MEMORANDUM

Date: March 4, 2014

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Re: **Diversity of Operations of the Pima County Sheriff**

The Pima County Sheriff's Department is the largest department funded by the County General Fund. Sheriff's Department expenditures last year were $130,192,697, which includes a budget exceedance of approximately $4.7 million.

The Sheriff provides a number of law enforcement services in both the unincorporated and incorporated areas of Pima County. One such service is search and rescue operations. State law mandates the Sheriff provide these services. The Pima County Sheriff accounts for over one-third of all rescue missions in the entire state; the next highest response county is Maricopa County with 23 percent.

Most search and rescue missions occur on public lands adjacent to the two major metropolitan areas. The attached February 24, 2014 memorandum from Operations Chief Christopher Radtke identifies the number of rescue missions that occurred in 2013. The Search and Rescue Unit conducted 152 rescue missions; 112 of which occurred on federal lands and 10 that occurred on State Trust land. Hence, the vast majority of rescue operations occur on national forest or park lands.

The Search and Rescue Unit consists of one sergeant, seven deputies, equipment, and air assets. Total cost for the Unit's 2013 missions was $1,287,181, or $8,468 per mission. Total reimbursement received from the State for 2012 missions was approximately $32,000; hence, the County recovers almost nothing for the cost of providing these services. The County, while being required by State statute to provide these services, is subsidizing the federal and state governments by providing these services.

I would not anticipate the state or federal government voluntarily increasing their allocations for these services; hence, this cost will continue to be borne by County taxpayers.

CHH/anc
Attachment

c: Chief Deputy Christopher Nanos, Pima County Sheriff's Department
Operations Chief Christopher Radtke, Pima County Sheriff's Department
Administrative Chief Bradley Gagnepain, Pima County Sheriff's Department

Pima County Sheriff's Department

1750 E. Benson Highway • Tucson, AZ 85714-1758
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www.pimasheriff.org

Clarence W. Dupnik
Sheriff

Christopher Nanos
Chief Deputy

Keeping the Peace and Serving the Community Since 1865

February 24, 2014

Mr. C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator
130 West Congress Street
Tucson, AZ 85701

Re: Pima County Search and Rescue Operations

Dear Mr. Huckelberry:

The State of Arizona, under ARS §11-441c, mandates that the Sheriff of each county shall conduct rescue operations involving the life or health of any person. As you know, the Pima County Sheriff's Department (PCSD) takes this mandate not only as an obligation, but as an opportunity to serve the citizens and visitors of Pima County in their time of need.

The Search and Rescue Unit is a dedicated unit with multiple roles within the county. Currently the Department has one sergeant and seven deputies assigned to the unit, who are responsible for coordinating search and rescue missions as well as park enforcement duties. The unit works closely with several volunteer groups, such as the Southern Arizona Rescue Association (SARA), which helps offset costs while ensuring appropriate resources are deployed and a successful rescue is accomplished, regardless of the mission.

In conducting a review of costs associated with search and rescue functions, it was discovered that Pima County accounts for over thirty-three (33) percent of all rescue missions in the entire state. The next county in succession was Maricopa County with twenty-three (23) percent. In 2013, the Search and Rescue Unit conducted 152 rescue missions in Pima County and assisted outside counties with two (2) missions. The rescues included, but were not limited to; lost hikers, injured hikers, swift water river rescues, lost or missing children/vulnerable adults and body recovery missions. A breakdown of the jurisdiction of these rescues is as follows:

Number of Rescues	Area
99	National Forest Land
11	National Parks
10	State Trust Land
2	BLM
1	Native American Nation
23	Pima County

These rescue missions accounted for 4,360 commissioned deputy work hours and does not include the work hours submitted by the various volunteer groups.

In order to effectively conduct these missions, the Department has ensured each of the personnel assigned to the Search and Rescue Unit are equipped with appropriate rescue

equipment, i.e., 4X4 vehicles, ATV's, UTV's and necessary rescue gear. In addition, the Sheriff's Department purchased a helicopter in 2012 for the primary purpose of rescue support and patient extraction/care from remote areas, utilizing a hoist system.

A simple breakdown of costs associated with employing a search and rescue mission revealed the largest cost was for PCSD employees:

ITEM(S)	COSTS
2013 PCSD Employees	$703,705.60
Equipment & Costs Associated with the Helicopter	$465,400.00
2013 Search and Rescue Missions	$1,287,181.00

The Department participates in a reimbursement program available through the Arizona Department of Emergency Management. Applications are submitted for those missions that meet program guidelines. Reimbursement calculations are based on the total dollar amount of all reimbursement requests received by the Arizona Department of Emergency Management, and the funds available through this program. Last year PCSD requested reimbursement in the amount of $37,622 for 2012 missions and received $32,122 in reimbursement from the state. This year PCSD has submitted a reimbursement request in the amount of $60,806 for 2013 missions, but does not anticipate a full reimbursement. It is not a guaranteed one-for-one reimbursement program.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lieutenant Jim Murphy, commander of the PCSD Special Operations Section at (520)351-6154.

Sincerely,

Chief Christopher Radtke
Operations Bureau Commander

CMR/jpm

Cc: Chief Deputy Christopher Nanos, PCSD
Chief Bradley Gagnepain, PCSD, Administrative Bureau Commander
Captain Mike Sacco, PCSD, Support Operations Division Commander
Captain Karl Woolridge, PCSD, Administrative Services Division Commander
Mr. Ron Jee, PCSD, Financial Services Manager

Pima County Sheriff's Department PESAR Annual Expense Report 2013

Personnel

Name	Base Rate	Base Rate + ERE	Annual Cost
Sgt. J. Dowdy	$35.31	$56.49	$117,511.68
Dep. S. West	$29.05	$46.48	$96,678.40
Dep. J. Ramirez	$29.05	$46.48	$96,678.40
Dep. B. Boll	$29.05	$46.48	$96,678.40
Dep. S. Chuk	$23.90	$38.24	$79,539.20
Dep. M. Johnson	$22.76	$36.42	$75,745.28
Dep. R. Raterink	$21.68	$34.69	$72,151.04
Dep. D. Figueroa	$20.65	$33.04	$68,723.20
		Total	$703,705.60

Overtime Expense

Overtime Disbursal **Requested** via ADEM Cost Center 8752050	$60,806.47

Air Asset (Sheriff 1)

Employee Costs	Insurance	Fuel	Parts/Maintenance	Annual Cost
$210,078.52	$18,172	$17,675.00	$15,794.38	$261,719.90

Vehicles

Vehicle	Annual Mileage	Rate per mile	Annual Cost
Tahoe SSV (x8)	20,000	$1.25	$200,000.00
ATV's (x8)	n/a	n/a	$3,715.15
		Total	$203,715.15

Equipment Purchases

Technical Rescue	$18,522.76
Medical	$1,534.56
Vehicle Accessories	$615.59
Clothing / PPE	$4,910.63
Radio / Software	$5,168.15
Total	$30,751.69

SARA Reimbursements

BOS Contract Payment	$25,000.00
Fuel	$1,283.02
Damaged Equipment	$199.18
Total	$26,482.20

Total Annual Expenditures

Total	$1,287,181.01

Mission Profile / Summary

Location	Missions		
National Forest	99		
National Park	11		
State Trust Land	10		
BLM	2		
Indian Reservation	1		
Pima County	29		
Total	152	Total Commisioned Hours	4360.35