



Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Christopher Ramos, Chief of Police
BY: Nathan Lunt, Police Lieutenant
DATE: February 17, 2026
SUBJECT: Request To Approve A Second Homeless Enforcement Officer Position

Description: The Beaumont Police Department requests approval to create a second Homeless Liaison Officer (HLO) position to be assigned to weekend coverage, allowing for seven-day per week homeless enforcement services.

Background and Analysis:

This staff report provides an analysis of Homeless Liaison Officer activities and supports the recommendation for an additional HLO position based on workload, mental health needs, and an increasing homeless population within the City of Beaumont.

To evaluate the need for an additional HLO position, two time periods were analyzed. This analysis summarizes HLO activity for the same six-month periods in each year:

1. June 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, and
2. June 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

Between June and December 2024, the HLO documented 152 contacts with individuals identified as homeless. The HLO documents if the contact is someone new or someone that the officer has previously contacted (follow-up contact). Of these, 106 were follow-up contacts, and 46 were new contacts. During the same timeframe in 2025, the number of contacts increased to 255, representing an over 60% increase. Notably, new contacts rose from 46 to 97, an approximately 110% increase, demonstrating a growing homeless population and expanded outreach demand.

As a result of these contacts, the HLO documented several outcomes, including the offering and acceptance of services, transportation to shelters or facilities, mental health holds, arrests, citations, and advisement-only contacts.

During the June – December 2024 timeframe:

- 2 individuals were transported to a voluntary mental health facility
- 2 were transported to a sobering facility
- 45 were transported to shelters

- 12 were placed on a 72-hour mental health hold
- 29 individuals were arrested
- 2 citations were issued

During the June – December 2025 timeframe:

- 12 individuals were transported to a voluntary mental health facility
- 12 were transported to a sobering facility
- 25 were transported to shelters
- 31 were placed on a 72-hour mental health hold
- 29 individuals were arrested
- 21 citations were issued

Additionally, since March 2024, the Beaumont Police Department recorded 973 calls for service involving the terms “homeless” or “transient.” These calls for service are generally received from the public. These figures do not include officer-initiated contacts such as pedestrian checks or property checks. Targeted HLO enforcement has logged over 1,200 proactive contacts since March 2023, further illustrating the scale of the homeless issue.

The Department has also observed an increase in individuals released from the Smith Correctional Facility being dropped off in Beaumont and an adjacent city. Many of the individuals released are not local residents and require HLO intervention. When the HLO is unavailable, these contacts place an increased burden on patrol officers.

In 2025, through coordinated efforts between the HLO and CBAT clinicians, 13 individuals were successfully assisted into long-term treatment and stable housing, demonstrating the effectiveness of focused outreach and continuity of care.

Regional impacts further compound the issue of homelessness in our community. Neighboring cities and jurisdictions have recently disbanded several large encampments and increased enforcement efforts. Specifically, the City of Banning recently added two HLOs to support seven-day-per-week enforcement. Due to proximity to these jurisdictions, these actions have resulted in the displacement of homeless individuals into Beaumont, particularly impacting retail and commercial areas.

Since October 2025, officers have worked 233.5 hours of overtime focused on homeless enforcement operations, resulting in 31 citations and 21 arrests. A second HLO would allow for expanded outreach efforts during weekends when service gaps currently exist.

Fiscal Impact:

The addition of one full-time Police Officer position will result in an estimated annual cost of \$211,000, approximately \$70,000 would be needed for the remainder of the fiscal year. This cost will be from salary savings within the police department budget. The approved position will then be included in future budgetary reporting.

The cost to prepare this staff report was \$575.

Recommended Action:

Approve the addition of one (1) Police Officer position to the Police Department's FY 25/26 budget; and

Approve the necessary budget adjustment of \$70,000 to the Personnel Budget to fund the position for the remainder of the current fiscal year.