



**TO:** Cuyahoga County Council

**FROM:** Lindy Burt, Interim Director  
Department of Public Safety & Justice Services (PSJS)

**DATE:** November 4, 2021

**RE:** PSJS 2022-2023 Budget Overview

Per 202.12 of the Cuyahoga County Code, the Department of Public Safety and Justice Services is comprised of five operational Divisions: Administration, Fiscal and Grant Services, Cuyahoga Emergency Communications System (CECOMS), Emergency Management, and Witness Victim Services. The Department also partners with the City of Cleveland's Department of Public Safety in operating the Northeast Ohio Regional Fusion Center and, under the organizational umbrella of Witness Victim, the Family Justice Center.

Department operations are supported by the General Fund, the Health and Human Services Levy Fund, a Special Revenue Fund (Wireless 9-1-1 Government Assistance Fund, administered by the State of Ohio), and various state and federal grant programs.

Any differential between the recommended 2022-2023 and the 2020-2021 budget is related to the staffing levels that existed at the time each budget was prepared. In comparison to the prior fiscal period, the recommended budget does not impose any significant funding reductions. The only program or service elimination that has occurred across the two budgets is the discontinuation of police and fire dispatching services in CECOMS. The agency continues to serve as the only Wireless 9-1-1 public safety answering point in the County.

Special initiatives included in the 2022-2023 Recommended Budget include:

- Assessment of the countywide emergency communications system
- Provision of local match on a FEMA grant awarded to the Cuyahoga County Fire Chief's Association for a command vehicle to be shared amongst the County's Fire Departments
- Completion of a strategic planning process on the potential for operational collaboration between the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Family Justice Center and non-profit Child Advocacy Center
- Completion of the Rescue Task Force Training Program for municipal police and fire departments
- Continuation of Camp Hope in 2022, but the program would be supported by County funds due to reduction of our Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) award, which previously supported the initiative

The Department has no concerns with the 2022-2023 recommended budget, nor additional requests for funding at this time.