

**CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

ITEM

Council Bill 2019-604 -approving the reclassification of position for Police Department; and, amending the Annual Budget of the City of Joplin for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

MEETING DATE

January 22, 2019

ORIGINATING DEPT

Human Resources Department

ATTACHMENTS

Council Bill 2019-604 Ordinance; Budget Amendment; Schedule A; Personnel Board meeting minutes and supporting documents.

REVIEWED BY

HR Director: David Allgood; Police Chief: Matt Stewart; Finance Director: Leslie Haase; City Attorney: Peter Edwards; City Manager: Sam Anselm

SUMMARY

This Council Bill approves a change to reorganize the Police Department; and reclassify Police Officer to Police Services Assistant.

BACKGROUND

The Police Department has had a Telephone Reporting Officer position within the agency for several years which has been filled by a sworn police officer. This position is responsible for handling report calls that come into our agency that can be handled over the phone as well as taking report from calls and from walk-ins into the Police Department. This position takes some of the workload off the officers that are working a beat and keeps the beat officers available for pro-active patrol efforts as well as keeping them available to respond to in-progress types of calls. Due to police staffing shortages, it has not been possible to fill this position for quite some time.

The Police Department proposal is to change this position into a full-time civilian position instead of filling it with a sworn police officer position. Our plan is to recruit for this position from the MSSU or Crowder College Criminal Justice Programs that has knowledge of criminal justice and would have an interest in learning more about the criminal justice system. In addition, the department would investigate hiring retired police officers into this position as a civilian. In the beginning this position would be an 8-5 Monday through Friday. If successful we will consider expanding into a second position that would work more of an evening shift. The department would provide training to the civilian on criminal law as well as training on our reporting system.

This position would work under the direct supervision of the Professional Standards Captain and would work in our Records Division. The department has researched this type of position and found that the Springfield, MO Police Department utilizes this concept and it works out very well for them.

The civilian position would handle all “officer needs to call” types of calls as well as walk-in reports that come into our lobby.

In 2017, the City of Joplin had 1,554 “Lobby Calls”. This position would significantly reduce the wait time of the people that come into our lobby to make a report. They currently must wait for an officer to come in off the street to take the report, which at times, can be 30-45 minutes depending upon call volume. This position would also manage our on-line reporting which is currently being handled by a sworn police officer. Depending on the work load and the ability of the civilian that we place in this position the person may also assist us with grant writing. This position would also assist in placing Body Worn Camera video and In-Car camera video onto DVD’s and then placing those into evidence for court purposes later.

This position will be funded by eliminating one sworn officer position within our agency. The civilian position will be in range 140 of the pay plan which is one range above a Senior Clerk position. This position will also be a part of the LAGERS retirement system and not a part of the Police and Fire Pension. By replacing this sworn position with a civilian position, it will be a cost savings to the City.

FUNDING SOURCE

The general fund budget is being decreased by \$8,908.00 to reflect the reclassification of a sworn police officer to a civilian position at a lower grade of 140.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of this council bill on First Reading.