

Law Enforcement						
Municipality	Current City/BSO	Police Year founded or ...	Population 2025	Population in year PD Established	Years established	Population in year PD Established
Fort Lauderdale	City	1911	192,338	300	115	300
Pembroke Pines	City	1960	171,413	1,429	66	1,429
Hollywood	City	1925	156,997	18,000	101	18,000
Miramar	City	1955	140,807	< 200	71	< 200
Coral Springs	City	1965	136,062	< 1,000	61	< 1,000
Pompano Beach	BSO	BSO since 1999	115,813			
Davie	City	1925	107,914	< 500	101	< 500
Plantation	City	1955	98,437	< 500	71	< 500
Sunrise	City	1961	98,310	< 350	65	< 350
Deerfield Beach	BSO		87,712	original PD before 1955		< 5,000
Lauderhill	City	1995 split from BSO	74,772	Population in 1995= 52k	31	
Tamarac	BSO	BSO since 1989	73,563			
Weston	BSO	BSO since Inc 1996	68,311			
Margate	City	1955	58,727	< 200	71	< 200
Coconut Creek	City	1982	57,933	6,288	44	6,288
Oakland Park	BSO	BSO since 2000	46,465			
North Lauderdale	BSO	BSO since 1977	44,888			
Halandale Beach	City	1938	41,819	< 1,600	88	< 1,600
Parkland	BSO	BSO since 2004	38,427			
Lauderdale Lakes	BSO	BSO since 1977	36,647			
Cooper City	BSO	BSO since 2004	35,011			
Dania Beach	BSO	BSO since 2011	34,034			
West Park	BSO	BSO Since 2011	15,315			
Wilton Manors	City	1954	11,497	< 1,000	72	< 1,000
Lighthouse Point	City	1965	10,454	< 6,000	61	< 6,000
Southwest Ranches	City	2014 split from BSO	7,783	Population in 2014= 7,400	12	
Lauderdale-by-the-sea	BSO	BSO since 2001	6,187			
Pembroke Park	City	BSO since 1980 / split 2022	6,056	Population in 2022= 6,250	4	
Hillsboro Beach	City	1952	1,978	84	74	84
Sea Ranch Lakes	City	15 officers supplemented by BSO	540			
Lazy Lake	City	16 homes - no PD	31			

81.6 is the average age of the municipal police departments (excluding the 3 that migrated away from BSO)  
69.25 is the average PD age including the 3 cities that moved to BSO

Avg size 2,803

The spreadsheet on the previous page illustrates Pompano Beach and Deerfield beach are “outliers” in the list of the top 10 cities on that list for having Law enforcement services sourced from BSO while the other large cities have municipal police departments.

What is notable in the data table is that while the larger Broward county municipalities do have city police departments, they ALL started long ago and slowly scaled into the large police departments that they are today. Some of the departments began with a single Marshal and/or a small handful of officers patrolling on bicycles or horseback.

- The average age of those department is 81 years with three of them over 100 years.
- The average city population was 2,784 residents,
  - so these departments were able to slowly evolve into the size of complexity of the large modern police departments that they are today.

This begs the question: If none of these departments moved from County/Sheriff policing to municipal police departments at scale, what other municipalities have done what Pompano and Deerfield Beach are considering doing?

Lauderhill made this move 31 years ago, which we can look at in some detail and will do so further in this document. We can also look at the City of Boynton Beach. While they have always had their own city PD, they are similar to Pompano and Deerfield Beach as coastal cities in South Florida with similar size populations, visitor and vacation surges during seasonality and events such as July 4<sup>th</sup>, etc.

**Looking wide first: what other cities in the U.S. with between 75,000 and 1,500,000 population have made the move from County to municipal police force creation in the past 20 years? How many have evaluated the same move?**

No U.S. cities with populations between 75,000 and 1.5 million have migrated from county to municipal though a few have publicly considered or evaluated moving from county sheriff services to create their own municipal police force in the past 20 years (2006–2026). Extensive searches yielded no matching cases; trends favor the opposite, with smaller towns (under 20,000 residents) disbanding city police for county sheriff contracts due to staffing shortages.

