

WORKING GROUP FOR POLICE & COMMUNITY

Kick-Off Meeting, Thursday June 24, 2021

5:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

WEBINAR: <https://cityoflaramie.zoom.us/j/83850747131?pwd=U2U3WVd3Q3VzT0ZkZUNvakxsTHdhUT09>

Meeting ID: 838 5074 7131

Passcode: 425515

One tap mobile:

+13462487799,,83850747131# US (Houston)

+16699006833,,83850747131# US (San Jose)

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions – Mayor Weaver 5:15 p.m

Member Orientation – City Manager 5:45 p.m

MEMBER HANDBOOK... (pgs. 2 – 6 below)

...& YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Baselines – City Manager, Police Chief, City Attorney 6:15 p.m

WORKING GROUP PURPOSE & BACKGROUND INFORMATION ... (pgs. 7 – 15 below)

...& YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

MUNICIPAL POLICING: INFORMATION FOR SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS 6:40 p.m

ANNUAL REPORT, 2020

- <https://cityoflaramie.org/DocumentCenter/View/19513/2020-LPD-Annual-Report>

3RD PARTY REVIEW: CENTER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT, 2015

- https://cityoflaramie.org/DocumentCenter/View/20305/Laramie_Police_Final_Report_28-MAY-15

EXPENDITURES & MUNICIPAL POLICING FAQs (pgs. 16 – 19 below)

Next Steps – Mayor Weaver 6:50 p.m

NEXT MEETING -- SAVE THE DATE:

MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021, 5:15 – 7:00 P.M.

Boards and Commissions

Member Handbook



Rev. 6/14/21

Service on a board or commission provides residents an opportunity to become involved with our community at an integral, foundational level. It also informs key decisions of local elected policymakers and municipal government management. This handbook provides appointees important information about the responsibilities of service to the community.

Established by both Wyoming State Statute and local municipal ordinance, boards and commissions are a necessary component of municipal self-governance. From time to time, the governing body may establish ad hoc committees also by resolution to deal with specific, time-limited purposes or tasks. Each board or commission operates in a specialized capacity, developing recommendations and gathering information critical to issues of concern to municipal residents and the community generally. Some commissions have certain policy-making capacity as well.

Elected officials of the City Council participate on each board or commission through an ex-officio or liaison position appointed during a regular meeting of the governing body. In addition, city Staff members routinely participate in board and commission proceedings as part of their official duties and responsibilities.

If you have questions regarding any board or commission, or concerning your appointment to this Working Group, please contact:

City Clerk, *Nancy Bartholomew* – nancyb@cityoflaramie.org

City Manager, *Janine Jordan* – jjordan@cityoflaramie.org

Information can be found online as well at: www.cityoflaramie.org ...

Government  Boards and Commissions  *Working Group for Police & Community*

CITY GOVERNMENT

Council-Manager Form of Government

The City of Laramie utilizes the Council-Manager form of local government. This form of government combines the strong political leadership of elected council members with the professional managerial experience and education of an appointed city manager who manages day-to-day operations. In Laramie, the City Council is the governing body and is made up of nine (9) members who elect a President/Mayor and a Vice-President/Vice-Mayor to oversee the proceedings of the body. All legislative power is retained to the City Council, which acts as the policy-making body by adopting public policy goals and objectives by ordinance and resolution.

The City Manager serves as the chief executive officer of the city and is charged with analyzing and providing recommendations about public policy to the City Council; upon final decision of the governing body, the Manager implements those public policies. The Manager prepares the budget for the Council's consideration and serves as the Council's chief adviser. The Manager is appointed by City Council to be responsive to the decisions made by the governing body and is prohibited from pursuing objectives or goals of any single member or small group of elected officials.

On a day-to-day basis, the Manager as chief executive directs the services affecting the health, safety and welfare of residents in an equitable and ethically balanced manner. City Council members and citizens count on the Manager to provide complete and objective information, including both the pros and cons of public policy alternatives, service delivery options, as well as complete analysis of long-term consequences.

SERVING ON A BOARD OR COMMISSION

Being an Effective Board Member

The City elected officials and staff understand that boards and commissions are essential to the operation of the City of Laramie, providing valuable citizen contributions of expertise, time, perspective, and professionalism. Laramie residents appointed to serve on a board or commission volunteer their time and make critical decisions and policy-recommendations that will have a lasting effect on the community. Board and commission appointees should always display professionalism, appropriate demeanor, and exercise sound judgment at all times when acting in their official capacity as a municipal government appointee.

Attendance and Participation

Being an effective member of your board or commission begins first and foremost with reliable, regular attendance at all meetings. Participation means not only physically being there, but also offering your input, being prepared for meetings, and making certain you are fully informed on all issues affecting the board. This is especially important when matters arise in which a deciding vote is required.

