



Staff Report

November 16th, 2020 Council Workshop

Agreement With Clark County Sheriff's Dept. To Monitor NCIC/WACIC

Presenter: Mitch Lackey, Chief of Police

Phone	Email
360.817.1502	mlackey@cityofcamas.us

BACKGROUND: The Camas Police Department has access to the FBI data base called the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), as well as the state version of that same data base, the Washington Crime Information Center (WACIC). Through a computer terminal operated by the Washington State Patrol, Camas Police are able to perform a variety of functions associated with law enforcement, such as entering stolen vehicles or missing persons into the national data base. The FBI has strict procedures in place for all law enforcement agencies that have a computer terminal. One requirement is that the terminal be monitored 24 hours a day and that agencies must be able to quickly respond to inquiries. Since Camas PD is a smaller agency, we do not have records division staff on-duty in the evenings, holidays, or on weekends. We have been able to comply with the FBI standard for decades by switching our terminal over to the Clark County Sheriff's Office as the end of each day for the overnight period – same for weekends and holidays. Former Sheriff Lucas and current Sheriff Atkins has permitted his staff to perform this function for Camas PD for years at no cost to the Camas Police Department. Now, that has changed. Sheriff Atkins recently informed all of the small agencies in Clark County that his agency would no longer be able to perform this monitoring function at no cost. His agency has been under budget pressures, staff shortages and has recently undergone an efficiency analysis to look for ways to trim expenses. Sheriff Atkins informed us that beginning next year that we would need to pay for the service if we want them to continue to provide it for Camas PD. This is a 6211 cost and it was very gracious of the two sheriffs to provide it to us for all these years for free. But going forward, the City of Camas will now have to start paying for the cost of this service. Trying to do it ourselves is not an option – we lack the staff hours and/or it would be cost prohibitive.

SUMMARY: The Clark County Sheriff's Office will perform our NCIC/WACIC terminal monitoring during the hours that our office is not staffed for an annual fee. Due to the late notice, they have agreed to reduce the fee by 50% for the first year.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS: What are the desired results and outcomes for this agenda item?

That an agreement will be made with the Clark County Sheriff's Office for their agency to continue to monitor our NCIC/WACIC terminal during the times our front office is not staffed.

What's the data? What does the data tell us?

The data indicates that we actually need physical assistance by a CCSO Records Clerk to make an after-hours entry into the system between 60 and 80 times each year. However, they do monitor the terminal actually more hours than our staff monitors the terminal. They calculated that they monitor the terminal for 5736 hours each year.

How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?

They have not been engaged on the change.

Who will benefit from or be burdened by this agenda item?

The City of Camas will be burdened by having to pay the new annual fee, but the police department will benefit by maintaining the service. The County will also benefit by recovering some of their costs associated with providing this service.

What are the strategies to mitigate any unintended consequences?

We met with Sheriff Atkins and explained our local budget situation, including the late notice and how it might impact our budget process. After that meeting he agreed to mitigate the 2021 expense by reducing it in half.

Does this agenda item have a differential impact on underserved populations, people living with disabilities, and/or communities of color? Please provide available data to illustrate this impact.

No.

Will this agenda item improve ADA accessibility for people with disabilities?

No.

What potential hurdles exist in implementing this proposal (include both operational and political)?

It has to be funded in the 2021 budget.

How will you ensure accountability, communicate, and evaluate results?

This is a service that the Sheriff's Department has been providing to Camas Police for over 20 years in a reliable manner. The only change is they now must start charging for their effort.

How does this item support a comprehensive plan goal, policy or other adopted resolution?

It provides for a tool that is critical to perform the law enforcement/public safety function.

BUDGET IMPACT: The Sheriff's Office provided an initial quote of \$29,661.00 per year for the service. I met with the Sheriff to discuss the quote and he was able to give us a 50% reduction in the first year due to the late notice. That makes our 2021 quote \$14,830.50. Then, in 2022 the cost moves up to the full charge of \$29,661.00.

RECOMMENDATION: I recommend that we enter into this agreement with the Clark County Sheriff's Office to provide this service at the rates that they have quoted in the attached agreement document.