



Denver Sheriff Department

2026 Budget: City Council Presentation
Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Agency Mission - The mission of the Denver Sheriff Department is to provide safe and secure custody for those placed in our care and to perform all of our duties in a manner that is responsive to the needs of our diverse community.

Agency Overview

Mission and Vision:

The mission of the Denver Sheriff Department is to provide safe and secure custody for those placed in our care and to perform all of our duties in a manner that is responsive to the needs of our diverse community.

The vision of the Denver Sheriff Department is to maintain a commitment to being a model law enforcement agency.

Direct Services We Protected:

- ❖ The medical services provided by Denver Health provides a continuum of care for the folks in our custody as many of them utilize DHMC as their medical care provider. This ensures better service to our people in custody.
- ❖ The Medication Assisted Treatment program (MAT) to ensure that we begin or continue people's road to recovery from addiction to help save the lives of our people in custody and the citizens of Denver.

Agency Overview Continued

Changes to Increase Efficiency & Effectiveness:

Working closely with Safety HR to ensure our increased recruiting efforts continue onto a more efficient hiring process to reduce the loss of candidates due to a lengthy process.

Reductions and Changes to Services:

- ❖ Closure of the vehicle impound facility on Sundays to reduce costs of operations while having minimal impact to the citizens.
- ❖ Streamlined programs for people in custody who are returning to community to ensure we are reaching the highest need utilizers.

Strategic Priorities for 2026

Top Priorities / Projects / Initiatives

Steady Recruitment and Retention: Our primary mission for the past 5 years has been to rebuild our workforce post George Floyd and the Great Resignation. We bottomed out at 54% staffing in 2021 and have been incrementally filling our ranks. We are now up to 61%. This has included an all-hands approach to recruitment, including a partnership between DSD and Safety HR, which has been helpful. We will also prioritize retention by giving a continued voice to all employees, labor unions and groups in our organization to make the DSD an even better place to work.

Continued Narcotics Introduction Interdiction: The surge of drugs coming into our facility mirrors one of the biggest problems in jails and prisons across America. To take a targeted approach to combatting this problem, we created the “The Prevention, Detection and Prosecution Task Force” made up of DSD, DPD, DA, OIM, Crime Lab and federal partners. This group meets quarterly to discuss proactive ways to stop narcotics from coming in and hopefully prosecuting the people who introduce them. We have also digitized our mail, installed airport grade body scanners, deployed our K-9’s more often and conduct searches when we suspect someone is in possession.

Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT): Our MAT programming has become a necessary component of our efforts to return people back to the community better than they arrived. The multi-disciplinary approach to this effort includes medical staff, mental health practitioners, counselors and deputy sheriffs.

Proactive Succession Planning: As several senior command level members become eligible for retirement in the next few years, we will be working to pass on to the next generation of leaders the knowledge, skills and connections that have helped the DSD to move forward towards an even better path.