According to the Wyoming Public Documents and the Open Meetings Acts, (W.S. §16-4-201 *through* -205, Rev. 2013) a member of a board or a commission may not speak for the board individually—except in limited and predetermined cases. Additionally, you are expected to refrain from speaking about business of the board on an individual basis and to avoid offering your individual opinion when speaking about board matters. Members are required to attend training of the Wyoming Public Documents and the Open Meetings Acts on an annual basis, where representation, accountability, and ethics are covered.

Accountability

As a member of a board or commission, you are expected to act within reason and accept responsibility for your actions. However, you are protected by law when acting in your official capacity with limited immunity (WS §16-4-401, *through* 16-4-408).

QUALIFIED IMMUNITY – You are granted immunity in most cases if you were acting within the scope of your duties. If this is the case, the city will help with your defense.

ERODED IMMUNITY – Unethical actions or wrongful purpose could lead to exposure and personal liability (e.g. intentionally violating due process rights, equal protection or acting contrary to legal advice. Be sure to take all of the possible precautions to avoid these actions.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

AVOIDING A CONFLICT OF INTEREST, or the appearance thereof, is of critical importance to the public accountability of boards and commissions. If you suspect you may have a conflict of interest with an issue before the board, the following questions are helpful to consider:

If you respond “yes” to any of these questions, you may choose to abstain from voting.

- Is your interest direct and immediate as opposed to speculative and remote?
- Does your interest provide you a greater benefit or a lesser detriment than it does for a large or substantial group or class of persons who are similarly situated?
 - Does your interest give the appearance of impropriety?

OPEN MEETINGS AND PUBLIC RECORDS LAWS

Regular Meetings

Wyoming State Statute §16-4-401 *through* 403 requires that all meetings of boards and commissions be open to the public.

THE DEFINITION OF A “MEETING” is an assembly of at least a quorum of the governing body which has been called by proper authority of the agency for the purpose of discussion, deliberation, presentation of information or taking action regarding public business.

THE DEFINITION OF AN “ACTION” is the transaction of official business of an agency, including a collective decision of a governing body, a collective commitment or promise by the governing body to make a positive or negative decision, or an actual vote by a governing body upon a motion, proposal, resolution, regulation, rule, order or ordinance.

NO VOTE (OR ANY OFFICIAL ACTION) MAY BE TAKEN by telephone, e-mail, or at social events unless specifically stated in the board or commission’s by-laws and doing so is not in violation of the Open Meetings Act.

THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT under Wyoming State Statute §16-4-401 through 408 requires that certain information about each meeting be properly made available to the public. This includes: a public notice of the place, location, and agenda of the meeting. The public in attendance cannot be required to state their name or to sign in, however may be required to state their name and affiliation if they are seeking recognition at the meeting.

MINUTES OF ALL PROCEEDINGS must be kept and made available as defined in the **WYOMING PUBLIC RECORDS ACT** – WSS §16-4-201 *through* 205.

MEETING PROCEDURES

Parliamentary Procedure

ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER, REVISED shall be used to conduct the business of all meetings of Boards and Commissions of the City of Laramie. Parliamentary procedures provided in **ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER** outline how to properly conduct a meeting, with the goal of completing the transaction of business fairly and allowing an opportunity for each board member to be heard.

Quorum

A “QUORUM” is a majority of the board or commission members. Any official action, such as adopting a motion, requires a quorum of members be present.

Voting and How to Make a Motion

VOTING IS ONE OF THE MAIN METHODS that boards and commissions use to accomplish public business and take official action. The most common approach is to offer a motion for approval or denial.

TO MAKE A MOTION:

1. Ask to be recognized by the chair.
2. Once recognized, make your motion by saying “I move that...” followed by a description of the action to be taken.
3. Next, another member must second the motion by saying, “I second the motion.”
4. The chair will then repeat the motion and call for any discussion on the topic.
5. Once discussion has ceased or if there is no discussion, the chair will “call the question.”
6. Those who are in favor will answer “aye” and those opposed will answer “nay.”
7. The chair will state whether or not the motion “is carried” or “has failed.”

ALWAYS STATE YOUR MOTION in an affirmative manner. In other words, move to take action as opposed to moving not to take action.

YOUR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Meeting Attendance

MEETING ATTENDANCE is extremely important for administrative, public relations, and informational purposes. Members are required to attend the meetings of the board or commissions to which they are appointed.

If it is absolutely not possible for you to attend on any given meeting date, extend the courtesy to the board or commission Chair and the Staff liaison to let them know you cannot attend. Make arrangements to get the agenda and meeting minutes for the meetings you missed as soon as possible afterwards.

Minutes, Agendas and Related Records

WYOMING STATE STATUTE places meeting minutes, agendas, and records related to official minutes agendas in the “Retain Permanently” category for records retention.

WORKING GROUP FOR POLICE & COMMUNITY (Ad Hoc)

Charge or Purpose: The purpose of the group is to consider municipal policing services and provide a body of recommendations to city leadership as detailed in Resolution 2021-18

Authority: *City of Laramie Resolution 2021-18*

Membership:

Number of Members- Twenty-three (23) members.