Notable Trends

- **Reverse Transitions Common: Over 500** towns/cities (1,000–200,000 pop., mostly small) disbanded police departments from 1972–2017, with recent examples like Morris, MN (pop. 5,100, 2023) and Goodhue, MN (pop. 1,200, 2023).
  - Feasibility Studies Rare: Older cases like Deltona, FL (2008, pop. ~85k then) exist but fall outside the timeframe; no recent large-scale equivalents found.
  - Barriers Highlighted: State laws often prevent reversing established municipal departments to sheriff services, let alone the reverse; resource constraints dominate discussions.
-

---

## **Deltona, FL: (2008)**

2008 population approx. 87,500

Deltona, Florida, evaluated transitioning from the Volusia County Sheriff's Office to a municipal police department in 2008. The City Commission authorized the feasibility study on April 7, 2008, and received the final draft from Willdan Homeland Solutions on July 1, 2008.

### Study Details

- Performer: Willdan Homeland Solutions conducted interviews, observations, document reviews, comparative analysis, and financial modeling.
- Duration: About three months (April 7 to July 1, 2008).
- Key Findings: Sheriff's contract cost \$9.3M in FY2008 (projected \$9.7M), while a municipal PD averaged \$8.9M over five years; recommended either modifying the contract or phasing in a city department

### Outcome:

- The commission opted not to create the department, putting the question to voters in a November 4, 2008 referendum, which rejected it. Deltona continues contracting with the Volusia Sheriff's
- 

## **Riverside County, California Group (2023)**

Several cities relying on Riverside County Sheriff's deputies commissioned a joint feasibility study by Citygate Associates.

- Participating Cities: Canyon Lake (11k), Jurupa Valley (~110k), Lake Elsinore (~75k), Moreno Valley (~210k), San Jacinto (~55k), Temecula (~110k), Wildomar (~38k).
- Findings: A multi-city police agency would cost more than staying with the sheriff; recommendation was to maintain contracts.
- Outcome: No transition pursued.

---

## how was the transition for Lauderhill to move from BSO to municipal police in 1995?

The transition from the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) back to a municipal police force in 1994–1995 was a phased, ambitious, and often "tumultuous" process for Lauderhill.

After contracting with BSO for 13 years (1981–1994), the city decided to re-establish its own department primarily due to rising contract costs and a desire for greater local control.

Key aspects of the transition included:

- **Phased Takeover:** The transition was not overnight. Starting in October 1994, the city hired approximately 80 officers and 20 civilians in stages. Every three months, about 20 new city officers took over a specific portion of the city as BSO services were phased out. The city was fully policed by its own department by **April 1995**.
- **Hiring Challenges:** The city conducted a nationwide search, receiving over 1,000 applications. However, the department struggled with an experience gap: most hires either had less than five years of experience or were veterans with over 20 years, leaving a shortage of mid-level expertise.
- **Early Growing Pains:** The transition was marred by reports of "sloppy police work," including an incident where officers reportedly could not find a murder scene, and prosecutors were forced to drop cases. Internally, Chief Scott faced significant dissent from officers who resented his non-traditional management style and felt the department lacked adequate resources.
- **Motivation for Change:** The primary catalyst was a 1993 proposal by then-Sheriff Ron Cochran to increase Lauderhill's annual contract fee from \$4.4 million to \$5.2 million to recoup overhead costs. Then-Mayor Ilene Lieberman argued that the city lost too much control over deputy assignments under the BSO contract.

**Lauderhill's costs of operating and managing their own police force have become less predictable than the costs for BSO-contracted services and begun to soar compared to BSO costs as illustrated in the screen shots below from the city's own financial disclosures.**

Lauderhill current population ~74,000

**Lauderhill Police Department Staff**

The city's online staff directory lists about 30 named command, supervisory, and administrative personnel explicitly under Police Department, including 1 Chief, 1 Deputy Chief, 4 Majors, 8-10 Lieutenants/Sergeants, and support roles like Victim Services Coordinator and Executive Assistant.

