

## **POLICE SERVICES**

### **Revenue History & Trends**

While City Council and City management have worked hard to minimize the effects of the budget situation on public safety, Fort Collins Police Services has not escaped these tough economic times. With the exception of compensation increases, funding for Police Services has remained relatively flat since 2003. Personnel costs account for 80 percent of the Police Services budget, which means money for programs, training and other services has decreased. Police Services has sustained \$1.8 million in budget savings or reductions in the past 6 years through reductions in staffing, delays in hiring, releasing savings/reserves and implementing program efficiencies.

The City has been unable to fund a previously approved annual police staffing plan which would have provided additional personnel resources each year. These types of impacts have resulted in scaled back police services.

### **Service Impacts & Resource Needs**

A comprehensive Police Staffing study, originally conducted in 2007 and updated in 2009, indicates that Fort Collins needs nearly 48 additional officers and civilian personnel to provide the services our community needs and expects. The study is based on input from local focus groups, a special citizen committee and a data-driven assessment of then current conditions.

Police Services is still carrying out its core mission and answering calls for service, but it's becoming increasingly more challenging. Calls for service must be carefully prioritized focusing on life-threatening and critical incidents before responding to and investigating property crimes, or other matters, placing Fort Collins police in a reactionary style of policing. Community policing, which is the cornerstone for partnering with community members, diminishes in hard economic times.

Police Services staff are routinely working a large amount of overtime hours, in some cases to maintain minimum staffing levels for basic police protection and dispatch. Below is a recap of the overtime use for the past three years:

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Number of Overtime Hours Paid	32,330	35,284	34,377
Cost of Overtime Paid	\$1,449,704	\$1,651,996	\$1,677,507

With a growing community, we are increasingly unable to provide a level of service that is expected by our citizens. Primarily, we are not providing the neighborhood support they request, specifically in the areas of neighborhood patrolling, more party and noise enforcement, increased coverage at special events, a larger police presence downtown and increased traffic patrol. Police Services is also concerned about the growing number of Property Crimes and the ability to provide these same types of service to our downtown area.

### **Summary**

The ability to provide good customer service and keep up with growing demands is regularly diminishing. An additional \$4.6 million per year is needed to provide staffing in Police Services to meet community needs, \$5.5 million will be needed in year one.