

# WELCOME!

The Right-Sizing Police Services Community Meeting Will Begin Soon.



# RIGHT-SIZING POLICE SERVICES

**Erik Lamb**, Deputy City Manager

**Dave Ellis**, Chief of Police

April 11, 2024



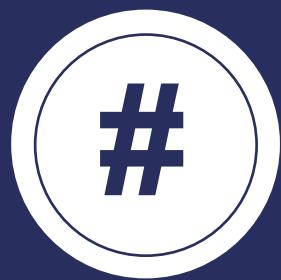
# AGENDA

- Review background information
- Police Department staffing study and recommendations
- Accomplishments to date and remaining needs
- Current public safety funding
- Potential new funding sources
- Community input – survey and Q&A

# RIGHT-SIZING POLICE PROJECT



- Began in late 2022
- Part of the renewal of the City's Police Services Interlocal Agreement with Spokane County and the Spokane County Sheriff's Office
- Purpose to review and evaluate the Spokane Valley Police Department's needs, operations and staffing levels, including calls for service, response to calls for service, caseload for investigative units, and operational delivery.



# BY THE NUMBERS

# CITY OF SPOKANE VALLEY



Incorporated in 2003 and is 21 years old



2023 Population = 107,400



The population has increased 29.5% since incorporation when it was 82,895



2024 Businesses = 5,987

(Total business licenses = 11,677, including those not located in Spokane Valley)

# SVPD CONTRACT

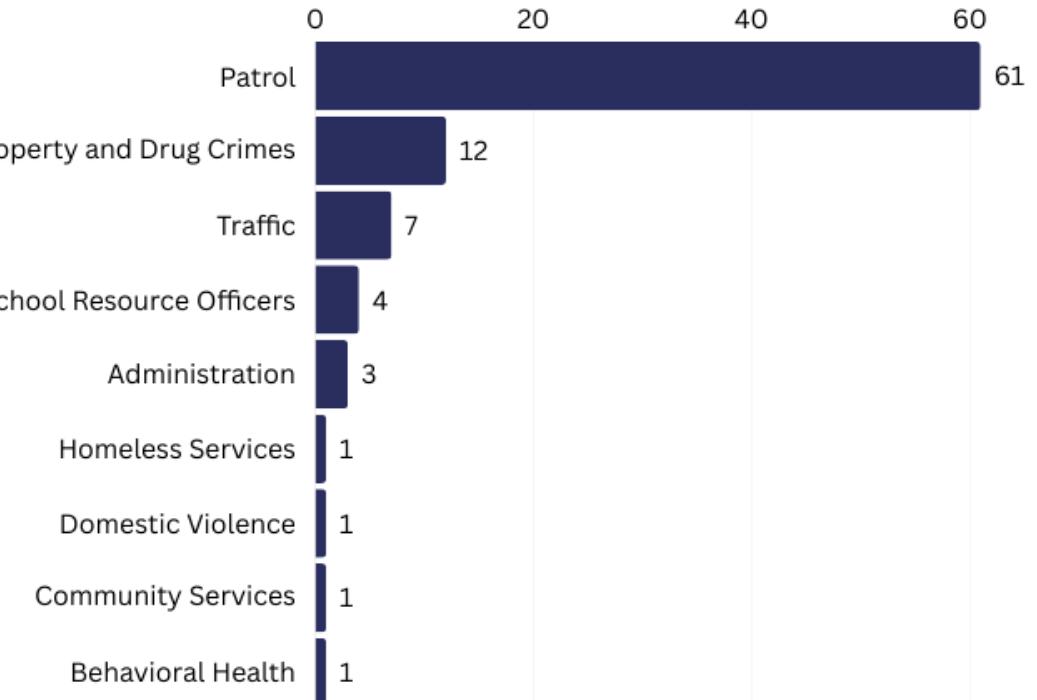


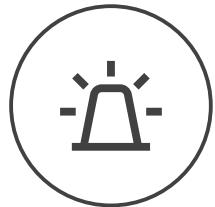
Current contract with  
Spokane County Sheriff's  
Office from 2023 – 2027



