

Section 4.5 **Police Services**

4.5 POLICE SERVICES

4.5.1 Existing Conditions and Facilities

The Chico Police Department (CPD) provides police services to the City of Chico. If requested by the Butte County Sheriff's Office or California Highway Patrol/State Police, the Department may provide assistance in the surrounding unincorporated territory on a case-by-case basis. The city population is 73,558, but the population of the Chico Urban Area is well over 100,000,¹ and the City population continues to grow rapidly due to both development and annexation activities. The CPD is organized into two divisions, Operations and Support. Each of the divisions is headed by a police captain. The Operations Division is comprised of the Patrol Section, the Special Operations Section, and the Animal Control Unit. The Support Division is comprised of the Communications Section, the Records Section, the Property Section, the Detective Bureau, the Juvenile Bureau, the Crime Analysis Unit, the Training Unit, and the Tech Services Unit. Business Services for the CPD and the Public Information Unit are managed out of the Office of the Chief of Police.

Currently, the CPD maintains one main Police Department facility at 1460 Humboldt Road; two substations located at the downtown parking structure at 4th and Salem Streets, and Fire Station 5 at Wildwood and Manzanita Avenues. The CPD currently employs 145 personnel (95 sworn officers, 54 non-sworn employees).² Sworn officers are responsible for emergency and law enforcement-related activities. Nonsworn employees are responsible for specific duties including animal control, dispatch, record maintenance, parking enforcement, jail management, and clerical tasks. The Department's goal for police services is 1.50 sworn officers and 0.75 non-sworn employees per 1,000 population in order to maintain the department's quality of service goal.³ For FY 2003-04, the CPD had approximately 1.18 sworn officers per 1,000 population and 0.74 non-sworn, and is therefore, not meeting the desired level of service.⁴

Due to a reduction in the FY 2004-05 overtime budget and Department funds, the Traffic Unit and the Temporary Allocated Resources – Goal Oriented Enforcement Team (TARGET) Team were dissolved and officers in those units were assigned to Patrol. This reassignment of personnel, and a number of related issues, has dramatically altered the way policing services are provided to residents of the city.⁵ Because the police officer resources of the Department are essentially assigned in Patrol and the Detective and Juvenile Bureaus, there is almost no ability to provide dedicated attention to anything other than calls for service and follow-up of only the most serious cases.⁶

The Department has several different kinds of vehicles in its fleet. The vehicles fall into three categories: operating account vehicles, capital account vehicles, and Police Department surplus vehicles not planned for replacement, or Does Not Apply (DNA) vehicles. All of the Department's front line Patrol vehicles are purchased from an operating account. These vehicles are typically on the road 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and have a life expectancy of three years. Department vehicles which have an expected service

1 Chico Police Department, *Strategic Plan Update*, January 2005, p. 3-1.

2 Chico Police Department website, http://www.ci.chico.ca.us/Police/Home_page.asp, accessed March 6, 2006.

3 City of Chico Community Development Department, Planning Division, *Master Environmental Assessment for Chico General Plan*, January 1994, Revised November 1999, p. 19-5.

4 Chico Police Department, *Strategic Plan Update*, January 2005, p. 3-5.

5 Chico Police Department, *Strategic Plan Update*, January 2005, p. 2-2.

6 Chico Police Department, *Strategic Plan Update*, January 2005, p. 2-3.

life of longer than three years are budgeted as capital projects. DNA vehicles are essentially surplus, or for some other reason are not planned for replacement in the budget. They are retained for low level or less frequent use.⁷ Vehicles currently in the Department's fleet are:⁸

- 21 Patrol vehicles
- 11 unmarked detective vehicles
- 8 unmarked administrative vehicles
- 4 marked Traffic sedans
- 3 marked Canine sedans
- 3 marked School resources sedans
- 1 unmarked Training sedan
- 10 specialty vehicles
- 5 specialty trailers
- 12 surplus vehicles

Vehicles receive routine maintenance and are scheduled for replacement depending on age and/or mileage.

Determination 4.5-1

The Chico Police Department (CPD) provides police protection services to the City of Chico. The CPD is not meeting the desired level of service. However, staffing is reviewed as part of the City's budgeting process, and staffing levels are maintained that provide public safety.

