BUDGET QUESTION: Are SROs interchangeable with deputies? Are our SROs career SROs? If SROs are not interchangeable, what actions/costs would it take to allow them to be interchangeable?

RESPONSE: SRO's are sworn deputies and are trained exactly like all other deputies assigned throughout this agency. SRO's attend a Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) approved curriculum to prepare them for the role of SRO. SRO's conduct daily security assessments and recommend changes to the school official that they are assigned to work alongside with. SRO's are well prepared to encounter any active shooter or emergency situation they are faced with. All of the SRO's follow all safety and security guidelines to prevent an active shooter and are prepared to face any situation they may be confronted with. The additional training includes special handling of juvenile matters both within and outside of the school environment. SRO's cannot be exchanged with other deputies because of the complexity of their specialty. Most SRO's have served a length of time in patrol before switching to the school environment and none are considered career SRO's unless that decision is made by the individual. The idea of rotating SRO's every two to three years has been discussed and discouraged since the school environment is different than patrol or any other division within this agency. Training and maintaining the level of proficiency would not prove fruitful since everyone is not "cut out to be" an SRO. Training and rotating personnel would be an expensive venture and could affect our grant funded positions. By rotating periodically would not allow the SRO to build the trust and bond the SRO's have with school administrators and the student body.

(Please note that due to the specialized subject matter of Budget Questions 66, 67, 68 and 69, the questions were referred to the Sheriff's Office and the answer provided is the unedited response from the Sheriff's Office.)