91 dedicated officers and  
37 shared officers

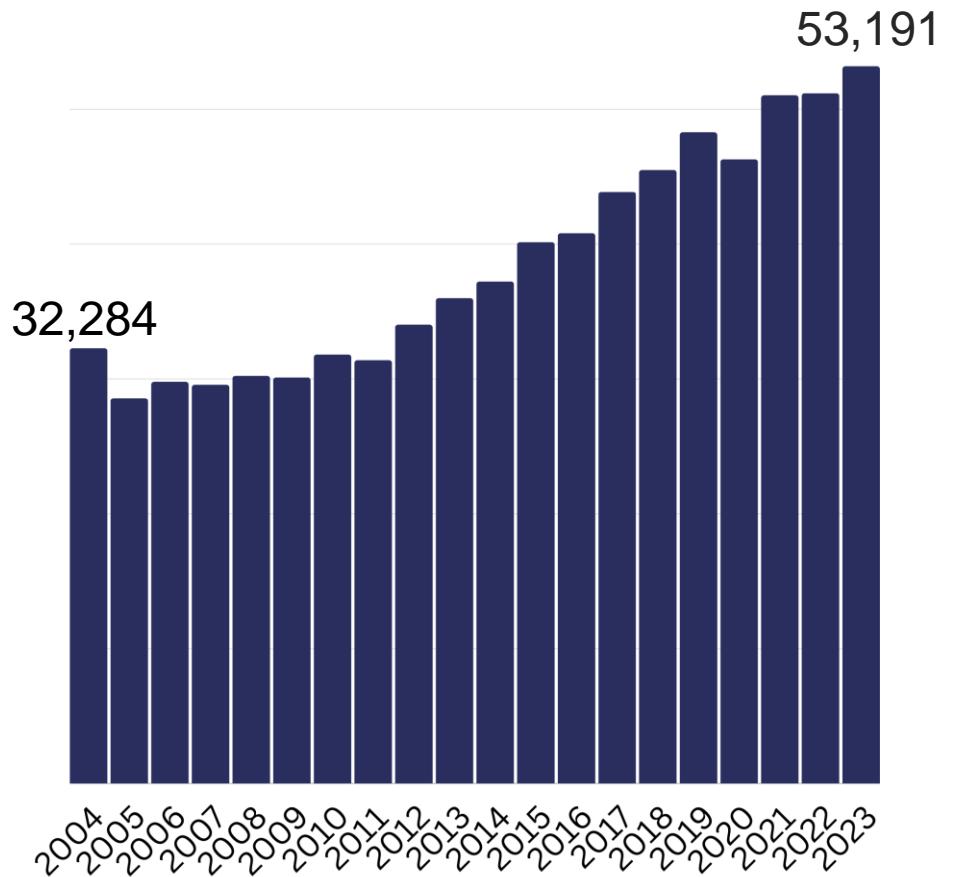
Dedicated Positions



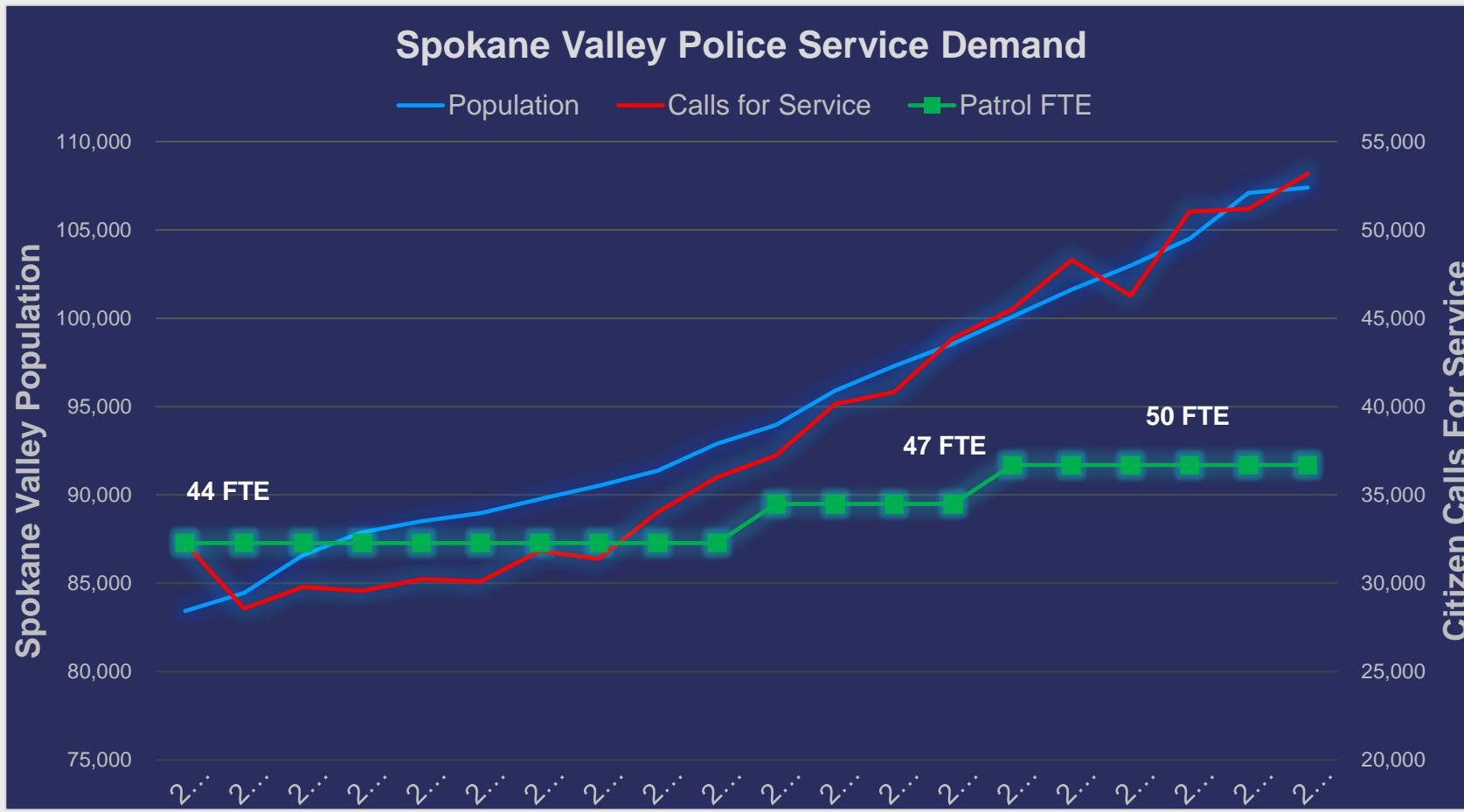


# CALLS FOR SERVICE

- Calls for service have increased 61% since incorporation
- There were 53,191 calls for service in 2023

