



# COUNTY OF SONOMA

575 ADMINISTRATION  
DRIVE, ROOM 102A  
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

## SUMMARY REPORT

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**Agenda Date:** 3/24/2026

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**To:** Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

**Department or Agency Name(s):** County Executive's Office

**Staff Name and Phone Number:** M. Christina Rivera, Andrew McLaughlin, 707-565-3776

**Vote Requirement:** Majority

**Supervisorial District(s):** Countywide

**Title:**

Consolidated Fee Hearing - FY 26-27 Fees for County Executive's Office

**Recommended Action:**

Adopt a Resolution setting the contingent Criminal Justice Administrative Fee at \$282.17 per applicable booking and setting the Jail Access Fee at \$1,511.85 per applicable non-felony booking, effective July 1, 2026.

**Executive Summary:**

Government Code Section 29551 authorizes the County to collect a Criminal Justice Administrative Fee, also known as a Jail Booking Fee, only if state Public Safety Realignment revenue allocated for this purpose is less than \$35 million statewide (Sonoma County's share is \$791,066) in a given fiscal year. While the county anticipates statewide Public Safety Realignment funding in Fiscal Year 2026-27 will meet the \$35 million threshold, per the Governor's Proposed Budget released on January 10, 2026, approval of this contingent fee would position the county to charge arresting agencies in the event of a funding shortfall. The Board of Supervisors is requested to increase the contingent Criminal Justice Administrative Fee from \$270.52 to \$282.17, an increase of \$11.65, or 4.3%. This increase is statutorily set with annual increases limited to the California Consumer Price Index (CPI) as verified by the State Board of Equalization, plus 1%.

The intent of the Jail Access Fee ("JAF") is to incentivize arresting agencies to minimize unnecessary arrests, reduce pressure on jail capacity, and provide space for serious offenders, and foster development of local alternatives to deal with non-violent, less serious offenders. The JAF may only be charged to agencies for certain identified non-felony bookings if the arresting agency exceeds their three-year moving average for these types of bookings (recalculated in July of each year). The JAF cannot be billed to individuals. The recommended action increases the JAF from \$1,136 to \$1,511.85, an increase of \$375.85 or 33.1%, to account for the Sheriff's Office booking operations cost increases, which are described in detail below.

**Discussion:**

Criminal Justice Administrative Fee Calculation

Assembly Bill 1805 (2006) amended Government Code Section 29550, and added GC Sections 29551 and 29552, to address the costs associated with booking arrestees of other agencies into county jails. Pursuant to this legislation, if the State appropriates \$35 million in the Enhancing Law Enforcement Activities Subaccount (Local Law Enforcement Services Account-Local Revenue Fund 2011) to directly fund counties for the cost of jail bookings, a county may not levy a booking fee. In accordance with GC Section 29552, Sonoma County's

apportionment of the total annual \$35 million budgeted statewide is \$791,066. To comply with State law, the Sheriff's Office deposits these funds in a Special Revenue Fund, which in turn reimburses detention operations costs in the General Fund. However, if in subsequent years, less than the full \$35 million is allocated in the state budget for all counties, local arresting agencies would be required to pay the portion of the booking fee equal to the proportion that the appropriated amount is less than \$35 million, as long as the Board maintains and updates this fee. Effective July 1, 2021, Assembly Bill 1869 amended and repealed portions of GC 29550 to prohibit the County, or any arresting agency, from recovering the contingent Criminal Administrative Fee from convicted individuals.

The Criminal Justice Administrative Fee, also known as the Jail Booking Fee, is statutorily set with annual increases limited to the California Consumer Price Index, plus 1.0%. This methodology has been in place since 2006 and established in Government Code Section 29551. Based on the State Department of Equalization's 2026-27 property tax letter to assessors, the CPI increase is 3.307%. After factoring in the additional 1.0% increase allowed above the annual CPI inflation rate, the overall proposed fee increase for FY 2026-27 equates to 4.3%.

#### Jail Access Fee Calculation

The Jail Access Fee ("JAF") may only be charged to agencies for certain non-felony bookings if the arresting agency exceeds its three-year average for these types of bookings. According to the legislation, the JAF applies to bookings for municipal code violations and misdemeanor violations, except for driving under the influence and domestic violence misdemeanor offenses, including enforcement of protective orders. The Sheriff's Office notifies arresting agencies of their rolling averages in July of each year and provides actual arrest numbers monthly to help arresting agencies manage their costs for optional bookings. The JAF may not exceed the actual cost of booking an arrested person.

The current Board-approved JAF was established as \$1,136 effective July 1, 2025. For the coming year FY 26-27, staff recommend updating this fee to \$1,511.85 per applicable booking.

The increase from FY 25-26, is due to increases in the cost of salaries and benefits, and changes in methodology to correctly capture the portion of indirect costs that are applicable to booking operations which were not incorporated into the fee in prior years. The proposed fee for FY 26-27 now includes the portion of time that staff in Central Control in the Main Adult Detention Facility are involved in booking operations, and that portion of time in which movement deputies are involved in the escort of inmates from booking to their holding cells, which had been excluded in prior years to control increases. The Auditor-Controller-Treasurer Tax Collector's office developed the methodology for this calculation, in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office. The methodology and calculations for this fee are included in the attachments to this item.

#### **Strategic Plan:**

N/A

#### **Racial Equity:**

#### **Was this item identified as an opportunity to apply the Racial Equity Toolkit?**

No

**Prior Board Actions:**

March 25, 2025 - Board adopts the criminal justice administrative fee and jail access fee for FY 25-26. Each year since FY 90-91, the Board has set the Criminal Justice Administrative Fee.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>FY 25-26 Adopted</b>	<b>FY 26-27 Projected</b>	<b>FY 27-28 Projected</b>
Budgeted Expenses		\$9,020	
Additional Appropriation Requested			
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>\$9,020</b>	
<b>Funding Sources</b>			
General Fund/WA GF			
State/Federal			
Fees/Other		\$9,020	
Use of Fund Balance			
General Fund Contingencies			
<b>Total Sources</b>		<b>\$9,020</b>	

**Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:**

The Criminal Justice Administrative Fee is only billable to arresting agencies if the state does not fully fund the booking fee allocation through Public Safety Realignment. The County projects that the full funding threshold will be met in 26-27, so no revenue associated with the assessment of this fee is projected.

Sheriff’s Office staff have observed a marked decrease in the number of bookings that exceed local law enforcement agency 3-year averages, so for FY 26-27, with a projected number of 24 arresting agency Jail Access Fee billings, and an updated fee of \$1,511.85, it is estimated that \$36,284 will be received in FY 26-27 based on the proposed rate. This equates to an estimated revenue increase of \$9,020 when compared to an estimated 24 fee billings at the current rate of \$1,136. Actual revenue will only be received if bookings exceed three-year averages.

**Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):**

N/A

**Attachments:**

1. Board of Equalization CPI Letter to Assessors, 1-13-26
2. Criminal Justice Administrative Fee Historical Table and Analysis, FY 26-27
3. JAF Three-Year Average - Projected Revenue for FY 26-27
4. Budget Resolution

**Related Items “On File” with the Clerk of the Board:**

1. Sheriff Jail Access Fee Analysis for FY 26-27