RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2012-320

MEETING: June 19, 2012

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Doug Binnewies, Sheriff-Coroner-Public Administrator

RE: Sheriff’s Office Reorganization to Better Support Jail Services

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION: Approve Sheriff’s Office reorganization effective July 1, 2012, to better support Jail services by unallocating and unfunding one (1) Sheriff’s Sergeant-Patrol position in the Sheriff’s budget and allocating and funding two (2) Jail Officer positions in the Jail Budget; Authorize the hiring of the two Jail Officer positions.

It has been recognized that Jail staffing needs to be addressed to appropriately handle current trends. This planned reorganization is to address this recognized immediate need.

Over the past years, local inmate needs and behavior aggression has been increasing. This trend, coupled with AB109 -Law Enforcement Realignment Act, is presenting the unmistakable need to increase Jail Officer staffing to appropriately carry out the many required duties and services while protecting themselves from an increasingly aggressive and growing inmate population. The current 17 officer to 58 jail inmate ratio is becoming inappropriate for the new Jail inmate atmosphere. The current Jail Officer to inmate ratio has been identified as inappropriate during inspections and overview groups, such as the Correction Standard Authority, Mariposa County Grand Juries along with Sheriff’s Office management. When prioritizing local law enforcement needs, increasing Jail Officer staffing is a priority. It is being requested that the fully funded Sheriff’s Sergeant-Patrol position be realigned to Jail services to support the two (2) new Jail Officer positions. The new Jail Officer positions will help support current staff in the completion of day-to-day jail business and responsibilities such as: booking, classification, transportation and security, mandated violator registration, inmate services, and security. The two additional Jail Officer positions will most significantly and positively impact our officer’s safety by allowing two officers to conduct inmate contacts versus one-on-one contacts that have occurred and are currently occurring. Current staffing has dictated only one officer to contact and control possibly several inmates at a time, while the second officer is mandated to remain in and operate the central command and control room.

The implementation of this reorganization will be the start of an appropriate staffing plan for Jail operations. While unfunding and unallocating one of six Sheriff’s Sergeant-Patrol positions is
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not considered entirely ideal, it most certainly appears to be the most fiscally balanced plan available at this time.

The Mariposa County Community Corrections Partnership (CCP), a local component of California Public Safety Realignment Act, has committed to supplement any negative fiscal balance caused by the reorganization and to mitigate any detrimental affect to the County’s General Fund balance.

If for some reason the CCP supplemental Sheriff’s Office reorganization funding should be redirected or cease, the Sheriff’s Office continues to practice responsible and conservative spending habits which results in end-of-fiscal-year budgeted monies to be returned to the County’s General Fund. It is predicted that this practice will continue, allowing the Sheriff’s Office budget to absorb this imbalance if needed.

The top step Sheriff’s Sergeant-Patrol is funded at $129,388.00. The cost of two Jail Officers at step one equates to $139,447.00. This leaves a $10,059.00 difference, which will be covered by the supplemental funding from the CCP fund. If approved, the requested personnel changes as well as the financial adjustments will be included in the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Proposed Budget.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has commonly placed trust and confidence in elected officials to organize their specific Offices as deemed appropriate to provide the most efficient service to the public.

The Board of Supervisors must approve all changes to personnel allocations.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

If the Board fails to support this reorganization, the Office of the Sheriff would be forced to pursue funding alternatives in order to support an increase in Jail staffing.

FISCAL IMPACT:
There will be no increase in the costs to the General Fund as there will be offsetting funding from the Community Corrections Program (CCP).

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended
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RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor
SECONDER: Lyle Turpin, District II Supervisor
AYES: Stetson, Turpin, Bibby, Cann, Allen