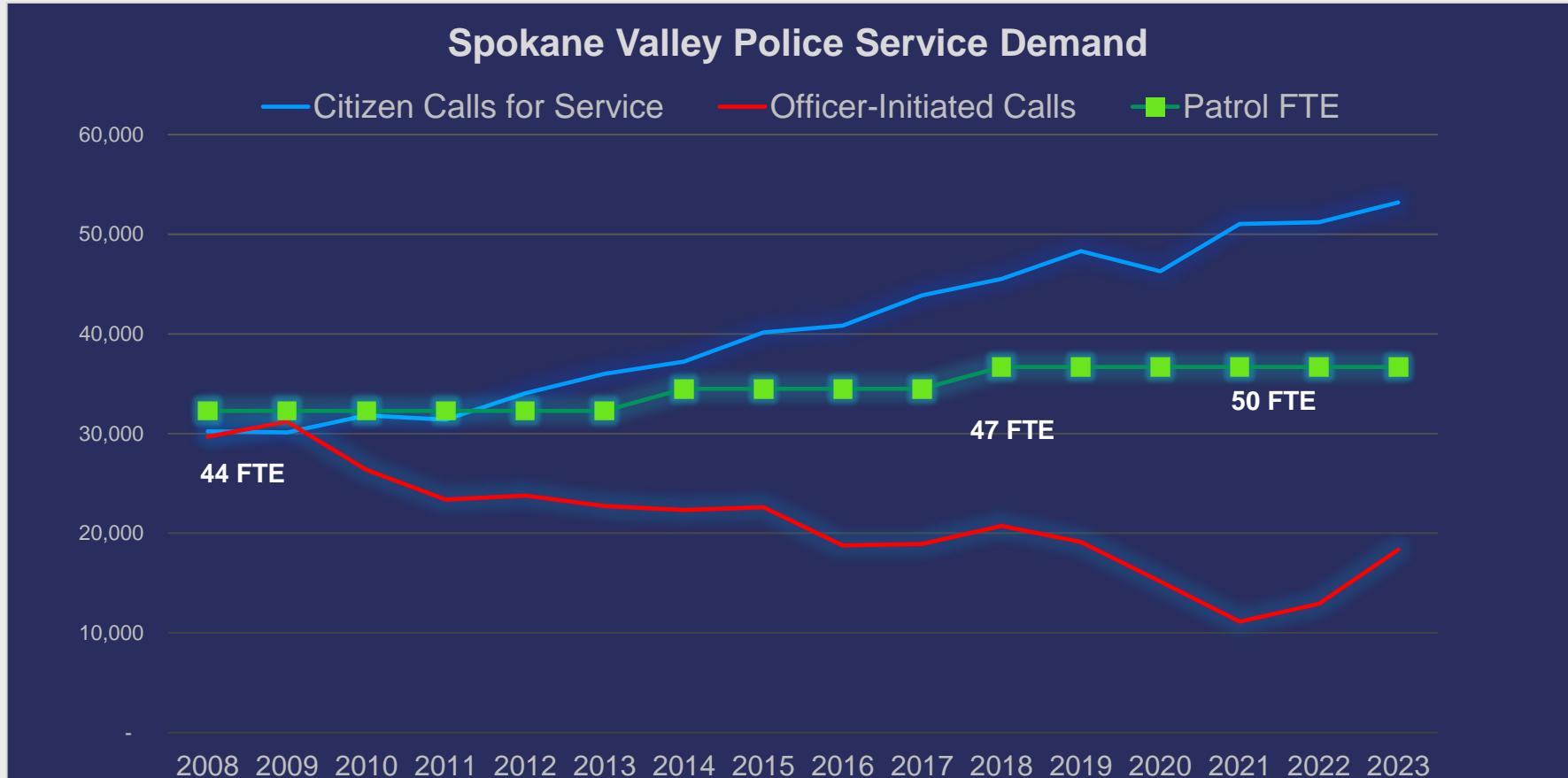


# TRENDS



Population (blue) and calls for service (red) have increased significantly with little increase in the contracted number of patrol officers (green)

# TRENDS



Citizen calls for service (**blue**) have steadily increased with little increase in the contracted number of patrol officers (**green**).

Number of officer-initiated calls (**red**) have decreased, reducing proactive policing.

