

Pinellas Assembly Report Law Enforcement Sub-Committee

Cost/Benefit Analysis of Records Management Systems and Crime Analysis And Countywide Functional Consolidated Expenditure Estimates

September 08, 2003

This report addresses the issues discussed on August 25, 2003 by the Law Enforcement Sub-Committee of the Pinellas Assembly process. The report is divided into three sections. The first addresses questions related to costs associated with current Records Management Systems (RMS) and Crime Analysis functions. The second section highlights the qualitative benefits of consolidation of RMS and Crime Analysis services. The third section provides cost estimates associated with areas of functional consolidation explored by the Sheriff, the State Attorney and the Police Chiefs at the Council retreat held on August 12th, 2003. Forensic services levels vary by application and contract and therefore each agency's costs were not analyzed individually. However, countywide functional consolidation costs of forensic services are included in section three of this report.

I. RMS and Crime Analysis Costs

The following is an analysis of costs associated with current RMS and Crime Analysis functions as they relate to a countywide consolidated approach to records/UCR management, records storage, and crime analysis. Pinellas County law enforcement agencies were contacted and asked to provide information pertaining to their current costs for these functions. Information detailed in this summary reflects the results of this inquiry and have been provided by the solicited agencies. Response methodology varied by agency to the following questions:

- Questions:
- Type of records management system?
 - Types of reports – hand written, lap top, call-in?
 - Records storage? – Hard copy or electronic?
 - Number of people employed in Records/UCR and associated costs?
 - Number of people employed in Crime Analysis and associated costs?
 - Average time and cost associated with a report, from writing to approval, to filing – including cost per report by officers?
 - Total costs associated with RMS?
 - Total costs associated with Crime analysis?

Survey Results by Law Enforcement Agency

Belleair Police Department

- Annual RMS related costs - **\$38,000**
- Annual Crime Analysis related costs – **No costs provided** – (indicated one part-time staff member assigned.)

Belleair Beach Police Department

- Annual RMS related costs – **Varies** as Belleair Beach and Belleair Shores contract with PCSO on report by report piece-meal basis.
- Annual Crime Analysis related costs – No staff assigned.

Clearwater Police Department – **Advised Deputy Chief Baird would present data to Board.** (Note: Looking for new RMS system.)

Gulfport Police Department

- Annual RMS related costs - **\$85,000** (New RMS system from Total Data Systems will cost \$200,000.)
- Annual Crime Analysis related costs – **\$45,000** proposed for FY2004

Indian Shores Police Department

- Annual RMS related costs - **\$22,600**
- Annual Crime Analysis related costs – No staff assigned

Kenneth City Police Department

- Annual RMS related costs - **\$26,600**
- Annual Crime Analysis related costs – **No costs provided** – (Note: Chief of Police and Criminal Investigative Corporal conduct this function.)

Largo Police Department

- Annual RMS related costs - **\$577,289** – (Note: Looking for new RMS system.)
- Annual Crime Analysis related costs - **No costs provided** (Note: One certified member assigned to this function.)

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and Contract Cities

- Annual RMS related costs - **\$2,093,059**
- Annual Crime Analysis and GIS related costs - **\$442,438**

Pinellas Park Police Department

- Annual RMS related costs - **\$268,165**
- Annual Crime Analysis related costs – No staff assigned.

St. Petersburg Police Department

- Annual RMS and associated costs - **\$1,530,343**. Records and UCR personnel costs are \$651,327. Additional costs associated with RMS by Computer Resources Division - \$480,166 in personnel costs and \$398,850 in operational expenses. (Note: Additional capital outlay of \$2,084,080 for lap tops and new RMS system proposed minimal expenditure of \$2,500,000 with a \$300,000 annual maintenance cost.)
- Annual Crime Analysis related costs - **\$396,925**

St. Petersburg Beach Police Department

- Annual RMS related costs - **\$214,000**
- Annual Crime Analysis related costs – No staff assigned.

Tarpon Springs Police Department

- Annual RMS related costs - **\$135,000**
- Annual Crime Analysis related costs – No staff assigned.

Treasure Island Police Department

- Annual RMS related costs - **\$165,000**
- Annual Crime Analysis related costs – No staff assigned.

