

**2018-2019 BUDGET QUESTION**  
***Response to Request for Information***

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**DEPARTMENT:** Austin Police

**REQUEST NO.:** 84

**REQUESTED BY:** Alter

**DATE REQUESTED:** 8/24/18

**DATE POSTED:** 9/4/18

**REQUEST:** What are the ranks and duties of the 15 new police officers being added to the FY 2019 proposed budget?

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**RESPONSE:**

The FY 2019 proposed budget includes 15 new sworn positions with the following ranks and duties:

6 Officers, 2 Corporals, & 2 Sergeants:

Increasing the number of patrol officers will allow for an increased percentage of uncommitted time. Increasing uncommitted time, the time when officers are not responding to calls for service, translates into more time for officers to engage with the community and build relationships within their service areas. Officers will have time to listen, provide a more comprehensive level of assistance, and grow to have a deeper appreciation for the challenges and concerns of community members. At the same time, the community will develop a greater understanding and awareness of how officers work and why certain tactics are used. Ultimately, the addition of uncommitted time is expected to result in more collaborative relationships, reduce crime and the fear of crime, and increase the use of promising and best-practice community policing strategies citywide.

Increasing supervision (2 Corporals & 2 Sergeants) will ensure the appropriate oversight, span of control, and quality performance management that is essential to the implementation of any comprehensive community policing program. The additional supervisory positions will allow the Department to create additional evening shifts, ensuring that all nine area commands are staffed with four evening shifts each. Currently two of the area commands only have three evening shifts.

5 Detectives:

One detective will be assigned to each of the following units: Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, Robbery, Special Investigations, and Digital Forensics.

Currently, APD has 290 detectives primarily assigned to the Investigations Bureau. The Investigations Bureau is comprised of the Violent Crime, Property Crime, Decentralized Detectives, and Organized Crime Divisions. Over the last four years, Austin has experienced a steady decrease in Part I Violent and Property crime clearance rates, from 17.8 in FY 2014 to 16.2 in FY 2017. Across the same time period, there has been an increase in the number of days to clear Part I crimes, a 23% increase for violent crimes and a 16% increase for property crimes.

The Investigative Bureau is triaging active and cold case workloads and strives to weave evidence-informed approaches into the daily work of all personnel. The time that investigators

are able to dedicate to a single case is minimal and community members have expressed dissatisfaction with the Department's investigative time-frames. With the addition of these detectives, APD anticipates improved clearance rates (with the target of achieving a 17.8 clearance rate by 2023) and reduced casework turnaround times (the number of days from an incident to investigative disposition). An investigative workforce increase will also allow for the greater use of evidence-based strategies and trauma-informed services. The time afforded by the inclusion of new personnel will position the Investigative Bureau to more effectively use the national research base and assist victims and survivors of crime on a timeline consistent with best practices.