



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Control: 26001608

MEETING DATE: 09/15/2026
LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION: Board of Supervisors
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S): All Districts
SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Sheriff-Coroner
DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S): Brian Wayt, 714-647-1803
Deena Fulghum, 714-834-6681

SUBJECT: Approve an Increase in False Alarm Fee

CEO CONCUR

Concur

COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW

Approve resolution to form

CLERK OF THE BOARD

PUBLIC HEARINGS

3 Votes Board Majority

Budgeted: Yes

Current Year Cost: N/A

Annual Cost: N/A

Staffing Impact: No

Sole Source: No

Current Fiscal Year

Funding Source: Other (Fees): 100%

County Audit in Last 3

Revenue: \$15,594

years: No

Levine Act Review

Completed? N/A

Prior Board Action: 6/24/2025 #79, 9/12/2017 #36, 12/16/2008 #55, 8/22/2000 #94

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Conduct the public hearing.
2. Adopt a Resolution that:
 - a. Finds that adoption of the Resolution approving the fee is statutorily exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 21080(b)(8) of the Public Resources Code and Section 15273 of the CEQA Guidelines as the establishment or modification of rates, fees and charges which are for the purpose of meeting operating expenses, including employee wage rates and fringe benefits, and purchasing or leasing supplies, equipment or materials.
 - b. Finds that the fee meets the requirements set forth in subdivision (e)(2) to Section 1 of Article XIIC of the California Constitution, and is therefore exempt from the definition of a tax as used therein.

- c. Finds that the revenue resulting from the fee established pursuant to this Resolution will not exceed the Sheriff-Coroner Department's reasonable cost to respond to the third and subsequent false alarm at the same business or residence within a calendar year, or an intentionally set false alarm.
- d. Approves the proposed increase in the fee for the Sheriff-Coroner Department's response to the third and subsequent false alarm at the same residence or business within a calendar year, or any intentionally set false alarm, from \$209 to \$226, effective upon Board approval.
- e. Authorizes Sheriff to make an annual fee change effective July 1st of each year, starting in 2027, that adjusts the fees set forth in this Resolution, by an amount not to exceed the annual percentage of the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim "all items" Consumer Price Index, provided that the amount does not exceed the Sheriff's costs as determined by additional cost studies prepared for the fee adjustment.
- f. Approves that this Resolution supersedes Resolution No. 25-081.

SUMMARY:

Approval of the revised fee will allow the Sheriff-Coroner Department to fully recover the costs of responding to the third and subsequent false alarm at the same residence or business within a calendar year, or for an intentionally set false alarm.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On April 20, 1988, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted Resolution No. 88-527 establishing a \$30 fee to be charged for responding to security system false alarms. The fee is charged when the Sheriff-Coroner Department (Sheriff) responds to the third and subsequent false alarm at the same residence or business in the unincorporated areas, within the same calendar year, or when a false alarm is intentionally set. The fees are established pursuant to Orange County Ordinance Nos. 5-3-307 and 5-3-308.

The Board has approved the following fee increases:

Date	Fee	Resolution No.
February 26, 1991	\$56	91-179
August 22, 2000	\$64	00-336
December 16, 2008	\$85	08-157
July 28, 2020	\$141	20-106
June 24, 2025	\$209	25-081

A cost study was recently prepared by Sheriff's staff to determine the current cost to the Sheriff when responding to false alarms. The cost study indicated the fee at \$226 per occurrence will allow full cost recovery for this service. It is estimated that the increased fee will result in additional revenue in the amount of \$1,212 per year.

Approval of an annual fee change effective July 1st of each year, starting in 2027, that adjusts the fees set forth in this Resolution, by an amount not to exceed the annual percentage of the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim “all items” Consumer Price Index (“CPI”), provided that the amount does not exceed the Sheriff’s costs as determined by additional cost studies prepared for the fee adjustment will assist with cost recovery. It is possible that the CPI adjustment may not result in the full cost recovery to the Sheriff, but the difference may be recovered in the cost of bringing a fee change to the Board. In the event that the difference is significant, the Sheriff still has the option to bring the change to the Board for approval.

A Notice of Public Hearing has been published to comply with Government Code Section 66018 and 6026a, which requires a local agency to hold a public hearing when new fees are adopted or existing fees are increased. The proposed fee and supporting cost study were reviewed by the Auditor-Controller.

Compliance with Proposition 26: The fee does not fall within the definition of a “tax” under Proposition 26 because it is excepted by California Constitution Article XIII C, Section 1, Subdivision (e)(2). Subdivision (e)(2) excepts from the definition of a tax, “a charge imposed for a specific government service or product provided directly to the payor that is not provided to those not charged, and which does not exceed the reasonable costs to the local government of providing the service or product.” This exception applies because the fee amount is limited to no more than what is necessary for the Sheriff to recover the reasonable costs in responding to false alarms.

Compliance with CEQA: The adoption of the Resolution approving the fee is statutorily exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 21080(b)(8) of the Public Resources Code and Section 15273 of the CEQA Guidelines as the establishment or modification of rates, fees and charges which are for the purpose of meeting operating expenses, including employee wage rates and fringe benefits and purchasing or leasing supplies, equipment or materials.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The proposed fee increase to \$226 will result in full cost recovery of the costs of responding to false alarms for 2026. This revenue is included in the FY 2026-27 Budget for Budget Control 060, Sheriff-Coroner and will be included in the budgeting process for future fiscal years.

STAFFING IMPACT:

N/A

REVIEWING AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A - Draft Resolution

Attachment B - Government Code Section 66018

Attachment C - Government Code Section 6062a

Attachment D - California Constitution Article XIII C, Section 1

Attachment E - Orange County Codified Ordinances, Sections 5-3-307 and 5-3-308

Attachment F - Section 21080(b)(8) of the Public Resources Code

Attachment G - Fee Checklist and Cost Study

Attachment H - Notice of Public Hearing