



## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM(S)

**Department:** Office of the Mayor, Greg Thornton

**Meeting Date:** August 26, 2020

**Project:** Law Enforcement Level of Service Assessment

**Action Requested:** Approve Appropriations Request for Law Enforcement Level of Service Assessment

### **Background**

The City of La Center has a budgetary structural deficit with respect to the correlation of ongoing revenues and ongoing expenses. The City has balanced its budget using one-time revenues (such as construction and development-related taxes and fees), enterprise fund transfers, and financial reserves. City policymakers recognize this as unsustainable and seek to better align ongoing expenses with the receipt of ongoing revenues without reliance on one-time revenue sources to attain budgetary balance.

Additionally, the City's ongoing revenue sources are substantially comprised of gambling taxes generated by non-tribal card rooms within the City. Since the opening of a tribal gaming operation on the City's periphery this revenue source has been steadily declining. Accordingly, City policymakers have indicated an interest in both diversification of revenues and reducing operational expenses related to provision of public services under the City's statutory authority.

Throughout 2019 and 2020, internal and consultant-sourced analyses resulted in changes to the City's Public Works Department in operations, wastewater treatment plant operations, community development, and finance with respect to alignment of functions, personnel, and insourcing/outsourcing decisions. City policymakers now seek to undergo similar analyses of provision of law enforcement services within the City.

The principal goal of this project is to compile and analyze data related to law enforcement calls for service and – in addition to considering the impact of no changes to current operations – identify options and alternatives for policymaker consideration. This project considers trends in law enforcement, risk management and mitigation, and assessment of the balance of mutual aid with adjacent law enforcement agencies and jurisdictions.

This project will be conducted in two phases: assessment/analysis and implementation. The cost estimate for the assessment/analysis phase is \$20,000.00. The cost for the implementation phase is dependent on the policy decisions made by the City Council following the assessment/analysis phase.

### **Budget Impact**

An appropriation of \$20,000.00 is requested to cover the cost of the assessment/analysis phase of the project. Additional appropriations will be required to implement policy direction given by Council resulting from the completion of the assessment/analysis.

The appropriation will reduce budgeted General Fund Reserves in the amount of \$20,000.00, which will be addressed in an omnibus budget amendment at the end of 2020.

**Recommendation/Motion**

**Mayor, I move that the City Council approve the appropriations request for the Law Enforcement Level of Service Assessment in the amount of \$20,000.00.**