Term – All terms end December 31, 2021 unless continued by action of the Governing Body.

Eligibility- Must be a resident of the city.

Training Requirements- Each member of the commission is required by the Office of the City Manager to attend annual training on the Wyoming Public Documents and Open Meetings Acts.

Meeting Requirements: Meets not less than monthly.

Meeting Date/Time/Place: TBD

Staff Contact: Janine Jordan, City Manager

Email: jjordan@cityoflaramie.org

Phone: 307-721-5226

City Council Liaisons: Sharon Cumbie- sacumbie@cityoflaramie.org

Andi Summerville – asummerville@cityoflaramie.org

Paul Weaver – pweaver@cityoflaramie.org

CITY OF LARAMIE, WYOMING

RESOLUTION 2021-18B

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP
FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, On June 30, 2020, Council adopted Resolution 2020-38 setting forth objectives with respect to policing services and community relations. On February 23, 2021, Council reviewed a report as to progress attained in meeting the four objectives outlined in the resolution;

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2021, City Manager, City Attorney and Police Chief provided a research brief on the use of citizen oversight boards including best practices and strengths and weaknesses of prevalent models, along with a case study and citations to original sources, so that interested persons might explore those materials;

WHEREAS, City Manager is recommending the formation of an ad hoc working group who will review municipal policing practices, legal framework, and service statistics to build a knowledgeable panel whom can provide recommendations to city leadership in these matters.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LARAMIE, WYOMING, HEREBY RESOLVES:

Section 1. To establish the Ad Hoc **Working Group for Police and Community (WGPC)** as follows:

PURPOSE

A broad-based working group that will consider Laramie’s municipal policing services and provide a body of recommendations to city leadership. At the first meeting, working group will elect a Chair and Vice Chair and establish bylaws for the conduct of their meetings subject to the approval of the City Clerk and Attorney for parliamentary and legal appropriateness. Within six (6) months of the first meeting the working group will provide recommendation to city leadership as follows:

- a. Review data, evidence, and available resources and, subsequently, advise city government leadership regarding community values, needs, and priorities for policing, and

- b. Advise regarding potential solutions and methods for meeting the policing values, needs and priorities of the community, including potential mental health programs to assist law enforcement;
- c. Advise on how best to build understanding, effective communication and trust between Laramie's police department and the community;
- d. Advise regarding transparency and accountability around use of force, police conduct and police oversight; and
- e. Advise on other community-related policing matters which may be expressly referred to working group by the City Council and/or City Manager; and
- f. As part of these efforts, working group will host at least three (3) community forum facilitated by an impartial third-party, with minutes made available to the public.
- g. As part of these efforts, city shall provide ad hoc working group with an email account or means to receive citizen comments through email and publish via city website updates so that interested citizens can remain apprised of these efforts.
- h. The city council will provide a professional facilitator to conduct meetings.
- i. The working group will provide regular updates to Laramie City Council.

MEMBERSHIP (23)

The working group will consist of twenty-three (23) total members for a term of six (6) months. Representation will include individual residents of the city of Laramie, institutional partners, municipal officials, and community liaisons.

Community/Resident Representation (8)

- Six (6) Laramie Residents, Selected by Nominating Committee & Confirmed by City Council
- Two (2) Laramie Residents Engaged in Provision of Local Social Services, Selected by Nominating Committee & Confirmed by City Council

Application disclosures will be sufficient to establish eligibility of community resident members. No current member of the Laramie Police Department, or his or her family members of first degree or dependents, may serve as a community resident member of the working group. No active employee of the city may serve as a community resident member of the working group. Not more than one (1) community resident member position may be filled by a retired, sworn law enforcement professional.

Nominating Committee will review applications for community resident member positions and, subsequently, select and submit the slate of eight (8) community resident members for confirmation by the City Council. Nominating Committee will be comprised of key community leaders as indicated:

1. Albany County School District Superintendent
2. Vice Mayor
3. UW Chief Diversity Officer
4. UW Criminal Justice Program Director
5. Police Chaplain

Selection Criteria: Nominating Committee will select resident members who represent the diverse communities within the city.

Institutional Representation (7)

- One (1) Albany County School District Member (ACSD), Appointed by ACSD Board
- One (1) University of Wyoming Criminal Justice Program Faculty Member, Appointed by Department Head
- One (1) Council for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Member (CDEI), Appointed by CDEI
- One (1) Associated Students of U.W. (ASUW) Member, Appointed by ASUW
- One (1) Albany County Crime Victim Witness Representative (ACCVW), Appointed by ACVW Director
- One (1) Albany County Community Mental Health Board (ACCMHB) Member who is a licensed mental health provider, Appointed by ACCMHB
- One (1) Legal Defense Member (*Pending Response---Staff Will Provide an Update Upon Confirmation from the Prospective Partner Agency of their Willingness to Participate*)