Equity Considerations

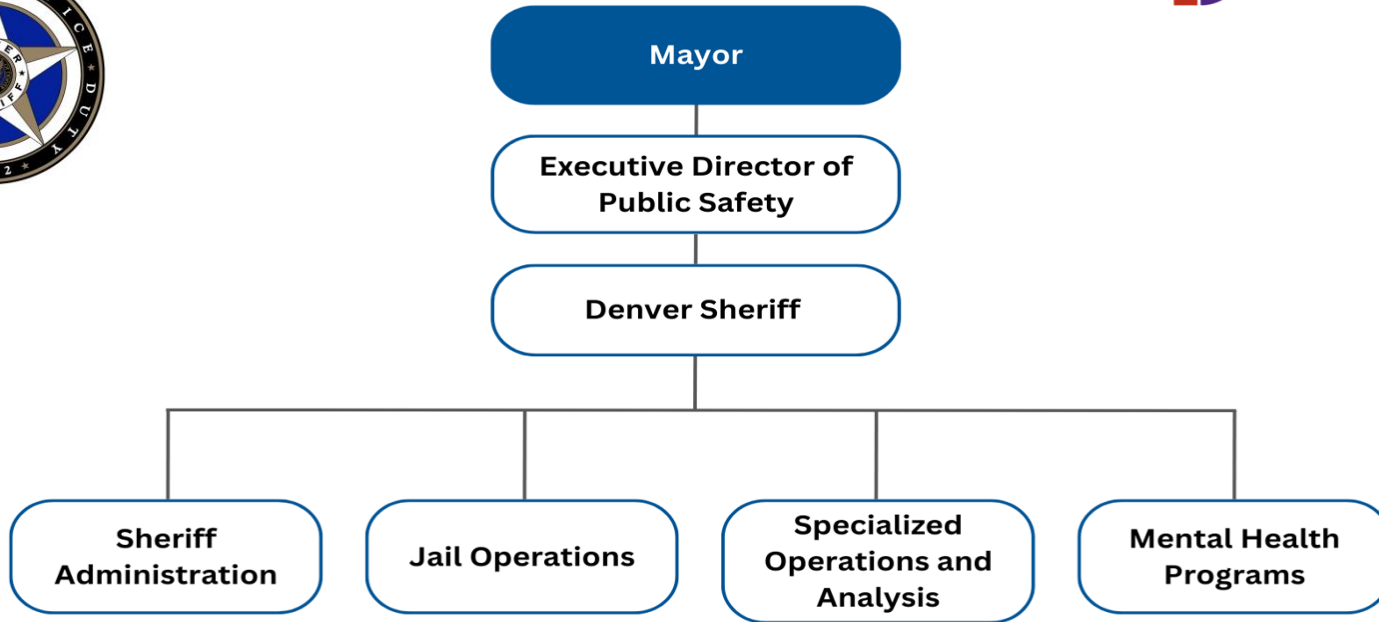
Equity Strategy

The DSD's Language Access Plan is designed to comply with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Mayoral Executive Order No. 150. We are committed to supporting our community by creating an equitable and inclusive environment by addressing and removing language-related barriers. This plan supports effective communication for all individuals by implementing multilingual communication, the translation of vital documents, sign language, visual aids, and signage.

Equity Results

Annually serving on average over 2,000 individuals who speak languages other than English, this plan ensures those in our custody have equal access to vital information, legal services, and healthcare regardless of language proficiency or ability. It reduces barriers for marginalized groups, prevents discrimination, and enhances safety.

