

What would “defunding” our police look like, and how would it work?

The Bethlehem Gadfly George Floyd killing, Police July 3, 2020

 Latest in a series of posts about the Bethlehem Police 

City of Bethlehem Final Budget 2020 **Police Department pp. 133-48**

City Council discussion of Police 2020 budget request
November 2019

Part 1

Part 2

Gadfly’s previous post in this series was about national conversation concerning defunding police departments, so he has gathered here some basic budget information that we might want to think about.

Defunding means trimming police department responsibilities and reallocating funds into social programs.

The Police Department has 154 members, with a budget (c. \$16m.) approximately 20% of the total City Budget.

Discussion at the Council budget hearing last year (links above) touched on subjects of manpower, overtime, body cameras, and so forth, and was cordial.

If there is interest now in cutting the police budget and reallocating the money, what would be cut? The size of the force? Overtime?

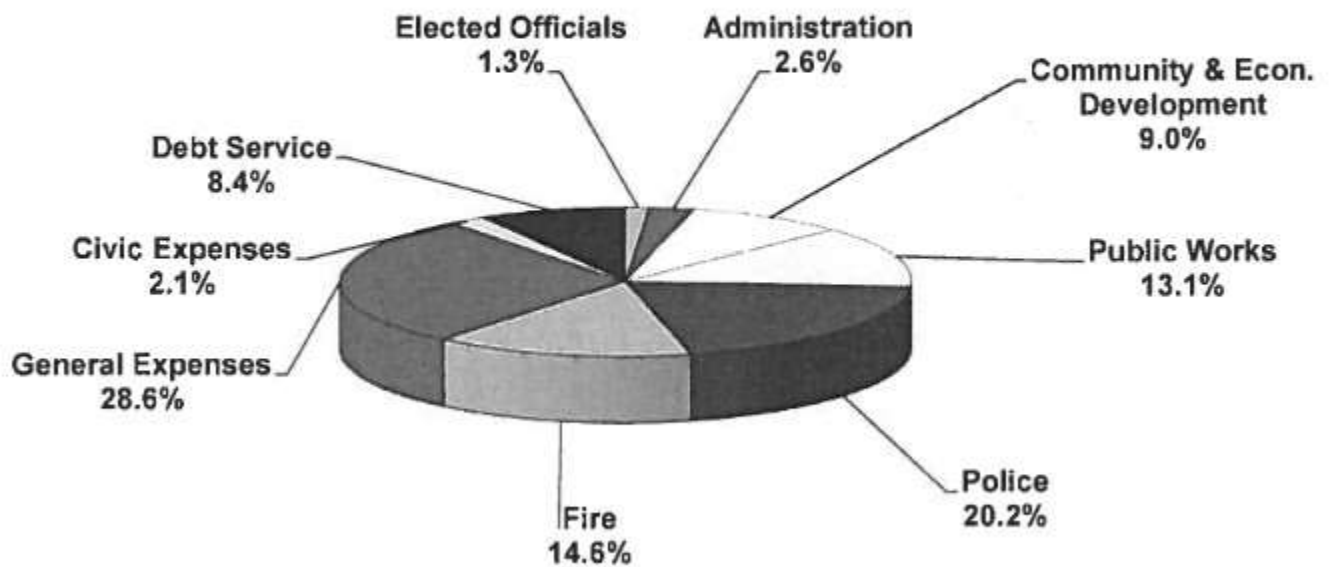
Further \$\$\$\$ figures necessary for this conversation would be 1) what we are spending now for desired social programs *in comparison to* what we are spending on police and 2) the cost of social programs that we would like to institute that we don’t have at all now.

Would, for instance, we take money from the police and transfer it to Community and Economic Development to enhance some programs already in operation and/or to initiate new programs?

Or would we cut elsewhere in the budget? Or see enhanced social programming as a justifiable reason to raise taxes?

Just trying to get a conversation started here.

General Fund Expenditures By Department



Selections from pp. 133-48 of 2020 budget (follow link above if too hard to read):

Bureau Description:

The Bethlehem Police Department is a 24 hour a day, seven day a week city service that includes Patrol, Investigation, Supervisory and Management functions. The Department provides the City with day to day police services. The Police Department is structured using a Community Police philosophy and is committed to community and police partnerships. The Police Department serves a resident population of approximately 75,000 to 80,000 people, plus a Casino Complex, multiple Industrial Parks and Universities, which add an estimated additional population of approximately 20,000 plus people per day. Our daily service population is approximately 100,000 people.