Current Police Oversight Representation (6)

- Two (2) City Council Members, Appointed by City Council
- Mayor, President of the City Council
- One (1) Police Sworn-Management Member (Chief of Police/Asst. Chief)
- One (1) Police Civilian, Non-Sworn-Management Member (Manager/Asst. Manager/H.R. Director)
- One (1) Police Legal-Management Member (Attorney/Asst. Attorney)

Laramie Law Enforcement Professionals (2)

- One (1) Laramie Municipal Sworn Officer, Non-Command
- One (1) Laramie Law Enforcement Professional, Retired or Active

Liaison Representation

- One (1) Police Chaplain
- Other liaisons may be established at any time as necessary by majority consensus of the Working Group

MEETINGS

Working group will meet not less than monthly for six (6) months.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE

City Council Resolution: April 7, 2021

Application Period for Community Resident Members: April 12 - 30, 2021

Nominating Committee Convened as Needed: April 8 - May 14, 2021

City Council Confirmation of Community Resident Members Candidate Slate: May 18, 2021

Appointment Period for Institutional Representatives & Sworn Officer Liaison: April 1 – May 14, 2021

Initial WGPC Meeting: May 19 – 30, 2021

Recommendations Due to City Leadership: December 1, 2021

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 7th day of April 2021.

Background

On May 28th, Councilor O’Doherty requested a work session on municipal policing policies and a work session was scheduled on the next available date of June 23. As protests began to occur in Laramie in early-June, it was clear that many protesters were keenly concerned with the actions of the Albany County Sheriff’s Department in the death of Robbie Ramirez in 2018. On June 11th, the City Manager requested a meeting with two persons know to be organizing those protests for the purposes of rectifying unsafe conditions stemming from individuals causing unpermitted traffic obstructions and gaining understanding of any specific concerns as there might be with municipal policing practices.

The meeting occurred on June 16th with the City Attorney and Executive Assistant also in attendance. Ms. Vogel and Mr. Harris provided a “List of Demands,” and general discussion occurred surrounding individual items on that list (attached). The City Manager indicated the scheduled work session would cover much of the same information to ensure it was made available to the public and all other interested individuals.

Relevant Information

These facts are provided to enable policymaking dialogue and decisions to occur in a fully-informed, knowledgeable and thoughtful environment.

Four (4) law enforcement agencies are legally permitted to conduct policing activities within the municipal boundaries of Laramie, as per Wyoming State Statutes.

Laramie Municipal/City Police (LPD)
University of Wyoming Police (UWPD)

Albany County Sheriffs (ACSO)
Wyoming Highway Patrol (WHP)

Neither Laramie’s municipal Staff, nor its Appointed & Elected Officials, may exercise any authority over the policies and practices of the three (3) non-municipal agencies as a matter of law.

As an elected body, the City Council may determine to leverage its political power to gather information about policing policies and practices used by non-municipal law enforcement agencies exercising police powers within the municipality (ACSO, WHP and UWPD). Those non-municipal agencies would have no legal duty to respond, however.

With respect to policing practices and policies of municipal officers at LPD, a public work session was held on June 23rd to share information with the community regarding topics of intense, current national and local interest and that information remains available on the city website at <https://www.cityoflaramie.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/06232020-1197?html=true>.

The facts provided at the public meeting last week, coupled with the additional information below and reference to each section of the proposed resolution, clearly illustrate the diligence, trusted care and legality of municipal policing policies in Laramie.

Considerations with respect to Section 1 of proposed Resolution 2020-38:

Civilian oversight of LPD has been in place for many decades at a multitude of levels. Nine elected city councilors, with an appointed civilian city manager, oversee the municipal police department. By Statute, the Chief of Police reports to both the City Manager and to a Civil Service Commission comprised of the President/Mayor of City Council and two independent Laramie residents. The Civil Service Commission approves hiring and promotional processes and must be involved in any disciplinary process for police officers and dispatchers, particularly suspensions and terminations. LPD strictly follows the Wyoming Open Records Act and, when release or non-release of information is unclear, seeks direction from the City Attorney to ensure another, independent level of oversight. For more, see <https://www.cityoflaramie.org/323/Civil-Service-Commission>.

With respect to use of force (UOF) and citizen complaints, there are nine (9) levels of review within the LPD alone for every UOF and every citizen complaint, including at the top with the Chief of Police in every instance. The City implemented the top industry-recommended software tool in 2014 to help ensure comprehensive and robust management, oversight and tracking of UOF. We track UOF incidents, citizen complaints, pursuits, crashes, and internal investigations. Every year since obtaining the software LPD has reported statistics publicly at City Council meetings. The statistics are reported in total since, in Wyoming, personnel records are not releasable. For more, see <http://www.iapro.com/>

The City Manager and Police Chief welcome additional opportunity to work with residents to educate about policing matters and to continue providing releasable data considering all aspects of LPD operations. Through its work with the Human Rights Campaign, the City Manager's Office has proposed the establishment of a local Laramie Human Rights Commission (LHRC). Considering recent dialogue about a civilian oversight boards (COBs), we've begun researching whether a properly structured board might function dually in both capacities as a hybrid LHRC/COB. For more, see <https://www.hrc.org/mei>.