Agency Structure



Performance Metric

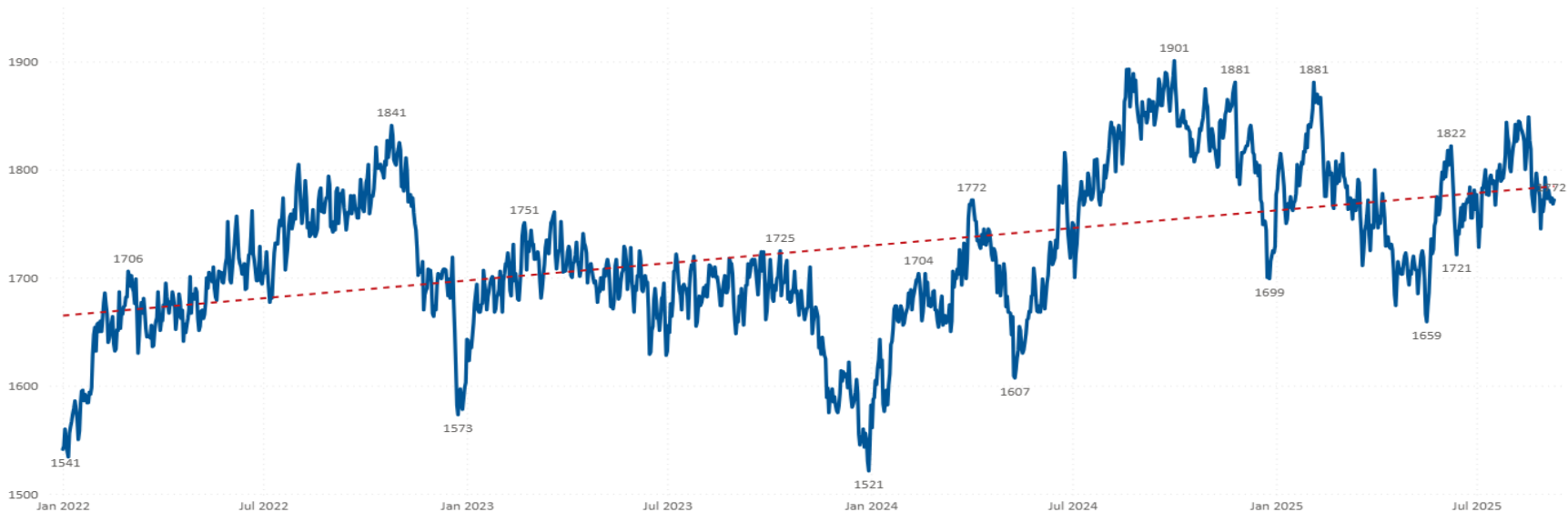
ADP Annual Trends

Year	Average Daily Population
2022	1704.30
2023	1681.22
2024	1754.73

Daily Population 2022-present	
1724.72	1714
Average	Median
1521	1901
Minimum	Maximum



Daily Population 2022-present