# RESPONSE TIMES

## Priority 1

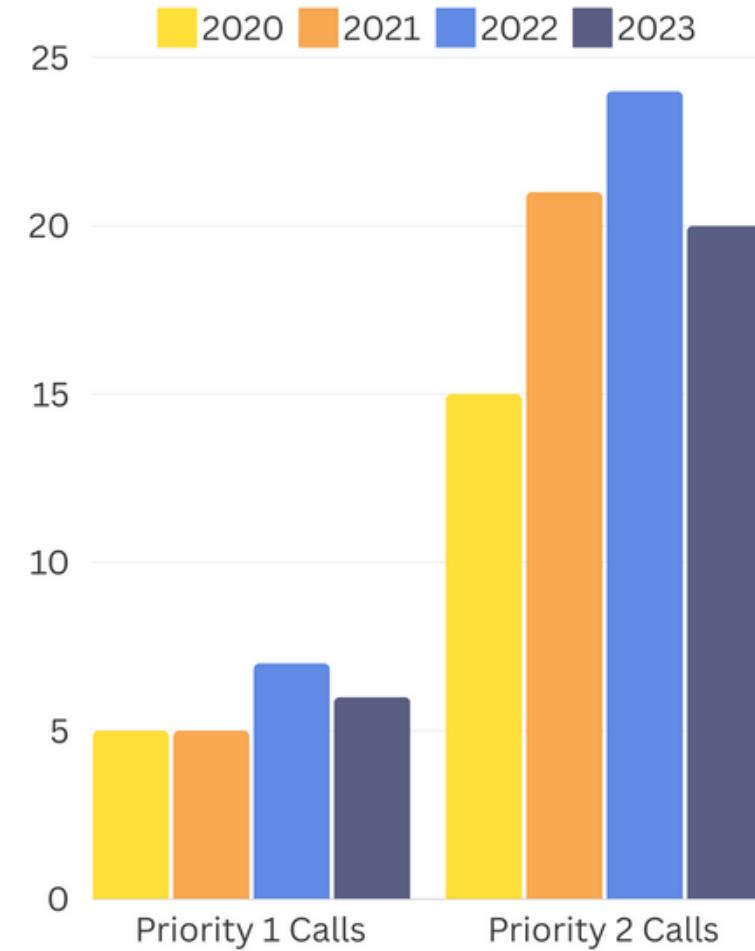
- Threat to life and safety
- Response times increased by 18% from 2020 to 2023

## Priority 2

- Potential threat to life and safety
- Response times increased by 26% from 2020 to 2023