Goals and Objectives:

- Continue to lower Part 1 Crimes (violent crime) and Part II crime through the use of forensics, technology, training, multiple agency cooperation, city camera coordination, dash cam and police body cameras, our community policing philosophy and basic police procedures.
- Continuation of the Beat Program and working with City businesses and residents on the north and south side of the City in both business districts. Continue working with Lehigh University Police at our joint Southside Substation on New Street in the South Side Business District.
- Purchasing of License plate Readers for traffic control and public safety.
Completion of the CSI security plan for City Hall and all City employees.
- Updating/ Modernization of West Side and South Side substations.
- Start construction on an Animal Kennel Facility for stray dogs.
- Continuation of our feral cat program, TNR program, in the City.
- Continue to work with Northampton County 911 Center in City/County consolidation of 911 services in the City and emergency dispatch of public safety agencies.
- Continue to enhance our partnership with the community by expanding Block Watch programs, joint policing with Lehigh Police around campus, continue expanded deployment of the Mounted Unit, continue our cooperative effort with BASD of SROs to Middle and High Schools, increased Crime Prevention programs, continue the Beat Cop Program, Bike Patrol Programs, and enhance the City's camera system thru partnerships with private entities.
- Complete work on and introduction of a Surveillance Camera Registry program where citizens and businesses register the locations of their security cameras in the City so that police can utilize the footage when a crime occurs.
- Introduction of a Bicycle Registration system so that Citizens can register their bikes and their owner information will be on file with BPD in case it is stolen. This information, serial # etc., is extremely important in recovering stolen property and getting it back to its proper owner.

Prior Year Achievements:

- Since 2017, the BPD ICAC Unit (Internet Crimes against Children) continues to investigate Crimes against Children on the Internet and child abuse. This Unit is part of 61 coordinated ICAC Task Force Units from around the nation. In 2019, this Unit conducted multiple cases at the Federal, State and Local levels with several major child porn arrests and prosecutions in and out of the City. The BPD ICAC Unit is part of the FBI ICAC Task Force, State ICAC Task and Lehigh County Computer Crime Task Force. Federal and State prosecutions are made by our Unit.
- Through Friends of the Bethlehem Mounted Unit, the Mounted Unit was able to construct and open an outside training ring area at our Mounted facility with no expense to taxpayers.
- Enlargement of our Junior & Adult Citizen Police Academy programs as part of our continuous implementation & move forward with Community Policing initiatives
- Continuation of our in car video dash cameras in all City Patrol vehicles and the introduction and integration of a Police Body camera Program by all uniform members of the department.
- Start of the proposed CSI Security Plan at City Hall. These security updates will control access to all areas of City Hall and enhance personal safety in the workplace at City hall.

Personnel Detail	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2019		2020	
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget w/ Transfers	Actual & Estimated	Actual & Estimated	Final Budget		
	Number of Permanent Positions				#	Salaries	#	Salaries	#	Salaries
NC Police Chief	1	1	1	1	1	108,183	1	108,183	1	111,261
NC Deputy Police Chief	1	1	1	1	1	102,853	1	102,853	1	105,191
FOP Captain	2	3	3	3	3	304,919	3	304,919	3	309,409
FOP Lieutenant	5	6	6	6	6	556,513	6	556,513	6	574,415
FOP Detective/Sergeant	22	22	22	22	23	1,958,366	23	1,958,366	23	2,033,891
FOP Police Officer	120	120	120	120	120	8,720,719	120	8,726,719	120	8,950,287
Total Positions	154	153	153	153	154	11,785,530	154	11,785,533	154	12,084,454
Vacancy Factor						(100,000)		(100,000)		(100,000)
						11,685,530		11,685,533		11,984,454

