Overview: 2016-17 Los Angeles County Public Safety Budget

Californians United for a Responsible Budget is a statewide coalition of organizations working to reduce the number of people imprisoned in California and the number of prison and jail beds in the state.

Earlier this month, the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors had their Special Meeting for the 2016-17 Budget Deliberations. They passed various appropriation adjustments to the 2016-17 recommended budget released in April of this year. In September of this year a supplemental budget will be released.

The total county budget is $28.7 billion. Here are a few thoughts on the public safety budget with a reference to some alternative support:

**Sheriff Budget (Total of $3.2 billion):**
- Transfer of $60,000 from various Sheriff’s Patrol budget units to the Board of Supervisors for community programs
- Transfer of $3.5 million from the Provisional Financing Uses budget unit to the Sheriff’s Custody budget unit for additional deputy shifts for in custody mental health treatment
- Transfer of over $22 million from the Provisional Financing Uses budget unit to the Sheriff’s Custody budget unit to fund overtime costs to compensate for deputy
- Addition of 12 deputy sheriff positions to increase patrols in unincorporated areas

**Public Safety AB109 Funding (Total determined in September, is usually $328.3 million):**
- Sheriff requesting $1.9 million due to AB109 shortfall

**Jail Construction:**
- Proposed Women’s Jail: Approval of $18 million in the Capital Projects Budget to pay for the $200 million proposed women’s jail in Lancaster
- Proposed CTF: Transfer of $23 million and $6 million every year into the Provisional Financing Uses (PFU) budget to pay for the proposed replacement to Men’s Central Jail

**Alternative Support**
- Mental Health: $43.7 million in Mental Health Services Act funding and 123 new positions to expand community services and support
- Social Services:
  - Increase of $1.4 million in appropriation offset by a corresponding increase in State revenue within the Public Social Services Cash Assistance for Immigrants budget unit to fund a projected caseload increase
  - Transfer $376,000 from the Public Social Services Indigent Aid budget unit to the In-Home Supportive Services budget unit to fund costs associated with wage increases
- Department of Children and Family Services: $54.6 million in new funding (400 new positions) to help the Department of Children and Family Services reduce social worker caseloads
- Homeless Initiative: $18.7 million transferred to various County departments to continue implementing strategies to combat homelessness. These funds are a part of the $98.7 million in the overall budget.
- Prop.47: More money also will be available for people who might be able to reduce felony drug convictions to misdemeanors.
- Environmental Monitoring: Supervisor Solis introduced a motion to formally establish environmental monitoring as one of the county’s five highest priorities.

For more information go to curbprisonspending.org or email info@curbprisonspending.org.