*Considerations with respect to **Section 2** of proposed Resolution 2020-38:*

LPD has participated for many years on the Albany County Mental Health Board, a citizen-involved board that considers best-practice approaches to dealing with the mentally ill and those in crisis. Board members include the Albany County Attorney, members of the professional counseling community, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), and attorneys familiar with Wyoming's Title 25 process. The processes used by LPD when encountering mentally ill or in-crisis subjects have been well-defined by this Board and solidly adhere to Wyoming State Statute. LPD seeks out collaboration with these professionals and civilians to inform its policing policies. Further opportunities to involve the mental health treatment community, who also realize that police cannot be excluded from these oftentimes explosive and dangerous encounters, is welcomed by both the City Manager and Chief. For more, see <http://www.co.albany.wy.us/community-mental-health-board.aspx>

*Considerations with respect to **Section 3** of proposed Resolution 2020-38:*

As discussed at the June 23 work session, LPD has been rooted in community policing principles for decades, and prior to "community-oriented policing" becoming a popular term in the early-1990s. Here are a few of the current activities and programs...

Prevention

A fulltime Crime Prevention Officer is tasked with interacting with and supporting the public, including crime preventative building and neighborhood enhancement, public talks on personal safety, school visits, etc.

In addition, LPD policy encourages all staff to interact regularly with the public in a positive and educational manner.

Coffee with A Cop is a well-known community event. On average, LPD documents over 5,000 educational and interactive contacts each year.

Community Transparency

The PD implemented body worn cameras in 2013, prior to nation-wide recommendations and calls for body camera implementation, and led the State as the first department in Wyoming to do so. Body cameras, while incredibly valuable, are only part of a well-defined and monitored system of administrative oversight of a police department, which was explained in detail during the June 23 work session and in Section 1 above.

The City seeks outside, third-party experts to evaluate our policies, practices, and staffing and make recommendations for improvement. LPD's most recent evaluation was completed in 2015 by the Center for Public Safety Management (CPSM) which has evaluated 211 communities ranging in population from 8,000 to 800,000 across 39 states and provinces. LPD was determined to be properly oversighted, with "model" use of force policies, and staffed correctly for a city of our size. Since 2015, sworn staffing levels have decreased by four (4) officers due to reductions in State of Wyoming funding to Laramie. Based on the CPSM's findings, LPD's current staffing level would be inadequate. For more, see <https://www.cpsm.us/>.

Problem Solving / Quality of Life / Partnership

LPD has long-established relationships with residents, organizations and professionals designed to address community issues and solve problems that affect quality of life in a collaborative setting. Here are just a few...

- Albany County Mental Health Board
<http://www.co.albany.wy.us/community-mental-health-board.aspx>
- Laramie Town & Gown Committee
- Juvenile Services Board
<http://www.co.albany.wy.us/community-juvenile-services-board.aspx>
- AWARE: A-Team
 - <http://www.uwyo.edu/ucc/aware/a-team.html>

Considerations with respect to Section 4 of proposed Resolution 2020-38:

Funding is not impeding LPD's CIT training plan. Laramie Police Department began using the "Memphis Model" of Critical Incident Team (CIT) community policing in 2008. Both then and now, this model, endorsed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), recommends that approximately 20% of a patrol force be trained in CIT concepts. LPD meets that recommendation. The remaining 80% of officers are required to be trained in ASIST or QPR

(Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training or Question-Persuade-Refer). For more, see <http://www.cit.memphis.edu/overview.php?page=2>, <https://qprinstitute.com/about-qpr>, and <https://www.livingworks.net/asist>.

Logistics require extensive coordination between prosecutors, victim advocates, psychology and counseling professionals, and actors. In additions, it is logistically unrealistic to have every officer trained in CIT due to it being a 40-hour, labor-intensive training coupled with the occurrence of natural attrition. LPD held its last CIT training in June 2019 and had planned a class this month, which had to be cancelled due to the Covid19 pandemic. This is NOT a training that can be done virtually.

In closing, Laramie's municipal policing practices have been validated by outside evaluators. LPD is a department of highly trained, professional, and very self-critical officers. By instilling these expectation and attitude, and continually striving to do and be better by inviting outside evaluation, we ensure our officers act, and react, in legal and appropriate ways. Laramie's municipal police officers live and work in our community; they are as fully vested in Laramie's quality of life and with the same aspirations for our shared-community as is every resident. LPD officers do one of the most difficult and unpredictable jobs in public service and work every day to serve and protect Laramie's residents - their friends, their family members, their coworkers and their neighbors.

