



Progress Continues for the New Lathrop Police Department

The [City of Lathrop](https://www.ci.lathrop.ca.us/city-manager/page/lathrop-police-department-transition) is continuing to make significant progress towards the standup of its own police department.

In September, the City selected Raymond Bechler to become the first Police Chief for the new department. Since then, Chief Bechler has been reviewing applications from candidates for the open Commander, Sergeant, and Officer positions. Interest from across the region and beyond has resulted in a talented pool of potential team members. Non-sworn personnel positions will begin accepting applications in January. Already, two Commanders have completed the initial interview process and are undergoing background checks. Upon the completion of the background checks, there will be a formal announcement to introduce our new Commanders. The application period for Sergeants is now closed and interviews will begin in early December.

To ensure that the officers will have the most current, cutting-edge equipment and technology, purchase orders have been placed for the following:

- The Axon totally-integrated system featuring Body cameras, In-car cameras, Tasers, and a Digital Evidence storage system.
- In-car and portable multi-band digital radios so that officers can communicate clearly and effectively with each other and with surrounding law enforcement agencies.
- New patrol vehicles that will supplement and, in some cases, replace older vehicles currently being used the County. They will be equipped with a full array of safety and technology equipment.
- Officers will also be provided with personal safety equipment, including, but not limited to, uniforms, soft body armor, firearms, and other miscellaneous equipment.

These expenditures will help officers to safely and effectively serve and protect community members.

The City has also formalized a partnership with the City of Ripon for dispatching services and support. The new dispatch contract will bring significant upgrades to Ripon's current communications infrastructure. Additional dispatch staff will also come on board to handle the increased amount of calls for service on the system.

The new police station continues to receive its finishing touches before the start of full operations on July 1, 2022. Chief Bechler can often be found working from his new office inside the station, several days a week. An open house event to provide the community with the chance to tour the new station will be held in the Spring of 2022.

For More Information Visit the Transition Webpage

<https://www.ci.lathrop.ca.us/city-manager/page/lathrop-police-department-transition>