Funding and Fees

Current funding sources for the Chico Police Department include the City's Police Protection and Equipment Fund, various Department fees, fundraisers to support Department volunteers, and grants from various sources including State Community Officer Police Services (COPS) program, Federal Justice Assistance Grant and Office of Traffic Safety, and the Office of Homeland Security.⁹ Staffing and some materials and supplies are funded through the City's General Fund.¹⁰ For Fiscal Year 2004-05, \$16,666,774 was allocated to the CPD through the General Fund.¹¹

7 Chico Police Department, *Strategic Plan Update*, January 2005, pp. 5-1 - 5-2.

8 Chico Police Department, *Strategic Plan Update*, January 2005, Figure 5-1.

9 Chico Police Department, *Strategic Plan Update*, January 2005, Section 8.

10 City of Chico, Finance Department, Operating Budgets website, http://www.chico.ca.us/Finance/Budget_Documents/Police.pdf, accessed March 14, 2006.

11 City of Chico, Finance Department, Operating Budgets website, http://www.chico.ca.us/Finance/Budget_Documents/Police.pdf, accessed March 14, 2006.

4.5.2 Plans and Regulatory Requirements

■ City of Chico General Plan Policies

The Safety and Safety Services Element of the City of Chico General Plan contains guiding principles, and policies related to law enforcement. The policies contained in the Safety and Safety Services Element provide guidance for decision making when the City is confronted with specific law enforcement issues arising from changing community conditions. Some key law enforcement guiding and implementing policies from this document that are applicable to the study area are presented below:¹²

- S-G-5 Provide a safe and secure environment for people and property in the community.
- S-G-6 Continue to provide community-oriented policing services that are responsive to citizens' needs.
- S-G-8 Assist in crime prevention through physical planning and community design.
- S-I-14 Provide rapid and timely response to all emergencies and maintain the capability to have minimum average response times.
- S-I-15 Control and/or intervene in conduct recognized as threatening to life and property.
- S-I-16 Provide investigative services directed toward successful prosecution of criminal offenders.
- S-I-17 Reduce crime by strengthening the police/community partnership.
- S-I-19 Assess community needs and expectations on an ongoing basis and report periodically to the City Council on citizen complaints and citizen commendations received.

■ Chico Police Department Strategic Plan

The Chico Police Department Strategic Plan Update describes the department's mission and values, the organization of the department, staffing levels, facilities, equipment and specialized resources, major projects and pending issues, staffing needs, and strategic goals. Goals from this document that are applicable to the City include the following:¹³

- 1.1 Proactively identify and implement enforcement strategies based on current and future demands.
- 2.1 Partnerships – Develop and maintain working relationships which enhance police services.
- 2.2 Intervention – Develop and promote alternatives which foster an enhanced quality of life.
- 2.3 Education – Develop educational initiatives which promote community awareness.
- 2.4 Quality – In response to challenges and expectations, provide, maintain, and enhance quality of service.
- 3.1 Recruitment – Recruit, hire, and retain high quality personnel.
- 3.2 Training – Continually develop and provide relevant training opportunities for department personnel.
- 3.3 Staffing – Obtain and maintain personnel levels and assignments consistent with growth and social trends.
- 3.4 Leadership – Promote quality leadership individually and organizationally.
- 4.1 Police Buildings – Ensure existence of a work environment which maximizes efficiency and employee safety.
- 4.2 Equipment – Insure availability of equipment necessary to accomplish “our mission.”
- 4.3 Technology – Remain current with advances in technology to provide superior service.

12 City of Chico *General Plan*, November 1994 Updated February 1999, pp. 8-12 - 8-15.

13 Chico Police Department, *Strategic Plan Update*, January 2005, Section 8.

- 4.4 Funding Sources – Aggressively identify and pursue funding to meet current projected needs.

