



CORE SERVICE DEPARTMENTS Changes in Funded Positions

	FY 08/09	FY 17/18	Change
Agricultural Commissioner	7	6	(1)
Animal Care & Control	10.75	7.5	(3)
District Attorney	35	31	(4)
Library	12	8	(4)
Museum	1.7	1	(1)
Parks & Recreation	9	9	0
Probation	31	43	12
Probation Juvenile Home	20	0	(20)
Road	34	34	0
Sheriff-Central Dispatch	12	11	(1)
Sheriff-Coroner	74	66	(8)
Sheriff-Court Security	5	4	(1)
Sheriff-Jail Facilities	81	75	(6)
Sheriff-Marine Patrol	1.5	1	(1)
UC Cooperative Extension	3	2	(1)
Veterans Services	3	3	0
Victim-Witness Program	6	4	(2)
Total	345.95	305.5	(40)

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER'S OFFICE

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE CONSEQUENCES OF STAFFING REDUCTIONS AND FUNDING RESTRICTIONS? **(What Services/Programs Have Been Eliminated or Not Funded?)**

IN GENERAL: The Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer's office has programs that are state-mandated and others at the County's discretion. State-mandated programs are financially supported by contracts and there are strict requirements to comply with and as such, they are the first priority. The County discretionary programs are done as time allows. Most of the programs require licensed staff to perform them. Some jobs require two or more staff and the office still needs licensed personnel to effectively serve the public at the counter. These situations also reduce time for discretionary programs.

1. The Pesticide Use Enforcement program protects the environment, farm labor, the public and farmers. This program is state-mandated, but the time spent is at the County's discretion. There is a correlation with the compliance level and the number of inspections. This program requires at least two licensed staff to be effective and the number of inspections is limited because of staffing shortages.
2. The annual Crop Report is an unfunded state-mandated program done at the discretion of the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer. It's an important barometer of the state of agriculture in the County. This has been delayed due to staffing shortages.
3. New, unexpected state-mandated programs take away from the County's discretionary program. In 2017, the State required the County to place an additional 360 insect traps in various vineyards throughout the County. This required two or more staff and prevented the department from weed eradication programs.
4. There are two major weed eradication programs (Goat's rue and Stinkwort) that have been delayed or not done, over the years due to staffing shortages. This has led to the spread of these invasive weeds to such levels that they are now out of control. This impacts agriculture and the natural environment and
5. Quality Control is a Weights and Measures program that protects the consumer from being overcharged by stores. This impacts everyone in the County. Due to staffing shortages, these inspections are only performed on a complaint basis instead of regular inspections.
6. The Cannabis Program is just being started and it is anticipated that the State will be offering contracts with the Counties to do routine compliance inspections. With the current staffing, we will not be to do these inspections.

IF THIS TREND CONTINUES:

1. More agricultural pests and invasive weeds could become established, impacting the public and agricultural industry.
2. Consumers could be more impacted from overcharges.
3. A State Cannabis contract could be refused allowing the State to run a portion of the program.
4. The compliance level in Pesticide Use Enforcement could decline which could result in more fines for the agricultural industry.

ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE CONSEQUENCES OF STAFFING REDUCTIONS AND FUNDING RESTRICTIONS?

(What Services/Programs Have Been Eliminated or Not Funded?)

- 1. Public Hours of availability have been reduced meaning reduced opportunities for the public to pick-up or surrender animal and reduced opportunities for the public to take advantage of spay/neuter services. As a result, fewer animals are adopted and euthanasia rates increase.**
- 2. Funding for a ¾ time Adoption Coordinator has been denied. This position would have allowed us to better manage our animal population by networking with other agencies to transfer them out in order to give them a second chance. This in turn would reduce the need for euthanasia.**

IF THIS TREND CONTINUES:

- 1. If significant budget cuts are anticipated for the future, services and or staffing would need to be cut. The Animal Control Department is at maximum capacity for workload. Initially we would probably cut staffing, losing one or two field officer positions. Field services would still be provided, but prioritizing calls would be paramount to successfully managing the workload. Not all calls would be handled right away, many would be delayed.**
- 2. It could put the medical program at risk. This program has been a huge success and benefit for the community and the animals served, but it is not mandated that we have it on site. Consequently, outsourcing services could be revisited, but this costs of these services to the public would be significantly higher with this option, which in turn results in less participation and higher ultimately an increase in euthanasia.**

SUFFICIENT FUNDING WOULD ALLOW FOR:

- 1. Continued success with adoptions and decreasing euthanasia.**
- 2. Cost effective veterinary services for stray incoming animals.**
- 3. Immediate response (same day) on most all field requests.**

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE CONSEQUENCES OF STAFFING REDUCTIONS AND FUNDING RESTRICTIONS?

What Services/Programs Have Been Eliminated or Not Funded?

- 1. Reduced Amount of Time Available for Each Case.** Not only has the number of cases increased, more significantly there has been an increase in the severity of the types of crime committed (e.g. homicides, sex crimes and crimes against children), yet reduced attorney and investigation staffing has limited the amount of time that can be invested in each case and also influenced whether to even prosecute some cases. Similarly, because of staffing limitations, there is a backlog of cases waiting to be reviewed.
- 2. Eliminate Specialization.** Because of staffing limitations, we have had to reassign the child abuse attorney, elder abuse attorney, child abduction attorney and white collar crime attorney into the general practice attorney pool.
- 3. Reduced Criminal Investigation and Prosecution Services.** Staffing reduction and an increasing caseload necessitate difficult decisions regarding what services to invest our limited resources. As a result, some programs have either been downsized or suspended. Services that have been significantly impacted include bad check investigations; sending attorneys into the field to meet victims, witnesses and the public; assigning an investigator to the Northern California Computer Crimes Task Force; elder abuse investigations; white collar crime investigations, domestic violence follow-up investigations; assisting with DUI check points; gang crimes investigations; sexual assault crimes; insurance fraud investigations; Contractor's State Licensing Board sweeps and investigations; assisting other agencies with crime investigations.
- 4. Limited Training.** Attorneys and Investigators are not obtaining the training necessary to adequately prosecute and investigate cases. We are forced to only send them to the minimum required to maintain their licenses or certifications. Thus, we are not up to date with latest techniques or laws on specific issues.
- 5. Reduced Victim Witness Services.** Fewer Victim Advocate staff means less time to invest in individual victims and witnesses. As a consequence:
 - Services are now provided reactively instead of being able to reach out to victims proactively.
 - Limited ability to assist the public in drafting and filing restraining orders in criminal, family and civil cases.
 - Limited ability to assist prosecution staff in case preparation.
 - Limited ability to accompany clients to court and to follow-up with them after case closure.

IF THIS TREND CONTINUES:

- 1. Discontinue charging of certain crimes.** If this trend continues, the quality of preparation and prosecution will continue to suffer and we will have to make additional reductions in investigation and prosecution of certain crimes
- 2. Further Reduction in Victim Witness Services.** If this trend continues we will not be able to devote the time to victims and witnesses that they need when they are most vulnerable.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE CONSEQUENCES OF STAFFING REDUCTIONS AND FUNDING RESTRICTIONS?

(What Services/Programs Have Been Eliminated or Not Funded?)

1. Though the Department has been able to retain its current staffing levels, our ability to perform pavement preservation and road reconstruction projects has been hampered. Our current funding only allows basic minimum operations such as ditch cleaning, vegetation control and pot-hole patching;
2. Purchasing of new equipment to replace the antiquated and maintenance of the existing equipment;
3. Deterioration of all County roads;

IF THIS TREND CONTINUES

1. Inability to perform basic maintenance operations;
2. Reduction of staff;
3. Continued deterioration of the County Road network – already near the worst-rated roadways in the State with a Pavement Condition Index of 40 (Poor)

SUFFICIENT FUNDING WOULD ALLOW FOR:

1. Expansion of road maintenance operations to include pavement preservation (chip seal, slurry-seal, etc.), surface rehabilitations through overlays, and road reconstruction;
2. Improved road conditions County-wide, with the goal of achieving an overall Pavement Condition Index of 70 (Good)

CURRENT DISCRETIONARY FUNDING

1. The County Road Department currently receives 0.0117 of all property tax paid in Lake County, so for every \$1000 paid in property taxes, the Department receives \$11.70. The total amount of property tax revenue for the Road Department for FY 17/18 is \$745k;
2. The existing gasoline tax, called the Highway Users Tax Account (HUTA), provided approximately \$2.6 million for FY 17/18. These revenues vary with fuel sales as illustrated by: \$3.2 million in FY 14/15, \$2.6 million in FY 15/16, and \$2.3 million in FY 16/17;
3. The new SB1 gas tax bill will provide an estimated additional \$969k for FY 17/18 and \$2.52 million for FY 18/19, with annual inflationary increases;
4. Gasoline tax generated with the sale of gasoline and diesel in Lake County goes to the State, and is returned to us using a formula that includes the number of maintained road miles and number of registered vehicles in Lake County. This established formula has been in place for years, and though it does favor the urban counties and their high numbers of registered vehicles, it's not that out of balance to merit the political wrangling necessary to modify it, and it is likely that any attempt to do so would result in even greater benefit to the urban counties;

LIBRARY

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE CONSEQUENCES OF STAFFING REDUCTIONS AND FUNDING RESTRICTIONS?

(What Services/Programs Have Been Eliminated or Not Funded?)

- 1. Reduced Materials:** There has been a very significant reduction in the variety of materials available and in a significant loss in the depth and breadth of the library collection
 - Materials such as large type books, audiobooks, expensive reference materials, DVDs, and important but niche titles are no longer being purchased or being purchased in severely reduced quantity.
 - The amount of new materials overall has decreased significantly.
 - The waiting list for many popular materials can be months long.
 - The library cut all electronic databases in 2013. Patrons lost access to the automotive repair database and scholarly databases used by students for homework assignments.
 - Out of necessity the library started charging \$3.00 for Interlibrary Loans outside of our system. This means patrons sometimes have to pay to access materials they need. After instituting this fee ILL requests decreased by a huge margin.
- 2. Reduced Personal Assistance:** The amount of assistance we are able to provide to the public has decreased in both quantity and quality.
 - Our library system lacks a reference department staffed by a full-time professional librarian. This means patrons do not have access to qualified assistance for complex questions.
 - Staff do not have time to assist patrons for longer than a few minutes when they need help accessing library materials or utilizing library resources like the public computers
- 3. Deferred maintenance:** Insufficient investment in building maintenance has reduced the appearance and attractiveness of our library spaces.
- 4. Due to insufficient funding the Lake County Library is not able to provide new services:**
 - Other library systems offer programs like after school homework help or online high school to assist resident's educational pursuits.
 - While we have Storytime programming, other library systems are able to hold parenting classes and more intensive early literacy initiatives to prepare children age 0 to 5 for school.
 - Other library systems have mobile library services to reach communities without a library OR outreach services that help reach homebound residents.
 - Other library systems offer increased digital literacy efforts like makerspacers, discovery labs, and other technology training that increases the exposure to new technologies of residents.
 - Other library systems are able to offer cultural programs that increase knowledge, understanding, and pride in their community and help support an informed citizenry.

IF THIS TREND CONTINUES:

- 1. Reduced Operating Hours:** A reduction in staff would have to be balanced with a reduction in hours opened to the public or the closure of library branches.
- 2. Continued Decline of Materials:** The library collection will continue to become shallow and unbalanced, and thus less useful to the public.
- 3. Jeopardize our Partnership with surrounding Counties:** The library is in a tri-county partnership with the Mendocino and Sonoma County library to share materials and resources. This gives our patrons access to a large collection of materials and provides the library with our integrated library system, which is the backbone of the library. If the current trend of library collection spending continues, our partnership could be in jeopardy.
- 4. The library will be unable to fulfill its mission to increase literacy and support an informed populace**

PARKS AND RECREATION

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE CONSEQUENCES OF STAFFING REDUCTIONS AND FUNDING RESTRICTIONS?

