

AGENDA
CITY OF LARAMIE, WYOMING
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 406 IVINSON
AVE
February 23, 2021, 6:00 pm
(Via Zoom Webinar)

City Council Meetings are open to the public. Council Chambers seating is unavailable at this time due to social distancing. We encourage the use of the following tools to participate: watch live meetings on You Tube Live Feed or Cable Channel 191; or Zoom meeting: Meeting ID #886 1841 2015 Password: 178833 (100 Participants).

Public Comments can be made by Zoom

meeting [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88618412015?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88618412015?pwd=NHVMeTBKK0c5RmxPYllqSFV2USt2UT09)

[pwd=NHVMeTBKK0c5RmxPYllqSFV2USt2UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88618412015?pwd=NHVMeTBKK0c5RmxPYllqSFV2USt2UT09)

or Phone # 1(669)900-9128 Meeting ID #886 1841 2015 or emailing council@cityoflaramie.org. Participants on Zoom will be muted until the Mayor asks for public comments. Please email: clerk@cityoflaramie.org to request to make public comment during speaking time by no later than 3:00 pm on the day the meeting is to occur. Position of speaking will be assigned by lottery. Requests for accommodations from persons with disabilities must be made to the City Manager's Office 24 hours in advance of a meeting.

Please be advised no additional agenda item will be introduced at a Regular City Council meeting after the hour of 9:30 p.m., unless the majority of the City Council members present vote to extend the meeting.

Public Comment is limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. Written public comment shall be submitted to the City Clerk for dissemination and retention for official City records, or submitted to the City Council through electronic correspondence at council@cityoflaramie.org. Full text available in Code of Conduct 4.02 and Appendix B and C.

Written material relative to an agenda item shall be submitted six (6) days in advance of the meeting (sooner if there are holidays prior to the meeting) in order that copies may be included with the agenda and to give the council an opportunity to review the material in advance of the appearance.

1. WORK SESSION

2. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (Aggregate time limit 30 minutes)

(Limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.)

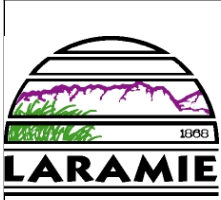
3. WORK SESSION: Policing Oversight

[Jordan, CM]

Documents:

[Policing2.23.21.pdf](#)

- 4. City Council Updates/Council Comments**
- 5. Agenda Review**
- 6. Public Comments**
(Limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.)



Agenda Item: Presentation

Title: Policing: Update on Resolution 2020-38 & Citizen Oversight Board (COB) Research Overview

Background:

On June 30, 2020, Council adopted Resolution 2020-38 with respect to policing services. Staff will provide a report as to progress attained since June in meeting the four objectives outlined in the resolution. In addition, staff will discuss the use of COB in policing including an overview of prevalent national models, best practices, and case study.

Responsible Staff:

City Manager, City Attorney, Chief of Police and Assistant Chief of Police

Attachments:

- Resolution 2020-38: Status Report
- Policing FAQs

CITY OF LARAMIE

Resolution 2020-38 Policing: Transparency, Training, Procedures & Accountability

Defined Objective

Progress Through February 22, 2020

<p><u>Section</u> 1</p>	<p>Identify and present options to the city council for the creation of a civilian oversight board (COB); and,</p>	<p>Research continues. Chief attended a session at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference in December regarding citizen oversight concepts and models. Staff plan to bring research findings and options to City Council February 23.</p>
<p><u>Section</u> 2</p>	<p>Investigate areas in which mental health professionals may be appropriately utilized in place of, or in combination with, Laramie Police Department officers; and,</p>	<p>Extensive discussion has taken place within the Mental Health Board regarding professional response to mental health calls for service (MHCFS). A community-wide board, this group evaluates our collective responses to mental health. This dialogue and collaboration have occurred for many years and is on-going. LPD enacted new administrative policy in December pairing officers with Peak Wellness case-managers to conduct "home visits" on Peak clients who are in the Gatekeeper Program. Our eventual goal is to establish a protocol in which Peak case-managers respond alone to those calls and police only respond if needed for safety reasons. This is a very scaled back version of programs in place nationally, including CAHOOTS, REAL , and STAR. We are also exploring funding options for additional mental health professional responses to MHCFS. Most recently, LPD has lent its support to grant applications filed by County and UW. If approved, these grant monies will fund Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), Mental Health First Aid, or other trainings for both community members and officers, as well as a separate County application that would provide funding for juvenile mental health services. (It should be noted that these trainings are not new to LPD; municipal police have received this training for many years.)</p>
<p><u>Section</u> 3</p>	<p>Explore further community engagement opportunities, increase positive interactions between the Laramie Police Department and the public; and,</p>	<p>LPD's capacity for community outreach activities remains diminished with multiple unfilled positions in the wake of staff turnover. And, unfortunately, the COVID pandemic caused cancellation of the popular "Coffee with a Cop" program in 2020. Nevertheless, we were pleased to complete the "Shop with a Cop" program in December, which paired officers with less fortunate children in the community. Officers supported 27 children and their families with a holiday shopping spree and holiday meal. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QJ6nb70cok https://www.acsd1.org/acsd/twenty-five-acsd-students-to-participate-in-shop-with-a-cop-this-friday/</p>
<p><u>Section</u> 4</p>	<p>Identify funding within the existing public safety budget to increase the percentage of officers in the Laramie Police Department with crisis intervention training and to expand other areas of training relevant to achieving more equitable policing.</p>	<p>COVID pandemic caused cancellation of scheduled 2020 Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). When permissible under social distancing guidelines, we will resume officer CIT. LPD and Peak Wellness have partnered to sponsor Mental Health First Aid training in 2021 as additional training for dealing with the mentally ill or those in crisis.</p>



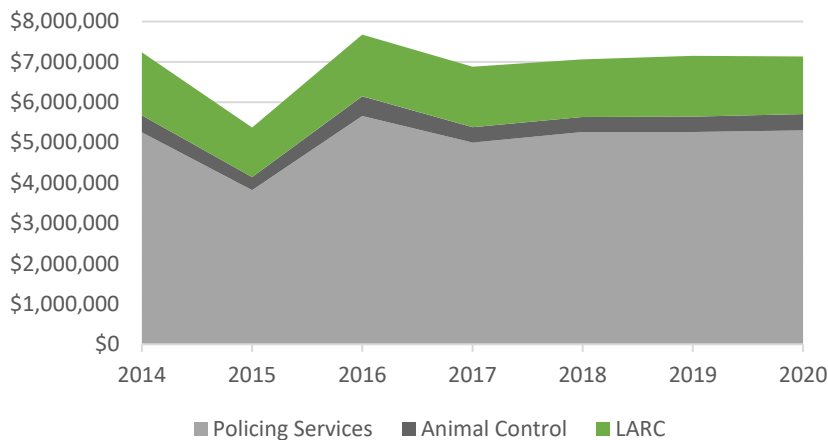
Q. How many peace officers does the city employ?

A. Forty-seven (47) sworn peace officers are employed by the municipality, comprising 18.5% of all city personnel and 1.44 Full-time Equivalent officers per 1,000 Laramie residents.

Q. How much has funding for the Police Department increased?

A. Actual Departmental spending has been largely unchanged. Expenditures are expected to be slightly more in Fiscal Year 2021 with implementation of salary adjustments. Please note the chart below reflects all services within the department budget, including policing, animal control/sheltering and Laramie Area Records & Communications Center (LARC). Albany County Government provides twenty percent (20%) reimbursement to the City of Laramie for operation of LARC; in FY20 the County’s contribution was \$378,574.

Departmental Expenditures, By Service Type



In the most recently completed fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, \$5.30 M was spent providing policing services throughout the community. Some of these costs are reimbursed by grants – typically ranging in amount between \$220,000 – \$450,000 per year.

In the most recent fiscal year, spending for policing comprised 8.3% of all city spending for resident services, or \$152 per capita (net of grant funding \$318,923).