2026 Budget by Funding Source

General Fund: \$174.2M (999.28 FTE)

Special Revenue Funds: \$3.4M (15.8 FTE)

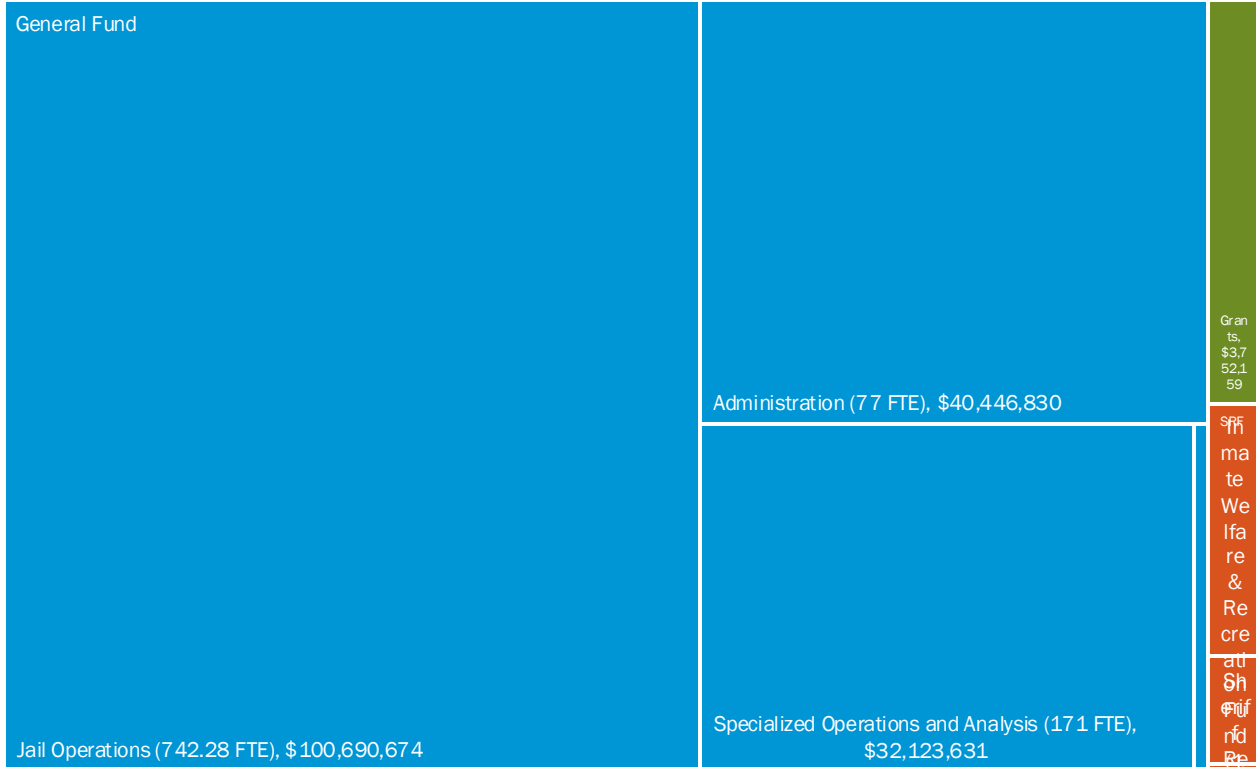
- Inmate Processing Fees: \$65.5K
- Sheriff Inmate Welfare and Recreation Fund: \$2.4M (.8 FTE)
- Sheriff Regional Fund: \$1M (15 FTE)

