State of Public Safety at Bakersfield College

Significant Outcomes: Impact of Enhanced Community Policing

To reach the goal of increased presence and effectiveness on campus, the department shifted to an enhanced community policing model which bore an immediate impact on interactions with the Campus Safety Officers and the college community. Officers walked through assigned campus buildings three times each shift and began to build relationships with staff and students in those locations. Officers worked with staff in their assigned buildings to solve problems and address any concerns in their area. Officers were also assigned one eight-hour shift each week to walk the interior of the campus and buildings not only for high profile visibility but to interact with the community as a whole. These officer assignments complemented the cadet program in which the department’s cadets perform high-visibility interior campus patrols. The enhanced community policing of the interior of campus of officers and cadets has increased the feeling of more officers on campus but did not diminish the parking lot patrols to prevent vehicle thefts or vehicle break-ins due to the scheduling of officers rotating in and out of the interior of the campus. Officers spent an average of 198 hours each month on community policing of the interior of campus and building relationships with students and staff.

Budget Impact: Slight Increase

Department overtime budget is $62,000 per year. Last year we paid out over $160,000 in overtime. Due to the mission of the department and staffing needs, we obtained additional monies to cover the overtime. The overtime budget should be increased an additional $100,000 per year so the department can cover the costs out of its own budget.

Operational Cost: Increasing the Cost per Student

Fiscal Year 2016-17 student population of 31,000 related to a cost per student of general fund monies of $42.15 and an RP500 cost of $39.59 per student. The 2017-18 general fund costs were $51.26 per student and RP500 $48.16 per student (see graph below).
With the increasing student population and the rural initiatives program growing in scope at Bakersfield College, the cost factor will continue to grow by about $10 per student per year respectively. Additional sites that are staffed off campus, such as Arvin set to come online in two years, along with the increasing number of students on the main campus, will continue increase these costs. Campus Safety is underfunded when it comes to staffing levels. The main campus staffing levels need to be increased by four to five officers to catch up with the increased number of students serves on campus and to address the additional campus sites we serve now or will serve in the near future. The continued growth is taxing our availability to cover overtime shifts, which last year exceeded $160,000.