

## 4.2 Law Enforcement

### 4.2.1 Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies

#### Performance Standard

Performance standards for law enforcement services in the City of Holtville include both response times and officer to population ratio.

The response times for the Holtville Police Department range from 2.0 to 2.5 minutes for a priority 1 call (life threatening or in progress) and 2.5 to 3.5 for other calls for service in the City. The City has identified one (1) sworn officer per 500 population as the performance standard for law enforcement.

#### Inventory of Existing Facilities/Personnel

The Holtville Police Department operates from of a single police station located at 222 West Fourth Street in the southwest part of the City. The current police station is inadequate to handle the personnel and equipment that are employed and utilized by the department. The police department is organized into four divisions: Administration; Patrol; Dispatch/Records; and Animal Control.

The Administration Division is headed by the Chief of Police, who is responsible for planning, organizing, staffing, direction, control, budgeting, and day-to-day operations of the department. The department operates 24-hours a day.

The Patrol Division has responsibility for crime prevention, law enforcement, traffic enforcement, special assignments, staff work and related duties. The Patrol Division is staffed with one Chief, one Sergeant, and five patrol officers.

The Dispatch/Records division consists of one full-time and nine part-time personnel. The dispatch personnel also double as records clerks. The police dispatch center also dispatches for the Holtville Fire Department, and in an emergency, dispatches the public works crews (by phone). The dispatch center is operated 24-hours a day. The dispatch center also serves as a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for the east portion of Imperial County.

The Animal Control division consists of one part-time employee. The Animal Control officer is responsible for capturing and impounding stray animals, disposing of sick, injured and dead animals, documenting animal bite cases, quarantines, liaison with humane shelters and other animal control activities and duties as assigned.

The following presents a summary of existing Police Department staffing levels:

- Sworn Officers
  - Sergeant (1)
  - Patrol Officers (5)
- Civilian Staff
  - Part-time Animal Control Officer (1)
  - Civilian Part-Time Dispatch Personnel (8)

- Reserve Officer (1)
- Executive Staff Assistant (1)

The police department under current guidelines should be staffed by 11 sworn officers, (1 officer for every 500 persons) resulting in an existing deficiency of 4 officers.

In addition to personnel, the Police Department maintains the following equipment:

- Marked patrol units (4);
- Marked animal control vehicle (1);
- Unmarked staff vehicle (1); and
- Unmarked support services vehicle (2).

The department also maintains a wide range of safety and other equipment for the employees (flashlights, weapons, radar units to bullet proof vests, etc.).

The City does not have a formal mutual aid agreement with outside agencies; however, the City maintains one contract with the Imperial County Narcotics Task Force. This service is utilized by special request and only as authorized by the Chief of Police. The Holtville Police Department has no other service contracts with any other law enforcement agency, but each agency within Imperial Valley has an informal understanding of mutual aid in case of an emergency.

The Imperial County Sheriff's Department has authority throughout the entire SOI and currently responds to calls for service. Deputies are dispatched from the main office of the Sheriff's Department, located at 328 Apple Still Road, El Centro, California. This is approximately 10 miles west of Holtville and 3 miles south of El Centro. A large portion of the SOI is undeveloped farm land or desert areas and service calls are infrequent.

Other law enforcement agencies represented in the study area include the California Highway Patrol, Imperial County Sheriff's Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Border Patrol, California Fish and Game, and various other federal, state, and local organizations.

#### Inventory of Approved Facilities/Personnel

No formal plans have been approved for the expansion of police facilities or services. The City is seeking funding for a public safety building that would combine law enforcement and fire protection services in one building, centrally located in Holtville. The project, which was originally estimated to cost \$3 million, came in during the bid process at \$4.9 million.

Currently, the City Police Department is in need of the following personnel to meet existing level of service criteria:

- Sworn Officers
  - Chief of Police (1)
  - Patrol Officer (2)
- Civilian Staff
  - Lead Dispatcher (1)
  - Reserve Officers (1)

## Year 2020 Demand Facilities and Personnel

The Year 2020 demand would affect response time performance standard by increasing the service area. Increased calls for service and demand for additional personnel is expected. The Police Department is the dispatch center for the fire department as well, and the increased area would also have some affect on the dispatch services. The impact may be minimal as the police department currently dispatches for fire and emergency medical services, and the City services the area under a contract with Imperial County.