Grants: \$3.8M (2.9 FTE)

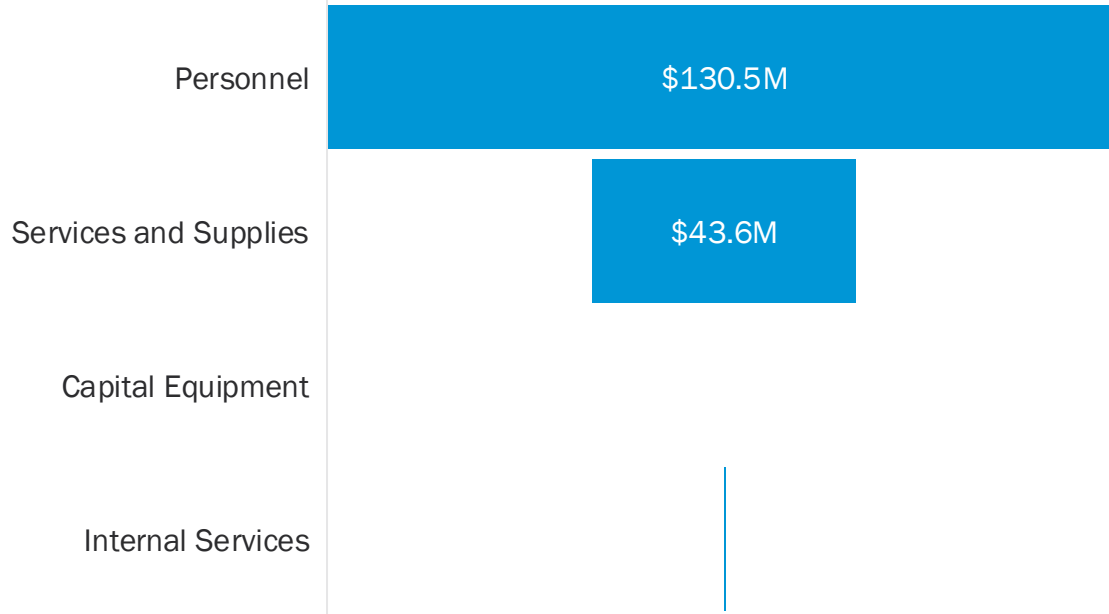
Total 2026 Base Budget: \$181.4M

Total FTE: 1,017.98

- Uniform - 859
- Civilian - 158.98



2026 General Fund Budget by Expenditure Type

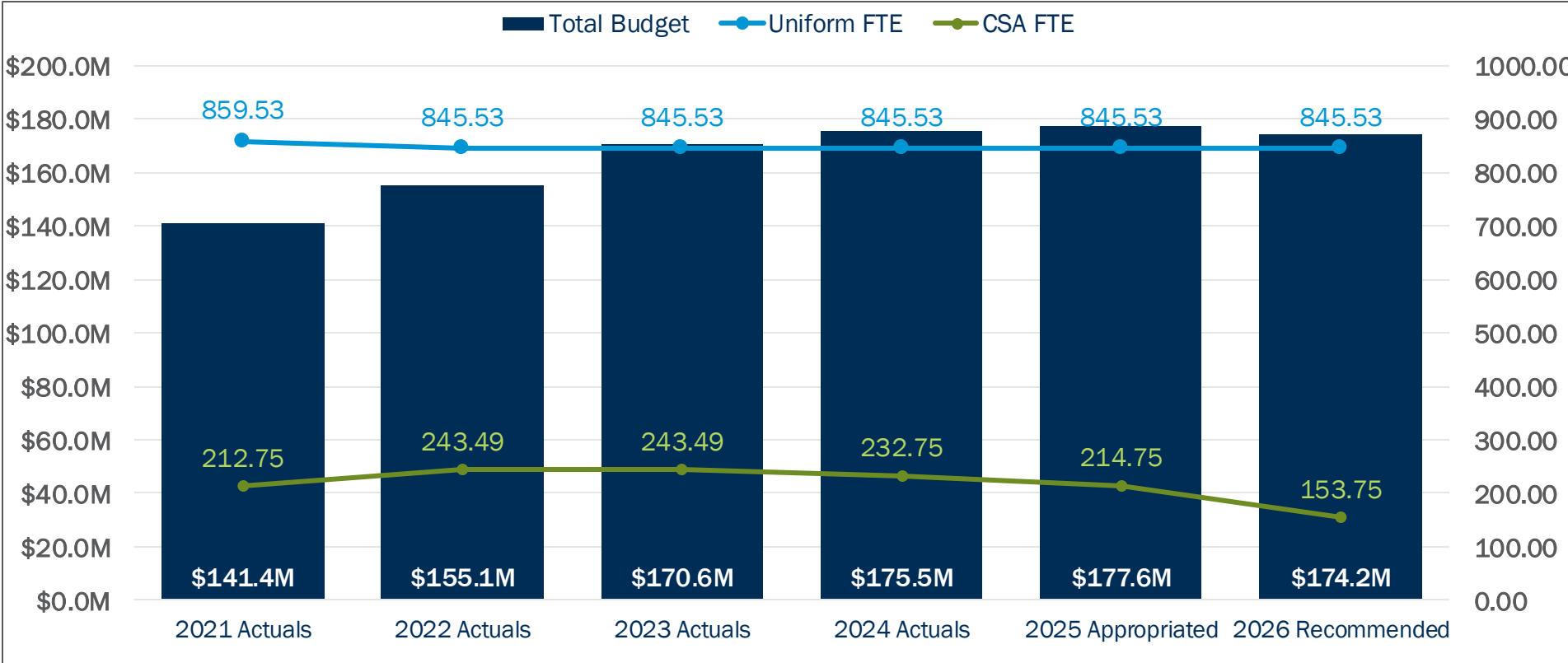


Personnel Changes

- Reduction of Vacant Positions: 58
- Reduction of Vacant On-Call Positions: 3
- Reduction of Filled Positions: 0

