



Office of the Governor

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Governor delivers over \$40 million for new police officers across New Mexico

Law Enforcement Recruitment Fund awards will fund over 300 new officers statewide

ALBUQUERQUE – Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Friday announced the awarding of over \$40 million from the Law Enforcement Recruitment Fund for the hiring of over 300 new officers at 29 departments across New Mexico.

“Today we deliver on a promise to New Mexicans to get more police officers on our streets,” said **Gov. Lujan Grisham**. “Every New Mexican deserves to feel safe in their community, to know that law enforcement is coming when they need help – that’s why we are continuing our priority investments in public safety, funding new officers that will make a real difference in communities both small and large across the state.”

The Law Enforcement Recruitment Fund was spearheaded and secured by the governor in the 2022 legislative session, established in the House Bill 68 crime package and funded with \$50 million in the budget to support the recruitment of new officers at local departments throughout the state.

The funding awards announced today, totaling \$41.5 million, will be awarded to 29 departments over the next three years, with full funding of salaries provided the first year, 50% provided the second year and 25% provided the third year. Funding levels are based on an average officer salary of \$75,000 and were awarded based on needs identified by the individual departments in their application process.

Law Enforcement Agency	Officer Vacancies Funded	Total
Clovis Police Department	11	\$1,443,750
Gallup Police Department	10	\$1,312,500
Socorro Police Department	6	787,500

Municipal Police	2	\$262,500
Taos County Sheriff's Office	3	\$393,750
Las Cruces Police Department	67	8,750,000
Lea County Sheriff's Office	5	\$656,250
Rio Arriba Sheriff's Office	7	\$918,750
Logan Police Department	2	\$262,500
Carlsbad Police Department	8	\$1,050,000
Edgewood Police Department	2	\$262,500
Albuquerque Police Department	67	\$8,750,000
Hope Police Department	1	\$131,250
San Juan County Sheriff's Office	24	\$3,150,000
Sandoval County Sheriff's Office	4	\$525,000
Ruidoso Police Department	6	\$787,500
Sierra County Sheriff's Office	1	\$131,250
Portales Police Department	4	\$525,000
Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office	18	\$2,362,500
Hobbs Police Department	38	\$4,987,500
Valencia County Sheriff's Office	4	\$525,000
Rio Rancho Police Department	7	\$918,750
Union County Sheriff's Office	2	\$262,500
Moriarty Police Department	1	\$131,250
Colfax County Sheriff's Office	4	\$525,000
Bloomfield Police Department	2	\$262,500
Aztec Police Department	4	\$525,000
Tucumcari Police Department	6	\$787,500
Village of Capitan Police Department	1	\$131,250
	317	\$41,518,750

"I want to thank the governor for keeping her promise to law enforcement to deliver this funding to our department, which will enable me and my team to better serve the people of Rio Arriba County," said **Rio Arriba County Sheriff Billy Merrifield**.

"I am grateful to Gov. Lujan Grisham for supporting law enforcement through this funding," said **Ruidoso Chief of Police Lawrence Chavez**. "The ability to hire six new officers in Ruidoso is going to go a long way in being able to serve and protect our community."

"As a former criminal prosecutor, I can tell you with confidence that the brave men and women of law enforcement deserve our respect and appreciation," said **Rep. Marian Matthews**, co-sponsor of House Bill 68. "I am grateful for the governor's support in getting this critical funding out to community law enforcement."

“I am excited about the grants the governor is making available to fund our police and law enforcement academies across the state while also supporting innovative recruitment efforts to grow our law enforcement teams,” said **Rep. Pamela Herndon**, co-sponsor of House Bill 68.

The allocation of officer recruitment funding follows Gov. Lujan Grisham delivering 16% raises for New Mexico State Police Officers earlier this year. Over the course of her administration, the governor has dedicated \$339 million toward public safety capital outlay funding – more than twice the amount appropriated in the previous eight years. In addition, the Lujan Grisham administration announced earlier this summer that the Department of Workforce Solutions is funding training and equipment costs for 100 new officers throughout the state at no cost to local departments.

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