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

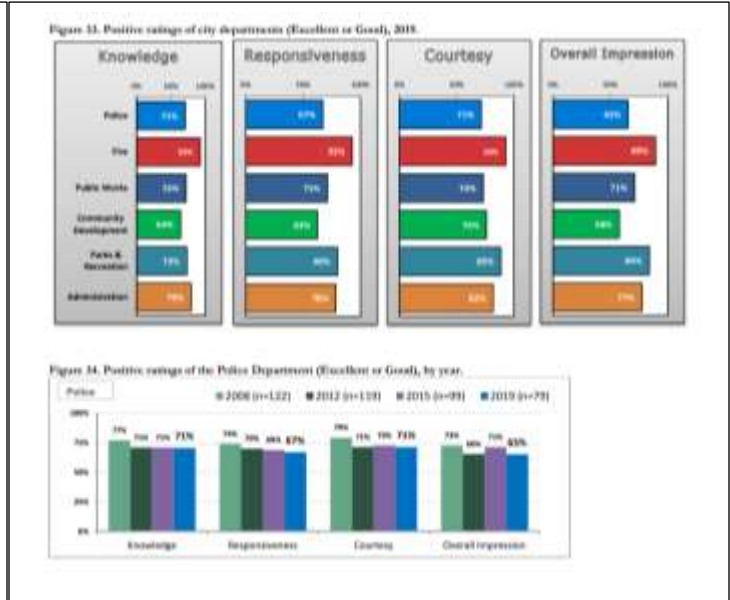
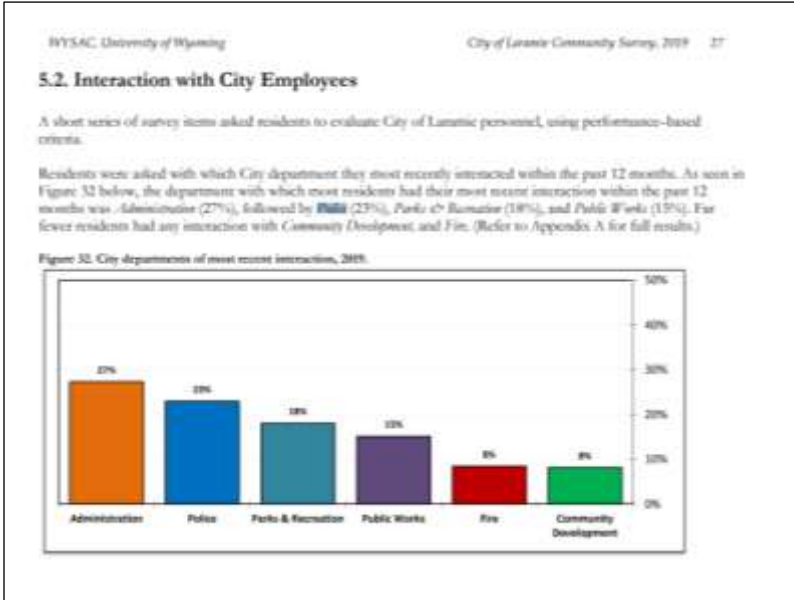
A. In Wyoming, governmental social services are provided at the State and County government level. However, Laramie’s City Council has chosen to provide financial assistance to not-for-profit agencies through our Community Partners Program (CPP). Revenue generated from the Local Option 5th Penny Sales Tax and Community Gas Program is granted to support local social service agencies. In FY20, a total of \$858,377 was provided to local agencies, including \$316,360 directly for social services like the Soup Kitchen and Downtown Clinic.

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 Interfaith vouchers for gas assistance, housing assistance, and bus transportation to individuals in-need.

(<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=.](https://www.cityoflaramie.org/DocumentCenter/View/18943/Reso-2020-21A-Community-Partner-Funding-4-21-20?bidId=;))