General Fund Total: \$174.2M

General Fund Operating Budget & Staffing Over Time



Key Agency Contracts

Contractor	Contract Amount	Annualized Amount	Scope	Term
Denver Health Hospital and Authority (DHHA)	\$592.1M	\$27.2M	DHHA Operating Agreement to provide medical services at both County Jail and Downtown Detention Center (B-3) and in Correctional Care Medical Facility at Denver Health (A-6).	1/1/2010 - 12/31/2025
Trinity Services Group, Inc.	\$25.1M	\$8.5M	To provide food services for persons in custody and staff in Denver Jail facilities.	6/30/2023 - 12/31/2026
Sierra Detention Systems Inc.	\$10.1M	\$1.2M	To provide service and maintain security systems for Denver Detention Center, Denver County Jail, and Lindsey Flanigan Courthouse.	1/1/2012 - 12/31/2026
Securus Technologies	\$2.1M	\$1M	To provide phone services and video visitation equipment for DDC and COJL.	3/15/2025 - 3/15/2030
Axon Enterprise Inc.	\$18.7M	\$838K	To purchase body worn cameras and tasers.	7/1/2015 - 12/15/2025

Addressing City Council Priorities

City Council Priority	Agency Program/Service	Budget
1. Increase Community Safety	Downtown Detention Center, Denver County Jail, Court Services and Civil – As the sometimes unseen and often unsung heroes of public safety, the sworn and professional staff of the DSD increase community safety every day. Denver is a better place with these personnel at the watch.	\$76.5M
1. Increase Community Safety 8. Build Healthy Communities	Crisis Response Team (CRT) – An integral part of our response to people experiencing a mental health crisis. The sworn staff rely daily upon the CRT’s mental health expertise in providing a non-uniform response to these situations to help de-escalate and provide more options for better outcomes. The CRT is an invaluable resource to the people in our custody.	\$919.8K
1. Increase Community Safety 8. Build Healthy Communities	Denver Health Contracts – As the safety net provider for residents in Denver, DHHA has been an integral part of the fabric of care the DSD provides. From medical health issues to mental and behavioral health matters, the partnership between our agencies is critical in returning people back to the community better than how they arrived. This is the largest contracted provider for the DSD and arguably, the most important as well.	\$27.2M

What's Staying the Same vs. Changing

What's Staying the Same

- ✓ Preserving core department functions.
- ✓ No change to funding for recruit academies.
- ✓ No change to budgeted FTE for uniform personnel.

What's Changing

- ✓ Reduction of 58 vacant CSA positions and 3 vacant on-call positions.
- ✓ Proposed contractual increase to support security technology/equipment.
- ✓ Closure of Vehicle Impound Facility on Sundays.

General Fund Changes Summary

Type	Amount	FTE	Description
Reduction	-\$5.6M	-58	Reduction of vacant CSA positions
Reduction	-\$151.2K	-3	Reduction of vacant on-call positions
Reduction	-\$1.9M	0	Vacancy savings of unfilled uniform personnel positions
Expansion	+\$500K	0	Increase in proposed security equipment contract (body worn cameras)

Equity Impact

These reductions impact the ability for members of the community to find entry level positions into the Denver Sheriff Department and the City.

Reduction: CSA Professional Staff Positions

Cost	FTE	Description
-\$3M	-33	DSD – Professional Staff Reduction for Jail Operations (7 Law Enforcement Records Technician, 8 Security Specialist, 1 Security Specialist Supervisor, 4 Institution Food Stewards, 3 Building Engineers, 3 Administrative Support Assistants, 1 Administrator, 1 Program Coordinator, 1 Property and Evidence Technician).
-\$1.9M	-20	DSD – Professional Staff Reduction for Specialized Operations and Analysis (6 Admin Support Assistants, 1 Admin Support Supervisor, 1 Administrator, 1 Building Engineer, 1 Data Analytics Specialist, 1 Data Analytics Senior, 1 Management Analyst Associate, 1 Management Analyst Supervisor, 4 Property and Evidence Technician).
-151.2K	-3	3 vacant on-call positions (Security Specialists)
-\$247.6K	-2	DSD – Professional Staff Reduction in Administration (1 – Program Coordinator, 1 – Data Analytics Supervisor).
-\$286K	-3	DSD – Professional Staff Reduction in Mental Health and Programs Division (3 – Unlicensed Therapist)
-5.6M	-61	TOTAL

Strategy for Mitigating Impacts of 2026 Reductions



Personnel Reductions

The 2026 reductions meet our targets in a way that creates the least amount of impact to our operation, while preserving the funds needed to supplement typical overtime expenditures.

