

Janine Jordan

From: Janine Jordan
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 3:30 PM
To: Council
Subject: Policing Budget & FTEs

Councilors,

After reviewing the questions/concerns posed last night, I am providing referenced answers & facts that I hope will be helpful to you and, perhaps, constituents. Please let me know if you'd like anything additional. ~Janine

Q. How many officers does the City employ?

A. City of Laramie has 47 sworn law enforcement officers. (Please see <https://www.cityoflaramie.org/97/Police>.)
At the conclusion of our most recently completed fiscal year, sworn officers comprised 18.5% of all city personnel (47 of 254 FTE). (Please see <https://cityoflaramie.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/8154?fileID=10547>.)

Q. LPD funding has increased...?

A. Actual spending was the same in both FY 18 & 19. Spending is expected to be slightly more in FY 20 & 21 as salary adjustments, given to all city staff become effective. (Please see pages 34 & 53 of the Laramie Budget at <https://www.cityoflaramie.org/DocumentCenter/View/18959/FY-2021-Recommended-Budget>.)

Q. Why doesn't City provide transparent information about how funds are spent on police – perhaps “something like the infographic on the Laramie Human Right Network (LHRN) social media page?”

A. The infographic used by LHRN was created and published by the City and continues to be publicly available on the City webpage. (Please see pages 34 and 53 of the Laramie Budget at <https://www.cityoflaramie.org/DocumentCenter/View/18959/FY-2021-Recommended-Budget>.)

Unfortunately, LHRN did not attribute/credit the infographic to the City and no link was provided to the City's budget page where complete information is available about spending for municipal policing services.

Q. An \$8 Million budget in a city the size of Laramie is “bloated and consuming 25% of the City's entire budget” is too much to spend on policing services.

A. In the most recently completed fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, the amount spent on policing services was \$5,260,039. Net of grant funding (\$223,492), policing services comprised -

- 17.8% of spending for governmental services within General Fund;
- \$154 per capita/per resident; and,
- 8.3% of all city spending for resident services (governmental + business-utility).

(Please see pages 34, 77, 88, 98, & 107 of the Laramie Budget at <https://www.cityoflaramie.org/DocumentCenter/View/18959/FY-2021-Recommended-Budget>.)

Q. Does the city actively solicit comments from residents about police services?

A. Residents are surveyed every few years and comments sought regarding all city services, including policing. A majority of residents who reported contact with police rated their interaction as positive in all criteria areas. (Please see pages 27-28 of Citizen Survey at <https://www.cityoflaramie.org/DocumentCenter/View/17636/2019-City-of-Laramie-Citizen-Survey--Final-Report>)

Q. Why doesn't the city provide social services, especially for those needing assistance with mental illness?

A. In Wyoming, governmental social services are provided primarily through State and county governments. Laramie's City Council has chosen to augment services available locally by providing financial support to not-for-profit social service agencies through the Community Partner Program. (Please see <https://www.cityoflaramie.org/1018/5th-Penny-Community-Partners> and <https://www.cityoflaramie.org/DocumentCenter/View/18943/Reso-2020-21A-Community-Partner-Funding-4-21-20?bidId=>.)