4.5.3 Anticipated Demand and Planned Improvements

■ Organization

Within the next 3 to 5 years, the Department’s priorities and goals with regard to organizational structure and function are as follows:¹⁴

- a. Re-establish the Traffic Unit with a supervision element and sufficient resources to field daytime and nighttime complements of officers, establish a CSO position for vehicle abatement and parking enforcement relief, and maintain existing parking enforcement resources.
- b. Re-establish the Crime Prevention/Outreach element of the Special Operations Section to resume formalized community policing efforts.
- c. Re-establish and expand the TARGET element of the Special Operations Section to resume dedicated community oriented solving of unique and chronic neighborhood problems.
- d. Formally establish a Street Crimes Team to conduct proactive enforcement related to street level crimes.
- e. Add other staff as necessary to maintain efficiency of all operations. This includes additional dispatchers, records clerks, detectives, school resource officers, and managers as needed to support core and specialized functions and maintain a reasonable span of control.
- f. Utilize a variety of specialized resources, as described, to relieve Patrol officers of duties and responsibilities they would otherwise handle, with the intent of maintaining the Police Department as a full service, community policing and problem solving agency.

■ Increased Staffing to Meet Annexation and Development Growth

Based upon the service priorities and goals of the Police Department for the next 3 to 5 years, the department projects the following staffing needs:¹⁵

- (1) Operations Lieutenant
- (1) Communications/Records Manager
- (3) Police Sergeants/Patrol
- (1) Police Sergeant/Traffic
- (1) Police Sergeant/Street Crimes
- (1) Police Sergeant/Special Operations Section (TARGET)
- (6) Police Corporals/Patrol
- (3) Police Officers/Patrol
- (2) Police Officers/Traffic Motorcycles
- (4) Police Officers/Traffic
- (1) Police Officer/Crime Prevention and Outreach
- (3) Police Officers/TARGET Team
- (2) Police Officers/Detectives
- (1) Police Officer/School Resources

¹⁴ Chico Police Department, *Strategic Plan Update*, January 2005, p. 2-9.

¹⁵ Chico Police Department, *Strategic Plan Update*, January 2005, pp. 7-1 - 7-4.

- (4) Police Officers/Street Crimes
- (3) Community Service Officers/Patrol
- (1) Community Service Officer/Traffic
- (2) Public Safety Dispatchers
- (2) Records Clerks

■ Facilities

As the City grows toward a projected General Plan build-out population of approximately 134,000, the Police Department must also grow. Therefore, a number of future facility needs must be addressed including a plan for a facility or facilities large enough to accommodate a department that would serve 134,000 people. Some efforts to address this future need include:¹⁶

- Police sub-stations at planned Fire Stations 6 and 7. The sub-stations can be used by police officers to take breaks, write reports and conduct follow-up investigation.
- Establishment of a new police facility to serve the projected City population at General Plan build-out, which would require a Police Department staff of 275-300 to serve the population. The facility would need to be at least 80,000 square feet and would have to be situated on at least 5.5 acres of land and could cost about \$10 to \$30 million. The intent of formally establishing a new police facility will be a future capital improvement project.
- Communications Center upgrade and move, in conjunction with a regularly scheduled and State funded upgrade of 911 equipment in the communications center. The Police Department has also been discussing the need to move the unit because the current space does not fit their needs. The upgrade could cost \$1 million, of which \$360,000 would be paid by the State.
- The Police Department received approval and a \$70,000 budget to conduct a facility needs study. The study will include an assessment and characterization of the Police Department's future facility needs, identify potential future costs, and identify and evaluate several alternatives for meeting the facility needs. Study will include planning for the Communications Center upgrade and move.
- Plan and design the new police facility. The City has established a project in the 2005/06 – 2009/10 Capital Improvement Program in the amount of \$638,000 for the design and environmental review.
- The establishment of a firm plan for addressing the future facility needs is one of the top priorities of the Police Department, and it remains a primary focus.

■ Equipment and Specialized Resources

Basic equipment for CPD employees includes uniforms and various items of safety equipment. Examples of specialized equipment include motorcycle jackets, helmets and boots, SWAT tactical equipment, boots and helmets for mounted officers, and equipment for plainclothes officers.¹⁷ All of these items add additional cost to fielding a police officer.

¹⁶ Chico Police Department, *Strategic Plan Update*, January 2005, pp. 4-3 - 4-4.

¹⁷ Chico Police Department, *Strategic Plan Update*, January 2005, p. 5-1.