Key Capital Projects and Allocations

Title	Amount	Description
VIF Fencing	\$300K	Replace fencing at Vehicle Impound Facility



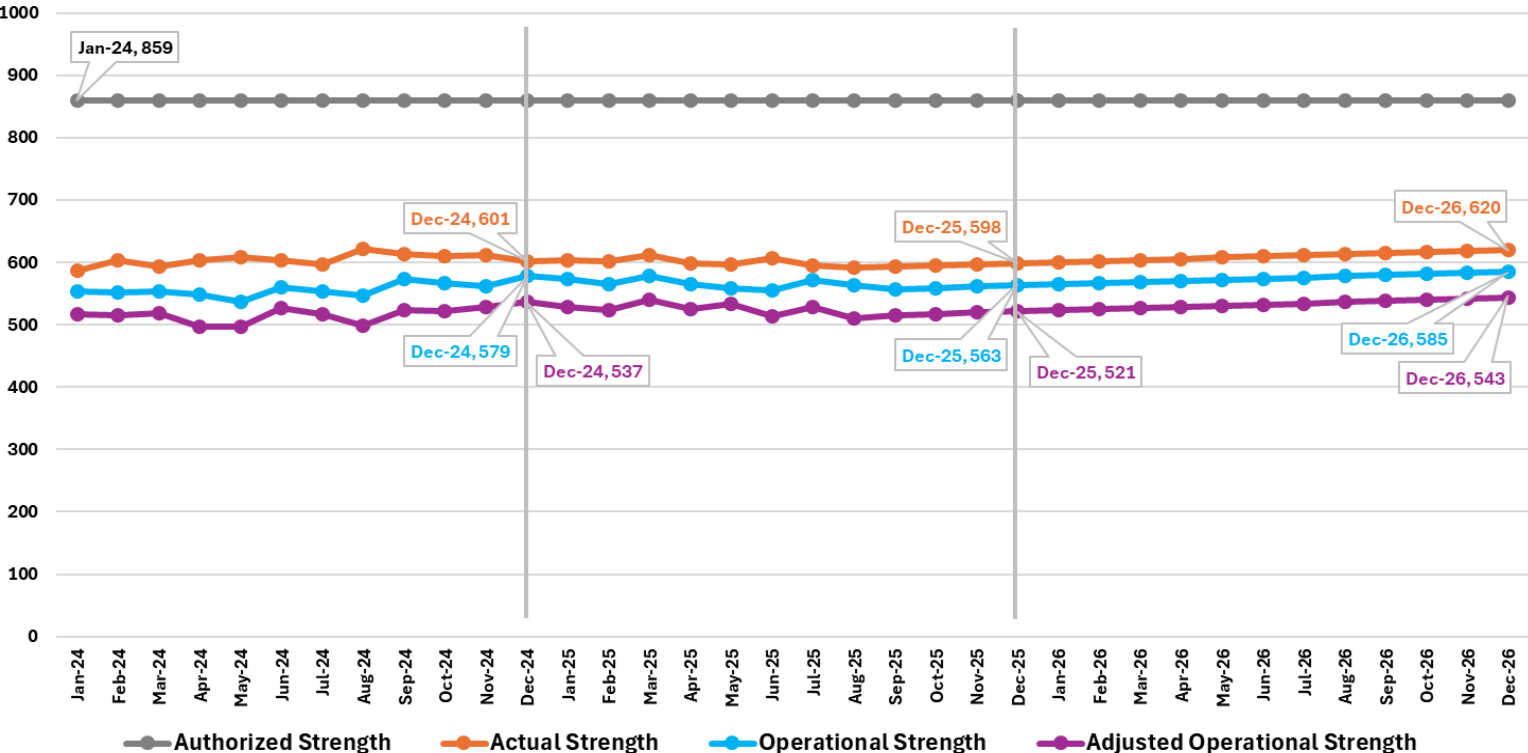
Major Agency Grants

Grant	Amount	Scope	Term
Jail Based Behavioral Services	\$1.9M	Provide funding for substance use disorders, mental health treatment, competency enhancements, jail medicated assisted treatment, and reentry coordinator services	Jul. 25 – Jun. 26
Medically Assisted Treatment	\$550K	Increase the number of incarcerated individuals with access to MAT induction or maintenance while incarcerated in DSD jail facilities.	Oct. 21 – Sep. 26
Caring For Denver	\$520K	Provide incarcerated individuals with case management and reentry services and coordinate the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) to expand and improve access to jail-based MAT continuation and induction	Aug. 22 – Jul. 25
Housing Navigation Program	\$365K	Build and strengthen relationship with community housing organizations, increase DSD capacity to identify and use available housing opportunities for releasing individuals quickly, and provide housing assistance if needed	Oct. 23 – Sep. 27
Correctional Treatment Board (CTB) Release On Demand	\$270K	Provide funding to continue on demand navigation assistance and immediate intervention services to those being released. This program helps connect individuals to services on the spot that provide immediate basic needs upon release.	Jul. 25 – Jun. 26
Sober Living Scholarship	\$150K	Provide funding (deposit and rent for targeted length of 3-6 months) to sober living programs for releasing individuals	Jul. 25 – Jun. 26



APPENDIX

DSD Uniform Staffing Optimization Chart



Authorized Strength
Total number of uniform positions approved in the budget

Actual Strength
Total number of people filling uniform positions (accounts for attrition)

Operational Strength
Total number of people filling uniform positions NOT including recruits (accounts for attrition)

Adjusted Operational Strength
Total number of people filling uniform positions NOT including recruits, modified duty, and leave (accounts for attrition)

2026 Recruiting Efforts