Account Detail	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019	2020
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget w/ Transfers	Actual & Estimated	Final Budget
40001 SALARIES	10,144,762	10,867,045	10,870,829	10,346,347	11,288,233	11,288,233	11,814,454
40002 LONGEVITY	399,400	418,600	423,100	409,500	397,300	397,300	370,000
4000383 FBI OVERTIME	38,249	25,032	18,154	17,087	18,000	17,000	18,000
4000384 LCB O/T GRANT-LEHIGH	25,405	16,839	12,718	-	20,000	15,000	20,000
4000390 DEA-TASK FORCE OVERTIME	13,833	21,219	14,802	20,490	18,000	17,800	18,000
4000391 TASK FORCE OVERTIME	349	11,742	10,020	12,894	20,000	15,000	20,000
4000392 GENERAL OVERTIME	252,140	240,882	365,092	428,906	255,000	525,000	220,000
4000393 CORRG OVERTIME	1,900	11,947	13,921	2,819	57,000	30,000	80,000
4000394 DUI OVERTIME	33,164	54,265	32,503	34,518	40,000	35,000	40,000
4000395 MUSIKFEST OVERTIME	133,474	133,692	142,874	174,190	140,000	171,200	170,000
4000396 SPECIAL EVENT OVERTIME	169,906	83,059	85,504	84,222	100,000	70,000	80,000
4000398 SEAT BELT HIGHWAY SAFETY	13,712	15,570	18,872	19,897	17,000	15,000	17,000
4000399 LV AUTO THEFT TASK O/T	10,029	15,785	8,717	9,140	16,000	11,000	16,000
40004 TEMPORARY HELP	285,189	355,827	301,458	294,657	314,300	300,000	336,500
40005 HOLIDAY PAY	585,859	667,814	574,463	604,704	640,000	635,000	655,000
40006 DIFFERENTIAL PAY	53,471	54,983	52,492	50,172	55,000	52,000	55,000
40007 ROSTER DUTY	138,544	330,302	272,589	253,392	200,000	185,000	200,000
40011 EDUCATION INCENT BONUS	72,947	77,296	70,369	194,175	95,500	95,000	95,500
40012 HEARING TIME	154,039	149,318	135,935	115,613	150,000	135,000	135,000
Personnel	12,526,782	13,448,497	13,204,438	12,955,613	13,842,333	14,009,233	14,135,454

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019	2020
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget w/ Transfers	Actual & Estimated	Final Budget
41014 OPERATING SUPPLIES	60,618	63,628	56,513	60,510	77,700	70,000	62,500
41016 UNIFORMS/SAFETY SHOES	132,984	137,058	169,052	165,690	181,900	170,000	162,900
41018 IDENTIFICATION	23,658	23,549	20,400	24,058	22,600	20,000	23,700
41019 RECRUITMENT EXP-GRANT	8,600	17,200	25,800	68,747	71,000	70,000	35,000
41023 GASOLINE	141,996	122,363	136,276	155,793	150,000	150,000	150,000
41025 POSTAGE	4,107	-	-	-	-	-	-
41026 MUNITIONS	74,630	67,871	68,275	95,191	96,200	96,200	96,200
Materials & Supplies	446,593	431,669	476,316	569,989	599,400	576,200	530,300
42032 TRAINING/CONT. EDUCATION	19,671	21,444	27,721	24,650	25,000	25,000	25,000
42036 COMMUNICATIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,000
42047 DEPARTMENT CONTRACTS	96,955	83,089	96,129	137,019	166,462	160,000	162,817
420472 CALEA/PLEAC ACCREDIT	5,291	6,872	6,270	5,630	7,100	6,000	7,100
42049 REFUNDS	227	138	20	156	500	250	500
42060 OTHER EXPENSES	12,667	19,561	23,325	22,735	17,600	17,000	16,600
42064 EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	6,998	12,262	5,136	7,756	6,500	6,000	8,000
42165 DUI GRANT	928	1,346	3,996	829	1,500	1,000	1,500
42166 JAG-JUSTICE ASSIST GRANT	21,702	26,480	19,090	6,098	33,922	25,000	45,319
Purchased Services	164,339	171,192	181,687	204,873	258,584	240,250	292,836
43099 EQUIPMENT	194,707	122,249	166,478	206,739	250,550	245,750	273,836
Equipment	194,707	122,249	166,478	206,739	250,550	245,750	273,836
Total	13,332,421	14,173,607	14,028,919	13,947,214	14,950,867	15,071,433	15,232,426

The Bethlehem Gadfly