Responsible Staff:

City Manager

Chief of Police

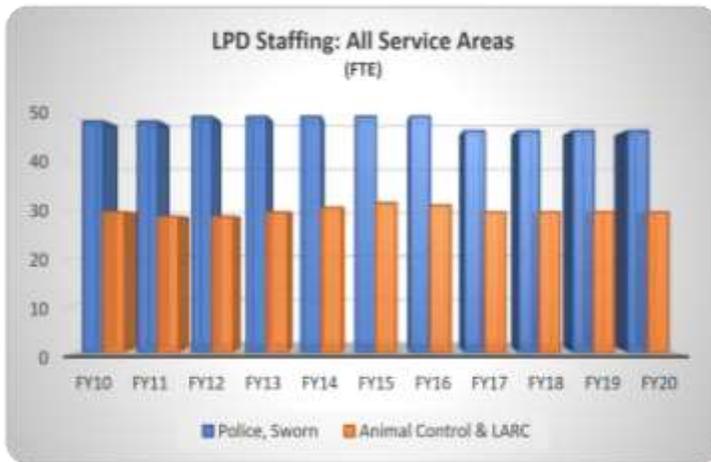
City Attorney

FAQ

LARAMIE’S MUNICIPAL POLICING SERVICES

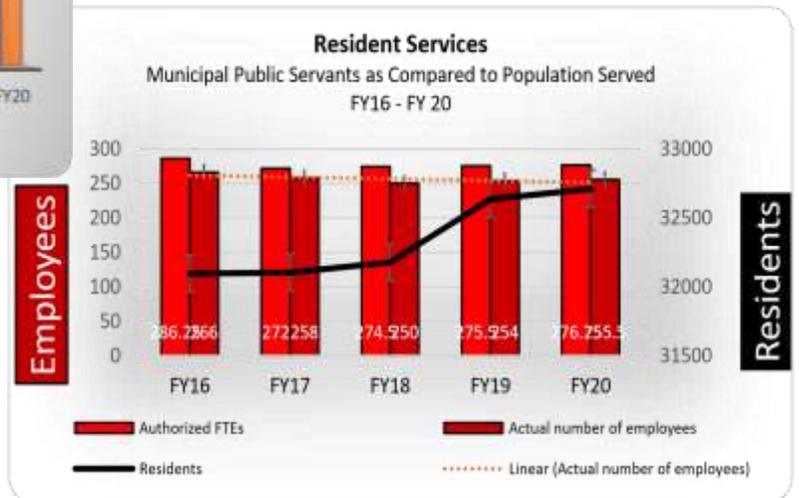
Q. How many peace officers does the city employ? Have the number of officers increased? Are there future plans to increase the number of officers?

A. Forty-seven (47) sworn peace officers are employed by the municipality, comprising 18.5% of all city personnel.



Our goal is to staff all city services adequately to serve residents but, unfortunately, staffing levels have not kept pace with the growing demands of Laramie’s increasing population over the past decade.

There are 1.44 full-time equivalent (FTE) municipal officers per 1,000 residents.



Q. Does city government provide social services, especially for those needing assistance with mental illness?

A. Governmental social services are provided by State and County governments. However, Laramie’s City Council has opted to provide financial assistance to not-for-profit social service agencies through our *Community Partners Program* (CPP). In FY20, \$316,360 was appropriated for social services such as Interfaith, Downtown Clinic, Soup Kitchen and Youth Crisis Center from the 5th Penny Sales Tax.

Laramie Police provide personal in-kind support to Interfaith by acting as conduit for their services. Officers directly respond to Interfaith clients by completing and delivering vouchers for gasoline, housing and bus transportation for persons in need.

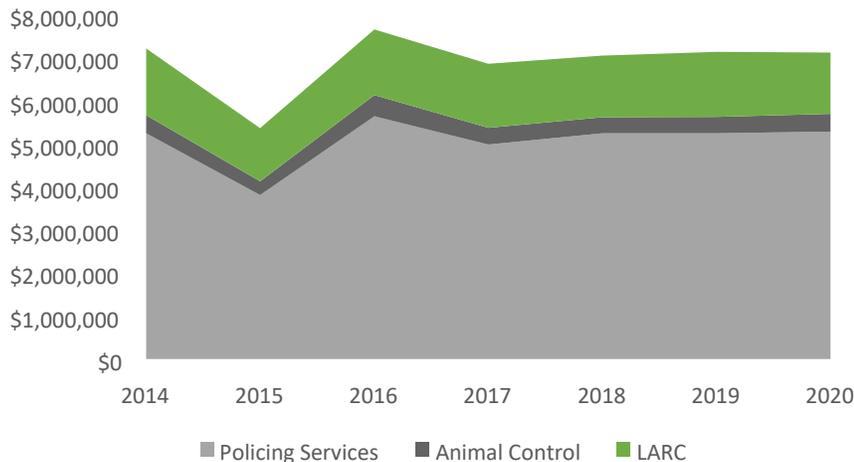
<https://www.cityoflaramie.org/1018/5th-Penny-Community-Partners>

<https://www.cityoflaramie.org/DocumentCenter/View/18943/Reso-2020-21A-Community-Partner-Funding-4-21-20?bidld=>

Q. Has funding for policing services increased?

A. Actual departmental spending has been largely unchanged since 2014 and will be slightly higher in Fiscal Year 2021 due to recent salary adjustments. The chart below reflects all services of the Laramie Police Department, including policing, animal control/sheltering and operation of the Laramie Area Records & Communications Center (LARC). Albany County reimburses Laramie for twenty percent (20%) of the cost of LARC operations; in FY20 the County’s reimbursement was \$378,574.

