

CITY OF BLAINE
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION
MEETING DATE: October 22, 2018

SUBJECT: 2018 Budget Amendment Ordinance 18-2919

DEPARTMENT: Finance & Police Departments **PREPARED BY:** Jeff Lazenby & Allen Schubert

AGENDA LOCATION: Consent Agenda Council Action Unfinished Business

ATTACHMENTS: Ordinance 18-2919

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

The Blaine School District has made a commitment to fund 75% of the costs for a full-time School Resource Officer (SRO). The District is currently paying the City to have an officer at the school campus 20 hours a week. The City and District are refining the Memorandum of Understanding to expand the SRO program, perfecting the SRO job description, and actively developing an action plan to effectively respond to the multitude of emergencies that can occur on the campus. The expanded SRO program will commence in January 2019.

The department is effectively down one officer because the officer assigned to the full-time SRO program has begun extensive training in preparation for the expanded program. The shortage of staff hours is an officer safety issue and is causing a significant boost in the department's overtime. Each officer currently works approximately 16 – 20 hours overtime a week, which places an undue hardship on an officer's family life and can lead to burnout.

In addition, with the recent switch to What-Comm 911, the department now has a more accurate reflection of call load. The old dispatch system, Justice Records Management, relied heavily on officers self-reporting all radio calls. With What-Comm 911, all calls are tracked by the 911 dispatcher. The Police Department's official call load has increased by approximately 4 calls per day. This equates to approximately 1,500 extra calls a year. Removing an officer from patrol will certainly increase response time to calls.

The department proposes the hiring of an outside lateral police officer to fill the patrol vacancy that will be caused with the expansion of the SRO program. Hiring in 2018 will allow the officer to be trained in our department policies and procedures, and to become familiar with the City sooner. This will replace the shortfall in patrol officers sooner than if the lateral recruitment were to occur in January 2019.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: Authorized In Current Budget New Budget Request
 No Budgetary Implications

The source of funding for the position will come from other cost savings in the existing Police Department budget with no additional impact to the 2018 General Fund budget. It is cost neutral for the remainder of the 2018 fiscal year.

The approximate annual total cost of a lateral position is \$100,000 with a salary of \$66,000 and benefits of \$34,000. Council has previously directed staff to plan for the additional officer in conjunction with the full-time SRO staffing in January 2019. The full \$100,000 cost will be reflected in the 2019 budget, less a 75-percent cost sharing contribution from the Blaine School District.

The Police Department currently has 14 full-time positions, which includes 11 officers. Adding this position will increase the total number of officers to 12.

RECOMMENDATION: Waive the second reading
Staff recommends that Council approve Ordinance 18-2919, amending the 2018 Budget for the General Fund 001, to authorize one additional Police Department full-time officer position.

REVIEWED BY:

City Manager _____ Finance Director _____ City Clerk _____
(Digital Signature) (Digital Signature) (Digital Signature)

ORDINANCE NO. 18-2919

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLAINE, WASHINGTON, AMENDING THE 2018 BUDGET FOR THE GENERAL FUND 001.

WHEREAS, the 2018 Budget was passed and accepted by the Council on December 11, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department has a need to add one additional patrol officer position to the 2018 Police Department budget; and

WHEREAS, adding the patrol officer position will bring the total full-time officers in the 2018 Police Department budget to 12; and

WHEREAS, the existing 2018 Police Department budget will cover the remaining fiscal year (two and one-half months) costs of the added position with no anticipated increase to the 2018 General Fund budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLAINE, WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AND AMENDS THE 2018 BUDGET AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Increase the total authorized, police officer positions in the 2018 Police Department budget to 12 FTEs (full-time equivalents).

SECTION 2: Should any section, clause or provision of this Ordinance be declared by the courts to be invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole, or any part thereof, other than the part of the Ordinance declared to be invalid.

SECTION 3: This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage by the City Council and approval by the Mayor, if approved, otherwise, as provided by law and five days after the date of posting for publication.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLAINE, WASHINGTON on the 22nd day of October, 2018, and approved by the Mayor on the same day.

CITY OF BLAINE, WASHINGTON

BONNIE ONYON, Mayor

ATTEST:

SAMUEL CRAWFORD, City Clerk