

Why the MCSO First-Year Costs So Much

Taxpayers are being asked to create a new mounted-patrol unit from scratch.

\$954,876	MCSO STARTUP REQUEST BEFORE THE FIRST YEAR'S OPERATING COST
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WHAT THE STARTUP MONEY BUYS

Building and horse stalls	\$385,000
Two trucks and emergency equipment	\$216,286
Horses	\$140,000
Vehicles and trailers	\$127,600
Saddles, supplies and furniture	\$85,990
TOTAL STARTUP REQUEST	\$954,876

A&O ADDITIONAL STARTUP REQUEST: \$0

The horses, facilities, vehicles, trailers, equipment, and trained personnel are already operating.

\$954,876 MCSO ONE-TIME STARTUP	+	\$1,371,354 MCSO RECURRING COST	=	\$2,326,230 MCSO TOTAL FIRST YEAR
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"UP TO 400 HOURS" IS A CEILING, NOT A PROMISE

A&O: 387 contracted mounted hours each week. Missed posts are not billed. **MCSO:** No stated minimum, no stated weekly average, and no guaranteed number of mounted-patrol hours in the community.

The fewer hours MCSO provides, the more each patrol hour costs taxpayers:

AVERAGE HOURS/WEEK	100 hrs	200 hrs	300 hrs	400 hrs MAXIMUM
RECURRING COST/HOUR	\$263.72/hr	\$131.86/hr	\$87.91/hr	\$65.93/hr

WHAT COUNTS TOWARD THE 400 HOURS?

The proposal does not state whether transportation, loading and unloading horses, saddling, horse care, training, reports, court time, leave, or other duties count inside the 400 hours. **Until that is defined, 400 stated hours cannot be assumed to mean 400 hours of mounted patrol on the street and in the community.**

BOTTOM LINE Taxpayers are being asked to spend \$2,326,230 in year one to build a brand-new mounted patrol unit while replacing a complete, established mounted-patrol operation already serving The Woodlands since 1994. The MCSO proposal still does not guarantee a minimum number of patrol hours.

Published figures: MCSO \$954,876 one-time + \$1,371,354 recurring = \$2,326,230 first year. A&O current-rate annualized program cost: \$1,446,439.80, or \$71.88 per scheduled mounted hour. [Source: MCSO public proposal](#)