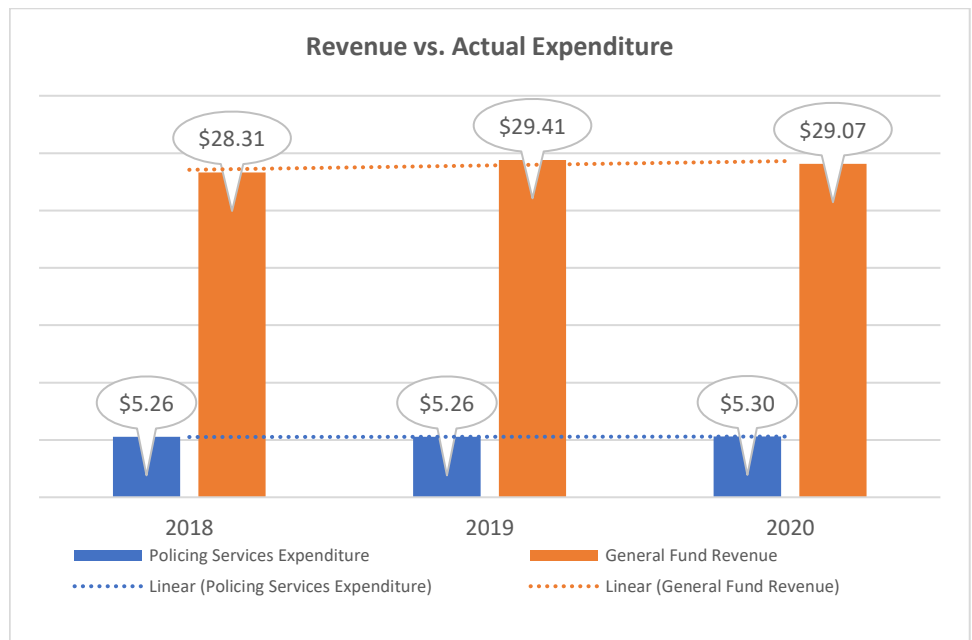
Q. Does the city actively solicit comments from residents about policing services?

A. Yes. Laramie residents are surveyed every few years and comments solicited regarding their experiences with city personnel and services. Most recently in 2019, residents rated their interactions with police department personnel highly in all service categories.



Q. Has there been an increase in revenue consistent with the increase in LPD’s budget within the last fiscal year?

A. Revenue growth has outpaced spending for police services in Laramie. Since FY2018, revenue has increased 2.61% while spending for policing increased by 0.74%.

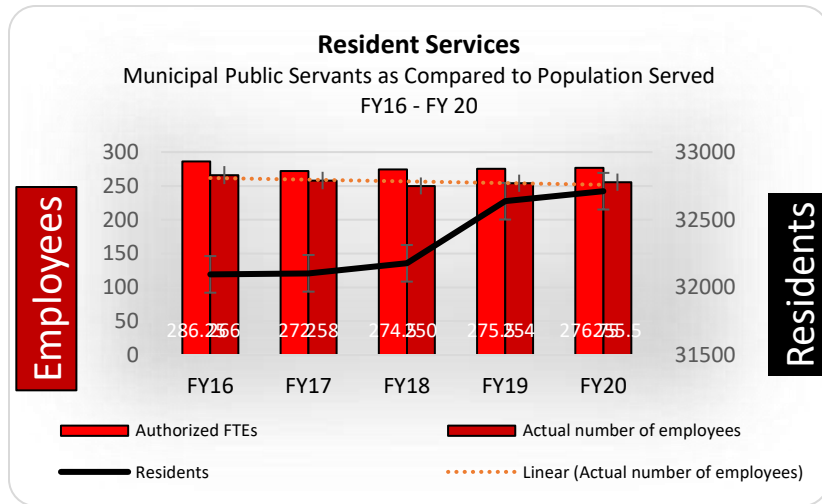


Q. Does the city own or pay to maintain the military-grade equipment that many see as inappropriate/unnecessary for our community? And, how much does upkeep cost a month? How much money could we sell/melt the bearcat for?

A. The original Peacekeeper was free to the City in the early-2000’s through the 1033 program. The vehicle was destroyed and declared a total loss as a result of a building fire and, subsequently, replaced at no cost with a Bearcat model vehicle. The Bearcat is a refurbished (not new) armored vehicle that is defensive in nature. It is not militarized; it was built specifically for civilian law enforcement purposes. Upkeep each month costs about \$5.00 for electricity and it has a yearly oil change that costs roughly \$75.00. Fuel expenses are minimal – it uses unleaded fuel and logs minimal miles annually.

Q. Do you plan on continuing to increase the size of LPD?

A. The size of city government staffing has not increased. Our goal is always to staff all services adequately to serve Laramie residents. With some of the lowest tax revenue in our state, it’s an ongoing struggle to meet the needs and expectations of the residents we serve. Staffing levels have not kept pace with the growing demands of Laramie’s increasing population.



This holds true, as well, for LPD when we break out the department’s staffing level as a portion of all city positions.

Laramie currently has 47 police officers, or 1.44 full-time equivalent positions per 1,000 Laramie residents.