(What Services/Programs Have Been Eliminated or Not Funded?)

- 1. The ability to provide a unique system of natural parks and programs, a broad spectrum of recreational facilities and opportunities that accommodate people of all abilities, varying needs and unique interests.**
- 2. Purchasing of new equipment to replace the antiquated and maintenance of the existing equipment.**

IF THIS TREND CONTINUES

- 1. Inability to keep facilities open and operating in a safe, sanitary and well maintained manner.**
- 2. Maintaining of trails to make sure that they stay open, accessible and safe.**
- 3. Decreased efficiency and safety to provide suitable and safe vehicles and equipment to employees.**
- 4. Absence of partnership and weakened relationships with existing community groups and expansion into other parks.**
- 5. Absence of relevant and accurate materials that meet the needs of park visitors at each of the parks.**

SUFFICIENT FUNDING WOULD ALLOW FOR:

- 1. Expansion of existing parks to provide public with more amenities such as basketball and volleyball courts, trails, restrooms, sports fields, dog park components to name a few.**
- 2. Redevelopment of parks such as Middletown Trailside Park.**
- 3. Development of additional parks in areas like Cobb Mountain and North Lakeport.**
- 4. Expansion of working relationships with other park and recreation providers, nonprofits, schools, professional organizations and the community to continuously enhance service delivery.**
- 5. Coordination with public safety agencies to ensure the safety of park patrons, volunteers, and employees in the event of an incident.**

SHERIFF OFFICE

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE CONSEQUENCES OF STAFFING REDUCTIONS AND FUNDING RESTRICTIONS?

What Services/Items Have Been Eliminated or Not Funded?

- 1. Initiatives for which there is no longer sufficient sworn Sheriff's staffing:** The following task forces and teams have either been discontinued or continue without the benefit of sworn deputies.
 - Clearlake Oaks Recovery Task Force
 - Multi-Agency Narcotics Task Force
 - Special Enforcement Detail
 - Recruitment and Background Investigations Team
 - Crime Scene Investigation Team
- 2. Services that have been suspended, or for which response times are significantly delayed:**
 - Alarm Calls
 - Mental Health crisis calls.
 - Property Crimes

IF THIS TREND CONTINUES:

- 1.** As crime rates rise in California, there will be a prompt reduction in investigation and enforcement of quality of life crimes (vandalism, trespassing), and property crimes (thefts, burglaries).
- 2.** We will shift street level patrol deputies and investigators to positions which perform functions we are statutorily obligated to provide (court security, custody, civil, etc.)
- 3.** Employees will continue to seek employment at other, more competitive agencies leaving additional vacancies.
- 4.** The quality of criminal investigations will decline, and compromise our ability to present satisfactory cases to the DA's Office. Criminals will not be held accountable due to substandard investigations.

SUFFICIENT FUNDING WOULD ALLOW FOR:

- 1. Restoration:** Restore and enhances the services that have been suspended.
- 2. Participation in a Crisis Intervention Team:** Partnering with staff from Behavioral Health to deal with people in mental health crises.
- 3. Enhance Technological Capabilities:** A dedicated person to the increasing demands for technology in law enforcement. A dedicated staff member for social media outreach, mass notification coordination, and routine maintenance of servers, in-car cameras, in-car computers, and body cameras, would make the best use of the very technology that allows us to be efficient.
- 4. Collaborative Initiatives:** Participate in collaborative work groups such as Lake County Continuum of Care, the Lake County Safe Rx group, and others.
- 5. Proactive Response Unit:** Create a problem oriented unit to address issues as they arise throughout the county. This unit would not respond to routine calls for service, but instead would focus on specific problems in communities.