097 • (904) 225-9185 or

Toll Free: (855) 725-2631 • **Jail Administration Fax:** (904) 548-4015

Communications/After Hours • (904) 225-5174 or Toll Free: (855) 725-2632

our calls for service, and as a result our total arrests went up 9.6 percent in 2017. Therefore, I am asking for four additional patrol deputy positions (one per shift) for the 2018-2019 budget year. This will help us in our Yulee patrol zones, which is our fastest growing area. We are also increasing our overtime budget for beach patrol to address the issues that increased tourism has along Amelia Island beaches.

We are currently operating with 1.5 sworn patrol deputies per 1,000 residents, which is well below the state average of 2.16 and national average of 2.4 We can't afford, nor is it safe, to operate with less.

We are also asking for one additional criminal investigator to help with the workload investigating person and property crimes, and one additional narcotics detective to help us continue arresting those who sell illegal narcotics within our communities.

Within the Sheriff's Office budget is funding for services which are the statutory responsibility of the Board of County Commissioners, but which the Board has entrusted to the Sheriff's Office to provide. The most costly of these is the Corrections function, including running the jail. We also oversee the Emergency Operations Center. Approximately \$7.4 million dollars or 30 percent of our budget is the direct responsibility of the Board of County Commissioners. The remaining 70 percent of the Sheriff's Office budget covers law enforcement and court services, as well as their associated support units.

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office has the unique responsibility of providing for the safety and security of our residents, visitors, and employees; the safety and security of our two courts; the safety and security of our schools; and the care, custody, and control of inmates within the Nassau County Detention Facility. We respond to all law enforcement calls for service countywide, and we provide additional assistance within the city of Fernandina Beach. We provide patrol and other essential services to the entire unincorporated area of the county and to the towns of Callahan and Hilliard. We provide 911 operations 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide emergency and public safety assistance as well as dispatch for all law enforcement and fire/rescue personnel within Nassau County. We also oversee the daily operations of Emergency Management, which over the past year has increased countywide training and coordinated several storm and fire-related disasters.

We are the frontline protectors of our homeland security. No other agency or Constitutional Officer within Nassau County has this unique and critical responsibility. My job is to make sure the Sheriff's Office has the necessary tools, equipment, personnel, and resources available in order to do the job and keep all of us safe and secure.

Crime is not a statistic or predictable element of society. As an agency, we do not start each day knowing what we will face, and exactly what resources will be required to address those situations.

We can't put crime on hold while we create and deploy what we need. We can't contain crime to one area so we can use efficiencies to address it. We can't demand or assume that today's crime will be of the same nature as yesterday. Crime is constantly evolving, therefore, we have to be everywhere, and we have to be able to deploy all of our resources with speed and effectiveness.

Nassau County Board of County Commissioners

June 1, 2018

Page Three

Our Specialty Units have to change focus as the nature of crime changes and our training expands to provide new skills for new situations. Our equipment, weapons and technology must keep up with the demands of the impact of crime, along with the functions of the jail, security of the courthouse, courts, and evidence processing.

The first responsibility of government is to protect its citizens; all else is secondary. I firmly believe that public safety should be our community's top priority, and I am committed to providing the best and most efficient law enforcement services possible with the resources provided by our taxpaying citizens.

Sincerely,

NASSAU COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Bill Leeper
Sheriff

BL/mm



NASSAU COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2018/2019 BUDGET REQUEST

SHERIFF'S OFFICE CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Personal Services	\$	12,648,244
Operating Expenses	\$	2,427,807
Vehicle Replacement Program	\$	823,846
Capital Outlay	\$	25,000
Debt Service	\$	132,872
Other Uses - Transfer to BOCC	\$	51,360
Contingency Amount	\$	30,000

SUBTOTAL: \$ 16,139,129

COURT SERVICES

Personal Services	\$	1,108,881
Operating Expenses	\$	33,236
Capital Outlay	\$	-

SUBTOTAL: \$ 1,142,117

FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018 TOTAL \$ 17,281,246

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES MANAGED BY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CORRECTIONS

Personal Services	\$	4,486,619
Operating Expenses	\$	2,190,842
Vehicle Replacement Program	\$	37,698
Capital Outlay	\$	-

SUBTOTAL: \$ 6,715,159

911 FEE OPERATIONS

Personal Services	\$	191,068
Operating Expenses	\$	163,932
Capital Outlay	\$	-

SUBTOTAL: \$ 355,000

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

Personal Services	\$	324,150
Operating Expenses	\$	177,322
Capital Outlay	\$	-
Transfer In from BOCC	\$	(150,862)

SUBTOTAL: \$ 350,609

FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018 TOTAL \$ 7,420,768