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Mid-Year Report: SDPD Brings Overtime on Budget

DEPARTMENT SIGNIFICANTLY CURBS OVERAGES, BRINGING OVERTIME SPENDING IN LINE WITH FISCAL GOALS

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Police Department (SDPD) announced today that it expects to meet its Fiscal Year 2026 overtime budget, a first in more than a decade.

Presented today at the City Council's Budget & Government Efficiency Committee Meeting, the FY2026 Mid-Year Budget Monitoring Report projects SDPD's non-cost-recoverable overtime to be in budget. Although the monitoring report noted \$3.4 million in overages, these can largely be attributed to reimbursable activities such as special events, increased traffic enforcement, and reimbursable grant work.

"This reduction didn't happen by chance. We knew that if we were going to cut overtime costs, we needed to take a hard look at how we track and manage those funds," Police Chief Scott Wahl said. "This progress reflects months of planning, discipline and oversight by all of our command staff. I am grateful to have a team that is committed to being fiscally responsible while continuing to provide the highest level of service to San Diegans."

Over the course of FY2026, the Department has worked to reduce and rein in overtime expenses by implementing tighter oversight, creating a dedicated team to prioritize scheduled staffing coverage, and making data-driven decisions for how overtime is assigned across the various police units.

"This administration has prioritized fiscal discipline across City departments, and SDPD's progress in controlling overtime, which has historically been one of the most challenging expense categories, is emblematic of that," Mayor Todd Gloria said. "I commend Chief Wahl and his team at SDPD for managing their budget wisely, especially during this critical budget time."

If mid-year projections hold steady and barring any unforeseen events in San Diego requiring Police overtime, this would be the first time in over a decade that the department has seen a year-over-year

decrease in overtime expenditures. FY2021 is noted as an outlier year due to the global pandemic. See the table below for a breakdown:

Fiscal Year	Adopted Budget	Actuals
2017	\$ 20,997,071	\$ 26,037,390
2018	\$ 26,321,017	\$ 29,695,922
2019*	\$ 24,570,000	\$ 31,939,140
2020*	\$ 32,062,338	\$ 44,829,442
2021*	\$ 38,104,813	\$ 37,246,028
2022	\$ 30,678,213	\$ 40,906,561
2023	\$ 40,162,474	\$ 50,818,779
2024	\$ 49,337,051	\$ 57,260,763
2025	\$ 46,373,409	\$ 55,155,063
2026**	\$ 45,264,269	\$ 48,619,500 (<i>projected</i>)

*Includes General Fund and Seized Assets Funds.

**Actuals are assumed based on the FY2026 Mid-Year Projection

This achievement is part of Chief Wahl's commitment to run the department efficiently and effectively.

SDPD continues to be one of the lowest-staffed big city police departments relative to population, making overtime a critical resource. Overtime is relied upon to sustain service levels, maintain response times, and support special operations. SDPD is focused on using resources responsibly while not sacrificing public safety.

For more information, review the [FY2026 Mid-Year Budget Monitoring Report](#).

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