## Officer-Initiated Response

- The number of proactive policing responses have decreased



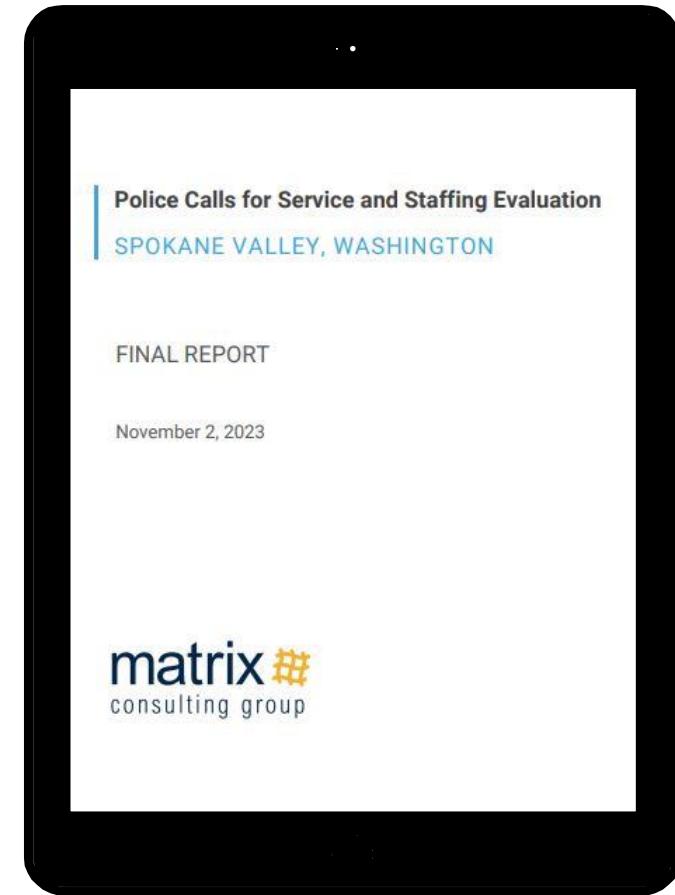


# STAFFING STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

# MATRIX STUDY

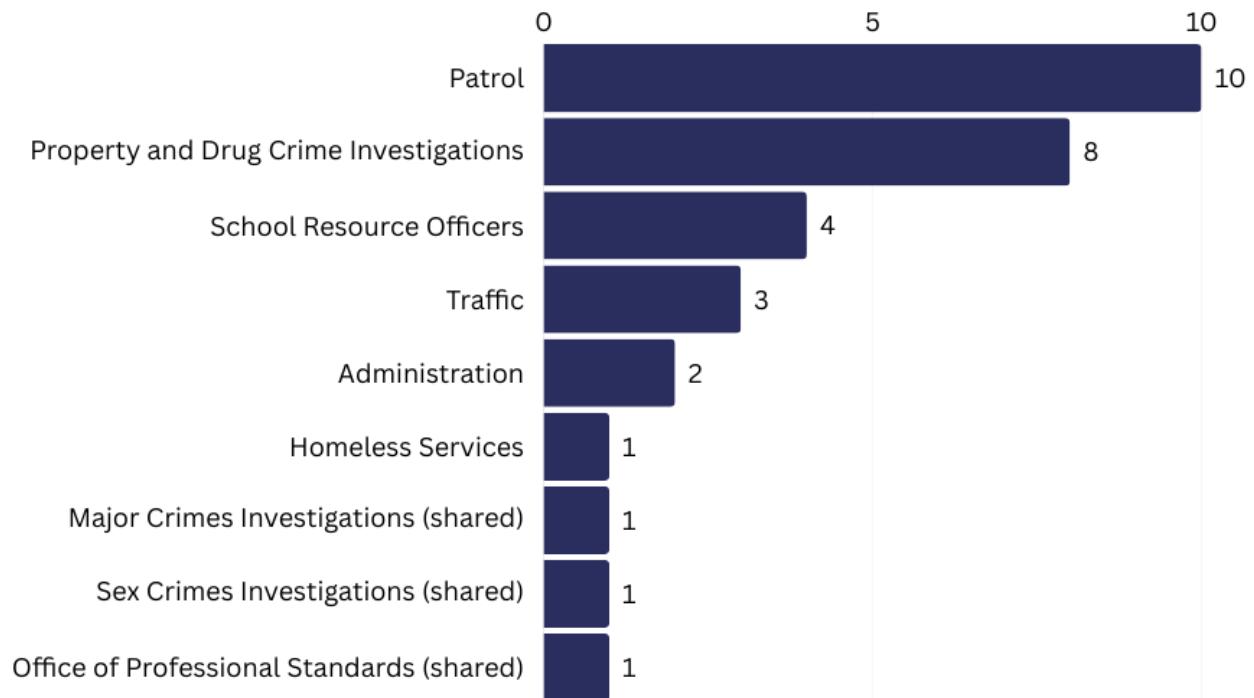
In 2023, Matrix Consulting Group Ltd. (Matrix) conducted an extensive review of the Spokane Valley Police Department.

This study was analytically driven to identify the number of officers and deployment recommendations to allow coverage for more calls and investigative cases while also allowing sufficient time for officers to engage in proactive policing.



# STAFFING RECOMMENDATIONS

- An additional 25 new dedicated police positions
- Three new police positions shared with Spokane County
- Two civilian positions
- In addition to the study, city staff recommend one additional civilian position

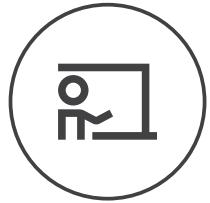




# OUTCOMES

Additional staff will aid with:

- Quicker response times
- Ability to respond to more calls and perform more neighborhood patrols
- Increase the ability to investigate property and drug crimes
- Reduce unsafe driving
- Ensure a sufficient number of supervisors to oversee officers
- Ensure sufficient resources to investigate citizen complaints
- Reduce homelessness
- Provide additional protection for children in school



# IMPLEMENTATION

## Phase 1 - Approved

- City Council unanimously **approved 12 new staff** on Feb. 27, 2024
- 10 additional dedicated police officers, 1 civilian analyst, lieutenant in the Office of Professional Standard (shared cost with the County)
- Estimated cost = **\$2.75 million**
- Includes one-time costs of \$624,000 for vehicles and workstations. Initially funded by reprioritizing existing city funds and use of recently enacted vehicle license fee

