DALLAS COUNTY
OFFICE OF BUDGET AND EVALUATION

August 12, 2026

TO: Dallas County Commissioners Court
Dallas County Constables

THROUGH: Dr. Ronica Watkins, Budget Officer

FROM: Alexis Calloway, Senior Budget and Policy Analyst

SUBJECT: FY2027 Analysis of Constable Staffing and Budgets

BACKGROUND

In FY2025, Dallas County partnered with the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) Urban Studies College to conduct a comprehensive staffing evaluation. The purpose of the study was to update the staffing methodology by incorporating factors such as the types of papers served, the average time required for service, and the broader range of duties performed by deputy constables beyond civil paper delivery. This collaboration provided an evidence-based framework for assessing staffing needs across all precincts.

Part One of the UTA study analyzed standard papers (Types 1 and 2). According to the study, deputies in Precinct 3 and Precinct 5 each carried a workload far above the countywide benchmark. Due to this finding Precinct 3 was allocated three (3) additional deputies and Precinct Five was allocated one (1) additional deputy in FY2026. The FY2027 Proposed Budget maintains these staffing levels, with no increase in staffing, as noted in the summary table below.

FY2027 CONSTABLE STAFFING

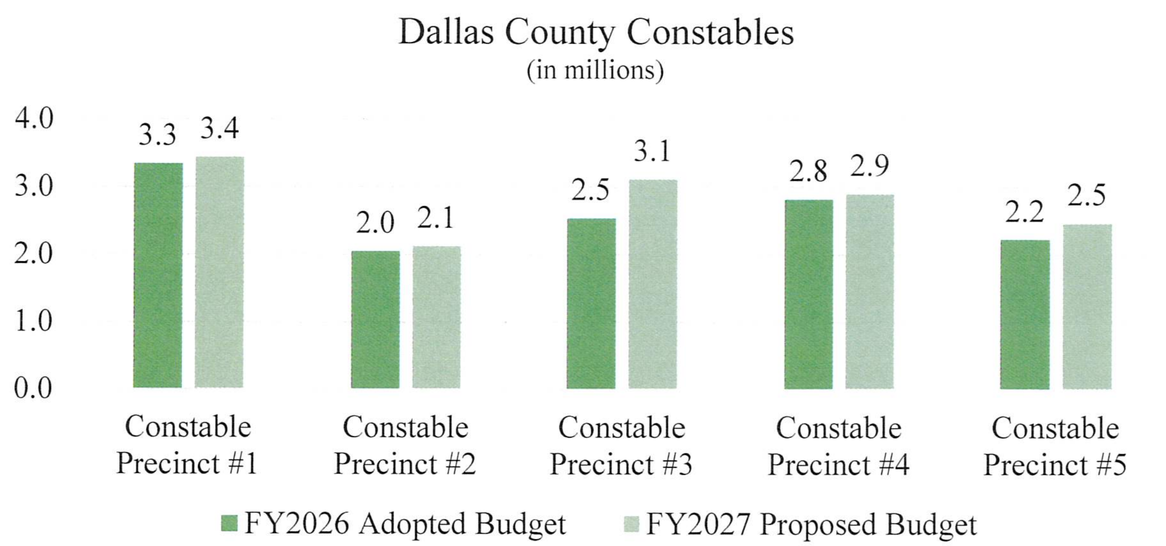
Constable, Precinct	FY26 Staffing	FY27 Staffing	Difference
Constable Gulley, Precinct 1	23	23	0
Constable Hammond, Precinct 2	15	15	0
Constable Curry, Precinct 3	18	18	0
Constable Brown, Precinct 4	19	19	0
Constable Orozco, Precinct 5	17	17	0
Total	**92**	**92**	**0**

The remaining UTA analysis will review papers and work related to mental health cases or the more complex Type 3 and Type 4 papers. These findings can better evaluate the need for Mental Health Deputies. The Constable Offices have noted the increased need for dedicated Mental Health Deputies, as mental health crises become more frequent and severe. As data collection continues, UTA will follow up with additional findings to provide a more comprehensive assessment. The Office of Budget and Evaluation will continue to work with the Constable Offices to implement recommendations from the UTA study.

GOVERNING STATUTES

Senate Bill 23 stipulates that a county may not implement a proposed reduction or reallocation of funds until the county receives voter approval for the proposed changes in an election held for that purpose. Section 120.001 applies to counties with a population of more than one million. For any fiscal year, the total budget must be equal to or greater than the amount from the preceding fiscal year. Local governments that defund law enforcement are subject to tax rate limitations, loss of access to certain tax revenues, and other budgetary restrictions.

