



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Willows Launches Efforts to Re-Establish its Police Department

WILLOWS, CA — On August 25, 2026, the City of Willows will take a significant step toward re-establishing the Willows Police Department by seeking City Council approval for several key actions necessary to build the department's administrative and operational framework.

Specifically, the Council will consider authorizing staff to pursue certification through the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST); purchase a subscription to Lexipol; approve updated Police Department job classifications and salary schedules; authorize the City Manager to recruit and hire a Chief of Police; and issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for architectural and engineering services to design and prepare construction documents for tenant improvements at City Hall to accommodate the new Police Department.

"With guidance from Mr. Maloney, we are making exciting progress to tackle short and long-term goals. Short-term this allows us to work on hiring positions as needed and potentially fill our public safety gap with outside Law Enforcements agency agreements. Long-term this sets us up with a solid footprint for the rebuilding of the Willows Police Department," stated Mayor Hutson.

Recruiting and hiring a Chief of Police will be a critical early step in rebuilding the department. The Police Chief will help lead and coordinate the many operational activities required to restore local police services, including developing policies and procedures, assisting with POST requirements, overseeing the recruitment and hiring of permanent patrol officers and other department personnel, coordinating potential interim patrol services through neighboring law enforcement agencies, and helping oversee the design and construction of the Police Department's facilities at City Hall.

"The City Council is committed to re-establishing the Willows Police Department as quickly as possible to ensure that our citizens receive the law enforcement services that they need, expect and deserve," commented Councilmember Hansen.

POST participation will establish the Willows Police Department within California's statewide system of peace officer selection, training, certification, and professional standards. A Lexipol subscription will further support the department's development by providing California-specific law enforcement policies, training resources, and risk-management tools that can be used to establish and maintain policies consistent with current laws, regulations, and professional practices.

Because the Willows Police Department has not been operational since 2017, the City must also update its Police Department job classifications and salary schedules to reflect current organizational needs, responsibilities, and the contemporary employment market.

The City must also address the physical space needed to support a modern Police Department. The area of City Hall formerly occupied by the department is no longer sufficient to accommodate the operational, security, evidence-handling, technology, accessibility, and other requirements associated with establishing a law enforcement facility under current standards. Architectural and engineering services will allow the City to evaluate these requirements and develop plans for the tenant improvements necessary to provide an appropriate and functional space for the re-established Police Department.

Together, these actions will establish the foundation needed to move the Willows Police Department from planning into implementation, with the goal of restoring a locally operated police department that meets current State requirements and the public safety needs of the Willows community.

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