## Phase 2 – Under Consideration

- **Additional 19 police personnel**
- Estimated first-year expense of **\$4.3 million**



# RECRUITMENT



# RECRUITMENT CHALLENGES

## Number of officers

- Less officers nationwide
- Historically lose about 25 people per year
- Upcoming retirements

## Applicants

- Will need 1,300 applications in 2024 to hire the officers desired by the Sheriff's Office and SVPD
- 25% applicants do not pass the minimal requirements

## Timing

- New hire = 12+ months
- Lateral hire = 4 months



# RECRUITMENT STRATEGY

## **Sheriff's Office Recruiting and Retention Plan**

- Completed new strategic plan to support recruitment and hiring
- Increased recruitment budget
- Expanded recruitment team
- Signing bonus – \$10,000 new or \$25,000 lateral
- Targeted marketing budget (website, social media, billboards, videos, etc.)
- Open houses and recruitment events

# FUNDING AND REVENUE SOURCES



Public safety is currently funded by a combination of property tax, sales tax, and other smaller taxes.

# CITY BUDGET



## **2024 ANNUAL BUDGET = \$58 MILLION**

Recurring general fund

(Total city budget = \$106.4 million including capital projects, debt service and pass-through revenues)

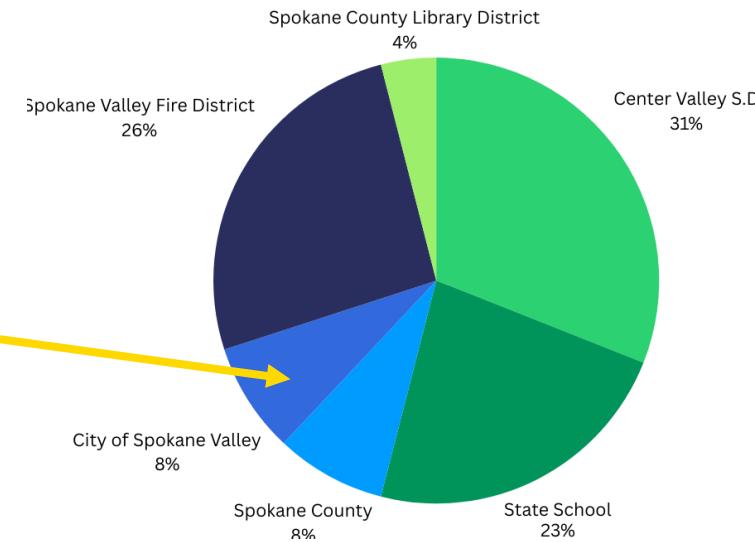


## **2024 POLICE BUDGET = \$29.6 MILLION**

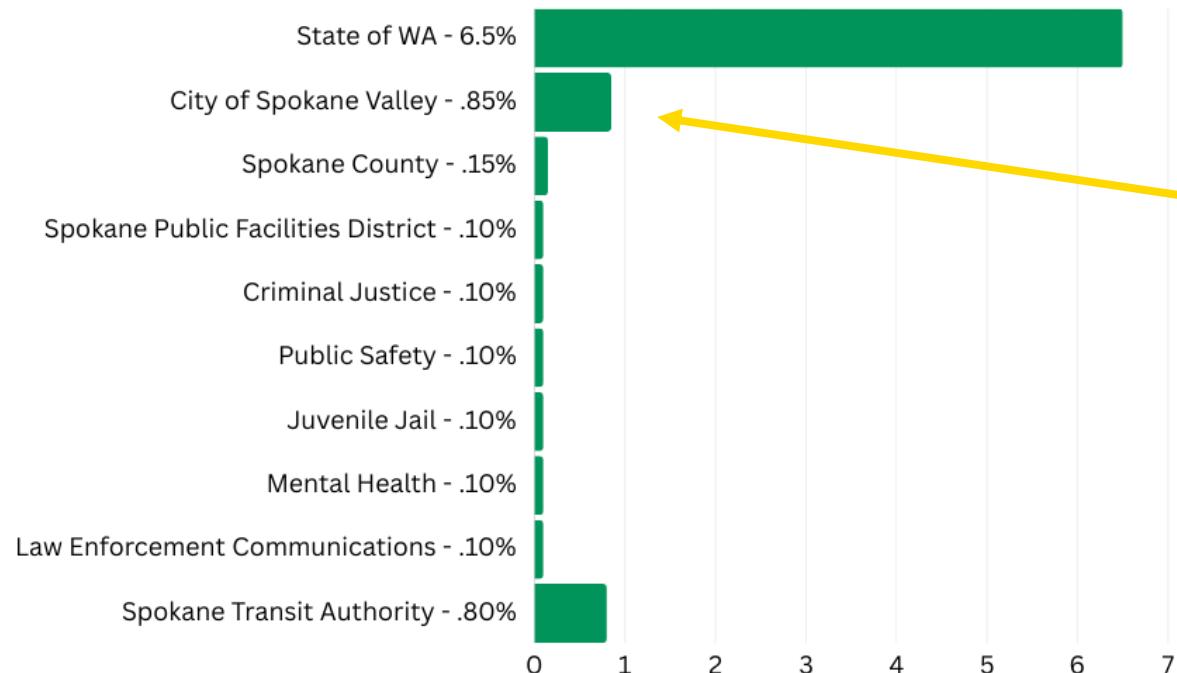
51% of the recurring general fund

# PROPERTY TAX

- The City receives 8.4% of the total property tax collected and it is not keeping pace with Police Department expenses.
- Current property tax levy on \$439,000 median home value = \$4,114 annually, of which the City receives \$346.



# SALES TAX



The City receives less than 1% (0.85%) of the 8.9% sales tax collected.



# OTHER REVENUE SOURCES

A combination of other  
smaller revenue sources  
help fund public safety.

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Criminal Justice - High Crime          | \$300,000   |