The requirements for facilities, personnel, equipment, etc. depend on the actual development timeline for each annexation area in the SOI. As development occurs and population increases, the calls for service will increase, thus triggering the need for additional personnel and equipment. The addition of 1 officer is needed for each additional 500 persons residing in the City.

If areas within the SOI were to be annexed, the City would have to add sufficient resources to the police department in order to respond to increased demand for police services and continue to maintain the existing performance standard. The addition of more personnel would require the addition of equipment required for the employees to effectively do their jobs (more vehicles, safety equipment, communications equipment, weapons, etc.). Ten additional police officers would be needed to serve the SOI in the Year 2020, based on a ratio of 1 officer for every 500 persons.

The annexation and subsequent development of the SOI would require the addition of some new employees. The City of Holtville Police Department, under current guidelines is four officers deficient as the Department should be staffed by eleven officers (only staffed by 7 officers currently). The annexation of the SOI would increase the need for 10 additional officers (in addition to the 4 needed now). The increase of police officers, calls for service (police, fire, and public works) and the wider area of coverage would also necessitate the addition of support personnel estimated at 2-3 full-time employees.

### 4.2.2 Financing Constraints and Opportunities

The City of Holtville currently budgets approximately \$775,000 annually for police services and another \$115,000 annually in grant monies, including State COPS grant monies, for officer positions is also available.

The City charges development impact fees to new development to help defray the cost of growth. Fees are charged on a per-unit or square footage basis by land use type (**Table 4.2-1**).

Development impact fees charged to new development reflect the different costs associated with different land uses, but may not fully offset the costs incurred by the Police Department to serve new development. In the past, development impact fees were not frequently reviewed. The City plans to review development impact fees annually beginning FY 2005-2006.

Table 4.2-1  
Development Impact Fee Schedule  
Police Department

Land Use	Administrative Fees
<i>Residential (per dwelling unit)</i>	
Single-family/duplex	\$139
Multifamily	\$103
Mobile Home	\$107
<i>Non-residential (per 1,000 square feet)</i>	
Retail	\$74
Restaurants	
Sit-down	\$74
Fast food	\$74
Motel (per room)	\$74
Laundromat	\$74
Office	\$135
General industrial	\$33
Water-intensive industrial	\$33

Source: City of Holtville, 2004.

Additional sources of revenue for law enforcement facilities include general taxes (i.e., property, sales, use business license, utility user's, transient occupancy, etc.), parcel tax, and motor vehicle license fee and development impact fees and exactions. Mello-Roos community facilities taxes, parcel taxes, special taxes for law enforcement services, and other benefit assessments are other financing opportunities. The City is currently experiencing a decline in revenue from motor vehicle license fees. The State of California has cut the City's share by 15 percent over the last two-years. Moreover, the City's revenue base is decreasing due to loss or lack of new business.

As the City expands through annexation, development project applicants will be required to evaluate their project's fiscal impact on existing and future public safety services. Mitigation for these fiscal impacts will be determined on a case by case basis and may include increased development impact fees, general fund revenue, and other funding sources.

### 4.2.3 Cost Avoidance Opportunities

The Dispatch/Records division consists of one full-time and nine part-time personnel and dispatch personnel double as records clerks. The police dispatch center also dispatches for the Holtville Fire Department, serves as a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for the east portion of Imperial County, and in an emergency, dispatches the public works crews (by phone).

### 4.2.4 Opportunities for Rate Restructuring

The City does not charge direct fees for police protection services.

#### 4.2.5 Opportunities for Shared Facilities

The police dispatch center also dispatches for the Holtville Fire Department and serves as a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for the east portion of Imperial County. In an emergency, dispatches the public works crews (by phone). The construction of a public safety building that would combine law enforcement and fire protection services in one building would provide a combined facility for law enforcement and fire protection services. Lack of funds prevents the City from implementing this planned project. The long-term savings and operational efficiency of a combined public safety center would outweigh the initial costs involved with the project.

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