Departmental Expenditures, By Service Type



In FY20, \$5.30 Million was spent on policing services with some of this costs reimbursed by grants.

The cost of policing was 8.3% of the all city government, or \$152 per capita (net of grant \$318,923).

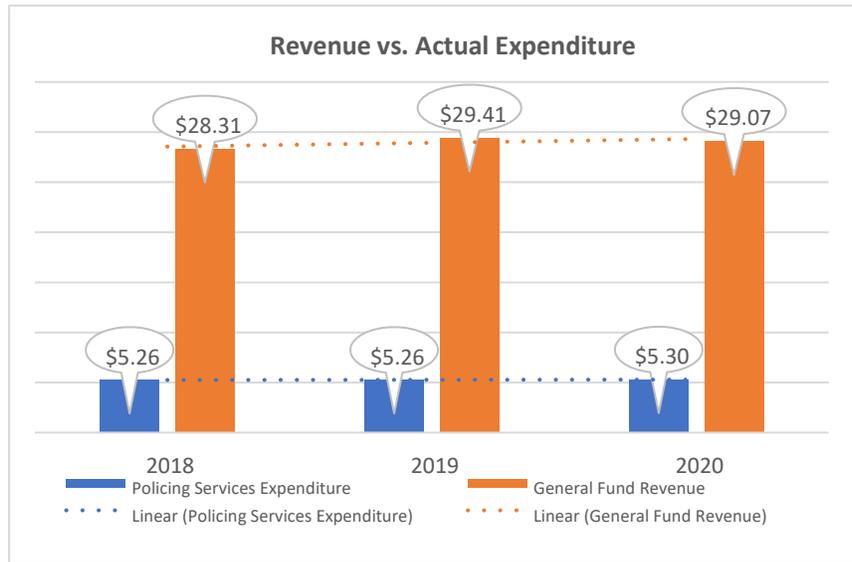
Q. Does the city own or pay to maintain military-grade equipment? If so, what is the cost of upkeep?

A. The Peacekeeper vehicle made available to the city in the early-2000s though the federal 1033 program was destroyed in a building fire and subsequently replaced at no cost. The city’s current Bearcat model is a refurbished armored vehicle. Bearcats are designed to be defensive in nature and are not militarized; they are built specifically for civilian law enforcement purposes. Upkeep each month costs about \$5 for electricity and the annual oil change is roughly \$75. Fuel expenses are minimal with few miles driven annually.

Q. Has there been an increase in revenue consistent with the increase in LPD's budget?

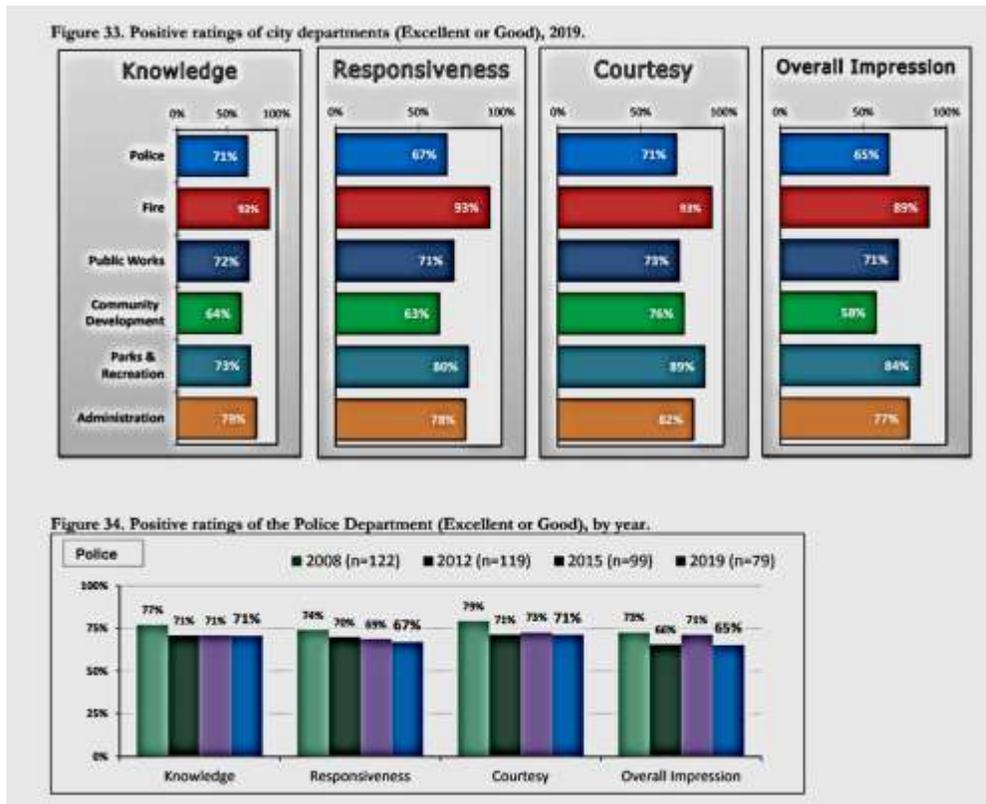
A. City revenue growth has outpaced increase in spending for policing services.

