



Nassau County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Bill Leeper

June 1, 2019

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, 2019 and ending September 30, 2020. I consider these proposed expenditures reasonable and necessary for the proper and efficient operation of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office.

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 to attract the best candidates possible for employment. It also continues our development & retention plan that was budgeted three years ago and also allows us to keep up with the growth of our county.

Our operating expenses at the jail are increasing about 4.5 percent for the next fiscal year, which includes increases in utilities, fuel, liability insurance and medical expenses.

Within this upcoming 2019-2020 budget year we are asking for some additional 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 corrections deputy positions (one per shift) as a result of our increased population within the Jail/Detention Center, which averages over 300 inmates daily, 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. We are also requesting one additional bailiff position to oversee the County's Specialty Courts such as Veterans Court and the proposed new Drug Court, which will begin in Nassau County on October 1, 2019. This position will not only handle bailiff duties in these particular courts, but will also serve as a case manager to make sure individuals within the two courts

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

adhere to their sentencing guidelines. This position should ultimately pay for itself in the reduced costs of inmate care and health care while they are under the guidance of the courts.

As Nassau County continues to grow, we must plan ahead and be ready for this influx of new residents and commercial property. According to the United States Census Bureau our population increased over 3.75 percent in 2018 to 85,832, and is expected to continue to rise in the future. As the population increases, so do our calls for service, which increased over 28 percent from the previous year, and as a result our total arrests went up over 14 percent in 2018. Therefore, I am asking for four additional patrol deputy positions (one per shift) for the 2019-2020 budget year. This will help us in our Yulee patrol zones, which is our fastest growing area. According to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), we are operating with 1.33 sworn law enforcement deputies per 1,000 residents, which is well below the state average of 1.71. To reach the statewide average, we would need approximately 30 additional law enforcement deputies. We can't afford, nor is it safe, to operate with less.

We are also asking for one additional deputy on the patrol side and one on the corrections side to be assigned to our Training Division to help with the increased workload in making sure all of our personnel are trained properly, timely and in accordance with State Standards, which continue to change and evolve. This will assist us in maintaining our accreditation status as well.

Due to our population increase, which affects the number of criminal and civil subpoenas, writs, evictions, arrest warrants, domestic violence injunctions, summons in lawsuits and risk protection orders from the courts we are mandated to serve, I am requesting one additional deputy to be assigned to our Civil Warrants Division in order to manage this additional caseload.

We are requesting three civilian positions, one to be assigned in our evidence/property room to keep up with the growing list of items that are placed into evidence/property, one to be assigned to our Fleet Division to keep up with the maintenance on our agency vehicles in order to keep them running properly, and one to be assigned to our Finance Division to assist in purchasing and accounts payable.

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 \$8.1 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.

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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 county-wide training and coordinated several storm & 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.

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.

NASSAU COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Bill Leeper
Sheriff

mlf
Attachment



NASSAU COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2019/2020 BUDGET REQUEST

SHERIFF'S OFFICE CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Personal Services	\$	13,879,100
Operating Expenses	\$	2,768,852
Vehicle Replacement Program	\$	776,499
Capital Outlay	\$	285,031
Debt Service	\$	238,711
Other Uses - Transfer to BOCC	\$	169,598
Contingency Amount	\$	30,000

SUBTOTAL: \$ 18,147,791

COURT SERVICES

Personal Services	\$	1,250,522
Operating Expenses	\$	40,180
Capital Outlay	\$	-

SUBTOTAL: \$ 1,290,702

FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 TOTAL \$ 19,438,493

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES MANAGED BY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CORRECTIONS

Personal Services	\$	4,998,159
Operating Expenses	\$	2,271,939
Vehicle Replacement Program	\$	42,501
Capital Outlay	\$	13,419

SUBTOTAL: \$ 7,326,018

911 FEE OPERATIONS

Personal Services	\$	196,791
Operating Expenses	\$	158,209
Capital Outlay	\$	-

SUBTOTAL: \$ 355,000

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

Personal Services	\$	393,570
Operating Expenses	\$	178,101
Capital Outlay	\$	-
Transfer In from BOCC	\$	(152,391)

SUBTOTAL: \$ 419,280

FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 TOTAL \$ 8,100,298