Cost	Description
\$2,8M	2026 - Base Recruits Academy (80 Recruits)

	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Objective
Number of budgeted recruits in given year (includes 2021 ARPA)	80	80	80	80	80
Actual recruits graduated	47	51	114	25 - YTD 80 (estimate)	80 (estimate)
Uniform attrition numbers	128	65	117	71-YTD	110 (estimate)

Equity Impact

Proper staffing levels provide a safe and secure environment for those in custody and staff. Also, provides opportunities to improve vocational and mental health outcomes via access to additional programming and recreation for people in custody.

Charter Language

§ 2.6.4 - Sheriff Department.

The Sheriff Department shall be composed of the Sheriff, who shall be nominated and, by and with the consent of City Council, appointed by the Mayor; Deputy Sheriff Division Chiefs and Deputy Sheriff Majors, all of whom shall be appointed by the Sheriff with the approval of the Manager of Safety; and Deputy Sheriffs and other employees, as may be necessary to perform the duties of the department, all of whom shall be appointed by the Manager of Safety pursuant to Career Service requirements.

The salary, benefits and other compensation of the Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff Division Chiefs, and Deputy Sheriff Majors shall be established by ordinance.

The Sheriff shall, subject to the supervision of the Manager of Safety, have full charge and custody of the jails of the city and county and the prisoners in the jails, transport prisoners, and execute writs and attend the several courts of record held in the city and county. In addition thereto, the Sheriff and the Sheriff Department shall exercise and perform the powers and duties now required or that may hereafter be required by the Constitution or the general laws of the state to be performed by the county sheriff, to the extent any such powers or duties are approved by the Manager of Safety. The Manager of Safety shall be deemed the appointing authority pursuant to Career Service requirements for purposes of hiring, discipline and termination of Deputy Sheriffs and other employees within the Sheriff Department.