External benchmarks consistently report 120-130 sworn officers for Lauderhill Police (serving ~74,000 residents at a ratio of ~1.7 officers per 1,000 people), plus 20-40 civilian staff (e.g.,

**General Fund 001**

**Expenditures by Year**

Division	Description	FY 2022		FY 2023		FY 2024		FY 2025		FY 2026	
		Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
511	Police Administration	2,474,776	2,717,065	2,717,065	3,304,250	3,319,798	3,320,872	3,319,798	3,320,872	3,319,798	
512	Police Operations	15,922,920	16,088,304	16,088,304	16,192,924	14,687,813	15,504,418	14,687,813	15,504,418	14,687,813	
514	School Resource Officers	-	-	-	299,916	288,811	359,794	288,811	359,794	288,811	
515	Police Support Services	8,321,008	10,535,240	10,535,240	10,613,030	10,660,112	13,839,602	10,660,112	13,839,602	10,660,112	
<b>Police</b>		<b>\$ 26,718,704</b>	<b>\$ 29,340,609</b>	<b>\$ 29,340,609</b>	<b>\$ 30,410,120</b>	<b>\$ 31,956,534</b>	<b>\$ 33,024,686</b>	<b>\$ 31,956,534</b>	<b>\$ 33,024,686</b>	<b>\$ 31,956,534</b>	

9%

3.5%

5%

3.5%

# 5-Year Capital Projects Summary

The Capital Projects Summary is for informational purposes. It includes rollovers of multi-year projects that will be appropriated after October 1 so FY 2026 funding may not match current budget amounts.

**General Capital Projects**

	Police					Total
	EY 2026	EY 2027	EY 2028	EY 2029	EY 2030	
AFIS Machine	-	40,000	-	-	-	40,000
Body Worn Cameras	-	217,030	217,030	-	-	434,060
Casine	-	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Computer Tablets	-	62,500	-	-	-	62,500
Drone	-	11,500	-	-	-	11,500
Handguns, Rifle Plates, Equipment Inventory and Fuel Software	86,251	155,158	-	-	-	241,409
Laptop Computers	-	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
License Plate Readers Expansion	-	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
Optic Sights for Rifles	-	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Police Headquarters Building Rehab	282,644	47,000	-	-	-	3,282,644
Utility Task Vehicle	-	3,000,000	-	-	-	3,000,000
Vehicle Infotainment Software	-	18,000	-	-	-	18,000
Victim Services Software	-	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
<b>Subtotal Public Safety - Police</b>	<b>\$ 368,895</b>	<b>\$ 3,756,188</b>	<b>\$ 217,030</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 4,342,113</b>

**Vehicles**

	EY 2026	EY 2027	EY 2028	EY 2029	EY 2030	Total
Police Patrol Vehicles	186,264	1,821,849	885,683	736,572	-	3,630,368
Police Laptop Upgrades	-	63,000	63,000	-	-	126,000

