



Nassau County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Bill Leeper

June 2, 2014

Honorable Barry Holloway, Chair
Nassau County Board of County Commissioners
96135 Nassau Place, Suite 1
Yulee, Florida 32097

Dear Chair Holloway and Board of County Commissioners:

In accordance with Section 30.49 Florida Statutes, enclosed please find the Nassau County Sheriff's Office Certified Budget request for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2014 and ending September 30, 2015. I consider these proposed expenditures reasonable and necessary for the proper and efficient operation of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office.

The attached certified budget is essentially the same as the current fiscal year with the exception of an increase in agency retirement contributions which are mandated and were increased by the Florida Legislature this year, a 2 percent increase in inmate health care services, a small increase (3 cents per meal) in inmate food services and a 2.5 percent cost-of-living adjustment for current full-time employees.

Within the Sheriff's Office budget is funding for services which are the statutory responsibility of the County, but which the County has entrusted to the Sheriff's Office to provide. The most costly of these is the Corrections function, including running the jail. Keep in mind just over \$6 million dollars or 35.5% of our budget is the direct responsibility of the Board of County Commissioners. The remaining 64.5% of the Sheriff's Office budget covers law enforcement and court services, as well as their associated support units.

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 assistance within the city of Fernandina Beach when requested. We provide patrol and other essential services to the entire unincorporated area of the County and we also provide law enforcement services to the town of Callahan and the town of 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 law enforcement & fire/rescue personnel. We also oversee the daily operations of Emergency Management.

Administrative Office: 76001 Bobby Moore Circle, Yulee, FL 32097 • (904) 225-0331 or 225-0332

Administrative Fax: (904) 225-9189 • Callahan Line: (904) 879-1563 or 879-2009

Detention Center: 76212 Nicholas Cutinha, Yulee, FL 32097 • (904) 225-9185 or (904) 879-0149 • Fax (904)225-0831

Communications/After Hours: (904) 225-5174 • Callahan (904) 879-3853 • Bryceville/Jax (904) 353-7072

Chairman Holloway and Board of County Commissioners
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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.

Crime is not a statistic or predictable element of society. As an agency, we do not start each day knowing what we will face, and exactly what resources will be required to address those situations. To illustrate, the number of weapon-related calls for service has increased, which requires deploying additional deputies to the scene.

We can't put crime on hold while we create and deploy what we need. We can't contain crime to one area so we can use efficiencies to address it. We can't demand or assume that today's crime will be of the same nature as yesterday. Crime is constantly evolving, therefore, we have to be everywhere, and we have to be able to deploy all our resources with speed and effectiveness. Our Specialty Units have to change focus as the nature of crime changes and our training expands to provide new skills for new situations. Our equipment, weapons and technology must keep up with the demands of the impact of crime, along with the functions of the Jail, security of the courthouses, courts and evidence processing.

We are currently operating with 1.26 sworn patrol deputies per 1,000 residents, which is well below the state and national average. We can't afford, nor is it safe, to operate with less.

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.

Sincerely,

NASSAU COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Bill Leeper
Sheriff