From the survey results and other sources it was determined there are nine different RMS systems in operation or soon to be purchased by law enforcement agencies in Pinellas County. These include ACISS, HTE, TDSI, GEAC, PSM, CPLIMS, AL-O'Rorke, LEISA, and Police-Trak. One agency utilizes two systems simultaneously. The interoperability and compatibility of these systems, countywide, is very limited. The Enforcer project is continuing to attempt to bring data together from the various agencies with varying degrees of success. In addition, cost analysis methodology from reporting agencies for cost per report varied greatly, with report costs ranging from \$9 per report to \$100 per report.

Note: Quantitative comparisons could not be properly conducted due to inconsistencies in budgetary interpretation of cost estimates available, and due to some agencies not providing information for the study. As a result, a qualitative approach was utilized to determine the advantages and disadvantages of a countywide Records Management and Crime Analysis system. The following are offered for consideration and is not an all inclusive list.

II. Benefits of Countywide Consolidated Records Management System

(Note: This is based on current Pinellas County Sheriff's Office capabilities and service levels.)

1. Enhanced records compatibility.
2. Improved sharing of report data between agencies.
3. Enhanced Crime Analysis function. (This includes shared patterns and series identification, hot-spot analysis with a 24 hour turnaround time for analysis and reporting to patrol and detectives.)
4. Enhanced compatibility and systems application with Enforcer.
5. Application of crime reduction model countywide. (Includes PROSTAR and GIS Geographical profiling)
6. Application of CrimeTrax correlation data countywide.
7. Improved intelligence applications.
8. Improved records requests capability such as E-Government for easy access and retrieval of records for the public.
9. Standardization of reports.
10. Improved level of accountability.
11. Higher quality reports.
12. Improved accuracy on UCR data countywide.
13. Enhanced case data sharing and improved case closure by detectives.
14. Improved inter-relational data base inquiry capability.
15. Reduced time needed for writing reports allowing for more patrol time function.
16. Improved economy of scale for records assimilation costs and information to law enforcement users and the public.
17. Reduction in records storage costs.
18. Reduction in systems costs and physical storage locations of data
19. Immediate access to data after report is called in to ACISS. This provides improved efficiency of data retrieval from patrol to detectives, by commanders, and other law enforcement personnel.
20. Improved reporting and consistency of case data for prosecution with the State's Attorney Office.

Disadvantages and draw backs of current systems

1. Multiple RMS systems that don't talk to each other for data sharing.
2. Fragmented systems with increased expense for maintenance and purchase.
3. Limited inter and intra-agency analysis capability.
4. Duplicated efforts within each agency.
5. Increased fiscal expenditure for multiple systems.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Law Enforcement Sub-Committee of the Pinellas Assembly task each agency to provide comprehensive data related to RMS costs including the time associated with writing reports, editing and approval. Consistency and uniformity in data assimilation is critical for a successful comparative study and a universal template should be developed collectively.

III. Countywide Consolidated Law Enforcement Estimated Cost Totals

Estimated costs associated with consolidated Records Management System based on the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office platform at PCSO level of service standard: \$7,309,198 with 177 personnel assigned.

Estimated costs associated with consolidated Crime Analysis/PROSTAR Unit: \$1,458,912 with 25 personnel assigned and initial start-up expenditures included.

Estimated costs associated with consolidated forensics services based on Pinellas County Sheriff's Office level of service standard: \$ 6,973,421 with 139 personnel assigned.

Estimated costs associated with evidence/property storage services provided by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office: \$ 1,932,977 with 36 personnel assigned.

Estimated costs associated with consolidated Sexual Predator Tracking Unit: \$650,289 with 9 personnel assigned.

Estimated costs associated with consolidated Marine Unit: \$1,257,094 with 13 personnel assigned.

Estimated costs associated with consolidated K-9 operations: \$2,238,368 with 27 personnel assigned.

Telephone Notification System – Grant funds forthcoming.

Estimated costs associated with consolidated Prisoner Transport System - \$700,000 to \$800,000.

<p>This report was prepared by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Strategic Planning Division and Crime Analysis Section. Supporting documentation for findings is available. Any questions as to methodology, data assimilation, and results of the study should be directed to the Strategic Planning Division at (727) 582-6401.</p>