| Criminal Justice - Population          | \$40,800    |
| Criminal Justice - Contracted Services | \$200,000   |
| Criminal Justice - Special Programs    | \$145,000   |
| Marijuana Excise Tax                   | \$178,200   |
| DUI - Cities                           | \$14,000    |
| Liquor Excise Tax                      | \$776,500   |
| Gambling Taxes                         | \$480,000   |
| Public Safety Sales Tax                | \$1,600,800 |
| Criminal Justice Sales Tax             | \$2,818,500 |
| Grants                                 | \$70,000    |
| District Court Fines, Fees, etc.       | \$450,600   |

**\$7,074,400**



# POTENTIAL NEW FUNDING SOURCES

Voter-approved and non-voter-approved options

# VOTER-APPROVED OPTIONS

## Property tax levy lid lift

- Up to \$14 million available
- A levy lid lift of \$4.3 million would cost a homeowner with a median home value of \$439,000 **\$8.25 per month or \$98.95 per year**

## City public safety sales tax

- \$2.6 to \$2.8 million available
- Would raise sales tax by one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) from 8.9% to 9%
- On a purchase of \$100, this would be an additional 10 cents (\$.10) in sales tax
- 48% of retail sales in the city are paid by non-residents

# NON-VOTER-APPROVED OPTIONS

## Utility taxes

- Up to \$8.4M available
- Includes electric, natural gas, sewer and solid waste disposal services

## Banked capacity of property tax

- \$1.2M available
- Council has not raised property taxes in 15 years
- This option would cost a homeowner with a median home value of \$439,000 approximately **\$2.50 per month or \$29.98 per year**



# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

**Take the project survey and help advise  
decision-making.**

- Open until April 21
- 10 questions
- Takes about four minutes

**[SpokaneValleyWA.gov/911](http://SpokaneValleyWA.gov/911)**



# THANK YOU.

*Questions?*

[SpokaneValleyWA.gov/911](http://SpokaneValleyWA.gov/911)

