

# **Law Enforcement Transparency and Advisory Commission's (LETAC) 2024 Colorado Springs Police Department Budget Considerations and Recommendations**

**Background:** Per the Commission's stated objectives, the endeavor to provide input to the annual Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) budget development process is provided via this correspondence. To codify and articulate the Commission's input, three (3) working priorities were developed. These priorities were formulated using a methodology based on community feedback, periodic CSPD reporting, Commissioners' observations, and a review of CSPD's 2023 Budget. The Commission, without working knowledge of the Department's 2024 Budget Development and Planning Assumptions and Priorities, is left with the aforementioned methodology for developing its priorities, which are necessary to formulate useful and informed budget considerations and recommendations.

**LETAC Budget Priorities:** The following priorities are forwarded for consideration and will serve as the basis for the Commission's 2024 budget recommendations to the City Council and CSPD.

1. Fill current and projected sworn officers and operational systems experts' vacancies. In doing so, allocate funding for enhanced recruiting and retention incentives.
2. Improve and enhance Response Times to include ensuring the appropriate team of experts are dispatched in response to calls for service.
3. Acquire and operationalize state-of-the-art technology, along with qualified personnel to optimize systems and operational functionality.

## **Priorities with Justification and Corresponding General Fund Account number(s):**

1. Increase the number of sworn officers and operational systems experts to meet or exceed current and projected personnel vacancies.  
Justification: As of 25 May 2023, CSPD is still 119 Police Officers less than authorized. As noted, and appropriated for in the 2023 Budget, the 2024 Budget must continue the funding for increased sworn officers and the required Specialized Experts necessary for the functional (operational) and support needs to expertly execute the CSPD mission. Trained Officers and requisite Technical Experts are fundamental to CSPD's ability to execute its core competencies and cultivate a safe and secure City. General Fund Account Numbers: Specifically, the 51000 series of General Fund Account numbers should receive priority funding commensurate with filling current and projected vacancies.
2. Improve and enhance 911 and non-emergency Response Times to include ensuring the appropriate responders are dispatched

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accordingly. Justification: In keeping with CSPD's Strategic Plan, Initiative 4.1, *Improve public safety response*, this Priority remains a work in progress, as indicated by the Strategic Plan update that was submitted with the 2023 Budget. Additionally, per the May 2023 Community Response Team (CRT) and Alternate Response Team (ART) Progress Update to the Commission, these teams have created a synergy that provides an enhanced response to mental and behavior calls, thus, reducing the out-of-service time for Police Officers. General Fund Account Numbers: Various Account Numbers throughout the Budget allocate funds that support and resource the Operations Support Bureau, specifically the Communications Center. Thus, the prioritized funding for personnel recruitment, training, retention, and relevant equipment for this vital function should continue until personnel authorized strength and performance standards are achieved. Further, recognizing that CSFD funds the Alternate Response Team concept, CSPD should intensify collaboration efforts towards moving from a 'Pilot Program' to a fully funded and resourced function.

3. Acquire and operationalize state-of-the-art technology, along with qualified personnel to maximize efficiency and service. Justification: Per the CSPD's Strategic Plan Update, submitted with the 2023 Budget, 4.1 *Improve public safety response*, Performance Measures 4.17.3 *Develop and implement a comprehensive strategic technology plan by 2022* and 4.17.4 *Implement an intelligence-led policing model as a crime prevention and crime reduction tool by 2022*. Correspondingly, the Strategic Plan Update also reflects that these two Performance Measures are scheduled to be completed by 2023, thus, even if completed, the priority emphasis will need to be continued and sustained to ensure full implementation and consistency of service, well into 2024 and beyond. Moreover, such technological advancements are required to maximize Operations and Communications networks, which will aid in optimizing Response Times and efficient effective command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) functions. General Fund Account Numbers: Budget Account Numbers that allocate and appropriate funding for the Operations Support Bureau, comprised of the Professional Standards Division, Communications Center, and Management Services Division requires priority funding commensurate

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with stated goals and objectives. Specific Account Numbers are numerous and are interwoven throughout the Budget.

**Recommendations:** The Law Enforcement Transparency and Advisory Commission submits three (3) recommendations.

1. Efforts to increase the number of sworn officers and Dispatchers should continue to receive priority funding, to include the funding across functional areas that will aid in the recruitment, training, and retention of operational personnel.
2. Budget for specific measurable operational enhancements that will improve Response Times within Calendar Year 2024. To this end, in collaboration with CSFD transition the Alternate Response Team concept from a 'Pilot Program' to a fully funded and resourced operational function in 2024.
3. Review current Information Technology systems and software upgrades to ensure all relevant data and information sharing systems are replaced and/or upgraded in concert with the latest technological advances. Accordingly, allocate corresponding funding to acquire the necessary personnel and training to support hardware and software evolution.