

CITY OF LYNDEN

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Taylor, Police Chief

(360) 354-2828



Public Safety Committee Meeting - 04/17/2025 Minutes

Police Department - 203 19th Street

4:00 PM June 5, 2025

Roll Call

1. Committee Members Present: Mark Wohlrab, Lee Beld and Gary Vis

Others Present: Mayor Scott Korthuis, City Administrator John Williams, Fire Chief Michael Noonan, Acting Chief Jeremy Bos, and Support Services Manager Sharon Clark

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order

1559

Approval of Minutes

2. May 2025 Meeting Draft Minutes: Approved

Items from the Audience

Unscheduled

None

Scheduled (20 Minutes)

None

Committee Items

3. Wheeled ATV LMC Draft – The only thing that has been added to the draft since the last meeting is the 50 horsepower (hp) range. The vehicle would have to be 50 hp or under to be legal. Most fall within the 32 (hp) range. A lengthy discussion followed.

Fire Department Items

4. Fire Safety Report – Chief Noonan reported that the number of calls were trending up – 12% higher than May of 2024. Overall, calls are averaging up 6½% for the year. 86% of these calls are medical emergency related and a lot of them include back-to-back calls. It was an active month for Fire Marshal activities and Community Outreach. The new ladder truck is now in service and had its very first call.

Police Department Items

5. Public Safety Stats - May 2025. The most glaring stat was the 2 homicides. One of which is Lynden's because the PD is the primary investigating agency of an Officer Involved

Shooting. For the second one, the PD is getting very close to issuing charges. Apart from the homicides there is nothing statistically significant.

Added Items

6. School Resource Officer (SRO) – There are a few different ways that this position can be achieved. If the hiring of the replacement officer was postponed for 3 months, this would generate enough capital for the summer months of the SRO position. Another option would be to apply for the COPS Grant. If approved, this would cover the 3 summers for the SRO. Also, the State Legislator allows a .1% sales tax for public safety. Lastly, What-Comm has another one tenth available. If we got this, and it was passed by all the citizens in Whatcom County, we would then save the \$250,000 that we pay in What-Comm call services for the police department and the \$20,000 to \$30,000 in fire dispatch fees. It was recommended to bring to Council to move forward with an SRO for LC and delay the replacement hire until December. More research will need to be conducted on how to move forward for the remaining years.

Adjournment

1644