



The Sheriff's Report

Official newsletter for citizens served by the Pasco Sheriff's Office

June 2007 -- Special budget report

www.PascoSheriff.com



**Bob White,
Sheriff**

"The ever-increasing growth of our county continues to burden the Pasco Sheriff's Office in maintaining the level of law enforcement and detention services that our citizens demand."

In this issue:

• **Important information about how your tax dollars are spent.**

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From the Sheriff's desk

Budget request reflects needs of growing agency

Last month I presented my 2007-2008 budget request to the Board of County Commissioners. This budget request reflects the needs of our agency in a county that continues to experience rapid growth, and also continues my fiscally-responsible use of taxpayer's dollars.

The Pasco Sheriff's Office's law enforcement jurisdiction covers the eighth largest population in the state. However, the PSO law enforcement budget has the lowest per capita costs of the 12 largest agencies (by population) in the state (See figure 1 on next page). For example, the 2005-2006 PSO law enforcement budget translates into a cost of \$126 per Pasco citizen. The state average for the 12 largest agencies is \$278 per person. The Polk County Sheriff's Office has the next lowest per capita law enforcement costs, or \$196 per person for its 2005-2006 budget year. In other words, the Pasco Sheriff's Office could increase its law enforcement budget by about 55 percent and still be more cost effective than most of the other large agencies in the state.

About 3.2 percent of this budget request includes funding for 109 new positions that are needed in a number of different units throughout our agency. This number includes 39 positions that were cut from last year's budget request. Some of these new positions include 24 road patrol deputies; three detectives and one detective sergeant; 11 detention deputies; four bailiffs; one school resource officer sergeant and four school resource officers; three forensic investigators; one property evidence specialist; five part-time civilian school traffic control officers; 10 part-time civilian school crossing guards; three jail nurses; and six communications officers.

Some citizens may ask why I am requesting

this budget increase during a time when the state government is looking to cut taxes. I'm not against tax cuts, but I believe taxation equity is where the problem is concentrated. We need a system that taxes both individuals and businesses fairly, not one that forces one sector to bear the burden of growth. The ever-increasing growth of our county continues to burden the Pasco Sheriff's Office in maintaining the level of law enforcement and detention services that our citizens demand. Last year, the Pasco Sheriff's Office answered more than 218,000 citizen-generated calls for service, about 4 percent more than the previous year and 37 percent more than in 2000. In addition, the average daily inmate population within our detention centers has increased nearly 61 percent since I took office in 2001.

Our county continues to grow at a record pace. However, the Pasco Sheriff's Office has not grown at a pace equal to this growth (See figure 2 on next page). I believe that the agency tasked with providing the majority of law enforcement and detention services should not be left behind in funding. Pasco citizens elected me to provide the best service possible. My budget request reflects what I know is necessary to continue to provide that level of service



Figure 1 -- Out of the 12 largest law enforcement agencies (by population served), the Pasco Sheriff's Office is the most cost-effective per capita.

