

COMMUNITY ASSISTED RESPONSE AND ENGAGEMENT (CARE) DEPARTMENT

2025 – 2026 Proposed Budget
Policy Considerations

Select Budget Committee | October 21, 2024

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Budget Summary (\$ in 000s)

	2024 Adopted	2025 Proposed	% Change	2026 Proposed	% Change
Operating Appropriations by BSL					
911 Call Response	\$24,033	\$28,044	17%	\$29,442	5%
Community Assisted Response and Engagement	\$2,310	\$4,359	89%	\$6,500	49%
Operating Total	\$26,343	\$32,403	23%	\$35,942	11%

Budget Summary (\$ in 000s)

	2024 Adopted	2025 Proposed	% Change	2026 Proposed	% Change
Appropriation Totals (Operating)					
Total Appropriations	\$26,343	\$32,403	23%	\$35,942	11%
Total FTE	163	186	14%	186	-
Revenues					
General Fund	\$26,343	\$32,403	23%	\$35,942	11%
Other Source(s)	-	-	-	-	-

Policy Consideration

1. Implementation of Dual Dispatch Program

The City's dual dispatch pilot program began in October 2023. Operational constraints and the ongoing Seattle Police Department (SPD) staffing deficit have impeded its implementation as intended. Currently, CARE responders perform some of the same bodies of work as the Seattle Fire Department's (SFD's) Health One program. The CARE response program is in a significant expansion phase, with the number of responders set to quadruple.

Options:

- A. Adopt a Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) requesting clarification of the vision/goals of CARE's response program, including milestones for evaluation.
- B. Adopt a SLI requesting that the Executive take measurable steps towards the increased provision of solely or dually dispatched CARE response.
- C. Adopt a SLI requesting that the Executive clarify the roles of SPD and SFD in responding to calls that are within CARE's purview.
- D. Adopt a SLI requesting that the Executive focus available CARE dual dispatch capacity in areas where it is most likely to be provided consistent with initial program scope.
- E. Some combination of A, B, C, and D above
- F. No change

Policy Consideration

2. CARE Crisis Response Data Collection

Maximally thorough data collection was one of the goals of the dual dispatch pilot program, with the intent that it would help guide program development. A year after that program's launch, little data is available regarding (1) the specific benefits that CARE response provided, from the perspective of those who received that response; and (2) CARE's service integration with partner agencies.

Options:

- A. Adopt a Statement of Legislative Intent requesting that CARE develop more robust data-collection practices, as is legally permissible, to help provide a framework for ongoing CARE response program evaluation and future planning, potentially including a reporting requirement to Council.
- B. No change.

Policy Consideration

3. Seattle Restoration Director position

This position was included in the 2025-2026 Proposed Budget and it has been filled. The Seattle Restoration Program is modeled after the Unified Care Team (UCT) and may share some work purview with that unit. It will lead the new Downtown Activation Team (DAT), adding a public safety focus to the existing Downtown Activation Plan (DAP), and it will leverage the contributions of various City departments. The position reports to the City Director of Public Safety. In the longer term, this position will lead an institutional change to (1) centralize in CARE programming and data collection related to the intersection of public safety interventions, public order, and human services delivery; and (2) and ensure that such appropriate response is dispatched when needed.

Options:

- A. Adopt a Statement of Legislative Intent requesting details about the near- and long-term priorities of the new program and its relationships to the UCT and DAP, including potential near-term staffing needs.
- B. No change.

Questions?