2026 \$33,579,865  
 2027 \$39,821,587

# The Boynton Beach Police Department

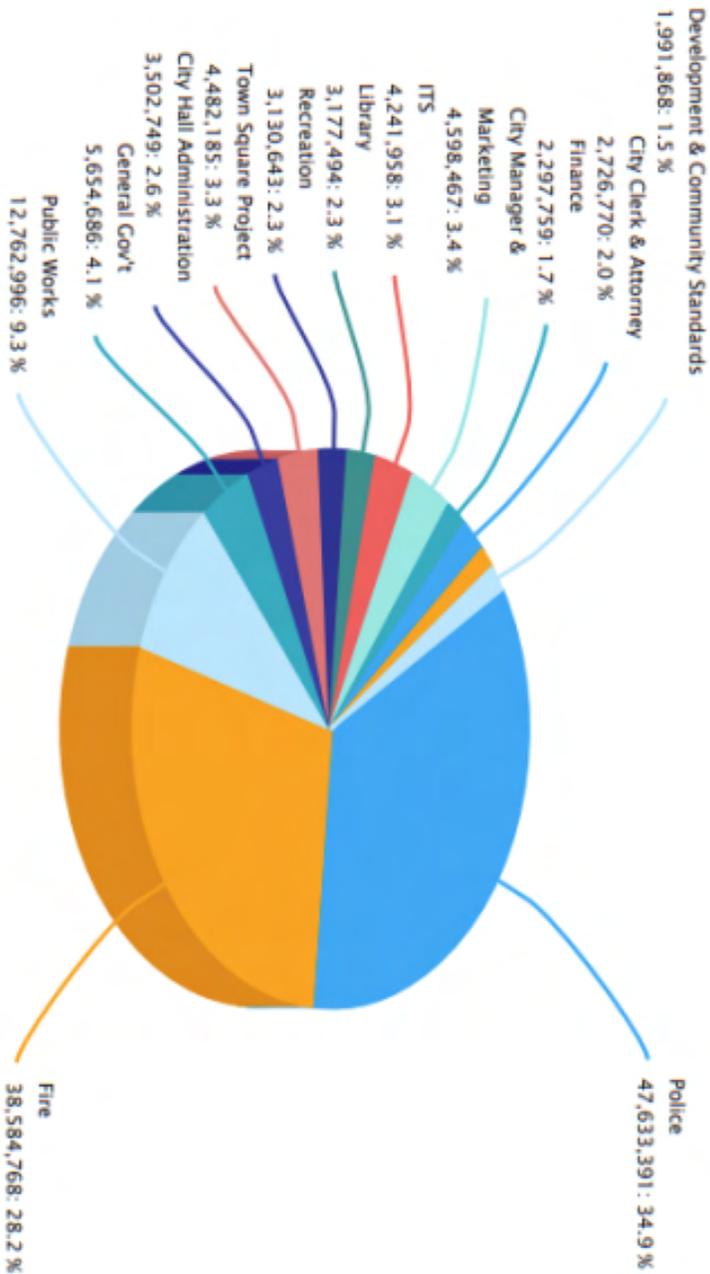
Established in 1920, originally consisting of a single "Town Marshal".

As of 2026, the department was formed **106 years ago.**

- When it was started in 1920, the city had a population of 600, and officers used bicycles as their primary mode of transportation.

## CITY OF BOYNTON BEACH, FLORIDA

### City of Boynton Beach, Florida 2025 – 2026 Adopted Budget General Fund Department Appropriations



## Summary:

Please show us the real math of how the equipment and training for both Police and Fire Safety are budgeted for. The commissioners I have spoken too haven't seen details other than the somewhat cursory study provided by Stockton Reeves who couldn't answers specifics himself when questioned by a commissioner.

How the costs for parallel services for 1 – 2 years will work.

- Lauderhill PD Budget for 2027 is \$39,821,587  
City millage rate 7.4998.
- Boynton Beach PD Budget for 2026 is \$47,633,391  
City millage rate 7.8500
- Deerfield Beach: The FY2026 BSO police contract was initially valued at \$35.7 million, with an overall 10.2% increase request.  
City millage rate 6.1851
- Pompano Beach: The FY2026 BSO police contract was initially valued at \$\_\_\_\_\_ million, with an overall \_\_\_\_% increase request.  
City millage rate 5.7443

NB - Finding new police officers in the current law enforcement recruiting environment count be uniquely challenging, as ICE is offering \$50,000 signing bonus and \$60,000-\$90,000/yr – how do we compete with that?

Worth noting is that while Sheriff Tony has tried to exceed the contacted price caps recently there ultimately has been opportunity to “push back” and renegotiate more acceptable terms – or even for BSO to live with the 5% contracted cap. While BSO has tried to “tap” the cities for increases to offset his (perhaps self-inflicted) cost increases, these are ultimately negotiable. It is inevitable that that costs of BSO's increased expenses will ultimately hit all county residents at some point via our county taxes and fees, regardless of if we have our own PD or not.

When a city operates its own municipal PD there is no protection from cost surges (self-inflicted or otherwise) as this city is directly responsible. These costs could be sudden and unexpected or something like the gradual snowballing costs of retirement funds or insurance increases.

In the case of Deerfield Beach, the city manager and public safety director are rolling all this forward at breakneck speed and the City Commissioners voted to cancel BSO and move forward with creation of municipal police and fire safety departments without having been presented and cost estimates, no cost justification (let alone a TCO analysis) .

Pompano seems to be more thoughtful and methodical in their evaluation and I'm hopeful that this could be a wake-up call for Deerfield Beach to be transparent in regard to the true cost and impact before passing the point of no turning back.