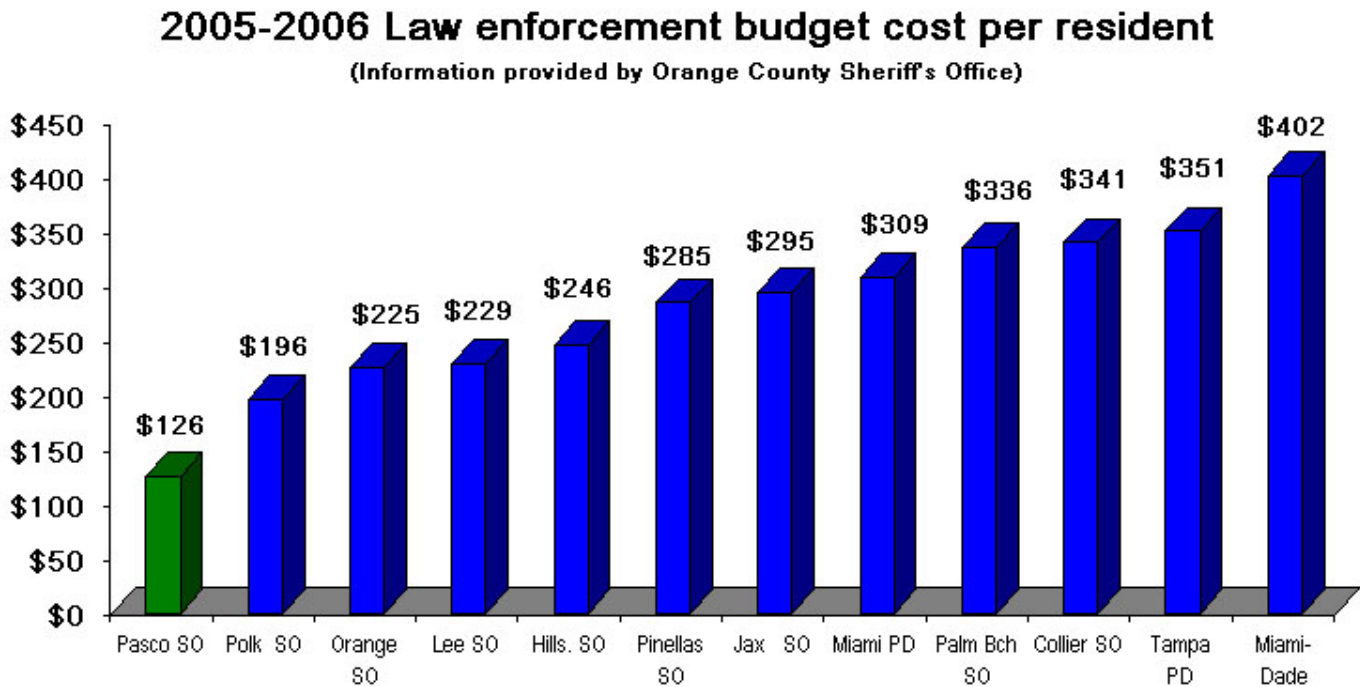


Figure 2 -- While county tax revenues have been increasing, the Pasco Sheriff's Office's portion of that amount has been shrinking. In other words, the PSO budget has not kept up with growth.

