

Stamford Police Department FY 2023-24 Budget Presentation

The main challenge this past year continued be staffing, recruitment, and retention. This is a national issue as fewer people nationwide are looking to law enforcement as a career, and most departments are struggling to keep the officers they have. Here in Stamford we were able to hire 23 new officers in 2022, but lost 22 officers to retirements and resignations. We numbered in the low 250's throughout the year and are currently at 248. We do have 18 recruit officers in the last phase of field training that should be joining the ranks in the next 3 to 4 weeks which will temporarily get us to 266 available officers prior to any upcoming retirements and resignations. There are currently 4 recruits at the State academy in Meriden, but they will not be certified until October. We are also looking to fill any additional available seats at the State or regional academy's in Bridgeport, Milford, and Waterbury.

The staffing issue, coupled with the desire to provide Stamford with the best and most qualified officers, has led to our ambitious goal for this upcoming FY of creating and reestablishing a POST certified academy in Stamford. A Stamford academy would allow us to train up 30 new officers a year with additional or unused seats going to other local departments in the area at a fee (we currently pay \$2,500 to \$4,000 tuition to send our recruits to other academies out of the area). A Stamford Academy would allow the Department to rebuild and maintain our staffing at a safer and more predictable level. In addition, we hope to attract more local candidates for open positions with a neighborhood academy versus the commitment of traveling or living a long distance from home for several months as is currently the case. Physical plans for the new academy at the current Police Headquarters have been set and construction of the new academy is scheduled to start next month using the current HQ capital funding and a \$250,000 earmark grant which was secured. We did not include any additional funding requests that may become necessary in this budget proposal such as uniform / equipment outfitting of additional recruit officers, training OT for instructors, etc., as a realistic potential start date is unknown and dependent on many variables. If all goes well, and we are able to begin an academy class next spring, we will return to the boards for any possible additional funding needed.

Other initiatives that were started in the last year that continue to provide great value and service to the Residents of Stamford are the PAL program, BHU unit and the License Plate Reader (LPR) program.

Police Activities League (PAL) – The PAL program kicked off this past Aug. with its grand opening at the Chester Addison Center. The center provides a supervised Open Gym, Rec. Room with Ping Pong, Table Soccer, etc., and a Fitness Room where middle school aged kids are provided educational programs in fitness and general health. The Boys and Girls Leadership program is now run out of the PAL building. The program is currently running the PAL basketball league with 120 kids ages 5-13. In April, an 8-week Wilderness program will be starting that will be teaching kids about the outdoors and will culminate with a camping trip. Upcoming summer programs are currently in the planning stages.

Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) – This program, which was one of the first in the country to imbed an MSW social worker with officers has been very successful in assisting citizens with behavioral and emotional issues and reducing the repeat call volume of our citizens in need of help. The unit has had over 402 contacts with the community. This FY the program was expanded with a second MSW social worker through the use of grant funding.

License Plate Reader (LPR) program – During this FY the Department is completing the initial installation of license plate readers throughout the City. This system is linked with similar programs in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Fairfield, Greenwich and most of Westchester County and is designed to help assist in locating wanted dangerous individuals and help solve and prevent crimes throughout the city. The LPR system has been a tremendous asset in assisting with the capture of dangerous felons, stopping and recovering stolen vehicles, reducing police pursuits, locating and identifying vehicles and suspects involved in serious / fatal hit and run motor vehicle accidents.

Budget Changes:

For the upcoming FY23-24 budget, the Department is requesting an overall increase of \$1,172,970 (2.0%) over last year's total operating budget (including Animal Control and Extra Duty). Note: Police Vehicle Maintenance is changing from program 2123 back to program 3300 at the start of the FY which will increase the base budget of the PD, but reduce the base budget of City Vehicle Maintenance by the same amount. The requested changes in the Department accounts are as follows:

Program 3300 – Administration

1501 – Clothing Allowance – Decrease of \$15,600. Non Bullet Proof vest year (\$400/Ofc. Savings)

1503 – Tool Allowance (Mech) – Increase \$3,000. Moved / decrease from Veh. Maint. Program 2123.