Since FY18, revenue has increased 2.61% while spending for policing services has increased by 0.74%.



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

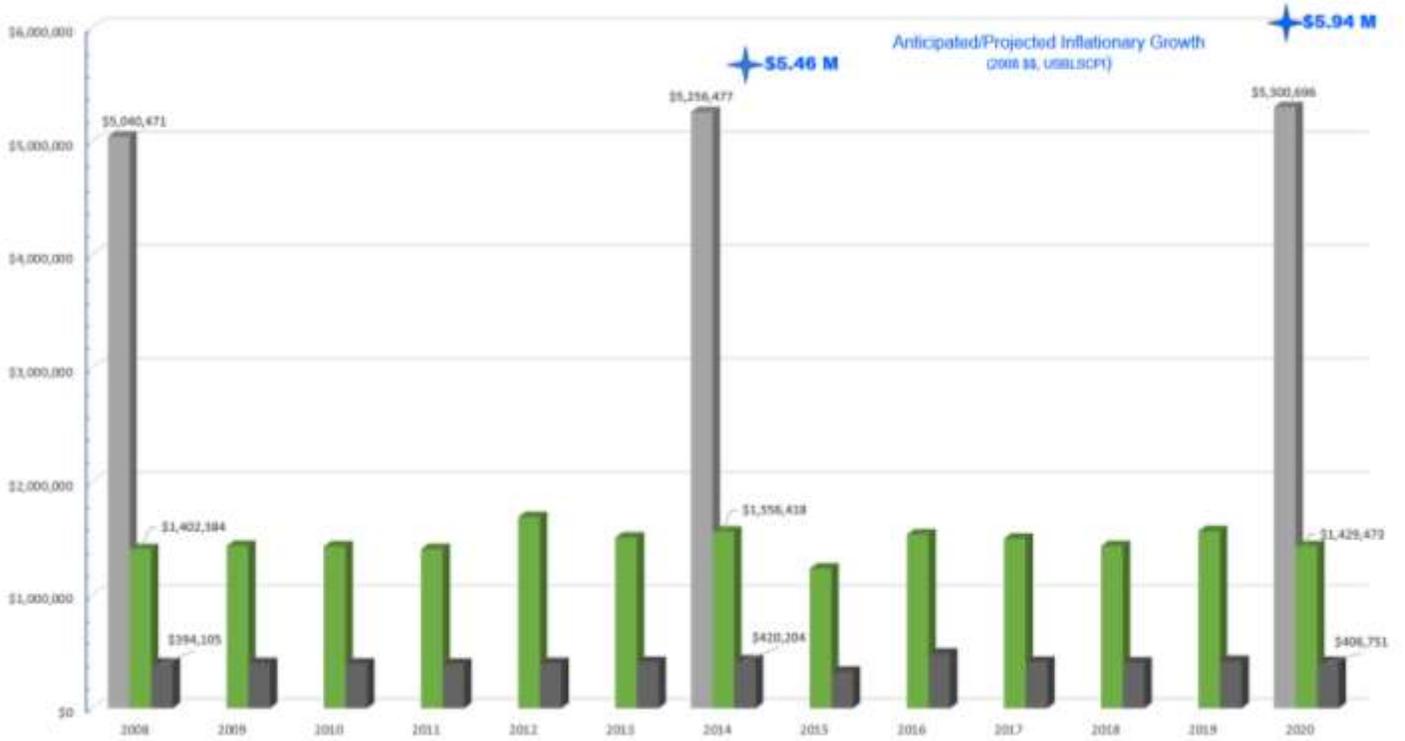


A. Yes, Laramie residents are surveyed every few years. Residents are asked about their experiences with city personnel and services – including police.

In our most recent survey, residents rated their interactions with police department personnel highly in all service categories.

<https://www.cityoflaramie.org/DocumentCenter/View/17636/2019-City-of-Laramie-Citizen-Survey--Final-Report>

Departmental Services LPD – Expenditure History by City Fiscal Year



LARAMIE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Policing Management & Oversight