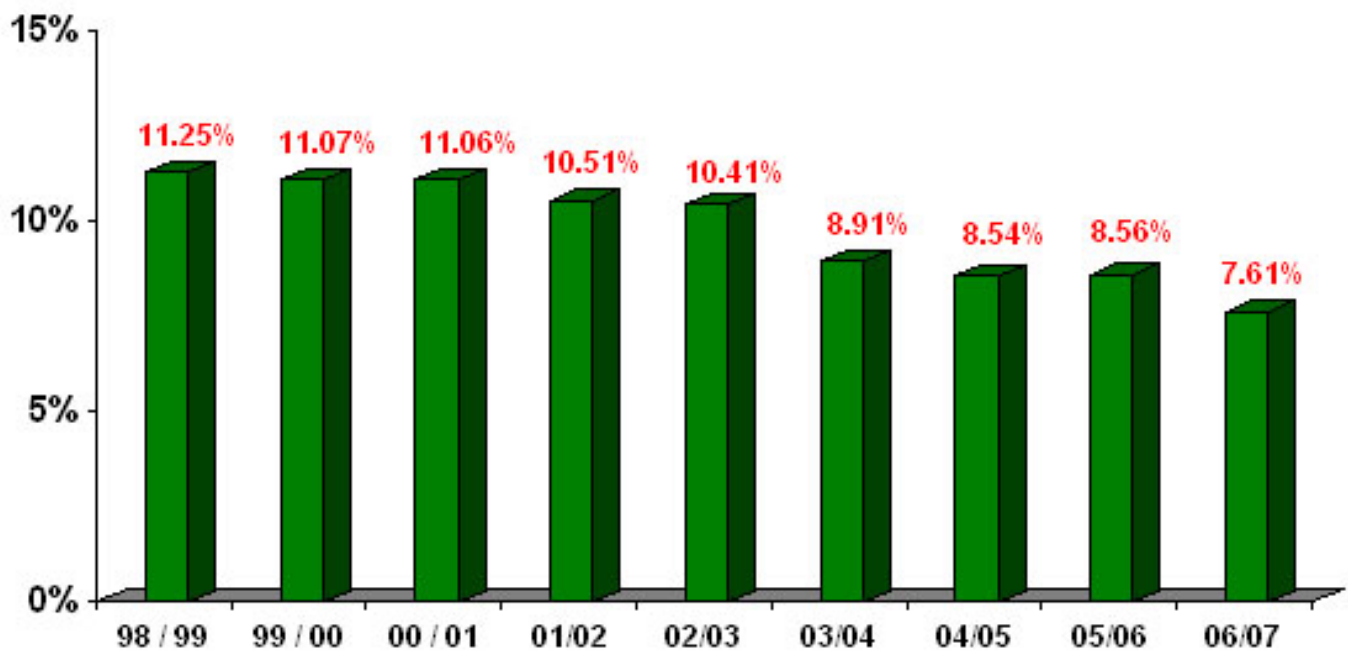


Figure 3 -- The costs per resident of law enforcement services provided by the Pasco Sheriff's Office has increased about 26 percent since 1999. If you factored in inflation, the increase would be minimal.

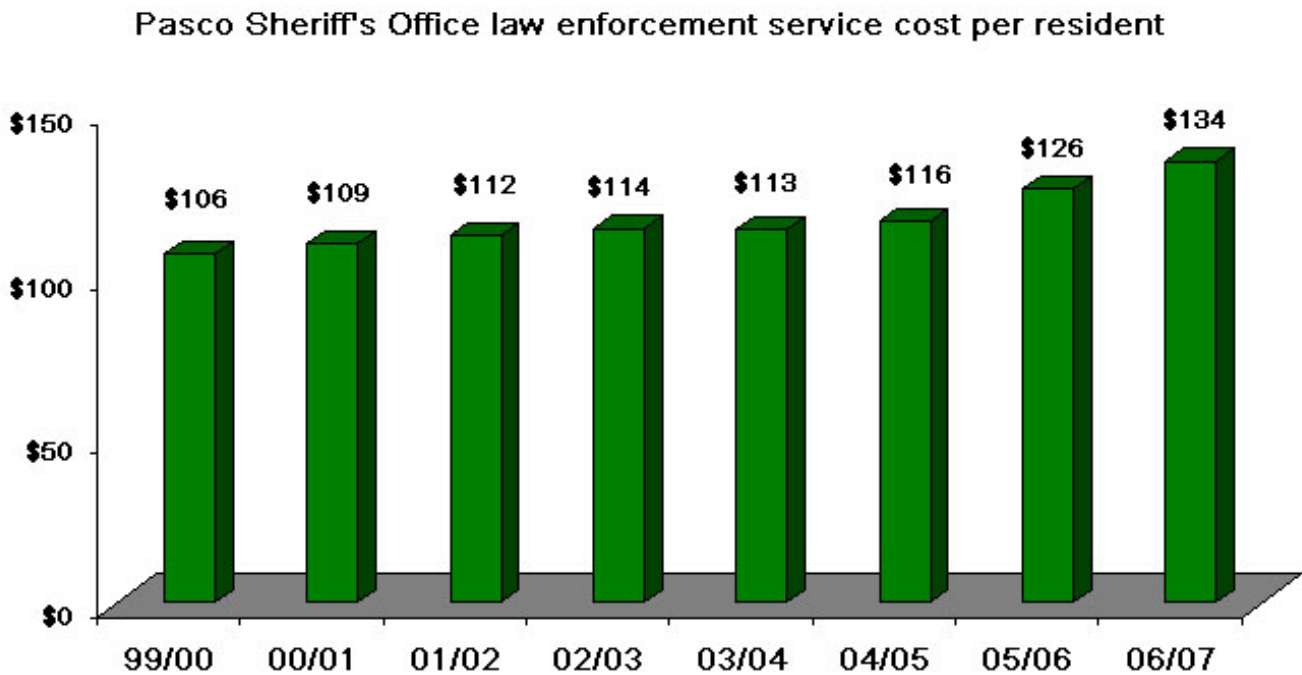


Figure 4 -- The costs per resident for Pasco government services (not including the school budget) has increased 97 percent during the same time period.

