

# City of Walsenburg



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March 14, 2023

To: Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners  
From: Gaye Davis, City Administrator, City of Walsenburg  
Re: Law Enforcement Services

City Council has asked that I clarify their position in regard to the contract for law enforcement services between the City and the County. Council Members feel strongly that it is the responsibility of the City to ensure that there are services available to protect person and property. An inability to come to terms with the County on how best to achieve that objective for the Walsenburg community has led the City Council to move to explore the option of establishing a City Police Department.

The exploration of establishing the department is not a process that will be accomplished overnight, but will require time and effort to gather the data and information necessary for council to make an informed decision. The time frame necessary to complete a feasibility study is expected to take six to eight months. Availability of information in late summer will coincide with preliminary budget processes and afford both entities the opportunity to determine whether negotiations should proceed for a law enforcement contract or whether the City will engage in the process for a law enforcement transition. The 2017 agreement identified that in the event law enforcement services were not contracted from the County, equipment that was transferred from the City or acquired with City funds would be returned to the City. To date, the City has not been provided an inventory of that equipment.

Council acknowledges that the negotiations of the law enforcement contract failed to establish a level of service or financial obligation that could be jointly agreed upon. However, for the ensuing year of 2023, Council has committed to the extension of the original 2017 agreement and the annual payment to the County of seven hundred thirteen thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven dollars \$ 713,857.00 payable in monthly payments of \$59,488.00. The first payment for January was processed and mailed the week of the 10<sup>th</sup>. Once again, Council desires to extend the contract for law enforcement service from the County under the terms of the 2017 agreement at the monthly rate of \$59,488.00. Council cannot justify paying the rate increases that the County proposed in exchange for the same level of service the County has always provided. It is in the best interest of the City and County and its citizens to come to an agreement that will ensure law enforcement service continues to be provided within the City of Walsenburg.

The City requests a response to this letter at the County's earliest convenience.

Respectfully,

C. Gaye Davis  
City Administrator