

Background

The City of Albuquerque is requesting the state to invest \$20 million in an overtime fund to tackle a major backlog of felony arrests statewide, with \$10 million dedicated to support APD, BCSO, Bernalillo County, State Police Metro Operations, DA, and Metro and District courts. The Albuquerque Metropolitan area (Bernalillo County) has 5332 outstanding felony warrants and over 62,000 outstanding misdemeanor warrants including 35 active homicide warrants as of January 6. APD is dedicated to the creation of a multi-agency task force of officers that will identify and arrest violent individuals with warrants. The majority of individuals arrested for new crimes have one or more outstanding warrants at the time of arrest. In addition to APD, BCSO Sheriff John Allen, District Attorney Sam Bregman, and US Marshal Sonya Chavez support the request.

At a meeting with U.S. Marshals Service Director Ronald L. Davis, all partners expressed the need for funding to support clearing the backlog. Others in attendance were State Police Chief Tim Johnson, BCSO Sheriff John Allen, U.S. Marshal for the District of New Mexico Sonya K. Chavez, and U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico Alex Ubaldez. This fund would be used to support the personnel overtime needed to reduce the backlog, without having an impact on the number of officers in the field.

Chief Medina has said, "We need to be bold think outside of the box to clear these warrants. These drivers of crime need to be in jail, not roaming the streets and thinking nobody is looking for them."

"The MCI door has been opened, and the Sheriff's Office is happy to walk through that door with our partners, to work together to fix a broken criminal justice system and make our community safe," said BCSO Sheriff John Allen. "Investments in technology and our officers will help us make a difference in Bernalillo County."

"Dealing with the warrant backlog will have an immediate and profound effect on crime in ABQ," said District Attorney Sam Bregman. "I cannot imagine anything more important than spending the necessary resources to go after violent criminals. My advice to anyone with a felony warrant: save some time and turn yourself in."

Projects Highlights

Total Requested
Amount

\$20M

Total Project Cost
(for CABQ)

\$10M

Current Project Status

Phase I: Planning

Project Timeline

Spring 2023

City Department

Albuquerque Police
Department (APD)

Category

Operations

Project Contact

Issac Padilla

E: iepadilla@cabq.gov

P: 505-717-5315