One of the most visible aspects of the Police Department is the vehicles. As positions are added in the future, it will be necessary to add additional vehicles. It is anticipated that by the 2007-08 fiscal year, 17 new police vehicles will be needed to equip the Department. Those vehicles are:¹⁸

- 4 marked and fully equipped sedans or sport utility vehicles
- 10 unmarked and partially equipped administrative or detective-type vehicles
- 2 marked and fully equipped motorcycles
- 1 marked and fully equipped parking enforcement vehicle

Determination 4.5-2

Development in the City will increase the need for additional sworn and non-sworn officers and traffic control enforcement. Increased staffing to meet annexation and development growth is addressed through the City budget process.

■ **Northwest Chico Specific Plan (NCSP)**

The Butte County Sheriff's Department and the Chico Police Department are responsible for law enforcement service within the NCSP area. When the area is annexed to the City, the Chico Police Department would be solely responsible for service. Development in the NCSP area would result in the need for five additional police officers but no additional police facilities.¹⁹ As development occurs within the plan area, the increase in property tax revenue would finance the cost for expended law enforcement services.²⁰

However, due to the growth that the Chico area is expected to experience in the future and as the geographic area covered by the CPD increase, it is possible that another police substation (tentatively planned as part of proposed Fire Station No. 7) and additional officers may be required.²¹ The Chico Police Department is conducting an internal Needs Analysis due to be completed in 2006 that would determine whether new police facilities are necessary.²²

Determination 4.5-3

New development projects are required to contribute fees toward facilities and equipment, but this does not apply to staffing the facilities. Funding for staffing is provided in the City's General Fund.

18 Chico Police Department, *Strategic Plan Update*, January 2005, Figure 5-2.

19 City of Chico, Northwest Chico Specific Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report, July 13, 2005, p. 4.5-15.

20 City of Chico, Northwest Chico Specific Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report, July 13, 2005, p. 4.5-16.

21 City of Chico, Northwest Chico Specific Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report, July 13, 2005, p. 4.5-22.

22 City of Chico, Northwest Chico Specific Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report, July 13, 2005, p. 4.5-22.

■ Funding and Fees

The City Council has funded the development of a space needs analysis for the Police Department. Preliminary design and review for a new police facility is expected to be funded in fiscal year 2005-06 through the City's Police Protection Building and Equipment fund (\$638,000).²³ This study is expected to be completed in spring 2006.²⁴ Funding for an annual Nexus Study for the police department is allocated in each fiscal year from 2005-06 through 2009-10 in increasing dollar amounts for a total of \$16,595.²⁵ Staffing is funding through the City's General Fund. For Fiscal Year 2005-06, \$17,562,485 is allocated for staffing, materials and supplies, purchased services, and other expenses.²⁶ Another \$99,268 is allocated for staffing expenses from other funds.²⁷

Determination 4.5-4

New development projects are required to contribute fees toward facilities and equipment, but this does not apply to staffing the facilities. Funding for staffing is provided in the City's General Fund.

4.5.4 Summary of Written Determinations

4.5-1 *The Chico Police Department (CPD) provides police protection services to the City of Chico. The CPD is not meeting the desired level of service. However, staffing is reviewed as part of the City's budgeting process, and staffing levels are maintained that provide public safety.*

4.5-2 *Development in the City will increase the need for additional sworn and non-sworn officers and traffic control enforcement. Increased staffing to meet annexation and development growth is addressed through the City budget process.*

4.5-3 *New development projects are required to contribute fees toward facilities and equipment, but this does not apply to staffing the facilities. Funding for staffing is provided in the City's General Fund.*

4.5-4 *New development projects are required to contribute fees toward facilities and equipment, but this does not apply to staffing the facilities. Funding for staffing is provided in the City's General Fund.*

23 City of Chico, Capital Improvement Program 2005-06 through 2009-10, November 10, 2004, p. 25

24 City of Chico, 2005-06 Annual Budget Message, May 19, 2005, p. 6.

25 City of Chico, Capital Improvement Program 2005-06 through 2009-10, November 10, 2004, p. 25.

26 City of Chico, Finance Department, Operating Budgets website, http://www.chico.ca.us/Finance/Budget_Documents/Police.pdf, accessed March 14, 2006.

27 City of Chico, Finance Department, Operating Budgets website, http://www.chico.ca.us/Finance/Budget_Documents/Police.pdf, accessed March 14, 2006.

