

**-COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE-
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION**

DATE : May 23, 2012

TO : Marina Dimitrijevic, Chair, County Board of Supervisors

FROM : Craig Kammholz, Fiscal and Budget Administrator, Department of Administrative Services

SUBJECT : Request to Create 45 Deputy Sheriff 1 positions, 3 Deputy Sheriff Sergeant positions, 1 Deputy Sheriff Lieutenant, 1 Deputy Sheriff Captain, and 1 Administrative Assistant effective May 27, 2012

REQUEST

The Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) is requesting the creation of 51 positions to staff a new Transit Patrol Division.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

According to the MCSO request, the 2012 Adopted Budget provides inadequate resources to provide sufficient patrol of the transit system. Therefore, the MCSO seeks to create a specialized unit, with a staff of 50 law enforcement positions and one administrative position, to provide patrol resources on transit routes with high numbers of incidents. The unit, according to the request, could also patrol parks near those routes and the "harbor area", which presumably refers to the lakefront near Veteran's Park, McKinley Marina and Bradford Beach.

The MCSO has previously indicated that, in general, staff responsible for patrolling the transit system is generally budgeted in the Park Patrol/Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU). The 2012 Adopted Budget provides funding for 25 Deputy Sheriff and two Deputy Sheriff Sergeant positions, plus \$337,000 in overtime for this unit, which were the amounts sought by the MCSO in its 2012 Requested Budget. This level of full-time staffing has been consistent in both the Sheriff's requests and the Adopted Budgets since the unit was created in the 2008 Adopted Budget.

The report indicates that since the MCSO began patrolling the transit system in 2008, the number of incidents reported has declined by nearly 10 percent. According to data provided by the MCSO, the number of incidents did decline significantly from 2008 to 2009 but has since increased even as the level of staffing has stayed consistent (Figure 1 below).

In addition to the service provided by the MCSO, the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) contracts with G4S-Wackenhut to provide security services on buses. During the 2012 Budget process, MCTS indicated it receives approximately 44,680 hours of service at a cost of \$920,000, or \$20.59 per hour. In comparison, a full-time Deputy Sheriff provides approximately 1,750 hours of service per year (full-time service less holidays, vacations and sick time; not including overtime) at an hourly cost of approximately \$44.51. It should be noted however that contracted employees do not have arrest powers.

Figure 1

Year	Total Transit Incidents	Percent Change
2006	4,023	0
2007	3,733	-7.2%
2008	3,682	-1.4%
2009	3,025	-17.8%
2010	3,502	15.8%
2011	3,728	6.5%
2012 YTD	1,240	6%*
* = Over YTD period 2011 (April 28)		
Source: MCSO Law Enforcement Analytics Division		

After a number of high profile incidents in late 2011, the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) also agreed to begin patrolling buses within the City of Milwaukee. MPD has indicated it will target “areas where there are the most reports of problems”¹, which are the likely the same areas that would be patrolled by the requested unit. As a result, this may represent an opportunity for the two jurisdictions to share responsibility in a way that reduces duplication and costs to the taxpayer.

In addition, the MCSO has indicated that deputies budgeted in the TEU are likely being diverted to other areas temporarily: some are being utilized in Court Security due to litigation over the Sheriff’s request to utilize hourly bailiffs, and many are likely being utilized in the Detention Services Division until Corrections Officers can be hired. Once these issues are resolved, the affected deputies could then return to TEU-related duties, including transit security.

FISCAL NOTE

Assuming final approval on June 28, the creation of the additional positions would have a budgetary impact of approximately \$1,998,952 in additional expenditures, offset by approximately \$22,500 in increased citation revenue for a net tax levy impact in 2012 of \$1,976,452. This estimate assumes all positions are funded immediately, and those unfunded positions not already filled are done so rapidly due to the recall terms of the existing contract with the Milwaukee Deputy Sheriff’s Association.

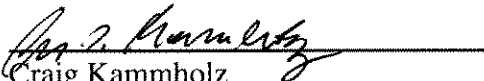
The MCSO has already filled several unfunded positions in all of the above title codes. Therefore, the actual variance between what would be spent if this is approved and what would be spent regardless is likely a much smaller amount. However, approval of this item would require a transfer of at least \$1,976,452 in tax levy or other revenue from an unidentified source.

¹ Durhams, Sharif and Schultze, Steve (2011, December 16). City police will patrol buses to prevent attacks. *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. Retrieved from <http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/city-police-will-patrol-buses-to-prevent-attacks-mf3fj15-135750813.html>

RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Administrative Services, Fiscal Affairs (DAS) recommends the request by the MCSO to create 51 new positions be denied. There are temporary circumstances which have undoubtedly led to a reduction in staff available for transit security; however these issues should be resolved by the end of the year. The MPD has indicated it will provide additional security on the transit system in the short term.

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