

Public Safety Support Fee

INFORMATIONAL FAQ



1 WHAT NEW FEE IS CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERING?

The City is considering a \$20 per month fee dedicated to supporting the existing public safety services currently provided by the City for the community of Coburg.

2 HOW DOES THIS FEE SUPPORT PUBLIC SAFETY IN COBURG?

The proposed dedicated fee would provide approximately \$200,000 of new revenue per year and would support approximately 20% of the total annual budget of the Coburg Police Department and Municipal Court, the City's two primary public safety services.

Coburg Rural Fire District serves Coburg and the surrounding areas with its own service district and dedicated property tax assessment and is not a part of the City of Coburg's budget.

3 WHEN WILL COUNCIL BE DECIDING ON THIS?

Council was presented a set of recommendations on revenue options at its December 9, 2025 meeting and will be presented with an ordinance creating the fee at its March 10, 2026 meeting. If approved, the fee amount will be set at the April 14, 2026 Council meeting with an effective date of July 1, 2026.

To submit formal comment for inclusion in the March 10, 2026 Council meeting packet, send comments to City Recorder, Sammy Egbert at Sammy.egbert@coburgoregon.gov

4 DON'T PROPERTY TAXES PAY FOR PUBLIC SAFETY?

Yes, partially. The City of Coburg portion of property tax assessments (approx. 25% of the total property tax bill) provides just over \$1 million of revenue of the City's \$2 million annual General Fund. The General Fund includes Police, Municipal Court, Planning & Building, Parks and Administration/Finance. A summary of the General Fund is attached.

5 WHAT OTHER OPTIONS DID THE COUNCIL CONSIDER?

A Revenue Options Sub-committee studied a range of general fund revenue options including a Local Options Levy (five-year property tax assessment) and determined that the proposed service fee provides the minimum necessary revenue to maintain operations and serves as a bridge to potential longer-term solutions available at the completion of the City's Urban Renewal Agency

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6 HAS COUNCIL AND STAFF CONSIDERED OR IMPLEMENTED COST REDUCTIONS?

Yes, Coburg Police Department staffing levels were reduced last year by one patrol officer and one-half (.50) of a Police Evidence/Property Technician, which represented a significant reduction in overall staffing from 5.0 to 3.5 total staff. Chief Larson has also initiated a number of innovative regional efforts for enhanced collaboration and cost sharing (training, certification, purchasing, technology, etc) among six small city police agencies in Lane County.

7 WHY AREN'T THE COST REDUCTIONS ENOUGH?

Coburg, like many cities in the region and around the State, is experiencing what is often called a “structural deficit”. This means that revenues in the general fund (separate from the water fund, street fund and sewer fund) rise each year approximately three to five percent (3%-5%) while expenses increase by approximately ten to fifteen percent (10%-15%) each year, a five to ten percent (5%-10%) annual deficit that is unsustainable over the long-term without drastic reductions in the core services that the City provides to the community or new revenues to maintain existing service levels.

8 WILL THIS FEE AMOUNT GO UP EVERY YEAR?

The fee will be reviewed each year in parallel with the development of the annual budget. The fee cannot be increased without a formal action of Council.

9 HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROPOSED FEE?

The City’s website www.coburgoregon.gov will have a page dedicated to this proposed fee, including the full set of recommendations of the Revenue Options Council Sub-Committee and the draft ordinance and resolution that will be presented for Council review, deliberation and decision.

Mayor Bell and the City Administrator will continue holding Town Hall format meetings for community members to attend, learn about the issues, ask questions and provide feedback. Dates and times will be posted at City Hall, Coburg Post Office, City website social media.