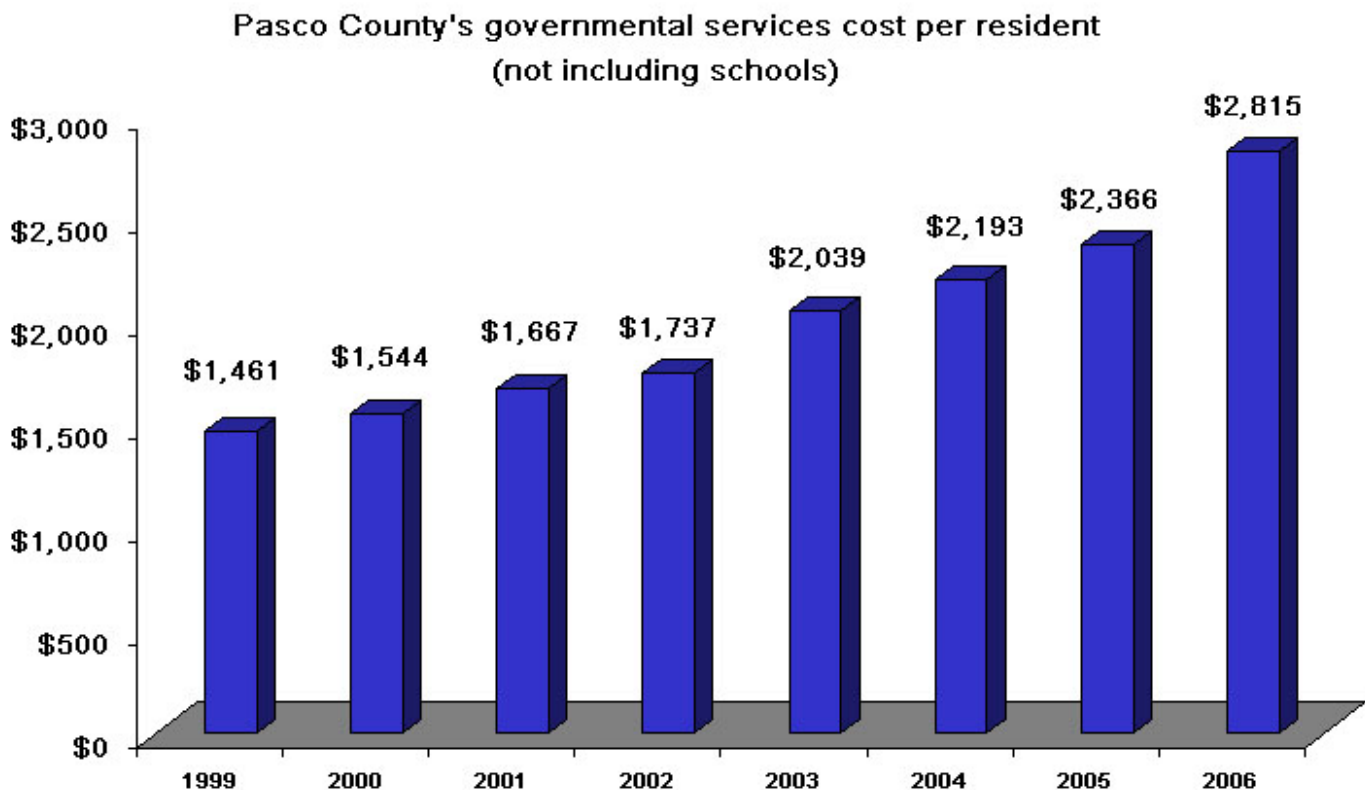
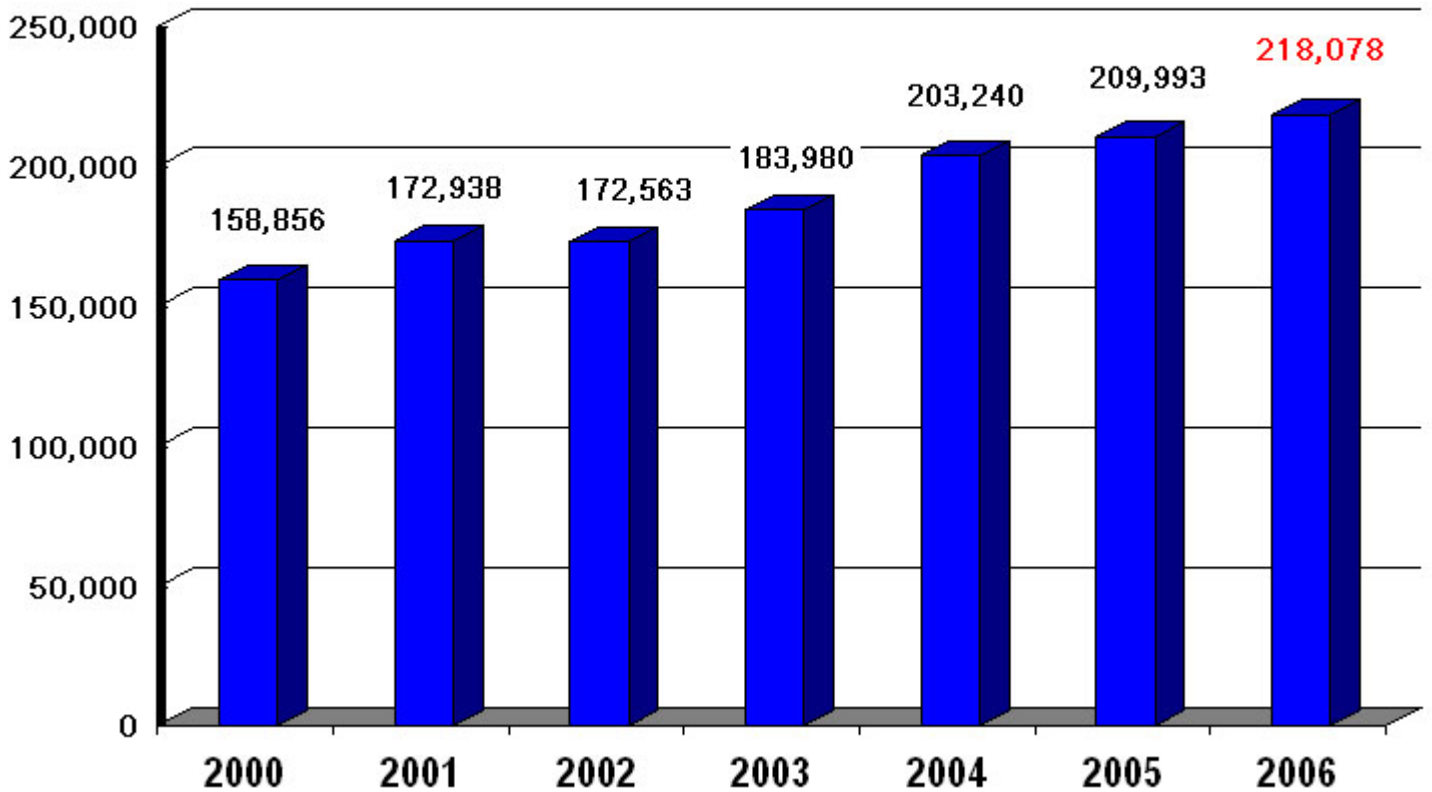


Figure 5 -- As the county grows, so does the request for services. Last year, the Pasco Sheriff's Office answered more than 218,000 citizen-generated calls for service, about 4 percent more than the previous year and 37 percent more than in 2000.

All citizen-generated calls for service*



*Includes road patrol, desk officers and special units.

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The Pasco Sheriff's Office is state and nationally accredited
in corrections and law enforcement operations.

For questions or comments, please contact Public Information Director Kevin Doll,
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