1511 – Med. Bag Stipend – Increase of \$600. Based on 44 officers x \$600

1301 – Overtime – Increase of \$73,408. \$73,408 moved / decrease from Veh. Maint. Program 2123.

4400 – Equip. Rental – Increase of 7,616. Covers copier machine contract negotiated by City.

5101 – Gasoline – Increase of \$37,200. 22,500 gallons @ \$3.00/gallon.

5405 – Postage- Increase of \$1,500. Based on prior 3 years actuals.

6204 – Water – Increase of \$9,000. City set rate.

6204 – Electric – Increase of \$15,000. City set rate.

6610 – Software Maint. – Increase of \$60,500. Normal contract expense increases plus additional \$56,000 for 2nd yr. of Cent. Square RMS contract (per contract \$50,000 credit reduction, \$6,000 increase on CAD side). \$4,500 moved from Police VM Program 2123.

6615 – Towing – Increase of \$8,000. Moved / decrease from Veh. Maint. Program 2123.

6700 – Small Tools Replace – Increase of \$1,000. Moved / decrease from Veh. Maint. Program 2123.

6902 – Uniforms – Increase of \$3,500. Moved / decrease from Veh. Maint. Program 2123.

Program 3301 – Patrol

1301 – Overtime – Increase of \$1,016,419. Based on last FY actual of \$3,522,419 with avg. of 256 officers. Current year projection of \$3,852,000.

1501 – Clothing Allowance – Decrease of \$69,200. Non Bullet Proof vest year (\$400/Ofc. Savings).

1903 – Holidays – Increase of \$194,910. Addition of Juneteenth Holiday projection.

4400 – Equip. Rental- Decrease of 1,128. Covers copier machine contract negotiated by City.

5101 – Gasoline – Decrease of \$40,900. 84,000 gallons x \$3.00/gallon plus motorcycles & Marine boats.

Program 3302 – Special Teams

4400 – Equip. Rental – Increase of \$3,740. Covers copier machine contract negotiated by City.

5101 – Gasoline – Decrease of \$2,800. 18,000 gallons x \$3.00/gallon.

5102 – Diesel Fuel – Increase of \$400. Based on past FY expenses.

Program 3303 – Training

1501 – Clothing Allowance – Decrease of 3,200. Non Bullet Proof vest year (\$400/Ofc. Savings).

1902 – Standby Time – Increase of \$2,200. Based on first 6 months of FY and personnel reassignments.

3201 – Educ. & Training – Increase of \$2,802. Replacement of \$2,802 reduction from this FY charged to BWC grant.

4400 – Equip. Rental – Decrease of \$844. Covers copier machine contract negotiated by City.

6902 – Uniforms – Increase of \$43,031. Dept. is expecting to hire 20 recruit officers during FY. It cost approx.: \$9,000 to outfit each new recruit including Taser and tactical firearm flashlight. Twenty potential new hires x \$9,000 = \$180,000.

6905 – Firearms – Increase of \$25,000. Increased costs of and shortage of training ammunition.

Program 3304 – Investigations

1301 – Overtime – Decrease of \$73,243. Based on past and current FY and staffing less than 260.

1501 – Clothing Allowance – Decrease of \$25,200. Non Bullet Proof vest year (\$400/Ofc. Savings).

4401 – Equip. Rental – Increase of \$8,997. Covers copier machine contract negotiated by City.

5101 – Gasoline – Decrease of \$19,400. 15,000 gallons at \$3.00/gallon.

6610 – Software Maint. – Increase of \$30,000. Greykey software contract (\$30,000/yr.) Currently investigators have to travel to Wilton 2-3 times a week for several hours to use software to unlock suspect phones.

Current Active Grants

Police Academy Earmark grant - \$250,000

JAG 20 - \$36,395 - CIT

JAG 21 - \$39,474 – CIT / Rollcall Training

JAG 22 - \$43,464 – Westside Foot Patrols

Connect & Protect - \$550,000 – Social Workers

COPS Micro-grant (PAL) - \$124,994

Police Accreditation - \$74,868

DUI - \$111,132 – DUI Enforcement and Traffic Cones

Distracted Driving - \$54,783

Click It or Ticket - \$4,869

FY 22 COPS Hiring - \$750,000 – assist in hiring six additional officers in FY 24/25.