Location	FY2026 Adopted Budget	FY2027 Proposed Budget	Variance
Constable Precinct #1	$3,331,894	$3,431,514	**$99,620**
Constable Precinct #2	$2,041,811	$2,116,114	**$74,303**
Constable Precinct #3	$2,529,839	$3,106,902	**$577,063**
Constable Precinct #4	$2,808,726	$2,889,954	**$81,228**
Constable Precinct #5	$2,218,175	$2,457,092	**$238,917**
Total	**$12,930,445**	**$14,001,576**	**$1,071,131**



In addition, TCOLE, Chapter 211.16, Section 3 states that the Constable Offices must be provided with the following:

(A) at least one firearm per officer on duty;
(B) at least one less lethal force weapon per officer on duty;
(C) effective communications equipment, specifically:
- (i) at least one radio communication device per officer on duty performing patrol, courtroom security, traffic enforcement, responding to calls for service, assigned to a controlled access point, acting as a visual deterrent to crime, surveillance, warrant execution, and service of civil process; and
- (ii) at least one cell phone device per officer on duty who may have contact with the general public and is not performing any of the duties described in (i);

(D) at least one bullet-resistant vest per officer on duty with vest panels that:
- (i) have been certified as compliant by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ);
- (ii) are within the ballistic performance warranty period listed by the manufacturer on the affixed tags; and
- (iii) have never been shot or otherwise compromised;

(E) at least one uniform per officer whose duties include any of the following:

(i) performing patrol;
(ii) courtroom security;
(iii) traffic enforcement;
(iv) responding to calls for service;
(v) assigned to a controlled access point;
(vi) acting as a visual deterrent to crime."

Dallas County will work with the Constable Offices to ensure continued compliance with TCOLE, Chapter 211.16, Section 3 and identify funds and resources as needed.

EQUIPMENT AND CONTRACTS

As part of the FY2027 Proposed Budget, additional funds totaling $156,400 are allocated so that each Constable Precinct can replace vests for Deputies, as needed with a higher grade of a vest to enhance security and protection against lethal and deadly force. The RTS Rico Operations Vest, including Ceramic Rifle Plates provides multi-hit protection against high-velocity armor-piercing rifle rounds. The estimated cost for each vest is $1,700. Funding for the purchase of these vests is available within Reserves and Contingency. However, it is important to note that each Constable Precinct will need to work directly with their assigned Budget Analyst to transfer funding into their departmental budget prior to procurement.

On June 2, 2026, via Court Order #2026-0646, the Commissioners Court authorized a five-year acquisition service contract for conducted electrical weapons (CEW), body-worn cameras (BWC), in-car camera systems, interview room cameras, ancillary equipment and supplies, for Dallas County Law Enforcement Agencies, including the Constable Offices. This five-year agreement totals $1,631,915. Please see the detailed break-down by Precinct and year below.

AXON ENTERPRISE, INC. CONTRACT COSTS

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Precinct 1	$76,642	$76,642	$76,642	$76,642	$76,642	$383,209
Precinct 2	$56,750	$56,750	$56,750	$56,750	$56,750	$283,752
Precinct 3	$73,556	$69,220	$69,220	$69,220	$69,220	$350,437
Precinct 4	$66,295	$66,295	$66,295	$66,295	$66,295	$331,477
Precinct 5	$56,608	$56,608	$56,608	$56,608	$56,608	$283,040
Total	**$329,852**	**$325,516**	**$325,516**	**$325,516**	**$325,516**	**$1,631,915**

Funds for all Constable costs for this contract are allocated in Constable, Precinct 3 - Other Professional Fees (100.12000.3230.62225.30000) for purposes of consolidation. Each office should consult with their assigned Budget Analyst prior to annual payments to ensure sufficient funding and allocation.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the FY2027 Proposed Budget for all five Constable Precincts, totaling $14,001,576, a $1,071,131 increase, or a 8.3% increase from the FY2026 Adopted Budget, be approved as submitted. Additionally, the budget provides funding totaling $156,400 for vest replacements to enhance security and protection against lethal and deadly force and $325,516 for annual Axon contract expenses. Constable Offices are encouraged to coordinate with their assigned Budget Analyst to transfer funding into their departmental budgets to secure these approved items.