
Sponsor: Sheriff's Office

Meeting Date: 11/4/2025

Title: 2026 Salary Rate for the Ramsey County Sheriff

File Number: 2025-441

Background and Rationale:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners is required by law to set the salary of the elected Ramsey County Sheriff. State law requires that the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners set the salary of the Ramsey County Sheriff by resolution.

The longstanding custom and practice for setting the annual salary for the Ramsey County Sheriff is to invite the incumbent to make a written salary request to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners. A salary request from the incumbent is attached.

When requesting a salary for 2026, the following factors were considered:

- The salary of the Sheriff's Chief Deputy now exceeds the salary of the Sheriff. This is due to county-wide classification and compensation restructuring and cost-of-living adjustments provided to all other county employees.
- From 2019 to 2025, the Sheriff requested only two salary increases, partly due to financial pressures related to COVID-19. The Sheriff's salary remained unchanged from 2019 through 2022, and again from 2023 through 2024.
- In 2025, the Ramsey County Sheriff's salary was the lowest in the seven-county metro area. For reference, the 2025 salaries for the sheriffs in the metro area are: Anoka County, \$214,240; Carver County, \$204,322; Dakota County, \$221,115; Hennepin County, \$224,820; Scott County, \$198,652; and, Washington County, \$217,552.

For the above reasons, a salary of \$196,041 is requested for 2026. This represents a 5% increase and sets the Sheriff's salary slightly below the Chief Deputy. As per past practice, it is also requested to continue the contribution to deferred compensation consistent with that approved for unclassified employees and a uniform/clothing allowance of \$1,375 for 2026.

Violent crime in Ramsey County has decreased by 53% from 2022 to September 2025. This significant reduction reflects the strength of ongoing partnerships between law enforcement, community organizations, and community. It also underscores Ramsey County's continued support and investment in public safety, community trust-building, and violence prevention.

Even with this increase, the requested salary likely sets the Ramsey County Sheriff's salary the lowest in the seven-county metro area in 2026.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Set the annual salary for the Ramsey County Sheriff at \$196,041 effective January 1, 2026.
2. Authorize the continuation of the contribution to deferred compensation consistent with that approved for non-represented employees for 2026.
3. Authorize the continuation of the uniform/clothing allowance of \$1,375 for 2026.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Xiong, seconded by Commissioner McMurtrey.
Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Jebens-Singh, McGuire, McMurtrey, Miller, Moran, Ortega, and Xiong

By: 

Jason Yang, Chief Clerk - County Board