



Why We Need Our Own Police Department

The time has come for the City of Lathrop to have its own police department.

For over three decades, the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department has provided very good police services to Lathrop. We will always remain grateful for their service to our community and continue to value our relationship with the Department. Contracting for police services through the Sheriff's Department made sense when our city was smaller.

However, after 31 years, the world has changed. Lathrop is one of the fastest-growing cities in San Joaquin County. We are also the only incorporated city without a police department— cities like Escalon, under one-third the size of Lathrop, already have their own police department.

Creating the Lathrop Police Department will let us pave the path to our future. It will help the City prosper and provide new opportunities for our residents and businesses. In addition, it will help solidify Lathrop's standing as one of the most desirable cities in California to live, raise a family, start a business or retire.

With a police department of our own, Lathrop will have the freedom to design community safety programs that fit the needs of our citizens. With local control, we will be able to shape policing philosophy, service priorities and the style of policing Lathrop needs.

We'll have the flexibility to invest in more police personnel, providing the services we have come to expect and improving public safety as the city grows, all while staying within budget. We will attract high-quality talent and retain more officers by using our resources to create a positive work environment within the department.

While many California cities are struggling, the City of Lathrop one of the most financially sound municipalities in the state. The State Auditor ranked Lathrop 6th out of more than 450 cities for fiscal performance — from reserves and revenue to pension costs and indebtedness.

There are many reasons why Lathrop is on sound footing while other cities are faltering. One of the most substantial reasons is our commitment to take bold action when it is in the long-term best interest of our citizens. Now is another one of those times.

Today, when the City of Lathrop requests an additional sworn officer from the Sheriff's Department, you — the taxpayer — have to pay \$355,000 just to put him or her in a uniform. That is before that officer ever spends a minute patrolling the streets of Lathrop.

Currently, the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department charges \$9.1 million a year for contracted police services. The City's Police Department budget will include five additional officers, two new community service officers to support them, and six more non-sworn personnel — for a total of 13 additional police personnel. While the new police force will have more personnel than what is currently provided by the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department, the City of Lathrop will spend less each year to staff its own police force.

Over the next 10 years, the City of Lathrop projects it will save millions of dollars with its own police force, largely due to lower pension costs. The Lathrop Police Department's pension costs will remain affordable (over the next ten years) while the Sheriff Department's costs will increase to as much as 176% of salary based on current trends.

As the city continues to take steps to establish our new police department, we are committed to transparency and keeping our citizens apprised of all developments, including costs incurred and savings realized. We will continue to work with the entire Lathrop community to ensure a successful transition.



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