



Lompoc City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: October 7, 2008

TO: Gary Keefe, City Administrator

FROM: Timothy L. Dabney, Chief of Police
t_dabney@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: JAIL SERVICES AGREEMENT RENEWAL

Recommendation: That the City Council:

Authorize the Mayor of Lompoc to renew the agreement with the County of Santa Barbara for the purpose of allowing Deputies of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department to book pre-sentenced prisoners into the Lompoc City Jail.

Background:

The Lompoc Police Department operates a Type I jail facility with a capacity of 23 prisoners. A Type I jail is defined by Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations as a local detention facility used for the detention of persons for not more than 96 hours, excluding holidays, after booking. Type I jail facilities may only house pre-sentenced persons, with the exception of inmate workers.

Prior to 1992 the City of Lompoc and Santa Barbara County had an agreement in place that allowed Deputies of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department to book arrestees into the Lompoc City Jail. County prisoners were booked into the Lompoc City Jail primarily from fresh arrests and arrests made pursuant to court orders in the Lompoc Valley and Buellton. In 1992 the agreement was not renewed for financial reasons.

The City of Lompoc is the only municipality on the Central Coast that has its own jail. The benefits of a City operated jail are many. While other jurisdictions have had to pay booking fees to counties to house arrestees, the Lompoc Police Department has not been subject to that burden. Other law enforcement agencies have to make detention decisions based upon financial considerations detracting from the criminal violation at hand. Meaning that, in communities that do not have a jail as a resource, officers are often forced to issue citations to misdemeanor violators who commit such crimes as battery, sex offender registration violations, vandalism, theft and many other crimes. This is not the

case in Lompoc. The citizens of Lompoc have reaped the benefit of having criminal violators booked and housed until they can post bail or be taken to court.

The Lompoc City Jail does not have an overcrowding problem. The average daily population in the Lompoc City Jail is eight (8) persons. The highest single day of bookings to-date in 2008 is nineteen (19). The Lompoc City Jail performed 2,321 bookings in 2007; 320 of these bookings were juveniles who were immediately transferred to juvenile hall or released to their parents. This leaves a total of 2,001 adult bookings in 2007 for an average of 5.5 bookings per day.

The Santa Barbara County Jail has a tremendous overcrowding problem that has been the subject of many discussions in the public forum. The Lompoc Police Department has participated in the Jail Overcrowding Task Force with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department. The implementation of the jail contract with the City of Lompoc during the last twelve months has helped alleviate the County's overcrowding situation.

Discussion:

In March of 2007, representatives of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department approached the Lompoc Police Department and began discussions on establishing an agreement to allow deputies to book arrestees into the Lompoc City Jail. The staff of the Lompoc Police Department recognized an opportunity to assist a critical law enforcement partner as well as improve law enforcement services in the Lompoc Valley.

In October of 2007, an agreement was reached and a contract executed between the City of Lompoc and Santa Barbara County to facilitate County bookings in the Lompoc Jail. The agreement provided for the minimum payment of \$70,000 per year to the City of Lompoc by Santa Barbara County as compensation for the estimated 608 annual bookings at a rate of \$115.13 per booking. The agreement also provides that should actual bookings exceed 608 then the County would pay a rate of \$115.13 for every booking thereafter.

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Deputies booked 260 prisoners into the Lompoc City Jail during the last 11 months that this agreement has been in place.

The agreement allows employees of the Lompoc Police Department to refuse bookings from deputies based upon jail population levels, medical exceptions and other unusual circumstances. Deputies utilizing the Lompoc City Jail comply with all the rules and regulations established by the Lompoc Police Department with regard to the booking and housing of arrestees as well as any and all County and State laws and regulations.

Conclusion:

Our first year of operation under the jail contract has been beneficial for both the City of Lompoc and Santa Barbara County. The County has received much needed relief from their jail over-crowding situation. Deputies assigned to the Lompoc Valley have been able to stay in the Lompoc Valley when they take violators into custody. The Lompoc Police Department absorbed workload of the additional prisoners and the City received at \$70,000 in additional revenue.

The Lompoc Police Department Staff recommends that the City Council approve the renewal of the attached agreement between the City of Lompoc and Santa Barbara County for the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's use of the Lompoc City Jail and services of the Lompoc Police Department.

TIMOTHY L. DABNEY
Chief of Police

Attachments: [AGREEMENT FOR USE OF LOMPOC JAIL FACILITIES
AND PROVISION OF SERVICES](#)

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Gary Keefe, City Administrator