



MEDINA, WASHINGTON

AGENDA BILL

Monday, Date, 2026

Subject/Topic: Public Safety Sales Tax	Proposed Council Action/Motion:
Dept. Origin: Police Department	<input type="checkbox"/> Information Only
Category: Council Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Receive and File
Prepared by: Jennifer Robertson, City Attorney	<input type="checkbox"/> Discuss
Attachments:	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide Direction
1. Ordinance No.1054	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt/Approve
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Proposed Council Action

The Council will be asked to adopt Ordinance No. 1054 imposing a one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) sales tax for public safety services. This will make Medina eligible to apply for a public safety grant in the amount of \$125,000 per year for three years.

Summary

A. Legislative History.

During the 2025 supplemental legislative session, the Washington State Legislature passed ESHB 2015¹, which allows the legislative authorities of cities and counties to impose a sales and use tax of 0.1% for criminal justice purposes. Cities or counties are eligible to impose this tax only if the city or county meets the requirements to receive funding from the grant program created under the same act. Additionally, cities or counties are qualified if voters have not repealed by referendum a tax imposed pursuant to RCW 82.14.340 or rejected a ballot proposition to impose a tax pursuant to RCW 82.14.450 in the past 12 months. Medina meets these requirements.

B. Purpose.

This is being brought forward as the opportunity to obtain grant funding is happening now. There is a grant deadline of March 31, 2026 for the City to apply for the \$125,000 per year funding. In order to be eligible, the City must have adopted the public safety sales and use tax. Approving the sales and use tax will also provide authority for the City to apply for the public safety grant.

¹ Section 201, Chapter 350, Laws of Washington 2025.

C. Required Program Procedures.

To impose the public safety sales and use tax, the city must submit documentation to the Criminal Justice Training Commission (“CJTC”) showing it meets the grant program requirements. To qualify for the grant program, and in turn to impose the public safety sales and tax in turn, the law enforcement agency must have:

- Issued and implemented policies and practices consistent with RCW 43.17.425 and 10.93.160, and the office of the attorney general's keep Washington working act guide, model policies, and training recommendations for state and local law enforcement agencies;
- Participated in commission training as required by RCW 43.101.455 and 36.28A.445;
- Issued and implemented policies and practices regarding use of force and de-escalation tactics consistent with RCW 10.120.030 and the office of the attorney general's model policies, and all other commission and attorney general model policies regarding use of force for law enforcement including, but not limited to, duty to intervene and training and use of canine teams;
- Implemented use of force data collection and reporting consistent with chapters 10.118 and 10.120 RCW when the program is operational, as confirmed by a notice from the attorney general's office to all police chiefs and sheriffs;
- Issued and implemented policies and practices consistent with chapters 7.105 and 9.41 RCW and the commission model policies and training addressing firearm relinquishment pursuant to court orders;
- A 25% officer completion rate with the commission's forty-hour crisis intervention team training;
- 100% officer compliance rate for those officers required to complete trauma-informed, gender-based violence interviewing, investigation, response, and case review training developed or approved by the commission pursuant to RCW 43.101.272 and 43.101.276, and if requested by the commission, participated in agency case reviews;
- Received funding from a sales and use tax authorized pursuant to RCW 82.14.340;
- A police chief who is certified by CJTC, and who has not been convicted of a felony anywhere in the United States or under foreign law, or been convicted of a gross misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, or corruption; and
- Issued and implemented policies and practices that prohibit volunteers who assist with agency work from enforcing criminal laws, other than for assistance with special event traffic and parking, including engaging in pursuits, detention, arrests, the use of force, or the use of deadly force, carrying or the use of firearms or other weapons, or the use of dogs to track people or animals other than for purposes of search and rescue; and that set forth the required supervision of volunteers,

including that they must be clearly identifiable by the public as distinguishable from peace officers and any identifying insignia must be officially issued by the agency and used only when on duty.

The CJTC, in consultation with the Attorney General's Office, has 45 days to verify the submission or notify the agency of any deficiencies. If any deficiencies are identified, the legislative authority may still authorize the tax, conditioned on the submission of supplemental documentation addressing the deficient areas, after which CJTC will have an additional 45 days to verify compliance. If full compliance is not achieved within 180 days of the initial submission, the State Treasurer will withhold \$100,000 per month from the tax proceeds until the CJTC verifies compliance.

Although the CJTC has not yet created the program structure establishing how cities should submit documentation, the law specifically states that a city or county that wishes to impose the tax may submit documentation to the commission before the commission finalizes the form and manner of such submittals and may not be penalized for doing so.

D. Use of Revenue is Restricted to Criminal Justice Purposes.

Once the tax is implemented, revenues collected must be used for criminal justice purposes. Criminal justice purposes means activities that substantially assist the criminal justice system, which includes public safety funding and may also include circumstances where ancillary benefit to the civil justice and behavioral health systems occur, including domestic violence services, staffing adequate public defense counsel, diversion programs, reentry work for incarcerated individuals, programs that have a reasonable relationship to reducing the numbers of people interacting with the criminal justice system, programs improving behavioral health, reducing incidents of homelessness, community placements for juvenile offenders, and community outreach and assistance programs.

The Police Department would like to use these funds with the grant funds to hire another position in the MPD. If the grant application is not approved, then the funds can be used for other police purposes, or for criminal justice purposes as directed by the Council.

E. Effective date.

Sales tax rate changes may only take effect on January 1, April 1, or July 1, and no sooner than 75 calendar days after DOR receives notice of the change ([RCW 82.14.055](#)). Therefore, this tax would begin to be collected on **July 1, 2026**. King County approved this tax on July 22, 2025, and other cities are moving forward with implementation.

Council Priorities

This proposal furthers Council Priorities 1, 3, and 4.

1. Financial Stability and Accountability
2. Quality Infrastructure
3. Efficient and Effective Government

4. Public Safety and Health

5. Neighborhood Character and Community Building

Budget/Fiscal Impact: This tax is expected to raise approximately \$25,000 per year for Medina.

Recommendation: Adoption

City Manager Approval:



Proposed Council Motions: "I move approval of Ordinance No. 1054 relating to the implementation of a Public Safety Sales and Use Tax for Criminal Justice Purposes; adding a new Chapter 3.66 'Public Safety Sales and Use Tax' to the Medina Municipal Code; authorizing the city to apply for a state public safety grant; providing for severability and corrections; and establishing an effective date.

Time Estimate: 30 minutes