



# AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Control: 26001269

**MEETING DATE:** 06/23/2026

**LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION:** Board of Supervisors

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S):** District 2

**SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** Sheriff-Coroner

**DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S):** Cory Martino, 714-647-1817  
Thomas Graham, 714-647-1854.

**SUBJECT:** City of Santa Ana for Helicopter Services

<b>CEO CONCUR</b>	<b>COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW</b>	<b>CLERK OF THE BOARD</b>
Concur	Approve agreement to form	CONSENT CALENDAR 3 Votes Board Majority

<b>Budgeted:</b> N/A	<b>Current Year Cost:</b> N/A	<b>Annual Cost:</b> FY 2026-27 \$221,080 FY 2027-28 \$221,080 FY 2028-29 \$221,080
----------------------	-------------------------------	---

<b>Staffing Impact:</b> No	<b>Funding Source:</b> Other: City of Santa Ana : 100%	<b>Sole Source:</b> No
<b>Current Fiscal Year Revenue:</b> N/A		<b>County Audit in Last 3 years:</b> No

**Levine Act Review Completed?** N/A

**Prior Board Action:** 6/27/2023 #11, 5/19/2020 #8, 6/27/2017 #13, 6/17/2014 #4

**RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):**

1. Find that the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Class 21 (Enforcement Actions by Regulatory Agencies), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15321.
2. Approve and execute of the Contract for Law Enforcement Helicopter Services between the City of Santa Ana and the County of Orange, commencing on July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029, including the FY 2026-27 amount of \$221,080, for 100 annual flight hours, and \$2,211 per hour for flight hours in excess of 100.
3. Authorize the Sheriff-Coroner, or designee, to execute annual written amendments to the Contract for Law Enforcement Helicopter Services that amend the Annual Flight Hours, Cost and Payment sections of the Contract and Exhibit A.

**SUMMARY:**

Approval of the Contract for Law Enforcement Helicopter Services between the City of Santa Ana and the County of Orange will allow the Sheriff-Coroner Department to provide aviation support for the City of Santa Ana.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In 2011, the City of Santa Ana selected the Sheriff-Coroner Department’s (Sheriff) Air Support Bureau for the provision of contract law enforcement helicopter services.

The table below details the recent contract history with City of Santa Ana for these services.

<b>Board of Supervisors (Board) Approval Date</b>	<b>Agreement Term</b>	<b>Agreement Amount</b>	<b>Comments</b>
6/17/14	7/1/14 - 6/30/17	\$370,884.00	Approved three-year Contract.
6/27/17	7/1/17 - 6/30/20	\$421,195.40	Approved three-year Contract and defined the types of calls for helicopter service that are deemed Countywide service under Board Resolution #89-1160. This Resolution defines Sheriff’s services that are provided to all Orange County cities, whether or not they are contract cities, at no additional cost to the cities.
5/19/20	7/1/20 - 6/30/23	\$443,548	Approved three-year Contract and defined the types of calls for helicopter service that are deemed Countywide service under Board Resolution #89-1160. This Resolution defines Sheriff’s services that are provided to all Orange County cities, at no additional cost to the cities.
6/27/23	7/1/23 – 6/30/26	\$539,303	Board approved a three-year Contract.

The proposed new contract is for a three-year term and includes annual flight hours and costs for FY 2026-27. The Agreement provides for 100 annual flight hours/16 minutes per day average flight time at a cost of \$221,080, for the term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Additional flight hours can be provided if requested by the City, at the rate of \$2,211 per hour. Rate increase is due to the significant increase in fuel costs. For each subsequent year of this contract, a written amendment will be executed to amend the Annual Flight Hours, Cost, and Payment sections of the contract and Exhibit A of the contract. The cost reflects full cost recovery to the County related to the provision of helicopter services to the City and accounts for salaries and employee benefits, including the potential for future salary and benefit increases that the County may incur; division, department and Countywide Cost Allocation Plan (CWCAP) overhead; and services and supplies that includes equipment depreciation, fuel, property and liability insurance and helicopter repair and maintenance.

Pursuant to the proposed contract, Sheriff will provide airborne patrol services over the City and the City can also request air support services for specific incidents or special assignments. Sheriff's Air Support Bureau will have sole discretion to determine the priority of calls for service and when an air crew's assignment to a service call will be terminated. The County will provide the City with a monthly statement detailing all calls for service and time spent on routine patrol over the City's jurisdiction. Flight hours that are deemed County wide service will not be counted towards the contracted flight hours per year. The City Council has agendized the approval of the contract at its June 16, 2026, meeting.

Sheriff now requests Board approval to authorize the Sheriff-Coroner or designee to execute amendments to the contract for the second and third year of the contract (FYs 2027-28 and 2028-29), updating the Annual Flight Hours, Cost and Payment sections of the contract and Exhibit A of the contract.

The County may, upon 30-days' prior written notice, adjust the hourly rate based on the actual operating costs and the average time per call. Either party may terminate the agreement without cause upon 30-days' prior written notice.

The Sheriff law enforcement contracts have been reorganized to simplify amendments, eliminate duplicative references, and make the document easier to navigate. Contract language was revised to make the contract more readable and codify the Sheriffs' and the Cities' current practices. The Sheriff also updated the indemnity provision in the contract to better align with the County's standard indemnity clause.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Revenue received from City of Santa Ana for this contract will be included in Fund 13R, Sheriff-Coroner Replacement and Maintenance (SCRAM) for the FY 2026-27 Budget. This revenue will reimburse 100 percent of the costs related to services provided pursuant to this contract. Either party may terminate the contract without cause upon 30-days' prior written notice.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

N/A

**REVIEWING AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS:**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A - Contract with City of Santa Ana for Law Enforcement Helicopter Services