



Administration

To: City Commission

From: City Administrator Dustin Dassinger

Date: 2/26/26

Subject: Public Safety Tax Joint Powers Agreement

Commissioners,

The City of Dickinson and Stark County have negotiated a Joint Powers Agreement pursuant to Chapter 54-40.3 of the North Dakota Century Code for the cooperative administration of funding dedicated to public safety infrastructure and operations.

The purpose of the Joint Powers Agreement is to provide long-term financing for public safety infrastructure and operations, including:

- Personnel
- Equipment
- Facilities
- Technology
- Capital improvements

The Agreement contemplates the levy of an additional one-cent (1%) city sales and use tax dedicated specifically to public safety purposes. The tax will be subject to voter approval through an amendment to the Dickinson Code of Ordinances.

The proposed ordinance amendment will be submitted to the voters at the regularly scheduled primary election on June 9, 2026. The ballot measure will seek approval of the additional one-cent sales and use tax dedicated exclusively to the purposes outlined in the Agreement.

Under the terms of the Joint Powers Agreement:

- The City will dedicate twenty percent (20%) of the revenues generated by the additional one-cent sales and use tax to the County.
- The County's share must be used solely for public safety infrastructure and operations, including personnel, equipment, facilities, technology, and capital improvements.
- Any allocation of funds by the County inconsistent with the Agreement will result in termination of the Agreement.
- The County must provide an annual report to the City during the City's annual budget review process outlining how it intends to utilize its portion of the sales tax revenue.



- The County must provide additional requested information regarding expenditures to ensure compliance with the Agreement.
- The City will collect the additional one-cent sales and use tax and transfer 20% of revenues to the County on a quarterly basis.
- Funds disbursed to the County will be deposited into the County's General Fund, restricted to the purposes identified in the Agreement.

The City and County mutually recognize that allocating this additional one-cent sales and use tax to public safety is beneficial to both jurisdictions and the residents they serve.

The Agreement will remain in effect pending the June 9, 2026 election.

- If voters approve the ballot measure, the Agreement will remain in effect until the later of:
 - Repeal of the ordinance adopting the additional one-cent sales and use tax,
 - Termination of the Agreement by the parties, or the County obtaining home rule status and independently collecting a sales tax.
- If voters fail to approve the ballot measure, the Agreement will terminate upon certification of the election results.

City Administration recommends approval of the Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Dickinson and Stark County to provide for cooperative financing of public safety infrastructure and operations, contingent upon voter approval of the additional one-cent sales and use tax at the June 9, 2026 primary election.



Dustin Dassinger

City Administrator

